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Amir appoints Sheikh Thamer Jaber as head of HH Crown Prince Diwan

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): An Amiri decree has been issued appointing Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as Head of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan - with a rank of a minister - for a four-year term as of September 1, 2025.

Sheikh Thamer's profile as follows:

He was born in 1971, and he holds a certificate of military sciences from Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in London and a bachelor's degree in political sciences from the United States.

He served as an officer at the Ministry of Defense's intelligence and military security field from 1991 to 1994.

He served at the Ministry of In-



Sheikh Thamer Al-Jaber

terior's state security department from 1994 to 2000.

In 2000, a decree was issued appointing him as assistant undersec-

retary of His Highness the Crown Prince's technical bureau.

In 2003, Sheikh Thamer was named deputy chief of citizens' service bureau and Government Performance Follow-up Agency affiliated to the Cabinet in 2003.

Under two decrees, Sheikh Thamer was named as Kuwait's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia in 2012 and Bahrain in 2019.

He was chief of some government committees, including the secondment and transfer commission among government bodies in 2005, the team tasked with preparing reports of the State Audit Bureau in 2003, and the standing commission to carry out the government action programs in 2006.

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Amiri Diwan mourns royal's passing away

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): The Amiri Diwan mourned on Friday Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-

Khalifa Al-Sabah who passed away at the age of 68. He was laid to rest at 3:09 p.m. on Friday.

Kuwait can save KD2.5 bln if power and water consumption privatized

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: In its latest report, the Supreme Council for Planning urged government agencies to expedite the completion of draft laws, including the draft law on establishing a public electricity and water corporation under the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

Economic expert Hajjaj Bukhadour told the newspaper that transforming the ministry into a corporation and involving the private sector in the provision of electricity and water services could lead to a break-even point between expenditures and revenues, achieving profitability and making the

State treasury save about KD2.5 billion. He pointed out this is categorized as annual government support for electricity and water production and ministry expenditures, and included in the annual general budget.

He asserted that many successful models in various countries have involved the private sector in the provision of electricity services to customers, which is nothing new in economic systems.

He said the success of the experiment hinges on the model, which will be implemented in Kuwait, in order not to repeat the negative consequences of the previous implementation of some service models.

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'NCCAL role crucial'

'Youth stepping stone in path to sparkling future'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait stands out among nations seeking to empower youth, adopting a national vision that places the juniors at the heart of sustainable development and arming them with the tools to shape the future.

The State of Kuwait, since the launch of New Kuwait 2035 strategy, has increasingly shown interest in empowering youth as the ideal path for attaining progress. The relevant strategy envisions overhauling education, encouraging innovation, creating a supportive economic environment for startups, and broadening engagement in cultural and political activities.

Its relevant plan focuses on involving national institutions in this approach, namely those engaged in culture, arts and social empowerment, thus assembling the efforts to build a more enlightened and productive society.

In line with these objectives, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), since its inception in 1973, has been playing a leading role in instilling cultural values and national identity in the youth consciousness.

The NCCAL regularly organizes major workshops and activities such as Al-Qurain Cultural Festival, Kuwait International Book Fair, the Arab Theater for Youth, and Saif Cultural Festival as platforms for youngsters to partake as artists, writers and organizers.

The NCCAL Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar said in remarks to KUNA that the council places juniors' issues on top of its priorities because they constitute the fundamental basis of Kuwait's future, noting that investing in them is an investment in the homeland's progress and development.

The council has worked out plenty of activities for this segment in artistic and cultural spheres, such as holding courses, voluntary programs and other activities that sharpen their skills and increase their employment chances.

He indicated initiatives that had been launched to support talented juniors in theater, fine arts, writing and publishing, engaging them in local and international festivals in addition to partaking in exhibitions, editing cultural magazines or printing their literary works.

The council urges young citizens to partake in the issuance of "Arabi Al-Saghir," "Alam Al-Maarefah" and "Al-Thaqafa Al-Alamiyah" magazines. It also employs digital means in cultural activities in harmony with the new generation's interests.

One of the State's steps mirroring its concern in this respect was the 2015 formation of the Public Authority for Youth to guide juniors toward creativity and positive communal participation.

Nasser Al-Sheikh, the authority's Director General, said the authority is currently an effective national basis for empowering Kuwaiti youth and enhancing their engagement in various development realms.

The youth authority supervises nine centers that organize diverse programs and activities in arts, sports, business leadership, technology, voluntary action and incubates thousands of young nationals per year.

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Gov't nods financial portfolio renewal for housing care: KCB

Funds to help Kuwaitis refurbish homes over 20 years period

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) confirmed that the Cabinet approved the renewal of the financial portfolio allocated for financing the expansion and renovation of private housing, pursuant to Law No. 46/2005, for a new period of 20 years effective Aug 10.

In a press statement on Saturday, acting Director of the bank Sultan Al-Dabbous disclosed that the bank has provided more than 13,000 loans since the implementation of the law, with a total value exceeding KD127 million. He said the bank continues to receive applications from citizens wishing to renovate or expand their homes, in accordance with the established conditions.

He added that this decision is just one of the serious steps taken by the Kuwaiti leadership to ease the citizens' access to State support and to provide a decent standard of living for all citizens without exception. He pointed out that "housing is one of the most important components of Kuwaiti family care, based on the Constitution, which accords special importance to the Kuwaiti family and mandates its care and protection."

Al-Dabbous extended his deepest gratitude and appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, for their commitment to fully support the citizens amid inflation and the rising cost of living.

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Rush hour ban on trucks, trailers begins on Sept 1

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry announced the implementation of the truck ban on main roads from Sept 1, 2025 until June 14, 2026, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement issued by the ministry, the department revealed that the ban will be in the morning from 6:30 am to 9:00 am, and in the afternoon from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm throughout the abovementioned period.

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MoE racing against time for new scholastic year

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Ministry of Education is racing against time to complete maintenance works in schools in various educational districts to ensure full readiness for the start of the new school year, and the return of teaching and administrative staff to their respective workplaces on Sept 7.

Educational sources told the newspaper that field teams -- in cooperation with the Facilities Sector and engineering departments -- have intensified their efforts to address all technical and service concerns, such as maintaining electricity, water, air conditioning and sanitary facilities, in addition to renovating roofs and structures, and upgrading classrooms and laboratories. Sources said this will provide a stable learning environment, and a safe and well-equipped school environment for students and teachers.

In a related development, Jahra Educational District continues its preparations for the opening of new schools in Mutlaa City by providing the necessary teaching and administrative staff, and furnishing them with modern technical equipment and supplies to ensure their readiness for the start of the next school year.

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Dr. Al-Jassar



Photo by Samer Shaqir

People are out in numbers enjoying a dip in the sea opposite Kuwait Towers. Temperature in Kuwait hovers around mid-40s as summer drags on.

Adopt digital technologies: KPC CEO

Kuwait pursues state-of-the-art oil drilling rigs

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Artificial Intelligence Innovation Center in Ahmadi, which Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) inaugurated recently, is expected to result in annual savings of around KD160 million in capital expenditures and operational costs.

In a related development, sources revealed that KOC has launched a project in collabora-

tion with the Chinese company, Sinopec, to install five development drilling rigs. Director of the Drilling Group for South and East Kuwait Bader Al-Azmi attended the inauguration ceremony.

Sources indicated that the launching of this project aligns with KOC's vision and strategic plan to upgrade all facilities and operations. Sources said the objective is to increase production in the oil fields by benefiting from the expertise of internationally renowned

companies specializing in business and operational development.

Sources also revealed that KOC recently held discussions with various government entities, including the ministries of Interior and Electricity and Water, to coordinate the installation of new electrical rigs, especially on roads and drilling locations in the northern part of the country.

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MEW '25/'26 fiscal 9 contracts to modernize water networks

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Water Operations and Maintenance Sector at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy included nine contracts in its annual plan for fiscal 2025/2026.

These contracts will be tendered separately through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), allowing companies classified by the agency to compete for the contracts to implement the work in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Sources informed the newspaper that these nine contracts are for the development and modernization of the freshwater network, including the emergency repair of damages and breakages, supply and installation of new connections, calculation of water loss in network extension pipes, maintenance of their accessories in the central region, repair and maintenance of pumps, their accessories, and mechanical equipment at water pumping and distribution stations, as well as the chemical and reverse osmosis plant sites in different areas. Sources pointed out that one of the objectives of these contracts is to maintain water quality.

According to the sources, one tender is for the maintenance of the carbon dioxide injection unit at Mutlaa Water Distribution Complex, in addition to repairing air conditioning and ventilation equipment at water pumping stations, water emergency offices, chemical work sites and their accessories.

Sources explained that fresh water is produced in distillation plants or from groundwater wells, and then pumped into ground

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NewsWatch

Board dissolved

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah issued a decision to dissolve the Board of Directors of Rabia Cooperative Society by force of law and appoint an interim director to manage the cooperative.

Reliable sources confirmed to the newspaper that such a deterrent legal measure will continue against the boards of directors that deviate from the law or commit violations.

Sources disclosed that the reviews conducted by neutral investigation committees uncovered violations and transgressions in the operations of cooperatives, which harmed shareholders and their assets, hence, the need for accountability and referral of all those proven to have committed violations to the Public Prosecution.



KUNA photo

A concert participant performing at the festival.

'Desert Night' concert wins laurels

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): The National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) closed the curtain on the 17th edition of the Summer Cultural Festival on Friday evening with

an unforgettable 'Desert Night' concert at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center.

At the beginning of the concert, the

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:02	Asr	15:23
Sunrise ..	05:24	Maghrib ..	18:13
Zohr	11:49	Isha	19:33

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times over western areas northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-42 km/h with a chance for rising dust over western areas.
By Night: Hot to rather hot with light variable wind to light

Weather			
to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-40 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	47	35	
Kuwait Airport	47	34	

Abdaly	47	31
Bubyan	38	27
Jahra	48	33
Salmiyah	43	35
Ahmadi	43	31
Nuwaisib	42	32
Wafra	46	32
Salmiya	42	26

Türkiye’s growing footprint includes deeper cooperation with Kuwait

Marking Victory Day, Türkiye rises as a global defense industry power

By Tuba Nur Sönmez

Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Kuwait

Today, as we proudly celebrate the 103rd anniversary of the Victory Day of the Republic of Türkiye, we also reflect with immense pride on the evolution of our defense industry. One hundred and three years ago, on the outskirts of Dumlupınar in western Anatolia, the Turkish nation delivered the final blow in a three-year struggle against occupying forces. That historic victory not only secured Türkiye’s independence but also inspired nations worldwide to rise against subjugation.

The same spirit of resilience and determination that guided our nation a century ago continues to shape Türkiye’s modern journey in the defense sector. Over the decades, Türkiye’s foreign dependency in the defense sector fell from 80% in 2004 to just 20% in 2025, while arms exports rose by 75% between 2018 and 2023. In 2023 alone, exports reached a record-breaking \$5.5 billion.

Today, the Turkish defense industry is writing epics with its wide product range. With over 1,380 active projects and a turnover exceeding \$20 billion, our defense exports have reached 185 countries. The variety of products exported—including UAVs, land vehicles, naval platforms, and advanced munitions—has expanded to more than 230, placing Türkiye at the forefront of the global defense market.

New Generation Products

Our internationally renowned platforms such as the KAAAN fighter jet, Bayraktar TB2 and Akıncı UAVs, Kızılelma unmanned fighter, Altay tank, ATAK and Gökbey helicopters, ANKA systems, MILGEM corvettes, and the TCG Anadolu are already shaping the future of defense.

One of the latest additions is Bayraktar’s KALKAN Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) UAV, a mini tactical platform designed for reconnaissance and intelligence missions. Equipped with advanced flight control systems, it can conduct automatic route tracking, target tracking, circling, and return-to-home modes. Products like the KALKAN illustrate Türkiye’s ability to integrate cutting-edge technologies and respond to the evolving needs of modern warfare.

At IDEF (International Defence Industry Fair) 2025, held in İstanbul this July with delegations from 103 countries including Kuwait, Türkiye showcased next-generation products including hypersonic missiles, anti-UAV systems, and the newly unveiled Steel Dome air defense system. With nearly 1,000 Turkish and over 400 foreign companies attending, the fair demonstrated that the “Made in Türkiye” label is now globally recognized.

As the drone warfare and maritime threats evolve, Türkiye is investing heavily in autonomous and counter-autonomous technologies. From advanced anti-drone platforms to cutting-edge unmanned surface vessels (USVs), countering threats from FPV drones, loitering munitions, AI-guided aerial systems and anti-submarine operations have ensured operational flexibility, reduced human risk, and offered strategic deterrence.

A NATO Power and a Force for Stability

Türkiye, as NATO’s second-largest army and ranked the ninth strongest military worldwide, continues to invest in both its Armed Forces and its defense industry. The Turkish Land, Naval, Air Forces and Gendarmarie all rely heavily on indigenous systems, turning the Armed Forces into a living showcase of our industry’s achievements.

The Bayraktar TB2, which displayed its importance in Ukraine and Karabakh wars, exemplifies how Türkiye’s systems shape global security.



A variety of products exported, including advanced fighter jets, UAVs, land vehicles, naval platforms, and munitions.

Global Outreach and Cooperation with Kuwait

With exports spanning Latin America, the Gulf, Central Asia, Africa, and Southeast Asia, Turkish defense products are in high demand. Our approach goes beyond commerce: defense cooperation is about solidarity and security partnerships.

Kuwait stands as a prime example. The procure-

ment of Baykar UAVs in 2023 marked a milestone, followed by the historic signing of a Government-to-Government Defense Industry Procurement Protocol during the visit of His Highness Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Türkiye in May 2024.

This agreement laid the foundation for deeper cooperation in the years to come. We are looking forward to seal new cooperation mechanisms with brotherly

Kuwait in the years ahead. We are also determined to share our experience with our allies and partners, especially with our brothers in Kuwait, ensuring that our cooperation contributes not only to our bilateral relations but also to regional and global security.

May Allah Almighty protect Türkiye and Kuwait from all harm and strengthen our enduring bonds of friendship.

Envoy lauds ArkDes

Kuwait Towers heritage honored in Stockholm

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden Mohammad Hayati spoke highly of the efforts of ArkDes - the Swedish national museum of architecture and design, in preserving the historical documents.

During his visit to the museum, located on Skeppsholmen Island - the cultural hub of Stockholm, on Friday, the Kuwaiti diplomat lauded the deep-rooted relations between his country and Sweden notably in the cultural and architectural areas.

Ambassador Hayati was accompanied by Secretary-General of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) Ingvar Mattson, according to a press release from Kuwait Embassy.

They were welcomed by ArkDes Director Karin Nilsson and other officials of the museum as well as Joe Lindstrom, son of Sune Lindstrom - the chief architect of the Swedish engineering company VBB which erected Kuwait Towers.

The Kuwaiti diplomat called at the archive of ArkDes which includes the designs of the landmark Kuwait Towers designed by the Danish architect Malene Bjorn and her Swedish husband Sune Lindstrom.

He was briefed on the stages of development of the Towers, which were inaugurated in March 1979 and became a symbol of modern Kuwait, the statement noted.

The Swedish VBB company which was renamed as Sweco in 1997 had also built the mushroom-like Kuwait Water Towers.

Hayati and Mattson explored ways for strengthen the relations at a time when their two countries prepare for celebrating the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations.



KUNA photo

Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Sweden, Mohammad Hayati, during his visit with the Secretary General of the Swedish Parliament, Ingvar Mattson, to the ArkDes Museum.

MoH prioritizes support for nat’l medical cadres

Empowering next generation of doctors

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): Minister of Health and chairman of the board of trustees of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi affirmed on Thursday that supporting qualified national medical professionals is a key priority of the Ministry’s strategy.

Al-Awadhi made the statement during the awareness day for recent medical graduates and final-year medical students, under his patronage and in the presence of some officials.

He lauding the institute’s role on rehabilitating and preparing future’s doctors.

The ministry is keen on creating an educational and training environment to support excellence and



KUNA photo

Minister of Health and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS), Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, delivers his speech.

innovation, and keep pace with global developments, said a statement, citing the minister.

Investing in young medical energy directly impacts on services offered to society and enhances Kuwait’s position on regional and international levels, he noted.

The wariness day includes a detailed visual presentation on the mechanism of main training, along with a review of Kuwait’s board programs and scholarships in a way that contributes to educating new doctors about their future educational paths.

PAAET extends medical form submission

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Dean of Admissions and Registration at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Fawzi Al-Dokhi announced that the submission of medical examination forms for accepted students, as well as those applying for transfer and change of courses at the colleges of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Nursing Institute for the first semester of the 2025/2026 academic year, will continue until Sept 14 in the headquarters of the Deanship of Admissions and Registration in Adailiya-Building Three.

Al-Dokhi said the submission of medical examination forms for those accepted for the second semester will continue until Feb 1, 2026, indicating that the Public Health Department in the Ministry of Health serves stu-

dents for the necessary examinations within the specified period. He added students may visit any time during this period to undergo the required medical examinations.

He stressed the importance of students’ commitment to undergo the medical tests before the date of the personal interviews, which will begin on Sept 14 for those accepted for the first semester, and on Feb 1, 2026 for those accepted for the second semester.

Meanwhile, the Deanship of Student Affairs at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) announced the opening of application for the re-enrollment of dismissed students at their own expense for the first semester of the 2025/2026 academic year.

The Deanship stated that applications will be open to both first-time and continuing students starting Sunday until Sept 11, indicating that applications for re-enrollment will be received electronically through the designated link on the website of PAAET.

Other Voices

Tame the troublemakers

By Ahmad alsarraf

The consumption of various fats affects the human body in multiple ways and their quality plays a greater role than quantity in terms of health effects.

Saturated fats consist of chains of fatty acids ‘saturated’ with hydrogen atoms. They are non-liquid at room temperature. They are found in fatty meats, full-fat dairy products, coconut oil, palm oil, and some processed and packaged foods. Consuming these fats increases harmful cholesterol levels in the blood, leading to heart disease and clogged blood vessels.

Thus, it is recommended to limit their consumption and replace them with unsaturated fats, which are liquid at room temperature and are found in vegetable oils, fish, nuts and avocados.

Trans fats are very harmful as well. They are found in processed and fried foods, and some baked goods. Many countries, including Kuwait, impose restrictions on their use.

Unsaturated fats help lower harmful cholesterol levels and raise beneficial cholesterol levels. They support heart health, reduce inflammation, and improve insulin resistance.

In a funny post online, a doctor brilliantly analyzed the function of fats through the following beautiful text: Imagine that our bodies are like a small city. The biggest troublemaker in this city

is cholesterol, and it has partners in chaos, the most dangerous of which is triglycerides. Its mission is to roam the streets, wreaking havoc and blocking roads.

Meanwhile, the heart is the center of the city and all roads lead to it. When the number of these troublemakers increases, they begin to disrupt the heart’s function and impede blood flow. Fortunately, in our physical city, there is a good policeman who arrests troublemakers and imprisons them in the liver. The liver then expels them through the drainage system.

In contrast, there is a corrupt cop who frees troublemakers from prison and returns them to the streets! When the number of good cops decreases, chaos reigns in the city! Who would want to live in a city like that?!

Do you want to reduce the number of these troublemakers and increase the number of good cops? Then start walking. With every step, both cholesterol and triglyceride levels decrease, and your body (or your city) comes back to life. Your heart — the center of the city — will remain protected from blockages, and when the heart is healthy, you will be healthy.

Whenever you have the opportunity, take a walk, wishing everyone health and wellness — wellness in its eastern sense, not in its western or Moroccan sense, where the meaning becomes ‘fire’.

The people of the Levant found a middle ground between the two meanings by combining them in the saying, “Warmth is well,” or “Wellness comes with warmth!”

□ □ □

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Falling from the sky but stuck at the palm tree

“RECENTLY, I read the news about amending the Retirement Law for those taking care of the disabled, and that it is being considered by the Council of Ministers. Overall, I wonder why this matter is being considered. In principle, those who meet the conditions according to the current law should not be affected. However, those who violate it are not allowed to enjoy any privileges.”

Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Considering the amendment of this law today means there are many violations. Thus, those who violated it should not have been granted any privileges in the first place. This issue does not require conducting a study, just the proper application of the law. Or, there is an attempt at rationalization in the wrong place.



Adel Al-Kharafi

“What about those who meet the conditions and those who support one or more disabled persons? Will their retirement be available?

“My questions stem from a case I encountered when I was a senior official and I did not know how to handle it. One day, a Kuwaiti employee came to visit. She has three children, all 100 percent paralyzed and bedridden. She has to take care of all of them. Despite this, she worked every day, taking two hours a day to take care of her children. She did everything for them, so this devoted mother should not be working at all. The State must take care of everything for her and she deserves early retirement.

“Frankly, I was ashamed when I learned about her situation. How could a mother dealing with three such cases be required to work, when the law required her to take care of the children? These children are unable to move. She must feed and clean them, so she should not be working at all. Cases like this exist in Kuwait. If she relies on nurses, her entire salary would go to them.

“Meanwhile, there are lies and forgeries, and accordingly, the law is applied. However, in terms of re-examining the legislation, I find it somewhat exaggerated. If the intention is to rationalize, it will not be applicable in these cases. If it is to identify those who committed forgery and fabrication, then it is very simple. It only requires an investigation of the cases, the criminal is held accountable, and the problem is solved.

“For example, the entire Kuwait supported the punishment of those who obtained citizenship through forgery and fabrication. At the same time, these cases left behind some problems that the government is working hard to resolve now. Here, we must speak frankly, as the social consequences are numerous, because accountability must be on the perpetrator.

“We reiterate that the government is working hard to resolve some of the problems in this regard, but it will not be able to solve all of them. For instance, I read a while ago about a supervisor at the Ministry of Education who retired, then her citizenship was revoked. She remains in limbo up to this day, unsure how to proceed.

“Therefore, studying the legislation and the problems it may produce is essential, so that we do not escape one problem only to fall into a bigger one. This applies to studying the Retirement Law for those who take care of the disabled.”

Also:

“At a time that titles are proliferating and positions being exhausted, the name of the ambassador of the sisterly State of Qatar to the Republic of Albania – Jabr bin Ali Al-Dosari – remains a shining example of loyalty and devotion, not only in diplomatic work, but also in the humanitarian field and service to the nation and society. He has the rigor of an official with the tolerance of a human being, along with diplomatic acumen and high moral character in all his diplomatic endeavors.”

Farhan Mohammad Al-Enezi wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The mission of Al-Dosari is not just to represent his country officially. He is a sincere voice for his country, a pure face that shows authentic Qatari values. At every stage of his service, he is present with his noble stances and actions that will be remembered for generations in the corridors of politics and in the fields of relief and humanitarian work. He is always on the frontlines, performing his duties with competence and ability.

“What truly distinguishes Ambassador Al-Dosari is his humane face, one that does not need an official platform to shine. His doors are open and his heart is wider than the distance. He listens, understands and works silently for those around him. I remembered his tenure in Bangkok as the ambassador of Qatar. Everyone – citizens and residents of sisterly and friendly countries, officials or ordinary people – attested to his being a refuge in times of need and a support in times of adversity.

“Great men never fade from memory, for they leave indelible marks. Brother Jabr Al-Dosari is one of those whose biography does not need exaggeration or embellishment. All you have to do is ask about him in any gathering or community, and you will immediately be told: An unforgettable man.

“Words may not do him justice, but it is a matter of loyalty that we stand, write and pay tribute to a man who serves his country sincerely, left a positive impact on us, and proudly raised his name in forums.

“Jabr Al-Dosari is not just a name, but a national and humanitarian story that will be told for a long time, and will remain a source of inspiration for all who assume responsibility. We appreciate him greatly, and pray that he remains in the highest ranks, present in our hearts as he always been in the field.”



“When a position is assigned to an official, a new light begins to shine upon him,” Dr. **Sultan Al-Hajri** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The footsteps that approach his office change, his voice becomes more courteous, his words become measured, his decisions monitored, and sometimes an aura of artificial prestige is created around him, even before he takes the first decision in

his new position.

“This is known as the ‘sparkle of the office’ – the deceptive outward glow that may intoxicate some with the euphoria of power and make them lose awareness of the true meaning of responsibility.

“However, the truth, understood only by true leaders, is that glamour does not prolong status or earn people’s respect as much as it reveals the true essence of souls.

“A position is not a virtue in itself, but rather the decisions are built within it, justice practiced under it, and the pressures that are resisted.

“Here, the glow of conscience appears – that inner voice which cannot be bought, flattered, calmed or cooled down, because it operates not according to the desires of the masses, but according to a silent moral covenant between the official and himself, and between the official and his Creator.

“The fundamental difference between those who shine with position and those who shine with conscience is that the former view their position as an opportunity to achieve gains, while the latter see it as a field for making an impact.

“The former pays attention to the cameras, while the latter considers the impact of their decisions on ordinary employees.

“The former discusses their powers, while the latter considers their responsibilities.

“There is a conscience gap between them that is not measured by distance, but by positions.

“In institutions, we encounter every day various models of officials: some who are content to be an instrument of implementation, some who rise to the level of decision-maker, some who sell their decisions for temporary gain, and some who sacrifice their status to preserve value.

“Ultimately, the true leader is not the one who prolongs his tenure, but the one who prolongs his impact.

“This is what those with temporary brilliance fail to realize. They believe that formal suits create prestige, and that frequent meetings grant them status.

“In reality, the one who makes the difference is the one who does not make a decision before passing it through his conscience – not his mood, his interests or the pressures of his surroundings.

“Herein lies the administrative heroism, not only in crisis management, but in adhering to principles when values around you are shaken. Not in triumphing in front of the media, but in confronting yourself when you are asked to overlook the truth and justify the mistake.

“How many officials have lived a fleeting brilliance, only to fade before they departed?

“How many just leaders have lived without seeking a platform or accolade? Glory is not created by position, but by stance.

“History does not record ranked names as much as it records bold and honest actions.

“Every unjust decision leaves a scar in the memory of an institution, and every just stance becomes a beacon, illuminating the path to fairness for others.

“So, do not rejoice excessively when you are appointed, and do not be distracted by the glitter when you are praised.

“Rather, ask yourself honestly: Is the glow of conscience in my heart still stronger than the sparkle of the chair beneath my feet?

“Positions pass, but those who leave them filled with impact leave behind stronger institutions, more steadfast values, and employees who believe that justice is possible, if only there is someone who believes in it.

“In conclusion, glitter may blind the eyes, but the glow of conscience alone is what makes history see, so be among the people of influence, not among the people of titles.”



“Every morning, when an employee opens his eyes to prepare for the new day, he asks himself a fundamental question – consciously or subconsciously: Am I going to a job that resembles me, or a battlefield where I struggle with myself before I struggle with my duties?”

Shaimaa Abdul-Hayi wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Psychological compatibility with work is neither a luxury nor a romantic wish, it is the cornerstone of balanced mental health and a less stressful daily life.

“When a person aligns with the nature of his job and feels that the work environment accepts his personality and appreciates

his abilities, he feels a hidden sense of comfort and contentment.

“Occupational psychology studies confirm that this compatibility directly reflects on general mood, reduces stress levels, and increases job satisfaction.

“Biological research has even gone further, finding that employees who feel in harmony with their work record lower levels of the stress hormone, cortisol. The result? Better sleep, clearer mental state, and a daily activity that positively impacts all aspects of life.

“What happens when this compatibility is absent? The short answer: job burnout. Chronic fatigue, apathy, a decline in self-worth, and perhaps, internal isolation that could make an individual lose passion for his work. This transforms work from a source of stability into a daily burden that gradually eats away one’s mental health.

“Thus, psychological well-being in the workplace cannot be viewed as a luxury, or a personal matter that concerns the employee alone. It is a shared responsibility between the individual and the organization, between management and professional policies.

“Organizations must regularly assess their employees’ workplace situation, not only to improve productivity, but also to protect human capital from long-term psychological exhaustion. “Ultimately, a job is not just a paycheck at the end of the month, it is a daily space that shapes our lives, our health and our relationships.

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



KUNA photo
Director General of the Coast Guard department Brigadier General Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, British Defense Attaché Colonel Neil Marriott and the female cadets.

Kuwaiti female cadets head for UK training

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: In a groundbreaking step for maritime security work in the country, the Ministry of Interior has announced sending female Kuwaiti cadets to the prestigious Royal Naval College in the United Kingdom -- a first in the history of the maritime security sector, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press statement, the ministry affirmed its commitment to develop its staff according to the latest international standards, and to keep pace

with modern developments in the security field.

The ministry stated that the Coast Guard General Department is sending three female personnel to the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, United Kingdom.

This initiative is part of continuous efforts to enhance the capabilities of Coast Guard personnel, boost operational efficiency, and empower women by offering them opportunities to engage in various security and military roles.

It emphasized that this dispatch reflects the vision of Kuwait to empower women and increase their participation in security sectors. Such steps contribute directly to strengthening the Coast Guard’s capacity to safeguard maritime borders and ensure the safety of navigation.

The selected female cadets will undergo advanced academic and practical training in military maritime navigation, qualifying them to serve as navigation officers in the Coast Guard.

Kuwaitis, expats in smuggling of diesel

Indians held at Kabad factory

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Criminal Security Sector in the Interior Ministry, represented by the General Administration of Criminal Investigations, particularly the Department of Combating Financial Crimes and Department of Maritime Ports Investigations -- in cooperation with Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC), apprehended an organized gang involved in smuggling petroleum materials out of the country.

In a press statement, the ministry disclosed that KGAC received information about 10 containers prepared for export under a false goods description of ‘iron’. Upon inspection, the containers were found to contain petroleum materials, which were stored in tanks and containers belonging to two companies.

The ministry stated that through surveillance and investigations, it was determined that the two shipments were linked to the following -- K.M., a Kuwaiti employed at Kuwait Municipality and his accomplice M.M., a Kuwaiti serving in the ministry with the rank of sergeant. Along with the other accused, S.J., an Indian and A.H., an Egyptian, they collected petroleum materials in Kabad, stored them in tanks and containers, and prepared them for export by falsifying customs documents to smuggle the materials out of the country.

When authorities went to Kabad, they discovered a factory used for preparing containers and storing petroleum materials. Three additional suspects -- M.N., F.B. and Th.R., all Indians -- were arrested at the site. They confessed to working under the supervision of K.M. and receiving monthly salaries not exceeding KD 80.

Further investigations uncovered the involvement of another suspect, A.Z. a Kuwaiti employed as a customs inspector at Shuwaikh Port, who collaborated with the accused by facilitating the illegal passage of shipments through customs procedures.

Authorities also discovered that the agricultural land in Kabad -- used as the central site for storage and gathering of petroleum materials -- was rented from W.A., a Syrian fugitive who is currently outside the country and worked as a company representative.



MoCI photo

A MoCI inspector seals one of the illegal tailoring shops.

Illegal salons, tailoring shops shut by ministry

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has taken action against several businesses found to be in violation of commercial regulations, following inspection campaigns led by the Commercial Control Department’s Reports Committee.

According to sources speaking to **Al Anba**, the closures included three unlicensed tailoring establishments and several women’s beauty salons. Additionally, a retail outlet was shut down for promoting counterfeit products -- a serious breach that threatens consumer trust and violates market regulations.

The sources emphasized that these enforcement measures are part of the Ministry’s broader oversight strategy aimed at curbing illegal activities, protecting consumer rights, and maintaining fairness in the marketplace. They stressed that the Ministry will not tolerate any form of commercial misconduct or exploitation.

Inspection teams, they noted, are continuing their field operations around the clock across various regions to ensure a safe, transparent, and trustworthy commercial environment that supports economic stability and consumer confidence.

PAFN rolls out rules

Fit to eat food eyed at school cafeterias

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has stressed the importance of taking the necessary measures and implementing regulations to establish a safe and nutritionally integrated school environment for future generations, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The authority confirmed that the school cafeteria development project is one of most important development initiatives of Kuwait, in line with its commitment to combat childhood obesity and promote healthy lifestyles -- the main components in building a safe and health-conscious educational setting for future generations.

It recently announced the implementation of updated school cafeteria regulations under Ministerial Resolution No. 5/2025. These updated regulations aim to enhance the operational efficiency of school cafeterias and ensure full compliance with health and nutritional standards.

Official spokesperson of the authority Dr. Shaima Al-Asfour asserted that this initiative is in accordance with the leading role of PAFN in protecting public health and promoting healthy lifestyles, as well as the commitment to develop food services within the school system in line with the development goals of the State and the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

Al-Asfour explained that the inclusion of investors in the operation and management of school cafeterias is in accordance with the new regulations, which serve as a comprehensive framework to ensure compliance with food safety and health standards, while developing the overall quality of services provided to students. She clarified that the investors’ involvement does not negate oversight, as this rather strengthens it. She affirmed that PAFN will continue to conduct regular inspection visits to ensure that all school cafeterias adhere to the standards and regulations.

She added that food item approvals follow a detailed mechanism. She explained the process begins with the inspection of food establishments by specialized teams composed of inspectors and nutritionists.

“These inspections aim to guarantee that both the ingredients used and the establishments themselves meet the health and food safety standards, in accordance with Gulf and international regulations,” she concluded.



Dr. Al-Asfour

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MoCI pushes ahead with smart licenses, supply center projects

System rollout scheduled for October

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Director of the International Relations Department and official spokesperson of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Abdullah Al-Harz confirmed the continuation of the implementation of a number of important projects, such as food security, improvement of the business environment, beneficial owners, supply centers and smart license application.

During a video presentation at the Government Communication Center on Thursday, Al-Harz revealed that the smart license application will be implemented in October, confirming the completion of the first three phases of implementation that include integrating licenses issued by 11 government agencies into the application, and that work is underway to complete the fourth and final phase – the link with three other government agencies.

Al-Haraz stated that the Ministry of Education declined to participate in the smart license application project, since it does not issue any license. He underscored the importance of smart licenses in expediting issuance procedures and simplifying the process, in addition to facilitating oversight procedures for participating entities. He pointed out that work is underway to standardize

license dates and study the possibility of standardizing prices for smart licenses in the future. He added the combined payment system for the smart license will be completed soon, through which the license fee is paid to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that, in turn, will transfer the financial rights of other entities participating in the license. He expects the entire process to be completed in December.

He disclosed that linking government agencies to the smart licensing application is being implemented in four stages. The first stage is merging licenses issued for general trading activities, retail and restaurant sectors with five government agencies -- Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait Municipality, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) and Public Authority for Manpower (PAM). The second stage is merging licenses issued for media production, advertising, software and manufacturing activities with three government agencies -- Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) and Public Authority for Industry (PAI). The third stage is merging licenses for hospitals, pharmacies, security companies and investment companies with three government agencies -- Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior and Capital Markets Authority (CMA). The fourth and final stage is merging the activities of schools, insti-

tutes, cooperative societies and productive farms with four government agencies -- Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) and Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR).

He stated that the Supply Centers Project is one of the most important projects for the State and citizens. He disclosed that through this project, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with other concerned authorities, will improve the level of food storage in the country. He added this project will achieve several objectives, such as increasing the duration of food storage from the current one day to 14 days, increasing the storage area from 3,500 square meters to 37,000 square meters, and establishing 50 main supply centers whose size ranges from 500 to 1,000 square meters each. He disclosed each center will consist of several floors -- a basement for storing food supplies, a ground floor for receiving customers, a first floor for operational staff, and a second floor for operational and storage staff. He indicated that the capacity of each center will be about 70,000 beneficiaries, indicating centers will be distributed to the six governorates: 12 in Ahmadi Governorate, seven in Jahra Governorate, 11 in the Capital Governorate, seven in Farwaniya Governorate, five in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate and eight in Hawally Governorate.

Regarding commercial licenses, Al-Harz affirmed that the ministry issued about 23,000 commercial licenses, including 4,000 licenses for self-employment businesses registered with a residential address, post office box or email address. He clarified that self-employment licenses cover 120 consulting and service activities.

He added the ministry registered 959 commercial agencies for several countries, such as the United States, Germany, India, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and China. He affirmed that anyone with a company can apply at the ministry to obtain the agency they desire, in accordance with the conditions in effect in the country.

He was quick to explain that the work of the ministry is not limited to the economic field, as it includes commercial oversight and consumer protection. He said about 5,700 seizure reports, 319 violations and 189 administrative closures were issued, proving that the ministry is serious about commercial oversight and consumer protection through the emergency teams working round the clock to regulate markets.

On the beneficial owners project, Al-Harz revealed that the beneficial owners registration rate for valid licenses reached 91 percent, including partnerships, joint-stock companies and individual licenses. He attributed the seven percent reduction in the percentages announced in June to the cancellation of many companies' licenses and the completion of legal procedures for their liquidation.

On the role of the International Relations Department, he said the department issued licenses for around 290 trade fairs, including 14 gold fairs, stressing that there has been a significant increase in the number of fairs since the beginning of the year until the end of August for several reasons, such as the organization witnessed by the sector, and coordination with Kuwait Municipality and Tourism Enterprises Company (TEC) to open the way for new sites to organize trade fairs in various areas.



KUNA photo
Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs and Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

Round-the-clock aid and counseling

Family Affairs' Supreme Council introduces new digital platform

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah announced the launching of the new website of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

Al-Huwailah said this step is in accordance with the commitment of the council to improve services provided to citizens and expatriates, as well as facilitate their access to various types of social, psychological and legal support.

She affirmed that the launching of the website is an important move to ease the access of families to the diverse services offered by the council and to strengthen its role as a vital institution in society, ensuring a safe and stable environment for all its members. She stated this is in line with the vision of the wise leadership to build a strong and sustainable society that prioritizes the family and maintains its stability and protection. She added that the website is a comprehensive platform for providing psychological and social support services through the Psychological and Social Counseling Department, thereby, helping families face various challenges.

According to the minister, child and women protection reports are received through the website to ensure a rapid response to cases of violence and neglect,

in addition to the provision of specialized legal consultations on family issues, and contribute to the peaceful resolution of disputes and problems between family members.

She revealed that the new website is an interactive platform for communication and providing support round the clock, enabling everyone to benefit from the services of the council anytime and anywhere. She considers this a pioneering step toward digital transformation and embodies the commitment of the ministry to provide innovative services that keep pace with modern social and technological developments, achieving greater family stability and protecting the rights of all family members.

She expressed her gratitude and appreciation to Microsoft for its fruitful partnership and efforts in designing and implementing the website, as well as the technical support and advanced digital services it provided that contributed to the success of this project.

She then affirmed that the council will continue its tireless efforts to serve the family, as it is the first block for building a safe and cohesive society.

It is worth mentioning that the website statistics showed the council handled 143 psychological and social counseling sessions, 10 shelter cases and seven protection orders.

Hands-on projects take center stage

KISR wraps up summer program

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) concluded its 46th summer program for high school and university students on Thursday.

The closing ceremony was held under the patronage and in the presence of KISR Director General Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan, with the participation of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education Dr. Bader Al-Busairi, as well as the Executive Director of the Marketing and Commercial Operations Sector and Executive Director of the Administration, Finance and Support Services Sector Abdulmohsen Al-Haroun.

Al-Humaidan pointed out that the program is distinguished for the transition of students from lecture halls to laboratories and research fields to complete scientific projects, brimming with passion and innovation under the supervision of an elite group of researchers.

He disclosed that two new courses were included this year -- Architectural Design and Basics of Robotics, along with six other courses in the fields of Microbiology, Genetic Engineering, Chemistry, Physics, Health and Nutrition, Artificial Intelligence, and the journey of birds through time.

He explained that the program acquired a regional dimension with the participation of universities in and outside Kuwait.

He praised the support provided by several national entities like Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, Kuwait Technical College and IKEA, in addition to permanent sponsors such as Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), Ministry of Education, Al-Rawdatain Water Company and Kuwait Winter Sports Club.

He also pointed out the special sponsorship of the 'Adel's Immortal Footprint' event by several entities, including Warba Bank.

Meanwhile, Program Director Shaima Al-Qallaf said the program this year was held under the umbrella of sustainability in Science, knowledge and values, with the slogan, "Sustainable Footprint and Impact." She pointed out this was embodied through multiple activities, the most prominent of which was the 'Adel's Immortal Footprint' event. She said this event not only commemorated one of the outstanding students of KISR -- may Allah have mercy on him--but also provided a genuine space for integrating champions with disabilities with their peers in the program activities. She added this had a profound impact and reso-



Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan, KISR Director General



Shaima Al-Qallaf, Program Director

nated widely in the community, embodying the message that "knowledge is inseparable from compassion, and that inclusiveness and integration are the foundations of true excellence".

She affirmed the program presented a practical lesson in discipline through the application of the electronic fingerprint system to regulate attendance, thus, enhancing the value of respecting time.

Student Shahah Al-Fadhli, who represented her classmates, expressed her gratitude for this experience that brought them together as one family, stressing that the workshops, scientific and humanitarian events, sports, and entertainment they experienced will remain etched in their memory. She praised the role of the institute and the course supervisors in supporting and encouraging them to aspire for better future.

The ceremony concluded with honoring the outstanding participants, along with Al-Haroun, in appreciation of his efforts in supporting the courses and his impact on them.



Participants of the 46th summer program..

KUNA photos

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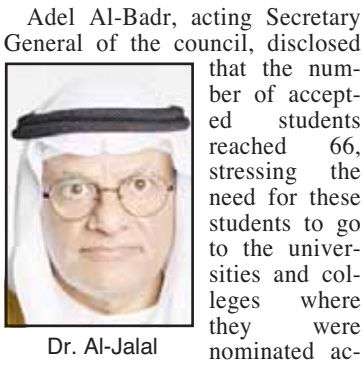
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66 students accepted into program

New internal scholarship approved

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Secretariat General of the Private Universities Council announced that Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal has approved the list of students accepted into the internal scholarship plan for bachelor's and diploma programs for the 2025/2026 academic year, all of whom obtained an English high school diploma.



Dr. Al-Jalal

Adel Al-Badr, acting Secretary General of the council, disclosed that the number of accepted students reached 66, stressing the need for these students to go to the universities and colleges where they were nominated according to the timetables in order to complete the final registration requirements.

He emphasized the importance of abiding by the internal scholarship regulations, which contribute to providing a stable educational environment that helps students excel and achieve their academic goals. He wished the students success in their academic journey, so they can be effective partners in serving the nation and the advancement of the wheel of development.

Continued from Page 1

Gov't nods

He stated that Law No. 46/2005 on the establishment of a financial portfolio at the bank to finance the expansion and renovation of private housing stipulates in its first article the establishment of a financial portfolio of KD100 million for this purpose and for a period of 20 years, renewable through a decision issued by the Council of Ministers. He added Cabinet Resolution No. 81/2006 was issued on Feb 27, 2006, stipulating the rules for managing and investing the financial portfolio to finance the expansion and renovation of private housing and the conditions that must be met by beneficiaries.

He explained that the law aims to provide appropriate financing for house expansion purposes to meet the needs of families, such as children's marriage, utilizing unused spaces or for the renovation of long-established homes.

He affirmed that the bank invested the funds available in the portfolio balance in accordance with the law on its establishment.

He stressed that the bank's management spares no effort in solving the housing problems of citizens, as it is keen on bearing the responsibility to continue to provide housing care. He reiterated that the bank continues to receive applications from homeowners whose loan maturity period ended as per the terms and conditions.

He also thanked the Economics Committee at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers and Minister of State for Housing and Municipal Affairs Abdul Latif Al-Mishari, asserting he is proud of the role they play in the housing sector, while praising their directives to meet the demands of citizens and realize their aspirations.

Amir appoints

In addition, he was head of the teams for developing control of leadership selection in government agencies 2005 and following up the implementation of recommendations of the State Audit Bureau's report regarding financial spending related to His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan in 2008.

In 2008, Sheikh Thamer was head of the investigation team into the citizenship case. He is married and has got three children.

Kuwait can

He stated that the proposed model must ensure the achievement of several fundamental objectives, most importantly providing better service at lower cost and opening opportunities for employing nationals in the companies that will provide these services, which are among the most important in daily life.

He added that the trend toward privatization should not be solely aimed at strengthening and empowering the private sector, but also providing better service at a lower cost to citizens, especially since "we are dealing with customers accustomed to not paying electricity and consume large amounts of energy for various reasons like the construction system in which a small family lives in a 'villa' that consumes large amounts of electricity – many times the actual electricity need.

He called for conducting a thorough study on privatizing electricity and water services by the Secretariat General for Planning and Development or the relevant authority to ensure the achievement of the desired goals.

'Desert Night'

NCCAL Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar boasted that the festival, which began on July 9, featured a variety of cultural and artistic events and activities, including theater performances, art and literature workshops, and music concerts.

"The festival's events were diverse, offering something for everyone. We had enjoyed spectacular theatrical performances, distinctive musical concerts, and participated in specialized workshops for adults and children that seamlessly blended education, culture, and entertainment," he explained, his voice alive with enthusiasm.

Al-Jassar thanked the audience for their participation, enthusiasm, engagement, and support.

"This success would not have been possible without your amazing support, presence, and interaction. You, the audience, are the beating heart of every cultural event, and thanks to your passion."

He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the festival's success, including the talented artists, engaging lecturers, enthusiastic participants, dedicated work teams, and the supportive audience.

MEW '25/'26

tanks and from there to distribution networks and high-rise towers in several areas, thereby, meeting customer needs during peak hours.

They affirmed the commitment of the ministry to modernize and improve the performance of the water network in order to meet the growing demand and ensure water quality as per the specifications of the World Health Organization (WHO). They revealed "this is achieved through continuous monitoring, chemical and bacteriological testing in the ministry's laboratories, and sterilization operations carried out in accordance with the approved standards and regulations."

Rush hour

The department clarified that from June 15, 2026 to Aug 31, 2026, the truck ban will be in the afternoon only – from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

The ministry confirmed that this is part of ongoing efforts to reduce congestion and guarantee the smooth flow of traffic on the roads, urging truck drivers to strictly comply with the specified times to avoid legal accountability.

'Youth stepping

He added that the authority would receive from the Public Housing Authority seven youth centers between 2026 and 2027.

Currently, the authority is establishing specialized youth centers in the districts of Jaber Al-Ali, Sabah Al-Salem and Abdullah Al-Mubarak, in addition to the Kuwait Technological Center for Business Leadership in collaboration with Boeing Airlines in Mubarak Al-Abdullah.

Al-Sheikh revealed that the authority planned new projects and initiatives in the creative economy, digital arts, artificial intelligence, communal business leadership, in addition to expanding partnerships with national institutions and the private sector to boost professional and economic empowerment among Kuwaiti youth.

Minister of Information and Culture, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, inaugurated during the World Youth Day festival on August 12 the new strategy for the youth authority for the

2025-2030 period, with emphasis on priorities such as leadership, employment, business leadership, communal engagement, culture, innovation, creativity, health, prosperity, governance and enhancing resources.

MoE racing

Sources affirmed that the district completed the procedures for appointing new teachers and assigning them to Al-Mutlaa and Al-Jahra schools, as part of the plan of the ministry to distribute human resources according to the actual manpower needs.

Sources added the ministry allowed the transfer of teaching and administrative staff to the new Al-Mutlaa schools until the end of the working day on Sunday.

Sources explained that providing schools with furniture, laboratories and gymnasiums will help in the flexible distribution of students according to their residential address in order to prevent overcrowding, and provide a more suitable learning environment for students and teachers.

Moreover, the ministry's field teams continue their inspection of schools in various educational districts to monitor observations related to technical and service needs, and notify the Facilities Sector and engineering departments for immediate action.

Maintenance work includes repairing infrastructure, sanitary and electrical facilities, securing water sources, repairing roofs and insulation, maintaining gyms and playgrounds, in addition to comprehensive civil works such as painting, flooring, bathrooms, drainage networks, air conditioning and firefighting, constructing canopies, and landscaping. All these will ensure that the new school year will start in a safe and integrated educational environment.

Kuwait pursues

Sources stated these discussions aim to improve the movement and safety of drilling rigs, ensuring the protection of workers and machinery involved in the expansion of drilling and production operations.

Meanwhile, sources confirmed that Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) CEO Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah has instructed all KPC subsidiaries to adopt advanced digital transformation technologies in oil and gas exploration. They said Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud emphasized the need for a structured transformation plan to convert the subsidiaries' oil fields into modern smart fields.

They added that these technologies will result in substantial savings in operational costs, thereby, boosting the profits of oil companies, which previously incurred millions of expenses during exploration and routine operations.

They highlighted the remarkable potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in early-stage exploration, indicating that AI can deploy sensors to measure the amount of water extracted, alongside oil, in discovered fields. They pointed out this is important, as digitizing oil fields enables faster and more informed decision-making by connecting operations to a reliable data-driven information network.

They explained that AI technologies are receiving considerable attention from KPC, which is intensifying training programs for its technical workforce, asserting this is relevant in various fields like reservoir engineering that depend on precise algorithms and require highly skilled personnel.

They said the corporation made significant progress in implementing its technical strategy in recent months, following a major shift toward modern technological systems.

'Keep supply steady'

MoH keeps blood banks open on Sept 4 holiday

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Blood Transfusion Services Department at the Ministry of Health announced that it will continue accepting donors during the Prophet's (PBUH) Birthday holiday on Sept 4, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This move aims to guarantee the availability of blood supply for patients and maintain the strategic stockpile.

The centers operating during the holiday are as follows:

■ Central Blood Bank - Jabriya: Blood donations will be from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm and platelet donations from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

■ Cooperative Blood Transfusion Center - Al-Adan: Blood donations only from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

The department emphasized that the continuous operation of these centers is part of the efforts of the ministry to meet the needs of patients and ensure the availability of blood supply, urging the public to donate as per the announced schedule.

Milk production bounces back after FMD outbreak

Farmers seek compensation for losses

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The daily production of milk and dairy products reached 190 tons after months of heavy losses incurred by the livestock sector due to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Sulaibiya farms, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Abdulahkim Al-Ahmad, head of Kuwait Fresh Dairy Producers Union, announced that farms are gradually recovering, thanks to the intervention of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) teams that quickly vaccinated the cows in affected farms, thereby, curbing the spread of the disease.

Al-Ahmad told the newspaper that

FMD caused heavy losses for farmers and breeders in Sulaibiya Agricultural Area, leading to a decline in the daily production of milk and dairy products from 250 tons per day to 170 tons.

He affirmed that production gradually recovered, reaching about 190 tons per day in farms and in factories operated by national companies.

He said the union recently held meetings with a number of officials, demanding compensation for farmers and breeders for the losses they incurred due to the spread of the disease. He appreciated the cooperation of Minister of Electricity, Water

and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem in supporting their demand.

He stressed that those in charge of the dairy farms in Sulaibiya are committed to the ongoing sterilization and disinfection procedures, particularly the milking equipment and sites used for milk production.

He also affirmed the training of workers and raising their awareness on the preventive measures that must be taken in case of infection or if an animal is suspected of being infected.

He added the union is also striving to realize its objective to secure sufficient stock of all types of fodder to ensure the continuity of local production. He underscored the importance of expediting the decision-making process to compensate farmers for the enormous losses they suffered due to the outbreak.



Al-Ahmad

Adailiya promotes local and seasonal foods

Kuwait marks Sustainable Gastronomy Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Adailiya Health City, in cooperation with the 'We Care' volunteer team at the Volunteer Work Center, organized the celebration of World Sustainable Gastronomy Day at Al-Saqr Specialized Center in Adailiya, with the participation of Kuwait Food Union, Adailiya Cooperative Society, Social Workers Association and Healthy Cities Program, reports Al-Anba daily.

Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Kuwait Dr. Ameer Al-Hassan revealed that the theme for this year's celebration is, "Local Seeds, Local Food."

The event aims to encourage communities to engage in farming within their neighborhoods. The goal of the program is to raise awareness on the significance of cultivating local surroundings and reducing dependence on imported, preservative-laden foods, which could negatively affect health.

Al-Hassan explained that "the solution lies in growing what is around us to ensure healthy and safe nutrition, particularly through the adoption of seasonal foods."

She concluded by emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts to make Kuwaiti cities healthier and transform homes into sources of well-being for their residents.

Meanwhile, Salah Al-Mousa Al-Saif, Head of Adailiya Health City and leader of the 'Nahtam' Volunteer Team said "through our work with neighborhood councils in several areas, including Yarmouk,



Al-Anba photo

Dr. Ameer Al-Hassan, Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Salah Al-Mousa Al-Saif, Head of Adailiya Health City; and Dr. Israa Bu Hamad, representative of the Health Promotion Department, with event attendees.

Surra and Faiha, we found that the required standards for these areas closely align with the goals and ambitions of the team. This alignment confirms that the standards are already present in a distinctive way."

On the subject of sustainable cooking, Dr. Israa Bu Hamad, representative of the Health Promotion Department, pointed out that "food is no longer just a basic necessity. While the traditional view linked food only to health, the modern approach connects food with health, the economy and the environment." She affirmed that the department works hard to raise public awareness about sustainable cooking, stressing the need to use of food

in healthy and safe ways that also protect the environment and economy. "One solution is to rely on local seasonal foods to reduce transport and carbon emissions, while promoting healthier diets that help prevent chronic and other diseases," she added.

Mohamad Hisham Fathi, Director for Public Relations and Media at Kuwait Food Union stated that World Sustainable Gastronomy Day, declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016, aims to highlight the importance of sustainable cooking. He said "the observance underlines the value of using local and seasonal ingredients, preserving natural resources, and respecting cultural traditions related to food."

KNPC names new environmental fuel director

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Wadha Al-Khatib has appointed Mohammad Ahmad Al-Enezi as Director for Environmental Fuel Operations at Ahmadi Refinery, as part of her efforts to inject fresh blood into the company and appoint those with relevant experience.

Reliable sources informed the newspaper that Al-Enezi

will report to the Deputy CEO for Ahmadi Refinery effective Aug 31, 2025. They indicated that the company is proceeding with the new appointments as planned.

Sources explained that the environmental fuel operations at Ahmadi Refinery is in line with the strategy of the company to produce fuel that meets international conditions and to provide clean fuel as per the global environmental standards, thus, improving the reputation of Kuwaiti refined products in the international derivatives market, especially since Kuwait is keen on reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

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‘Expanded use of expedited removal of migrants trampling on individuals’ due process rights’

Federal judge issues order blocking Trump effort to expand speedy deportations of migrants

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (AP): A federal judge has temporarily blocked the Trump administration from carrying out speedy deportations of undocumented migrants detained in the interior of the United States.

The move is a setback for the Republican administration’s efforts to expand the use of the federal expedited removal statute to quickly remove some migrants in the country illegally without appearing before a judge first.

President Donald Trump promised to engineer a massive deportation operation during his 2024 campaign if voters returned him to the White House. And he set a goal of carrying out 1 million deportations a year in his second term.

But US District Judge Jia Cobb in Washington, DC, suggested the Trump administration’s expanded use of the expedited removal of migrants is trampling on individuals’ due process rights.

“In defending this skimpy process, the Government makes a truly startling argument: that those who entered the country illegally are entitled to no process under the Fifth Amendment, but instead must accept whatever grace

Congress affords them.” Cobb wrote in a 48-page opinion issued Friday night. “Were that right, not only non-citizens, but everyone would be at risk.”

The Department of Homeland Security announced shortly after Trump came to office in January that it was expanding the use of expedited removal, the fast-track deportation of undocumented migrants who have been in the US less than two years.

The effort has triggered lawsuits by the American Civil Liberties Union and immigrant rights groups.

Before the Trump administration’s push to expand such speedy deportations, expedited removal was only used for migrants who were stopped within 100 miles of the border and who had been in the U.S. for less than 14 days.

Cobb, an appointee of former president Joe Biden, didn’t question the constitutionality of the expedited removal statute, or its application at the border.

“It merely holds that in applying the statute to a huge group of people living in the interior of the country who have not previously been subject to expedited removal, the Government must afford them due process,” she wrote.



Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Response Team members demonstrate how the team enters a residence in the pursuit of a wanted subject at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) in Brunswick, Ga on Aug 21. (AP)

She added that “prioritizing speed over all else will inevitably lead the Government to erroneously remove people via this truncated process.”

Cobb earlier this month agreed to temporarily block the Trump administration’s efforts to expand fast-track deportations of immigrants who legally

entered the US under a process known as humanitarian parole - a ruling that could benefit hundreds of thousands of people.

In that case the judge said Homeland Security exceeded its statutory authority in its effort to expand expedited removal for many immigrants. The judge said those immigrants are facing perils that outweigh any harm from “pressing pause” on the administration’s plans.

Since May, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers have positioned themselves in hallways to arrest people after judges accept government requests to dismiss deportation cases. After the arrests, the government renews deportation proceedings but under fast-track authority.

Although fast-track deportations can be put on hold by filing an asylum claim, people may be unaware of that right and, even if they are, can be swiftly removed if they fail an initial screening.

A federal appeals court on Friday blocked Trump’s plans to end protections for 600,000 people from Venezuela who have had permission to live and work in the United States, saying

that plaintiffs are likely to win their claim that the Republican administration’s actions were unlawful.

A three-judge panel of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously upheld a lower court ruling that maintained temporary protected status for Venezuelans while TPS holders challenge actions by Trump’s administration in court.

The 9th Circuit judges found that plaintiffs were likely to succeed on their claim that Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem had no authority to vacate or set aside a prior extension of temporary protected status because the governing statute written by Congress does not permit it. Then-President Joe Biden’s Democratic administration had extended temporary protected status for people from Venezuela.

“In enacting the TPS statute, Congress designed a system of temporary status that was predictable, dependable, and insulated from electoral politics,” Judge Kim Wardlaw, who was nominated by President Bill Clinton, a Democrat, wrote for the panel. The other two judges on the panel were also nominated by Democratic presidents.

White House ends ex-VP Harris’ Secret Service protection early

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (AP): President Donald Trump has revoked former Vice President **Kamala Harris’** Secret Service protection that otherwise would have ended next summer, senior Trump administration officials said Friday.

Former vice presidents typically get federal government protection for six months after leaving office, while ex-presidents do so for life. But then-President Joe Biden quietly signed a directive, at Harris’ request, that had extended protection for her beyond the traditional six months, according to another person familiar with the matter. The people insisted on anonymity to discuss a matter not made public.

Trump, a Republican, defeated Harris, a Democrat, in the presidential election last year.

His move to drop Harris’ Secret Service protection comes as the former vice president, who became the Democratic nominee last summer



Harris

after a chaotic series of events that led to Biden dropping out of the contest, is about to embark on a book tour for her memoir, titled “107 Days.” The tour has 15 stops, including visits abroad to London and Toronto. The book, which refers to the historically short length of her presidential campaign, will be released Sept. 23, and the tour begins the following day.

A recent threat intelligence assessment the Secret Service conducts on those it protects, such as Harris, found no red flags or credible evidence of a threat to the former vice president, said a White House official who also insisted on anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. The administration found no reason Harris’ protection should go beyond the standard six-month period for former vice presidents, the official said.

Trump’s vice president from his first term, Mike Pence, did not have extended Secret Service protection beyond the standard six months.

Still, it is not unusual for Secret Service protection to continue well beyond the statutory six-month window, particularly when former officials face credible and ongoing threats. But Trump’s decisions to revoke the protection have stood out both for timing and for targets.

Trump blocks \$4.9b in foreign aid Congress OK’d, using maneuver last seen nearly 50 years ago

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (AP): President Donald Trump has told House Speaker Mike Johnson that he won’t be spending \$4.9 billion in congressionally approved foreign aid, effectively cutting the budget without going through the legislative branch.

Trump, who sent a letter to Johnson, R-La., on Thursday, is using what’s known as a pocket rescission - when a president submits a request to Congress to not spend approved funds toward the end of the fiscal year, so Congress cannot act on the request in a 45-day timeframe and the money goes unspent as a result. It’s the first time in nearly 50 years a president has used one. The fiscal year draws to a close at the end of September.

The letter was posted Friday morning on the X account of the White House Office of Management and Budget. It said the funding would be cut from the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, an early target of Trump’s efforts to cut foreign aid.

If the White House standardizes this move, the president could effectively bypass Congress on key spending choices and potentially throw into disarray efforts in the House and the Senate to keep the government funded when the next fiscal year starts in October.



US President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting on Aug 26, at the White House in Washington. (AP)

tober.

The use of a pocket rescission fits part a broader pattern by the Trump administration to exact greater control over the U.S. government, eroding the power of Congress and agencies such as the Federal Reserve and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among others. The administration has already fired federal workers and imposed a historic increase in tariffs

dence the administration would prevail in any legal challenges and said a goal of the proposed spending cuts was to make the cleanest case possible for these types of clawbacks.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio posted on X that USAID is essentially being shuttered and congratulated White House budget director Russ Vought for managing the process.

“USAID is officially in close out mode,” Rubio said. “Russ is now at the helm to oversee the closeout of an agency that long ago went off the rails.”

The 1974 Impoundment Control Act gives the president the authority to propose canceling funds approved by Congress. Congress can within 45 days vote on pulling back the funds or sustaining them, but by proposing the rescission so close to Sept. 30 the White House argues that the money won’t be spent and the funding lapses.

What was essentially the last pocket rescission occurred in 1977 by Democratic then-President Jimmy Carter, and the Trump administration argues it’s a legally permissible tool despite some murkiness as Carter had initially proposed the clawback well ahead of the 45-day deadline.

The move by the Trump administration drew immediate backlash in parts of the Senate over its legality.

Zelenskyy seeks talks with Trump, EU on slow progress of peace efforts with Russia

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 30, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Ukrainian officials want to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump and European leaders next week to discuss recent developments in efforts to end the three-year war with Russia.

The proposed meetings appeared designed to add momentum to the push for peace, as Zelenskyy expressed frustration with what he called Russia’s lack of constructive engagement in the process while it continues to launch devastating aerial attacks on civilian areas.

Trump has bristled at Russian leader Vladimir Putin’s stalling on an US proposal for direct peace talks with Zelenskyy, and said a week ago he expected to decide on next steps in two weeks if direct talks aren’t scheduled.

Trump complained last month that Putin “talks nice and then he bombs everybody.” But he has also chided Ukraine for its attacks.

At an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on Friday, the United States warned Russia to move toward peace and meet with Ukraine or face possible sanctions. The meeting was called after a major Russian missile and drone attack on Ukraine overnight from Wednesday to Thursday that killed at least 23 people.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy talks during his press conference in Kyiv, Ukraine on Aug 29. (AP)

John Kelley, the US mission’s minister-counselor, said the strikes “cast doubt on the seriousness of Russia’s desire for peace” and demanded they stop. He said Putin and Zelenskyy must agree to meet, and reiterated Trump’s warning that the US could impose sanctions on Russia if the war continues.

Andriy Yermak, the head of Ukraine’s presidential office, met on Friday in New York with Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff to discuss

preparations for upcoming meetings.

“The key priority is to push forward real diplomacy and ensure the implementation of all the agreements reached at the Washington summit,” Yermak said in a social media post. “We are coordinating our efforts.”

Yermak said he had briefed Witkoff on Russia’s latest attacks on Ukraine and lamented that Putin had shown no willingness to engage in peace efforts despite his meeting with Trump in Alaska this month.

America

Ex-US rep Cunningham dies: Randy “Duke” Cunningham, whose feats as a US Navy flying ace during the Vietnam War catapulted him to a U.S. House of Representatives career that ended in disgrace when he was convicted of accepting \$2.4 million in bribes, has died. He was 83.

Cunningham died Wednesday at a hospital in a Little Rock, Arkansas, according to former Rep. Duncan L. Hunter, who spent time with him a week before his passing.

He “represented the very best of American heroes who go out to meet our enemies at the gates,” said Hunter, whose served alongside Cunningham in Congress.

Cunningham was one of the most highly decorated pilots in the Vietnam War, becoming the first Navy fighter ace in the war for shooting down five enemy aircraft. He received a Navy Cross, two Silver Stars, 15 Air Medals and a Purple Heart for his actions during the war.

“With complete disregard for his own personal safety he continued his attack through a hail of cannon fire to rescue his wingman,” read the citation for his second Silver Star.

He went on to serve eight terms in Congress before pleading guilty in 2005 to receiving illegal gifts from defense contractors in exchange for government contracts and other favors, in what was considered at the time to be the largest bribery scandal in congressional history. (AP)



Cunningham

2 Kentucky deputies shot: Two Kentucky sheriff’s deputies were shot by a man while serving a warrant at an apartment, and the man then took his own life, authorities said.

The Boone County Sheriff’s Office said in a statement that the deputies were in stable condition at a hospital Friday with multiple gunshot wounds. Both were expected to fully recover.

The deputies served the warrant Thursday night at an apartment near Walton, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) south of Cincinnati.

After confirming that the man they were seeking was inside, they breached the front door, only to come under fire, according to the sheriff’s office. The deputies were rushed to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

Police called a SWAT team to the home as the man barricaded himself inside, the sheriff’s office said. (AP)

City council member faces charges: A city councilor in Connecticut was arrested Friday on 10 additional counts in connection with an investigation into absentee ballot tampering in the state’s largest city, officials said.

Bridgeport City Council member Alfredo Castillo was among five Democratic politicians and operatives charged earlier this year with tampering with absentee ballots in the 2023 Democratic primary election. Claims of misuse of the ballots spurred a court-ordered rerun of a mayoral primary and general election and helped fuel skepticism about the security of US elections.

The new counts against Castillo include multiple counts of possession of restricted ballots and envelopes, failure to sign as assister on an absentee ballot and misrepresenting eligibility requirements for voting by absentee ballot, Chief State’s Attorney Patrick Griffin’s office said. (AP)

All NATO members projected to hit old defense spending target

BRUSSELS, Aug 30, (AP): NATO released data showing that all its 32 members are projected to finally meet a longstanding goal of spending 2% of their overall economic output on defense this year, while only three meet a new goal set at 3.5% of GDP agreed in June.

A push for higher defense spending is one result of Russia’s war in Ukraine, which has created profound security concerns across Europe. It is also a reaction to pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly accused European allies of not investing enough in their own security. Trump has warned Europeans that Washington might not defend those who fail to meet commitments.

All 32 alliance members are expected to reach the 2% goal this year for the first time, marking a significant change since 2023, when just 10 allies met that benchmark, the NATO report said.

Alliance members agreed at summit in June to hike defense spending from 2% to 3.5% and to require a further commitment of 1.5% of GDP for spending on other measures, such as upgrading roads, bridges, ports and airfields so armies can better deploy and establishing measures to counter cyber and hybrid attacks and preparing societies for future conflict.

Germany was the sole country ex-



A tank fires during the Steadfast Dart 2025 exercise, involving multiple nations and representing one of the largest NATO operations planned this year, at a training range in Smardan, eastern Romania on Feb 19. (AP)

cluded from the NATO report’s 2025 GDP count, but it already reached the 2% target in 2024. Germany finalized its 2025 budget late after the collapse of its previous government and an election in February. The country’s Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil said in June that German defense spending will hit 2.4% of GDP in 2025 and 3.5% by 2029.

Speaking on Thursday in Würzburg, Germany, where he was attending a political conference, NATO Secretary

General Mark Rutte praised Germany’s accelerating militarization.

“By 2029 Germany will spend over 150 billion euros (\$175 billion) on its defense. That is more than doubling what you spent in 2021, that’s almost four times of what you spent in 2018,” Rutte said. “And that means that you really take the lead in Europe, and we need that in Europe. You are the second biggest economy in NATO, the biggest economy in Europe.”

Europe

‘Putin plans to travel to India in December’: Russia’s President **Vladimir Putin** plans to travel to India in December, Putin’s aide said Friday.

Putin’s foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov told reporters that the Russian leader will discuss his upcoming December visit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday in China. Putin and Modi will meet on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which was established by China and Russia in 2001 with a focus on security in Central Asia and the wider region.

Putin is attending the summit and holding multiple bilateral meetings on the sidelines as part of a four-day visit to China on Aug. 31 to Sept. 3.

He also will hold extensive talks with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing and attend a massive military parade there commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War, according to the Kremlin.

In addition meeting with Modi, the Russian leader on Monday is also scheduled to have bilateral meetings with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, as well as other contacts, Ushakov said. (AP)



Putin

Ex-Austrian intelligence officer indicted: Austrian prosecutors said Friday they have indicted a former intelligence officer on charges that include supporting a Russian intelligence service in the country’s biggest spying scandal in decades.

Egisto Ott is accused of espionage to the detriment of Austria and abuse of office, among other charges, Vienna prosecutors said in a statement. The indictment was filed to the state court in the Austrian capital.

Ott was arrested in March last year but released from custody three months later when a court said it didn’t see a danger of him offending at present.

Between 2017 and 2021, Ott is suspected of having collected sensitive information as well as personal information from police databases to pass to Jan Marsalek and unidentified representatives of Russian intelligence, prosecutors said. Marsalek is a fugitive fellow Austrian wanted on suspicion of fraud since the collapse in 2020 of German payment company Wirecard, where he was the chief operating officer. (AP)

‘Asylum seekers can stay in UK hotel’: Britain’s Court of Appeal on Friday overturned a ban on asylum-seekers from being housed at a hotel northeast of London that has been the site of protests for weeks and has become a political flashpoint across the country.

The three-person panel backed the Labour government’s appeal against the temporary injunction granted by a High Court judge last week that would have required the 138 asylum-seekers currently staying at the Bell Hotel, in Epping, Essex, to leave by Sept. 12.

The government was particularly worried that the High Court decision could have been a catalyst for other similar decisions around the country, which would have thrown its policies for housing asylum-seekers into disarray. (AP)

3 dead after mob sets fire to Indonesian regional parliament building, say officials

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Aug 30, (AP): An angry mob set fire to a local parliament building in an Indonesian provincial capital, leaving at least three people dead and five others hospitalized, officials said.

The blaze in Makassar, the capital city of South Sulawesi province, began late Friday. Television reports showed the provincial council building ablaze overnight, causing the area to turn an eerie orange color.

Rescuers retrieved three bodies by Saturday morning, while five people were hospitalized with burns or with broken bones after jumping from the building, said Fadli Tahar, a local disaster official.

Protesters in West Java's Bandung city also set a regional parliament ablaze on Friday, but no casualties were reported. In Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, protesters stormed the regional police headquarters after destroying fences and torching vehicles. Security forces fired tear gas and used water cannons, but demonstrators fought back with fireworks and wooden clubs.

Foreign embassies in Jakarta, including the US, Australia and Southeast Asian countries, have advised their citizens in Indonesia to avoid demonstration areas or large public gatherings.



Protesters walk by as the local parliament building is engulfed in flames during a protest following the death of a delivery rider in clashes between riot police and students protesting against lawmakers' allowances in Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia on Aug 29. (AP)

Calm largely returned to Indonesia's capital on Saturday as authorities cleaned up burned-out cars, police offices and bus shelters that were set ablaze by angry protesters.

Five days of protests began in Jakarta on Monday, sparked by reports that all 580 lawmakers receive a monthly housing allowance of 50 million ru-

piah (\$3,075) in addition to their salaries. The allowance, introduced last year, is almost 10 times the Jakarta minimum wage.

Critics argue the new allowance is not only excessive but also insensitive at a time when most people are grappling with soaring living costs and taxes and rising unemployment.

Aircraft carrier arrives in Tokyo

'Security ties with UK at new level'

TOKYO, Aug 30, (AP): Defense ministers from Japan and Britain hailed their "deep strategic alignment" as a Royal Navy aircraft carrier made its first port call in Tokyo.

The HMS Prince of Wales, which heads a 12-nation carrier strike group of 4,000 servicemembers on an eight-month deployment in the region, is the first foreign aircraft carrier to visit the city, UK Defense Secretary John Healey told a joint news conference.

"We are proud to be taking our air and our naval cooperation now to new levels," Healey said after holding talks at Japan's Defense Ministry with his counterpart, Gen Nakatani.

The strategic cooperation with Japan is part of the UK's commitment to be more engaged in the economy and security in the Indo-Pacific.

"Japan and the U.K. are the closest security partners in Asia and Europe and we have steadily enhanced cooperation," Nakatani said. "I'm extremely happy to share this historic moment when Japan-U.K. defense cooperation has reached a new level."

The two countries are involved in the development of a fighter jet for deployment by 2035 in a trilateral cooperation known as the Global Combat Air Program that also in-



Japan's Defense Minister Gen Nakatani, left, delivers a speech as Britain's Secretary of State for Defence John Healey attends a welcome ceremony for the Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales during its port call in Tokyo on Aug 28. (AP)

cludes Italy.

Also:

TOKYO: Japan plans to deploy its domestically developed long-range missiles a year earlier than planned, the Defense Ministry announced Friday, as the country steps up efforts to strengthen its strike-back capability in response to rising chal-

lenges in the region.

Under the new schedule, a first batch of the domestically developed Type-12 anti-ship missiles will be installed at its army's Camp Kengun in Japan's southwestern prefecture of **Kumamoto** by March 2026, the ministry said. The Type-12 missile has a range of about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles).

Cabinet appoints acting premier

Thailand court dismisses PM over compromising phone call with Cambodian leader

BANGKOK, Aug 30, (Agencies): Thailand's Constitutional Court on Friday dismissed Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, ruling that she violated ethics rules in a phone call with a high-ranking Cambodian official.

The decision ends the term of the nation's youngest prime minister and delivers the latest blow to the powerful Shinawatra political dynasty that has dominated Thai politics for more than two decades.

In a 6-3 vote, the judges found that Paetongtarn's conduct in a June 15 call with Cambodia's former leader Hun Sen compromised national interests.

The call, which became public just weeks before a deadly border conflict erupted between the two countries, sparked outrage in Thailand. Audio of the conversation revealed Paetongtarn addressing Hun Sen as "uncle" and appearing to criticize a Thai army general as an "opponent" while discussing the tense border situation.

The complaint against Paetongtarn lodged by a group of senators alleged that "due to a personal relationship that appeared aligned with Cambodia, (she) was consistently willing to comply with or act in accordance with the wishes of the Cambodian side."

It further charged that her reference to the Thai general "lacked demonstrable honesty and integrity, and seriously violated or failed to comply with ethical standards."

However, the court said in its ruling that Paetongtarn intended to uphold Thailand's national interests and tried to prevent serious conflicts that could affect its sovereignty and border security. It concluded that her actions did not clearly appear to be dishonest. The majority opinion nevertheless found that her conversation constituted a breach of ethical standards.

Paetongtarn, 39, has defended herself by arguing that her familiar tone during the call was a negotiating tactic aimed at de-escalating tensions. She apologized, but insisted that it did not damage national security.

After the court's ruling Friday, she said she would accept it but insisted that she was innocent and had acted with the sole purpose of saving lives.

Audio of the call was leaked online by Hun Sen, who was Cambodia's prime minister for 38 years until his son Hun Manet took over the job in



Thailand's suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra attends a press conference after being dismissed from her position, in Bangkok, Thailand on Aug 29. (AP)

2023. The phone call came as long-standing border tensions escalated after a Cambodian soldier was killed in a brief fracas with Thai troops in disputed territory in May.

In late June, the two countries engaged in five days of combat that killed dozens of people and displaced more than 260,000.

The friendly tone of Paetongtarn's call raised hackles among many Thais because of her family's history.

Her father, Thaksin Shinawatra, a business owner who earned a vast fortune in the telecommunications sector and who was prime minister from 2001-2006, has in the past faced allegations of putting his personal interests over those of the nation, and had a seemingly warm friendship with Hun Sen.

Friday's ruling is also a blow to Thaksin, who was ousted from power by a military coup but has managed to remain a dominant force in Thai politics.

Paetongtarn, a former executive in a hotel business run by her family, was the third close member of the Shinawatra clan to take the prime minister's job. Thaksin's sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, was Thailand's first female prime minister from 2011 to 2014, and like her brother was forced out of office before her term was up. Thaksin's brother-in-law, Somchai Wongsawat, also served briefly as prime minister in 2008.

Other Thaksin political allies have also held office and been forced out early. Paetongtarn's immediate predecessor as prime minister, real estate executive Srettha Thavisin, was forced out last August when the Constitutional Court found him guilty of a serious ethics breach.

The fortunes of Thaksin's political machine have met with victories and setbacks, with mandates at the ballot box often undone by coups or court rulings. Polarization between his supporters and opponents have also led to street violence, which have contributed to destabilizing governments he backed.

Thailand's cabinet on Saturday appointed Deputy Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai to serve as acting prime minister, following a constitutional court ruling that terminated Paetongtarn's premiership.

Minister to the Prime Minister's Office Chusak Sirinil announced the appointment following a special cabinet meeting, which also appointed Prommin Lertsuridej as PM's Secretary General.

Chusak said that the cabinet approved a strict framework for its operations during this transitional period to ensure stability without exceeding its mandate.



Rescue workers search for trapped people in a flooded area after torrential rains and rising water level in the Ravi river due to sudden water releases from Indian dams, on the outskirts of Lahore, Pakistan on Aug 29. (AP)

Pakistan races to evacuate tens of thousands stranded by floods

Rescuers in Pakistan raced to evacuate tens of thousands of people stranded by floods, with many left without food or medical supplies Friday as the government struggled to provide aid and prevent Lahore and other cities from deluges.

The floods in the eastern Punjab

province began Monday when an abnormal amount of rain triggered sudden water releases from Indian dams on the Sutlej, Chenab and Ravi rivers. The rising floodwaters were the first to hit the region in four decades.

New Delhi last week alerted

Islamabad about potential cross-border flooding. Since then, nearly 300,000 people have been evacuated from flood-hit areas, said Irfan Ali Kathia, director general of the Punjab Disaster Management Authority. More than 1 million have been affected. (AP)

Wife of ousted president Yoon and ally indicted by special prosecutors

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 30, (AP): The wife of South Korea's jailed ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol and his former prime minister were indicted Friday as part of investigations into his administration and his attempt to overcome opposition by declaring martial law.

Yoon set off South Korea's most serious political crisis in decades when he attempted to overcome an opposition-dominated legislature that blocked his agenda by abruptly declaring martial law. His decree lasted only hours but triggered months of turmoil that paralyzed politics, disrupted foreign policy and rattled the economy.

Yoon was impeached, then removed from office in April and rearrested last month after his conservative party lost a special election to choose his successor. The new government has appointed three special prosecutors to investigate both the period of martial law and suspicions of corruption that dogged Yoon through his term in office.

A team led by Special Prosecutor Min Joong-ki said it charged Yoon's wife, Kim Keon Hee, with violating financial market and political funding laws and receiving bribes, about two weeks after she was arrested.

A separate team led by Special Prosecutor Cho Eun-suk said former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo was charged



Kim Keon Hee, (right), the wife of South Korea's ousted former president Yoon Suk Yeol, arrives at the special prosecutor's office in Seoul, South Korea on Aug 6. (AP)

with abetting Yoon's imposition of martial law, which investigators say amounted to a rebellion, as well as falsifying and destroying official documents, and lying under oath.

Dozens of people have been arrested or investigated over Yoon's martial law debacle, corruption allegations involving his wife, and other controversies from his three years in office,

including an alleged cover-up of a marine's drowning death during a 2023 flood rescue operation.

Key suspects include former Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun, who has been accused of planning martial law with Yoon and sending troops to the National Assembly in an unsuccessful attempt to block lawmakers from voting to lift it.

Cruz urges Mexico to follow El Salvador harsh crackdown on drug cartels

MEXICO CITY, Aug 30, (AP): US Sen Ted Cruz said that Mexico should take a page out of El Salvador's book in cracking down on drug cartels, and take the United States up on an offer to help combat organized crime.

The Republican senator from Texas, who stopped in Mexico after visiting Panama and El Salvador this week, appeared to imply that the US could take some actions against drug cartels on its own if Mexico declines joint action.

"It would be far preferable for it to be cooperative, and so my hope is the government of Mexico will recognize that defeating these cartels is overwhelmingly in the interest of the citizens of Mexico," Cruz told a news conference. "My message to the government of Mexico is accept our offer as a friend."

Cruz did not respond when asked to elaborate on the offer, which he mentioned multiple times during the news conference.

Cruz's suggestion and earlier offers by US President Donald Trump of US military intervention have heightened Mexico's sensitivity over its sovereignty.

Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum flatly rejected Trump's offer earlier this year to send US troops to fight the cartels, which his administration declared as foreign terrorist organizations.

"The United States is not going to come to Mexico with their military," Sheinbaum said earlier this month. "We cooperate, we collaborate, but there will be no invasion. It's off



US Sen Ted Cruz, speaks with reporters about his visit in Mexico City on Aug 29. (AP)

the table, absolutely off the table."

There has been evidence of collaboration. Earlier this month, the Mexican government confirmed that it had requested assistance from a U.S. government drone in an organized crime investigation in central Mexico.

Cruz said he met with Mexico's Foreign Affairs Secretary Juan Ramón de la Fuente and other officials, speaking largely on security and migration issues.



Fishermen are seen at sea in Nouadibou, Mauritania, on Jan 7. (AP)

'49 dead in migrant boat tragedy'

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania, Aug 30, (AP): At least 49 people died and nearly 100 are still missing after a boat carrying migrants capsized this week, the Mauritanian coast guard said Friday.

Authorities said the boat came from Gambia and capsized Tuesday morning off the coast of Mhejrat.

"The boat left Gambia a week ago and had 160 people on board, including Senegalese and Gambian nationals," Mohamed Abdallah, the head of the coast guard, told The Associated Press.

"When the migrants saw the lights of the Mhejrat, they tried to move to one part of the boat, causing it to capsize," Abdallah said.

The official said 49 bodies have washed ashore and just 17 people have been rescued so far. The others remain missing, the official said.

India and Canada name new high commissioners

OTTAWA, Ontario, Aug 30, (AP): India and Canada named new high commissioners to each other's capitals Thursday as they restored relations 10 months after expelling the top envoys in a dispute over an alleged political assassination.

Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand said Christopher Cooter will be Canada's new high commissioner to India. India's foreign ministry said it will assign its current envoy to Spain, Dinesh Patnaik, to Ottawa "shortly."

Relations between Canada and India have been strained since Canadian police accused New Delhi of playing a role in the June 2023 assassination of a Canadian Sikh activist near Vancouver. Police also have uncovered evidence of an intensifying campaign against Canadian citizens by agents of the Indian government.

Relations improved in June when Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney invited Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to the G7 summit in Alberta and both countries agreed to restore their top diplomats.

Nijjar, 45, was fatally shot in his pickup truck after he left the Sikh temple he led in Surrey, British Columbia. An Indian-born citizen of Canada, he owned a plumbing business and was a leader in what remains of a once-strong movement to create an independent Sikh homeland.

Four Indian nationals living in Canada were charged with Nijjar's murder.



Modi

Kuwaiti oil price rises to \$71.71 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil rose by USD 1.29 to settle at USD 71.71 per barrel in Friday trading, compared to USD 70.42 per barrel on Thursday, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Saturday.

In global markets, Brent crude fell by 50 cents to USD 68.12 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate dropped by 59 cents to USD 64.01 per barrel.

Business

Investing in national talent, building future leaders

KFH honors outstanding employees for H1 2025 under Qadha program



Photos during the campaign.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: As part of its commitment to recognizing and supporting its human capital, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) honored 155 distinguished employees under its annual Qadha program, celebrating their outstanding performance during the first half of 2025.

Held at the Four Seasons Hotel, the ceremony was attended by KFH Group Chief Executive Officer, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, along with the Bank's senior leaders.

Since its launch in 2021, Qadha has continued to be the primary recognition initiative, honoring employees with outstanding performance. The program was awarded by the renowned Brandon Hall Group, earning the Gold Medal for Best Advance in Employee Recognition Program.

In his speech, KFH Group CEO, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan said: "Qadha is not only an occasion to recognize outstanding employees, but an opportunity to express our sincere gratitude. You are our invaluable asset, the cornerstone of our success, and the foundation of our continued leadership and excellence."

He added: "Your remarkable efforts were reflected in the exceptional financial results for the first half of 2025. These results were made possible through the dedication of our employees, enabling KFH to maintain its position with the highest profits in the local banking sector and achieving sustainable growth across all key financial indicators. KFH achieved a net profit of KD 342.1 million for the first half of 2025 for the Bank shareholders. Earnings per share reached 19.23 fils.

Net financing income for the first half of the year reached KD 607.3 million; an increase of 8.7 % compared to the same period last year. Total operating income increased, supported by the increase in all core activities, to reach KD 876 million; an increase of 6.4 % compared to the same period last year."

AlShamlan affirmed that for KFH, financial leadership is not the final goal, but a pathway to enhance its developmental role. "At KFH, we strongly invest in our human cadres. In line with this commitment, we take pride in developing these talents and building new generations of leaders through advanced training and development programs in collaboration with leading universities with local and global training institutions. These programs are designed to achieve the highest levels of efficiency and productivity."

He further noted: "This success and strong financial leadership are a testament to the excellence and competence of KFH employees and stand as the result of their ongoing efforts to maintain leadership, drive continuous development, and support the KFH's growth and progress."

AlShamlan emphasized that honoring this distinguished group of employees is a recognition of KFH's success in attracting, retaining, developing top talent, and fostering their career growth. This is achieved within a unique work environment that enhances employees' capabilities, encourages them to improve performance, and offers support and motivation, thereby strengthening loyalty and engagement

while inspiring them to excel and achieve distinction in their work.

He added: "To my colleagues we honor today, this recognition is well-deserved for your commitment and excellence. You are role models of dedication. I hope this recognition serves as a motivation for you and others to achieve even greater creativity and more successes."

AlShamlan concluded: "I extend my gratitude to each one of you for your valuable contributions. Let us continue this journey of excellence together, working as one team to achieve our ambitious goals, uphold our leadership in the banking sector, and fulfill the aspirations of our shareholders and customers, who remain our top priority."

It is worth noting that Qadha is the first program of its kind in the Kuwaiti banking sector. The program is highly selective, with rigorous global standards for selecting outstanding employees. It relies on comprehensive, instant evaluations conducted monthly, quarterly, and annually covering professional and technical aspects across all departments and sectors.

As a reflection of KFH's culture of recognition, Qadha highlights the significance of human capital as the main driver of innovation and advancement. The program is designed to create a motivating workplace that encourages healthy competition and the growth of skills, resulting in superior customer service and reinforcing KFH's distinguished leadership in Islamic banking worldwide.

Other Voices

Future of petrochemicals in Kuwait

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent oil analyst

THE repeated question in Kuwait is: Why do we lag behind the rest of our neighbors in the petrochemicals field, although we were the first in the region to do so exclusively with local inventors? We have invested in Europe, the USA, and more recently in South Korea. We are exporting and providing such countries with Kuwaiti feedstock (raw material) -- mainly naphtha. We sell to petrochemical companies that use our feedstock to generate a variety of feedstocks derived from ethylene, all made from Kuwaiti naphtha sourced from our three main refineries.

So, why are we not producing and operating ethylene plants in Kuwait? What are the obstacles? Why not even invite some of the naphtha buyers to invest jointly with us? Or perhaps, it simply never occurred to us. But is it not time to consider this?

There are four main feedstocks for petrochemical production: butane, propane, gas and naphtha. The countries in the region with high reserves of gas are Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Iran.

At present, Kuwait is importing gas from Qatar under a 15-year term contract, with four million tons of gas annually, followed by imports from Nigeria at 1.1 million tons and from the USA at 700,000 tons per year.

Kuwait was the first country in the region to import gas through long-term contracts. These supplies are essential to meet our high demand for electricity, particularly during the intense heat of our summer months.

Yet, we export more than three million tons of naphtha annually -- the main feedstock used to produce ethylene, which is the backbone of the petrochemical industry. If that is the case, then why are we not invest-

ing in establishing and building a petrochemical complex here in Kuwait? Why are we not producing ethylene locally from our own naphtha? Have we not considered this? Why? At the same time, we continue to invest in this same industry abroad and buy shares in foreign companies.

To our understanding, more than three companies have approached us with proposals to create joint ventures in this sector. Yet, we declined--without clearly understanding the reason these ventures were turned down. Is it still not the right time to investigate or to reconnect with those interested parties?

Meanwhile, we continue to enjoy an excellent partnership with Dow Chemical through our joint venture in Equate, which is generating strong profits and healthy cash returns. This kind of partnership should be encouraged and replicated with other investors. As long as we have the feedstock and selling it to others, we should aim to maximize the returns and reap the rewards for ourselves, here in Kuwait.

Without a doubt, investment in petrochemicals is profitable, particularly when using mixed feedstocks like gas and naphtha. Therefore, we should encourage and invite foreign investors to come and invest with us here, in our own country.

Since we were pioneers in establishing the first petrochemical company in Kuwait, the time has come to repeat this achievement. We must utilize our locally produced naphtha to maximize its value-added potential--provided, of course, that the economic aspects and expected returns are good. The simple principle remains: No returns, no project. However, allowing others to maximize their returns from our own products is unacceptable.

It is now time to seriously assess our petrochemical industry and ensure we are not falling behind others. We possess the raw materials and we should take advantage of them for maximum return.

Why should others profit from our feedstocks and benefit from our resources? If the buyers of our naphtha are making profits, then we in Kuwait should be doing even better.

Email: nafikuwaiti@yahoo.com



Kamel Al-Harami

Adan solar station to cut fuel use

Yemen and UAE inaugurate 120mw solar plant in Adan

ADEN, Aug 30, (KUNA): Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council member Aidarous Al-Zubaidi, Yemeni Prime Minister Salem bin Braik, and UAE Ambassador to Yemen Mohammad Al-Zaabi inaugurated the second phase of the 120-megawatt solar power plant in the Bir Ahmed area of Yemen's interim capital, Adan, on Thursday.

The total capacity of the project is expected to top 240-megawatts upon completion in 2026, according to Yemeni news agency SABA.

The project, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, represents a strategic step in the field of renewable energy, aiming to alleviate suffering of it residents in Adan during the summer, through reduction of imported fuel, and enhancing reliance on clean and sustainable sources.

It is the first of its kind in Yemen, as it is expected to generate

approximately 247,000 megawatt-hours annually, sufficient to power hundreds of thousands of homes, in addition to reducing more than 142,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, which is equivalent to emissions produced by more than 85,000 cars.

During his speech, Al-Zubaidi expressed gratitude for the unlimited support provided by the UAE, stressing that this project represents a major step to be a

model for other governorates to establish similar stations.

UAE Ambassador affirmed that the second phase of the stations came under the directives of UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, praising the government's efforts that contributed to the project's success and the role of the company and its commitment to completing the second phase before next summer.

Executives see trade, tourism potential in Syria

Saudi firms eye opportunities at Damascus fair

DAMASCUS, Aug 30, (Xinhua): Saudi executives attending the ongoing Damascus International Fair have said they see opportunities in trade, industry, and tourism as Syria works to recover from years of conflict.

The 62nd edition of the fair, which opened Wednesday under the theme "Syria Welcomes the World," runs through September 5 at the Damascus Exhibition City. Around 800 companies from 20 countries, including Egypt, Türkiye, Sudan, Belgium, South Africa, and Pakistan, are exhibiting across a 95,000-square-meter space.

Saudi Arabia is participating as the Guest of Honor, with over 80 private-sector firms alongside government entities such as the ministries of energy and investment, the Saudi Export Development Authority, and the Saudi-Syrian

Business Council.

Faisal Majed Al-Muhaideb, CEO of Masdar, a Saudi building and construction materials company, and representative of the Al-Muhaidib Group pavilion, told Xinhua that the group has brought all eight of its companies, spanning industrial, commercial, agricultural, and real estate sectors, to the fair.

"We see the Syrian Arab Republic heading toward growth, progress, and investment, and our presence confirms this commitment," he said. "I believe this marks the beginning of exporting Saudi goods to Syria, with the next stage being the establishment of factories and the localization of major industries inside Syria."

Abdullah Mutaeb Alzahrani, team leader for marketing at Bahra Electric, described the Syr-

ian market as promising.

"We are pleased to be here for the first time at the Damascus International Fair under the slogan 'We resemble each other,' which reflects the deep ties between the Saudi and Syrian peoples," he said. "We expect more Saudi companies to take part in supporting Syria's economic revival."

Abdullah Abanumy, CEO of Sky Ways travel agency, said his company sees demand for business travel in the short term and tourism in the future.

"For us, the focus is on business travel over the next three to four years, and later we hope Syria will return as one of the most desirable tourist destinations for Saudis and the Arab world," Abanumy said.

Egypt signs \$343 mln deals for oil, gas exploration

CAIRO, Aug 30, (KUNA): Egypt has signed four agreements with world companies to explore oil and gas in the Mediterranean Sea and Nile Delta with total investments of more than USD 343 million.

The deals, signed by the state-owned Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS), provide for the digging of 10 oil and gas wells, said the Petroleum Ministry in a press release

on Saturday. The first agreement was concluded with oil giant Shell with investments valued at USD 120 million and covers three wells in the Mediterranean's Merneith offshore area, the ministry said.

The second deal was inked with Italy's Eni at a value of USD 100 million to drill three wells in the East Port Said offshore area, it added.

The third deal worth USD 14 million went to

Russia's Zarubezhneft to drill four wells in the onshore North Al-Khatatba area in the Nile Delta, according to the ministry.

The EGAS signed the fourth agreement with international company Arcius Energy at a value of USD 109 million, it added.

The four agreements reflect the Petroleum Ministry's efforts to boost the country's oil and gas exploration and production, it noted.

What’s next for Trump’s tariffs after court ruling?

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (AP): President Donald Trump has audaciously claimed virtually unlimited power to bypass Congress and impose sweeping taxes on foreign products.

Now a federal appeals court has thrown a roadblock in his path.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled Friday that Trump went too far when he declared national emergencies to justify imposing sweeping import taxes on almost every country on earth. The ruling largely upheld a May decision by a specialized federal trade court in New York. But the 7-4 appeals court decision tossed out a part of that ruling striking down the tariffs immediately, allowing his administration time to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The ruling was a big setback for Trump, whose erratic trade policies have rocked financial markets, paralyzed businesses with uncertainty and raised fears of higher prices and slower economic growth.

The court’s decision centers on the tariffs Trump slapped in April on almost all U.S. trading partners and levies he imposed before that on China, Mexico and Canada.

Trump on April 2 - Liberation Day, he called it - imposed so-called reciprocal tariffs of up to 50% on countries with which the United States runs a trade deficit and 10% baseline tariffs on almost everybody else.

The president later suspended the reciprocal tariffs for 90 days to give countries time to negotiate trade agreements with the United States - and reduce their barriers to American exports. Some of them did - including the United Kingdom, Japan and the European Union - and agreed to lopsided deals with Trump to avoid even bigger tariffs.

Those that didn’t knuckle under - or otherwise incurred Trump’s wrath - got hit harder earlier this month. Laos got rocked with a 40% tariff, for instance, and Algeria with a 30% levy. Trump also kept the baseline tariffs in place.

Claiming extraordinary power to act without congressional approval, Trump justified the taxes under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act by declaring the United States’ longstanding trade deficits “a national emergency.”

In February, he’d invoked the law to impose tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, saying that the illegal flow of immigrants and drugs across the U.S. border amounted to a national emergency and that the three countries needed to do more to stop it.

The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to set taxes, including tariffs. But lawmakers have gradually let presidents assume more power over tariffs - and Trump has made the most of it.

The court challenge does not cover other Trump tariffs, including levies on foreign steel, aluminum and autos that the president imposed after Commerce Department investigations concluded that those imports were threats to U.S. national security.

Nor does it include tariffs that Trump imposed on China in his first term - and President Joe Biden kept - after a government investigation concluded that the Chinese used unfair practices to give their own technology firms an edge over rivals from the United States and other Western countries.

The administration had argued that courts had approved then-President Richard Nixon’s emergency use of tariffs in the economic chaos that followed his decision to end a policy that linked the U.S. dollar to the price of gold. The Nixon administration successfully cited its authority under the 1917 Trading With Enemy Act, which preceded and supplied some of the legal language later used in IEEPA.

In May, the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York rejected the argument, ruling that Trump’s Liberation Day tariffs “exceed any authority granted to the President” under the emergency powers law. In reaching its decision, the trade court combined two challenges - one by five businesses and one by 12 U.S. states - into a single case.

On Friday, the federal appeals court wrote in its 7-4 ruling that “it seems unlikely that Congress intended to ... grant the President unlimited authority to impose tariffs.”

A dissent from the judges who disagreed with Friday’s ruling clears a possible legal path for Trump, concluding that the 1977 law allowing for emergency actions “is not an unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority under the Supreme Court’s decisions,” which have allowed the legislature to grant some tariffing authorities to the president.

The government has argued that if Trump’s tariffs are struck down, it might have to refund some of the import taxes that it’s collected, delivering a financial blow to the U.S. Treasury. Revenue from tariffs totaled \$159 billion by July, more than double what it was at the same point the year before. Indeed, the Justice Department warned in a legal filing this month that revoking the tariffs could mean “financial ruin” for the United States.

It could also put Trump on shaky ground in trying to impose tariffs going forward.

“While existing trade deals may not automatically unravel, the administration could lose a pillar of its negotiating strategy, which may embolden foreign governments to resist future demands, delay implementation of prior commitments, or even seek to renegotiate terms,” Ashley Akers, senior counsel at the Holland & Knight law firm and a former Justice Department trial lawyer, said before the appeals court decision.

The president vowed to take the fight to the Supreme Court. “If allowed to stand, this Decision would literally destroy the United States of America,” he wrote on his social media platform.

Trump does have alternative laws for imposing import taxes, but they would limit the speed and severity with which he could act. For instance, in its decision in May, the trade court noted that Trump retains more limited power to impose tariffs to address trade deficits under another statute, the Trade Act of 1974. But that law restricts tariffs to 15% and to just 150 days on countries with which the United States runs big trade deficits.

The administration could also invoke levies under a different legal authority - Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 - as it did with tariffs on foreign steel, aluminum and autos. But that requires a Commerce Department investigation and cannot simply be imposed at the president’s own discretion.

Appeals Court delivers major blow to Trump’s power to levy global tariffs

Court decision threatens \$159 bln in tariff revenue

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (AP): A federal appeals court ruled that President Donald Trump had no legal right to impose sweeping tariffs on almost every country on earth but left in place for now his effort to build a protectionist wall around the American economy.

The ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found Trump overstepped his authority under an emergency powers law, a major legal blow that largely upheld a May decision by a specialized federal trade court in New York.

“It seems unlikely that Congress intended to ... grant the President unlimited authority to impose tariffs,” the judges wrote in a 7-4 ruling.

But they did not strike down the tariffs immediately, allowing his administration until mid-October to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The president vowed to do just that. “If allowed to stand, this Decision would literally destroy the United States of America,” Trump wrote on his social media platform.

White House spokesman Kush Desai said Trump had acted lawfully, and “we look forward to ultimate victory on this matter.”

An attorney for small businesses affected by the tariffs, meanwhile, said the ruling shows Trump doesn’t have unlimited power to impose tariffs on his own. “This decision protects American businesses and consumers from the uncertainty and harm caused by these unlawful tariffs,” said Jeffrey Schwab, director of litigation at the Liberty Justice Center.

Still, it remains unclear whether businesses will see any effects from the decision, said National Foreign Trade Council President Jake Colvin.

“If these tariffs are ultimately struck down, it ought to serve as a wake up call for Congress to reclaim its constitutional mandate to regulate duties and bring some long-term certainty for U.S. businesses and relief for consumers,” Colvin said.

Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon said he plans to force votes on “repealing these harmful, regressive taxes at every opportunity.”

The ruling complicates Trump’s ambitions to upend decades of American trade policy completely on his own. Trump has alternative laws for imposing import taxes, but they would limit the speed and severity with which he could act. His tariffs - and the erratic way he’s rolled them out - have shaken global markets, alienated U.S. trading partners and allies and raised fears of higher prices and slower economic growth.

But he’s also used the levies to pressure the European Union, Japan and other countries into accepting one-sided trade deals and to bring tens of billions of dollars into the federal Treasury to help pay for the massive tax cuts he signed into law July 4.

“The administration could lose a pillar of its negotiating strategy,” Ashley Akers, senior counsel at the Holland & Knight law firm and a former Justice Department trial lawyer, said before the appeals court decision.

A dissent from the judges who disagreed with Friday’s ruling clears a possible legal path for Trump, concluding that the 1977 law allowing for emergency actions “is not an unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority under the Supreme Court’s decisions,” which have allowed the legislature to grant some tariff authorities to the president.

The government has argued that if the tariffs are struck down, it might have to refund some of the import taxes that it’s collected, delivering a financial blow to the U.S. Treasury.

Revenue from tariffs now totals \$159 billion, more than double what it was at the same point the year



President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025, at the White House in Washington. (AP)

before. Indeed, the Justice Department warned in a legal filing this month that revoking the tariffs could mean “financial ruin” for the United States.

“For all the tariffs that have been collected under IEEPA, you’re going to see folks request refunds and more refunds,” said trade attorney Ryan Majerus, a partner at King & Spalding and a former White House economic adviser.

Attorney General Pam Bondi, meanwhile, accused the judges of interfering with the president’s central role in foreign policy and vowed to appeal.

The ruling involves two sets of import taxes, both of which Trump justified by declaring a national emergency under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA):

- The sweeping tariffs he announced April 2 - “Liberation Day,” he called it - when he imposed “reciprocal” tariffs of up to 50% on countries with which the United States runs trade deficits and a “baseline” 10% tariff on just about everyone else. Those tariff rates have since been revised by Trump, in some cases after trade negotiations, and generally went into effect Aug. 7.
- The national emergency underlying the tariffs, Trump said, was the long-running gap between what the U.S. sells and what it buys from the rest of the world. The president started to levy modified tariff rates in August, but goods from countries with which the U.S. runs a surplus also face the taxes.
- The “trafficking tariffs” he announced Feb. 1 on imports from Canada, China and Mexico and later refined. These were designed to get those countries to do more to stop what he declared a national emergency: the illegal flow of drugs and immigrants across their borders into the United States. The Constitution gives Congress the power to impose taxes, including tariffs. But over the decades, lawmakers have ceded authority to the president, and Trump has made the most of the power vacuum.

But Trump’s assertion that IEEPA essentially gives him unlimited power to tax imports quickly drew legal challenges - at least seven cases. No president had ever used the law to justify tariffs, though IEEPA had been used frequently to impose export restrictions and other sanctions on U.S. adversaries such as Iran and North Korea.

The plaintiffs argued that the emergency power law does not authorize the use of tariffs.

They also noted that the trade deficit hardly meets the definition of an “unusual and extraordinary” threat that would justify declaring an emergency under the law. The United States, after all, has run trade deficits - in which it buys more from foreign countries than it sells them - for 49 straight years and in good times and bad.

The Trump administration argued that courts approved President Richard Nixon’s emergency use of tariffs in a 1971 economic crisis that arose from the chaos that followed his decision to end a policy linking the U.S. dollar to the price of gold. The Nixon administration successfully cited its authority under the 1917 Trading With the Enemy Act, which preceded and supplied some of the legal language used in IEEPA.

In May, the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York rejected the argument, ruling that Trump’s Liberation Day tariffs “exceed any authority granted to the President” under the emergency powers law. In reaching its decision, the trade court combined two challenges - one by five businesses and one by 12 U.S. states - into a single case.

In the case of the drug trafficking and immigration tariffs on Canada, China and Mexico, the trade court ruled that the levies did not meet IEEPA’s requirement that they “deal with” the problem they were supposed to address.

The court challenge does not cover other Trump tariffs, including levies on foreign steel, aluminum and autos that the president imposed after Commerce Department investigations concluded that those imports were threats to U.S. national security.

Nor does it include tariffs that Trump imposed on China in his first term - and President Joe Biden kept - after a government investigation concluded that the Chinese used unfair practices to give their own technology firms an edge over rivals from the United States and other Western countries.

Trump could potentially cite alternative authorities to impose import taxes, though they are more limited. Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, for instance, allows the president to tax imports from countries with which the U.S. runs big trade deficits at 15% for 150 days.

Likewise, Section 301 of the same 1974 law allows the president to tax imports from countries found to have engaged in unfair trade practices after an investigation by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Trump used Section 301 authority to launch his first-term trade war with China.

Core inflation rises to highest since Feb

Fed’s inflation gauge steady amid tariffs

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (AP): The Federal Reserve’s preferred inflation gauge mostly held steady last month despite President Donald Trump’s broad-based tariffs, but a measure of underlying inflation increased.

Prices rose 2.6% in July compared with a year ago, the Commerce Department said Friday, the same annual increase as in June. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, prices rose 2.9% from a year earlier, up from 2.8% in the previous month and the highest since February.

The figures illustrate why many officials at the Federal Reserve have been reluctant to cut their key interest rate. While inflation is much lower than the roughly 7% peak it reached three years ago, it is still running noticeably above the Fed’s 2% target.

At the same time, the report showed that consumer spending picked up last month and could boost economic growth, which weakened considerably in the first six months of the year.

On a monthly basis, consumer prices rose 0.2% from June to July, down from 0.3% the previous month, while core prices increased 0.3% for the second month in a row.

The figures are similar to those reported earlier this month in the more widely-followed consumer price index, which has risen 2.7% from a year ago.

The core CPI increased 3.1% in July compared with a year earlier.

Separately, the Friday report showed that consumer spending jumped 0.5% in July, the biggest increase since March and a sign that many Americans are still willing to open their wallets despite high interest rates and uncertainty surrounding the direction of the economy. Spending jumped sharply for long-lasting goods such as cars, appliances and furniture, many of which are imported.

Incomes rose 0.4% from June to July, boosted by a healthy gain in wages and salaries, the report showed.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has said the central bank will likely cut its key rate at its meeting next month. But policymakers are expected to proceed cautiously and it’s not clear how many more rate cuts will happen this year.

When the Fed reduces its key rate, it often - though not always - lowers borrowing costs for things like mortgages, car loans, and business borrowing.

Trump has relentlessly pushed Powell and the Fed for lower interest rates since earlier this year, calling Powell “Too Late” and a “moron” and arguing that there is “no inflation.” On Monday he sought to fire Lisa Cook, a member of the Fed’s governing board in an effort to gain greater control over the central bank.

Leaders aim to expand workforce and student exchanges

India’s Modi agrees with Japan’s Ishiba to boost economic ties & cooperation

TOKYO, Aug 30, (AP): The leaders of India and Japan agreed Friday to bolster economic ties while also boosting cooperation in areas including clean energy and defense, as the two Asian powers face common challenges such as China’s growing influence and U.S. tariffs.

Following their summit in Tokyo, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba agreed on a goal of boosting Japanese private investment in India to about \$6.8 billion a year over the coming decade, up from about \$2.7 billion a year in the 2010s.

They also agreed to increase exchanges of workers and students to half a million people in the coming five years. The two governments hope India’s young workforce can help address labor shortages caused by Japan’s aging and declining population.

“We believe that Japanese technology and Indian talent are a winning combination,” Modi told a news conference.

The two leaders released a “joint vision” of cooperation for the next decade in areas such as security, defense, clean energy, technology and space, and signed a total of 11 documents.

“As the economies and vibrant democracies of the world, partnership is extremely important not just for our two countries but for global peace and stability as well,” Modi said.

“We need to have to take advantage of each other’s strengths, to bring solutions to our challenges and to help each other,” Ishiba said.

On Sunday, Ishiba will escort Modi on a bullet train to



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, center left, and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, center right, pose for a group photo as they visit a factory of Tokyo Electron Limited in Taiwacho, Miyagi prefecture Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025. (AP)

Sendai in northern Japan, for a tour of a factory that makes machinery for producing semiconductors, before the Indian leader flies to China, the next destination of his Asia tour.

Ishiba needs to rack up diplomatic successes to buoy public support because he is under pressure from opponents within his own party to step down over parliamentary elec-

tions results in July when his coalition lost its majority in the upper house.

Friday’s India-Japan summit came days after Modi met China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi and hailed improving relations between the two sides, following yearslong disputes over their Himalayan borders.

At a business forum earlier Friday, Modi urged Japanese companies to invest in India, saying that reforms have created more a transparent and predictable business environment. “In India’s development journey, Japan has always been an important partner,” he told the forum hosted by Japan’s powerful business lobby Keidanren.

Modi noted Suzuki Motor Corp.’s success in his country and said Japan and India can replicate “the same magic” in batteries, robotics, semiconductors, shipbuilding and nuclear energy and contribute to the development of the so-called Global South nations and Africa.

“Japan is a tech powerhouse and India is a talent powerhouse,” Modi said, and that together the two countries can “lead this century’s tech revolution,” in areas such as green energy, next generation mobility and logistics infrastructure.

Ishiba said the two countries share universal values like democracy and the rule of law and that “Japan’s advanced technology and India’s outstanding talent, as well as its large market, are complementing each other to a dramatic expansion of our economic ties.”

He emphasized the importance of expanding their cooperation from the Indian Ocean to Africa and Europe.

‘Chengdu Gifts’ Cultural and Creative Exhibition debuts in Kuwait, showcasing Tianfu culture in the Middle East

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: On August 29, the ‘Chengdu Gifts’ Cultural and Creative Exhibition in Kuwait 2025 will open at China Cultural Center in Kuwait. Jointly organized by China Cultural Center in Kuwait and Chengdu Municipal Bureau of Culture, Broadcast-TV and Tourism, the exhibition will offer Kuwait audiences a unique opportunity to experience the charm of Tianfu culture up close.

The exhibition features 30 sets of carefully curated cultural and creative works from Chengdu, covering a wide spectrum of themes that blend artistry with functionality. From tea sets, jewelry, scarves and dollsto interactive installations, the collection vividly reflects Chengdu’s innovative approach of combining cultural symbols with consumer experiences.

Highlights of the exhibition include the sparkling “Zhuge Liang’s Feather Fan and Silk Scarf Cup and Saucer Set,” which reinterprets the wisdom of the Three Kingdoms heritage with gilded crystal crafts-



Liu Jinhong, Director of China Cultural Center



Explore the ‘Chengdu Gifts’ Cultural and Creative Exhibition at the China Cultural Center in Kuwait, showcasing Tianfu culture through innovative art, traditional crafts, and contemporary design.



Photos by Mohammed Morsi

manship; the playful “Sichuan Opera Panda,” which merges the image of China’s national treasure with the artistry of Sichuan opera; the “Mysterious Ancient Shu Two-ear Mask Cup,” which incorporates elements from relics of the Jinsha archaeological site into modern design; and the “Jiaozi 1000” Commemorative Gift Box, inspired by the world’s earliest paper currency, symbolizing Chengdu’s thousand-year spirit of innovation. Each exhibit shines through the creative integration of China’s intangible cultural heritage with contemporary design, radiating the distinctive appeal of Tianfu culture.

The “Chengdu Gifts” Cultural and Creative Exhibition in Kuwait will run until October 17, 2025. Chengdu’s unique cultural creations will be a bridge to showcase the profound heritage of Tianfu culture and the dynamic creativity of contemporary Chengdu to audiences in Kuwait.

9-year-old from Kuwait excels in Toyota Dream Car Art Contest

ALSAYER Group announces Kuwait wins 2025 Toyota Dream Car Art Contest Finalist Award

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: ALSAYER Group is delighted to announce that Kamalika Manikandan, a 9-year-old, has won the “Best Finalist Award” in the World Art Contest held in Japan. The 18th (2025) Toyota Dream Car Art Contest (DCAC) gathered around 660,000 entries from 90 countries/regions, and they chose a total of 26 award recipients, with one of the best finalists hailing from Kuwait.

18th Toyota DCAC Kuwait National Contest selected 9 winners to represent the Toyota DCAC World Contest in Japan, and Kamalika’s Toyota Firewall Car is designed to protect cyber lives and online communities from scams and digital dangers. This car protects users from modern technology-related malicious activities and assists in preventing interruptions to their overall digital existence.

When presenting the Toyota DCAC Award Shield, Mr. Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer – CEO ALSAYER Group, congratulated the winner and praised her innovative ideas, emphasizing that AI and the digital sphere are increasingly intertwined with the everyday lives of individuals, and that automobiles hold deep personal significance for everyone. Such creative thoughts are always challenging, but Toyota and ALSAYER are committed to turning those aspirations into reality for an improved and enhanced lifestyle in the mobility industry, he remarked optimistically.



Kamalika Manikandan shines in 2025 Toyota Dream Car Art Contest.

Eng. Nehad Al-Haj Ali, Group Manager, Corporate Excellence Department, also expressed his pride in the achievement, stating: “Kamalika’s remarkable success is a true reflection of the creativity and imagination of the youth in Kuwait. At ALSAYER Group, we

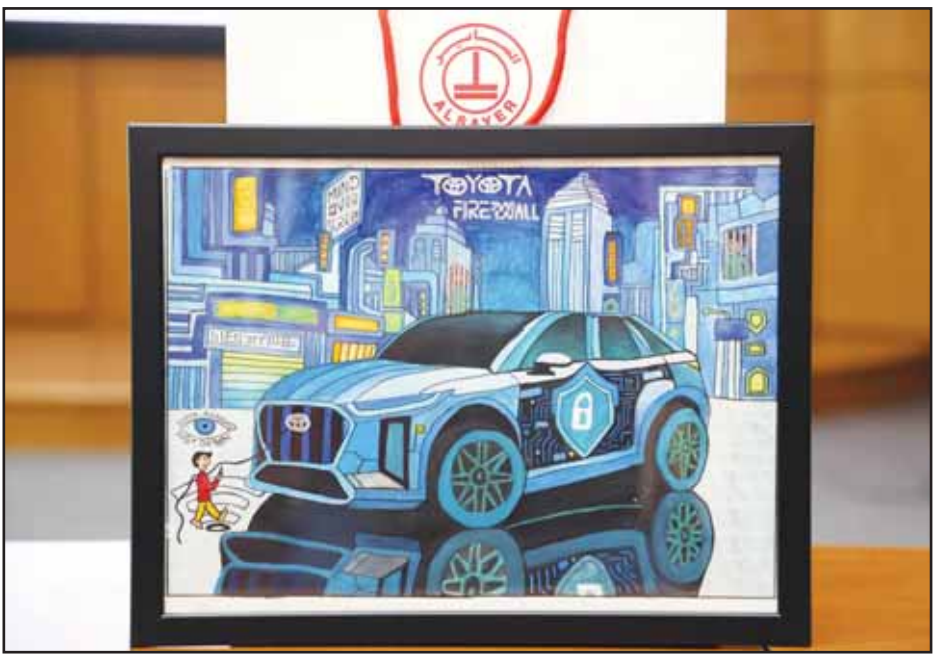
believe in empowering young minds to think beyond the present and envision a better tomorrow. This recognition on the global stage demonstrates that with encouragement and the right platforms, our children can inspire the world with innovative ideas that shape the future of

mobility and society.”

Launched in 2004, the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest invites children aged 15 and under to imagine and create artwork that depicts their vision of future mobility. Since its establishment, the contest has received approximately 10

million entries from 151 countries and regions. With a mission to “Produce Happiness for All”, Toyota is dedicated to fostering a society where everyone can dream of a brighter future and believes in the power of creativity as the driving force. The contest aims to in-

spire children, the leaders of tomorrow, to unleash their creativity and enjoy having a dream. We invite you to enjoy the award-winning works from the 18th (2025) World Contest, showcasing the creativity of children who dream of a bright future.



Event highlights unity, justice, and youth role on Independence Day

IMA Kuwait celebrates 78th Indian Independence Day across all units

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait commemorated the 78th Indian Independence Day with a series of vibrant Programs organized across its various units — Abbasiya, Abu Halifa, Salmiya, Fahaheel, English Unit, Youth Wing, Khaitan & Tamil Unit. The Programs brought together community members in large numbers to honor India’s Legacy of Freedom, reflect on its Values, and reaffirm the collective responsibility of building a Just and Inclusive Society.

Through Insightful Speeches, Cultural Performances, Spirited Participation and Youth-led Initiatives, the celebrations echoed IMA’s message that patriotism is not blind allegiance to any party or ideology but a conscious commitment to Truth, Compassion, Justice, and Unity beyond boundaries of Faith, Caste, or Race.

Abbasiya Unit

Abbasiya Unit hosted its program on 15 Aug Evening at Royal Deccan Palace Salmiya, bringing together Families, Youth, and Elders in a spirit of Solidarity. Inspiring talks by Esteemed Guest Speakers Mr Ram Kumar Nachupally, President-ASSP Kuwait Chapter Toastmasters Club, Mr Jugel Kishor & Keynote Speaker Mr Shamvel Parvez reflected on the Struggles and Sacrifices of India’s Freedom Fighters, reminding all that Independence carries the responsibility of safeguarding Justice and Unity. Cultural performances by Children added Color and highlighted India’s Pluralistic Heritage.

Abu Halifa Unit

On August 16 at Nizam Party Hall, Fahaheel, Abu Halifa Unit

hosted a remarkable gathering with Distinguished Guests: Mr. Venkata Siva Rao Kaduri, President-Life Again Kuwait & Convenor-United Telugu Forum; MrParthasarathiBardhan-President - Bengali Cultural Society of Kuwait, Mr-Lankesh Rajagonda, Academic Director-Barakah PU College and MrMohammad SamoilFalahi. Each speaker underlined the need for Justice, Ethics, and Compassion as the True Pillars of Nation Building. The program drew wide community participation, concluding with Cultural Items that celebrated India’s Diversity.

English Unit (EU)

On the same evening, English Unit held its celebration at Avanti Palace, Salmiya. Eminent Speakers Mr Sandeep Chabba, Ex Vice President of Kannada Koota, and Mr Faheem Shareef addressed the audience with thought-provoking Speeches on the role of Education, Ethical responsibility, and Interfaith Harmony in preserving the Spirit of Independence. The Event’s focus on dialogue and inclusivity deeply resonated with the attendees, particularly the younger generation.

Fahaheel & Mangaf Units

Fahaheel & Mangaf Units’ gathering at Souk Sabah on 15 Aug Evening, was marked by reflective talks that captured the True Essence of Freedom. Mr Asif Kamruddin Pathan’s talk emphasized the Civic duties that accompany Independence, while Mr Burhanuddin Shoaib reminded the audience of Gratitude and Humility as Core Values of a Free Society. The Program brought the audience into contemplation of the Values that sus-



Photos during the event.

tain Freedom — Duty, Integrity, and Gratitude — and concluded with a Communal Dinner fostering fraternity among participants.

Salmiya Units

Salmiya Units celebrated Independence Day on August 16 at

Royal Deccan Palace, Salmiya. Mr Parvez Hanif who eloquently reminded participants that independence is not only freedom from foreign rule but also freedom in Thought, Conscience, and Action delivered the Keynote Address. He stressed that India’s Strength lies in its Unity in Diversity and called on the Community to preserve this Priceless Heritage. The Event included lively Cultural Performances, with active involvement of Children and Families.

Youth Wing (YW)

Youth Wing organized its dynamic and engaging program on August 15 at Rajdhani Palace Khaitan. The Eventful Program centered on the role of Youth as Custodians of Independence. Through Interactive Discussions, Creative Performances, and Motivational Addresses, the program emphasized that Young Indians must carry forward the legacy of Freedom by committing themselves to Truth, Knowledge, Service, and Progressive Patriotism.

Khaitan Unit

On Friday, August 15, the Khaitan Unit celebrated Independence Day at 5:00 PM with the theme “Nation-Building through Justice, Education, and Ethics.” The event, widely attended by community members, reflected on independence as a moral responsibility to cultivate justice and compassion. The evening embodied unity in diversity, with attendees recommitting themselves to the values of freedom.

Tamil Unit Brotherhood Initiative

On India’s 78th Independence Day, brothers of IMA Tamil Unit extended the celebrations beyond

formal venues by visiting the Mah-bulla Area. They engaged with Tamil Fellow Citizens, sharing Sweets, exchanging Warm Greetings, and celebrating the Spirit of Unity and National Pride. During the interaction, Participants reflected on the current state of independent India and reaffirmed their shared commitment to preserving the hard-earned Freedom. The discussions underscored the enduring importance of Brotherhood and collective responsibility in safeguarding the Nation’s Democratic Values.

A Collective Spirit of Freedom

The Series of Events across Kuwait conveyed one Resounding Message: True Independence is more than Political Freedom; It is the liberation of Thought, Conscience, and Spirit. The IMA Kuwait celebrations inspired Indians Abroad to recommit to building a Society where Unity, Justice, and Compassion prevail, ensuring that India remains truly Free — not only in its Borders, but in the hearts of its People.

IMA Kuwait, an Indian socio-religious organization, operates under the patronage of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs Kuwait. It focuses on providing a platform for the spiritual and social enhancement of expatriates living in Kuwait through various programs and social gatherings. It looks forward to organizing more beneficial programs in the future, catering to the needs of the expatriate community, especially the Indian diaspora.

For updates and upcoming programs, follow IMA Kuwait on social media or visit www.imakuwait.org.

Guadagnino's film prompts tough questions on feminism

Roberts' 'After the Hunt' stirs #MeToo debate at Venice

VENICE, Italy, Aug 30, (AP): Julia Roberts and filmmaker Luca Guadagnino faced pointed questions about complicity and undermining the feminist movement at a news conference for "After the Hunt" on Friday at the Venice Film Festival.

The film, set in the world of higher education where Roberts plays a beloved philosophy professor, revolves around an accusation of misconduct. Her mentee, played by Ayo Edebiri, accuses her friend and colleague, played by Andrew Garfield, of crossing the line. Nora Garrett's screenplay does not offer easy or simple resolutions.

One reporter asked Roberts if she thought the film undermines the feminist movement and progress of the #MeToo movement.

"I don't necessarily think it revives an old argument of women being pitted against one another," Roberts said.

"After the Hunt" screened Thursday night for press and industry before it premiered Friday evening and quickly sparked debate around the festival, though most everyone seemed to agree about Roberts' outstanding performance. It received a six minute ovation after its premiere.

For Roberts, who joked that she loved "the softball questions early in the morning," the point is the conversations the film provokes. The tagline on the poster even reads "not everything is supposed to make you feel comfortable."

"That's how we wanted it to feel," Roberts

said. "Everyone comes out with all these different feelings and emotions and points of views. And you realize what you believe in strongly and what your convictions are because we stir it all up for you. So, you're welcome."

Guadagnino jumped in as well, saying, "It's how we see the clash of truths. It's not about making a manifesto to revive old fashioned values."

Roberts added that they're not making statements with "After the Hunt." Rather, she likes to think of it like a camera dropped out of the sky to capture these characters in this thorny moment where everyone seems to be lying to themselves and to others.

"We're kind of losing the art of conversation in humanity right now," Roberts said. "If making this movie does anything, getting everyone to talk to each other is the most exciting thing we could accomplish."

The film, which Amazon MGM Studios will release in North American theaters on Oct. 10, also uses a familiar-looking font for its opening credits: The Windsor-style typeface made famous by Woody Allen in some of his most famous films, from "Annie Hall" to "Crimes and Misdemeanors." When asked why he chose this, Guadagnino said the crass answer is, "Why not?"

Guadagnino did elaborate on this choice, saying that when he and his collaborators were putting "After the Hunt" together, they couldn't stop

thinking about how linked it felt to the "great oeuvre of Woody Allen" between the years of 1985 and 1991.

"I felt it was an interesting nod to thinking of an artist who has been in a way facing some sort of problems about his being and what is our responsibility of working with an artist we love," he said.

The film is not playing in the main competition at the festival, so it won't be up for any awards on Sept. 6, but it's a return to a familiar site for Guadagnino. Last year he brought "Queer," with Daniel Craig, and several years ago had "Bones & All," with Timothée Chalamet. His tennis love triangle film "Challengers," with Zendaya, was supposed to open Venice in 2023 but the Hollywood strikes upended much of that year's festival and it was pulled.

Roberts is not a Venice newcomer either, having worked in the city in the past, but this does mark her first time at the festival.

"It's so magical," Roberts said of the city, though this trip, she said "I have not done anything outside of work."

Three days in, the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival is in full swing with many major premieres to come including Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein," Benny Safdie's "The Smashing Machine" and Kathryn Bigelow's "A House of Dynamite."



Julia Roberts poses for photographers on the red carpet for the film 'After the Hunt' during the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Friday, Aug. 29. (AP)

Variety

VENICE, Italy: Oscar Isaac and Jacob Elordi were expected at the Venice Film Festival Saturday for the world premiere of Guillermo del Toro's "Frankenstein," the kickoff to what's expected to be the film's major awards season push.

Isaac plays Victor Frankenstein and Elordi is the monster in this adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic novel, which del Toro has been dreaming about making for decades.

"It's the movie that I've been in training for 30 years to do," del Toro told The Associated Press recently.

There may be some disruption outside of the red carpet, however, as an anti-war march is planned to take place that evening, ending near the festival. Organizers hope to turn the spotlight to Gaza.

The last time del Toro was at Venice was with "The Shape of Water" in 2017, which won the festival's top prize that year before going on to pick up the best picture and best director Oscar in 2018. Netflix does not yet have a best picture winner in their arsenal, but is betting big on "Frankenstein." Del Toro's last film, "Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio," won the streamer its first best animated film Oscar.

Like "The Shape of Water," "Frankenstein" is up for the big awards at Venice, where it will be competing with films like Yorgos Lanthimos's "Bugonia."

Kathryn Bigelow's "A House of Dynamite," Park Chan-wook's "No Other Choice" and Kaouther Ben Hania's "The Voice of Hind Rajab." Winners will be announced by the Alexander Payne-led jury on Sept. 6. (AP)

NEW YORK: Real American Freestyle wrestling has teamed up with World Wrestling Entertainment for a video tribute to late commissioner Hulk Hogan that was to air as part of its inaugural event Saturday.

Hogan, credited for bringing what then was the World Wrestling Federation into the mainstream in the 1980s, died on July 24 at age 71. The event at the Wolstein Center in Cleveland will be streamed on FOX Nation.

Just months earlier, Hogan spoke excitedly with The Associated Press about his new venture. Chad Bronstein, co-founder and CEO of RAF, said Hogan's influence will remain a significant part of the company.

"He was super proud," Bronstein said. "He's been a great friend to me, mentor, business partner. And so his voice will be very - this league will come up with unique ways to make it a part of it."

RAF and WWE have a cordial relationship. Real American Beer, the title sponsor for RAF, is 10% owned by WWE, and Bronstein is the co-founder.

"We're not competing with them," Bronstein said. "They're very supportive. There's no competition because they're two totally different groups. The same with the UFC -- we're not competing."

American Olympic gold medalist Kurt Angle, one of the WWE's biggest stars in the early 2000s, will provide commentary. Bronstein said Hogan suggested getting Angle involved. Former WWE manager Jimmy Hart and ex-world champion John Layfield also will be involved in Saturday's show. (AP)

Film

Clooney makes glamorous 'Jay Kelly' Venice premiere

Stone's 'Bugonia' isn't a dystopia, it's real

VENICE, Italy, Aug 30, (AP): In the new Yorgos Lanthimos film "Bugonia," a disturbed, conspiracy obsessed man kidnaps the head of a pharmaceutical company and tortures her in an attempt to save humanity. The kidnapper, played by Jesse Plemons, believes his hostage, played by Emma Stone, is an alien. While the situation is heightened, Lanthimos believes that the film isn't so far-fetched.

"Not much of the dystopia in this film is very fictional," Yorgos said Thursday at the Venice Film Festival. "A lot of it is very reflective of the real world."

"Bugonia" had its world premiere Thursday evening at the prestigious festival, where it's in competition for the top prize, the Golden Lion. Focus Features is releasing the film in North American theaters on Oct. 24.

The film is a remake of the 2003 Korean film "Save the Green Planet!," and blends elements of science fiction, horror and comedy. Plemons' character is obsessed with the idea that Stone is one of an alien species that has infiltrated Earth with plans to destroy it. The adaptation, written by Will Tracy, has been in development for several years, with Ari Aster involved before Lanthimos came on board to direct.

Impact

"I have never before been given a script that felt so ready to be made," Lanthimos said. "I just thought it was so funny and entertaining but also extremely impactful and made you really think about things deeply. I immediately was interested in making it. It felt very relevant then and that was three years ago and it feels even more relevant now."

This is Stone's fourth time working with Lanthimos and Plemons' second. Both recently appeared in the film "Kinds of Kindness." Lanthimos last had a film at Venice in 2023, when "Poor Things" won the Golden Lion prize. It went on to win



Emma Stone poses for photographers on the red carpet for the film 'Bugonia' during the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Thursday, Aug. 28. (AP)

several Oscars including best actress for Stone.

"I love the material he's drawn to and the worlds he wants to explore," Stone said. She added that although it sounds cliché, having familiar cast and crew around feels like family and a "really comforting and safe environment to explore."

Part of the role required shaving her head, which she said was the "easiest thing in the world." Stone said she especially loved how "funny and (expletive) up and alive" the script was, and how it reflected the world.

Over the course of developing the script and making the film, Lanthimos said its themes only became more relevant.

"Humanity is facing a reckoning very soon," Lanthimos said. "People need to choose the right path in many ways otherwise I don't know how much time we have with everything that's happening in the world



Noemi Brando poses for photographers on the red carpet during the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Friday, Aug. 29. (AP)



Monica Barbaro poses for photographers on the red carpet during the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Friday, Aug. 29. (AP)

with technology, with AI, with wars ... climate change."

He added that he hopes his film "will trigger people to think about what's happening today all over the world."

In "Jay Kelly," George Clooney plays a very George Clooney-esque movie star on a self-reflective journey through Europe. The film, which premiered Thursday night at the Venice Film Festival, explores heady questions about finding oneself while also poking fun at the business of being a major celebrity in the world and all the people on their payroll around them.

Hours before the premiere, Clooney was absent from the news

conference with his castmates due to a "bad sinus infection," the moderator explained. Yet he rallied for the red carpet, bedecked in a classic tuxedo with his wife Amal by his side, looking the part of A-list movie star.

His co-star Laura Dern earlier praised his "amazing, raw, true performance" in the film, which is in competition for the festival's top awards.

The meta-qualities of "Jay Kelly" led to some self-reflection from the large ensemble cast, including Adam Sandler, who plays Jay's manager, Dern, who takes on the role of publicist, and Billy Crudup, as the most talented guy in his acting class who didn't make it big.

"I've always appreciated my manager, my agent, my publicist," Sandler said. "I know how hard they work and how difficult it is to hear my ups and downs in life and back me up no matter what. ... I could get loud at times."

History

"Jay Kelly" was directed by Noah Baumbach, who cowrote with actor Emily Mortimer. He'd always wanted to work with Clooney and when they'd hit on the idea for this film, his was the name that came to mind.

"We started to just say, 'this will be George,'" Baumbach said. "We all, watching it, have a history with George just like the people in the movie have a history with Jay."

Sandler said it was a gift to be working with Baumbach again, after they collaborated on the 2017 film "The Meyerowitz Stories."

"I could not be more proud," Sandler said. "You lock in, you're invested, your heart gets broken, you get relief, you get moments of tension. He knows how to do everything and then he finds places to make you laugh."

Baumbach said Sandler is a very different breed of movie star from Jay Kelly, who has ostracized nearly everyone in his life from the people on his payroll to his family. He wanted Sandler's character Ron to reflect that balance that he admires.

"Adam really does have such grace and such loyalty and generosity and heart," Baumbach said. "He really has found a way to successfully sort of navigate this whole thing and do it so beautifully."

Baumbach was at the Venice Film Festival recently with his Don DeLillo adaptation "White Noise." 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," debuting later in the festival.

China's summer box office tops 2024, driven by domestic hits

BEIJING, Aug 30, (Xinhua): China's summer movie season is ending on a strong note as a late surge of domestic hits lifted total box office receipts above last year's haul, signaling renewed momentum in the world's second-largest film market.

According to data from ticketing platform Maoyan, box office earnings for the summer moviegoing season, running from June 1 through Aug. 31, had reached 11.64 billion yuan (about 1.64 billion U.S. dollars) by Friday evening, overtaking the 2024 summer total. Analysts project the final figure will top 12 billion yuan once the weekend's screenings join the count.

The five top-grossing titles of the summer are "Dead to Rights," a film about the 1937 Nanjing Massacre during World War II;

"Nobody," a spinoff of the acclaimed "Yao-Chinese Folktales" animation series; "The Shadow's Edge," a crime action flick starring Jackie Chan; "The Lychee Road," a bittersweet drama set during the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and starring comedian Da Peng; and Universal's "Jurassic World Rebirth."

"The first half of the summer was fairly flat, with the market showing limited heat," said Lai Li, a Maoyan analyst. "But the landscape shifted in the second half, as a wave of domestic films began to take hold."

He explained to Xinhua that major releases such as "The Lychee Road," "Dead to Rights" and "Nobody" drove the summer box office to heat up. By the time the season began winding down, the total box office had surpassed last

year's summer figure, achieving a result that can be seen as "fairly satisfactory."

Leading the charge is "Dead to Rights," which has earned over 2.8 billion yuan since its July 25 release, now ranking as the year's third-highest grossing film in China. The film holds a rating of 8.7 out of 10 -- the highest among all this year's summer releases -- on review platform Douban.

Drawing on verified historical photographs, the story depicts a group of Nanjing residents who hide inside a photography studio and are compelled to help a Japanese military photographer develop his film. When they realize the negatives reveal damning evidence of atrocities across the city, they secretly keep possession of them and smuggle the images to the

outside world.

Widely praised for its stark restraint and emotional force, this cinematic depiction of a traumatic chapter in China's history has been hailed by renowned director Feng Xiaoning as "a new high point" for Chinese cinema. "When the film ended, the entire audience remained seated, unmoving, until the credits had fully rolled. Everyone was lost in deep thought," he said, sharing his reaction to the film in a widely circulated video. "I believe every Chinese person -- and everyone in the world with a conscience -- will be shaken by this film."

Coming in second is "Nobody," a hand-drawn animated feature that has grossed nearly 1.4 billion yuan since its Aug. 2 release, setting a new record for 2D animation in China.

Activists call for an end to war

Press insignia becomes a rallying cry for peace in Gaza

NAZARETH, Israel, Aug 30, (AP): In the streets of Nazareth, Israeli and Palestinian activists wore stickers replicating the ‘Press’ insignia emblazoned on flak jackets and other clothing worn by journalists as they rallied for peace in Gaza. Their message: Journalism is not a crime.

A throng of people wearing blue-and-white ‘Press’ stickers - used to identify journalists in dangerous areas - gathered in the Israeli town on Friday to call for an end to the war in Gaza, which has killed nearly 200 journalists among tens of thousands of others. Some held photos of Palestinian journalists killed.

“Don’t assassinate the truth,” read a banner the protesters held. Some banged on empty pots to symbolize hunger in the Gaza Strip and protest the killing of journalists.

Mariam Dagga, a 33-year-old who freelanced for The Associated Press, was among the war’s victims. She and four other reporters were killed earlier this week when Israeli forces struck Nasser Hospital in

the Gaza town of Khan Younis, along with 17 other people.

Dagga was among a group of journalists who regularly based themselves at the hospital during the war, which began on Oct. 7, 2023, when an attack by Hamas militants inside Israel claimed the lives of 1,200 people and resulted in 251 people being held hostage. Israel’s retaliatory military operation in Gaza has so far killed more than 63,000 people, according to the territory’s health ministry.

Mariam sought to bring to the world the travails of ordinary Palestinians displaced by the war, as well as the work of doctors and nurses treating the wounded or caring for malnourished children.

The Israeli military said it targeted what it believed was a Hamas surveillance camera in the hospital attack, without providing evidence, and that the journalists weren’t the targets. The prime minister called the attack a “mishap.”

All that doesn’t mean much for Mariam’s father,

Riyad, sitting in his tent in Khan Younis, nearly 180kilometers (111 miles) away from Nazareth. Por-ing over the last photos taken by his daughter, he recalled the utter shock he felt when he heard what happened.

“I couldn’t walk. And I didn’t know what was around me when I heard the news,” he told the AP. “The person who told me the news said that Mariam was martyred, and I collapsed,” he said, his eyes well-ing with tears as he watched a video of his daughter and him.

Mariam’s sister, Nada, was with her at the hospi-tal when she was killed. Nada recalled vividly the last look the two sisters exchanged when the second of two rounds of strikes hit the hospital’s stairwell, where Mariam was killed.

“Mariam, my sister, was on the stairs filming. I watched her and looked at her,” Nada said. “The last look between me and her. She looked at me and smiled.”



Palestinian and Israeli activists and journalists take part in a protest against the killing of Palestinian journalists in the Gaza Strip, as they gather in Nazareth, Israel, Friday, Aug. 29. (AP)

Variety

MOSCOW: Russian composer **Rodion Shchedrin**, who created the celebrated ballets “Anna Karenina” and the “Carmen Suite,” has died in Germany at age of 92, Moscow’s Bolshoi Theater said Friday.

He and his wife of 57 years, legendary ballerina Maya Plisetskaya, dominated the Soviet and Russian cultural scene for the latter part of the last century. She died in 2015.



Shchedrin’s work ranged from choral music and concertos to opera and ballet, blending Russian folk influences, classical traditions and avant-garde technique.

His 1972 ballet “Anna Karenina” remains a staple for major theaters around the world.

The Bolshoi Theater, where Shchedrin worked for many years, praised him in a statement for his “priceless creative legacy.”

“This is a huge tragedy and an irreparable loss for the entire world of art,” it said.

Born into a family of musicians in Moscow in 1932, Shchedrin graduated from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory.

He married Plisetskaya in 1958, writing “The Seagull” and “The Lady with the Dog,” based on the works of Anton Chekhov, as well as “Anna Karenina” for her.

Neither escaped controversy in the Soviet era. Plisetskaya in particular was watched by the KGB and banned from traveling abroad for a time. (AP)

Shchedrin’s work ranged from choral music and concertos to opera and ballet, blending Russian folk influences, classical traditions and avant-garde technique.

Television



This image released by Amazon Prime shows Taylor Kitsch, (left), and Chris Pratt in a scene from ‘The Terminal List: Dark Wolf.’ (AP)

‘The Terminal List’ universe expands with prequel

Kitsch’s Navy SEAL journey in ‘Dark Wolf’

LOS ANGELES, Aug 30, (AP): Taylor Kitsch’s character ends up a villain in 2022’s Chris Pratt-led series, “The Terminal List,” and in a new series, viewers learn how he got that way.

“The Terminal List: Dark Wolf,” now streaming on Prime Video, is set about five years before the original show. Kitsch plays Ben Edwards, a Navy SEAL deployed to Iraq who is assigned to train local soldiers. He feels a deep loyalty to his comrades but begins to question some of the decisions made above him.

“I take the utmost pride to be authentic and rooted in Ben,” Kitsch said in a recent interview, “but there’s a dark side to service.”

Prime Video is invested in “The Terminal List” universe. Production is underway on a second season starring Pratt and there are plans for more “Dark Wolf” - and perhaps standalone films. The franchise is based on novels by former SEAL Jack Carr, who is also a creator and executive producer on its shows.

“Hopefully we can keep swinging,” said Pratt who describes Carr as “a workhorse” with “no shortage of source material.”

Kitsch was intrigued to dive back in when he heard Carr and “Terminal List” co-creator and showrunner David DiGilio wanted to do more with his character.

“Anytime you get a call where it’s like, ‘Hey, we would love to do a full season and go way deeper into the psyche of the character you built, I mean of course, I was all ears,” said Kitsch.

The first three episodes of “The Terminal List: Dark Wolf” are now streaming on Prime Video. A new episode will drop weekly on Wednesdays. The finale streams Sept. 24.

In “The Terminal List,” Pratt plays James Reese, a Navy SEALs Lieutenant Commander who goes on a quest for vengeance after his platoon is ambushed.

“I love playing James Reese,” said Pratt. “But also I think James Reese is reaching that echelon of like a Jack Reacher or a Jack Ryan. There can be multiple iterations of this character over time. He now lives in the ethos of one of the greatest American badass heroes.”

Besides Kitsch and Pratt, the show also features Luke Hemsworth and Tom Hopper.

“What’s so great about an origin story is we see the doors that these guys walk through and where it takes them,” said Hopper. “I think about that in my life, I look back on my life and go, ‘Oh, if I hadn’t walked through that door, then that would never have happened. I wouldn’t have met that person. It wouldn’t have led me there.”

“The Terminal List” employed ac-

tual military veterans to work in roles like advisors and as background actors. They were also employed for “Dark Wolf.” Hemsworth said their presence was an incentive to make something they would be proud of.

“Everyone, particularly us as actors, feel a great weight and responsibility to make sure that it’s done very well.”

Also:

NEW YORK: ESPN has demoted basketball analyst **Doris Burke** from its lead broadcast team just months after she called her second NBA Finals.

In announcing its NBA broadcast plans for the upcoming season, ESPN said Thursday that **Tim Legler** would be joining its lead team of play-play-play announcer **Mike Breen**, analyst **Richard Jefferson** and reporter **Lisa Salters**. It also said that team would also be calling next June’s NBA Finals on ABC, along with the conference finals and other high-profile games during the playoffs and regular season.

The Athletic first reported Burke’s move out of her NBA Finals role.

ESPN did announce a multi-year contract extension for Burke, who will work with play-by-play voice **Dave Pasch** next season calling games throughout the regular season and playoffs. With this new deal, Burke’s tenure at ESPN will extend more than 35 years.



Archaeologists discover an ancient city dating back around 5,000 years in Iraq’s Kurdistan region. KUNA photo

Archaeologists unearth ancient city in Iraq’s Kurdistan

A team of archeologists managed to excavate an ancient city dating back to the Hellenistic Age in Dohuk governorate, Kurdistan Region, northwest Iraq.

The city, dating from 300 BC, includes a 40-tomb cemetery with clay coffins, Dohuk Antiquities and Heritage Directorate said in a press release on Friday.

It has been discovered as part of the excavations that were ramped up in the area after the waters of Al-Mosul Dam Lake receded this year, according to the

statement.

Head of the Directorate Dr. Bekas Brifkani said the archaeological city is located near Khanke town in Semel district.

The city, which was lively for 5,000 years, includes relics from the Bronze, Mitanni, Ashouri, Hellenistic and Islamic ages, he pointed.

The unearthed relics will be sent to Duhok museum for conservation and study, Dr. Brifkani added. (KUNA)

Prized collection

Del Toro’s ‘Bleak House’ items go up for auction

SANTA MONICA, Calif., Aug 30, (AP): Guillermo del Toro is an acclaimed master of horror and has built a huge memorabilia collection throughout his decades-long career. A close brush with California’s devastating wildfires has led him to do what was once unthinkable - auction some of the 5,000 items in his prized collection.

The Mexican-born filmmaker is auctioning hundreds of items ranging from works by comic luminaries like Jack Kirby and Richard Corben to exclusive items from his own classics like “Cronos” and “Hellboy.”

Online bidding opened Thursday for the Sept. 26 auction, which is the first of a three-part series with Heritage Auctions.

“Whoever buys or gets it is going to love it as much,” del Toro said while showing off some of the items up for sale to The Associated Press during a tour of his so-called Bleak House. “That’s all you can do with your kids - sort of plan for them to have a good life after you.”

Here’s a look at the pieces del Toro says he struggled the most to let go of.

When del Toro’s Bleak Houses were endangered by wildfires, he focused on securing just a few items: his diaries, some of his awards - and Bernie Wrightson’s “Frankenstein” illustrations.

The collector is auctioning two original art pieces from the 50 pen-and-ink drawings that Wrightson created for the 1983 illustrated version of Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein.”

The possibility of those items perishing in a fire “weigh so heavily on me, because that’s his masterpiece,” del Toro said.

“Frankenstein” marked the start of del Toro’s lifelong passion for monsters. The filmmaker adapted the classic horror story for Netflix and it will arrive on the streaming platform in November.

One of Wrightson’s pieces, with a starting bid of \$200,000, depicts the creature hiding near a stream. The other, starting at \$100,000, portrays Victor Frankenstein’s pursuit of the creature.

“My eyes are going to start

twitching,” he said. “Those two were pretty brutal.”

There was only one item that Mike Mignola - a celebrated comic book writer and del Toro’s long-time friend - didn’t know was a part of the Bleak House collection. It happened to be one of his own.

Del Toro is parting with an original pinup artwork that Mignola drew in the late 1980s for “Hellraiser #2.” Clive Barker’s comic series, before they were adapted into movies in the 1990s.

The director said he was a fan of the “Hellraiser” comics, and this particular piece was the precursor that led to Hellboy, a superhero that Mignola created in the 1990s. Del Toro later wrote and directed the “Hellboy” movies.

The item, with a starting bid of \$40,000, is described in the auction catalog as “one of the greatest artworks” in del Toro’s collection. It was also one that took the longest to secure, he said.

“There’s a few items that are very hard to find. The Hellraiser cover was exceedingly hard.”

Before the reality of budget constraints set in, the film sets for the 2006 dark fantasy “Pan’s Labyrinth” spread much wider in the minds of del Toro and the illustrators he works with.

He has long kept a tight hold on this art. Now, more than a dozen preproduction art pieces, which have never been up for sale, will be available to the wider public.

The mill compound, which was the heart of the dark fairy tale, for instance, existed on a much larger scale on paper than what made it on screen. That concept sketch drawn by Raúl Monge - one of del Toro’s favorites - has a starting bid of \$6,000.

Del Toro had a clear image in mind when developing Santi, the haunting ghost of a murdered orphan that anchors his 2001 horror “The Devil’s Backbone.” He envisioned the ghost’s skull to be cracked like broken porcelain, with haunting eyes and ashen skin, according to the auction catalog.

The production makeup paint master that helped bring his vision to life is being auctioned with a starting bid of \$6,000.



Guillermo del Toro poses for a portrait on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, at his ‘Bleak House’ in Santa Monica, Calif. (AP)

Museum needs urgent repairs

Van Gogh Museum may close without government funding

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Aug 30, (AP): The Amsterdam museum that displays a priceless collection of works by one of the world’s most popular artists, Vincent van Gogh, may have to close if the Dutch government doesn’t help foot the bill for major repairs to its aging building, the museum’s director said Thursday.

Since its opening in 1973, nearly 57 million visitors have passed through the Van Gogh Museum to gaze at iconic works including one of his paintings of a vase of sunflowers as well as “Almond Blossom,” “The Potato Eaters” and a colorful depiction of his bedroom in the French town of Arles.

But Director Emilie Gordenker says the original building, which is owned by the Dutch state, is in such poor condition it needs urgent and extensive repairs to keep its priceless collection and visitors safe.

“If we don’t address the major maintenance that needs to happen, we will have to close,” she told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. The New York Times first reported on her concerns on Wednesday.

She said the 50-year-old building

needs “major maintenance,” and two years of talks with the government have not resolved a dispute about how to pay for repairs expected to start in 2028, last three years and cost 104 million euros (\$121 million).

“It’s now getting very urgent,” she said. She said that during the renovation, the museum would be partly closed and would therefore earn less from ticket sales. “The only thing we’re asking them to do is to help us finance the basic maintenance,” she said.

The nearby Rijksmuseum shut down for years for a largescale renovation, but Gordenker says that kind of major facelift is not what the Van Gogh Museum is appealing for.

Among other things, urgent repairs are needed for air conditioning, elevators, even the sewage system.

“It’s not the fun, sexy, let’s build a new wing stuff,” she said.

In a written reaction, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science said that the museum receives an annual subsidy “sufficient to carry out the necessary maintenance. This position is based on extensive expert research commissioned by the Ministry.”

O'Neill faces uphill battle with vaccine policy debate

Trump’s new CDC chief: A health insider with a libertarian streak

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (AP): Jim O’Neill, a former investor, critic of health regulations and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s deputy, is taking control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention following a tumultuous week in which the agency’s director was forced out.

O’Neill was picked by President Donald Trump to be the CDC’s interim director, supplanting Susan Monarez, a long-time government scientist.

Monarez had been the CDC director for less than a month. Her lawyers said she refused “to rubber-stamp unscientific, reckless directives and fire dedicated health experts.”

O’Neill takes over an agency that has been rocked by firings, resignations and efforts by Kennedy to reshape the nation’s vaccine policies to match his long-standing suspicions about the safety and effectiveness of long-established shots.

O’Neill said Friday afternoon in a social media post that he looked forward to working with CDC staff and “announcing additions to the senior leadership in the weeks ahead.” He added that he would continue to serve as HHS deputy.

A former associate of billionaire tech entrepreneur Peter Thiel, O’Neill previously helped run one of Thiel’s investment funds and later managed several of his other projects. Those included a nonprofit working to develop manmade islands that would float outside U.S. territory, allowing them to experiment with new forms of government.

He has no training in medicine or health care and holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in humanities.

O’Neill has kept a markedly lower profile than Trump’s other top health officials, all of whom joined the administration as Washington outsiders. He’s also the only one with experience working at HHS, where he served for six years under President George W. Bush.

Those who know him say he’ll likely be tasked with try-

ing to calm the situation at CDC - though it’s unclear what, if any, independence he’ll have from Kennedy.

“Jim O’Neill is a health care policy professional and I don’t think anybody can accuse him of being an RFK Jr. sock puppet,” said Peter Pitts, a former FDA official under Bush. “The question becomes whether the role of CDC director becomes a strictly paper tiger position, where the person only does what they’re told to by the secretary.”

O’Neill is not closely associated with Kennedy’s “Make America Healthy Again” movement and its efforts against food dyes, fluoride and ultraprocessed foods.

He was also not a major critic of public health measures during the pandemic, unlike Food and Drug Administration chief Marty Makary and other several Trump officials. Although O’Neill did use social media to criticize FDA efforts to stop the prescribing of unproven treatments for COVID-19, including the anti-parasite drug ivermectin.

O’Neill has long-standing ties to the libertarian wing of the Republican Party, including Thiel, one of Trump’s leading supporters from Silicon Valley. Like Thiel, O’Neill has expressed disdain for many parts of the federal bureaucracy, saying it hinders advances in medicine, technology and other areas.

During Trump’s first term, O’Neill was vetted as a possible choice to lead the FDA, although his past statements about the agency raised alarms among pharmaceutical and medical technology executives.

In particular, O’Neill proposed doing away with FDA’s 60-year-old mandate of assuring new drugs are both safe and effective in treating disease. In a 2014 speech, O’Neill suggested drug effectiveness could be established after medicines hit the market.

Trump ultimately nominated Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a former FDA official and supporter of the agency’s regulatory ap-



In this photo provided by the Department of Health and Human Secretary, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., (right), conducts the swearing-in ceremony of Jim O’Neill as the Department’s Deputy Secretary, June 9, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

proach, as commissioner.

After being nominated to the HHS post, O’Neill voiced his support for the federal government’s traditional system for overseeing vaccines - including the role of the CDC - while refusing to criticize Kennedy’s views on the topic.

“I support CDC’s recommendations for vaccines,” O’Neill told Louisiana Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy at a confirmation hearing in June. “I think that’s a central role that CDC has. It’s mandated in law.”

In follow-up questions, Democrat Ron Wyden pressed O’Neill on statements by Kennedy downplaying the safety

and effectiveness of vaccines to prevent measles and other diseases.

“Secretary Kennedy has not made it difficult nor discouraged people from taking vaccines,” O’Neill responded.

Within weeks, O’Neill could be asked to sign off on new recommendations from a CDC panel that Kennedy has reshaped with vaccine skeptics. The group is scheduled to meet next month to review vaccinations for measles, hepatitis and other conditions that have long been established on the government immunization schedule for children.

Traditionally, the CDC director signs off on recommendations from the panel. But Monarez was ousted after, among other things, she refused to automatically sign off the committee’s recommendations, according to Dr. Richard Besser, a former CDC acting director who spoke to her.

As an acting official, federal law limits O’Neill to no more than 210 days heading the agency before he must step aside or be formally nominated to the post.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, who served twice as acting CDC director, says there are essentially no limits on the powers of acting agency chiefs, beyond the time constraints.

“I was told, ‘You’re the director. Do what you need to do,’” Schuchat said.

Both of O’Neill’s roles at HHS and CDC are demanding, full-time jobs that would be extremely challenging for one person to do simultaneously, Schuchat said.

“But if the goal is to have an acting CDC director fulfill a predetermined decision about vaccines, it’s a different story,” Schuchat said.

It won’t help O’Neill that there was an exodus this week of four veteran CDC center directors, leaving the agency with few leaders who have a background in medicine, science or public health crisis management, she added.

Cholera alarm

India confirms bird flu cases

NEW DELHI, Aug. 30, (Xinhua): Authorities in Delhi have ordered the closure of the National Zoological Park to visitors starting Saturday after the confirmation of bird flu in two bird carcasses, officials said.

The authorities have also instructed officials at the zoo to follow the protocol for avian influenza.

Reports said that following the deaths of painted storks and black-necked ibises at the park, routine samples from the dead birds were sent to the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases on Aug. 27, where H5N1 was confirmed in two of the samples.

Bird flu, a highly infectious and severe respiratory disease in birds caused by the H5N1 influenza virus, can occasionally infect humans as well.



This undated photo released by the US Food and Drug Administration, shows a carton of large brown cage free ‘sunshine/omega-3 golden’ yolk eggs sourced from Country Eggs, LLC. (AP)

Salmonella sickens 95

UK to build mRNA facility for cancer, heart diseases

LONDON, Aug 30, (Agencies): The UK government has announced plans to build a new facility in Darlington to develop mRNA-based treatments for cancer, heart disease, and infectious illnesses.

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology stated that the UK Biofoundry will receive Pound 29.6 million (approximately 39.99 million dollars) in public funding to accelerate the development of advanced therapies.

Minister for Science Lord Patrick Vallance said mRNA technology offers promising solutions by reprogramming human cells to fight disease, calling the project a significant step in advancing the UK’s life sciences sector.

Health Minister Stephen Kinnock added that such treatments could yield faster and more precise outcomes for patients, thereby enhancing preparedness for future health threats.

Protein: Researchers in Australia have identified a key protein playing a central role in how cells manage and store fat, offering new insights for health research.

The study identifies a crucial protein, named CHP1, that acts as a central director in this process, which could help research into conditions related to abnormal fat storage, according to a statement released Friday by Australia’s University of New South Wales (UNSW).

“Understanding this process is a critical step towards developing new strategies to address a range of metabolic disorders like obesity and diabetes,” said the study’s lead author Guang Yang from the UNSW School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences.

Salmonella: At least 95 people in more than a dozen states have been sickened since January in an outbreak of salmonella poisoning tied to recalled eggs, federal health officials said Thursday.

Country Eggs LLC, of Lucerne Valley, California, has recalled large, brown cage-free “sunshine yolks” or “omega-3 golden yolks” eggs and production has been suspended. The eggs were sold in cartons bearing the brand names Nagatoshi Produce, Mishuo and Nijiya Markets. The cartons contain the code CA 7695 and sell-by dates of July 1 through Sept. 16.

The outbreak has sickened people in at least 14 states, with illnesses beginning between Jan. 7 and July 25, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Advances in medicine give women hope

Pregnancy in autoimmune disease: Early planning improves outcomes

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

By Kristen Demoruelle
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Only a few decades ago, a diagnosis of lupus could mean giving up the dream of having children. Women with systemic autoimmune diseases like lupus were warned that pregnancy was too risky - both for them and their unborn babies. Fast forward to today, and the story is remarkably different.

Thanks to scientific research and medical advances, pregnancy outcomes have greatly improved over the past several decades, and the outlook for pregnancy in people with autoimmune disease is more hopeful than ever.

However, pregnant women with autoimmune diseases still face a far higher likelihood of having serious complications, including preterm birth or even fetal loss. So while the outlook has improved, navigating pregnancy with these conditions still comes with a unique set of challenges and considerations. This is due to the medicines used to treat the disease, the effects of inflammation on the body and imbalances of the immune system, including some that researchers like me don’t yet fully understand.

I’m a rheumatologist and biomedical researcher with medical training and expertise in rheumatology and reproductive health. Rheumatology is a medical specialty that treats people with systemic autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, like the ones discussed in this article. We’re sometimes thought of as arthritis doctors, but systemic autoimmune diseases can involve the whole body, and we care for all of those effects.

I think it is essential that women with autoimmune diseases are equipped with a realistic understanding of their potential pregnancy journey - both the advances that have made motherhood more possible for them and the risks that still remain.

Systemic autoimmune diseases are chronic medical conditions in which the immune system, which normally protects the body from infections, mistakenly attacks the body’s own tissues. These conditions can include lupus, rheumatoid arthritis and antiphospholipid syndrome, to name a few.

Some autoimmune diseases attack only one part of the body. For instance, the thyroid is the only part of the body targeted in a disease called Hashimoto’s thyroiditis. But in systemic autoimmune diseases, the immune system can attack multiple parts of the body, like the skin, lungs and kidneys in those with lupus.

Autoimmune diseases disproportionately affect women. Lupus, for instance, occurs nine times more often in women than in men, and rheumatoid arthritis is three times more common in women. Since many women are diagnosed with these conditions in their 20s and 30s, when women are in their prime childbearing years, pregnancy can introduce new

and unexpected challenges to their health care.

Preeclampsia - a high blood pressure complication of pregnancy - preterm birth and stillbirth all occur at higher rates in women with autoimmune diseases. This is especially true for women with lupus and a condition called antiphospholipid syndrome. Women with these autoimmune disorders are five times more likely to experience these complications.

Autoimmune diseases are also linked to higher rates of miscarriage and postpartum depression.

Some women with lupus and a condition called Sjogren’s syndrome have an antibody in their blood that can cross the placenta and cause a rare but serious congenital heart condition. Studies have also found higher rates of autism spectrum disorders in women with autoimmune diseases.

Fortunately, thanks to advances in research and medicine, doctors and researchers like me now have helpful tools to assess a woman’s individual risk. This allows people with autoimmune diseases to better understand and manage their health before getting pregnant.

Pregnancy and the postpartum period can sometimes lead to remission, which is a time when inflammation and the disease are quiet, and sometimes lead to flares, or flare-ups, when inflammation increases and the disease is very active. Importantly, women who conceive while their autoimmune disease is quiet, rather than during a flare, have healthier pregnancies. By waiting for a time when one’s autoimmune disease is in remission, a woman can improve her chances of a healthy pregnancy.

Certain blood tests can also give clues about a person’s risk for pregnancy complications. For example, a positive test for lupus anticoagulant, a blood test that looks for certain proteins that can increase the risk of blood clots, can identify women at the highest risk for preeclampsia, preterm birth and fetal loss.

Some women also have antibodies that target proteins inside their cells, called Ro, which are often found in people with Sjogren’s syndrome. If a pregnant person has high levels of anti-Ro antibodies, they are at risk for a serious pregnancy complication called fetal heart block. The good news is that certain medications can lower these risks in women who have these antibodies.

Researchers and rheumatologists like me also better understand how medications affect pregnancy, in both harmful and helpful ways.

Several medications that are commonly used to treat autoimmune diseases can harm a developing baby or reduce fertility. If a pregnancy is being planned, these medications must be stopped ahead of time and replaced with pregnancy-safe medications.

In cases of unplanned pregnancy, stopping potentially harmful medications quickly can be critical. For those not planning pregnancy, using effective birth control is an important safeguard. Notably, contraception choices can also be influenced by a woman’s underlying autoimmune disease and should be discussed with the person’s rheumatologist or other specialists. (AP)

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Prop McKinley scores two tries

Six-try Canada crushes Wales in Pool B showdown

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 30, (AP): Canada overwhelmed Wales 42-0 with an impressive six-try display to move to the brink of the Women's Rugby World Cup quarterfinals.

If Scotland beats Fiji later, Canada and Scotland will advance from Pool B and confirm the elimination of Wales and Fiji.

The Canada front five was exceptional. They lost only two set-pieces - both lineout overthrows - and sent every Wales scrum in reverse. They also powered around Salford Community Stadium, a big reason Canada could reel off long phase plays and a 15-meter rolling maul try.

Prop McKinley Hunt scored two tries, her replacement Brittany Kassil one, and lock Sophie de Goede was the player of the match for 20 carries, 10 tackles and converting all six tries.

"We were very dominant in the set-piece, it was amazing to watch our girls dominate the scrums, and the lineout was still strong for us," Canada



Olivia Apps of Canada, left, fends off tackles during the Pool B match at the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup between Canada and Wales, in Manchester, England. (AP)

captain Alex Tessier told the BBC.

Wales responded to being embarrassed by Scotland last weekend with a heartening start, spending the

first 10 minutes around the Canada 22. But pride couldn't overcome power.

In the first half, Canada made six

visits to the Wales 22 and netted four grand tries in 15 minutes.

Hunt pounded two in, right wing Alysha Corrigan capped 12 phases, then left wing Asia Hogan-Rochester scored a great 70-meter try fending one tackler and hurdling another.

The second half became untidier as the benches were cleared and both sides were yellow-carded.

Canada No. 8 Gabrielle Senft had a 16-phase try ruled out because of a knock-on, but a review sent Wales counterpart Georgia Evans to the sin-bin for a head-high tackle.

With Evans gone, Wales conceded tries to flyhalf Taylor Perry after 11 phases and Kassil after the driving maul from 15 out.

Canada went to 14 women when prop Olivia DeMerchant was yellow-carded for a head-high tackle but Wales wasn't good enough to break the defense.

Canada earned an eighth straight win against Wales since 2007 and nilled the Welsh for the third time in that run.

Alcaraz powers into US Open '4th' round

Djokovic overcomes scare



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, returns a shot to Luciano Darderi, of Italy, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Friday in New York. (AP)

NEW YORK, Aug 30, (AP): Carlos Alcaraz was cruising along in the U.S. Open's third round, leading by a set and a break after taking 10 of the first 14 games in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Friday, when an awkward step while striking a forehand caused an issue with his right knee.

The No. 2-seeded Alcaraz, who won the first of his five Grand Slam titles at Flushing Meadows in 2022, got broken for the first time in the tournament, then took a medical timeout and had his leg massaged by a trainer. Problem solved: Alcaraz rolled through the rest of the match, never dropping another game, and beat No. 32 Luciano Darderi 6-2, 6-4, 6-0.

It was the first, brief hint of any trouble for the 22-year-old Alcaraz this week - well, other than the hair-cutting mistake by his brother that led to a shaved head.

He didn't let teasing from Frances Tiafoe about that bother him, and Alcaraz didn't seem too concerned about what went on with his knee against Darderi, a 23-year-old Italian who was making his debut as a seed at a major.

Other than that blip, his play was terrific in the 1-hour, 44-minute match.

He delivered 31 winners to just 12 unforced errors and won 70 of the 105 points that lasted four shots or fewer.

Alcaraz, who faces Arthur Rinderknech in the fourth round, improved his career Grand Slam record to 80-13. Only Boris Becker, Bjorn Borg and Rafael Nadal were younger - by a month or two - when they got their 80th match win at majors.

The 82nd-ranked Rinderknech reached the fourth round at a Slam for the first time by defeating Benjamin Bonzi 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2. Bonzi had won both of his first two matches in five sets, including in a wild one against 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev, who was fined \$42,500 by the tournament for his meltdown after play was delayed when a photographer wandered onto the court. Emma Raducanu's best run at Flushing Meadows since her 2021 trophy ended with a 6-1, 6-2 loss to No. 9 Elena Rybakina. Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka and 2024 runner-up Jessica Pegula advanced, while Taylor Townsend upset No. 5 Mirra Andreeva 7-5, 6-2; and Barbora Krejickova beat

No. 10 Emma Navarro in three sets. No. 4 Taylor Fritz won a late match but No. 6 Ben Shelton and No. 17 Frances Tiafoe were eliminated, leaving just two American men remaining.

Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic believes his tennis is still good enough to compete for a 25th Grand Slam title.

It's his body that has to show it can hold up.

Djokovic shook off a back problem early in the match to beat Cam Norrie on Friday night and, at 38, become the oldest man to reach the fourth round of the U.S. Open since Jimmy Connors was the same age in 1991.

Djokovic pulled away to win 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-2, 6-3, helped by hitting 18 aces in what he said was his best serving performance of a tournament in which he needed treatment for a blister on his big toe in the first round and for his back in the third.

"The wear and tear on the body all these years is taking a toll, and I'm aware of it, but I'm resisting it," Djokovic said. "I'm trying to do my best to still be out there competing with the young guys in the highest level."

The 24-time Grand Slam champion seemed in jeopardy of matching his earliest exit in Flushing Meadows when he needed medical attention near the end of the first set. But he recovered to reach the last 16 of a major for the 69th time, matching Roger Federer for most ever, and will next face German qualifier Jan-Lennard Struff.



Taylor Townsend, of the United States, reacts after defeating Mirra Andreeva, of Russia, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, in New York. (AP)

Milan gets back on track with win at Lecce



Cremonese's Alessio Zerbin, right, and Sassuolo Josh Doig during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Cremonese and Sassuolo at the Giovanni Zini in Cremona, Italy. (AP)

CREMONA, Italy, Aug 30, (AP): Former Chelsea players Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Christian Pulisic scored as AC Milan beat host Lecce 2-0 for its first win in Serie A.

Actress Helen Mirren donned a yellow Lecce shirt and watched from the stands but there was little to excite the home fans or the Oscar-winning star of "The Queen."

Milan had two goals chalked off after a video review but it eventually got one that counted midway through the second half when Loftus-Cheek rose higher than everyone else to glance home a flighted free kick.

U.S. striker Pulisic sealed the win with an assured finish under the advancing goalkeeper four minutes from time.

The win was a relief for Milan, which started the season with a shock defeat at home to newly promoted Cremonese.

Lecce has one point from its first two games.

Earlier, Cremonese became the first newly promoted side since Sampdoria in 2012 to win its first two games on return after a hard-fought 3-2 win at home to Sassuolo.

Reports in the Italian media suggested David Nicola's side was close to signing 38-year-old former Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy on Friday but it did not need help in front of goal in the first half.

Filippo Terracciano put the home side ahead with a header in the 37th minute and two minutes later veteran Argentine midfielder Franco Vázquez made it 2-0.

Andrea Pinamonti's skilful turn and strike got the visitor back in the game 19 minutes into the second half, before Domenico Berardi levelled the scores with a penalty nine minutes later.

However, substitute Manuel De

Luca's 93rd minute spot kick was decisive for Cremonese and helped it to become the first newly promoted side since Sampdoria to win its first two games back in the top tier.

The result comes a week after it beat AC Milan 2-1 at the San Siro and puts it top of the table ahead of this weekend's games. Sassuolo is pointless after two matches.

Meanwhile, Milan signed dribbling expert Christopher Nkunku from Chelsea for a reported fee of 37 million euros (\$43 million).

The French player signed a five-year contract, Milan announced without providing financial details.

The 27-year-old Nkunku came up through Paris Saint-Germain's youth system before moving to Leipzig in 2019. He spent the last two seasons at Chelsea and his extra-time goal sparked the Blues to a win over Benfica in the round of 16 at the Club World Cup - which

Chelsea went on to win - in July. He scored 18 goals in 62 matches for Chelsea.

Known for his 1-on-1 abilities and speed with the ball, Nkunku will be counted on to add pace to Milan's attack. He can play both as an attacking midfielder and as a forward. He has made 14 appearances for France.

Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca said in August that Nkunku would no longer be part of the squad - after joining on a six-year deal in 2023 that was worth 52 million pounds (nearly \$70 million).

"Christo is a fantastic professional," Maresca said Friday. "The only problem with him is that in his position we have Cole Palmer, so it was tough to find minutes for him."

Milan bounced back from a loss at the San Siro to promoted Cremonese in its Serie A opener with a 2-0 win at Lecce on Friday.

Al Nassr routs Al Taawoun 5-0

Ronaldo remains the face of the Saudi soccer league as the season kicks off

RIYADH, Aug 30, (AP): Ronaldo is still a name above all others when attention turns to the Saudi soccer league's season-opening round.

Just like it was earlier this month when more than 30,000 fans turned out in Hong Kong to watch Al-Nassr defeat Al-Ittihad 2-1 in the first semifinal of the Saudi Super Cup on Aug. 19, he's part of the league's growth and marketing plans.

"The majority can only be described as Cristiano Ronaldo fans," Chris KL Lau, a Hong Kong resident and fan, told The Associated Press. "The match had an electric buzz and each time Ronaldo had the ball there was excitement."

The Portuguese star was mobbed the following day when he visited the city's official Cristiano Ronaldo museum. "Fans have travelled from across China, Saudi Arabia and the Asia-Pacific to see him," Lau said.

After Ronaldo left Manchester United and joined the Saudi Pro League in December 2022, other big names followed to Riyadh, Jeddah and elsewhere, including Karim Benzema, Neymar and Riyad Mahrez. The 'Big Four' - Al-Nassr, Ittihad as well as Al-Hilal and Al-Ahli - were taken over by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund in 2023 and have budgets as big as ambitions.

Ronaldo's Al Nassr opened the its campaign with 5-0 victory over Al



Al Nassr's Cristiano Ronaldo takes a shot during the Saudi Super Cup final soccer match between Al Ahli and Al Nassr at the Hong Kong Stadium in Hong Kong. (AP)

Taawoun.

While the five-time Ballon d'Or winner is still the international face of the league, backers are working to expand the reach of the league. But the importance of Ronaldo's presense was evident in the second game at Hong Kong Stadium between Al-Ahli and Al-Qadsiah, when organizers announced a crowd of 16,000. Some doubt that figure.

"Those who were at the game reckon only 5,000 to 6,000 fans

were inside," Lau said "Fans were happy to splash the cash for Ronaldo but were less inclined to do so for Al-Ahli and Al Qadsiah. This resulted in rows of empty seats."

Simon Chadwick, a specialist in the relationship between sports, geopolitics and economics, said while people are aware Ronaldo plays in Saudi Arabia, "It's questionable just how much they know about Al-Nassr or the Pro League."

"He has been helpful in raising

global awareness of Saudi football," Chadwick, professor of Afro-Eurasian Sport at Emlyon Business School in Paris, told AP, "but there needs to be greater depth and more sustainable engagement in relations with fans."

Wael Al Fayeze, the league's chief commercial officer, says that is already happening.

"Last season, we reached a record 180 countries worldwide, up from 150 the year before," Al Fayeze said. "On the sponsorship side, international deals have surged by 200%, which reflects real, measurable growth. On social media, our following grew from 11 million to 15 million last season, with a 60% jump in engagement."

Playing games overseas is another strategy. As Lau, the fan in Hong Kong, noted: "Media coverage here means it was impossible not to be aware of these matches."

Attracting fans around the world, as major European clubs such as Real Madrid and Liverpool already do, is a long process.

"If Saudi clubs are to compete on the same basis, it will take decades to build a global fan base," Chadwick said. "So they need to tell a different story to people. The likes of Al-Nassr and Al-Hilal need to give fans something that they can't get elsewhere."

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NEWS



Bayern's players celebrate winning the DFB Supercup soccer match between Bayern Munich and VfL Wolfsburg, at the BBBank Wildpark in Karlsruhe, Germany. (AP)

Sports

Man United grabs stoppage-time winner

Chelsea gains from some contentious refereeing calls

LONDON, Aug 30, (AP): Ruben Amorim experienced another roller-coaster of emotions as Manchester United manager as Bruno Fernandes converted a stoppage-time penalty to secure a 3-2 win over Burnley in the Premier League and maybe keep his coach in a job.

Amorim, under massive pressure after an embarrassing English League Cup defeat in midweek, couldn't even watch as Fernandes slotted the spot kick home in the seventh minute of added-on time at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Earlier, United had squandered the lead twice against Burnley - one of the favorites for relegation - and was heading for a draw that would have

left Amorim in a precarious position going into the international break.

Amorim was under pressure after United exited the League Cup at the hands of fourth-tier Grimsby Town, after which he criticized his players and suggested discussions would be held about his position.

If those negotiations take place, Amorim goes into them in a slightly stronger position even if major doubts remain over his ability to get United - one of the world's biggest clubs - back to its previous heights.

United took the lead first through an own-goal and then Bryan Mbeumo but let in an equalizer each time.

It was a first win of the season for Amorim's team following a 1-0 loss to Arsenal and a 1-1 draw at Fulham, with that embarrassing display at Grimsby thrown in.

United next plays against Manchester City in the derby. It remains to be seen if Amorim, who has been in charge for a turbulent 10 months,



Manchester United's Mason Mount, left, challenges for the ball with Burnley's Lyle Foster during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Burnley at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

will still be around for that.

Chelsea gained from some contentious refereeing calls in a 2-0 win over west London neighbor Fulham, whose manager Marco Silva struggled to contain his unhappiness.

Joao Pedro gave Chelsea the lead with a header from a corner in the ninth minute of first-half stoppage time, after a minimum of eight added-on minutes had been called.

That further angered Silva, who was already furious that his team's 21st-minute goal by 18-year-old Josh King was ruled out after a VAR review deemed Rodrigo Muniz to have stamped on the foot of Trevoh Chalobah as he shielded the ball in the build-up.

Silva resorted to laughing sarcastically early in the second half when Chelsea was awarded a penalty for handball against Ryan Sessegnon following another video review, which highlighted two potential in-

fringements - a push and a handball - by Joao Pedro in the build-up.

After a long delay, Enzo Fernandez converted the spot kick down the middle in the 56th.

"For someone that loves football as a manager, a former football player, as a fan sometimes when I just watch a game, I feel sad, really," Silva said when asked for his views on the refereeing decisions. "Just that."

Chelsea, the Club World Cup champion over the summer, has picked up seven points from a possible nine in its first three games in the Premier League.

One of the three 100% records in the Premier League disappeared when Tottenham lost 1-0 to Bournemouth, thanks to Evanilson's fifth-minute goal.

Liverpool and Arsenal are the other two teams to have collected maximum points from the opening two games and they meet at Anfield on Sunday.

Blues draw with Qatar in opener

Kuwait U-20 faces tough Saudi challenge in Gulf Cup



Kuwaiti players jump for the ball during the opening match between Kuwait and Qatar.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Kuwait's U-20 national football team will take on Saudi Arabia tonight at 7:00 PM in Group A of the Gulf Cup at Prince Sultan Sports City Stadium in Abha, Saudi Arabia. Earlier Qatar will face Yemen in the same group.

Kuwait opened the tournament with a 2-2 draw against Qatar, while Saudi Arabia defeated Yemen 1-0. Saudi Arabia leads Group A with three points, followed by Kuwait and Qatar with one point each, and Yemen trailing with zero.

Kuwait showed strong form against Qatar, taking an early lead through Mohammed Al-Mulla in the 5th minute. Qatar equalized via Richard Robert in the 16th minute, but Abdullah Al-Qurzaei restored Kuwait's lead in the 27th minute before Ahmed Nasser leveled the score again in the 29th minute.

In Group B, Iraq and Oman both claimed victories over Bahrain and Egypt (participating after UAE withdrew). Faleh Hasan scored the decisive goal for Iraq in the 52nd minute, while Oman's Hussam Al-Addad and Ahmed Salem (penalty)

secured a 2-0 win over Egypt, giving Oman the group lead on goal difference. Meanwhile, Kuwait's senior national team departs today for a training camp in Doha, Qatar, during the international break, which will run until September 9. The team is scheduled to play a friendly against Syria on September 8.

Coach Helio Sousa called up Kazma striker Talal Al-Qaisi to replace Bandar Boursali, who withdrew due to military commitments. The senior squad also includes Suleiman Abdulghafour, Khalid Al-Rashidi, Saud Al-Hoshan, Hassan Hamdan, Fahad Al-Hajri, Mishari Ghanam, Khalid Sabah, Mohammed Khalid, Moath Al-Zafeeri, Abdulwahab Al-Awadi, Sultan Al-Anzi, Khalid Al-Murshid, Mehdi Dashti, Rashid Al-Dosari, Bader Tarek, Reda Hani, Ahmed Al-Zafeeri, Othbi Shehab, Ahmed Al-Zanki, Fawaz Ayedh, Eid Al-Rashidi, Mubarak Al-Fanini, Salman Al-Awadi, Mohammed Daham, and Shbeeb Al-Khalidi.

Sousa canceled the planned friendly tournament in Jakarta against Lebanon and Indonesia to reduce travel and fatigue, marking his first squad assembly since taking over from Juan Antonio Pizzi. His first competitive task will be the Arab Cup qualification playoff against Mauritania on November 25 or 26.

Kuwait shooting team returns from Asian Championship with 8 medals

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Kuwait's national shooting team wrapped up a highly successful campaign at the 16th Asian Shooting Championship in Kazakhstan, clinching a total of eight medals — two gold, two silver, and four bronze.

Secretary-General of the Kuwait Shooting Club and head of the delegation, Obaid Al-Ousaimi, announced that marksman Ahmed Al-Afasi secured a bronze medal in the men's Double Trap event on Friday. He finished third behind



Secretary-General of the Kuwait Shooting Club and head of the delegation, Obaid Al-Ousaimi.

India's Ankur Mittal, who captured gold, and Kazakhstan's Ar-

tem Shikalov, who claimed silver.

Al-Ousaimi dedicated the team's outstanding medal haul to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, as well as to the people of Kuwait and members of the Kuwait Shooting Club.

He praised the tireless efforts of the Kuwaiti shooters, both men and women, whose determination and

hard work led to these remarkable results. He also lauded the excellent organization of the tournament by the Asian Shooting Confederation, led by Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, along with the local organizing committee in Kazakhstan.

Al-Ousaimi reaffirmed the commitment of the club's board of directors, under the leadership of Duaij Al-Otaibi, to continue supporting Kuwaiti shooters in their pursuit of further achievements on the international stage.

teammates intensifies.

"That was the definition of peaking at the right time," Piastri said. "It was looking like a little bit of a tricky weekend so far."

It was the Australian's fifth pole position of the year but his first since the Spanish Grand Prix, six races ago.

Norris, who won last year's Dutch Grand Prix and was fastest in all three practice sessions this week, said it was "not the end of the world" to start second,

and suggested small changes in the wind could have decided the result.

Piastri leads Norris by nine points in the standings with 10 races left of the season. Norris has closed the gap in recent months with wins in the last four races.

Defending champion Max Verstappen is set to start third for his home race. He's third in the standings but a 97-point gap to Piastri means his title chances are remote.

Al-Salmiya returns from Doha camp ahead of new season

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Al-Salmiya Club returned after completing its external training camp in Doha, Qatar, as part of preparations for the new season.

During the camp, the "Sky Blue" played several friendly matches. The club recently renewed the contract of national coach Yaqoub Al-Mousawi for another season and strengthened the squad with three foreign signings: Tunisian duo Khaled Al-Haj and Mohamed Soussi, and Austrian Janko Provic. Local reinforcements included goalkeepers Hamad Dashti and Abdullah Al-Fadhli, pivot player Mohamed Al-Atiou, and Hussein Al-Salman.

Coach Al-Mousawi praised the camp, highlighting the positive atmosphere and the focus on team cohesion and player integration.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Club returned from its Bosnian training camp, alongside Al-Arabi's squad, who also concluded its preparations in Bosnia. Al-Arabi is gearing up to host the



Highlights from Al-Salmiya's handball training camp in Doha.

40th Arab Club Handball Championship for League and Cup winners from September 12 to 22. Participating teams include Kuwait Club, Kazma, Al-Sulaibikhat, Al-Ahli (Egypt), Al-Hashd Al-Riyadi (Iraq), Al-Tali'a, Al-Nawaer, Al-Shabab (Syria), and Al-Ahli and Al-Qatar SC (Qatar). Al-Arabi also prepares for the Premier League season.

'A lot of misconception'

Infantino reassures African fans on safety, welcome at World Cup

NAIROBI, Aug 30 (AP): African media quizzed FIFA president Gianni Infantino if people from the continent will be safe and welcome in the United States at the 2026 World Cup.

Soccer fans from Africa "are a little bit jittery" about current events in the U.S., Infantino was told at a news conference in Kenya which urged him to ensure African visitors to the tournament do not feel "outcast ... second-class citizens."

The FIFA leader was reminded he met yet again last week with U.S. President Donald Trump, who now has a gold World Cup trophy sitting in a glass case on his desk in the White House.

"We are going to play it in a country where some of us do not feel welcome," said a reporter from South Africa, the home country of FIFA vice president Patrice Motsepe who sat beside Infantino at a luxury hotel in Nairobi.

Motsepe is the brother-in-law of South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa, who had a tense visit to the White House in May when Trump repeated his administration's baseless claims of white farmers being systematic killed in the country.

At least nine African nations will be in the 48-team lineup of the World Cup being played June 11 to July 19 in 11 U.S. cities plus three in Mexico and two in Canada. Egypt, Morocco and South Africa are likely to qualify in October as current leaders of qualifying groups.

A 10th African team could advance in inter-continental playoffs scheduled after the tournament draw, which Trump and Infantino announced in the Oval Office last week will be held in Washington D.C. at the Kennedy Center on Dec. 5.

"Everyone will be welcome in North America next year for the World Cup," said Infantino, whose long-standing ties to Trump got him a seat in the Capitol Rotunda for the president's inauguration in January.

"I think it's important to clarify this, there is a lot of misconception out there," the FIFA leader told a roomful of African media.

Tickets for the 104 World Cup games go on sale Sept. 10 amid longstanding concerns about fans getting

visas to enter the U.S. which has travel bans and watch lists for dozens of countries. Iran already qualified and will play at least three games at the World Cup.

"I think the onus is on you," the South African reporter told Infantino and Motsepe, "to make sure that Africa and all the other people of the world do not feel outcast, do not feel like they are being made second-class citizens in a world where equality should prevail." The reporter's identity was not immediately clear - the news conference was carried on the Confederation of African Football's YouTube channel - but he said he's from South Africa.

Infantino was told earlier by a reporter: "African football fans are a little bit jittery about what is happening in the U.S. in regards to the expansion of people who are in the U.S."

Motsepe, a billionaire businessman who has led Africa's soccer body since 2021, insisted discreet work with U.S. authorities had secured commitments to make the World Cup run smoothly.

"We are confident that we will fulfill whatever requirements they may have and there will be sufficient access to African fans in the World Cup next year," Motsepe said.

Announcing travel bans in June, the Trump administration promised exemptions for teams and officials coming to the soccer tournament - and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics - though the prospects for fans are less clear.

Infantino claimed fans came from 164 countries to the month-long Club World Cup hosted in 11 U.S. cities in June and July "without of course any problems" with visas.

"The world needs occasions of unity," said Infantino, who was told by Trump in the White House last week FIFA would not be able to organize World Cup games in L.A. next year had the president not sent troops into the city recently. Eight games are scheduled at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, including the U.S. team's opener June 12.

"Be positive," Infantino said in Kenya, "you will see there will be a great, great celebration of the greatest FIFA World Cup ever."