



Sheikh Abdulaziz Mishal Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



Amiri Diwan photos
Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah

HH Amir appoints Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali as Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed a decree appointing Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah as Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs as of September 1.

The decree stipulated that Sheikh Hamad be appointed with the rank of a minister. The decree shall be implemented by the Prime Minister and published in the official gazette.

The following is the biography of Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah:

He earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Kuwait University in 1989.

He was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense in the cabinets of December 2020, March 2021, and December 2021.

He was appointed as Minister of Information between November 2011 and February 2012.

He served as Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia between February 2007 and November 2011.

From 2003 to 2006, he served as Director of

the Office of His Highness the Crown Prince, with the rank of Undersecretary.

From 1998 to 2001, he was Assistant Undersecretary for the Office of the Foreign Procurement Sector (FPS) at the Ministry of Defense and was the Head of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense.

From 1993 to 1997, he served at Kuwait's Embassy in Italy.

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Kuwait busts illegal cash transfers gang

Network of visa forgers dismantled

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: The Combating Terrorism and Money Laundering General Department and Criminal Investigation Department at the Ministry of Interior have arrested an organized criminal gang involved in illegal money transfers, known as 'alternative remittance'.

This is an irregular means of transferring funds outside local and international banking channels, with the aim of evading the supervision of the competent authorities and engaging in banking activities without obtaining a license.

In a press statement on Thursday, the ministry confirmed that thorough security investigations and tracking the movement of funds exposed the gang that committed multiple criminal offenses, in coordination with a number of merchants in sisterly and friendly countries.

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PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the meeting to discuss progress on Kuwait, China projects.

PM advises panel to oversee plan execution

Progress on Kuwait-China projects talked over

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah directed, on Thursday at Bayan Palace, the ministerial committee -- tasked with handling the agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the People's Republic of China -- to follow up on the implementation of the agreements.

The 24th ministerial meeting discussed the progress of the joint Kuwait-China initiatives, particularly the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project, renewable energy development, housing, environmental infrastructure for sewage treatment plants, eco-friendly recycling, cooperation in combating desertification, and sustainable agriculture.

His Highness the Prime Minister instructed the members to closely oversee the execution of the national plan, as well as evaluate the impact of the future development projects

on the economic and environmental levels in the country, to determine which major development projects are currently achieving their objectives.

Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs and Committee Rapporteur Ambassador Sameeh Johar Hayat provided a detailed briefing on the implementation of Kuwait-China agreements and MoUs saying that today's meeting focused on evaluating the performance of the Chinese companies, as well as the steps taken by the relevant Kuwaiti entities.

This is being carried out through diplomatic channels with the Chinese government to advance the ongoing bilateral cooperation aimed at implementing the agreements and MoUs signed between the two governments.

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Kuwait working on laws to make Bedouns life easier: 1st Dpty PM

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: "You have the right to publish everything ... there is nothing to hide," said First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef. With such transparency and clarity in presenting the facts in word and deed, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef affirmed, during his recent meeting with the editors-in-chief of local newspapers, the pursuit of solutions and remedies for many issues, most notably the withdrawal of citizenship and the Bedouns, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He revealed "there are procedures and a law being studied for Bedouns, and some countries have agreed to grant citizenship or passports to them,

while another country has requested huge and unjustified sums. We will deal with the issue of Bedoun passports in a way that allows them to move and travel."

He stressed that "justice is for everyone. The State has not and will not oppress anyone.

It is working hard to cleanse the national identity. We have started to focus on the defect in order to correct it."



Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef

He added "in all countries around the world, including the region, there are laws related to refugees or those known as 'Bedoun,' and there are remedies for this problem. The budget of the Central Agency for Resolving Illegal Residents Status is now under the Ministry of Interior."

When asked if the meeting was private, he stressed "there is no private meeting. Publish everything. We are presenting you with the facts, as opposed to the chatter, so that people know how to find their way. There is a lot of nonsense, some of which may be true, but most of it is unrealistic."

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Kuwait supports transparency at UN: Al-Bannai

NEW YORK, Aug 28, (KUNA): The facilitating effort led by the State of Kuwait to reform the UN Security Council was met by widespread praise by many UN members.

This came at the 89th plenary of the General Assembly of the 79th session, taking up item 122, entitled "Question of equitable representation and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters".

Kuwait, through its Permanent Representative at the UN Headquarters in New York Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai, took part in the session held on Tuesday evening as one of the facilitators alongside Austria.

The two states presented a paper deemed as a framework unifying views on necessary UNSC reforms, which will be continued to be discussed further on.

The UNGA agreed to the consensus on the oral draft resolution, which called for continuous international discussions on the matter to prepare for future steps ahead of the UNGA's 80th session.

Several delegations, regional and political groups commended the facilitators' consensual approach including

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Photo by Samer Shaqair

Skyscrapers in Kuwait City ... Weather during weekend to be hot and humid.

Hot and humid weekend, warm nights

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28, (KUNA): Director of the Meteorological Department Dharar Al-Ali revealed that the weather during the weekend will be extremely hot during the day and hot to warm at night.

Al-Ali explained that the weather in the country will continue to be affected by the extension of the Indian monsoon depression, accompanied by a hot and humid air mass, especially over the coastal areas, with northwesterly to variable winds, light to moderate in speed, active at times, causing dust storms in open areas.

He said the weather during the day on Thursday was hot and humid over coastal areas, with southeasterly to northwesterly winds, light to moderate in speed, active

at times, ranging between 12 and 40 kilometers per hour, while the maximum temperature ranged from 41 to 43 degrees Celsius. The sea was light to moderate with waves between two and five feet.

He added that the weather on Thursday night was hot and humid, especially in coastal areas, with variable northwesterly winds, light to moderate in speed, ranging between eight and 32 kilometers per hour, while the minimum temperature ranged from 31 to 33 degrees Celsius. The sea was light to moderate with waves between one and four feet.

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KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Minister of Defense, Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah sees off the Lebanese counterpart Major General Pilot Michel Menassah at the airport.

Au revoir...Lebanese DM concludes visit to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28, (KUNA): The Lebanese Minister of National Defense, Major General Pilot Michel Menassah, on Thursday left the country after completing his official visit.

The Lebanese Minister was seen off at the airport by the Kuwaiti Minister of Defense, Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah, who lauded the visit and the strong brotherly ties between the two countries, according to a Defense Ministry statement.

Minister Menassah was also seen off by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the Army General Staff, Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and several senior military officers.

Kuwaitis keep away from 'vapes'

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28, (KUNA): Kuwaitis traveling to Singapore should abide by all rules and regulations, including the ban on the use and importation of e-cigarettes (vapes), said the Kuwaiti Embassy on Thursday.

The embassy continued, in a statement, that those violating the relevant laws would face fines and other punitive measures, including trial and imprisonment.

The Kuwaiti Embassy renewed its call for citizens to refrain from using or carrying any type of e-cigarettes, while in Singapore.

'Ties with China strategic'

Kuwait Vision '35 embodies technology and innovation

YINCHUAN, China, Aug 28, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to China Jassem Al-Najem affirmed on Thursday that innovation and technology are at the heart of the New Kuwait Vision 2035.

This came in a speech delivered on the sidelines of the 7th China-Arab States Expo, held under the theme "Innovation, Green Development, and Prosperity."

At a high-level dialogue on technology transfer and innovation cooperation, he affirmed Kuwait's commitment to innovation and its strategic partnership with China, noting that this session represents an opportunity to enhance cooperation between the two sides in the fields of technology and the green economy.

Ambassador Al-Najem stated that an economy based on natural resources is no longer sufficient to ensure sustainable prosperity, noting that Kuwait has launched a series of ambitious initiatives and projects in this field in cooperation with China.

Kuwait has launched several projects with China, such as the Shagaya Renewable Energy Project, the Digital Kuwait 2035 Initiative, the

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KUNA photo

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah bids farewell to the Egyptian Ambassador Osama Shaltout.

1st Deputy PM lauds Egyptian envoy

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah received on Thursday the Egyptian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait Osama Shaltout.

Minister Sheikh Fahad received the ambassador on the occasion of end of the envoy's term in the country, due in the near future.

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2 The government's good intentions but flawed execution

9 talabat is gearing up for the 'Back-to-School' season, offering everything families need

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:00	Asr	15:23
Sunrise ..	05:23	Maghrib ..	18:15
Zohr	11:49	Isha	19:35

Local

Other Voices

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-40 km/h.			
By Night: Hot to rather hot with			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	43	33	
Kuwait Airport	43	33	
Abdaly	44	30	

Bubyan	43	24
Jahra	44	34
Salmiyah	41	31
Ahmadi	42	28
Nuwaisib	43	32
Wafra	44	32
Salmiy	43	28

The government's good intentions but flawed execution

By Abdulaziz Mohammad Al-Anjeri

The future of Kuwait depends on a strong and diversified economy. Such an economy cannot exist without a dynamic private sector that drives development, creates jobs, and fosters innovation. Supporting it does not mean handing privileges to a few business elites at the expense of society. It means building a balanced environment where the entire community benefits. Recent government policies, while presented as reformist, have often produced the opposite effect. Instead of boosting confidence, they have created uncertainty and inconsistency. The government has promoted Kuwaitization in the private sector, encouraging firms to employ more nationals. Yet at the same time, it has imposed new fees and restrictions that raise operating costs and

complicate hiring. The result is a mixed message. Companies are urged to expand employment but face increasing financial pressure. Even if the intent was regulatory, the outcome conveys instability more than genuine reform. The government has moved beyond its role as regulator, venturing into logistics, retail, and real estate. State entities now oversee markets, warehouses, and even islands connected to the Jaber Bridge, assigning them to government firms instead of opening fair opportunities to local investors. Such blurred boundaries make the state appear less a referee and more a competitor, undermining private sector confidence and discouraging enterprise. Rising fees on visas, permits, and licenses have strained small and medium firms, driving up consumer costs and deter-



Abdulaziz Mohammad Al-Anjeri

ring investors. With no parallel support or incentives, international reports now point to waning confidence in Kuwait's business

climate. Kuwait needs more than quick decrees that are soon reversed. What is missing is a coherent plan. Government intentions are seldom questioned, but the real issue is in presentation and impact. Headlines dominated by cancellations, restrictions, and penalties create the image of a country under emergency rule. In the process, trust, the most valuable form of economic capital, is steadily eroded. Neighboring states offer models of successful reform. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have embraced privatization and partial listings of national champions in energy, transport, and utilities. Their goal was not to shed ownership completely but to attract foreign capital, modernize management, and increase efficiency. The results have included improved services, stronger competition, and sustainable fiscal

returns for the state. Kuwait also has its own success stories. Companies such as Zain, Agility, and Mabane began under state ownership and evolved into global players. Today they provide jobs, generate non-oil revenues, and deliver far more to the economy than they could have if left in government hands. If the government sees itself as the physician of the economy, then it must listen to the patient. Reform cannot be designed in isolation or delivered only as a list of penalties. A genuine dialogue with citizens, entrepreneurs, and investors is essential. Without it, Kuwait risks remaining caught in a cycle of reactive policymaking that weakens trust before real progress can be achieved. Good intentions matter, but in economics execution matters more and results matter most.



The Committee for Drafting Resolutions and Recommendations of the 165th Ministerial Meeting.

GCC drafting committee holds preparatory meet

Kuwait hosts session

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28, (KUNA): The drafting committee for the 165th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministerial meeting held a preparatory session in Kuwait on Thursday, chaired by Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Affairs Ambassador Najeb Al-Bader.

"The meeting comes as part of the ongoing preparations for the ministerial session," Al-Bader said in his opening remarks. He added that the meeting is being held to prepare for the session and the joint ministerial



KUNA photos Ambassador Najeb Al-Bader, Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Gulf Cooperation Council Affairs

meetings on its sidelines next Monday, including separate meetings with the Ukrainian and Japanese foreign ministers. He noted that the meeting's agenda includes 31 items and five recommen-

dations to be submitted to the Supreme Council, praising the efforts of the GCC Secretariat General in preparing, organizing, and providing the necessary documents for the committee's work. Al-Bader stressed that the meeting comes at a critical stage, amid accelerating regional and international transformations, which necessitates redoubling efforts and enhancing coordination and integration to consolidate Gulf unity and meet the aspirations of GCC peoples for a more stable and prosperous future. He expressed his gratitude to the participants for their active role, looking forward to fruitful deliberations that would contribute to strengthening the GCC's position as a pillar of security and development and embodying a shared vision for a promising future for coming generations.

New services span food, finance, health and transport

Commerce Ministry adds 12 new commercial activities

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the addition of 12 commercial activities to various sectors in the ministries of Interior and Health, Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), Public Authority for Industry (PAI), Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and

Fish Resources (PAAFR), Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) and the Central Bank of Kuwait.

The services offered include halal food consultations, credit information, marine brokerage, wholesale of ambulances and fire engines and their spare parts, dye mixing and packaging, transportation brokerage through electronic applications, ambulance maintenance, a qualified securities broker registered with Boursa Kuwait, recycling and re-

fining of animal, plant, marine and food waste, wig installation, a pet grooming salon, professional, scientific and technical activities, financial and insurance activities, petroleum, chemical and pharmaceutical industry activities, information, communications and services activities, general trading and services activities, food industry activities, simple craft activities, transportation, storage and related services.

IATF 2025 invites Kuwaiti investors

Algiers hosts 4th African Trade Fair

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: The Algerian capital will transform into a pivotal hub for African trade on Sept 4-10 as the fourth edition of the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2025) will be held there, reports Al-Rai daily.

This economic event is a testament to Algeria's commitment to support continental integration and develop trade between African countries.

The Algerian Embassy in Kuwait explained in a press statement that this event "is not just a temporary economic fair, but rather a strategic platform for embodying the aspirations of an entire continent and an opportunity to translate shared African decisions into reality." It affirmed that Algeria is harnessing its logistical and organizational capabilities to ensure the success of this prominent event, thereby, strengthening its position as an economic engine in the continent.

The volume of intra-African trade is estimated at more than \$3 trillion, making the fair

a unique platform for investors and companies to expand into African markets and forge new partnerships based on shared interests.

In this context, the Algerian Embassy in Kuwait invited Kuwaiti investors and businesspersons to participate in the exhibition, which provides a rare opportunity for direct communication with economic and political decision-makers in Africa and to explore promising investment opportunities in diverse sectors, including industry, finance, transportation, logistics, energy, tourism and marketing.

It pointed out that Algeria's African orientation reflects a new vision expressed by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, based on solidarity and strengthening political and economic rapprochement between African countries. This makes the exhibition a strategic platform for consolidating this orientation and highlighting the productive and export capabilities of participating countries.

The embassy concluded its statement by emphasizing that the participation of Kuwaiti investors in this event will open horizons for economic cooperation between Kuwait and Africa through Algeria, consolidating fruitful partnerships that meet shared development aspirations and serve mutual interests in the short and long term.



Tebboune

LOYAC Kon 2025 empowers youth innovators at AUK

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) hosted the 10th LOYAC Kon Social Entrepreneurship Program, during which the participating youths presented nine innovative projects tackling pressing social issues – environmental, educational, health and cultural, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, the university described the program -- whose closing ceremony was held in its campus, where it served as academic partner and host -- as "the fruit of collaboration" with Babson College, a global leader in entrepreneurship education. The university highlighted its success over the past decade in empowering young people, and instilling in them the values of leadership, social responsibility and innovation.

The university affirmed that this year's edition maintained that legacy, offering four weeks of intensive training, hands-on mentorship, and entrepreneurial project development. The program brought together a select group of ambitious youths, program sponsors, and community leaders in a stimulating academic environment provided by AUK.

During the closing ceremony, participants showcased nine innovative projects that addressed urgent social issues through sustainable solutions, spanning environmental, educational, health, and cultural fields.



Fattouh Al-Dalali presents an award to Paul Bassil.

Paul Bassil, Executive Director of Human Resources and Facilities Management at AUK, underscored the importance of the initiative, de-

scribing it as "a pioneering program that empowers youths through applied learning, innovative leadership, and social responsibility -- strengthening critical thinking and sharpening practical skills."

LOYAC Board Member Fattouh Al-Dalali said "we are celebrating the conclusion of the 10th edition of the program, and the fruits of 10 years of hard work and a deep belief in the ability of youths to effect change and create a better future for our society." She added that since its inception, the program has served as "a training platform, an incubator for ideas, a bridge between ambition and reality, and a genuine space for creativity and belonging."



Participants of the program pose for a group photo.

Key appointments aim to boost efficiency

Education minister reshuffles leadership

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei recently issued organizational and administrative decisions, including the rotation and assignment of a number of educational leaders, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the ministry affirmed this move is in line with its efforts to enhance work efficiency and performance as per the requirements of the next phase.

The most important decisions are as follows:

- Appointment of Eng. Mohammad Ghaleb Al-Khalidi as Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative, Financial and Technical Affairs effective Aug 10.
- Appointment of Eng. Hamad Al-Hamad as Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs effective on the same date.
- Renewal of the assignment of Eng. Mohammad Ghaleb Al-Khalidi to fol-



Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, Minister of Education

low up the responsibilities of the undersecretary of the Ministry.

- Terminate the assignment of Director General of Hawally Educational District Mansour Saud Al-Dhafiri to

perform the duties of the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education.

- Terminate the assignment of Director of the School Activities Department in the Educational Development Sector Maryam Al-Enezi to perform the duties of the assistant undersecretaries for private and qualitative education, educational development, educational activities and research, and curricula sectors.

- Assign Maryam Al-Enezi to carry out the duties of the directors of Support Services, Guidance, Research and Curricula, and Private Education general departments.

The ministry affirmed that these decisions are part of a plan to redistribute responsibilities in accordance with the new organizational structure to ensure the smooth flow of administrative and educational work, and improve the performance of its sectors and departments.



KUNA photo

Official bodies participating in the fifth relief plane within the second Kuwaiti airlift to assist brothers in the Gaza Strip.

Kuwait's 5th Gaza relief plane arrives in Jordan

The fifth Kuwaiti relief plane arrived on Thursday at Jordan's Marka Military Airport, carrying 10 tons of food supplies to enter into the Gaza Strip.

The relief supplies were received by officials from the Kuwaiti Embassy in Jordan, the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS). The materials will be delivered via land to the Gaza Strip.

The aid mission is organized by the Kuwaiti Red

Crescent Society (KRCS), the Ministries of Social Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and Defense, alongside several Kuwaiti charities and foundations to ensure that basic food needs are met in the enclave.

The urgent relief campaign "Fazaa for Gaza" reflects the steadfast position of Kuwait in standing by the Palestinian people in times of crises and embodies Kuwait's historical role as a global humanitarian hub. (KUNA)

Students present sustainable solutions

Gaza suffering unending in ‘idiocy’ of own people

“THE people of Gaza are suffering from a deadly famine, which afflicted even the living among them, after they suffered for nearly two years of killing and destruction due to the foolishness of ‘Hamas’ and the brutality of the Zionist occupation,” **Hamad Salem Al-Marri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Hamad Al-Marri

Before Oct 7, 2023, they were living in safety, and their city was prosperous, but their situation turned upside down due to the foolishness of ‘Hamas’ paid by the government in Tehran, which it called ‘Al-Aqsa Flood’. It destroyed their city, killing more than 61,000 and wounding about 110,000. Majority of the dead and wounded were women, children and the elderly.

“In spite of the Zionist occupation army’s incursion and destruction of Gaza, and the killing of its people, Hamas increased its foolishness by refusing to release the Israeli prisoners captured during the ‘Operation Flood’, which Israel uses as an excuse to continue killing and destroying the people of Gaza.

“Hamas sees their capture as a winning card for its continuous presence in the Strip despite the aggravation of the suffering of the people of Gaza, which has turned into a famine that claims lives.

“What is more important to the movement is its continued political presence in the Strip and its participation in the political scene of Palestine, or rather the continued influence and presence of Iranian interference in the region, as it is another military and political arm of Tehran parallel to its first arm, ‘Hezbollah’.

“As it is the custom of the ‘bankrupt Brotherhood’, they ignite the fires of discord and conflict, and then feed off them, through their calls for donations, using Gaza’s suffering and famine as a pretext.

“However, they reject any relief donations dropped from the air on the displaced population, insulting the countries that provide this with the ugliest epithets, because they do not benefit from such aid.

“Therefore, they demand that this aid be brought in through land borders, so they can control it by force of arms and direct it to their warehouses to seize it or sell it in the black market.

“Many Arab nations, especially the Gulf states, have donated hundreds of millions of dollars, and their governments have dispatched hundreds of relief trucks, which we believe will only reach them with great difficulty, and for a value far less than the value of the donations allocated to them.

“If they enter through the borders, Hamas will control them, and if they are dropped from the air, the population will fight over them, and some of the gangs that sell them in the black market will seize them.

“If it is brought in through the United Nations, it will enter through Israeli channels, which will inevitably withhold most of the aid from the people of Gaza in order to continue starving them until they leave the Strip, especially since the Tel Aviv government has given the green light to its Zionist army to occupy the entire Strip, under the pretext of expelling Hamas.

“The only solution is for Hamas to hand over all the Israeli prisoners, to block Israel’s use of them as an excuse, and to leave the Strip, hand it over to the internationally recognized Palestinian government, and emigrate to Iran, since it obeys the orders of its government, and mourns their leaders whose hands are stained with the blood of the people of Iraq and Syria.”

Also:

“The Minister of Interior’s decision to open commercial and family visas affirmed the wisdom of the security leadership and its commitment to serve the interests of the nation and society,” Kuwaiti lawyer **Dr. Abdullah Mohammad Al-Tarajji** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“This decision brought widespread relief to citizens and expatriates, restoring hope to thousands of families who had long waited for a reunion. It also opened the door for the commercial sector to resume its activity after a period of stagnation that impacted market activity.

“Reopening family visas has an important humanitarian dimension, because it strengthens family cohesion, consolidates social stability, and alleviates the suffering of expatriate communities who had been experiencing anxiety due to delayed reunification.

“Allowing commercial visas, on the other hand, directly supports the national economy, as it encourages the exchange of expertise, stimulates investment and provides the Kuwaiti market with a strong impetus toward greater vitality and prosperity.

“What distinguishes this decision is its balanced approach, taking into account security and regulatory aspects, while responding to the needs of society and the economy. This reflects an advanced strategic vision that recognizes the importance of disciplined openness, which preserves the national prestige and protects national interests, as well as realizing the aspirations of citizens and expatriates.

“We appreciate this wise decision, which confirms that Kuwait has been, and will remain, a country of humanity, a nation that always strives to balance the interests of the State and the needs of society.

“Our thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the Minister of Interior for this blessed step, which embodies foresight and good management, and opens a new page of stability and prosperity for Kuwait and its people.”

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“The reformer and the scholar have no right to speak about whatever they want without having a deep understanding of the topic they are discussing,” Kuwaiti media figure **Sami Al-Enezi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The intellectual has no right to make statements or interpretations on matters that require knowledge — a scientific, fundamental knowledge of this or that topic — so as not to undermine fundamental principles and constants. It is unwise to disregard the experience of others to benefit from them for current or future reform, guidance and modification in society and the family, or reform within oneself and one’s soul.

“Yes, we sometimes suffer from intellectuals who lack knowledge of the fundamental principles and constants of what they are discussing. Culture, as it is known, is a beautiful external embellishment of a person’s knowledge and specialization. It is part and parcel of the scholar’s knowledge and specialization.

“What a marvel if a specialist in his field of knowledge comes and sets out to educate himself in various aspects related to the lives of people and society. He wisely and fore-sightedly draws on the experience of others, as well as his own personal failures, to turn these experiences into a method for himself, combining them with his own knowledge and culture to achieve a better future for generations, people and the country.

“We are in dire need of reformers who follow the saying of the Prophet (Peace and Blessings Be Upon Him), ‘Do not forbid an evil and then commit one greater than it’ for a better, more developed and more productive future.

“Yes, there is an insignificant number of reformers and religious reform scholars. When they speak, you cannot understand what they are saying because they speak while considering those before them as if they were their students. They address ordinary people through this perspective and approach.

“Also, many intellectuals ‘boisterously’ boast about their culture, which is devoid of religious and societal principles and constants. They are dazzled by themselves, unaware that those around them are dazzled by their superficial statements and reforms, which undermine the depths, fundamentals, societal constants and other things.

“I say: May Allah Almighty have mercy on you, Sheikh Mohammad Metwally Al-Shaarawy. How wonderful you are! You combined the knowledge, culture and wisdom that create wise and righteous scholars who are understood by the young and old with precision and depth.

“Conversing and interacting with ordinary people in society are a more refined and challenging art and science than what those who claim to be reformers imagine. My professor and mentor Mohammad Al-Afiqi on the radio, may Allah Almighty have mercy on him, would always repeat to me: A scholar or preacher who cannot convey knowledge to the general public — the people and society — with precision and depth is deficient in knowledge and not really a preacher calling Allah Almighty.”

□ □ □

“Some individuals over-evaluate their personalities, abilities, potential and what they can achieve in their lives, causing them many problems and difficulties in life,” Dr. **Khaled Al-Janfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“False self-evaluation leads to wasted time and personal effort, a blurred personal vision, repetition of the same mistakes, and possibly even disrupting one’s

personal life and delaying the connection between personal hopes and aspirations and what one can actually achieve.

“The causes of this disturbed psychological and intellectual state, and its successful alternatives, include the following:

■ Distorted personal thinking disrupts the correct assessment of one’s true abilities and potential.

■ Constant exposure to psychological pressures and lack of knowledge of how to deal with them disrupts the process of making sound personal decisions.

■ Impulsiveness in forming impressions and views leads to a false assessment of one’s personality.

■ Voluntarily remaining in intellectually and psychologically backward environments leads to an overestimation of one’s own abilities.

■ Failure to educate oneself through reading and acquiring effective personal skills leads to a distorted thinking process and an inability to recognize one’s true strengths and weaknesses.

■ Following are aspects of correct self-assessment:

■ An individual evaluates himself correctly when he begins to record his weaknesses, strengths, abilities, skills and true potential in a special notebook.

■ He precisely determines what he needs to do to develop his personality for the better.

■ He sets a specific and flexible timetable to overcome his weaknesses and strengthen his positive and effective traits.

■ He determines the personal skills he currently lacks and how he can acquire them.

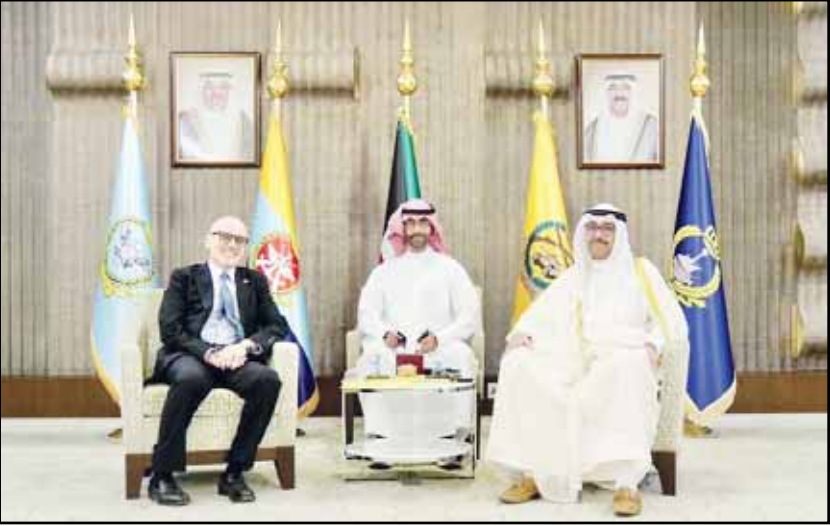
■ He accurately assesses the nature of the environment in which he currently places himself, and decides whether he needs to change it.

■ He determines the characteristics of the people he surrounds himself with.

■ He begins to read about self-development and educates himself about logical thinking methods and the effective personal behaviors in his place, time and circumstances.

■ He determines, as precisely as possible, what he needs to do to achieve his basic priorities, what matters he should ignore, and what is his true value for those he surrounds himself with.”

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



KUNA photo
Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah receives the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Lorenzo Morini in his office.

Kuwait, Italy hold talks to enhance military relations

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Sabah received Italian Ambassador to the country Lorenzo Morini at Bayan Palace, to discuss aspects of strengthening bilateral military

relations.

A ministry statement said the two sides praised deep-rooted ties between the two nations, reaffirming developing such relations in a way that serves common interests of both in several fields.

Online shopping, poor parking space dent business at co-ops

Need to tally prices with other outlets: consumers

By **Abdul Razzaq Al-Mohsen**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: Cooperative society administrations in different areas are working hard to create a suitable shopping environment in their supermarkets and branches.

However, the shopping experience is virtually nonexistent in some areas for various reasons. These reasons include the scarcity of parking spaces in the vicinity of cooperatives, as well as the practice of parking in prohibited areas, which results in parking violations for some residents.

Other cooperatives suffer from recurring air conditioning problems, particularly during summer, which leads to a decline in their appeal to shareholders and residents in the area in general.

This has been exacerbated by the insistence of some cooperative boards of directors on fencing the perimeter of the central market to ensure that shopping carts do not slip out or disappear, sometimes after traveling long distances with customers.

Furthermore, a large number of these carts are damaged due to frequent use and have not been replaced for long periods. This negatively impacts customer shopping experience due to the annoying noises emanating from the worn wheels.

Recently, it has been noticeable that a large number of shareholders in these cooperatives have resorted to shopping online and using social media to shop in parallel markets and stores.

They have access to any items they desire without any hassle or effort, and at prices close to those available in cooperatives.

They prefer online shopping over going to cooperatives or markets.

The newspaper staff visited some supermarkets and branches of cooperatives in more than one area. The aforementioned problems are evident inside and around cooperatives, in addition to the weak follow up by some administrations about public comfort, as large areas for parking remain unshaded to protect customers’ cars from the sun’s rays in summer.

Some even take advantage and resort to parking in spaces designated for people with special needs near markets and branches, causing suffering for this important segment.

What makes matters worse is that some cars remain in cooperative society parking lots for long periods, without their management taking any action



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

A parking space at one of the cooperatives is jam-packed.

against the owners.

This is especially true since they exploit customers’ spaces for an indefinite period, making it difficult for customers to find a parking space close to the market, especially during festivals and shows.

Moreover, if these vehicles have broken down, their appropriate place is in garages or around their owner’s home until they are repaired, rather than causing congestion in cooperative parking lots, with the possibility of being vandalized, damaged or misused by some unscrupulous individuals any time.

With the abundance of weekly and monthly promotions offered by cooperatives, further study is required by some boards of directors to ensure that citizens enjoy a comfortable shopping experience, free from fatigue and suffering, particularly in the month of August, when humidity is expected to rise.

It is unreasonable for customers to park their vehicles far from markets, or to shop in cooperatives that suffer from air conditioning problems for more than an hour at times.

There are also other negatives related to the absence of prices on consumer and food products and items at some cooperatives.



A delivery biker heading for his destination.

Services from Sept 1

Delivery bikers to resume ops after summer hiatus

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: The General Traffic Department, in coordination with the Public Authority for Manpower, has announced that delivery motorcycles will be allowed to resume operations starting Sunday, September 1, 2025, following a temporary suspension over the summer months, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Motorcycles used by consumer delivery companies will be permitted to operate daily between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., but will remain banned from highways and ring roads.

According to the Ministry of Interior, this decision is part of broader efforts to improve traffic regulation and enhance road safety. The ministry also emphasized that the summer suspension was implemented out of concern for the health and safety of delivery workers due to extreme heat conditions.

Arab expat perishes in fall from building top

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: An Arab construction worker, in his 40s, died after falling from the ninth floor of an under construction building in Bneid Al-Gar, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Security authorities and ambulances were dispatched to the location immediately after the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry received a report on the tragic incident. They discovered that the worker fell from the building while working and he died on the spot

Forensic evidence personnel and a forensic doctor were summoned, who ordered referral of the body to the Forensic Medicine Department.

Security personnel summoned the contractor for investigation.

MoSA confirms dismissal of co-op board chairman

By **Fares Ghaleb**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: The Ministry of Social Affairs confirmed the dismissal of the chairman of the Board of Directors of a cooperative society, as the alleged financial and administrative violations have been proven true.

The ministry said the entire incident file was referred to the Public Prosecution, including the violations committed by the previous and current boards of directors, in addition to some ministry employees.

It stressed that “no one is above the law. Anyone who misuses their position will be held accountable in accordance with the law.”

It also disclosed that internal investigations exposed violations that warrant accountability, stressing these violations were dealt with in accordance with legal procedures.

It then affirmed its commitment to strengthen oversight of cooperative societies to protect the interests of shareholders and consumers, and ensure transparency and integrity, reiterating that it will not tolerate any violation or transgression that could harm cooperative work or the interests of citizens.

□ □ □

Building fire tackled: Fire broke out in an apartment building in Hawally without causing injuries or loss of lives, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Firefighters from Hawally and Salmiya fire stations rushed to the fire incident site, where they put the fire under control in record time.

Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) confirmed that the fire did not result in injuries or loss of lives.

A case was registered and investigations are underway to establish the circumstances leading to the fire.

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KPC expands training, boosts local hiring in energy projects

Corporation reaffirms net-zero commitment

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries announced the results of the recruitment of administrative staff on their official website recently.

Sources told the newspaper that the chief executive officer of the corporation instructed the oil companies to expedite the appointment of new staff and to intensify training programs to ensure they are fully qualified and quickly integrated into their assigned roles.

Sources said the corporation instructed its subsidiaries to apply the Kuwaitization policy for nationals working in contracting companies that implement oil projects, with the goal of raising the Kuwaitization rate to 30 percent. Sources pointed out that this step will generate job opportunities for graduates in oil-related fields.

At the same time, the corporation warned against fraudulent job advertisements published by networks that deceive graduates through messages on social media. These messages falsely claim that KPC is hiring and request personal or financial

information under the pretense of completing hiring procedures. The corporation stressed that these fake advertisements use its logo and fabricate job details, including salary packages and exaggerated benefits. It disclaimed any responsibility for such scams, asserting that neither the corporation nor its subsidiaries charge fees during recruitment. It emphasized that all official job advertisements are released through legal procedures and published in daily newspapers.

Sources added KPC urged its subsidiaries to take all the necessary measures to protect the environment during operations, in line with the national strategy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

It is worth mentioning that the most recent annual report of KPC – a copy of which was obtained by the newspaper – underscored its strong commitment to protect the environment. It confirmed that KPC and its subsidiaries continue to fulfill their environmental responsibilities in accordance with the highest international standards.

In fiscal 2024/2025, the corporation launched a series of initiatives and programs that reflect its unwavering dedication to ensure sustainable development and environmental protection in Kuwait and abroad. Among the most significant of these efforts is the active participation of KPC in ambitious environmental projects, such as planting mangrove and jujube trees to promote

sustainability. It also supported the second phase of the project to develop farming technology for shim fish, a pioneering initiative that contributes to marine resource development and strengthens ecological balance.

KPC and its subsidiaries continue their tireless efforts to achieve net zero carbon emissions for Scopes 1 and 2 by 2050, in line with the long-term energy transition strategy of KPC. This strategy includes nine initiatives, such as eliminating routine gas flaring, improving energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy opportunities, and advancing carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies – all these while supporting biodiversity.

Affirming its belief that conserving natural resources, particularly water, is a pressing necessity to ensure sustainability for future generations, KPC organized an event titled, “Water Rationalization.”

The event aimed to raise awareness on the importance of rational water consumption and to showcase best practices and technologies that enable individuals and institutions to achieve this goal.

Around 200 representatives of oil companies and various government agencies attended the event, which featured awareness lectures delivered by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait University, and the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.



Ahmadi Governorate photo
Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah welcomes Pakistani Ambassador Zafar Iqbal at the governorate headquarters.

Ahmadi Governor, Pakistani envoy seek broader horizons in relations

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met with Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Kuwait Zafar Iqbal at his office in the headquarters of the governorate on Wednesday.

They engaged in a cordial conversation, tackling bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen ties in all fields.

The Governor warmly welcomed the Ambassador, wishing him success in his duties, especially in expanding and fortifying relations between the two countries to reach broader horizons.

Iqbal expressed his happiness and gratitude for the warm welcome, appreciating the immense care that the diplomatic mission and citizens of the Republic of Pakistan receive from Kuwait at both the official and public levels.

Female retirees lead growth

PIFSS reports surge in pensioners

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: The latest statistics released by the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) showed an increase in the number of non-military pensioners and self-employed individuals in the country, reflecting the expansion of social security beneficiaries over the past year.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the official statistics, which revealed that the number of living non-military pensioners and self-employed persons reached 154,658 as of March 31, 2025, compared to 133,928 during the same period last year -- an increase of 11,730 pensioners.

The statistics also indicated that the number of female pensioners reached 85,533 with an average monthly pension of KD1,073, while the number of males reached 69,125 with an average pension of KD1,570.

The number of self-employed individuals receiving a pension reached KD5,999, including 1,117 males with an average pension of KD1,222 and 4,882 females with an average pension of KD681.

Regarding those registered with the institution for the first time from the beginning of 2025 until the end of March, the total number reached 4,738, including 2,608 females and 2,013 males.

According to the statistics, the government sector recorded 4,029 new cases (2,353 females and 1,676 males), nine cases (seven males and two females) for the oil sector, and 700 cases (447 males and 253 females) for the private sector.

Sources attributed the increase in the number of people who registered for the first time in the first quarter of this year compared to the same period in 2024 to the suspension of appointments for a period of three months starting from Dec 5, 2023.

South Zour plant faces key upgrades

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has included a tender to upgrade and extend the lifespan of six steam units at South Zour Power and Water Distillation Plant in its contract plan for the current fiscal year.

The ministry disclosed that the tender will be issued through

the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to companies classified by the agency with experience in maintenance works, indicating the bidding will be conducted in accordance with the regulations.

South Zour Power Plant is one of the ministry's nine most important power plants, with a total production capacity of 5,990 megawatts. The ministry relies on it to meet the growing demand for electric-

ity, especially during summer.

Sources told the newspaper that the plant has eight steam units, with a production capacity of 300 megawatts each. They said it is one of the first power and water generation plants established by the ministry, but the increasing burdens and challenges it faced in recent years require modernization and development works to ensure its continuous production efficiency.

In a related development, sources revealed that the approved budget for the water network maintenance projects for the current fiscal year amounted to KD57.563 million. They added that the water distribution system of the country relies on two networks: one for fresh water and the other for brackish water. The length of the main and sub-networks will be 18,271 kilometers, most of which are ductile pipes.



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80% men, youth smokers spark concern

Smoking cessation clinic reports 20% rise in patients this summer

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Society for Combating Smoking and Cancer Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh confirmed that the smoking cessation clinic of the Society witnessed 20 percent increase in the number of patients this summer, compared to the previous year, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a press statement, Al-Saleh disclosed that the clinic provides free services to those wishing to quit smoking every Wednesday. He said the clinic recorded a high attendance rate among men during the same period, as 80 percent of the patients are men compared to 20 percent women.


He added that the age group most frequently visiting the clinic ranges between 25 and 45 years old or 60 percent of the total number of patients, while those under the age of 20 constituted around 10 percent. He pointed out that this percentage is an alarming indicator



Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Society for Combating Smoking and Cancer.

that calls for raising public awareness on the need to combat smoking among young people.

News in Briefs



Map highlights a traffic diversion or change on Street 20, indicating a new route for vehicles exiting or entering the Fifth Ring Road.

Andalus, Damascus streets to close

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: The General Traffic Department announced the closure of the entrance and exit to Andalus, on Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Road (Fifth Ring Road) towards Jahra, starting Thursday until dawn on Sept 2, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

It also announced the closure of Damascus Street towards Qurtubah, starting from its entrance on Hussein bin Ali Al Roumi Road (Fourth Ring Road) to its exit on Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan Road (Fifth Ring Road), from Thursday until dawn on Aug 31.

Ministry warns of fake Kuwait Post emails:

The Ministry of Communications has warned the public about suspicious emails impersonating Kuwait Post, asking recipients to visit fake websites under the pretext of paying postage fees, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry clarified in a press statement that these messages have no connection to it, stressing that communication with customers is not through email, as it is exclusively through approved post offices in various residential areas.

It urged everyone to be cautious and not respond to such fraudulent messages.

Grievances panel vows just citizenship review

Recommendations prepared for cabinet decision

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28, (KUNA): The Head of the Government’s Grievances Committee for the Kuwaiti citizenship, Counselor Ali Al-Dhubaibi, affirmed on Thursday keenness on examining complaints on citizenship withdrawal individually and preparing warranted recommendations

pending the cases’ submission to the cabinet.

The committee held its regular meeting during which each case had been looked into separately and confidentially, he said in a tweet on the government communications center website. Its proposals in this respect are presented according to relevant laws, bylaws and standing resolutions, he added. Apart from the commission’s weekly sessions,

personnel of a secretariat follow up on all complaints, tackle the data and conduct legal studies as a prelude to referring the cases to the committee for voting, Al-Dhubaibi explained. The committee receives the protests round the clock and throughout the week, he said. Those whose citizenship was withdrawn or had it according to provision eight of the citizenship law decree should report, ahead of August 31, about reclaiming their original nationality and

obtaining a passport from the relevant state to enable them enjoy the prerogatives endorsed by the cabinet, he added. In case they had conducted the procedures but did not get the passport, they are ought to prove that they had seriously sought to obtain it, he said, adding that in such a situation, the commission should proceed with handling the complaint, studying it and making the necessary recommendations in this regard.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait busts

This harmed the financial and economic system of the country, and undermined confidence in the banking systems of those countries and the State of Kuwait. The ministry stated that the gang consists of A.A., a Kuwaiti national, M.S., an Egyptian, S.B., an Egyptian, M.F., an Egyptian, H.Q., an Egyptian, M.H., an Egyptian, A.A., an Egyptian and M.A., a Kuwaiti. The ministry affirmed that act of the gang constitutes a crime that falls within the scope of harming the country’s national interests, in addition to being criminalized and punishable as per Law No. 106/2013 on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. It stressed that the security authorities will continue to firmly deal with anyone who attempts to exploit the financial system, confirming that it will not hesitate to pursue and apprehend violators, and will take the most severe legal deterrent measures against them, in order to preserve the integrity of the financial system and protect the regional and international reputation of the State of Kuwait, thus, consolidating its position and enhancing its security and stability. Meanwhile, in compliance with the directives and under the supervision of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, and within the framework of intensive security efforts to combat forgery and bribery and protect the integrity of government procedures, the Criminal Investigation and Licensing Department in the Criminal Security Sector, in cooperation with the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), arrested a criminal network involved in forging work permit applications for commercial companies in exchange for bribes. In a press statement on Thursday, the ministry disclosed that the results of extensive and confidential investigations led to the discovery that an employee at PAM in Hawally Governorate, who served as acting department director at the time of the incident, was providing a middleman with valid transactions, which the latter then used in fraudulent operations to obtain work permits for the Egyptian community, in exchange for sums ranging between KD130 and KD250 per transaction. The ministry added that after the middleman was arrested and confronted with the findings of the investigation, he confessed to receiving the transactions from a PAM employee and handing them over to an individual

working at a printing press. This individual then falsified the original data and re-uploaded them on Sahel application in exchange for KD5 for each falsified transaction. According to the ministry, the other defendants admitted to offering bribes to the middleman, who exploited his influence within PAM to facilitate the illegal recruitment of workers. They confirmed their involvement in completing forged transactions for several companies, which are currently being identified and monitored. It stated that legal measures have been taken against all the accused and they were referred to the Public Prosecution. Meanwhile, security agencies continue their investigations to identify all parties involved in the network, stressing that they will not hesitate to pursue anyone who attempts to exploit administrative systems and harm the reputation and interests of the State of Kuwait. It disclosed that the accused include M. Z., a Kuwaiti working at PAM, H. S., an Egyptian working in a general trading company, A. T., an Egyptian working in a printing and photocopying company, A. S., an Egyptian working in a general trading company, A. J., an Egyptian working in a general construction company, M. A., an Egyptian working in a website design and management company, A. H., a Syrian working in a general construction contracting company, and F. A., an Egyptian working in a consumer delivery company. In addition, senior security sources told the newspaper that the ministry is continuing its investigations to take firm measures against anyone who dares to work in the trade of forged residencies and visas, regardless of his position or work, indicating that the investigations of the detectives are continuing to dismantle any network that uses these illegal methods.

Kuwait working

He affirmed that national identity, which His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah focused on in his lofty speeches, is the most important issue that concerns Kuwait. Regarding those whose Kuwaiti citizenship was revoked as per Article Eight of the Nationality Law, the First Deputy Prime Minister confirmed “the focus is on a specific date. We found many who obtained citizenship through manipulation.” He pointed out that “some of them have Kuwaiti mothers. We did not touch their benefits, while there are those who

obtained citizenship for the benefits. We are publishing all the details in this regard through the local newspapers and there is a grievance committee that studies the measures taken. If there are errors, we will correct them.” He continued “we have taken into account all matters concerning them. If their salaries have been delayed, this is due to the measures that have been eased, so no one is wronged. We set a date to comply with the State’s request to rectify their status.” On those granted citizenship based on their noble deeds, he disclosed “we were surprised to find that in 2005, there was a large number of citizenship grants to these people. Citizenship was withdrawn from about 900 people and we did not touch the privileges granted to them, but they must rectify their status and obtain their nationality.” Asked about the children of those whose nationality was withdrawn as per Article Eight, especially those who held supervisory positions, he stated “these are the children of Kuwait, the sons of Kuwaitis, and those positions are not as important as you are talking about, their number is not large, and they enjoy the same benefits as their fathers.” Regarding freedom of speech, he asserted “we are an open society and there are no ‘customs’ for speech. Only those who touch upon HH the Amir are held accountable. I reiterate that you have the right to publish everything.” He expounded on this matter, saying, “I always tell the Minister of Information, who is present among us, that there should be an official spokesperson for the government, as practiced in all countries around the world, and that he should clarify everything presented in the media, whether at the local or international level. As I said, we have nothing to hide.” Regarding tourism and the ‘Visa Kuwait’ platform, he revealed “we are developing this platform. In the coming period, there will be laws related to tourism that will be the best at the regional level. The Minister of Information is also working hard to establish frameworks related to this matter and there will be related activities in the next month.” On the overlap of powers between ministries he revealed “we are working hard to untangle this, so the document cycle is clear. The current era is for directing everyone in the country towards development, and for Kuwait to be the best in the region in terms of sustainable development.” About the exit permit for expatriate workers in the private sector, he pointed out “this procedure is in place in all countries in the region and there are no complications. It is issued electronically

and there is no delay. It is intended to preserve the rights of both the employee and the company. If the employee commits acts that harm the company, he is prevented from obtaining such permission.” On prisoners involved in civil cases, including ‘bounced cheques or debtors’ — many of whom have become elderly and could be released with electronic bracelets placed on their feet, he asked one of his assistants to record this and remind him about it. The First Deputy Prime Minister also talked about the monitoring of counterfeiters and drug smugglers, and how they are arrested. He confirmed that the smuggling route through the sea has been controlled, and that Kuwait is now regaining cleanliness. “While smuggling used to exceed countries larger than Kuwait, such as Saudi Arabia, the situation has changed and monitoring is very evident now,” he added. When the editors-in-chief requested that the meeting be held periodically, he said “we welcome that. Allah willing, the meeting with the editors-in-chief and media personnel will be held monthly.”

1st Deputy

A statement by the Ministry of Interior quoted Sheikh Fahad Saud as praising the distinctive efforts that had been exerted by ambassador Shaltout, his substantial contributions to cementing further the solid and brotherly relations bonding the State of Kuwait with the Arab Republic of Egypt. For his turn, the ambassador expressed deep gratitude to the Kuwaiti leadership, government and people for their support and cooperation throughout the duration of his duties in the country, also lauding the historic and deep-rooted relations between the two brotherly countries.

Hot and

He disclosed that the weather on Friday will be very hot and humid in coastal areas, with variable northwesterly winds, light to moderate in speed, sometimes active, between 10 and 40 kilometers per hour, while the expected maximum temperature will be between 45 and 47 degrees Celsius. The sea will be light to moderate with waves between one and four feet. He went on to say that the weather on Friday night will be hot with variable northwesterly winds, light to moderate in speed, ranging between eight and 38 kilometers per hour, while the expected

minimum temperatures will be between 32 and 34 degrees Celsius. The sea will be light to moderate with waves between two and five feet. On Saturday, the weather will be very hot, with northwesterly winds, light to moderate in speed, sometimes active, between 12 and 45 kilometers per hour, with a chance of dust. The expected maximum temperature will range between 46 and 48 degrees Celsius, and the sea will be light to moderate with waves between two and five feet, he stated. He continued saying that the weather on Saturday night will be hot with variable northwesterly winds, light to moderate in speed, between eight and 35 kilometers per hour, while the expected minimum temperature will be between 32 and 34 degrees Celsius, and the sea will be light to moderate with waves between two and four feet.

Kuwait supports

the L.69 Group, through Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which lauded Kuwait’s wise leadership of the process through open discussions on issues of contest in the last nine months. The African Group, through Sierra Leone, commended Kuwait and Ambassador Al-Bannai’s contributions to revive discussions on UNSC reforms especially regarding the “historical injustice” that prevented African representation in the council. The session saw inputs from China, Pakistan, the Arab Group, and other bodies, which commended the talks aimed at closing the gap and bridging divergent views. Kuwait, for its part, affirmed its intention to continue efforts to facilitate greater transparency within the UN. The session concluded with the UNGA expressing gratitude to the facilitators and their efforts in this specific domain.

Kuwait Vision

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR)’s water desalination, energy and wastewater treatment project, Kuwait University’s artificial intelligence projects, and the establishment of specialized laboratories to support the development of smart cities. Ambassador Al-Najem emphasized that these projects embody Kuwait’s commitment to transitioning to a knowledge economy and reflect the spirit of cooperation with China. Kuwait was the guest of honor at the

first China-Arab States Expo in 2013, reflecting its pioneering role in supporting this event since its inception, and affirming its position as a key partner in the China-Arab States cooperation process. Al-Najem pointed out that Kuwait’s recent accession as a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) represents a strategic step to support investments in smart infrastructure projects, sustainable energy, and digital technologies. The seventh edition kicked off Thursday in Yinchuan, Ningxia, with approximately 18,000 participants from 75 countries. It is the first time that all Arab countries have participated, with the United Arab Emirates participating as the guest of honor this year.

HH Amir

From 1991 to 1993, he served as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. From 1989 to 1991, he was a political researcher in the Office of the Minister of Interior. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed a decree appointing Sheikh Abdulaziz Mishal Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan. The decree shall be implemented by the Prime Minister and Ministers and published in the official gazette.

Progress on

The meeting was attended by Head of the Diwan of the Prime Minister Abdulaziz Al-Dakhil, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Meshan, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy; Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, Director General of the Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department Counselor Salah Ateeq Al-Majed, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshaal Mubarak Abdullah Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Hayat.

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
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RECALL INFORMATION

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REMEDY

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CONTACT

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This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46,47 and48)of no.(27/2015) issuing the executive by laws no.(39/2014)on Consumer Protection

Bids open for consultancy

PAHW moves forward with affordable housing project

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced the opening of bids for two tenders to provide consultancy services related to the management and supervision of the implementation of the Affordable Housing Project, which includes the construction of 3,685 affordable homes, public buildings and infrastructure like roads, side-walks, lighting and electrical cables. Reliable sources informed the newspaper that the total lowest bid for the two tenders is about KD8.7 million, marking an important step toward completing this massive project. Sources revealed the first tender is for the supervision of the construction of 1,985 affordable homes, indicating two companies submitted their offers and the lowest bid is KD4.6 million. Sources said the second tender is for the supervision of the construction of 1,700 affordable homes and associated infrastructure works. Three companies submitted their bids and the lowest bid is KD4.088 million. Sources confirmed that all bids are subject to a thorough review by the relevant authorities in terms of legal, technical and financial aspects before final recommendations are made to award the contracts. They emphasized that these procedures ensure transparency and selection of the best offer in line with the highest standards. They added that the affordable housing project, which consists of 9,800 homes, public buildings and basic services, is one of the most significant solutions to the housing issue. Sources said the executive contracts for the project were previously awarded, while the advisory and supervisory phases are being completed. Sources expect the completion of the entire project within three years, indicating it will serve as a comprehensive alternative to the Sulaibiya and Taima housing areas. They asserted that the project is part of the aspirations of the State to provide adequate housing for Kuwaiti families and its commitment to develop modern and sustainable urban areas.

وزارة التجارة والصناعة
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RECALL INFORMATION

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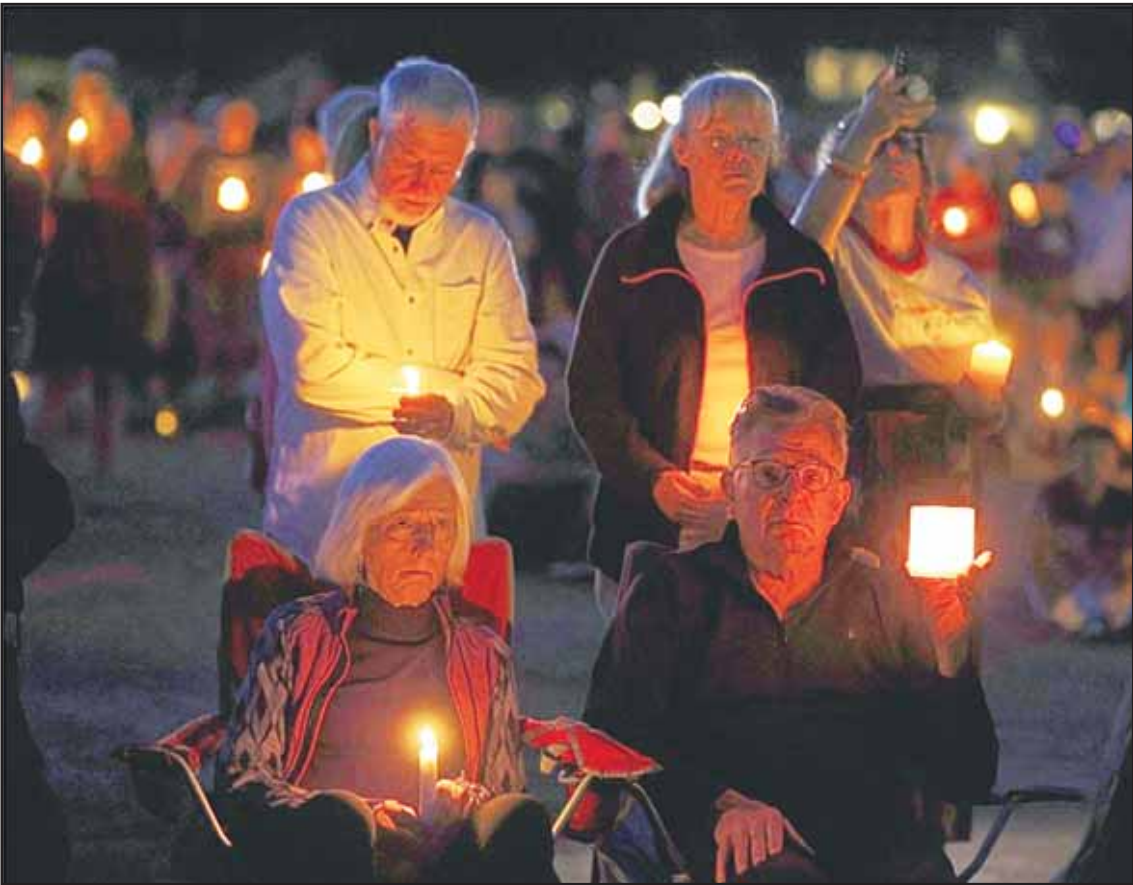
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This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42,43,44,45,46,47 and48)of no.(27/2015) issuing the executive by laws no.(39/2014)on Consumer Protection



People gather at a vigil at Lynnhurst Park after a shooting at the Annunciation Catholic School on Aug 27, in Minneapolis. (AP)

Hundreds honor 2 children killed, 17 people wounded in Minneapolis school shooting

RICHFIELD, Minn., Aug 28, (AP): Just hours after a shooter opened fire through the windows of a church in Minneapolis, killing two children and wounding 17 people, hundreds crowded inside a nearby school’s gym, clutching one another and wiping away tears during a vigil alongside Gov Tim Walz and clergy members.

Speaking to a silent crowd crammed shoulder-to-shoulder Wednesday night, while hundreds more waited outside, Archbishop Bernard Hebda described the students trying to shield their classmates as the gunfire erupted.

“In the midst of that there was courage, there was bravery, but most especially there was love,” he said at the Academy of Holy Angels, about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) south of the shooting, in the suburb of Richfield.

Armed with a rifle, shotgun and pistol, 23-year-old Robin Westman shot dozens of rounds Wednesday morning toward the children sitting in the pews during Mass at the Annunciation Catholic School, Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O’Hara said at news conferences. The shooter then died by suicide, he said.

The children who died were 8 and 10. Fourteen other kids and three octogenarian parishioners were wounded but expected to survive, the chief said.

Rev. Dennis Zehren, who was inside the church with the nearly 200 children, said they were almost to the end of the Responsorial Psalm, which speaks about light in the darkness. That’s when he heard someone yell, “Down down, everybody down,” and the gunshots started.

Fifth-grader Weston Halsne told reporters he ducked for the pews, covering his head, shielded by a friend who was lying on top of him. His friend was hit, he said.

“I was super scared for him, but I think now he’s OK,” the 10-year-old said.

FBI Director Kash Patel said on X that the shooting is being investigated as an act of domestic terrorism and a hate crime.

Westman’s mother had worked at the church for five years, retiring in 2021, according to a church Facebook post that year. It’s not clear if Robin Westman ever attended the church or had been enrolled at the school.

O’Hara said police had not determined a motive for the bloodshed. The chief said, however, that investigators

were examining a social media post that appeared to show the shooter at the scene.

O’Hara, who gave the wounded youngsters’ ages as 6 to 15, said a wooden plank was placed to barricade some of the side doors, and that authorities found a smoke bomb at the scene.

On a YouTube channel titled Robin W, the alleged shooter released at least two videos before the channel was taken down Wednesday. In one, the alleged shooter shows a cache of weapons and ammunition.

A second video shows the alleged shooter pointing to two outside windows in what appears to be a drawing of the church, and then stabbing it with a long knife.

Westman’s uncle, former Kentucky state lawmaker Bob Heleringer, said he did not know the accused shooter well and was confounded by the “unspeakable tragedy.”

The police chief said Westman did not have an extensive known criminal history and is believed to have acted alone.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey decried hatred being directed at “our community.”

New group of party officials governing process

Dems eye new presidential primary calendar in '28, S.Carolina's top spot in jeopardy

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug 28, (AP): The Democratic National Committee is seriously considering scrambling the party’s 2028 presidential primary calendar. And South Carolina - the state that hosted the Democrats’ first-in-the-nation contest in 2024 - is far from a lock to go first.

That’s according to several members of the DNC’s new leadership team, including Chair Ken Martin.

“The idea that we’re just going to sort of rubber stamp the same old calendar, that is not likely what’s going to happen,” Martin told The Associated Press.

Followed closely by political insiders, the order of each party’s state-by-state presidential nomination process has major implications for the economies of the states involved, the candidates and ultimately the nation.

The changes may come even as the next presidential primary has already begun - informally, at least. A half dozen presidential prospects have already begun to make early pilgrimages to the states that topped the calendar last time: South Carolina, New Hampshire and Iowa chief among them.

The would-be candidates may need to amend their travel schedules.

While Democrats and Republicans have the power to change their calendar every four years, the same batch of states - Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada - have dominated the process for decades.

Democrats, led by former president Joe Biden, gave South Carolina the opening position in 2024 instead of Iowa and New Hampshire in a nod to the party’s loyal base of Black voters, while adding Georgia and Michigan to the so-called early window.

But now a new group of party officials is governing the calendar process. Martin earlier in the year replaced former Chair Jaime Harrison, a South Carolina native. And 32 of the 49 members of the powerful Rules and Bylaws Committee, which will vote on any new calendar before it moves to the party’s full body, are new to the committee.

“We’re not as tied to the way we’ve always done things,” said DNC Vice Chair Shasti Conrad, who is a newcomer to Rules and Bylaws and also chairs the Washington state Democratic Party.

“A priority for me is that there are large communities of color in those states,” Conrad said.

As Democratic officials gathered in Martin’s home state of Minnesota for their summer meeting this week, there were several private conversations about



DNC Chairman Ken Martin speaks during a news conference in Aurora, Illinois on Aug 5. (AP)

whether South Carolina, which is a reliably Republican state, should be replaced by another Southern state that is considered a swing state in the general election. North Carolina and Georgia are considered the early favorites if a change is made.

Martin himself said South Carolina could lose its top spot. But he expressed confidence that a state with a large Black population, if not South Carolina, would be featured prominently in the Democrats’ next nomination process.

“Clearly, the most reliable constituency of the Democratic Party are Black voters, and they will have a prominent role in the selection of our nominee,” Martin said. “And whether it’s South Carolina or some other states, rest assured that making sure that there’s a state in the mix that actually will battle test your nominee

with African American voters is really critical to making sure we can win in November.”

Leaders from several states hoping to claim an opening slot began making their cases in private conversations with influential DNC members this week. Others have begun to speak out publicly. Officials from Nevada and Iowa have advocated for themselves more publicly in recent days.

Nevada Democrats released a memo on Wednesday arguing that it should win the top spot in 2028 if the party “is serious about winning back working-class voters.”

“Given the challenges we are facing to rebuild our party brand, we cannot afford to have overwhelmingly college-educated, white, or less competitive states kick off the process of selecting our party’s nominee,” wrote Hilary Barrett, executive director of the Nevada Democratic Party.

Harrison said he would “fight like hell” to ensure South Carolina stays first in 2028.

“If you take a look at every presidential primary we’ve had over the last 20 years, South Carolina has been a better predictor than Nevada, Iowa or New Hampshire in terms of picking” the eventual nominee, Harrison said. “And that is because our people are not ideological. ... No, a majority of Black voters are not conservative or progressive. They’re pragmatic.”

Harrison noted that while South Carolina went first in 2024, there was no real competition for Biden.

“I think it’s a big slap in the face if you say that you don’t even give South Carolina an opportunity to be first in the nation at least one time in an open primary process, right?” he said.

The debate won’t be decided this year.

The Rules and Bylaws Committee will host a meeting in September to formalize how the calendar selection process will play out. Martin said a series of meetings would follow throughout the fall, winter and into next spring.

New Hampshire Democratic Party Chair Ray Buckley, one of the few veterans who retained their seat on Rules and Bylaws, noted that New Hampshire is bound by state law to host the nation’s opening presidential primary election regardless of the DNC’s wishes.

New Hampshire, of course, bucked the DNC’s 2024 calendar. Iowa in recent days has threatened to go rogue as well in 2028 if its skipped over again.



Rescue workers clear the rubble of a residential house destroyed by a Russian strike in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Aug 28. (AP)

Mass Russian drone and missile attack kills 18 people and injures 48 in Ukraine's capital

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 28, (AP): Russia bombarded the Ukrainian capital with drones and missiles early Thursday, including a rare strike in the city center, killing at least 18 people and wounding 48, local authorities said.

It was the first major Russian attack on Kyiv in weeks as US-led peace efforts to end the three-year war struggled to gain traction. Russia launched 598 strike drones and decoys and 31 missiles of different types across the country, according to Ukraine’s Air Force, making it one of the war’s biggest air attacks.

Among the dead were four children between 2 and 17, said Tymur Tkachenko, the head of Kyiv’s city administration. The numbers are expected to rise. Rescue teams were on site to pull people trapped underneath the rubble.

“Russia chooses ballistics instead of the negotiating table,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a post on X following the attack. “We expect a response from everyone in the world who has called for peace but now more often stays silent rather than taking principled positions.”

Russia’s Ministry of Defense said it carried out a strike against military air bases and companies “within Ukraine’s military-industrial complex” using long-range weapons, in-



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivers a media statement at EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on Aug 28. (AP)

cluding Kinzhal missiles.

“All designated objects were hit,” the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry also said it shot down 102 Ukrainian drones overnight, mostly in the country’s southwest. A drone attack sparked a blaze at the Afipsky oil refinery in the Krasnodar region, local officials said, while a second fire was reported at the Novokuibyshevsk refinery in the Samara region.

Meanwhile, the European Commission said it will summon Russia’s

envoy to the European Union over the air attack early Thursday that damaged the bloc’s diplomatic compound in Kyiv.

Kaja Kallas, the European Union’s top diplomat, said in a post on X on Thursday that she would be summoning Russia’s envoy to the 27-nation bloc.

“No diplomatic mission should ever be a target. In response, we are summoning the Russian envoy in Brussels,” Kallas wrote.

Germany launches drive to add military recruits without conscription for now

BERLIN, Aug 28, (AP): Germany’s leaders on Wednesday launched a drive to attract more people into voluntary military service as the country scrambles to strengthen its armed forces in the face of growing fears about Russian aggression, a project that some in the governing coalition say doesn’t go far enough.

Germany, a leading NATO and European Union member, has moved to modernize its long-neglected military since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. That year, it set up a 100 billion euro (\$117 billion) special fund to modernize the Bundeswehr, much of which has been committed to procuring new equipment.

New Chancellor Friedrich Merz’s coalition this year pushed plans through parliament to enable higher defense spending by loosening strict rules on incurring debt. Merz has said repeatedly he wants the Bundeswehr to be “the strongest conventional army in Europe.”

The government is redoubling its efforts to attract more recruits, which the military struggled to do in recent years. Germany had some 181,000 active servicepeople at the end of last year. But the government says it needs to increase that in the long term to 260,000, plus some 200,000 reservists.

“The Bundeswehr must grow - the international security situation, above all Russia’s aggressive behavior, make this necessary,” Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said Wednesday. “We need



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz stands next to frigate captain Michael Klöforn-Dorscht, (left), commander of the Bayern, and frigate captain Volker Kübsch, (right), commander of the 4th frigate squadron, during his inaugural visit to the navy, in Rostock, Germany on Aug 28. (AP)

not just well-equipped forces, we are going at full speed on that ... we also need a Bundeswehr that is strong in terms of personnel. Only then is deterrence toward Russia really credible.”

Pistorius spoke after Merz’s Cabinet approved his plan for a new military service system. It aims to draw sufficient recruits without reviving compulsory conscription for men, which was suspended in 2011, but leaves the door open for parliament to do so if not enough people volunteer.

The plan foresees more attractive pay

and conditions for people who agree to join the military for short periods and what Pistorius describes as attractive training offers for those who join up for at least six months, as well as flexibility on how long people can serve.

Beginning next year, the government plans to send questionnaires to young men and women turning 18 about their willingness and ability to serve in the military. Starting in mid-2027, young men will be required to undergo medical examinations, though not to sign up for the military.

America

Trump administration proposes new rule: The US Department of Homeland Security announced Wednesday a new rule, that will limit the amount of time that foreign students, professors, physicians, and other visa holders are allowed to remain in the United States without additional screening and vetting.

The rule will curb visa abuse and increasing the Department of Homeland Security’s ability to properly vet and oversee these individuals, according to a press release from the DHS Office of Public Affairs.

“For too long, past Administrations have allowed foreign students and other visa holders to remain in the US virtually indefinitely, posing safety risks, costing untold amount of taxpayer dollars, and disadvantaging US citizens,” said a DHS spokesperson.

Under President **Donald Trump’s** proposed rule, the federal government would set the authorized admission and extension periods for foreign students and exchange visitors up to the duration of the program they are participating in, not to exceed a 4-year period. (KUNA)



Trump

Florida CFO subpoenas county workers: Florida’s

chief financial officer said Wednesday that his office had issued subpoenas to county workers in the Orlando area after they didn’t fully cooperate with the state’s version of DOGE, which has been examining local governments for wasteful spending. The subpoenas for Orange County workers over failing to cooperate fully with the state’s DOGE efforts were the first, but workers in other counties could face similar subpoenas, said Florida CFO Blaise Ingolia. Orange County is home to Orlando.

The Republican chief financial officer accused Orange County workers of hiding records related to diversity, equality and inclusion, also known as DEI, and reading from a prepared script when asked questions. He wouldn’t say how many subpoenas his office had issued. (AP)

Garcia requests asylum in US: Kilmar Abrego Garcia, whose case has come to encapsulate much of President Donald Trump’s hard-line immigration agenda, wants to seek asylum in the United States, his lawyers told a federal judge Wednesday.

The asylum request - Abrego Garcia’s second, after a denial in 2019 - has been submitted in a Maryland immigration court, further complicating his complex immigration case that intensified in March when he was wrongfully deported to a notorious prison in his native El Salvador.

The Trump administration maintains that Abrego Garcia, 30, is part of the dangerous MS-13 gang - an allegation he denies - and has said it intends to deport him to the African country of Uganda. (AP)

26 foreign leaders to attend event

N.Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un to meet with Xi and Putin at Chinese military parade

BEIJING, Aug 28, (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will make his first visit to China in six years to attend a military parade next week, the two countries said Thursday, in an event that would bring him together with a large group of world leaders for the first time since taking office in late 2011.

With Russian President Vladimir Putin also coming for the parade, the event will underline the three-way alignment among Beijing, Moscow and Pyongyang in the face of a US push to bolster its alliances with South Korea and Japan.

North Korea’s state media said Kim was invited to visit China by President Xi Jinping. Kim will be among 26 foreign leaders who attend next Wednesday’s parade in Beijing to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and China’s resistance against Japan’s wartime aggressions, China’s foreign ministry said.

“We warmly welcome General Secretary Kim Jong Un to China to attend the commemorative events,” Hong Lei, China’s assistant minister of foreign affairs, told a press conference. “Upholding, consolidating and developing the traditional friendship between China and the DPRK is a firm position of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government.”

DPRK refers to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, North Korea’s official name.

Since inheriting power upon his father’s death in December 2011, Kim has met Xi, Putin, US President Donald Trump, former South Korean president Moon Jae-in and others. But all those summits were bilateral meetings and Kim hasn’t attended any big multilateral events with foreign leaders.

“Given that other leaders attending are mostly from pro-Russia and pro-Chinese countries, Kim likely intends to form solidarity with those Global South countries while showing he’s leader of a normal country,” said Moon Seong Mook, an analyst for the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy.

Observers say Kim is likely emboldened by his country’s expanding cooperation with Russia, which has helped him bear the brunt of US-led sanctions and



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks during a ceremony to mark the 80th anniversary of Korea’s liberation from Japanese colonial rule, in Pyongyang, North Korea on Aug 14. (AP)

break out of diplomatic isolation. North Korea has been supplying troops and ammunition to support Russia’s war against Ukraine in return for economic and military assistance.

Others coming for the parade include the leaders of Iran, Belarus, Serbia, Cuba, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Malaysia. No leaders from major Western countries including the US are expected to attend, in part because of their differences with Putin over the war in Ukraine. The parade is expected to feature some of China’s newest weaponry and a speech by Xi.

China, North Korea and Russia are embroiled in separate confrontations with the U.S., but they haven’t formed a clear three-way alliance so far.

Xi, Putin and Kim haven’t met in trilateral formats, though they’ve met one another bilaterally.

“Kim’s attendance is significant for his own international stature, but it also holds weight in the balance of alliances between the US and China,” said Soo Kim, a former CIA analyst. “Xi, Putin, and now Kim attending the parade cements a visible statement about the alignment between the three countries.”

The three leaders likely share desires to check the strengthening cooperation among the U.S., South Korea and Japan, which have been meeting regularly and expanding trilateral military exercises. Despite their shared goals, it’s not clear how far China, North Korea and Russia will go to further cement ties.

China remains the largest purchaser of Russian oil and technology provider supporting the Russian war machine, though it is officially neutral in the conflict.

China has also long been North Korea’s biggest trading partner and main aid provider, but there have been questions about their relations in recent years. Chinese group tours to North Korea have remained suspended for years.

Kim’s visit to China could also be related to efforts to restart diplomacy with Trump, who has repeatedly highlighted his relationship with Kim and expressed his hopes to resume talks.

In all, Kim traveled to China four times from 2018 to 2019 to meet Xi. His first and fourth visits happened just before he met Trump for their earlier high-stakes nuclear negotiations.

Asia

Indonesia demands answer from Timor Leste:

Indonesia demanded an explanation from Timor Leste regarding the near-fatal shooting of an Indonesian national from East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) amid a land and border dispute in Indonesia-Timor Leste border.

Indonesian Ambassador to Timor Leste **Okto Dorinus Manik** said in a statement cited by the foreign ministry and obtained by Indonesian News Agency (ANTARA) that he has inspected the incident site and coordinated with local authorities.



Manik

The Ministry spokesperson Vahd Nabyl confirmed that the Indonesian victim, identified as Paulus Oki, has been evacuated and is receiving medical care after suffering wounds on his right shoulder caused by a rubber bullet.

Earlier, Indonesia-Timor Leste Border Security Task Force Commander Lieutenant Colonel Reindi Nugroho confirmed that Oki was shot on the Indonesia-Timor Leste border late Monday. (KUNA)

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Royal pardon frees Thai woman: A woman in Thailand sentenced to a prison term of more than four decades on a charge of royal defamation was released on Wednesday by a royal pardon after serving just under one-fifth of her term, said a human rights organization.

Thai Lawyers for Human Rights said 69-year-old Anchana Preelert was one of six political prisoners freed under a July 29 pardon on the occasion of King Maha Vajiralongkorn’s birthday.

Anchan, a former civil servant, was sentenced in January 2021 by the Bangkok Criminal Court on 29 counts

of violating the country’s lese majeste law for posting audio clips to Facebook and YouTube with comments deemed critical of the monarchy.

She was initially sentenced to 87 years, at that time the longest such sentence ever handed down, but her term was reduced by half to 43 years and six months because she pleaded guilty to the offenses. (Xinhua)

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Volcano erupts in southwestern Japan: Mount Shinmoe on the southwestern Japan main island of Kyushu erupted on Thursday, with plumes rising to 5,500 meters above the volcano’s peak, local media reported.

The 1,421-meter volcano straddling Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures erupted at 4:53 a.m. local time, sending volcanic material 5,000 meters above the crater for the first time since July 3. Kyodo News reported, citing a local office of the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA).

The JMA maintained the level 3 alert on a scale of 5, calling on the public to refrain from approaching the crater in both Miyazaki and Kagoshima prefectures, the report said.

Mt. Shinmoe, one of 50 constantly monitored active volcanoes in Japan, erupted on June 22 for the first time since June 2018. (Xinhua)

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1 killed in Sydney stabbing: One teenager is dead and another has been hospitalized following a stabbing incident in western Sydney on Wednesday night.

A police statement on Thursday said that emergency services were called to a bus station in Mount Druiett, 38 km west of central Sydney, following reports of a concern for welfare shortly after 10:10 p.m. on Wednesday.

Police officers arrived at the scene and found two men, both aged 19, suffering from stab wounds. One of the men was treated by ambulance paramedics for stab wounds to his chest, but could not be revived and was declared deceased at the scene. The other man sustained stab wounds to his arm and was treated by paramedics before being taken to hospital in a stable condition. (Xinhua)

Protesters throw rocks at Argentine leader Javier Milei’s convoy while he campaigns

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Aug 28, (AP): Demonstrators hurled rocks at a convoy carrying Argentina’s libertarian President Javier Milei on Wednesday as his campaign caravan cut through Buenos Aires province, the cradle of the country’s left-leaning opposition movement.

Milei came away unharmed, his spokesperson said, but the attack on his motorcade cut short the high-profile rally and ratcheted up tensions just days before consequential provincial elections in Buenos Aires, where more than a third of Argentines live.

The incident comes as a corruption scandal threatens to entangle Milei’s inner circle, including his sister and chief of staff, Karina Milei, who was riding Wednesday in the bed of the pickup truck alongside the president and key candidates from their governing Liberty Advances party when rocks, bottles and other objects started flying.

There was panic and confusion as cheering supporters and jeering protesters thronged Milei’s caravan in Lomas de Zamora, a sprawling low-slung city and historic stronghold of Peronism, the populist opposition movement focused on workers’ rights that has dominated Argentine politics for the past eight decades.



Argentine President Javier Milei and his sister, Secretary General of the Presidency, Karina Milei attend a campaign rally ahead of legislative provincial elections in Lomas de Zamora, Argentina on Aug 27. (AP)

Hecklers shoved and shouted “Out with Milei!”

Caught off guard, Milei ducked inside the vehicle as security agents scrambled to shield him from rocks whizzing just over their heads.

Milei’s Liberty Advances party is seeking to gain an edge over Peronism in Sept. 7 legislative elections for Bue-

nos Aires Province and further expand its minority in the opposition-controlled congress in national midterms on Oct 26.

The elections are widely seen as test of Milei’s popularity and economic performance two years after the libertarian TV pundit was elected on a bid to eliminate the country’s chronic fiscal deficits and end spiraling inflation.



This photo provided by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and taken on Philippine Navy BRP Jose Rizal (FF150) during Exercise ALON 2025 shows it sailing in formation with Australian navy HMAS Brisbane (DDG41) and Canadian navy frigate HMCS Ville de Québec (FFH332), east of Scarborough Shoal on Aug 27. (AP)

Australia, Canada and Philippines stage air defense drills

Australia, Canada and the Philippines deployed three warships and aircraft Wednesday for drills against simulated aerial threats off a disputed South China Sea shoal where Chinese forces have used risky maneuvers to try to drive away Manila’s aircraft and ships.

The Philippine military said the naval drills east of the Scarborough Shoal were concluded safely, and it did not mention any encounter with Chinese coast guard, navy and

suspected militia ships which have been closely guarding the uninhabited fishing atoll off the northwestern Philippines for years.

Chinese officials did not immediately issue any comment on the naval drills but they have repeatedly warned that they would defend the shoal and outlying waters, which they claim as Beijing’s territory, at all cost.

China and the Philippines claim Scarborough and other islands, is-

lets and reefs in the South China Sea. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also lay overlapping claims in the busy waterway, a key global trade route.

The United States has no claims but has questioned China’s claim to virtually the entire sea passage, including to Scarborough. Two US warships sailed off the shoal this month to promote freedom of navigation and were shadowed by a Chinese navy ship. (AP)

Floods affect 1.2 million and displace nearly 250,000 in eastern Pakistan

NAROWAL, Pakistan, Aug 28, (AP): Rescuers in boats raced to reach stranded families in Pakistan’s populous eastern Punjab province Thursday, after three major rivers burst their banks because of heavy rain and the release of water from overflowing dams in neighboring India.

The floods displaced nearly 250,000 people and officials said more than 1 million people were affected, with crops and businesses destroyed and many unable to leave their homes.

At least 15 people were killed a day earlier in Gujranwala district and nearby villages, according to police. Forecasters said more rain was expected Friday, after a two-day pause, and could continue into next week.

Provincial minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said floods hit 1,432 villages located along the Ravi, Sutlej and Chenab rivers, affecting about 1.2 million people and displacing 248,000 others.

Nearly 700 relief and 265 medical camps have been set up in the flood-hit areas, she said, adding that food and other essential supplies are



Residents retrieve belongings from their flooded home due to rising water level in Ravi River after torrential rains at a low-lying area on the outskirts of Lahore, Pakistan, Aug 28. (AP)

being delivered to flood-hit areas.

Floods have killed more than 800 people in Pakistan since late June.

In Indian-controlled Kashmir’s Jammu region, some of the heavi-

est rains in decades for the month of August have wrought havoc, triggering flash floods and landslides that also hit two Hindu pilgrimage routes in the Himalayan areas.

Homes have been submerged and roads and bridges damaged, forcing Indian authorities to evacuate thousands of people living in flooded areas. At least 115 people have been killed and scores injured.

In Pakistan, it is also the first time in 38 years that the Ravi, Sutlej and Chenab rivers have been in high flood simultaneously, forcing rescue workers to intensify operations across multiple districts, according to the provincial irrigation department.

Some families said they were still waiting for government help.

“My family on the rooftop of our house waited for two days for the arrival of a boat,” said Zainab Bibi, 54, as she sat along a road surrounded by floodwater in Narowal district. She admitted to ignoring an earlier government alert because she thought floods would never hit her village, located kilometers (miles) away from the river.

Sudan’s Rapid Support Forces shell besieged Darfur city, killing 24 people

CAIRO, Aug 28, (AP): A paramilitary group fighting against Sudan’s military shelled a besieged city in the western region of Darfur, killing at least 24 people, a medical group said Thursday.

The Rapid Support Forces shelled the densely populated areas of the central market and Awlad al-Reef neighborhood in el-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur province, according to the Sudan Doctors Network, which tracks the country’s civil war. The attack wounded 55 people, including five women, it said.

The city has been at the epicenter of fighting for over a year between the Sudanese military and the RSF. It is the military’s last stronghold in the Darfur region.

The RSF didn’t respond to a request for comment.

Sudan plunged into a civil war in April 2023 when simmering tension between the military and the RSF exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the northeastern African country.

Wednesday’s shelling was the latest in a series of attacks on el-Fasher and its surroundings, including two famine-hit camps for displaced people where RSF fighters ran riot in April in a major offensive that killed hundreds of people.

In August, at least 89 civilians were killed in RFS attacks in and around the city in a span of 10 days, including 16 who were summarily executed, according to the U.N. high commissioner for human rights.

The RSF besieged and turned it into “an epicentre of child suffering, with malnutrition, disease, and violence claiming young lives daily,” according to the United Nations children agency.

The siege left 260,000 civilians, including 130,000 children, trapped inside the city and living in “desperate conditions” after being cut off from aid for more than 16 months,



An army soldier walks in front of the Republican Palace in Khartoum, Sudan, after it was taken over by Sudan’s army on March 21. (AP)

UNICEF said in a statement Wednesday. An estimated 60,000 children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition and are at risk of death, it said.

The conflict has killed more than 40,000 people, forced more than 14 million to flee their homes and left some families eating grass in a desperate attempt to survive as famine swept parts of the country.

It has been marked by gross atrocities including ethnically motivated killings and rape, according to the United Nations and rights groups.

Ex-Puerto Rico governor Wanda Vázquez pleads guilty to campaign finance violation

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Aug 28, (AP): Former Puerto Rico governor Wanda Vázquez pleaded guilty Wednesday to a campaign finance violation in a federal case that authorities say also involved a former FBI agent and a Venezuelan banker.

Vázquez, an attorney, became the US territory’s first former governor to plead guilty to a crime, specifically accepting a donation from a foreigner for her 2020 political campaign. She is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct 15.

As she left the courthouse, Vázquez told reporters that she had confided “in people around her...who didn’t do their job” and accepted a donation pledge on behalf of the banker.

“They forgot to ask him for his green card,” she said, without identifying who exactly was responsible. “These are situations that happen.”

Vázquez noted that a pledge was made but no donation received. “There was no bribery here,” she said. “I didn’t take a single cent.”

Vázquez was arrested in 2022 and initially accused of participating in a bribery scheme between December 2019 and June 2020 while governor.

The US Department of Justice said Vázquez agreed to dismiss the head of Puerto Rico’s Office of the Com-



Former Puerto Rico governor Wanda Vázquez, (center), leaves the federal courthouse with her legal team in San Juan, Puerto Rico on Aug 27. (AP)

missioner of Financial Institutions in exchange for financial support toward her 2020 campaign for governor. During that time, the office was probing a bank owned by Venezuelan Julio Herrera Velutini following suspicious transactions, according to authorities.

Justice officials said that Herrera

Velutini and Mark Rossini, a former FBI agent who provided consulting services to him, allegedly paid more than \$300,000 to political consultants to support Vázquez’s campaign after she demanded the commissioner’s resignation and appointed a former consultant from Herrera Velutini’s bank to that position.

Kuwait oil price drops to \$70.65 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil dropped by USD 1.02 to USD 70.65 per barrel (pb) on Wednesday, compared to USD 71.67 pb on Tuesday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Thursday.

In global markets, Brent crude increased by 83 cents to USD 68.05 pb, while West Texas Intermediate also went up by 90 cents to USD 64.15 pb.

Boursa Kuwait finishes weaker

All Share Index falls 0.59%

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28, (KUNA): Kuwait's stock market ended Thursday in the red, with the All Share Index retreating 50.16 points, or 0.59 percent, to close at 8,515.23.

Total trading volume reached 380.16 million shares across 22,851 transactions, with a turnover of KD 103.2 million (USD 314.7 million).

The Main Market Index edged down 35.26 points, or 0.45 percent, to finish at 7,872.90. Trading on this market accounted for 204 million

shares through 11,043 deals, worth KD 39.8 million (USD 121.3 million).

The Premier Market Index also slipped, losing 56.37 points, or 0.62 percent, to 9,096.19. Activity included 176.10 million shares traded via 11,808 transactions, valued at KD 63.3 million (USD 193 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index declined by 23.50 points, or 0.29 percent, settling at 7,995.29. Turnover in this segment amounted to 153.8 million shares traded through 7,451 cash transactions, worth KD 35.10 million (around USD 107 million).

'Pledge to keep pressure'

'Target' CEO exit seen as win by boycott organizers

WASHINGTON, Aug 28, (AP): Organizers of a Target boycott that began in January are pointing to their tactics as a hopeful sign that actions against corporate retailers can still make a deep impact.

When Target announced its current chief executive officer will be stepping down in February 2026 and an insider was taking the helm, those organizers saw it as a move in the right direction and stress more than ever that boycotts will continue as long as previous promises made to the public go unfulfilled.

"It's been now nearly 200 days and what all the statistics and economics are showing that since that boycott was announced on that Monday - every single week since then - Target foot traffic in nearly 2,000 stores has declined sharply and continues to decline," said organizer Jaylani Hussein, at a news conference of the National Target Boycott movement outside Target's Minneapolis headquarters late last week.

Boycott organizers in Minnesota were among some of the first to galvanize when Target opted in January to follow other companies like Amazon and Walmart and forego diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. High-profile civil rights activists like the Rev. Al Sharpton and the Rev. Jamal Bryant also made similar calls for what they deemed a betrayal of previous DEI promises.

Social justice advocates say this shows boycotting is a key tactic not to be taken for granted.

Retail analysts say it's difficult to gauge the exact impact of the boycott, since Target has faced a slump the last few years and a leadership change was in the cards. Still, groups like Washington-based DC Boycott Target Coalition insist falling foot traffic is "due in no small part" to a boycott that spans coast to coast.

"The leadership change doesn't mean anything without a culture change," the group said in a statement, vowing to continue pressuring Target until the corporation sees its diversity goals as "more important than bowing to an administration that is filled with racism, failure and hatred."

Strategy

Opponents began the national boycott in February, during Black History Month. Their strategy left some Black-owned brands with merchandise on Target shelves conflicted or scrambling.

By April, Sharpton actually met with Target's CEO Brian Cornell, who had been at the helm for 11 years. But, nothing concrete came of it.

Cornell's departure from the role had been in the works for several years.

In September 2022, the board extended Cornell's contract for three more years and eliminated a policy requiring its chief executives to retire at age 65. When Target's chief operating officer Michael Fiddelke takes over, Cornell will transition to be executive chair of the board.

In a call with reporters, Fiddelke attributed the sales malaise to many issues like focusing too much on basics and not enough trendy items, particularly in home goods. Stacey Widlitz, president of investment research firm SW Retail Advisors, said she believes

that Target's sales malaise has more to do with its operational issues - messy stores and poorly stocked shelves - not from its pull-back from DEI initiatives.

Unraveling them did not affect Target "exponentially compared to somebody else," she said. "The consumer has a very short memory. If you have great, compelling product at value prices, they'll forgive you."

The number of Americans who say they regularly shop at Target has gone down 19% since 2021, according to GWI, a behavioral attitudinal data provider. The number of Americans who say they do not shop at Target has risen 17%.

The same analysis also looked at trends along party lines. Since last year, the number of regular Target shoppers who identify as Democrat has declined 13%. Inversely, the number of Republican customers has risen 13%. It's not clear if that is due to Target's \$1 million donation to Trump's inauguration or some other factors.

Campaigns

The strategy of racial justice boycotts stretches back over 160 years, from Reconstruction era "Buy Black" campaigns stressing the Black American economic influence to the Montgomery Bus Boycott of the Civil Rights Movement. There have been more modern campaigns like the NAACP's 15-year economic boycott of the state of South Carolina over its display of the confederate battle flag widely regarded as a symbol of hatred and slavery. The civil rights group ended its boycott in 2015 after the state removed the flag from its statehouse grounds, following the massacre of nine Black parishioners at a historic African Methodist Episcopal church in Charleston.

Some Black creators on the social media platform TikTok rejoiced on the platform at the CEO leaving and credited the boycotts. Others cautioned that Cornell was essentially promoted but that the boycott is still needed.

Black Americans' buying power has climbed over the last 25 years and is now an estimated \$2.1 trillion annually, according to Nielsen research.

Part of the reason organizers say they have zeroed in on Target is because the company had heavily touted a commitment to DEI back in 2020 after protests erupted across the nation over the murder of George Floyd. That year, Target announced it would increase representation of Black staff by 20% over three years and invest \$10 million in social justice organizations. In 2021, the company pledged to dedicate more than \$2 billion toward Black-owned businesses before the end of 2025.

In January, however, Target said it would conclude the hiring and advancement goals it had set.

For boycott organizers, a reversal of those decisions is the only way to rectify the situation.

"We're expecting that Target is making good on the promises that it made. Otherwise there's no point of discussion regarding calling off this boycott," said Nekima Levy Armstrong, a civil rights attorney and past president of the Minneapolis chapter of the NAACP. "We're asking people to join us, get involved and hold Target accountable for its actions."

Business

Eligible cards include Mastercard World Elite, Visa Signature

Warba launches 'Summer Cashback Campaign' of up to 10% for credit and prepaid cardholders

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: Warba Bank announced the launch of its Summer 2025 Cashback Campaign, an exciting addition to its exclusive programs designed to enhance customer rewards during the travel season. This initiative aligns with the Bank's mission to deliver the best possible customer experience beyond traditional banking, while maintaining excellence, nurturing talent and creating sustainable value for shareholders and society. It also reflects Warba's vision of generating unique value within and beyond banking, opening opportunities for individuals and businesses, and embodying its core values of trust, innovation, performance, collaboration and ambition.

The campaign offers customers up to 10% total cashback during the campaign period. It was carefully designed to reward cardholders for their summer travel spending, with Merchant Category Codes (MCCs) specifically chosen to cover the most common everyday purchases abroad, such as restaurants and cafés, transportation services, pharmacies and entertainment activities. This selection underscores Warba Bank's com-



Ahmad Faisal Al-Qatami, Chief Retail Banking Officer

mitment to providing real value to customers and rewarding them for spending across essential aspects of their journeys.

The campaign covers the following cards: Mastercard World, Mastercard World Elite, Visa Signature, Visa Prepaid and Visa Game Edition Prepaid.

This campaign was designed as a double reward opportunity for Warba customers. Transactions made with eligible cards in the selected MCC categories will be rewarded twice: first under the Bank's regular cashback program and second under this additional

summer campaign, giving customers the chance to earn significantly higher rewards.

With this initiative, Warba Bank reinforces its pioneering position in the market. The Bank has long been among the first to reward customers for a wide range of personal card transactions and today it sets the bar even higher by launching carefully designed, innovative cashback campaigns. This reflects Warba's strategy of distinction and renewal, translating its vision into practical initiatives that deliver genuine added value to customers and strengthen its leadership among competitors in the market.

Commenting on the campaign, Mr. Ahmad Faisal Al-Qatami, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Warba Bank, stated: "What sets Warba apart in the market is our deep belief in the importance of offering products and services that meet customer needs and exceed their expectations. We do not settle for traditional offers; we innovate campaigns designed to have a tangible impact on our customers' lives. The Summer 2025 Cashback Campaign is a prime example of this. We carefully selected the merchant categories most relevant

to summer travel to ensure our customers gain true added value when using their cards. Our commitment to innovation and our continuous engagement with our customers drive us to develop solutions that align with our ambitious strategy and our vision to be the preferred bank in Kuwait and the region, providing a holistic banking experience that goes beyond traditional financial transactions."

Warba Bank invites all customers from Primary Banking, Priority Banking, Royal Banking and Private Banking segments to take advantage of this unique opportunity by using their eligible cards during this summer travel season to maximize the benefits of the Summer 2025 Cashback Campaign.

Warba Bank has achieved remarkable success in a short period, securing a leading position in Islamic digital banking in Kuwait. With one of the largest shareholder bases among local banks, Warba Bank remains close to all segments of society, reaffirming its role as a trusted financial partner that combines innovation and social responsibility to deliver best-in-class Sharia-compliant financial products and services.

AI chip demand slows, Nvidia stock dips 3%

Nvidia Q2 revenue beats forecast, AI chip sales cool

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 28, (AP): Nvidia's sales of its artificial intelligence chipsets remained a hot commodity during the company's latest quarter, but the demand wasn't quite feverish enough to ease recent worries that the AI craze may be fading.

The results announced Wednesday were hotly anticipated because Nvidia has emerged as key barometer of a two-year-old AI boom that has been propelling the stock market to new heights. The Silicon Valley chipmaker also became the first publicly traded company to achieve a \$4 trillion market value.

In recent weeks, though, research reports and comments by prominent tech executives have raised investor fears that the AI mania has been overblown.

And now Nvidia's latest numbers covering the May-July period may feed those perceptions because the sales of the company's processors - indispensable components in the AI data centers being built around the world - aren't growing as robustly as they once were. The late 2022 release of OpenAI's ChatGPT unleashed a technological phenomenon that is starting to reshape society.

The AI chips are part of Nvidia's data center division, which posted revenue of \$41.1 billion, a 56% increase from the same time last year, but below the analyst forecast of \$41.3 billion, according to FactSet Research.

Even so, Nvidia's profit of \$26.4 billion, or \$1.08 per share, was higher than analysts predicted, as was its total revenue of \$46.7 billion - also a 56% increase from the last year.

Nvidia signaled it believes more good things are still to come by forecasting revenue of \$54 billion for the August-October period, slightly above what analysts had been envisioning for the quarter. "We are in the beginning of the build-out," Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang told analysts during a Wednesday conference call in which the company predicted another \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion will be spent on AI initiatives by the end of this decade.

But Nvidia's stock still slipped 3% in extended trading after the fiscal second quarter report came out, indicating the performance wasn't enough to allay investors' fears. A letdown was almost inevitable, given the stock price has increased by more than 10-fold during the past two



Visitors give commands to a robot at Nvidia's booth during the 3rd China International Supply Chain Expo at the China International Exhibition Center, in Beijing, July 18, 2025. (AP)

and a half years.

"Saying the stock was priced for perfection would be an enormous understatement," said Investing.com analyst Thomas Monteiro.

Delivering the kind of growth to push Nvidia toward a \$5 trillion market value has become more daunting as Nvidia's annual sales have ballooned from \$44 billion in its fiscal 2024 to a projected \$204 billion in the company's current fiscal year that ends in January. That has translated into progressively slower rates of year-over-year revenue growth. After Nvidia's revenue at least doubled or tripled from the previous year in five consecutive quarters during 2023 and 2024, the growth has been tapering off the past four quarters.

Nvidia would have fared better in the most recent quarter if President Donald Trump hadn't imposed a ban that prevented Nvidia from selling its AI chips in China during the quarter. But investors had already been forewarned the restrictions would cost the company about \$8 billion in sales from May through July, so that challenge

was already in reflected in Nvidia's stock price.

Trump took the China handcuffs off of Nvidia earlier this month in return for a 15% cut of the company's sales in that country - a compromise that is expected to help boost revenue during the upcoming months although it's unclear how quickly that will happen. In the best case scenario, Nvidia may be able to bring in \$2 billion to \$5 billion in AI chip sales to China, according to Colette Kress, the company's chief financial officer.

While the technology industry has been the biggest beneficiary of the AI frenzy, it's also been a boon for the overall stock market. The benchmark S&P 500 has gained 69% since the end of 2022, with AI fervor fueling much of the investor optimism.

But even amid the general euphoria, there recently have been murmurs about whether AI mania will prove to be an echo of the late 1990s dot-com boom and meltdown that plunged Silicon Valley into a funk that lasted several years.

Union drive targets Ford-SK \$6 bln battery plant

Kentucky EV battery workers vote on unionizing

DALLAS, Aug 28: Ballots are being cast Wednesday over a pivotal decision at a Kentucky manufacturing complex that is producing batteries for electric vehicles. Workers will decide whether to join the United Auto Workers and extend a streak of union victories in the South, where organized labor struggled to find solid footing.

A two-day union vote closes Wednesday, about a week after production began at the BlueOval SK battery park, a nearly \$6 billion joint venture between Ford Motor Co. and its South Korean partner, SK On.

Batteries from this plant will power the all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning pickup and its EV cargo van, the E-Transit.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear says the complex that sprung up in tiny Glendale - a community of around 2,000 residents an hour south of Louisville - is the single largest economic investment in Bluegrass State history.

Pro-union employee Kumari Logan is looking for the security than she believes only a unionized workforce can deliver.

"My bills are guaranteed, so my pay and benefits should be guaranteed, too," Logan said in comments emailed by the union. "Right now they can just change things whenever they feel like it, and that's stressful. With a contract, you've got it in writing. You know where you stand."

On-the-job-safety surfaced as another key issue for pro-union workers. The company says workplace safety is its top priority.

The company said it wants to maintain a "direct relationship" with its employees. When battery production started, BlueOval SK CEO Michael Adams said it is "creating good-paying, American jobs" while "strengthening the domestic supply chain and driving the transition to zero-emissions transportation."

The battery complex includes two manufacturing plants but production has started at just one of them.

The fate of BlueOval is important to Gov. Beshear, a potential White House contender in 2028 who openly touts his pro-union credentials. He said the BlueOval SK project "sparked a surge of new investment and job

announcements that placed Kentucky at the center of EV-related innovation."

And organized labor has made inroads in the South in places that are not too different from BlueOval.

Workers at a General Motors joint venture electric vehicle battery plant in Spring Hill, Tennessee, joined the union. Workers at a Volkswagen assembly plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, also voted to unionize. In Ohio, workers at another GM joint venture electric vehicle battery factory voted to join the UAW.

The union lost an organizing vote at two Mercedes factories in Alabama last year.

Domestic EV battery production is ramping up as the push toward electrification of the auto industry reaches a crossroads and as Chinese automakers expand across the globe, offering affordable electric vehicles and superfast charging stations.

Despite the unwinding by President Donald Trump of incentives meant to juice electric vehicles sales, the transition by Big Detroit automakers from internal combustion engines to electric is happening. Trump's massive tax and spending law targets EV incentives, including the imminent removal of a credit that saves buyers up to \$7,500 on a new electric car.

Ford recently said it will invest nearly \$2 billion retooling a Louisville, Kentucky, plant to produce electric vehicles that it says will be more affordable, more profitable to build and will outcompete rival models.

The first EV to be produced by the revamped Louisville production process will be a midsize, four-door electric pickup truck in 2027 for domestic and international markets, the company said. The electric trucks will be powered by lower-cost batteries made at a factory in Michigan. Ford previously announced a \$3 billion investment to build the battery factory.

The unionization vote in Kentucky may not be known until late Wednesday.

Ensuring ultimate convenience for all customers with a one-stop-shop experience

talabat is gearing up for the ‘Back-to-School’ season, offering everything families need

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: talabat, the leading on-demand online ordering platform in the MENA region, launched its “Back to School” campaign, enabling parents across Kuwait to shop for all school essentials – from groceries and stationery to retail and lifestyle items – with exclusive discounts and home delivery. This campaign, which runs from mid-August till the first week of October, aligns with the platform’s yearlong efforts to strengthen Kuwait’s e-commerce industry and digital economy by expanding its network of local and international partners to meet the market’s evolving needs. It also reaffirms talabat’s core brand promise of making customers’ preferred products easily accessible.

Groceries made easy across Kuwait

For a convenient start to the school year, users can enjoy up to 40% discount on their talabat mart grocery orders. This allows families to stock up on fresh produce and pantry essentials, mak-



t-mart poster

ing meal preparation and lunch-box packing easier, faster and cost effective.

In addition, users can benefit from up to 60% off a wide range of products at Kuwait’s top supermar-

kets and hypermarkets through the talabat app. This includes Sultan Center, known for its mega deals; Lulu Hypermarket, the regional destination for quality products and year-round offers; City Hypermar-



talabat logo

ket, renowned for their value deals; Monoprix, the premier food concept store; and Oncost, Kuwait’s trusted family grocer.

Beyond groceries: stationery and retail essentials

Beyond groceries, the highlight of the Back-to-School season is stationery shopping. Parents and children can now fulfill their needs by browsing the talabat app with-

out the hassle of visiting brick-and-mortar stores. To cater to every taste and preference, talabat’s stationery partners offer customers a wide range of high-quality supplies, from school bags and pencil cases to essential stationery items. Partners include Atlas and Al-Maha, two of Kuwait’s largest stationery retailers.

Lifestyle and specialty partners

Other talabat partners who offer a spectrum of high-quality Back-to-School products include Inter-sport, one of the biggest sports retailers worldwide and a recent talabat partner, which brings over 400 select products from globally renowned sports brands, covering shoes, bags, swimwear, and more. Simultaneously, for parents and returning teachers, Nespresso products are now within reach with talabat as its first on-demand shopping and delivery partner, guaranteeing fast, on demand coffee delivery.

Commenting on the campaign, Bader Al-Ghanim, Vice President and Managing Director of talabat Kuwait, said: “With every new addition to our platform, we strive to remain a trusted companion that our customers can rely on for all their needs. As the Back-to-School season draws closer, it is our prime goal to guarantee that talabat mart, in addition to our network of partners, covers our customers’ diverse needs, while maintaining the ser-

vice quality and speedy delivery they are accustomed to. To add further ease and convenience to the Back-to-School shopping season, we are offering customers a wide range of discounts in collaboration with our partners across numerous shopping categories.”

He added that, with today’s fast-paced and demanding lifestyle, a consolidated online shopping experience is essential for many customers. With talabat, the shopping experience is made easier, from browsing the inventory to placing the order and receiving it. talabat’s ongoing commitment to adding the best and most popular retailers to its platform also empowers home-grown and international brands and gives them the needed exposure to flourish in Kuwait’s competitive market.

Throughout the campaign’s duration, users can visit the talabat app to enjoy the seasonal discounts on their favorite products and explore a wide range of offers from Kuwait’s top local and international stores.

Asian shares are mixed after US stocks creep higher ahead of Nvidia earnings

MANILA, Aug 28, (AP): Asian shares were mixed Thursday after modest gains on Wall Street lifted the S&P 500 to another all-time high ahead of computer chip maker Nvidia’s highly anticipated earnings report.

U.S. futures rose, while oil prices declined.

In China, shares in computer chip maker Cambricon Technologies soared 15.7% to 1,587.91 yuan (\$222), becoming the priciest stock on Shanghai’s exchange as it surpassed Kweichow Moutai’s stock, which slipped to 1,446 yuan (\$202) a share. Cambricon’s shares have jumped after it reported its revenue and profit expanded many fold in the first half of the year, helped by the Chinese government’s support for domestic semiconductor makers.

The Shanghai Composite index surged 1.1% to 3,843.60. It has been trading near decade-high levels on heavy buying by institutional investors.

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng dropped 0.7% to 25,029.64, led by losses for technology companies like food delivery company Meituan. Its shares dropped 11.5%, while e-commerce giant JD.com declined 4%. Such companies have seen demand sag as Chinese consumers cut back on spending.

Japan’s Nikkei 225 added 0.7% to 42,828.79. It has been trading near record levels, despite friction with Washington over a preliminary trade agreement that has yet to be finalized. Top trade envoy Ryohhei Akazawa abruptly postponed a trip to the U.S. capital planned for Thursday in the latest sign of trouble over the deal setting tariffs on Japanese exports at 15%, a policy that has yet to come into effect.

South Korea’s Kospi climbed 0.3% to 3,196.32 after the Bank of Korea kept its policy rate unchanged at 2.5% for the second review in a row.

Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 edged 0.2% higher to 9,980.00. India’s BSE Sensex fell 0.6%, reopening



Dealers talk near screens showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) and the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won and the Korean Securities Dealers Automated Quotations (KOSDAQ) at a dealing room of Hana Bank in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025. (AP)

following a public holiday after higher U.S. tariffs on the country’s exports took effect on Wednesday.

Taiwan’s TAIEX shed 1.2%.

Stock indexes in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur were both higher, while that in Manila fell nearly 1%.

On Wednesday, the S&P 500 rose 0.2%, nudging past the record high it set two weeks ago to close at 6,481.40.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.3% to 45,565.23, and the Nasdaq composite closed 0.2% higher at 21,590.14.

Technology companies led the way higher, outweighing declines in communication services and other sectors.

After the market closed, Nvidia’s quarterly report showed its earnings and revenue topped Wall Street analysts’ forecasts, though the company noted that sales of its artificial intelligence chipsets rose at a slower pace than analysts anticipated. The stock fell 3.2% in after-hours trading after having slipped 0.1% during the regular session.

Investors consider Nvidia a barometer for the strength of the boom in artificial intelligence be-

cause the company makes most of the chips that power the technology. Its heavy weighting also gives Nvidia outsized influence as a bellwether for the broader market.

Trading on Wall Street was off to an uneven start this week following big gains last week on hopes for interest rate cuts from the Fed.

Markets have been subdued since Trump escalated his fight with the central bank by trying to fire Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook. Cook’s lawyer said she’ll sue Trump’s administration to try to stop him.

Trump has been feuding with the central bank over its cautious interest rate policy. The Fed has held rates steady since late 2024 over worries that Trump’s unpredictable tariff policies will reignite inflation.

In other dealings early Thursday, U.S. benchmark crude dropped 45 cents to \$63.70 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, declined 44 cents to \$67.00 per barrel.

The dollar fell to 147.31 Japanese yen, down from 147.40 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1639 from \$1.1640.

Gas stations run dry in Russian regions amid war-time attacks

Crimea, Far East see fuel rationing

MOSCOW, Aug 28, (AP): Gas stations have run dry in some regions of Russia after Ukrainian drones struck refineries and other oil infrastructure in recent weeks, with motorists waiting in long lines and officials resorting to rationing or cutting off sales altogether.

Wholesale prices on the St. Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange for A-95 gas - the highest octane - spiked to record highs last week, soaring to about 50% higher than in January, as demand soared from farmers seeking to bring in the harvest and Russians hitting the roads for their last big vacation of the summer.

Russian media outlets reported fuel shortages are hitting consumers in several regions in the Far East and on the Crimean Peninsula, which was illegally annexed from Ukraine by Moscow in 2014.

Media outlets in the Primorye region, which borders North Korea, reported long lines and prices of about 78 rubles per liter (approximately \$3.58 per gallon) at gas stations in the area, where the average monthly wage is about \$1,200. Journalists at local news outlet Primpress found other drivers trying to sell gas online for as much as 220 rubles per liter (about \$10.12 per gallon).

In the Kurilsky district of the Kuril Islands north of Japan, shortages of lower octane A-92 gas forced officials to halt public sales outright Monday. In Crimea, a popular resort area, some companies sold fuel only to holders of coupons or special cards.

Russia is no stranger to gasoline price increases at the end of summer. But this year’s shortages have been aggravated by Ukraine’s attacks on oil refineries in the 3 1/2-year-old war. Larger, more concentrated attacks are causing more damage and hampering production, all timed to coincide with peak demand.

Ukraine has targeted energy infrastructure before, but the recent strikes have been more successful, with more drones targeting a more concentrated group of facilities.

“The Ukrainians are attacking an arc of refineries, starting from Ryazan, which is south of Moscow, all the way to Volgograd. That region is where people are driving through on their way to (resorts on) the Black Sea. That’s the region where most of the harvest operations are going on. And that’s also a rather densely populated region,” Sergey Vakulenko, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, told The Associated Press.

Between Aug. 2 and Aug. 24, Ukraine attacked oil infrastructure at least 12 times, according to media reports. Of those attacks, at least 10 were targeting sites in the Ryazan-Volgograd arc in southwestern Russia.

These attacks have damaged many oil refineries but have not destroyed them outright, Vakulenko said, adding that most of the facilities are extremely resilient against fires.

But they can slow refinery activity, as shown by a fall in the intake of crude oil to be turned into diesel, gasoline or other products by roughly 200,000 to 250,000 barrels per day, said Gary Peach, oil markets analyst at

Energy Intelligence.

“That’s just enough to make their gasoline industry feel some pain, especially during the high consumption months in the summer,” he told AP. Gasoline production fell 8.6% in the first 19 days of August, compared with a year earlier, and diesel production was down 10.3%.

Other war-related issues have caused even more consumer pain. Ukrainian drone strikes repeatedly have disrupted Russian transportation networks, particularly air traffic, causing more people to travel by car and increasing demand for gas, Vakulenko said.

Inflation also has made it less profitable for suppliers who normally buy gasoline early in the year for sale in the higher-priced summer months, and many entrepreneurs simply decided not to bother this year, he said.

Individually, none of these problems caused lasting or widespread disruption in Russia. But together, they have transformed an expected annual price fluctuation into a problem for the government.

To try to ease the shortage, Russia has paused gasoline exports, with officials Wednesday declaring a full ban until Sept. 30 and a partial ban affecting traders and intermediaries until Oct. 31. Oil company managers have also been summoned to government meetings twice this month to discuss the shortages, Russian media reported.

While officials appear to be concerned, the gasoline shortfall “isn’t system critical,” Peach said.

So far, the shortage remains confined to certain areas - the Far East and Crimea - because these regions usually are supplied by fewer refineries and present greater transportation demands.

Moscow has been spared the latest gasoline price spike because it is well-supplied from major refineries in Yaroslavl and Nizhny Novgorod, cities a few hours’ drive away. The capital also has a refinery in the city itself.

Russia is not at immediate risk of grinding to a halt - even in more vulnerable regions, experts say. Although private drivers may feel some pain at the gas pump, most buses and trucks run on diesel, for which Russia has a surplus. The military, which largely uses diesel fuel, also is insulated from any shocks.

Vakulenko wrote in a recent commentary that annual diesel production is “more than double than what is needed.”

That doesn’t mean the situation still couldn’t deteriorate. Refineries that make gasoline for Russia’s domestic market also make diesel and other products for export - a vital source of income amid heavy Western sanctions.

Industry observers say Ukraine’s drones target key refinery equipment, including the distillation column that separates incoming crude oil into other products, including gasoline, diesel, fuel for ships and asphalt. If damaged, it must be repaired or replaced for the refinery to function. Repairs could be difficult if foreign parts are needed.

The gasoline crisis is expected to ease by late September as demand subsides and the annual summer maintenance for many refineries is finished.

Millions of packages affected by shipping pause

Mexico suspends postal shipments to the US over latest tariff confusion

MEXICO CITY, Aug 28, (AP): Mexico said Wednesday its postal service was suspending package shipments to the United States ahead of an end to the exemption on tariff duties for low-value packages by the Trump administration.

The announcement follows similar moves by postal services from the European Union and several other countries to pause shipping as they await more clarity on the U.S. measure. It also comes during monthslong negotiations between the Mexican government and the Trump administration to avoid wider tariffs.

The exemption - known as the “de minimis” exemption, which allows packages worth less than \$800 to come into the U.S. duty free - is ending Friday. A total of 1.36 billion packages were sent in 2024 under this exemption, for goods worth \$64.6 billion, according to data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Mexico’s government said its postal service, Correos de Mexico, will temporarily suspend package deliveries to the U.S., starting Wednesday.

“Mexico continues its dialogue with U.S. authorities and international postal organizations to define mechanisms that will allow for the orderly resumption

of services, providing certainty to users and avoiding setbacks in the delivery of goods,” the statement read.

With the announcement, Mexico joins several European and other countries, including Australia and Japan, in suspending the shipments to the U.S. amid confusion over new import duties.

Yunnueth Hernández brought her two children to the post office Wednesday to send a letter to a relative in the U.S., to show them “how we used to communicate” before emails and internet, but left disappointed.

“Unfortunately, we couldn’t send it because they told us with the tariffs, shipments to the U.S. were canceled,” she said.

Outside the building, a woman was in tears after being unable to send a 10-page letter and photographs to her boyfriend in the U.S.

Mexico has tried to negotiate with U.S. President Donald Trump to avoid increased tariffs by taking more aggressive security measures against the country’s drug cartels and sending dozens of imprisoned cartel figures to the U.S. for prosecution.

Tokyo pushes US to enforce 15% tariff deal

Japan postpones Washington trip over tariff deal provisions

TOKYO, Aug 28, (AP): Japan’s top trade negotiator abruptly canceled a trip to Washington aimed at issuing a joint statement on a tariffs deal with the Trump administration, as a top government spokesman urged the U.S. side to speed up implementation of the agreement.

Trade envoy Ryosei Akazawa was scheduled to leave Tokyo for Washington on Thursday for a 10th round of talks, following up on the agreement announced on July 22.

But Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters some details required further consultations, so the trip was postponed.

In July, the two sides agreed on a 15% tax on imports of most Japanese goods, effective Aug. 1, down from an earlier 25% rate announced by President Donald Trump as so-called “reciprocal tariffs” on the major U.S. ally.

Japanese officials discovered days later that the preliminary deal would add a 15% tariff to other tariffs and objected. Officials in Washington have acknowledged the mistake and agreed to abide by the agreement on a 15% tariff, and to refund any excess import duties that were paid.

So far, that hasn’t happened.

“We will strongly request the United States to amend its presidential order to correct the reciprocal tariffs and to issue the presidential order to lower tariffs on autos and auto parts,” Hayashi said.

In an interview with Fox News earlier this week, U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said Washington was ready to finalize the deal, in which



Ryosei Akazawa, newly-appointed Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization, arrives at the prime minister’s office in Tokyo, on Oct. 1, 2024. (AP)

Japan also pledged to invest up to \$550 billion in the United States in coming years.

Plans for Akazawa to visit Washington are undecided, Hayashi said during a daily briefing, with another nudge at the Trump administration.

“Japan and the United States have confirmed the importance of sincere and prompt implementation of the agreement between the two countries,” he said, adding that a deal was essential for the economic security of both countries.

Global flavors in KUWAIT



Wok this way ... building tradition one dumpling at a time

Steam dreams rise at China Great Wall

Founded in 2003 in a small corner of Mahboula, China Queen Restaurant began as a humble eatery run by Chinese expatriates Jin Xiaobing and his partner, who, along with two chefs and a few helpers, brought the rich flavors of authentic Chinese cuisine to Kuwait. What started as a local favorite quickly grew in popularity, leading to the opening of a second branch in Salmiya and a rebranding as China Great Wall Restaurant — a name that reflects its strength, heritage, and enduring passion for serving timeless Chinese dishes that continue to win the hearts of its guests.

For Jin Haonan, manager of China Great Wall Restaurant, the story of the eatery is also the story of his family. His father began cooking at just 18 in Shenyang, China, and arrived in Kuwait in 2001 as a chef. Two years later, he and a partner opened a small restaurant to share authentic Chinese flavors with the local community — a dream that has since grown into a culinary landmark.

Today, the restaurant is best known for its Northeastern-style dumplings, with shrimp and chicken-cabbage fillings that remain customer favorites, served steamed or pan-fried. “Dumplings may look simple,” Jin says, “but they hold culture, tradition, and a lot of heart.” By sourcing halal-certified meats and fresh produce from local markets, the team balances authenticity with the diverse tastes of Kuwait’s multicultural diners — from lemon-accented soups for Arab guests to spicier dishes preferred by Chinese patrons.



Despite the daily challenges of running a small family business, Jin says the joy comes when customers return with smiles and kind words. “Knowing people enjoy our food,” he adds, “is the most rewarding part of this journey.”



China Great Wall Restaurant

ORIGINS OF DUMPLINGS

History tracing back over 1,000 years


Dumplings (Jiaozi, 饺子) date back over 1,000 years to the Eastern Han Dynasty.

Legend says they were invented by physician **Zhang Zhongjing** who wrapped meat and herbs in dough to help villagers stay warm and healthy in winter. What began as a simple remedy soon became a cherished culinary tradition, symbolizing warmth and care.




- ORIGINATED DURING THE EASTERN HAN DYNASTY (AD 25–220)
- CREATED BY ZHANG ZHONGJING AS A WINTER REMEDY
- EVOLVED INTO A NATIONAL SYMBOL OF COMFORT AND TRADITION


SYMBOLISM IN CHINESE CULTURE



SHAPED LIKE AN ANCIENT GOLD INGOT, DUMPLINGS ARE A SYMBOL OF WEALTH.




ROLLING DUMPLINGS DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR BRINGS GOOD FORTUNE.



REPRESENTS BONDING AND TOGETHERNESS DURING FAMILY GATHERINGS.

DUMPLINGS AROUND THE WORLD



- CHINA: JIAOZI, WONTONS, TANGYUAN
- JAPAN: GYOZA
- KOREA: GYOZA
- ITALY: RAVIOLI, TORTELLINI
- POLAND: PIEROGI
- LATIN AMERICA: EMPANADA

Behind the Wok: Chat with the Chef Mr Yue of China Great Wall Restaurant

Question: What’s the most technically difficult dish you prepare, and why?

Answer: Peking Duck (北京烤鸭 - Běijīng Kǎoyā): The difficulty here is in the multi-day, multi-step process. It requires:

- Preparing the skin: Air is pumped between the skin and meat to separate them.
- Glazing: The duck is glazed with malt syrup.
- Drying: It must be hung to dry in a specific environment for hours.
- Roasting: It’s roasted in a specialized closed oven, requiring the chef to constantly rotate it for even heat distribution to achieve supremely crispy skin and moist meat.

Q: How do you maintain consistency in taste and quality when cooking for hundreds of guests every day?

A: Specialized team, dividing tasks among our team members in the kitchen as well as our waitress, to achieve the best service and result during busy hours in the restaurant.

Consistency of food taste and quality relies on the years of experience and well communication between the restaurant owner and I.

Q: What ingredient or technique do you think is most misunderstood about Chinese cooking outside of China?

A: Many think achieving ‘wok hei’ is simply about cooking

over a blisteringly hot flame. The reality: While intense heat is absolutely necessary, ‘wok hei’ is the complex flavor and aroma imparted to food by the rapid, controlled combustion of oil and sauces in a well-seasoned wok at the precise moment of cooking.

Q: Can you describe a time when a dish failed in the kitchen, and how you turned that experience into a lesson or a new creation?

A: From my experience, with instructions clearly given from the dining lobby, we do not often make mistakes. We will just ask our customers what they want and how they want it, in order to make out the dish they want.

Q: Many chefs talk about their “signature” — what defines your cooking style, and how do you want guests to remember your food?

COOKING METHODS

Choose Your Favorite Way to Cook Dumplings

- Cooking dumplings is a joyful, hands-on experience that brings people together in the kitchen.
- Each step is simple with fresh, wholesome ingredients, turning a simple recipe into a delicious celebration of home and tradition.

- ROLL OUT DOUGH INTO THIN CIRCLES
- ADD 1 SPOON OF FILLING
- FOLD AND SEAL (PLEATED OR SIMPLE FOLD)



Infographics courtesy of China Cultural Center in Kuwait

A: I would say my signature lies within China Great Wall restaurant, it is the taste of our restaurant.

Dumplings, or Jiaozi, date back over a thousand years to China’s Eastern Han Dynasty (AD 25–220). Legend credits physician Zhang Zhongjing with creating them by wrapping meat and herbs in dough to help villagers stay warm and healthy during winter. Over time, they became a cherished culinary tradition, symbolizing warmth, care, and prosperity — their shape resembling ancient gold ingots.

Today, dumplings are enjoyed worldwide: Gyoza in Japan and Korea, Ravioli and Tortellini in Italy, Pierogi in Poland, and Empanadas in Latin America. They are usually boiled or pan-fried, with fillings ranging from vegetables and cabbage to beef and seafood, and remain a staple during Chinese New Year and family gatherings.

Recipe of the day - Dumplings

- Roll out dough into thin circles
- Chicken breast, washed and minced into a paste
- Chinese cabbage, washed and chopped into small pieces.
- Add a little salt, natural MSG, sugar, sesame oil, and starch. Mix well with the chicken and cabbage.
- Add 1 spoon of filling (chicken, cabbage)
- Fold and seal
- Boil or pan-fry or steam (it’s your choice)

editor’s choice



A sharp, dark take on marriage's breaking point

Cumberbatch and Colman make a love story dark in 'The Roses'

LOS ANGELES, Aug 28, (AP): "The Roses" begins in a marriage therapist's office, where Theo Rose has something interesting to say about his longtime wife, Ivy: "I would rather live with her than a wolf." That's especially interesting because the question the therapist posed was: What are 10 things you love about each other?

After a few minutes of blistering barbs back and forth - Ivy suggests that one good thing about her husband is "he has arms" - the therapist is appalled and resigned. "I see so much resentment, I don't think you have the capacity to fix your problems," she tells them.

There are dark marriage comedies and then there's "The Roses," an escalating hatefest that, by the time a loaded gun comes out, all the fun has been sucked out. It's hard tonally to go from microaggressions to the burning of someone's prized books to attempted murder and stay a comedy.

That was the trap that sunk the Danny DeVito-directed 1989 version "The War of the Roses" and it's the same quicksand that makes the Jay Roach-directed "The Roses" so unpleasant. Seeing a marriage implode with such ferocity, with both participants hoping to extract maximum hurt, is like having "Marriage Story" on MDMA.

Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman naturally bring a certain dry Britishness to roles originally portrayed by Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. They are witty and arch, sarcastic and passive-aggressive. You believe their love but you also believe they can hate each other.

He is a prickly, high-flying architect - adding artistic flourishes like cascading balconies - and she is a stalled chef - weirdly able to make both elaborate, sculptural desserts and down-home seafood - who are raising their two teenagers when the action gets going. His career hits a horrific roadblock and hers takes flight when she opens the restaurant We've Got Crabs!

Switching roles, Cumberbatch's Theo now becomes the laundry-folding,



This image released by Searchlight Pictures shows Olivia Colman in a scene from 'The Roses.' (AP)

kids' lunch maker - "I could build children instead of houses," he says - while Colman's Ivy jets off to cook with David Chang while her Champagne flute is being topped up.

Screenwriter Tony McNamara plops these bickering twosomes in the affluent California enclave of Mendocino, a place of ample negronis and Audis. He surrounds them with a motley group, including a couple, Andy Samberg and Kate McKinnon, dealing with their own marriage inertia.

Samberg has perhaps the most sad line when he says of his wife: "When we were younger, I knew what she was going to say before she said it. Now I don't know what she's said after she's said it." For her part, McKinnon does her bug-eyed, off-kilter, hypersexual thing - a tiresome character that she seems to only do now after reaching its apex in "Barbie."

Theo takes charge of the kids - including daily wind sprints and Charles Bukowski quotes - while Ivy misses key home moments, like her daughter's first period. Resentments build and their friends notice "sporadic, dizzying waves of hatred." Neither want to apologize or budge. One has a "bottomless pit of need" and the other has "caustic narcissism." Deepfake videos posted to harm his client list lead to him hacking into her restaurant vendors to screw up supplies. Then the shooting begins.

The problem with "The Roses" - 1989 or 2025 - is it doesn't know what it wants to say about marriage. Maybe that fervent love eventually curdles and we should just find the moments of joy that remain? That only someone who loves you can hurt you so exquisitely? That we should never let small resentments metastasize or change roles mid-marriage? That we should never, ever get back together?

Perhaps it's that we constantly try to tap into the deep well of love that started it all. One terrific line Ivy says to Theo sums it up: "You stopped. You're not supposed to stop."

"The Roses," a Searchlight Pictures release that's in theaters Friday, is rated R for "language throughout, sexual content and drug content." Running time: 105 minutes. Two stars out of four.

People

'I didn't touch'

Cardi B denies assault claims

ALHAMBRA, Calif., Aug 28, (AP): **Cardi B** testified Wednesday that she didn't touch a security guard who alleges the rapper cut her face with a fingernail and spat on her in an altercation outside an obstetrician's office during the hip-hop star's not-yet-public first pregnancy.

"She couldn't get a scratch from me because I didn't touch her," Cardi said on the stand in her second day of testimony in a Los Angeles County court.

Ron Rosen Janfaza, lawyer for the plaintiff, Emani Ellis, asked her if she had been angry. "Yes I was angry!" Because I'm pregnant!" Cardi replied. "And this girl's about to beat my ...!"

She acknowledged that the argument got very heated - repeating in court much of the swearing the two did - and that they were chest-to-chest at one point, but said the fight never became physical.

"She didn't touch me," Cardi said. "She was going to touch me, but she didn't get to touch me."

Promotional

Cardi said she had been visiting Los Angeles doing promotional work in February 2018 around that year's NBA All-Star Game. She was four months into her pregnancy with the first of her three children with rapper Offset. She had told her inner circle she was having a baby, but not the public or her parents.

The obstetrician's office had been closed to other patients on a Saturday for her privacy.

She said Ellis, a security guard for the building, followed her to her fifth-floor appointment. Cardi said she heard Ellis say her name into a phone and appeared to be filming her. Cardi feared Ellis would out the fact that she was pregnant.

"I told her, 'Why are you recording?'" Cardi testified, "and she said, 'Oh my bad.' She practically apologized."

But the argument grew increasingly heated, she said.

"As we were arguing she's backing me, she's walking into me," Cardi said.

Both women are 32 years old and about the same height, but Cardi said Ellis was bigger than her.

"She is like, security-heavy," Cardi said. "She just looks a little, like she could protect the building."

Under friendlier questioning from one of her own attorneys, Cardi explained why she was keeping her pregnancy secret at the time, seven months after the release of her first major label single and major hit, "Bodak Yellow," when she was still in her "freshman year" of stardom. "I was getting used to things," she said. "I was just so worried about what everybody was saying and thinking. I thought I was letting a lot of people down."

But she said, beyond that, she treasures her privacy on all medical matters, "especially something so sacred as a pregnancy. It's yours."

A significant chunk of the testimony was spent on the acrylic nails with rhinestones Cardi had that week, and whether they could do the damage that's alleged.

Film

Golden Lion race begins with star-studded premieres

Clooney, Stone light up Venice Film Festival

VENICE, Italy, Aug 28, (AP): George Clooney plays a famous actor on a soul-searching journey and Emma Stone makes a turn as the CEO of a pharmaceutical company in two of the films premiering at the Venice Film Festival Thursday evening.

Clooney and Stone are among the many Hollywood actors, including Adam Sandler, Laura Dern and Jesse Plemons, expected to grace the red carpet with the world premieres of Noah Baumbach's "Jay Kelly" and Yorgos Lanthimos's "Bugonia." Both films are vying for the coveted Golden Lion prize, the winner of which often goes on to get Oscar nominations and even wins.

Lanthimos is a Venice veteran, having just recently won the festival's top prize for "Poor Things," which would go on to win several Oscars, including best actress for Stone. The new film, "Bugonia," is an English-language adaptation of a South Korean film, about two conspiracy-minded men (one of which is played by Plemons) who believe Stone's character is an alien and kidnap her.

Baumbach, too, was on the Lido recently with his Don DeLillo adaptation "White Noise," which went on to a less decorated awards run. "Jay Kelly," he said in his director's statement, "is about a man looking back at his life and reflecting on the choices, the sacrifices, the successes, the mistakes he's made."

The film features a large ensemble cast, including Sandler as the actor's manager, Baumbach's wife and oft-collaborator Greta Gerwig, Dern, Billy Crudup and Riley Keough. Like "White Noise," "Jay Kelly" is a Netflix-produced film. After taking a year off from the festival, the streaming giant is back with three major films playing in competition, including Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein" and Kathryn Bigelow's political thriller "A House of Dynamite."

Festival kicked off with the world premiere of Paolo Sorrentino's "La Grazia" Wednesday night on the Lido. The opening ceremony of the festival also saw Francis Ford Coppola presenting filmmaker Werner Herzog with a lifetime achievement prize.

The 82nd edition of the glamorous international film festival is playing



Werner Herzog, recipient of the Golden Lion for lifetime achievement, poses for photographers during the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Wednesday, Aug. 27. (AP)



Danielle Marcan poses for photographers on the red carpet for the opening ceremony and the premiere of the film 'La Grazia' during the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Wednesday, Aug. 27. (AP)

host to many Hollywood stars, including George Clooney, Julia Roberts and Dwayne Johnson, and famed auteurs, from Guillermo del Toro to Kathryn Bigelow, who all have films debuting over the next 10 days. The conflict in Gaza has also already been an everpresent topic both outside the festival's walls, where protesters gathered, and during the news conferences.

The festival, which takes place on the Lido, chose to open with the newest film from one of Italy's most revered working filmmakers. "La Grazia" stars Sorrentino's longtime collaborator Toni Servillo as a fictional Italian president who is paralyzed by indecision near the end of his term, grappling with signing a bill that allows euthanasia and mourning his late wife.

Sorrentino said that he was inspired

to write the film by a real case of an Italian president who pardoned a man that had killed his wife, who was suffering from Alzheimer's. The title of the film, can be translated to "the pardon" in English, he said.

"This was a moral dilemma that was interesting to tell," Sorrentino said. "I have thought for years that moral dilemmas are very interesting for storytelling."

Venice Film Festival director Alberto Barbera told The Associated Press that "La Grazia" took them by surprise.

"It's a different Sorrentino from what we are used to," Barbera said. "Far less baroque and formalistic than the previous films he made. It's a very unexpected story."

Sorrentino, best known for his Oscar-winning film "The Great Beauty,"



Jury member Zhao Tao on the red carpet at the Venice Film Festival opening ceremony. (AP)



Tilda Swinton poses for photographers on the red carpet for the opening ceremony and the premiere of the film 'La Grazia.' (AP)

made his debut at the Venice Film Festival 24 years ago with the film "One Man Up." He also won the Silver Lion prize in 2021 for "The Hand of God," which went on to be nominated for an Oscar. Many films that premiere at Venice go on to Oscar nominations and wins.

"La Grazia" is one of the 21 films playing in the festival's main competition. Other titles vying for the prestigious Golden Lion prize include del Toro's "Frankenstein," Bigelow's "A House of Dynamite," Yorgos Lanthimos's "Bugonia," Benny Safdie's "The Smashing Machine" and Kaoutar Ben Hania's "The Voice of Hind Rajab."

Winners are decided on by a jury of international filmmakers and actors, including "Sideways" director Alexander Payne and Brazilian actor Fernanda Torres. Payne, who is president of this year's jury, said he arrived to Venice yesterday and was soon seated next to Francis Ford Coppola watching a restoration of a 1920s silent film.

"I thought, 'I'm in heaven,'" Payne said. "This is heaven."

News about the real world has also been top of mind at the festival, where steps away from the main headquarters, anti-war protesters gathered earlier Wednesday to turn the spotlight to Gaza. A march is also planned for Saturday evening.

Martina Vergnano, an activist with

the Social Centers of the Northeast, one of the protest organizers, said hundreds of associations, social centers and film festival participants had signed onto the petition to participate in the protest Saturday. Vergnano spoke in front of the red carpet alongside about a dozen protesters flying Palestinian flags and holding a banner that read: "Free Palestine, Stop the Genocide" with the time and date of Saturday's protest.

There have been calls to disinvite actors like Gal Gadot and Gerard Butler from attending the festival for their views, but Barbera said that the festival does not boycott artists, nor does it make political statements.

Sorrentino, who recently called the situation in Gaza a "genocide" was asked about Mubi, the company that is distributing his film. Mubi, the indie film shop behind last year's "The Substance," has come under scrutiny because of funder Sequoia Capital's ties to the Israeli military. The filmmaker redirected the floor to "somebody from Mubi," who declined to speak. A moderator redirected the conversation back to the film.

Payne also faced questions Wednesday afternoon about the conflict and Hollywood's responsibility to address it.

"I feel a little bit unprepared for that question," Payne said. "I'm here to judge and talk about cinema."

The festival runs through Sept. 6.

Variety

LONDON: British actor **Michael Ward** was granted bail Thursday after appearing at a central London court to face charges of rape and sexual assault.

The 27-year-old, who has starred in the Netflix crime drama "Top Boy," faces two counts of rape and three counts of sexual assault.

The offenses reportedly took place in January 2023. The charges relate to one woman.

Ward appeared at Thames Magistrates' Court where he confirmed his name, address and date of birth during a short hearing. He did not enter any pleas and was granted conditional bail to next appear at Snaresbrook Crown Court in northeast London on Sept. 25.

His bail condition is not to contact the alleged victim.

Ward denied the charges. He previously said in a statement that he has "full faith" his name will be cleared in court.



Ward

Jordan accidentally added a dash of celebrity gossip to her public service this week when she shared "Taylor Swift is engaged" over a hot microphone.

That appears to be how officers in the Lansing, Michigan, area

learned about the superstar singer's betrothal to Kansas City Chiefs star tight end Travis Kelce.

The official announcement, made in a five-photo joint post on Instagram, marks the fairytale culmination of a courtship that for two years and has thrilled and fascinated millions around the world.

Joyful chaos ensued nationwide, with oddsmakers taking bets on when and where the celebrity couple will wed. Swifties, the pop star's enormous and ardent fan base, can even wager on the flavor of the wedding cake.

Kansas City-based tax preparer H&R Block sent out a light-hearted email to staff, telling them they could head home early to check social media feeds and debate potential wedding playlists.

"Celebrate love. Speculate about the dress. Argue whether the reception will be held in KC or a castle in Europe," the email said.

Matthew Pittman, an associate professor at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, hastily organized a skit before his social media class began Tuesday, pretending to cancel a test because of the engagement. (AP)

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ABC News special looks back at Katrina after 20 years

Roberts traces her post-Katrina journey back to hometown

NEW YORK, Aug 28, (AP): Revisiting the time she broke down on “Good Morning America” while covering Hurricane Katrina’s destruction of her hometown Pass Christian, Mississippi, Robin Roberts said she feared losing her job.

Only three months after she was named a host of the ABC News show with industry vets Charles Gibson and Diane Sawyer, Roberts had played it straight on the Gulf Coast. That’s what reporters do: they keep a lid on emotions to get the work done. Then Gibson asked, during a live shot, if Roberts had determined that her mother and other family members were safe.

So much for professional reserve.

“It’s one thing if you shed a tear, but I was boo-hooing,” Roberts said. “I was delighted that in the end people were touched by that in a way that I wasn’t expecting, that it was authenticity. That was proof that they just want you to be real in the moment.”

That clip of a much younger Roberts - still a “Good Morning America” host - is replayed on her ABC News special looking back at Katrina after 20 years. It airs Friday at 8 p.m. Eastern and is streamed on Disney+ and Hulu starting



Robin Roberts arrives to honor Jane Fonda with The Harry Belafonte Voices For Social Justice Award during the Tribeca Festival at Spring Studios, June 10, 2023, in New York. (AP)

the next day.

Roberts, 64, has been back in the region more times

than she can count since then, both to report and visit family. Her mother, Lucimarian, died in 2012 at age 88. Her sister Sally-Ann, a longtime news anchor in New Orleans, has retired.

“I still can’t believe it’s been 20 years,” she said. “Two decades. Going through the old footage was a little PTSD. You kind of blocked some of that out.”

In the special, Roberts retraces the ride she took from New Orleans to Pass Christian 20 years ago. There are fewer “staircases to nowhere” along the way, evidence of destroyed homes, each time she’s back. But remnants from Katrina are still there.

She tours Pass Christian with the longtime former mayor, Chipper McDermott. They visit her rebuilt high school - spotting the picture of Roberts on display - and the new version of a favorite family restaurant that had been washed away.

McDermott shows new homes with living areas built 20 feet in the air to protect against future storm surges. “A lot of people say, ‘why would you live in a place where you have to live on stilts?’” Roberts said. “It’s home. Pick anywhere in the world where Mother Nature can’t have the upper hand

at some point. But home is home.”

Roberts wanted to pay tribute both to people who stayed in the area and rebuilt, and people who came to the Gulf in the storm’s immediate aftermath to help.

“It took a lot of strength to raise our hands and say we need help,” she said. “It’s very hard for Southerners to do that. We like to do it on our own. We did a lot on our own, but we got a lot of help. And we’re very appreciative of that help.”

The special doesn’t ignore tough issues, like economic inequality in the pace of rebuilding. Some affordable housing was replaced by hotels and casinos. One effective segment visits a New Orleans photographer, Jeremy Tauriac, and musician, Jasmine Batiste, who were children when rescued from Katrina and talked about the difficulties rebuilding their lives.

There’s music, too. What would a visit to New Orleans be without it? Roberts talks with Harry Connick Jr., Trombone Shorty and Branford Marsalis.

“It is different, in some ways, of course,” Roberts said. “Nothing stays the same, especially after something like that. But the heart and soul of what New Orleans is? It didn’t touch that.”

Film

‘Fire and Ash’ set to reignite box office this December

Cameron talks ‘Avatar’ and future of cinema



This image released by Disney shows Neytiri, played by Zoe Saldana, in a scene from ‘Avatar: Fire and Ash.’ (AP)

NEW YORK, Aug 28, (AP): James Cameron recently turned 71 as he brought his third “Avatar” film, “Fire and Ash,” to the finish line.

Cameron first began developing “Avatar” more than 30 years ago. He started working on the first film in earnest 20 years ago. Production on “Fire and Ash,” which ran concurrently with 2022’s “The Way of Water,” got underway eight years ago.

By any measure, “Avatar” is one of the largest undertakings ever by a filmmaker. It’s maybe the only project that could make “Titanic” look like a modest one-off. Cameron has dedicated a huge chunk of his life to it. Now, as he prepares to unveil the latest chapter of his Na’vi opus on Dec. 19, Cameron is approaching what he calls a crossroads.

“As you get older you start to think of time in a slightly different way,” Cameron says from his 5,000-acre organic farm in New Zealand. “It’s not an infinite resource.”

Two more “Avatar” films are already written and have release dates, in 2029 and 2031. Right now, though, Cameron is focused on completing “Fire and Ash,” which is almost guaranteed to be the biggest movie of the fall. To get “Avatar” - a franchise already worth \$5.2 billion in worldwide tickets sales - back in the minds of moviegoers, “The Way of Water” will also be rereleased Oct. 3.

“As I told the brass at Disney, we’re right at the glide slope to land right on time for delivery,” Cameron says. “The first film was a nightmare. Movie two was hectic. But here, I keep having to pinch myself because it’s all going well. The film is strong.”

There may be no filmmaker more at the nexus of past and future blockbuster making than Cameron. “Avatar: Fire and Ash” will arrive as Hollywood is reconciling itself to a new theatrical normal. In a movie industry of shrinking ambition, “Avatar,” an original spectacle that once was the wave of the future, is already beginning to look like an endangered species.

In a recent interview, Cameron reflected on his history with “Avatar” and what’s next for him, including a planned adaptation of Charles Pellegrino’s “Ghosts of Hiroshima.” For Cameron, most of his work is likely to touch on one of what he calls “the big three”: Nuclear weapons, machine super intelligence and climate change.

“Avatar,” a family saga that grows more complicated and darker in “Fire and Ash,” relates to the latter. The films are environmental parables, set in a verdant faraway world. Sustainability, community, connection to nature - these are some of the pillars of Cameron’s life right now, in the movies and outside them.

“I’m just a humble movie farmer,” he says, smiling, “who’s also a farmer farmer.”

AP: When you decided to embark on “Avatar,” was it more likely that if you didn’t, you’d spend your time mostly away from movies, doing deep sea exploration and other things?

Cameron It was sort of: Do the “Avatar” saga or follow my interests more. I knew that “Avatar” would be all-consuming, and it has been. When I set down that path, a reasonable projection was eight to 10 years to get it all written and do movie two and movie three together and get them out. But it’s actually turned out to be more than that. It was a major commitment and decision to make for me as a life choice. But the “Avatar” movies reach people and they reach people with positive messaging. Not just positive about the environment but positive from the standpoint of humanity, empathy, spirituality, our connection to each other. And they’re beautiful. There’s a kind of magnetic draw into the film. It almost feels like it’s being pulled out of the audience’s dreams and subconscious state.

AP: “Avatar” began as a dream, didn’t it?

Cameron: I was 19. I was in college and I had a very vivid dream of a bioluminescent forest with glowing moss that reacted to your feet and these little spinning lizards that floated around. It’s all in the movie, by the way. The reason it’s in the movie is because I got up and painted it. That later became the inspiration, just a few years later, for a science-fiction script. I said, “Hey I got this idea for a planet where everything glows at night.” We wrote that in and it never went away.

Years after that, when I was the CEO of Digital Domain, I wanted to push Digital Domain to be able to create CG worlds, CG humanoid creatures using performance capture. I just threw the kitchen sink into the treatment called “Avatar.” So it came from almost a Machiavellian reason. I was trying to drive a business model for the development of CG. Of course, the answer I got from my technical team was: “We are not ready to make this film. We may not be ready for years.” But it still served that inspirational purpose, which was: Well, how do we get ready?

AP: “Ghosts of Hiroshima” would be your first non-“Avatar” feature as director since “Titanic” in 1997. What do you think when you hear that?

Cameron: It’s interesting. As I said earlier, “Avatar” has been all-consuming. In the process, we’ve developed many new technologies. I enjoy the day-to-day process with a team. I’ve surrounded myself with really intelligent, really creative people who enjoy the process of the world building. We enjoy leveling up in our working process. It’s a long, steady state thing where I’m not having to create a new start-up, build a team and then disband that team - the way the movies cycled for me back in the ‘80s and ‘90s. Now, I’m at a kind of a crossroads where I have to decide if I want to keep doing this.

Four and five are written. If we’re as successful as we might potentially be, I’m sure the films will continue. The question for me will be: Do I direct them both? Do I direct one of them? At what point do I pass the baton? How pervasive do I want it to be in my life?

AP: When do you think you’ll decide?

Cameron: I’m not going to make any decisions about that until probably Q2 of next year, when the dust has settled. And there are also new technologies to consider. Generative AI is upon us. It’s going to transform the film business. Does that make our work flow easier? Can I make “Avatar” movies more quickly? That would be a big factor for me.

AP: You’ve said the movie industry needs to use technological advances to bring down budgets. Is that the way forward?

Cameron: The theatrical business is dwindling. Hopefully it doesn’t continue to dwindle. Right now, it’s plateaued at

about 30% down from 2019 levels. Let’s hope it doesn’t get cannibalized more. In fact, let’s hope we can bring some of that magic back. But the only way to keep that magic alive and strengthen it is to make the kinds of movies people feel they need to see in a movie theater. Unfortunately, those movies are not getting greenlit as much as they used to be because studios can’t afford them. Or they can only afford to take the risk on certain blue chip stocks, so it doesn’t allow new IP to get launched. It doesn’t allow new filmmakers to come into those genres.

I’d like to see the cost of VFX artists come down. VFX artists get scared and say, “Oh, I’m going to be out of a job.” I’m like, “No, the way you’re going to be out of a job is if trends continue and we just don’t make these kinds of movies anymore.” If you develop these tools or learn these tools, then your throughput will be quicker and that will bring the cost of productions down, and studios will be encouraged to make more and more of these types of films. To me, that’s a virtuous cycle that we need to manifest. We need to make that happen or I think theatrical might never return.

AP: I do sometimes feel watching movies like “Lawrence of Arabia” or “Titanic” that these are monuments of a bygone era.

Cameron: I would love to think that we’ve been building a new monument for the last three or four years. And I think there will always be a market for the new monument builds. The streamers kind of cannibalized the theatrical market with the promise of a lot of money to attract top filmmakers and top casts, and then that money has all retrenched back. The budgets aren’t there. Everything is starting to look like it’s driving toward a mediocrity. Everything starts to look to me like a typical network procedural, or at least that could be an end point within just a couple years.

Unfortunately, the economics of streaming expanded rapidly and then contracted rapidly. Now, we’re betwixt and between models. It’s cannibalized theatrical and, at the same time, it’s not delivering the budgets to do the kind of imaginative, phantasmagorical filmmaking.

AP: “Avatar” has basically unfolded as a family saga. It seems like in these films, what you’re most interested is spirituality and human connection.

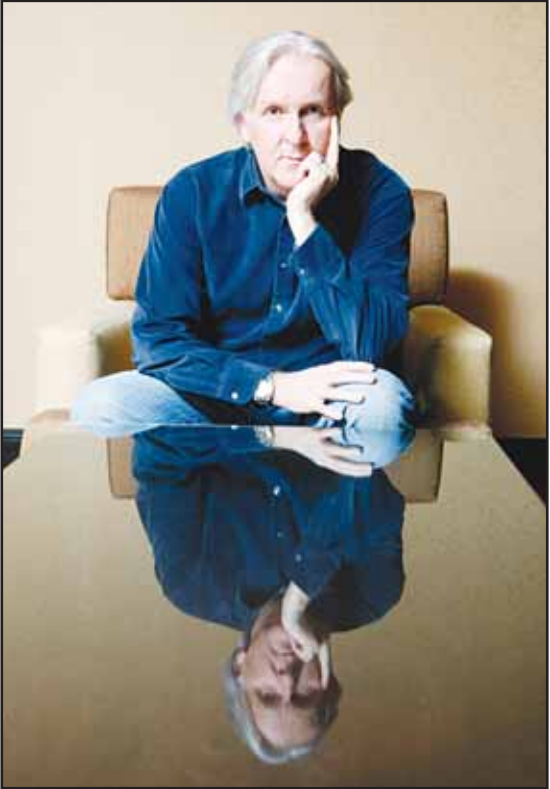
Cameron: The “Avatar” films, and certainly the new one “Fire and Ash,” do exactly the same thing. In a way, they cast us in a good light. The humans in the story are the bad guys. But really what it’s saying is that the attributes we value - our interpersonal and intercommunity connections, our spirituality, our empathy - in the movies they reside in the Na’vi. But of course we as the audience take the Na’vi’s side. So they seem a kind of aspirational, better version of us. In a sense, it’s still empowering and reinforcing certain values and ethics and morals.

Now, it’s a little more challenging in movie three because we show Na’vi who have kind of fallen from grace and are adversarial with other Na’vi. I think one of the reasons “Avatar” has been successful in all markets around the world is because everybody is in a family or wishes they were in a family. They have their ties. They have their tribes. They have their connections. And that’s what these films are about. What would you risk everything for?

AP: Does that apply to “Ghosts of Hiroshima” as well? You’ve spoken about it like a tragedy of disconnection.

Cameron: “Ghosts of Hiroshima” is about testing our empathy boundaries. Somebody needed to be empathetic to the fact that a nuclear weapon was going to be used against human beings. And I don’t want to go down the rabbit hole of should the bombs have been dropped, who was right, who was wrong. But I do want to remind people of what these weapons are capable of doing against targets. It’s unfathomable.

There were three bombs in 1945. One was used as a test and two against people. There are now 12,000 and they range in power from 100 to over 200 times the energy that was generated at either one of those two bombings. We’re in a very precarious world right now. And because of all the geopolitical challenges internationally - more nuclear powers, more saber rattling, unaccountable leadership in Russia and America right now - I think we’re in as precarious a situation as we were in the Cuban missile crisis era.



Director James Cameron poses for a picture in Los Angeles on Dec. 3, 2009. (AP)

Age verification laws

Online age checks: safety or invasion?

NEW YORK, Aug 28, (AP): Online age checks are on the rise in the US and elsewhere, asking people for IDs or face scans to prove they are over 18 or 21 or even 13. To proponents, they’re a tool to keep children away from adult websites and other material that might be harmful to them.

But opponents see a worrisome trend toward a less secure, less private and less free internet, where people can be denied access not just to pornography but news, health information and the ability to speak openly and anonymously.

“I think that many of these laws come from a place of good intentions,” said Jennifer Huddleston, a senior technology policy fellow at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank. “Certainly we all want to protect young people from harmful content before they’re ready to see it.”

More than 20 states have passed some kind of age verification law, though many face legal challenges. While no such law exists on the federal level in the United States, the Supreme Court recently allowed a Mississippi age check law for social media to stand. In June, the court upheld a Texas law aimed at preventing minors from watching pornography online, ruling that adults don’t have a First Amendment right to access obscene speech without first proving their age.

Elsewhere, the United Kingdom now requires users visiting websites that allow pornography to verify their age. Beyond adult sites, platforms like Reddit, X, Telegram and Bluesky have also committed to age checks. France and several other European Union countries also are testing a government sponsored verification app.

And Australia has banned children under 16 from accessing social media.

“Platforms now have a social responsibility to ensure the safety of our kids is a priority for them,” Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told reporters in November. The platforms have a year to work out how they could implement the ban before penalties are enforced.

To critics, though, age check laws raise “significant privacy and speech concerns, not only for young people themselves, but also for all users of the internet,” Huddleston said. “Because the only way to make sure that we are age verifying anyone under the age of 18 is to also age verify everyone over the age 18. And that could have significant impacts on the speech and privacy rights of adults.”

The state laws are a hodgepodge of requirements, but they generally fall into two camps. On one side are laws - as seen in Louisiana and Texas - that require websites comprised of more than 33% of adult content to verify users’ ages or face fines. Then there are laws - enacted in Wyoming or South Dakota - that seek to regulate sites that have any material that is considered obscene or otherwise harmful to minors.

Harmful

What’s considered harmful to minors can be subjective, and this is where experts believe such laws run afoul of the First Amendment. It means people may be required to verify their ages to access anything, from Netflix to a neighborhood blog.

“In places like Australia and the UK, there is already a split happening between the internet that people who are willing to identify themselves or go through age verification can see and the rest of the internet. And that’s historically a very dangerous place for us to end up,” said Jason Kelley, activism director at the nonprofit digital rights group Electronic Frontier Foundation.

What’s behind the gates is determined by a “hundred different decision-makers,” Kelley said, from politicians to tech platforms to judges to individuals who have sued because they believe that a piece of content is dangerous.

While many companies are complying, verifying users’ ages can prove a burden, especially for smaller platforms. On Friday, Bluesky said it will no longer be available in Mississippi because of its age verification requirements. While the social platform already does age verification in the U.K., it said Mississippi’s approach “would fundamentally change how users access Bluesky.”

That’s because it requires every user to undergo an age check, not just those who want to access adult content. It would also require Bluesky to identify and track users that are children.

“We think this law creates challenges that go beyond its child safety goals, and creates significant barriers that limit free speech and disproportionately harm smaller platforms,” the company said in a blog post.

Some websites and social media companies, such as Instagram’s parent company Meta, have argued that age verification should be done by app store owners, such as Apple and Google, and not individual platforms. This would mean that app stores need to verify their users’ ages before they allow them to download apps. Unsurprisingly, Apple and Google disagree.

“Billed as ‘simple’ by its backers, including Meta, this proposal fails to cover desktop computers or other devices that are commonly shared within families. It also could be ineffective against pre-installed apps,” Google said in a blog post.

Nonetheless, a growing number of tech companies are implementing verification systems to comply with regulations or ward off criticism that they are not protecting children. This includes Google, which recently started testing a new age-verification system for YouTube that relies on AI to differentiate between adults and minors based on their watch histories.

Instagram is testing a similar AI system to determine if kids are lying about their ages. Roblox, which was sued by the Louisiana attorney general on claims it doesn’t do enough to protect children from predators, requires users who want to access certain games rated for those over 17 to submit a photo ID and undergo a face scan for verification.

Besieged city in Sudan 'an epicentre of child suffering': UNICEF

Cholera outbreak in Darfur kills hundreds amid int'l neglect

KHARTOUM, Aug 28, (Agencies): A cholera outbreak has swept through Sudan's Darfur region, infecting more than 7,780 people and causing 330 deaths, according to the latest figures from local displacement camp coordinators.

The disease, which began spreading in June, has surged rapidly since July, particularly in areas under the control of the Rapid Support Forces.

Camps in Tawila, Jebel Marra, Nyala, and Zalingei are among the hardest hit, with overcrowded conditions and limited medical supplies worsening the crisis.

Sudan's Health Minister Haitham Mohammad Ibrahim confirmed that the outbreak is now in its third consecutive year, despite the vaccination of 20 million people, and warned that all five Darfur states remain active hotspots, with four isolated localities in North Darfur struggling to receive aid.

Humanitarian groups, including

Doctors Without Borders and the Sudanese Doctors for Peace and Development (SDPD), have described the situation as one of the worst cholera waves in years, with more than 99,000 suspected cases and 2,470 deaths recorded as of August 11, including 2,300 cases treated in Darfur and 40 deaths in a single week.

On August 14, the United Nations warned of the rapid spread of the disease, particularly in Darfur, where the Tawila Center was overwhelmed with infected people among hundreds of thousands of displaced persons.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported nearly 100,000 suspected cases and over 2,400 deaths nationwide this year, calling it a "collective failure" to contain a preventable disease.

WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that recent floods and widespread malnutrition could fuel new waves of cholera, malaria, and dengue fever,



A photo showing preventive measures taken in response to the cholera outbreak in Sudan.

compounding the suffering of millions displaced by the war between Sudan's army and the Rapid Support Forces since April 2023.

Meanwhile, a city in Sudan's western region is facing a "devastat-

ing tragedy" as the remaining population of about 260,000 people, half of them children, remain trapped after being besieged by a paramilitary group, the United Nations warned on Wednesday.

El-Fasher, the provincial capital of North Darfur province, has been at the epicenter of fighting for over a year between the Sudanese military and the Rapid Support forces, or RSF.

The UN's children's agency says at least 600,000 people have been displaced from el-Fasher and surrounding camps in recent months, but inside the city there are still 260,000 civilians - including 130,000 children - living in "desperate conditions" after been cut off from aid for more than 16 months. It says an estimated 6,000 children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition are at risk of death.

The paramilitaries have imposed a siege around the city, cutting off supply lines, UNICEF said in a

statement. El-Fasher has become "an epicentre of child suffering, with malnutrition, disease, and violence claiming young lives daily," it said.

"We are witnessing a devastating tragedy - children in el-Fasher are starving while UNICEF's life-saving nutrition services are being blocked," said Catherine Russell, the agency's executive director.

"Blocking humanitarian access is a grave violation of children's rights, and the lives of children are hanging in the balance," Russell said.

UNICEF said it is calling on Sudan's government "and all other concerned parties" to ensure "sustained, unimpeded, and safe access to reach children wherever they are in Sudan." It also wants an immediate and sustained humanitarian pause in el-Fasher and across other conflict-affected areas and unimpeded humanitarian access for the delivery of food, medicines, water, and other essentials.

'Standing for science'

US CDC chief is fired and other agency leaders quit

NEW YORK, Aug 28, (AP): The director of the nation's top public health agency has been fired after less than one month in the job, and several top agency leaders have resigned.

Susan Monarez isn't "aligned with" President Donald Trump's agenda and refused to resign, so the White House terminated her, spokeswoman Kush Desai said Wednesday night.

Her lawyers said she was targeted for standing up for science.

The US Department of Health and Human Services had announced her departure in a brief social media post late Wednesday afternoon. Her lawyers responded with a statement saying Monarez had neither resigned nor been told she was fired.

"When CDC Director Susan Monarez refused to rubber-stamp unscientific, reckless directives and fire dedicated health experts, she chose protecting the public over serving a political agenda. For that, she has been targeted," attorneys Mark Zaid and Abbe David Lowell wrote in a statement.

"This is not about one official. It is about the systematic dismantling of public health institutions, the silencing of experts, and the dangerous politicization of science. The attack on Dr. Monarez is a warning to every American: our evidence-based systems are being undermined from within," they said.

Her departure coincided with the resignations this week of at least four top CDC officials. The list includes Dr. Debra Houry, the agency's deputy director; Dr. Daniel Jernigan, head of the agency's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases; Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, head of its National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases; and Dr. Jennifer Layden, director of the

Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology.

In an email seen by The Associated Press, Houry lamented the crippling effects on the agency from planned budget cuts, reorganization and firings.

"I am committed to protecting the public's health, but the ongoing changes prevent me from continuing in my job as a leader of the agency," she wrote.

She also noted the rise of misinformation about vaccines during the current Trump administration, and alluded to new limits on CDC communications.

"For the good of the nation and the world, the science at CDC should never be censored or subject to political pauses or interpretations," she wrote.

Daskalakis worked closely with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Kennedy remade the committee by firing everyone and replacing them with a group that included several vaccine skeptics - one of whom was put in charge of a COVID-19 vaccines workgroup.

In his resignation letter, Daskalakis lamented that the changes put "people of dubious intent and more dubious scientific rigor in charge of recommending vaccine policy." He described Monarez as "hamstrung and sidelined by an authoritarian leader." He added: "Their desire to please a political base will result in death and disability of vulnerable children and adults."

He also wrote: "I am unable to serve in an environment that treats CDC as a tool to generate policies and materials that do not reflect scientific reality."

HHS officials did not immediately respond to questions about the resignations.

Some public health experts decried the loss of so many of CDC's scientific leaders.

"The CDC is being decapitated. This is an absolute disaster for public health," said Public Citizen's Dr. Robert Steinbrook.

Michael Osterholm, a University of Minnesota infectious disease researcher, said the departures were "a serious loss for America."

'New vaccine rules spark confusion, barriers'

FDA okays updated COVID-19 shots with limits for some kids and adults

WASHINGTON, Aug 28, (AP): US regulators approved updated COVID-19 shots Wednesday but limited their use for many Americans - and removed one of the two vaccines available for young children.

The new shots from Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax are approved for all seniors. But the Food and Drug Administration narrowed their use for younger adults and children to those with at least one high-risk health condition, such as asthma or obesity. That presents new barriers to access for millions of Americans who would have to prove their risk - and millions more who may want to get vaccinated and suddenly no longer qualify.

Additionally, Pfizer's vaccine will no longer be available for any child under 5, because the FDA said it was revoking the shot's emergency authorization for that age group.

Parents will still be able to seek out shots from rival drugmaker Moderna, the other maker of mRNA vaccines, which has full FDA approval for children as young as 6 months. But the company's Spikevax vaccine is only approved for children with at least one serious health problem.

The revamped vaccines target a newer version of the continuously evolving virus and are set to begin shipping soon. But it could be days or weeks before many Americans know if they'll be able to get one, with access dependent on decisions by federal health advisers, health insurers, pharmacies and state authorities.

The new restrictions - previewed by FDA officials in May - are a break from the previous US policy, which recommended an annual COVID-19 shot for all Americans 6 months and up.

The approach reflects heightened skepticism about the ongoing risks of COVID-19 and the need for yearly booster shots from Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, both outspoken critics of wide-scale vaccinations.

"The American people demanded science, safety, and common sense. This framework delivers all three," Kennedy wrote on social media.

Novavax's shot is only open to people 12 or older, not younger children, and carries the same risk-based restrictions that are now in place for Moderna and Pfizer. It's the nation's only traditional, protein-based COVID-19 vaccine.



This photo provided by Moderna in August 2025 shows fill and finish production of the updated mNEXSPIKE COVID-19 vaccine, in Madrid. (AP)

The new limits "can't help but create barriers to vaccinations" and cause confusion for patients, doctors and pharmacists, said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccines expert.

Some medical groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, have objected to the restrictions, saying they may block vaccine access for families who want to protect their children. Last week, the group offered its own recommendations for kids, saying annual shots are strongly recommended for children ages 6 months to 2 years and advised for older children.

Recommendations

In his post Wednesday, Kennedy said the shots will be "available for all patients who choose them after consulting with their doctors."

But Americans are likely to confront a number of logistical hurdles.

Insurers typically base their vaccine coverage decisions on the recommendations of a panel of advisers to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but some say they will also look to medical professional groups, including the American Medical Association.

Earlier this year, Kennedy replaced the entire CDC panel, naming several doctors and researchers who have repeatedly questioned the safety of commonly used vaccines and ingredients. The panel is expected to meet in September, but no agenda has been

released.

Depending on the panel's advice, Americans under age 65 could be expected to provide documentation of a serious medical problem before they can get a shot. Also complicating the rollout is the fact that pharmacists - who administer most COVID-19 shots - typically aren't expected to collect that kind of information. And laws governing their ability to administer routine vaccinations vary by state.

Access could also be complicated for healthy adults and children who are interested in getting a shot for extra protection.

If the latest vaccines aren't covered by their insurance, those patients could be required to pay \$150 or more out of pocket if they want one. If they aren't considered high-risk, they might also have to find a doctor or other health professional willing to give the shot "off label." Many pharmacists might be reluctant to give the shots outside of FDA's instructions.

"This makes things much more complicated, and when things get complicated we see vaccine uptake go down," said Andy Pekosz, a virologist at Johns Hopkins University.

The updated shots target coronavirus subtypes that are closely related to some newly emerging cousins. Pfizer and Moderna said they expect their shots to be available within days. Novavax's vaccine is expected in the early fall, a spokesman said.

FoodNet cut

US narrows food illness tracking

NEW YORK, Aug 28, (AP): Federal health officials have dramatically scaled back a program that has tracked food poisoning infections in the US for three decades.

The Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network, known as FoodNet, has cut required monitoring to just two pathogens that cause infections, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's down from eight.

Under the change, which began in July, health departments in 10 states that participate in the joint state and federal program will be required to monitor only foodborne infections caused by salmonella and Shiga toxin-producing E. coli bacteria. Those are among the top contributors to foodborne illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths in the US, the CDC said.

Previously, the FoodNet system required surveillance of infections confirmed to be caused by six other germs as well: campylobacter, cyclospora, listeria, shigella, vibrio and Yersinia. That is now optional.

Resources

Narrowing the reporting requirements "will allow FoodNet staff to prioritize core activities," CDC spokesman Paul Prince said in a statement. The move lets the agency "steward resources effectively," he added. It's not clear whether the action is connected to recent funding cuts enacted by the Trump Administration.

But food safety officials, including those in states that participate in the program, said the change could slow detection of foodborne illness outbreaks and obscure the full picture of food-related infections.

"Long term, it will affect our ability to use surveillance data to better understand risks in the food supply," said Carola Medus, who supervises the Minnesota Department of Health's foodborne diseases unit.

Foodborne infections caused by specific germs are required to be reported to the CDC or to state health departments. But relying on passive reports of infections rather than actively seeking out laboratory data, hospital details and other information can mean that some cases are missed, Medus said.

"FoodNet doesn't just count cases. The FoodNet sites collect robust data that contribute to the understanding of certain infections," she said.

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SPORTS

Turkey, Germany make strong starts at EuroBasket

Portugal gets 1st win in 18 years

RIGA, Latvia, Aug 28, (AP): Utah Jazz forward **Lauri Markkanen** scored **28 points** to lead Finland to a **93-90 victory** over Sweden on the opening day of the EuroBasket tournament Wednesday.

Miikka Muurinen hit back-to-back baskets from the lane with five minutes left to give the Finns the lead for good in Tampere, Finland. Ludvig Hakanson led Sweden with 28 points.

Cedi Osman scored 20 points as Turkey upset host nation Latvia 93-73 at a sold-out Xiaomi Arena.

Turkey seized the initiative from the start as Ercan Osmani converted the tip-off into a dunk within seconds. After that, the only time Latvia led was when it had a one-point advantage for 19 seconds in the first quarter.

Kenan Sipahi added 19 points for Turkey and Houston Rockets center Alperen Sengun chipped in with 16 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

Latvia next faces Estonia on Friday, when Turkey plays the Czech Republic.

Earlier in the group, Neemias Queta led Portugal to its first EuroBasket win in 18 years, 62-50 over the Czechs.

The Boston Celtics center finished with 23 points, 18 rebounds, four blocks and two steals, becoming the first player to have at least 20 points and 15 rebounds in their EuroBasket debut since FIBA began tracking rebounding

numbers in 1995.

Portugal's previous win in the tournament was a 94-85 victory over Israel in 2007.

Also in Group A in Riga, Serbia beat Estonia 98-64 behind 18 points from Nikola Jovic and 11 points and 10 rebounds from three-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic. The tournament favorite with five active NBA players and seven others who once played in the league, Serbia scored the first nine points of the game and followed it up with a 17-3 run to open a double-digit lead it never relinquished.

In other Group B action in Tampere, Germany took command in the second half to beat Montenegro 106-76.

Germany only led 46-43 at the break before the reigning World Cup champion went on a 33-12 run in the third quarter, sparked by four 3-pointers from Andreas Obst.

Sacramento Kings guard Dennis Schroder, who was the MVP at the World Cup, had 21 points, with Orlando Magic forward Franz Wagner adding 22 points and eight rebounds on his 24th birthday.

Germany next plays Sweden while Montenegro takes on Lithuania, which beat Britain 94-70 in the first game of the tournament.

Denver Nuggets center Jonas Valanciunas led the way with 18 points and nine rebounds for Lithuania, whose coach Rimas Kurtinaitis said his players looked nervous at times as they missed a number of 3-pointers and free throws.



Germany's Tristan da Silva, right, and Montenegro's Kyle Allman, left, challenge for the ball during the FIBA EuroBasket 2025 Group B basketball match between Montenegro and Germany in Tampere, Finland. (AP)

Sane omitted

Three newcomers in Germany squad for World Cup qualifiers

BERLIN, Aug 28, (Xinhua): Germany head coach Julian Nagelsmann announced his 23-man squad for the opening fixtures of the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign, introducing three fresh faces while leaving out some experienced names.

The matches against Slovakia and Northern Ireland mark the beginning of a crucial journey for the four-time world champions, as they look to secure a place in the tournament hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The newcomers to the senior national team are goalkeeper Finn Dahmen of Augsburg, defender Nnamdi Collins from Eintracht Frankfurt, and Mainz midfielder Paul Nebel. All three have previously shone in Germany's youth setups, with Collins and Nebel reaching the U21 European Championship final earlier this summer. Dahmen, meanwhile, brings valuable experience as a former U21 European champion in 2021. Their call-ups underline Nagelsmann's pledge to rejuvenate the squad following a disappointing Nations League campaign earlier this year.

Returning to the fold are Antonio Rudiger of Real Madrid, Mainz's Nadiem Amiri, and VfB Stuttgart duo Angelo Stiller and Jamie Leweling. In contrast, several familiar names will not feature this time.

Leroy Sane, who recently moved to Turkey's Gal-

atasaray after leaving Bayern, was not included. Nagelsmann justified the omission by pointing to Sane's move abroad, noting that the winger now competes in a league "slightly below Europe's top level" and stressing that he "needs to stand out more there" to earn a recall.

Other absentees include Aleksandar Pavlovic, Robin Gosens, Thilo Kehrer and Felix Nmecha. Injuries also rule out key players such as Jamal Musiala, Kai Havertz, Nico Schlotterbeck and first-choice goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Germany begin their qualification campaign away to Slovakia on Thursday night in Bratislava before hosting Northern Ireland in Cologne three days later. Historically, the "Mannschaft" hold a strong record against both opponents: eight wins from 11 encounters with Slovakia and 13 victories in 19 meetings against Northern Ireland.

Nagelsmann stressed the importance of a successful start, especially with Germany drawn in a smaller group of four. The group also includes Luxembourg, making the path on paper less challenging. Only the group winner qualifies directly, while the runner-up faces the play-offs.

"The team knows what is at stake," Nagelsmann said ahead of the squad announcement. "It is our responsibility to take the necessary steps now to build towards 2026. That means giving young players their chance and finding the right balance with our experienced core."

Khan and Nabi headline Afghans spin power

Afghanistan, Pakistan and UAE gear up for Sharjah T20 tri-series ahead of Asian Cup

DUBAI, Aug 28, (AP): It's time for Rashid Khan and his Afghanistan lineup to be the favorite in a Twenty20 international cricket tournament. Afghanistan has a formidable, spin-heavy squad for the tri-series that starts Friday and also features Pakistan and the host United Arab Emirates. It's a tune-up for next month's Asian Cup, which is also being staged in the UAE.

Last year, Afghanistan reached the T20 World Cup semifinals before losing to South Africa, a run to the last that underlined its strength in the shortest format of international cricket. Seven T20 games over the next 10 days at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium will involve the teams competing against each other twice before the top two qualify for the Sept. 7 final.

The slow pitches of Sharjah Cricket Stadium are unlikely to produce any big scores - the 200-run mark has been crossed only four times in 41 T20 internationals at the 16,000-capacity stadium.

The slow nature of the pitches has encouraged Afghanistan to pack its squad with five spinners, including the uncapped AM Ghazanfar. Rashid Khan and mystery spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman have conceded fewer than six runs per over in a combined 23 T20s at Sharjah, while picking up 43 wickets.

Experienced allrounder Mohammad Nabi, who also bowls offspin, is rich with experience from playing in 25 T20s for Afghanistan at Sharjah, where he's taken 16 wickets at an impressive economy rate of 6.49.

Left-arm spinner Noor Ahmad had some impressive performances in the IPL this season while representing the Chennai Super Kings. The spin bowling attack is expected to pose some serious challenges to the rival batters. Pakistan has its spin bases covered.

Specialist spinners Abrar Ahmed and Sufiyan Muqem are backed up by off-spinners Saim Ayub and captain Salman Ali Agha, and left-arm Mohammad Nawaz. They're all capable of bowling a full quota of four overs in a T20 game, if the conditions favor slow bowling.

Pakistan's new limited-overs coach Mike Hesson has yet again ignored experienced veterans Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan as he searches for batters with better strike-rates upfront. Babar and Rizwan haven't played a T20 international since December. Pakistan has instead given consistent chances to Sahibzada Farhan, Mohammad Haris, and Saim Ayub to look out for quick runs in the batting powerplay as it builds a team for next year's T20 World Cup.

Hesson wanted to see Babar not only improve his batting against spinners but also wanted him to score at a



Afghanistan's captain Rashid Khan throws the ball to a teammate during the men's T20 World Cup semifinal cricket match between Afghanistan and South Africa at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago. (AP)

faster rate to regain his place in the T20 squad. Pakistan has had mixed results over the last few months since Hesson was appointed coach.

It started with Pakistan routing Bangladesh 3-0 at home before Bangladesh rallied to beat Pakistan 2-1 in the return series in Dhaka. Pakistan then won 2-1 against the West Indies in Florida as Hesson experimented with batting and bowling combinations. Uncapped left-handed batter Harshit Kaushik is among the four changes UAE has made after it lost to the hosts at the Pearl of Africa Cup in Uganda.

Leg-spin allrounder Mohammad Farooq, who has nine wickets in 8 T20s, and fast bowlers Junaid Siddique and Mohammad Jawadullah are the others who've returned to the UAE squad. Coach Lalchand Rajput believes that after winning a T20 series against Bangladesh at home in May, the UAE team can beat any other test-playing nation in the shortest format.



Connecticut Sun forward Aneesah Morrow (24) drives against Dallas Wings center Luisa Geiselsoder (18) during the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Connecticut posts 101-95 win over Wings

Las Vegas takes sole possession of second

COLLEGE PARK, Ga., Aug 28 (AP): A'ja Wilson scored 34 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Jackie Young had her second triple-double this season and the Las Vegas Aces beat the Atlanta Dream 91-85 for their 12th consecutive win.

The Aces (26-14) took sole possession of second in the WNBA standings, a game ahead of Atlanta (24-14) and six games behind league-leading Minnesota.

Rhyne Howard and Brionna Jones led Atlanta with 19 points each.

Wilson now has 35 career games scoring at least 30 points, the second most in WNBA history.

Diana Taurasi holds the record with 54 career 30-point games. Wilson has 11 games with 30-plus points for the second consecutive season, one shy of the single-season record shared by Maya Moore (2014) and Jewell Loyd (2023).

Young finished with 10 points, a career-high tying 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Howard hit a free throw that gave the Dream a 48-46 lead with 4:16 left in the third quarter. Wilson scored eight consecutive points - including back-to-back 3-pointers - in a 15-0 run that made it 61-48 going into the fourth and the Aces led the rest of the way.

Chelsea Gray and Loyd each hit a 3-pointer in the final minute and scored 14 points apiece for Las Vegas.

Wilson moved past Yolanda Griffith and Lauren Jackson into 20th in WNBA history with 2,452 career



Austin Warren, 8, of Temple, Texas, dribbles and holds onto an oversized uniform during contest in a break during the first half of a WNBA basketball game between the Connecticut Sun and Dallas Wings in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

rebounds, two behind Crystal Langhorne.

Allisha Gray scored 15 and Naz Hillmon grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds for Atlanta.

The Aces are off until Sept. 4 when they play Minnesota - which has won three games against Las Vegas with a plus-33 margin of victory this season - in the first off three straight at T-Mobile Arena. The Dream wrap up a four-game home-stand Friday against Dallas.

Sun 101, Wings 95
Arlington, Leila Lacan had 22

points, Marina Mabrey scored 18 points, including two key free throws with 16.6 seconds left, and the Connecticut Sun beat the Dallas Wings 101-95 for its highest scoring game this season.

Dallas played without No. 1 draft pick Paige Bueckers, who was a late scratch from the lineup due to an illness.

Tina Charles also scored 18 points for Connecticut, (10-28) which won on the road for just fourth time this season in 20 tries.

Aneesah Morrow finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Saniya Rivers added 11 points.

Aziah James led Dallas (9-30) with 22 points. Myisha Hines-Allen scored a career-high 18 points and Maddy Siegrist added 15 points. Arike Ogunbowale (right knee) was also out of the Dallas lineup.

Bria Hartley made a basket with 7:31 left in the fourth quarter to give Connecticut an 89-77 lead. But the Sun went more than five minutes without scoring and did not make another field goal until the closing seconds.

Mabrey was called for a lane violation with 27.5 seconds left, leading to a made free throw by Amy Okonkwo to get Dallas within 95-92. Charles answered with a hook shot in the lane to end Connecticut's field-goal drought.

Mabrey and Charles combined to go 4 for 4 at the free-throw line down the stretch to seal it.

The Wings dropped to 5-16 at home this season.

in 2016 that installed Gianni Infantino as FIFA president and Aleksander Ceferin as UEFA president.(AP)

□ □ □

Goalkeeper Tenas joins Villarreal: Villarreal on Thursday confirmed the signing of goalkeeper Arnau Tenas from Paris Saint-Germain.

24-year-old Tenas has agreed a four-year contract with the La Liga club until the end of June 2029.

The former FC Barcelona B-team player returns to Spain after two seasons with PSG, who he joined in 2023.

Although he won six trophies with PSG, including last season's Champions League, he made only eight first team appearances, seven of which were in Ligue 1, for the French giants, due to the presence of Gianluigi Donnarumma in the PSG goal.

Tenas has been a regular in the youth categories of the Spanish national team, playing at every level from U17 to U23, winning an Olympic Gold Medal with the Spain side at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. (Xinhua)

Best of the Rest

Swiss prosecutors end 10-year FIFA case: Swiss federal prosecutors finally ended their case against former FIFA president Sepp Blatter and former UEFA president Michel Platini on Thursday after 10 years and acquittals after two trials.

The office of Switzerland's attorney general said it would not appeal against acquittals for both men in March at an appeal court.

The first trial was in 2022 on charges of fraud, forgery, mismanagement and misappropriation of more than \$2 million of FIFA money in 2011.

The payment of FIFA money to Platini emerged in 2015 during federal investigations of international soccer officials by federal investigators in the United States and Switzerland.

The allegations, which were not proven twice in Swiss courts, removed both men from office and led to elections

decided "a while ago" that he would not play at Bethpage Black on New York's Long Island, and the team had been set on Monday.

"I know 100% certain this is the right choice," Bradley said from PGA of America headquarters in Frisco, Texas.

"I grew up wanting to play the Ryder Cup. It broke my heart not to play, it really did," he said. "Ultimately I was chosen to do a job. My ultimate goal was to

be the best captain I could be."

Instead, Bradley went with a pair of Ryder Cup rookies in New York native Cameron Young and Ben Griffin, who finished at No. 9 in the standings. Joining them as picks were Justin Thomas, Collin Morikawa, Sam Burns and Patrick Cantlay, all of them on the last U.S. team.

That gives the Americans four Ryder Cup rookies - U.S. Open champion J.J. Spaun and Russell Henley qualified on

their own - for the Sept. 26-28 matches. The other U.S. qualifiers were Scottie Scheffler, Xander Schauffele, Harris English and Bryson DeChambeau, the only player from Saudi-backed LIV Golf who made it.

Brooks Koepka of LIV Golf was a captain's pick for the 2023 matches.

Europe, which will announce the rest of its team on Monday, is likely to return 11 of the 12 players who won in Rome two years ago. Luke Donald returns as

captain.

The Americans return only six players from that Rome squad.

Bradley made a compelling case as a pick, and he likely would have been chosen without much argument if he had not been captain. He has won twice in the last 13 months against strong fields - only Scheffler has won more since then. He finished at No. 11 in the Ryder Cup standings and was the eighth-best American in the world ranking.

Change Name

I, Niharika Chikkanayakanahalli Yogeeshha, Holder of Passport No. X4811107, do hereby change my name to Niharika (as given name), Yogeeshha (as Surname), for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Niharika Yogeeshha, and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

Kane nets late winner

Bayern survives scare in German Cup

BERLIN, Aug 28, (Xinhua): Harry Kane once again showed his striker's instinct, netting twice including a dramatic stoppage-time winner, as Bayern Munich scraped past third-tier Wehen Wiesbaden 3-2 in the first round of the German Cup.

Fielding a rotated side, Bayern made a flying start. Within seconds of kick-off, Luis Diaz tested Florian Stritzel in the Wiesbaden goal, who would go on to deliver a string of fine saves. The early breakthrough arrived after a foul on Sacha Boey, with Kane converting coolly from the penalty spot in the 16th minute.

The Bundesliga champions doubled their lead shortly after the restart when youngster Lennart Karl surged into the box, and a loose ball fell kindly for Michael Olise to score his first goal in the competition. At that point, Bayern seemed in full control, with Diaz and Raphael Guerreiro both spurning opportunities to put the tie beyond doubt.

Yet Wiesbaden refused to fold. Roared on by their home crowd, captain Fatih Kaya struck twice in quick succession, first sliding in at the far



Bayern Munich's Luis Díaz, left, and SV Wehen Wiesbaden's Jordy Gillekens battle for the ball during the DFB Pokal, Germany Cup, soccer match, in Wiesbaden, Germany. (AP)

post and then racing clear to fire past Jonas Urbig for a shock equalizer. Suddenly, Bayern's 2-0 cushion had vanished, and the underdogs sensed an upset.

Kane had the chance to restore order from the spot after being fouled, but Stritzel saved not only his penalty but also two follow-up efforts in a remarkable sequence. As the clock ticked into added time, the tie appeared destined for extra time, only for Bayern's record signing to rise highest and head home from Josip Stanisic's cross to seal progression.

The relief among the visitors was palpable, while Wiesbaden were left to rue how close they had come to forcing a famous upset.

"It's obviously bitter. Compliments to the team, we made it tough for Bayern, and we can be proud of that. Scoring against a club like this is special, but I would rather we had gone through today," said Kaya.

"We had enough chances, then Wiesbaden had two moments that can happen. In the end, the important thing is we went through. We stayed calm, won the game, and that shows our quality.

"The first round in the cup is never easy," said Bayern defender Konrad Laimer.

Messi scores twice as Miami beats Orlando

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Aug 28, (AP): Lionel Messi scored twice in his return and Inter Miami beat Orlando City 3-1 on Wednesday night to advance to the Leagues Cup Final.

Inter Miami will be on the road to face the Seattle winner in the final Sunday. The Sounders beat the LA Galaxy 2-0 on the road.

Messi was back for the second time in two weeks after a setback in his recovery from a hamstring injury.

Marco Pašalić opened the scoring for Orlando just before halftime, with the play surviving a VAR review for a possible handball.

Messi tied it in the 77th, converting from the penalty spot after Tadeo Allende was pulled down in the box. It was more Messi magic in the 88th when he combined with Jordi Alba to put Miami ahead.

Then, to finish it off in very similar fashion to Messi's second goal, Telasco Segovia gave the ball to Luis Suarez and got it back to put the finishing touch on the victory.

"We are always excited to win and now we have an opportunity to take home a trophy," assistant coach Javier Morales said. Head coach Javier



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi, right, goes for the ball against Orlando City midfielder César Araujo (5) during the first half of a Leagues Cup semi-final soccer match in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

Mascherano served his red-card suspension during the semifinal.

In an expected intense affair, there were nine yellow cards total and one red card given to Orlando City defender David Brekalo.

"Brekalo's (first) yellow card was

unbelievable. He doesn't even touch the player (Rodrigo De Paul)," Orlando City coach Óscar Pareja said. "So this affects a team and affects the players to where the game becomes very difficult."

Miami won the 2022 tournament.

Transfer saga

El-Houni caught between Qadsia and Al-Ahli Tripoli

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 28: Uncertainty surrounds the future of Libyan international Hamdou El-Houni, with conflicting reports about his next club. While some Libyan media outlets claim he has renewed his contract with Al-Ahli Tripoli, other sources suggest that Qadsia SC has secured a preliminary agreement with the player.

Al-Ahli Tripoli shared a photo on social media featuring El-Houni alongside teammates Mohammed Al-Mounir and Ayman Al-Tihar, announcing their contract renewals. Another report stated that the club president is continuing to finalize renewals for the team's key players.

However, sources indicate that El-Houni cannot complete a renewal with Al-Ahli

without consulting Qadsia and obtaining the Kuwaiti club's approval. Any unilateral move could expose the Libyan club to legal consequences.

Qadsia confirmed that El-Houni has signed a two-year contract with the club and is expected to join after fulfilling his commitments with the Libyan national team during the international gathering from September 1 to 9.

The Kuwaiti club currently has four foreign professionals in its squad: Algerians Victor Lekhel and Sofiane Bouchar, Egyptian Mahmoud Abdelmonem "Kahraba", and Libyan Mohammed Soula.

In anticipation of potential complications with El-Houni's transfer, Qadsia has prepared a contingency plan, reviewing resumes of other foreign players to select a replacement if the Libyan forward does not join.



El-Houni with Ahli Tripoli's officials.

Al-Musallam meets Moroccan officials

RABAT, Aug 28: Husain Al-Musallam, President of World Aquatics, held a key meeting with Faisal Al-Araichi at the headquarters of the Moroccan National Olympic Committee. The discussion focused on a range of topics related to sports development and tourism, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between national and international sports organizations to strengthen swimming and other sports in Morocco.

Al-Musallam commended Morocco for its role in hosting major sporting events and for the significant progress the country has made across all sectors, particularly its advanced sports infrastructure.

Morocco is set to host the Arab Aquat-

ics Championship, welcoming participation from several Arab countries.



Faisal Al-Araichi welcoming Hussain Al-Musallam at the headquarters of the Moroccan National Olympic Committee.

GRIMSBY, England, Aug 28, (AP): Manchester United sank to a new low under Ruben Amorim by getting eliminated by fourth-tier Grimsby Town after a marathon penalty shootout in the second round of the English League Cup.

Grimsby won 12-11 on spot-kicks at 9,000-capacity Blundell Park on England's east coast, with Bryan Mbeumo missing the decisive penalty. United needed late goals by Mbeumo and Harry Maguire just to salvage a 2-2 draw in regulation, having trailed 2-0 at halftime.

It will go down as one of the most embarrassing results in United's history and leaves the team winless in three games so far this campaign, after a woeful 15th-place finish in the Premier League last season.

Grimsby's jubilant fans stormed onto the field to celebrate with the players after Mbeumo's spot kick rebounded off the crossbar to seal United's fate.

"It's an amazing feeling, one that will live on forever," said Grims-



Grimsby Town's Charles Vernam celebrates scoring their side's first goal of the game during an English League Cup second round soccer match against Manchester United at Hill Blundell Park in Grimsby, England. (AP)

by's Charles Vernam, who scored one of the team's goals.

Grimsby is currently fourth in League Two, and finished the match with a lineup containing several academy graduates and a Faeroe Islands international.

United, meanwhile, had 200 million pounds (\$270 million) worth of new signings just in its attack in Mbeumo, Matheus Cunha and Benjamin Sesko. Cunha also failed in the shootout by having his weak

attempt saved and Sesko took United's 10th penalty - only ahead of goalkeeper Andre Onana.

After Onana and Grimsby goalkeeper Christy Pym converted their penalties, the shootout reverted to the outfield players once again. Bruno Fernandes scored his for United, but Mbeumo couldn't.

"Going into the penalty shootout, the gaffer (manager) said to us, 'Lads, all the pressure is on them,' and it was really," Grimsby mid-

fielder Kieran Green said.

It was a bittersweet moment for Pym, who said: "I'm a Man United fan so I'm half-fuming a little bit."

The result piles more pressure on Amorim, who came into the game with 16 wins from his 44 matches in charge of United after being hired in November. He sat in the dugout during the shootout, not even watching the kicks.

A 1-0 loss to Arsenal in the opening round of the Premier League featured an encouraging performance by a new-look United team, but some worrying old habits returned when fading to a 1-1 draw at Fulham on Sunday.

The exit at Grimsby quickly brought back the gloom of last season.

"The way we started the game without any intensity, we were completely lost," said Amorim, who apologized to United's fans.

United was only playing in the second round - for the first time since 2014 - after failing to qualify for European competition last season. That year, the team lost 4-0 at third-tier MK Dons in the second round.

In other results Wednesday, Brighton won 6-0 at second-tier Oxford, Everton beat third-tier Mansfield 2-0 and Fulham won 2-0 against second-tier Bristol City.

Six English teams in the Champions League

Fenerbahce falls short, Benfica advances

MONACO, Aug 28, (AP): José Mourinho and Fenerbahce fell short of returning to the Champions League on Wednesday, losing 1-0 at Benfica in the qualifying playoffs on Wednesday.

Benfica - the first club Mourinho coached - had two goals disallowed on video review in the first half before its Turkish forward Kerem Aktürkoğlu scored with a rising shot in the 35th minute for the only goal over the two legs.

Club Brugge, Copenhagen and Qarabag of Azerbaijan also advanced to complete the 36-team lineup for the league phase, with the draw being made Thursday.

Mourinho is a two-time Champions League winner but has not coached in the main stage of the marquee competition for six seasons. Fenerbahce's absence now stretches to 17 seasons.

Brugge routed Rangers 6-0 for an aggregate score of 9-1. The Belgian side already had an early lead before Rangers defender Max Aarons was sent off in the eighth minute.

Qarabag is back in the Champions League eight years after its debut campaign, winning 5-4 on aggregate over Ferencváros despite a 3-2 loss in Baku on Wednesday.

Copenhagen won 2-0 at home to Basel to advance 3-1 on aggregate.

The draw ceremony starts 6 p.m. local time (1600 GMT) Thursday at a beachside concert hall and conference venue in Monaco.



Brugge's Hans Vanaken, center, takes a shot on goal during the Champions League play-off second leg soccer match between Rangers FC and Club Brugge at the Jan Breydel stadium in Bruges, Belgium. (AP)

A record six teams from England are in the competition this year. More than half - 19 in total - are from the four highest-ranked countries: England, Italy, Spain and Germany.

Newcomers in the main phase are Bodo/Glimt of Norway, Kairat Almaty of Kazakhstan, Pafos of Cyprus and Union Saint-Gilloise of Belgium.

The Champions League will go further north than ever before, with Bodo located inside the Arctic Circle, and further east, to Almaty, near Kazakhstan's border with China. Pafos, the Russian-owned champion of Cyprus, was created just 11

years ago in a merger of two clubs.

Athletic Bilbao heads the teams returning after a long absence. The emblematic team from Spain's Basque region last played in the 2014-15 group stage.

Olympiakos missed four editions and Villarreal returns after losing in the semifinals to Liverpool in 2022.

There is no team from Ukraine for first time in 20 years. In that period, Shakhtar Donetsk featured 17 times and Dynamo Kyiv 10. Russian teams are banned from all European competitions for the fourth straight season since the full mili-

tary invasion of Ukraine.

The 71st edition of the European Cup or Champions League will include 14 different former champions with a combined 50 titles, including holder Paris Saint-Germain.

Now that five-time winning coach Carlo Ancelotti left Real Madrid to coach Brazil, Pep Guardiola is the leading coach in this edition. Guardiola has won three Champions League titles, with Barcelona in 2009 and 2011 and his current team Manchester City in 2023.

The other previous title-winning coaches are Luis Enrique, with Barcelona in 2015 and PSG last season, and Barcelona's Hansi Flick, who won with Bayern Munich in 2020.

This is the second season of the league phase format with 36 teams playing eight different opponents and ranked in a single-standings table.

The weighted schedule gives each team two opponents drawn from each of the four seeding pots Thursday in Monaco. Teams are seeded based on their ranking over five seasons of results in UEFA competitions.

Games start on Sept. 16 and the final matchday is Jan. 28. Bodo/Glimt should play one home game in January on its heated artificial turf in the Norwegian offseason.

The top eight teams in the final standings advance to the round of 16 in March. Teams ranked ninth to 24th go to the round of two-legged knockout playoffs in February.

Feng/Huang sent packing in shock defeat

PARIS, Aug. 28, (Xinhua): Day three of the 2025 BWF World Championships saw the full round of 16 confirmed, with China's world No. 1 mixed-doubles pair Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping suffering a shock defeat, becoming the highest-seeded casualties of the tournament so far.

After receiving a first-round bye, the Chinese duo - nicknamed "Phoenix" - opened their campaign against Denmark's Mathias Christiansen and Alexandra Boje once ranked as high as eighth in the world.

"The opponents adapted their tactics better in the second and third games. Our adjustments

weren't timely, and we ended up playing at their pace," Feng admitted after losing the match at 14-21, 21-13, 21-18.

China's Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin endured a three-game battle but eventually overcame England's Callum Hemming and Estelle Van Leeuwen 2-1 (18-21, 21-13, 21-15).

In the men's singles, Shi Yuqi and Weng Hongyang both posted straight-game victories to progress, while Lu Guangzu fell 2-1 to Canadian youngster Victor Lai, exiting in the round of 32.

On the women's side, fourth seed Chen Yufei was pushed to three games by Denmark's Mia

Blichfeldt before prevailing 21-13, 16-21, 21-10.

Chen noted the venue's shifting wind conditions after the match: "I realized today's wind direction was different from my first match, so I had to adjust my tactics on the spot."

Apart from the home women's doubles pair of Tea Margueritte and Flavie Vallet, who were knocked out, every French player advanced on the day.

Christo Popov dispatched Angus Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong, China 21-15, 21-16, while his brother Toma Junior cruised past Sri Lanka's Viren Nettasinghe, and Alex Lanier delivered a 21-17, 21-13 victory over Croatia's Aria Dinata.

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NEWS



Bayern Munich's Harry Kane celebrates scoring his second goal during the DFB Pokal, Germany Cup, soccer match, against SV Wehen Wiesbaden in Wiesbaden, Germany. Bayern needed a late Kane header to claim a shaky 3-2 win. (AP) – See Page 15

Sports

A promising sign of greater achievements to come: Hayat

Kuwait returns from Arab Junior Athletics Championship with five-medal haul

TUNIS, Aug 28: The Kuwaiti national junior athletics team returned home after an impressive showing at the 11th Arab Junior Athletics Championship in Tunisia, where they secured a total of five medals — three gold and two bronze.

The young “future champions” delivered standout performances that signal a bright future for Kuwait’s track and field. Among the highlights was Asian junior champion Yasmin Roui (born 2009), who captured gold in the girls’ high jump with a leap of 1.69 meters.

The delegation was warmly welcomed at Kuwait International Airport by Fatima Hayat, member of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Board and Chairwoman of the Women’s Sports Committee, along with members of the Kuwait Athletics Federation and the athletes’ families.

Hayat praised the team’s achievements, describing them as the result of close cooperation between the Kuwait Olympic Committee and the Athletics Federation through the Olympic Champion Program. She emphasized that the Olympic Committee, under the leadership of Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser, is committed to supporting Kuwaiti athletes across all disciplines, with a strong focus on nurturing local talent.

“This success at the Arab Championship is a promising sign of greater achievements to come, whether at the Asian Games or the Olympics,” she said.

Hayat also commended the Public Authority for Sport, led by Bashar Abdullah, for its continued support, including the approval of training camps to further develop athletes. She extended her appreciation to the parents of the young athletes for their dedication and encouragement in helping the next generation of champions thrive.



The delegation being warmly welcomed at Kuwait International Airport by Fatima Hayat, member of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Board and Chairwoman of the Women’s Sports Committee, along with members of the Kuwait Athletics Federation.

Kuwait riders win six medals at Regional Special Olympics Equestrian Champ’ship

AL AIN, Aug 28: Kuwait’s Al-Tomoooh Club riders wrapped up their campaign at the inaugural Regional Special Olympics Equestrian Championship for the Middle East and North Africa, held in Al Ain, UAE, with an impressive haul of six medals.

On the final day of competition, in the Trail and Control event, Basmah Al-Busaili clinched gold, while Maryam Thiyab secured a second gold for Kuwait. Abdullah Al-Ali added a bronze, bringing the nation’s overall tally to three gold, one silver, and two bronze medals.

Secretary General of Al-Tomoooh Club and head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Sadiqa Al-Ansari, expressed pride in the riders’ achievements, noting that the results “reflect their determination and embody the strong support provided by the State for athletes of determination.”

Al-Ansari highlighted that Kuwait’s participation underscored its commitment to integrating athletes with intellectual disabilities and showcasing



The riders display the national flag as they celebrate on the podium with officials.

their talents on regional and international stages. She also praised the UAE Special Olympics for its outstanding organization, ensuring a fair and competitive environment for all participants.

She extended her gratitude to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his continued patronage and support of Kuwaiti athletes. Al-Ansari also thanked the Kuwait Embassy in the UAE, the Public Authority for Youth and Sports, the organizing committee, and the riders’ coaches for their vital roles in making the achievement possible.

Exciting Asian Challenge League draw revealed

Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi set to make mark

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28: The group stage draw for the 2025-2026 Asian Challenge League has been completed, setting the stage for an exciting season of regional competition.

Kuwait, as the host, has been drawn into Group B, alongside Al-Seeb (Oman), Ansar (Lebanon), and Bashundhara Kings (Bangladesh).

Al-Arabi will compete in Group C with Regar-Tadaz (Tajikistan), Safa (Lebanon), and Muras United (Kyrgyzstan), with matches to be held in Kyrgyzstan.

Group A features Al-Shabab (Oman), Al-Tin Asir (Turkmenistan), Baru (Bhutan, host), and Abdish-Ata (Kyrgyzstan). Al-Arabi reached the semi-finals in the previous edition but were eliminated by Arkadag (Turkmenistan) after a 0-3 loss in the second leg, following a 2-0 victory in the first leg.

This marks Kuwait Club’s first participation in the tournament, after competing in the AFC Champions League 2 last season, where they exited in the group stage.

In the Eastern Zone, Group D includes Manila Digger (Philippines), Preah Khan Reach Svay Rieng (Cambodia, host), Falcons (Mongolia), and Ezra (Laos), while Group E features Dewa United (Indonesia, host), Shan United (Myanmar), Tainan City (Chinese Taipei),



In this file photo, Kuwait Club players celebrate at the end of a match.

and Phnom Penh Crown (Cambodia).

The group stage will take place from October 25 to November 1, using a single round-robin format. Quarter-finals and semi-finals (home and away) are scheduled for March and April 2026, with the final on May 9, 2026.

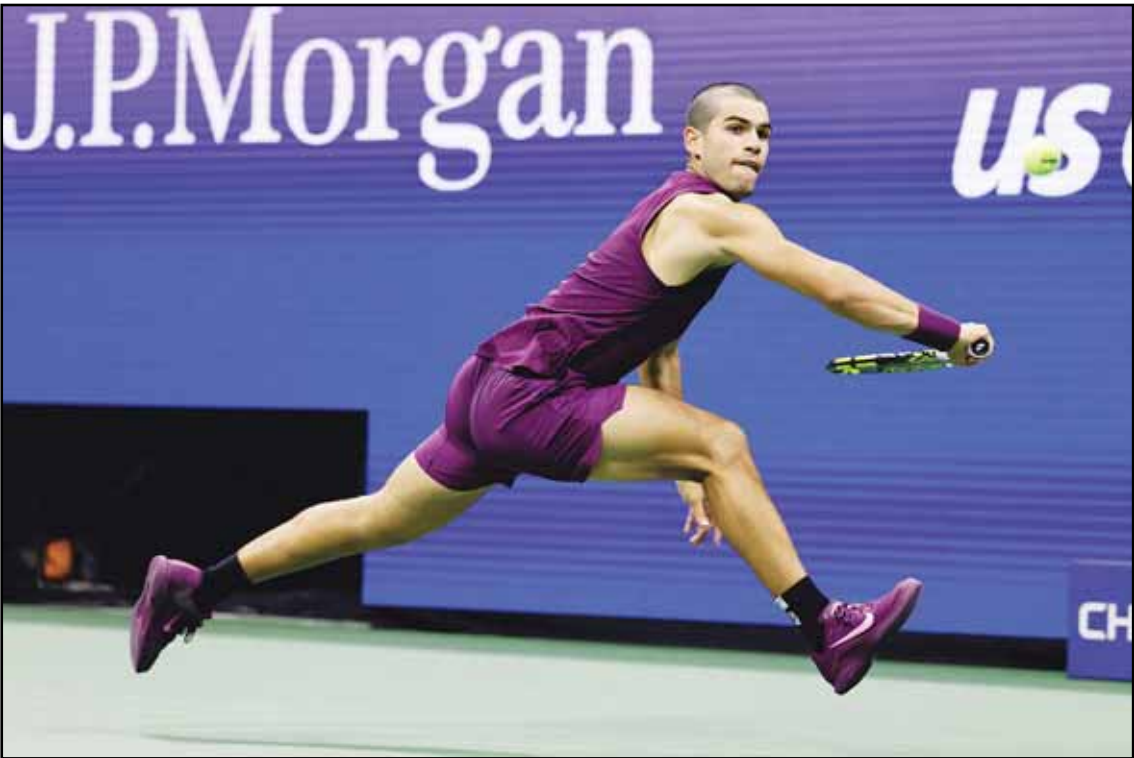
The draw was held at the AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The top team from each group advances to the next stage, along with the three best second-placed teams across the five groups.

Following the preliminary round earlier this month, nine clubs qualified to join eight directly-seeded teams, along with three teams eliminated from the AFC Champions League 2 preliminary round, completing the 20-team lineup (12 from the West, 8 from the East).

Notably, five clubs will make their group stage debut in an AFC competition: Al-Shabab (Oman), Dewa United (Indonesia), Ezra (Laos), Manila Digger (Philippines), and Muras United (Kyrgyzstan).

Kuwait will aim to compete for the Asian Challenge League title in its inaugural appearance.

Djokovic battles back to reach Flushing Meadows third round



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, returns a shot to Mattia Bellucci, of Italy, during the second round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Alcaraz cruises past Bellucci

NEW YORK, Aug 28, (AP): For the second contest in a row at this U.S. Open, Novak Djokovic appeared a bit sluggish, a bit off, for a stretch. This time, he even dropped the opening set. And then, as always at Flushing Meadows, the 24-time Grand Slam champion progressed to the third round.

Djokovic improved to 36-0 across the first and second rounds in New York, a place he’s won four championships, by coming back to beat 145th-ranked American qualifier Zachary Svajda 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

“I really tried to soak it in and enjoy the moment, especially when I won the first set,” said Svajda, a 22-year-old from San Diego. “It kind of shocked me. I was like, ‘Wow!’”

Asked on court afterward how he felt in his first competition since losing to eventual champion Jannik Sinner in the Wimbledon semifinals on July 11 while hindered by a groin injury, Djokovic replied: “Not that great, to be honest.”

Svajda noticed.

At his news conference later, the 38-year-old Djokovic spoke a little more about his mood.

That will come against Cam Norrie, a British left-hander who reached the semifinals at Wimbledon in 2022 and is 0-6 against Djokovic.

Norrie got past Francisco Comesana of Argentina 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-7 (0), 7-6 (4) in four hours and now it’s his turn to face the task that Svajda did Wednesday against Djokovic.

Carlos Alcaraz’s accidental buzz cut is moving on at the U.S. Open thanks to an easy-as-can-be victory in the second round a year after he lost at that stage in the Grand Slam tournament.

The No. 2-seeded Alcaraz - who shaved his head after his brother messed up his hair - needed a little more than 1 1/2 hours to beat 65th-ranked Mattia Bellucci of Italy 6-1, 6-0, 6-3 under the lights at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Alcaraz never faced a break point and accumulated a 32-11 advantage in winners. All in all, a far cry from what happened in the second round at Flushing Meadows in 2024.

Alcaraz went into that one on a 15-match unbeaten run at major tournaments - thanks in large part to titles at the French Open and Wimbledon - but came out on the wrong end of a straight-set defeat against Botic van de Zandschulp.

There never was a chance of that sort of stunner against Bellucci.

Reigning champion Aryna Sabalenka defeated Polina Kudermetova 7-6 (4), 6-2 in the women’s singles second round.

Taylor Townsend and Jelena Ostapenko got into a face-to-face argument on the Court 11 sideline right after Townsend won their second-round match 7-5, 6-1. Townsend, an American who is ranked No. 1 in doubles, said Ostapenko, a Latvian who won the 2017 French Open, told her she has “no class” and “no education.”

No. 5 seed Jack Draper, a semifinalist in 2024, withdrew because of a lingering injury to his left arm. Winners included both of last year’s runners-up - Jessica Pegula and Taylor Fritz - along with Alcaraz, Frances Tiafoe, 2021 champion Emma Raducanu, and Emma Navarro. No. 12 Casper Ruud, whose 0-3 record in Grand Slam finals includes a loss to Carlos Alcaraz at Flushing Meadows in 2022, was eliminated 6-4, 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 by Raphael Collignon of Belgium. The 107th-ranked Collignon had never won a match at a major or played a five-setter until this tournament.



Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, reacts after defeating Polina Kudermetova, of Russia, during the second round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)