



Kuwait remains united and resilient

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KUWAIT GOES SMART WITH HOME VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT Visit-to-residency switch KD 150

Ministry of Interior rolls out new marine plate fees

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: The official gazette, “Kuwait Al-Youm,” published in its Sunday issue, the Ministry of Interior’s Decision No. 1091/2026, which amends certain provisions of Ministerial Decision No. 2249/2025 concerning the executive regulations of the Law on the Residence of Foreigners.

The decision adds a new clause, No. 4, to paragraph 9 of Article 39, imposing a fee of KD 150 for the service of converting a visit visa into a regular residency permit, in accordance with Article 16 of the decision.

The decision exempts domestic workers and individuals in similar categories from this fee, in accordance with Article 20 of the executive regulations.

It also assigns the relevant authorities, each within their respective areas of jurisdiction, the responsibility of implementing the decision, which takes effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

Separately, the official gazette “Kuwait Al-Youm” published in its Sunday issue the Ministry of Interior’s Decision No. 1090/2026 concerning smart home vehicle impoundment, which regulates its implementation mechanism,

the prescribed fees, and the obligations of vehicle owners.

Article 1 defines smart home impoundment as the detention of vehicles at the owner’s residence using advanced technology and in accordance with the regulations established by the General Traffic Department.

Article 2 stipulates that the General Traffic Department shall implement smart home impoundment for violations listed in Article 207 of Ministerial Decision No. 81/1976.

Upon request, the owner of a vehicle impounded by the General Traffic Department may apply for home impoundment, subject to the regulations set by the department. The vehicle shall be impounded through a device installed in the vehicle designated for home impoundment.

Article 3 specifies an additional fee of KD 10 if the owner of the violating vehicle requests home impoundment and an impoundment officer visits the residence to install the device. An additional fee of KD 2 per day shall be charged for the smart home impoundment service.

Article 4 obligates the owner of the impounded vehicle to refrain from tampering with, damaging, or attempting to disable the home impoundment device. In the event of any tampering or damage to the device, the owner shall be required to pay its value in accordance with the contract signed between the

Ministry of Interior and the supplying company.

The vehicle may only be moved within the limits, conditions, and regulations established by the General Traffic Department at the time of the device’s installation. The device must be returned to the General Traffic Department on the day following the expiration of the designated impoundment period.

The vehicle owner is also required to notify the General Traffic Department of any malfunction in the device.

Article 5 stipulates that the provisions of Article 34 of Decree-Law No. 67/1976 shall apply to any person who violates the rules and provisions of this decision.

Article 6 stipulates that the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior shall be responsible for implementing this decision, which shall take effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

In a related development, a security source told the newspaper that Article 207 of the Traffic Law stipulates 29 violations that warrant vehicle impoundment, such as exceeding the speed limit by 30 kilometers per hour, and vehicles without license plates, with only one plate or if the driver has no license.

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

King of Hearts ... Your speech from the White Dove Square is crystal clear

IN his annual Throne Day speech, King Mohammed VI of Morocco stated: “I have never sought personal glory or recognition of a leading role, whether at the continental or international level. My sole concern has been fulfilling my duty to serve my people and enable all Moroccans to live in freedom and dignity.” King Mohammed VI reaffirmed this principle, which the Kingdom has been upholding for 27 years, since his ascension to the throne.

King Mohammed VI builds upon solid foundations laid during the reign of his grandfather, King Mohammed V, and further strengthened by his father, King Hassan II. He chose to live among his people, not in isolation at an ivory tower, because he understood from the outset that his country’s stability depends on communication among all of its components. He recognized that the foundation of social stability is a constantly evolving economy, achieved by forging a strong relationship between human capital, scientific expertise, financial strength and developmental laws. This fosters an economic base that transcends competitiveness and embraces individual and collective innovation.

Thanks to the efforts of King Mohammed VI over the past 27 years, Morocco has transformed into an African, Arab and international hub, not only in tourism, but also in the automotive industry and other sectors that contribute to a productive economy. This positions Morocco as the golden gateway of Africa and it serves as an exemplary

Arab model.

King Mohammed VI carries out his duties daily from all parts of the Kingdom. This is why the Throne Day speech this year was delivered from Tetouan, or as it is known in Moroccan literature, ‘the White Dove’ -- a symbol of peace. This has political weight, signifying that Morocco is a kingdom of peace, adapting to regional and international developments with the spirit of cooperation and innovation.

Based on this foundation, Morocco continues its path toward development, undeterred by any obstacles, determined to become a productive base that embraces the philosophy of building a prosperous future.

Therefore, when the King says in his speech “it is not just a matter of self-satisfaction, as it is a positive feeling of confidence and reassurance that gives us the strength and motivation to continue our efforts,” he is addressing everyone -- from the highest level of the executive branch to the humblest citizen. The message is one of perseverance and determination to achieve goals that serve the nation and its citizens.

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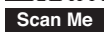
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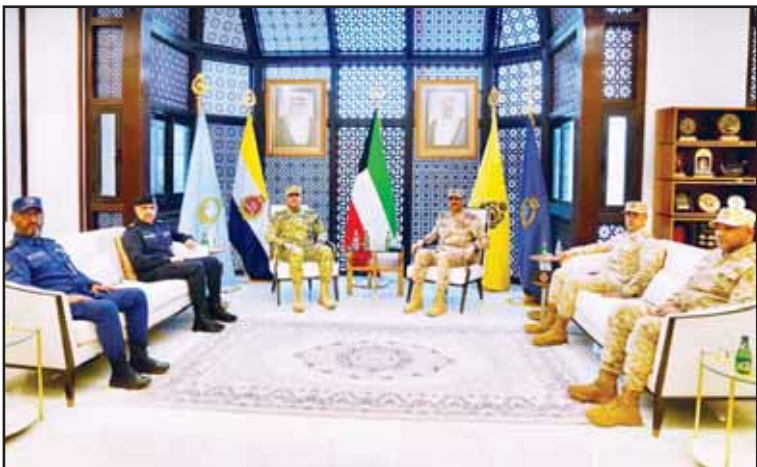
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Ministry of Defense photo
Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army chairs a coordination meeting bringing together senior leaders from Kuwait’s military and security agencies.

Trump halts Iran strikes

Kuwait reinforces Gulf ties, strengthens security shield

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (Agencies): Kuwait stepped up diplomatic and security coordination efforts on Sunday as Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah held separate telephone conversations with senior officials from the UAE, Qatar and Jordan over the latest regional developments.

The Foreign Ministry said the calls with UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdul-

lah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Qatar’s Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, and Jordan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi focused on diplomatic efforts to ease tensions, strengthen regional security and stability, and ensure the safety and freedom of maritime navigation.

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2 named Interior undersecretaries

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (KUNA): Two Amiri decrees were issued on Sunday, appointing and promoting senior officials at the Ministry of Interior.

The first decree appointed Major General Hamad Ahmad Suleiman Al-Munaifi as Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior. The second decree promoted Brigadier Fawaz Nasser Hamad Al-Roumi to the rank of Major General in the police force and likewise appointed him Assistant Undersecretary at the ministry.

Both decrees tasked First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah with implementing their promotions. They take effect from the date of issuance and will be published in the Official Gazette.



Al-Munaifi



Al-Roumi

Digital backbone expands

Cloud hub gets power boost

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) announced that the deadline for submitting bids for the tender to supply and install three main substations for the cloud data center project in various locations, along with their feeders and accessories, is on Sunday.

According to CAPT, the project will be referred to the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy after the opening of the bidding envelopes for review and the presentation of a technical recommendation within 30 days.

The three substations are essential infrastructure for one of the most important projects undertaken by the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA).

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Gold prices dip as Kuwait awaits global market cues

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (KUNA): Prices of precious metal in Kuwait continue to be influenced by global market movements.

According to a report issued by Kuwait’s Dar Al-Sabaek Company on Sunday, the price of one gram of 24-karat gold reached KD 40.710 (approximately \$132), while 22-karat gold stood at around KD 37.315 (approximately \$121). The price of one kilogram of silver reached around KD 678 (approximately \$2,202).

Local prices are expected to continue being affected by international

gold trends, movements in the US dollar, and upcoming economic data during the current week.

Internationally, gold prices ended last week’s trading lower after coming under strong selling pressure during the final trading sessions, declining by more than 1.5 percent to close at \$4,043 per ounce, despite recording their first monthly gain since February.

The report attributed the decline to the recovery of the US dollar and the rise in US Treasury yields.

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PM Diwan photo
HH the PM chairs a meeting to discuss the latest developments of the Health Assurance Hospitals (Dhaman) project.

Gov’t, private sector coordination key

PM tracks Dhaman project progress

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired a meeting Sunday to discuss the latest developments of the Health Assurance Hospitals (Dhaman) project.

The meeting reviewed progress on the project, including Health Assurance primary healthcare centers,

as well as updates on the health insurance scheme and its beneficiaries.

It also emphasized the importance of coordination between government entities and relevant private sector bodies regarding the project.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Minister of State for Economic

Affairs and Investment Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq, Acting Secretary-General of the Prime Minister’s Office Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah, and Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority Sheikh Saud Salem Al-Sabah.



9 KFH holds H1 2026 earnings webcast



Boursa Kuwait records net profit of KD 13.74 million in the first half of 2026



8 Hamed Al-Tamimi secures Chief HR role at Gulf Bank



Kuwait remains united and resilient

Aug 2 reminds of heinous Iraqi invasion, occupation



Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef



Sharida Al-Maousherji



Sheikh Abdullah



Abdullatif Al-Meshari



Nasser Al-Sumait



Tareq Al-Roumi



Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai



Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem



Dr. Al-Wasmi



Dr. Nader Al-Jallal



Al-Tabtabaei



Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan



Omar Al-Omar



Dr. Al-Huwailah



Osama Boodai



Dr Tareq Al-Jalahma

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (KUNA): Kuwait marked on Sunday the 36th anniversary of Iraq’s invasion of the country on August 2, 1990, a defining event in the nation’s history that continues to symbolize national unity, resilience and the sacrifices made to restore the country’s sovereignty.

The anniversary commemorates the efforts and sacrifices of Kuwaitis and the martyrs who gave their lives in defense of Kuwait’s freedom, independence and territorial integrity.

During the seven-month occupation, Kuwaitis united behind the country’s legitimate leadership and constitutional legitimacy, demonstrating solidarity and commitment to preserving the nation’s sovereignty.

National unity, together with Arab and international support, contributed to Kuwait’s liberation and the restoration of its sovereignty. The experience remains a reminder of the importance of unity in overcoming national challenges.

In the early hours of August 2, 1990, Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait, occupying the country by force. The occupation was marked by killings, arrests, torture, attacks on civilian and military facilities, looting of property and intimidation of civilians.

Despite the occupation, Kuwaitis organized resistance groups that carried out operations against the occupying forces. Others supported the resistance through media activities, healthcare, food distribution, logistics and other essential services.

Kuwaiti women also played an active role during the occupation by supporting resistance efforts, transporting supplies and weapons, participating in military operations and assisting until the country’s liberation on February 26, 1991.

At the diplomatic level, Kuwait’s leadership worked to secure Arab and international backing for the country’s legitimate cause and to mobilize support for its liberation.

The international community responded through the United Nations Security Council, which adopted Resolution 660 on the day of the invasion, condemning the attack and demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Following subsequent UN Security Council resolutions, Arab and international forces assembled in Saudi Arabia as part of the international coalition that liberated Kuwait in February 1991 during Operation Desert Storm.

The broad international support reflected Kuwait’s long-standing balanced foreign policy, strong international relations and humanitarian contributions through its charitable and relief institutions.

The anniversary remains a national occasion to honor the sacrifices of Kuwait’s martyrs, recognize the resilience of its people and reaffirm national unity while strengthening patriotic values among future generations.

Interior Minister

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah said Sunday that the anniversary of the Iraqi invasion will remain a lasting national milestone recalling the sacrifices of Kuwait’s martyrs and the heroism of security and military personnel.

In a statement to KUNA marking the 36th anniversary of the invasion, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef said the occasion reinforces national unity, loyalty and belonging, recalling how Kuwaitis stood united behind their legitimate leadership despite the challenges.

He said the invasion on August 2, 1990 revealed the strength, solidarity and determination of the Kuwaiti people, as well as the support Kuwait received from its brothers and friends until liberation and restoration of sovereignty.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef praised security personnel who stood on the front lines during the occupation, alongside the armed forces, demonstrating sacrifice and dedication in defense of the homeland.

He affirmed that preserving Kuwait’s security, stability and sovereignty remains a continuation of those sacrifices, stressing that Ministry of Interior personnel will continue protecting the country and upholding the rule of law.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef prayed for mercy upon Kuwait’s martyrs and for the continued security and prosperity of Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Deputy PM recalls Kuwaiti resilience

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sherida Al-Maousherji proudly recalled on Sunday the ultimate sacrifices of the nation’s martyrs and prisoners of war, whose blood defended Kuwait during the brutal 1990 Iraqi invasion.

In an official statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) marking the 36th anniversary of the aggression, Minister Al-Maousherji stated that August 2, 1990, stands as a pivotal historical threshold that demonstrated the absolute cohesion of the Kuwaiti people, both domestically and abroad, and their unwavering allegiance to their legitimate leadership during an era of existential hardship.

Al-Maousherji emphasized that the Kuwaiti populace proved its mettle under severe occupation, maintaining unwavering resilience and defiance until total liberation was secured, serving as beacons of hope amidst the dark reality of occupation.

The deputy prime minister paid tribute to the dedicated national workforce and volunteers across critical sectors, including the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the Ministry of Health, the Fire Department, oil sector entities, and cooperative societies, who risked their lives to sustain essential public services under extreme hostile conditions.

Minister Al-Maousherji prayed to Almighty God to perpetuate the blessings of security and sovereignty upon Kuwait, safeguarding the homeland under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Defense Minister

Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah affirmed on Sunday that the memory of the brutal



Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq



Reem Al-Fulaij

Iraqi invasion will remain indelibly etched in the Kuwaiti national conscience, serving as a perpetual reminder of state resilience, national unity, loyalty and unwavering defense of territorial integrity.

In an official statement delivered to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) marking the 36th anniversary of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali characterized the tragic aggression as a defining watershed moment in the nation’s history, recalling the great sacrifices made by loyal Kuwaiti citizens to preserve the country’s sovereignty and legitimate governance.

The defense minister paid solemn tribute to the nation’s righteous martyrs and valiant prisoners of war, noting that their extraordinary selflessness in the face of heinous existential aggression was the bedrock of the state’s resilience.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali emphasized that the ordeal proved Kuwait’s true defensive power lies in the cohesion between its leadership and citizens, alongside strong multilateral support from sisterly and allied international powers that enforced international law to restore full independence.

The defense minister renewed the pledge of allegiance to safeguard the homeland and maintain high defensive readiness under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Justice Minister

Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait said Sunday that the Kuwaiti people proved during the Iraqi invasion that unity and deep belief in the justness of their cause were Kuwait’s strongest shield.

In a statement to KUNA marking the 36th anniversary of the invasion, Al-Sumait recalled with pride the sacrifices of Kuwait’s martyrs and resistance heroes, as well as the historic national solidarity between the people and their legitimate leadership.

He said Kuwaitis demonstrated that national unity and faith in their cause enabled the country to overcome the crisis and emerge stronger.

Al-Sumait prayed for mercy upon Kuwait’s martyrs and renewed loyalty to the political leadership, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Oil Minister

Minister of Oil Tareq Al-Roumi said Sunday that the 36th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion remains a lasting national milestone, with the oil sector drawing lessons of responsibility and dedication to safeguard Kuwait’s natural resources.

In a statement, Al-Roumi said the Ministry of Oil and the petroleum sector remain committed to preserving the country’s oil wealth, a key pillar of the national economy, enhancing energy security and supporting sustainable development.

He said the invasion demonstrated the resilience and unity of the Kuwaiti people, their support for the leadership, and the sacrifices of martyrs, prisoners and missing persons who defended Kuwait and restored its sovereignty.

Al-Roumi added that the anniversary remains a national lesson that strengthens values of unity, loyalty and belonging, while highlighting the importance of protecting Kuwait’s security, stability and achievements.

He renewed loyalty and appreciation 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 and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, praying for Kuwait’s continued security, stability and prosperity.

Finance Minister

Minister of Finance Dr. Yaqoub Al-Rifai said Sunday that August 2 will remain a lasting national milestone in the memory of every Kuwaiti, recalling the unity between the leadership and people that overcame the occupation and restored Kuwait’s freedom and dignity.

In a statement to KUNA marking the 36th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion, Al-Rifai paid tribute to Kuwaitis who defended the homeland and sovereignty, and to the martyrs whose sacrifices embodied the highest values of loyalty and belonging.

He said the occasion renews the pledge of loyalty to Kuwait, stressing that love for the country is demonstrated through responsibility, dedicated work, protecting state resources and serving citizens.

Al-Rifai affirmed that the invasion will remain a national lesson passed through generations, reinforcing commitment to unity, security, stability, sovereignty and independence.

He prayed for Kuwait’s continued security, prosperity and stability under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and for mercy upon the nation’s martyrs.

Electricity Minister

Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Sabeeh Al-Mukhaizeem said Sunday that the 36th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait would remain a testament to the heroic sacrifices and steadfastness of the Kuwaiti people in defending their homeland.

In a statement to KUNA marking the annual occasion observed on August 2, Al-Mukhaizeem said commemorating the invasion carries added significance amid the exceptional circumstances facing the region.

He said the anniversary reinforces the importance of national unity and affirms that solidarity and support for the country’s leadership remain the foundation for overcoming challenges and safeguarding Kuwait’s security and stability.

Al-Mukhaizeem paid tribute to Kuwait’s martyrs, whose sacrifices continue to inspire future generations.

He also commended employees of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for maintaining power generation and water desalination operations throughout the occupation, ensuring the continuity of essential services for citizens and residents.

He stressed that current challenges require drawing lessons from that period by strengthening responsibility, unity and teamwork.

Al-Mukhaizeem prayed for mercy upon Kuwait’s martyrs and for the continued security and prosperity of the State of Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Awqaf Minister

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Al-Wasmi said Sunday that the anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will remain a lasting national occasion commemorating the sacrifices made by Kuwaitis in defense of their homeland and sovereignty.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Wasmi said the occasion renews pride in the sacrifices of Kuwait’s martyrs, the courage of the resistance and all who defended the country.

He said remembering that period strengthens the values of loyalty, national responsibility and unity, while underscoring the importance of safeguarding Kuwait’s security, stability and national principles.

He also renewed loyalty to the country’s political leadership, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Higher Education Minister

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal said Sunday that the 36th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is a national occasion to recall the lessons of resilience and renew responsibility toward the country’s future.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Jalal said the invasion reinforced the importance of national unity, shared responsibility and adherence to national principles in safeguarding Kuwait’s security, stability and achievements.

He said the invasion proved that people are the nation’s greatest asset, stressing that the unity of Kuwaitis preserved the country’s identity during the occupation.

Al-Jalal added that the ministry, in line with the leadership’s directives, is committed to investing in human capital by preparing generations equipped with knowledge, innovation and a strong national identity.

He said Kuwait’s security and stability are the result of the sacrifices of its martyrs and the unity of its people behind the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Al-Jalal prayed for mercy upon Kuwait’s martyrs and for the continued security, stability and prosperity of Kuwait.

Education Minister

Minister of Education Sayyed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei affirmed Monday, that the 36th anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion will remain etched in the hearts and national memory of Kuwaitis, embodying the sacrifices that exemplified the resilience, unity, and unwavering commitment of Kuwaitis to their homeland, their legitimate leadership, and the sovereignty and independence of their state.

In a press statement, Al-Tabtabaei said that Kuwait proved during that ordeal that the strength of nations stems from the unity, cohesion, and steadfastness of their people in upholding the truth, Kuwaitis stood behind their legitimate leadership, presenting honorable examples of resilience, sacrifice, and loyalty.

He added that Kuwait, with the determination of its people, was able to rebuild and resume its development journey, a testament to Kuwait’s ability to rise from adversity, uphold its independence, and shape its future with unwavering national resolve.

Al-Tabtabaei emphasized that the rapid changes and challenges facing the region and the world reaffirm the importance of the lessons instilled by Kuwait’s experience, foremost among them that national unity and awareness of responsibility towards the security and sovereignty of the homeland are national constants that do not change with changing circumstances.

He explained that the Ministry of Education is committed to fulfilling its national mission of instilling awareness of Kuwait’s history in the hearts of its generations and acquainting them with the stances and sacrifices made by Kuwaitis.

This commitment stems from the belief that future generations’ knowledge of their history is not merely a recollection of past events, but a cornerstone for building a firm national consciousness that deepens their connection to their identity, strengthens the values of loyalty, belonging, and cohesion, and a sense of responsibility towards their homeland and its future.

Al-Tabtabaei concluded his statement by praying to Allah for Kuwait’s martyrs, to protect Kuwait and its people from all harm, to instill security, safety, stability, and prosperity upon it, and to guide its people so that Kuwait may remain strong under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Public Works Minister

Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan said that

the 36th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is a national occasion to remember the resilience, unity and heroic sacrifices of the Kuwaiti people.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Mashaan said the invasion revealed the Kuwaiti people’s deep-rooted solidarity, stressing that unity between the leadership and the people was key to preserving the state and restoring its security and stability.

She said Kuwait’s martyrs will remain enduring symbols of sacrifice, adding that their legacy continues to inspire future generations with the values of loyalty, belonging and responsibility.

Al-Mashaan also praised the role of Kuwaiti women during the occupation, saying they demonstrated resilience and dedication while helping support society and preserve its cohesion.

She commended employees of the Ministry of Public Works for safeguarding state facilities and serving the nation under exceptional circumstances, saying national cadres consistently proved their ability to shoulder responsibility.

Al-Mashaan also expressed appreciation to countries that stood by Kuwait during the occupation, praising their historic support and solidarity.

She concluded by praying for the continued security, stability and prosperity of Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Communications Minister

Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar said Sunday that the 36th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion will remain a lasting testament to the resilience and national unity of the Kuwaiti people.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Omar said the anniversary recalls the great sacrifices made by Kuwaitis in defense of their homeland and sovereignty, and their solidarity with the legitimate leadership until liberation was achieved.

He added that the occasion reinforces Kuwait’s proud history and instills values of belonging, loyalty and national responsibility, stressing that unity and adherence to national principles remain the foundation for protecting the country and its achievements.

Al-Omar said the invasion proved that the cohesion between the Kuwaiti people and their leadership remains a source of strength in facing challenges and preserving Kuwait’s security and stability.

He prayed for mercy upon Kuwait’s martyrs and for the continued security and stability of Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Kuwait Minister of Social Affairs

The anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait reaffirms that the Kuwaiti peoples unity and cohesion continue to act as a rampart in addressing challenges and safeguarding its security and stability, said the Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs Family and Childhood Affairs.

In a statement to KUNA on Sunday commemorating the 36th anniversary of the invasion, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah said that on August 2nd the aggressors tried to wipe out a nation, but, thanks to their unity and steadfastness, the people of Kuwait proved that homelands cannot be obliterated since their people stand united, holding fast to their leadership, legitimacy and identity.

She added that this catastrophe revealed the true nature of Kuwaiti society, as families, neighborliness, social solidarity and volunteerism were the front lines in protecting the nation.

The minister underlined that social cohesion played a crucial role in the country’s resilience and the preservation of its national identity.

She elaborated that the rapid regional developments, along with the acts of aggression the country has faced this year, reaffirm that a cohesive domestic front is not merely a slogan to be invoked during crises. In fact, it is a daily responsibility based on awareness, commitment, rejecting rumors, hinging on official sources for information, and safeguarding social concord.

Al-Huwailah stressed that national unity marks the core pillar of Kuwaiti society’s strength and its ability to address challenges, affirming that social cohesion, awareness, prioritizing the public interest, and rallying around the nation, its leadership and institutions, constitute the solid foundations for safeguarding Kuwait’s security and stability and cementing its societal resilience.

She pointed out that the lessons of the invasion showed that the nation is protected by its institutions, cohesive families, united hearts and a memory that keeps the truth and passes it on to future generations, stressing Kuwait’s security and stability as a shared responsibility.

She remembered Kuwait’s martyrs, resistance fighters, prisoners and missing persons as having embodied the highest ideals of sacrifice and loyalty, wishing the nations eternal security, stability and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Commerce Minister

Minister of Commerce and Industry Osama Boodai affirmed Sunday that the 36th anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait represents an established national memory, a time to remember the acts of resilience, sacrifice, and unity displayed by the people of Kuwait in defending their homeland and its sovereignty.

Speaking to KUNA on this occasion, Boodai stated that the events of the brutal Iraqi invasion proved that national unity and the solidarity of the Kuwaiti people were the cornerstones in confronting the occupation, liberating the homeland, and protecting its achievements.

He added that the lessons learned from this national ordeal underscored the importance of building a strong national economy capable of facing various challenges and exceptional circumstances.

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Liberation halfway for families of the martyrs

“KUWAIT commemorates the Iraqi invasion on August 2 each year, a day that marked one of the nation’s most difficult trials and embodied the meaning of homeland, identity, and dignity,” columnist Major General **Faisal Musaed Al-Jazzaf** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Meanwhile, February 26 stands as a testament to the determination of the Kuwaiti people and their ability to achieve liberation, regardless of how long the occupation lasted. Yet between the invasion and liberation lies a chapter that remains unfinished. The fate of the remains of at least 300 missing Kuwaiti martyrs has still not been resolved.

“The families of the martyrs still live in hope of embracing their sons, even decades later, to bid them farewell and bury them with dignity, thus closing a chapter burdened by waiting. With the passing of years, the accumulation of regional and international issues, and shifting priorities, there are fears that this national issue will move from the center of attention to the margins, even though it is not merely a historical matter, but a sovereign, moral, and humanitarian responsibility that does not expire with time.

“Today, as we commemorate this anniversary, the responsibility does not fall on one entity alone, but is a shared national responsibility. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is called upon to give this issue renewed diplomatic momentum and capitalize on the positive developments in the region and the opportunities for dialogue in Kuwait-Iraqi relations, in order to bring the issue back to the forefront of political and humanitarian attention, in coordination with international organizations and specialized committees.

“The remaining state institutions - security, legal, humanitarian, and media - are called upon to modernize their operational methods, maintain their presence within Iraq, unify their efforts, and reassess their follow-up mechanisms in a manner befitting the significance of this issue in the hearts of Kuwaitis. Loyalty to the martyrs is not limited to commemorating their memory; it begins with continuing the search for them and ensuring they are not swallowed by oblivion or overshadowed by new issues.

“Kuwait liberated its land thirty-five years ago; it remains for us to liberate the nation’s memory from the pain of waiting. This file will remain open in the conscience of every Kuwaiti until the remains of the last martyr are returned to the soil of his homeland, and every Kuwaiti family is given the right to bid farewell to their loved one.”

Also:

“Those who defend Western values do not stop repeating slogans, sometimes in a low voice and sometimes loudly,” Kuwaiti writer **Zaid Al-Jalawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“When secular extremists sense a threat to their interests, which are often linked to Zionist lobbies, defenders of Arab values become active. They raised the banner of defending Western values against the Russian president after the Russia-Ukraine war, simply because he restored the role of Orthodox Christianity in society. For the same reason, they oppose US President Donald Trump, who is seeking to restore the role of religion in American life.

“Western values are a somewhat vague term. Do they refer to the Christianity of Western societies or to their secularism? There is no need then to search far for who stands behind fueling the Christian-Muslim conflict. Much has been written about the role of Jewish Zionism and its influence over radical secularism, Christian denominations, and Islamic groups. It is noticeable that those who incite hatred against Muslims in the West rarely claim that they are doing so in defense of Christianity. They incite Christians against Muslims, but under the guise of defending Western values, in order to preserve their secularism and refute accusations of adopting religious extremism when they present themselves as guardians of the state and society.

“It is quite clear that Zionist Judaism has not only succeeded in Zionizing some Christians and Muslims, but has gone further by transforming secularists into Zionists who are indistinguishable from religious extremists. The dominance of these secularists has surpassed that of all their predecessors. Perhaps this explains the attempts by moderate Western secularists to return secularism to its sources, free from Zionist influence.

“Therefore, efforts must be intensified to understand the campaigns that raise the banner of preserving Western values. We call on them to clarify their objectives. Is one of their goals to prevent Western immigrants from engag-



Faisal Al-Jazzaf

ing in behaviors unfamiliar to them in public spaces? Do they have the right to object to this? Some citizens of countries of origin criticize the verbal and physical violence committed by immigrants in their adopted countries, even though those same individuals were afraid of such actions in their countries of origin.

“Westerners have the right to refuse to become a punching bag for immigrants who came to their countries seeking safety. Westerners have the right to refuse to have attacks on their property by immigrants justified by claims that Western ancestors enslaved their ancestors and plundered their wealth during the colonial era. They also have the right to refuse demands for reparations or to be treated unfairly. In any case, bullying under the guise of protecting Western values and addressing the fears of these societies must stop, lest some fame-seekers exploit this issue to escape their own oppressive realities.”

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“The heroes of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia refused to accept the continued veiled aggression targeting them from Iraqi territory through Iranian drones, and responded in kind,” columnist Eng. **Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The coalition called for by Saudi Arabia, and joined by 14 countries, including Kuwait and the other Gulf states, to protect waterways, is an appreciated global step that conveys a significant message to those who understand that countries seeking stability will not accept the continuation of the status quo in this internationally sensitive region.

“Both steps have international and regional implications. The first represents Saudi Arabia’s declaration that the Iranian-backed groups have crossed all red lines and that, from this day forward, the response will not be limited to diplomatic channels alone as long as aggression against the sovereignty of nations continues. Surgical operations are ready at any time to eradicate the disease. The second step, represented by the maritime coalition to protect waterways, thwarted Iranian attempts to control the straits. The situation in the Arabian Gulf must return to what it was before the outbreak of this war.

“The most important message is that only the countries of the region are capable of deciding their own destiny, especially after the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which represent the region’s most influential economic and political power, were harmed. For years, the Gulf states tried to address matters through diplomacy in the best possible way. However, the Iranian side did not respond and instead violated the Beijing agreement signed with Riyadh.

“Today, the situation has changed, and a completely different vision is required from what prevailed previously. Reports have revealed a Gulf initiative to stop the Houthi group’s reckless adventures. If these reports are accurate, the strategic picture will be completely different from what it was before this war. The strong Saudi response to the terrorism of Iran’s proxies fills us in the Arabian Gulf with pride. We know that the heroes of Kuwait and its armed forces possess great capabilities to deter anyone who attempts to infringe upon the state’s sovereignty. The Gulf states are stronger than Iran believes, and it has erred in interpreting patience and wisdom as weakness.

“The rulers and leaders of the Gulf states are doing everything in their power to protect the lives of their people. When Gulf leaders support any move towards a political solution, they understand that the war they win is the one they do not have to fight. However, if war is imposed on the Gulf states, their response will be harsh in order to punish the aggressor. Self-defense is a right guaranteed by Sharia and international law. Therefore, I declare my full support for the Saudi response, and indeed for any response to any aggression, no matter how small. Since February 28, we in the Gulf states have been receiving missiles and drones from our Iranian neighbor and its proxies in the region, who are pursuing a sinister agenda.

“The Gulf governments have tried their utmost to resolve the crisis through diplomatic efforts. However, our malevolent neighbor has not ceased its aggression. I address my people in the Gulf states, reminding them of our shared destiny and that the Gulf states are each other’s strongest support. Today, we are in dire need of overcoming minor differences and holding firmly to our unity. The security of the Gulf states lies in their unity as a single, solid bloc. We are all bound by the geography of the Arabian Peninsula; we speak the same language, adhere to the same religion, and share common customs and traditions.”

— **Compiled by Simi K. Kuty**



Jahra Governor Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi with his guests.

Governor lauds efforts of ‘Healthy Cities’ drive team

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: Jahra Governor Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi met with the Healthy Cities Management Team from the Ministry of Health and the Higher Coordination Committee for Healthy Cities in Jahra Governorate, headed by General Coordinator Dr. Laila Hamad Al-Hais, including Dr. Batoul Buabbas and Fatima Safar.

During the meeting, the Governor was briefed on the results of the field visit to Saad Al-Abdullah, Al-Naeem, Jahra and Al-Oyoun health centers. The visit focused on assessing

the readiness level of these centers, identifying needs and observations, and exploring ways to improve the work environment and the services provided to patients.

The Governor affirmed the importance of continuous coordination among the relevant authorities and efforts to meet the requirements of the Healthy Cities program. He commended the efforts exerted so far in supporting initiatives that promote community health and contribute to improving the quality of life in Jahra Governorate.



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah chairs the meeting.

Citizens, expats security, safety priority: Governor

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah recently chaired a coordination meeting with Director of Farwaniya Governorate Fire Department Brigadier General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al-Bannai, Director of the Farwaniya Governorate Criminal Investigation Department Colonel Abdullah Ali Al-Shatti, Assistant Director of the Farwaniya Governorate Criminal Investigation Department Colonel Abdullah Dali Al-Khamsan, Director of the Farwaniya Governorate Municipality Branch Eng. Ahmed Dashti, Inspection Supervisor at the Farwaniya Governorate Fire Department Colonel Yaqoub Karam, and Real Estate Records Supervisor at the Real Estate Registration Department in the Ministry of Justice Reham Musaed Al-Maqahwi.

Sheikh Athbi Nasser warmly welcomed the attendees, affirming that Farwaniya Governorate remains committed to solidifying the collaborative work system among various government entities in order to expedite processes, raise performance efficiency, and improve the security, safety and other services provided to the residents of the governorate.

They discussed several priority issues, such as monitoring the situation in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, intensifying joint campaigns to identify and remove encroachments on state properties, addressing municipal violations, and strengthening safety procedures.

Sheikh Athbi Nasser affirmed that the governorate is working with all the concerned authorities to implement the directives of the political leadership. He underscored the importance of continuing joint field campaigns, intensifying oversight, and ensuring the firm application of laws on violators to protect the state properties.

All those present at the meeting expressed their gratitude to the Governor for his ongoing commitment to strengthen coordination among government agencies and his direct oversight of security, service and regulatory matters.

They affirmed that such meetings greatly contribute to unifying efforts, accelerating progress, improving services, enhancing security and safety, and preserving state properties in the interest of the public and for the benefit of all those residing in the governorate.

Sudden change of lanes major cause of accidents

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: The General Traffic Department (GTD) has warned that improper lane changes while driving are among the leading causes of traffic accidents, reports Al-Anba daily.

The department explained that safe lane changing requires drivers to ensure the road is clear, use turn signals in advance, and move gradually into the intended lane while maintaining a suitable speed and a safe distance from other vehicles. It urged all motorists to follow safety guidelines to reduce accidents, protect lives, and ensure the safety of all road users.

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Bone broken in mishap: An Arab expatriate in his forties sustained multiple injuries and fractures after being struck by a vehicle while crossing the road in Jahra market area, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Ministry of Interior’s Operations Room received a report on Saturday evening about a hit-and-run accident in the area. Patrol and ambulance teams were dispatched immediately to the scene. The victim was referred to the nearest hospital for treatment. Necessary action was taken thereafter.

2,866 traffic citations issued; 5 cars seized

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: The General Traffic Department (GTD) at the Interior Ministry continued its field campaigns in all governorates, resulting in the issuance of 2,866 traffic violation citations in the last 24 hours.

A security source disclosed that these campaigns also led to the impoundment of five vehicles in accordance with the court orders, in addition to referring eight individuals to the concerned authorities as they were found to be holding expired residency permits.

Delivery boy assaulted

Two persons convicted of evading arrest; one flees

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: The Misdemeanor Court convicted two defendants of evading arrest, helping one of the defendants escape and misusing communication devices, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The court made this decision after the closing argument presented by Attorney Ali Hassan Al-Hussainan, lawyer of the victims and the civil plaintiff.

The court confirmed the defendants’ criminal responsibility based on the solid evidence and circumstantial proof presented in the case file. It then imposed the legally prescribed penalties on them.

Al-Hussainan stated that the verdict is an embodiment of the role of the Kuwaiti judiciary in upholding the rule of law and dealing with all forms public order violation.

He added that the crimes committed by the convicted defendants are considered an attack on the dignity of the law and an obstruction of justice.

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Delivery boy assaulted: A delivery driver accused his employer of assaulting him, causing a perforation in his left eardrum, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the report, the driver stated that he was assaulted by his employer at the workplace, sustaining several blows, including a direct strike to the face. He later experienced severe pain and hearing loss, prompting him to seek medical treatment at a hospital.

The medical report confirmed a perforation in the driver’s left eardrum, and a case was filed.

Court clears 98% cases of appeals

Rulings cannot be challenged

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: **The Supreme Judicial Council announced that the State Security and Terrorism Crimes Court, which is under the Court of Appeals, issued final rulings (cannot be appealed) on 373 out of 379 appeals from April 9 to July 30, thereby, achieving 98 percent resolution rate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.**

In a press statement, the council indicated that President of the Court of Appeals Judge Mohammad Al-Rifai issued a decision on April 2 regarding the establishment of a specialized criminal court within the Court of Appeals to deal with State Security crimes (internal and external) and terrorism offenses, pursuant to Decree-Law No. 51/2026.

The council added that the court exercised its jurisdiction by reviewing appeals from other appellate circuits, as per Article Four of the aforementioned decree-law.

The court reviewed and ruled on 98 appeals with 100 percent resolution rate. It also reviewed 281 appeals against the rulings issued by the State Security Criminal Court, pursuant to

Article Two of the same decree-law. It adjudicated 275 of these appeals, postponed three to notify the defendants about their attendance and presentation of their defense, rescheduled the issuance of rulings on three appeals to September, and issued preliminary rulings on three appeals with a resolution rate of 98 percent.

Since starting its work, the court has taken into account the procedural system for litigating State security crimes and acts of terrorism, while ensuring balance between guaranteeing the right to defense, enabling the parties to present their case, and expediting the resolution of cases.

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Elderly man assaulted: Security authorities have launched an investigation into an assault involving a man in his sixties while he was sitting in his vehicle in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, reports Al-Anba daily.

The victim told authorities that he had parked his vehicle on the side of the road when an unidentified driver approached him and began verbally abusing him. The argument later escalated into a physical assault, after which the suspect fled the scene.

A case has been registered, and detectives are working to identify the suspect and take the necessary legal action against him.



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HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince

Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, Premier & Ministers

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

fairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Crown Prince audiences

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

MoE opens appeals for 2025 excellent performance bonus

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: The Ministry of Education has begun receiving appeals regarding the excellent performance bonus for employees at the ministry's headquarters, central departments, and regional education directorates for the year 2025 through the ministry's website under Administrative Services, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that the appeal period will run from August 2 to September 30, totaling 60 days, including Fridays and official holidays.

The review and processing of appeals will begin on October 1, 2026. If an appeal relates to a change in employment status, secondment within the ministry, or financial discrepancies involving grade, job title, or supervisory position, the necessary supporting documents must be submitted as a single file.

The Ministry of Education urged all concerned employees to comply with the specified timeframe for submitting appeals.

KU faculty center digitizes field training systems

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: As part of the Practical Education Center's efforts, within the College of Education at Kuwait University, to advance digitization and electronic transformation, and in line with the college and university's vision to digitally develop institutional work systems and apply standards of institutional governance and sustainability, the Practical Education Center has launched the digital transformation of its field training system.

This qualitative shift has seen all forms and reports related to every party involved in the training process — the internal supervisor (department head), the external supervisor (regional educational advisor), the school principal, and the trainee student — uploaded to the Practical Education Center's page on the college website, achieving the intended sustainability.

This transformation was carried out under the follow-up of Acting Dean of the College of Education Prof. Dr. Suad Abdulaziz Al-Fraih, and the direct supervision of Acting Director of the Practical Education Center Dr. Sultan Mohammad Al-Sahli, with the participation of a working team



Kuwait University photo

Dean of the College of Education and the Director of the Practical Education Center honoring the working team.

comprising Mr. Jarah Mutlaq Al-Qazzaz (Practical Education Center) and the college's digital transformation team, made up of Ms. Hanan Al-Azmi, Ms. Hessa Al-Jamazi, and Ms. Sarah Al-Rubaie.

Dr. Sultan Al-Sahli affirmed that this transformation represents a new shift in the center's working mechanism, contributing to raising insti-

tutional performance efficiency and cutting down many procedures for all parties involved in field training, making the process easier for everyone.

On this occasion, the Dean of the College of Education and the Director of the Practical Education Center honored the working team in recognition of their efforts in completing this project.

PAHW starts new home ownership Sahel service

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has launched a new online service on the Sahel app, allowing beneficiaries to complete a number of home ownership procedures online, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PAHW explained that the new service integrates six interconnected government procedures into a single digital process. These include payment of the electricity connection fee, submission of the expropriation request, issuance of the property description certificate, signing of the expropriation contract, notarization of the expropriation contract, and issuance of the title deed.

The service is designed to simplify procedures, reduce processing time, and minimize effort for beneficiaries by enabling them to complete all required home ownership steps through the Sahel app.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Communications announced that routine maintenance work will be carried out at several telephone exchanges next week, due to which telecommunications services may experience temporary disruptions during the maintenance periods, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The ministry explained that maintenance work will be conducted at the City exchange on Monday, August 3 from midnight until 6:00 am. The Al-Wafra exchange will undergo maintenance on the same day, Monday, August 3 from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Maintenance work is also scheduled at the Al-Zour exchange on Wednesday, August 5 from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Kuwait remains

Continued from Page 2

The Minister pointed out that economic security is an integral part of the national security system, and that strengthening food security, supporting national industries, ensuring market stability, the availability of essential goods, and the integrity of supply chains are fundamental pillars in protecting the homeland and safeguarding its resources, a responsibility that the Ministry continues to work on consolidating in cooperation with various relevant entities.

He emphasized that Kuwait has proven throughout its history that investing in human capital, strengthening partnerships between the public and private sectors, and enhancing the business and production environment are factors that contribute to building a more resilient and sustainable economy, which fulfills the country's aspirations for development and strengthens its readiness to confront regional and international crises and challenges.

Boodai stated that the sacrifices made by Kuwait's martyrs, resistance fighters, and all those who contributed to defending the homeland will remain a source of pride and inspiration for generations to come, reinforcing the values of loyalty and belonging.

He prayed to Allah for Kuwait's martyrs, to protect Kuwait and its people from all harm, to instill security, safety, stability, and prosperity upon it, and to guide its people so that Kuwait may remain strong under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Youth State Minister

State Minister for Youth and Sports Affairs Dr. Tareq Al-Jalahma, affirmed on Sunday that the anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion will remain an eternal national memory, a reminder of the heroism and sacrifices of the Kuwaitis who exemplified loyalty in defense of their homeland and its legitimacy.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Jalahma said that this 36 year old national occasion reinforces the values of unity, cohesion, and loyalty to the wise leadership in the hearts of future generations.

The Minister pointed to the security, stability, and progress achieved by Kuwait, which he attributed to the sacrifices of past generations and the wise leadership that has safeguarded the nation's progress.

He explained that the responsibility of relevant authorities, particularly the youth and sports sectors, lies in consolidating national identity, enhancing awareness of Kuwait's history, and instilling the values of citizenship in young people.

Al-Jalahma added that Kuwaiti youth represent the true wealth of the nation, and that commemorating this occasion renews the determination to continue working, innovating, and contributing to Kuwait's advancement, drawing inspiration from the lessons of the past to cultivate willpower and resolve in protecting the homeland and preserving its achievements.

He prayed to Allah to protect Kuwait, its leadership and its people from all harm, and to instill security, safety and stability upon it, and grant the martyrs of Kuwait Paradise.

Development Minister

Minister of State for Development and Sustainability Affairs Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij said the 36th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait recalls the sacrifices of the nation's martyrs and the resilience of Kuwaitis in defending their homeland.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Fulaij said the occasion reflects the unity of the Kuwaiti people behind their legitimate leadership, affirming that Kuwait's sovereignty and dignity are never open to compromise.

She said the anniversary is not merely a remembrance of a historic event but a renewed pledge to uphold national unity and work sincerely for Kuwait's progress, while safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Al-Fulaij reaffirmed her commitment to advancing development, strengthening state institutions and protecting the nation's resources.

She prayed for the continued security and prosperity of Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Municipal Affairs Minister

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Meshari said Sunday that the 36th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion will remain a testament to the resilience, unity and steadfastness of the Kuwaiti people behind their legitimate leadership.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Meshari said the anniversary recalls the sacrifices of Kuwait's martyrs, prisoners and missing persons, as well as the heroic actions of Kuwaitis who defended their homeland, stressing that unity between the leadership and people paved the way for liberation and restoration of sovereignty.

He said the invasion, despite its hardships, provided lasting national lessons, foremost the importance of unity, support for legitimate leadership, protection of state institutions and strengthening national identity and responsibility among generations.

Al-Meshari added that Kuwait emerged from the crisis stronger and more united, drawing lessons on the importance of preparedness, safeguarding security and stability, and working collectively to overcome challenges.

He said commemorating the occasion strengthens values of unity, loyalty and belonging while renewing commitment to Kuwait's development and the preservation of its security and stability.

Al-Meshari prayed for mercy upon the martyrs and for Kuwait's continued security and safety under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Minister for Economic Affairs and Investment

Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq said, Sunday, the 36th anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait

remains an enduring national milestone through which Kuwaitis honor the sacrifices of the nation's martyrs, prisoners, and missing persons.

He added that the anniversary also highlights the exemplary resilience, loyalty, and unity demonstrated by the Kuwaiti people in support of the country's legitimate leadership and in defense of their homeland and its sovereignty.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Marzouq said the anniversary is not merely a remembrance of a historical event, but a renewed national occasion that reinforces the values of national unity, belonging, and loyalty.

He wished Kuwait security, stability, and prosperity under the leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Health Minister

Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi praised Kuwait's healthcare sector for its steadfast resilience during the Iraqi invasion, saying medical personnel continued to provide lifesaving care despite the exceptionally difficult circumstances facing the country.

Speaking to KUNA on the 36th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Al-Awadhi said the occasion remains a lasting symbol of the Kuwaiti people's unity, resilience and the sacrifices made in defense of the nation and its values.

He said the country's doctors, dentists, nurses, technicians and administrative staff demonstrated exceptional courage and dedication by maintaining healthcare services throughout the occupation. Hospitals and medical facilities continued to deliver treatment, perform emergency surgeries and care for patients and the injured despite the severe challenges at the time.

Al-Awadhi described the contributions of healthcare workers during the invasion as a bright chapter in Kuwait's history, reflecting the highest standards of national responsibility and humanitarian commitment.

He added that the legacy of the medical workforce remains a source of pride for every Kuwaiti, underscoring that the nation's healthcare professionals fulfilled their duty with unwavering dedication and made their humanitarian mission a symbol of sacrifice and service.

The minister said commemorating the anniversary renews the commitment to continue safeguarding public health and advancing Kuwait's healthcare system in honor of the sacrifices made by previous generations.

He also asked Allah Almighty to continue blessing Kuwait with security, stability and prosperity under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Nazaha chief

Chairperson of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Dr. Rana Al-Fares said Sunday that the anniversary of the Iraqi invasion renews pride in the resilience of the Kuwaiti people and their unity behind the country's legitimate leadership until Kuwait was liberated.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Fares said honoring the sacrifices requires sincere service, safeguarding state institutions, protecting public funds and promoting integrity and the rule of law.

Al-Fares prayed for the continued well-being of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and for Kuwait's lasting security, stability and prosperity.

Kuwait governors recall invasion

Kuwait governors said Sunday that the 36th anniversary of the Iraqi invasion remains a national occasion to recall the sacrifices, resilience and unity of the Kuwaiti people, and their steadfast support for the country's legitimate leadership.

Al-Asimah Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah said August 2 remains engraved in Kuwaitis' memory as a reminder of the aggression against the country's sovereignty and the national unity that helped overcome the crisis.

He said the invasion revealed the authentic character of Kuwaitis, whose sacrifices and steadfastness remain a source of inspiration for generations, stressing that national unity was the foundation for restoring Kuwait's sovereignty and dignity.

Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said the anniversary reflects the heroic positions and sacrifices of Kuwaitis, emphasizing that solidarity between the people and leadership remains a source of strength in facing challenges.

He added that Kuwait's progress and stability after liberation reflect the wisdom of its leadership, the dedication of its people and the cooperation of state institutions.

Governor of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Acting Governor of Hawalli Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah said Kuwaitis demonstrated during the invasion their loyalty, resilience and commitment to their homeland, presenting examples of sacrifice and unity that contributed to liberation.

Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah said the anniversary remains a lasting national milestone reflecting Kuwaitis' steadfastness, loyalty and commitment to their leadership, while reaffirming the importance of preserving national unity.

He praised the support of brotherly and friendly countries during the crisis, saying their stance reflected respect for international legitimacy and contributed to Kuwait's liberation.

Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habshi said August 2 renews the commitment to protecting Kuwait's security, sovereignty and national unity, stressing that unity remains the country's strongest defense against challenges.

The governors paid tribute to Kuwait's martyrs, resistance heroes, armed forces, security agencies and all those who contributed to defending the nation.

They prayed for Kuwait's continued security, stability and prosperity under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



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Up to KD 100,000 fine for commercial concealment; whistleblowers to earn reward

Kuwait’s new law tightens grip on hidden businesses

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2, (KUNA): Kuwait issued on Sunday Decree-Law No. 78 of 2026 on combating commercial concealment, introducing a comprehensive legal framework to regulate economic activities, enhance market transparency and curb illegal business practices.

The 14-article decree-law seeks to address the phenomenon of conducting economic activities without the required licenses, regulate the business environment, promote fair competition and strengthen the state’s oversight, regulatory and revenue collection ca-

pabilities.

According to the explanatory memorandum, the legislation comes in response to the increasing practice of individuals engaging in economic activities without proper authorization, a situation that has disrupted market stability and undermined the principles of a fair business environment.

The decree-law prohibits any natural or legal person from conducting economic activities in Kuwait without obtaining the necessary license from the competent authority or exceeding the scope of the granted license.

It also criminalizes commercial concealment by banning any person from enabling another to engage in economic activities by licenses, commercial names, or other means in violation of the law.

The legislation imposes penalties ranging from one to three years’ imprisonment and fines between KD 10,000 and KD 100,000, or an amount equivalent to the total profits generated from the violation, whichever is greater. Courts may also impose either imprisonment or fines, with penalties multiplied based on the number of offenders or violations.

It also provides for penalties of up to six months’ imprisonment and fines of up to KD 10,000 for obstructing enforcement officials or violating provisions related to inspections and investigations.

The decree-law holds managers responsible for violations committed under their supervision if they were aware of, or failed to prevent, the offenses. Legal entities are also jointly liable for violations committed in their name or for their benefit.

Courts are required to confiscate proceeds and assets derived from

commercial concealment offenses, in addition to closing violating establishments, revoking licenses and deporting foreign offenders while safeguarding the rights of bona fide third parties.

The legislation doubles penalties for repeat offenders who commit similar offenses within five years of a final conviction.

It also introduces a reconciliation mechanism allowing offenders to settle violations before or during court proceedings by paying no less than half the maximum prescribed fine, provided the violation is remedied and the

legal status corrected. Repeat offenders are excluded from this option.

The decree-law further establishes a financial reward system for individuals who report commercial concealment offenses, granting informants up to 10 percent of collected fines, subject to the provision of credible evidence leading to a final conviction.

It grants judicial enforcement powers to designated officials responsible for implementing the law and prohibits any obstruction of inspection or regulatory duties, including withholding documents or providing false information.

Continued from Page 1

King of

The Moroccan people eagerly await the annual Throne Speech, as the monarch transparently reveals achievements and identifies areas of shortcomings in implementation. Thus, the royal address serves as a guiding document.

The King puts himself in the shoes of the citizens, presenting criticism from the highest royal authority, so that those who fall short understand their mistakes. Then, they can either rectify their errors or turn over the responsibility to someone else.

After 27 years, King Mohammed VI, who has been dedicating himself to his people and his kingdom, affirms that his country is progressing according to a clear methodology based on a well-defined strategic direction and a governing philosophy rooted in initiative, meticulous follow up, self-criticism, and a forward-looking vision imbued with determination and a positive spirit.

This formula is rarely found in the world, especially when regional and international challenges loom large. However, those with the tenacity of King Mohammed VI and the loyalty of his people should not be surprised by the remarkable achievements attained in just a few years, as the case today in the Kingdom of Morocco.

Visit-to-

- Following are the cases in which smart home impoundment is implemented:
- Reckless driving
 - Running a red light
 - Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol
 - Excessive smoke emissions
 - Driving against the flow of traffic
 - Parking in spaces designated for

- people with disabilities
- Using a mobile phone while driving
 - Racing on public roads
 - Deliberately obstructing traffic
 - Exceeding the speed limit by 30 kilometers per hour or more
 - No license plates or with only one plate
 - Driving without a license.
- Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior has set a fee of KD 5 for the first issuance of license plates for floating vessels and jet skis, according to Ministerial Resolution No. 1089/2026, which was published on Sunday in the official gazette, “Kuwait Al-Yaum.”
- Article 1 specifies the applicable fees as follows:
- First-time issuance: KD 5 for all vessel sizes.
 - Replacement of damaged or lost plates:
- KD 25 for vessels exceeding 40 feet in length
 - KD 20 for vessels between 16 and 40 feet
 - KD 15 for vessels under 16 feet
- Change of business activity or nature of work for vessels:
- KD 70 for vessels exceeding 40 feet
 - KD 60 for vessels between 16 and 40 feet
- A fee of KD 50 applies to changes in business activity or nature of work for vessels under 16 feet.
- Article 2 of the resolution assigns the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior the responsibility for implementing the resolution, which shall take effect from the date of its publication in the official gazette.

Cloud hub

The project is a significant step towards strengthening the digital infrastructure and supporting digital transformation efforts in the public and

private sectors, thus, solidifying the position of Kuwait as a trusted regional hub for data, computing and cloud services.

Meanwhile, the ministry is currently finalizing the procedures for the construction, completion and maintenance of two freshwater pipelines (1,600 mm diameter) from the Mina Abdullah Water Distribution Complex to the West Funaitees Complex, and a brackish water pipeline (1,200 mm diameter) from the Mina Abdullah Complex to the Zour Complex, along with the associated works.

If CAPT approves the tender once the necessary modifications are made, the project tender will be announced, and a deadline for submitting bids from participating companies will be set. The bids will then be opened and referred to the ministry for review within 30 days.

In a related development, two similar projects are being considered for the construction and completion of a ductile iron (1,200 mm diameter) freshwater pipeline from Al-Mutlaa to the low-cost housing area.

The second project includes the construction, completion and maintenance of main freshwater (1,200 mm diameter) ductile iron pipelines from Al-Wafra Water Complex (No. 1) to South Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City.

Kuwait reinforces

The discussions came after the UAE strongly condemned the hostile Iranian drone attack targeting Kuwait on Saturday, describing it as an unprecedented escalation against Gulf security.

In a statement, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the attack was a blatant violation of Kuwait’s sovereignty and a direct threat to regional stability. It affirmed the UAE’s full solidarity with Kuwait and support for

all measures taken to protect its territory and national security.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Khalid Al-Shariaan, Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, chaired a coordination meeting bringing together senior leaders from Kuwait’s military and security agencies. The session was held in the presence of Major General Abdulwahab Al-Waheeb, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior; Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas, Undersecretary of the National Guard; and Major General Talal Al-Roumi, Chief of the General Fire Force.

According to a press statement issued by the General Staff on Sunday, the meeting reviewed a range of issues aimed at strengthening coordination and cooperation between military and security bodies. Participants discussed mechanisms to enhance joint operational frameworks, with a focus on elevating readiness levels, improving performance efficiency, and achieving deeper integration across the various armed and security forces.

The gathering was also attended by the Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Major General Staff Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, alongside a number of senior commanding officers from the participating military and security authorities.

In other news, US President Donald Trump says he will order American forces to hold off on new strikes against Iran, claiming Mideast allies have reached the parameters of a deal to end the 5-month old war.

The emerging deal “would include the Immediate, Complete, and Total OPENING OF THE HORMUZ STRAIT, and an end to Iran’s nuclear threat,” Trump wrote in a Saturday evening social media post.

“Based on this request, I have agreed, for the future benefit of the WORLD and, likewise, the survival of a successful and prosperous Iran, to

cancel the attack, subject to being able to rapidly make a DEAL,” Trump said.

Trump has announced halts to strikes in Iran on several occasions since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28, only for things to unravel and fighting to resume again.

Iran’s defense minister said on X that the country was “neither surprised nor passive” following Trump’s announcement and said Iran continues to remain alert in the face of concrete threats from the U.S.

A regional official says the proposal announced by Trump over the weekend calls for the U.S. and Iran to return to negotiations and continue working out many of the issues that have stymied prior progress on the deal.

The official, who is involved in the mediation efforts, said the proposal calls for reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and halting attacks across the region, including by Iranian-backed militias in Iraq on the Arab Gulf countries and Jordan.

The U.S., in exchange, will end its naval blockade on Iran and allow Tehran to export its oil as stated in the tentative ceasefire deal, he said.

No deal has been reached yet, but mediation efforts are underway, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to talk to the media.

Trump said that Israel is joining his commitment to end the war by implementing the ceasefire deal. Israel did not publicly comment on the announcement.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman spoke with Trump by phone Saturday and raised concerns about the U.S. potentially escalating the conflict with Iran, according to the Saudi press agency.

The Saudis, according to the person briefed on the substance of the call but not authorized to comment publicly, are concerned that Tehran could respond with attacks on the energy in-

frastructure of the kingdom and other Gulf countries. The call happened before Trump’s social media announcement, the person said.

The crown prince sought clarity from Trump on what potential new action he was weighing to take against Iran, the person said.

A White House official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and requested anonymity, confirmed the leaders spoke Saturday but did not offer any detail.

Iran has repeatedly attacked vessels attempting to transit through the Strait of Hormuz without its authorization as part of its ongoing conflict with the U.S.

Gold prices

Despite the weekly decline, gold ended July with an increase of nearly 0.5 percent, marking its first monthly gain since February.

The report explained that pressure on gold increased as the US dollar recovered part of its losses, with the dollar index closing at 99.8 points after earlier recording its largest daily decline since January 2023.

The yield on 10-year US Treasury bonds rose to around 4.75 percent, increasing the attractiveness of yield-generating assets and reducing demand for non-yielding gold.

Despite the US Federal Reserve’s decision to keep interest rates unchanged during its latest meeting, markets are focused on the next steps in monetary policy.

US economic data showed GDP growth slowing to 1.5 percent in the second quarter, while the core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) index, the Federal Reserve’s preferred measure of inflation, declined to 3.3 percent, temporarily reducing expectations of further interest rate increases.



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This image provided by KMVT shows the scene of a shooting that started at an In-N-Out Burger restaurant on Aug 1, in Twin Falls, Idaho. (AP)

Idaho shooting kills 3

Three people were killed and seven more were injured, some critically, in a shooting at an In-N-Out Burger restaurant in southern Idaho on Saturday afternoon, a Twin Falls city spokesman said.

Police who responded to the shooting found the body of the suspected gunman in an area near the restaurant, Twin Falls city public information officer

Josh Palmer said. He did not know if the suspect was included in the fatality count.

Officials were still working on notifying the family members of victims and so were not yet releasing the names, ages or other details about the people hurt in the shooting, Palmer said. Some of the people injured are in critical condition, Palmer said. (AP)

Thousands of migrant children in US could face new deportation risks as legal aid deal expires

HARLINGEN, Texas, Aug 2, (AP): Advocates warn that tens of thousands of migrant children who came to the United States alone could lose legal representation in immigration court and increase their risk of deportation as the Trump administration allows a contract with legal services providers to expire.

Friday marks the last day of a contract under which the federal government pays for legal services for children who enter the U.S. without a parent or guardian. The government contracts out those services to a network of nearly 100 legal groups across the country that provide services to roughly 20,000 children.

The Trump administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment on why it was allowing the contract to expire. But it comes as the administration has redoubled its efforts to achieve its policy of mass deportations, and after migrant children became a target for removal from the country during the first year of President Donald Trump's second term in office.



Immigrants play soccer at a new US government holding center for migrant children, in Carrizo Springs, Texas on July 9, 2019. (AP)

As part of the expiring contract, the legal groups can enter government-funded shelters and give presentations to children about their legal rights, and directly represent the children as they go through im-

migration court proceedings.

But as that contract ends, the providers say it's unclear what will happen come Monday or whether they'll be able to visit their clients in the shelters where they live.

"We have no understanding of what's going to happen to those children come next week. We don't know if they're going to have legal representation. The government as of yet has not identified who will take over this representation," said Melissa Lopez, the executive director of Estrella El Paso, during a news conference earlier this week. The organization currently represents 243 unaccompanied children in western Texas and New Mexico.

The providers say their ability to enter the shelters, check on their clients and give presentations to new arrivals serves as an important oversight measure for a vulnerable population. The providers warn that without a lawyer to assist them in court and help them navigate the complexities of immigration law, children will be much more likely to be deported back to countries they initially fled.

"The government is trying to eliminate our work in this program because they know that without attorneys children will be deported," said Lopez.

Graham promotes president's agenda in political debut ahead of special Senate primary

Maryland gov 'very concerned' Trump will interfere in midterm elections

OKLAHOMA CITY, Aug 2, (AP): Gov Wes Moore of Maryland said he is "very concerned" that President Donald Trump will wield the power of the federal government to thwart the midterm elections this fall as the Republican tries to maintain his grip on power during the final two years of his administration.

In an interview as he becomes chair of the National Governors Association, the potential 2028 Democratic presidential contender ticked through Trump's efforts to restrict voting by mail, obtain voter information from states and possibly deploy federal troops or agents to polling places. Moore said there was a role for the NGA, a bipartisan group, to ensure states are able to oversee elections as designed by the U.S. Constitution.

"I don't think that the president is trying to hide the ball on this," Moore said. "It's not even am I concerned about what the president could do? I'm concerned about what he's already doing in broad daylight."

The 47-year-old governor's national profile is rising as he assumes the top leadership post for the nation's governors on Saturday, a role once held by Bill Clinton when he was governor of Arkansas. Moore is the subject of frequent speculation that he will announce a presidential

run, a prospect he rules out, saying he will not "get distracted" before the November elections.

His travel to early presidential testing grounds such as South Carolina and Nevada, though, suggests he may run. Moore is proving himself a savvy digital communicator and crafts an image as a newcomer to politics while voters demand change.

The centerpiece of his agenda as NGA chair - a national program to build communities and draw young people into the workforce through service-oriented work - could be a pillar of a future campaign.

"Service will save us as a society because I know service saved me," he said, recalling his time in the Army.

The "Service United" campaign opens with \$10 million in philanthropic support to build on similar work Moore has done in Maryland, including a \$5 million expansion of an apprenticeship program in the state announced this week.

"It's an opportunity to help people with a career path," said Bechara Choucair, the executive vice president and chief health officer at Kaiser Permanente, which is building a youth mental health corps with Service United.

Dame Louise Richardson, the president of the Andrew Carnegie



Maryland Gov Wes Moore speaks during the National Action Network (NAN) Convention in New York on April 9. (AP)

Foundation, which is supporting the program, said she hopes to "see the day when you meet somebody, they don't just ask, 'Where did you go to college?' but they ask, 'Where did you do your service year?'"

The contours of the initiative have drawn support from some Republicans, including Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, the outgoing NGA chair. "One of the things I like is the apprenticeship model and getting kids

out of the classroom and into more workforce learning," Stitt said. "So I think that's brilliant."

But that optimism masks the challenge facing Moore as he takes the helm of one of the few remaining political groups that bring top Republicans and Democrats together. For all the nods at bipartisanship, the divides between - and within - the parties run deep.

Even as he spoke warmly of

Moore's program, Stitt warned against anything resembling a "big government program."

Moore, meanwhile, spoke of public frustration with the government's response to dramatic changes in the workforce, driven by advances in artificial intelligence that could erode entry-level work that has long helped young people start their careers. He said the White House has complicated the dynamic.

Also:

LEXINGTON, SC: Sen Darline Graham made her political debut before hundreds of Republican voters in South Carolina on Saturday, saying that she never envisioned a life in politics for herself until after the death of her brother Lindsey Graham, and now wants to work hard to promote the state and President Donald Trump's policy priorities.

Graham is serving in an interim role to fulfill her brother's current term. But as one of nine Republicans seeking to replace him more permanently in a special primary election set for Aug. 11, she is a relative political unknown facing off against some of the state's best-known GOP names.

On Saturday, she acknowledged that she has not spent decades in politics, but argued that she understands

the real-world applications of the federal policy debates her brother knew well, like budgeting and the cost of health care. She reiterated that, like her brother, she's backed by Trump, who urged her to get into the race and has endorsed her.

"I certainly never expected to be on this stage, giving this stump speech," Darline Graham said to a crowd gathered for the event in Lexington. "I've never had any desire to be a politician. I'm here today because I'm answering President Trump's call to serve. I want to stand up for South Carolina, and I want to fight for President Trump's agenda."

Graham found herself thrust into the political spotlight just three weeks ago, following her brother's sudden death from an aortic tear.

Given the compressed timeline of the special election, Darline Graham now has just more than a week to convince South Carolina Republican voters that she's the best pick to represent the state. Up to this moment, she has been known to the state's voters primarily through her brother's origin story, including their hardscrabble upbringing and parents' early death, and in the period of mourning for her brother, for whom funeral services in Washington and South Carolina took place just days ago.

'Deadly bomb attack a terrorist act'

Moscow restaurant bombing kills 3

MOSCOW, Aug 2, (AP): Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyenin called on Sunday a bomb attack on a restaurant in the capital the day before a "brutal terrorist act," but did not say who was responsible.

The blast on Saturday evening at the Balzi Rossi, an upscale Italian establishment in central Moscow, killed three people, including the woman bomber. Russian state media said, citing local officials.

"Yesterday, a brutal terrorist act was committed in Moscow that claimed human lives. The victims are currently in the city's hospitals, where they are receiving all necessary care," Sobyenin wrote on social media Sunday.

At least 21 people were wounded when the explosive device detonated at the restaurant on Kudrinskaya Square, the National Anti-Terrorism Committee said late on Saturday, according to Russian state news agency Ria Novosti.

The woman attempted to smuggle the bomb into the establishment, but the security guard refused to let her in before the bomb exploded, reported Ria Novosti. The Moscow Investigative Committee said on Saturday evening the attack was still being investigated.



Ambulances and special services vehicles are parked near the site where an improvised explosive device detonated at a restaurant in central Moscow on Aug 1. (AP)

As of early afternoon on Sunday, there was no further information from Russian authorities, and no one had publicly claimed responsibility.

According to Ria Novosti, the restaurant was closed for a private function on Saturday evening.

Footage released by Russian state media showed heavily armed law-enforcement officers, several ambulances and other emergency vehicles

at the site.

Meanwhile, Russia launched an intense barrage of ballistic missiles and drones overnight into Saturday, killing at least nine people and wounding 33 civilians in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, authorities said.

The strikes follow a major Russian attack two days earlier that killed at least 10 people and wounded more than 50 others across Ukraine, as Moscow apparently looks to exploit Kyiv's critical shortage of Western-supplied anti-ballistic missile defenses. The relentless cycle of attacks dims the potential of reaching a diplomatic end to Russia's more than 4-year-old invasion of its neighbor.

A five-story residential building in the city's Solomianskyi District was damaged by falling debris and a fire broke out. Rescue workers evacuated 35 people from the upper floors of the building and two people died, with eight reported injured, including two children, according to Ukraine's state emergency service.

In the Darnytskyi District of Kyiv, seven people were killed and another 14 injured after the attack caused fires and damage to houses, vehicles, an administrative and non-residential building, the emergency services said.



A picture taken from the French Civil Security rescue coordination helicopter shows an area burned by wildfires near Le Porge, France on July 31. (AP)

French wildfire near Bordeaux contained as firefighters battle blaze in Provence

LACANAU, France, Aug 2, (Agencies): France's vast wildfire near Bordeaux, which scorched an area four times the size of Paris and forced 224,000 people to evacuate, remained contained Sunday but was still burning. Hundreds of kilometers (miles) away, a newer blaze in Provence had stopped advancing overnight but was not yet contained.

About 3,000 firefighters remained deployed across the two fronts, extinguishing hot spots, cutting firebreaks and securing areas of burned forest as high temperatures and wind threatened to breathe new life into smoldering embers.

The fire in the Gironde region burned about 420 square kilometers (162 square miles) in just 10 days before authorities declared its advance stopped over the weekend.

"The fire is now fixed, which does not mean that the fire is extinguished," the Gironde prefecture said Sunday, using the French firefighting term for a blaze that has been contained within its perimeter.

The region remained under France's highest red forest-fire alert. Dry conditions and soaring temperatures in Bordeaux, along with

afternoon winds, risked rekindling flames.

Additional firefighters from Ukraine, Lithuania and French Polynesia were expected Sunday and Monday to reinforce the operation.

Human-caused climate change doubled the chances of extreme fire conditions for the flames in France, scientists at World Weather Attribution calculated in a rapid analysis Thursday, conducted while fires were still burning.

Europe is the world's fastest-warming continent, with temperatures increasing at twice the speed as the global average since the 1980s, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

The Gironde prefecture prompted one of the largest peacetime evacuations in modern French history. Many thousands of people remained displaced or unable to reach their homes.

In the southeastern Var department, meanwhile, nearly 1,500 firefighters were battling a separate fire that tore through roughly 18 square kilometers - seven square miles - in little more than a day.

Authorities said the blaze in the Gros Bessillon hills was stabilized

Sunday morning, meaning its perimeter had not expanded overnight. But unlike the Gironde fire, it had not yet been declared contained.

Firefighting aircraft supported crews working to keep the flames away from villages set among the vineyards, olive groves and wooded hills of the region known as Green Provence.

About 2,500 people were evacuated as the fire threatened communities.

The blaze was the fourth major fire to strike the central Var since July 19. A separate, smaller fire near Brignoles earlier in the week forced Hollywood star George Clooney and his family, along with about 700 other residents, to evacuate before it was brought under control.

Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu said France's wildfires were generally under control but cautioned that conditions remained highly changeable.

Lecornu also announced the appointment of a national coordinator to oversee reconstruction in fire-ravaged areas. More than 1,170 square kilometers (452 square miles) have burned across France since the beginning of the year.

Craig elected Greater Manchester mayor

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 2, (AP): Labour Party candidate Bev Craig was elected mayor of Greater Manchester on Friday, after a vote triggered by the departure of Andy Burnham to become Britain's prime minister.

Craig won 66.3% of the votes in a runoff with Sian Astley from the anti-immigration party Reform UK.

"To those that voted for me, thank you," Craig said after the result was declared. "And for those of you that didn't vote for me, I will still be your mayor. I will defend this city region with every bone in my body and I will fight for a better life for all of us."

Turnout in voting held Thursday was only 25%, the lowest in any of the four elections since the northwest England city got a directly elected mayor in 2017.

Voters were able to mark a first and second choice on their ballots. Since no candidate reached 50% of the votes in the first round, the top two competed in a runoff in which the second-preference choices of five eliminated candidates were added.



Bev Craig, the Labour Party candidate, departs Broad Oak Primary in Didsbury after voting in the Greater Manchester mayoral by-election, in Manchester, England, on July 30. (AP)

Andrews hopeful for the future of Southeast Asian nation

UN expert flags human rights concerns over Cambodia after talks with PM

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Aug 2, (AP): A UN official said Friday that Cambodia faces serious human rights issues, including people being displaced by armed conflict, human trafficking by cyberscam operators and the jailing of those exercising their freedom of expression.

Former US congressman Tom Andrews said he visited a relocation site on the Cambodian border where 20,000 people are still displaced by last year's conflict between Cambodia and Thailand. Many told him they had been unable to return to homes in territory now occupied by the Thai military.

Andrews, who is the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Cambodia, was speaking in the capital, Phnom Penh, after meeting Prime Minister Hun Manet and other senior officials.

Despite the challenges laid out in a prepared "end of mission" statement, Andrews said he was hopeful for the future of the Southeast Asian nation, which he praised for raising living standards through impressive economic development.

"While we may not have agreed on every point, there was an agreement to move forward on the issues that I had identified," said Andrews, who previously had been the Special Rapporteur for Myanmar, whose military rulers he was fiercely critical of.

Andrews, who started his role in Cambodia in April, said he also met - freely and without restrictions - with opposition politicians, human rights defenders, environmental activists, representatives of civil society organizations, journalists, humanitarian workers, and diplomats.



UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights Tom Andrews delivers a press conference in Phnom Penh Cambodia on July 31. (AP)

He was also given free access to places of detention, a displacement camp, and the border region, where last year Cambodia fought several weeks of armed combat with neighboring Thailand.

"It is a matter of international law that those displaced by armed conflict have the right to return to their homes," he said. "It is imperative that Thailand and Cambodia work together to expedite the return of displaced civilians." Thailand denies acting illegally.

In a press release about his mission, Andrews acknowledged Cambodia's recent efforts to crack down on transnational criminal networks while also raising concerns about senior officials who have been allegedly implicated in cyberscam operations.

His concern extended to the plight of many foreigners freed from scam compounds who are unable to return to their homelands.

Andrews said he had received information that more than 100 people may be in detention for exercising their right to freedom of expression, assembly, or association. Cambodia's government has long had a reputation for repression of political opponents, social activists and the media.

"No one should be behind bars for exercising their fundamental human rights," he said.

Andrews said the freedom of expression and assembly were critical issues for Cambodia's next round of elections, saying voters "deserve the right to make an informed choice based upon access to the full range of opinions, information, and perspectives."

Japan ends mall rescue operation as earthquake death toll hits 36

TOKYO, Aug. 2, (AP): An elderly woman who developed heat stroke while taking shelter in a car is the latest fatality from a powerful earthquake that struck Japan's southwestern prefecture of Kumamoto last week, officials said Sunday as concerns over heat-related illnesses grow in an area that is also suffering extreme temperatures.

The woman in her 70s with apparent heat stroke was found in a car, Kumamoto officials said, as they raised the death toll from the quake to 36. The magnitude 7.1 hit Kumamoto Prefecture on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu on Tuesday.

This latest death was what officials and experts had worried about amid high temperatures. Kumamoto authorities were to start delivering leaflets to those taking shelter in their cars, urging them to stay in cool places and take sufficient liquids, and regularly take exercise to avoid blood clotting risks.

NHK public television said the woman was found dead Thursday in a car without gas.

"It's heartbreaking," said Kumamoto Gov akashi Kimura, referring to the death of the woman, as he called on evacuees taking shelter in their cars to keep refueling their vehicles to run air-conditioning, or consider moving to air-conditioned evacuation centers to avoid similar risks.

The prefecture's main challenge is the lack of fresh water still affecting nearly 47,000 homes, and fuel shortages as Japan suffers sweltering heat, stoking fears of heat-related illness.

On Saturday, authorities ended a massive dayslong search-and-rescue operation at the Aeon Mall, in the town of Kashima, after extracting five people and the bodies of seven others. The site was one of the hardest-hit sites, after an explosion that followed the quake caused the walls and a floor to collapse.

The explosion, which the company said it believes was due to a gas leak, occurred after about 3,000 shoppers had been evacuated to a parking lot following the quake, but some employees remained inside. The mall's second floor collapsed.

The overall number of missing in the hit prefecture remains unknown, and search operations pressed on, with thousands of Self Defense troops, police, rescue workers and sniffing dogs deployed.



A firefighter searches the damaged AEON Mall following an explosion triggered by an earthquake in Kashima, Kumamoto Prefecture, southern Japan on July 31. (AP)

Malaysia begins screening 5,000 refugees for planned return to Myanmar: Nasution

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Aug 2, (AP): Malaysia has started documenting and screening thousands of detained Myanmar nationals as part of a repatriation program agreed with Myanmar, Home Minister Saifuddin Nasution said.

Saifuddin said Myanmar had committed to accept up to 5,000 of its citizens currently living in Malaysia and an unspecified number currently in Cox's Bazar, a town in south east Bangladesh.

Malaysia had identified up to 4,000 Myanmar nationals in its 19 detention depots, who will be moved to a single site for security screening and documentation purposes, he said.

"We will certainly meet the target of 5,000 individuals once this process is complete," Saifuddin told to reporters, adding that the foreign ministry will handle the next stage of the repatriation process with Myanmar.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim had said Wednesday that those being repatriated were Rohingya refugees.

"People ask why we do not simply send them back. Send them where? Myanmar had refused to accept them before. Now, because of our good relations with Myanmar, they have agreed to take back 5,000 from Malaysia," Anwar was cited as saying by the New Straits Times.

However, Saifuddin, who did not explicitly identify the 5,000 individuals as Rohingya, said only Myanmar nationals with refugee status were being repatriated.

Foreign ministry officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, a commissioner for refugee, relief and repatriation in Cox's Bazar, told The Associated Press by phone that he was not aware of any repatriation of Rohingya from Bangladesh.

In Naypyitaw, the capital of Myanmar, officials also rejected reports that the government would accept Rohingyas.

Han Win Aung, director-general of the ASEAN department at Myanmar's Foreign Affairs Ministry, said the repatriation program was focused solely on verified Myanmar nationals currently held in detention centers in Malaysia.

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, does not recognize the Rohingya as one of the country's 135 lawful ethnic minorities, instead referring to them as Bengalis to imply they are natives from Bangladesh and are illegally settled in Myanmar.

"This is not about bringing back Bengalis. There are Myanmar nationals who are being held in detention centers in Malaysia for various reasons," Han Win Aung told the AP. "Both sides are still at the stage of coordinating to repatriate only those whose identity as genuine Myanmar citizens has been verified."

He said the plan follows earlier repatriation operations in 2021 and 2022, when Myanmar received more than 1,100 of its nationals stranded in Malaysia.



Illegal immigrants from Myanmar rest at a temporary immigration detention center in Langkawi, Malaysia on May 12, 2015. (AP)



Police inspect the wreckage of a plane that crashed during a sightseeing flight carrying tourists over the Nazca Lines in Peru on Aug 1. (AP)

13 dead after Nazca Lines tourist flight crashes in Peru

A plane carrying European tourists to view the famed Nazca Lines crashed into a field Saturday outside the Peruvian city of Nazca, killing 13 people, local authorities said.

Nazca's municipal government said the plane departed from the nearby city of Ica and was operated by Peruvian company Aerodiana. On its website, the airline said that it has offered scenic flights over the Nazca lines for the past 14 years using Cessna Grand Caravan planes.

The Nazca Lines are a group of extensive geoglyphs scraped into the desert around Nazca hundreds of years ago by Peru's Indigenous inhabitants. The lines form images of animals that can only be fully appreciated from planes or viewing towers. (AP)

Among the dead were seven Italian citizens between the ages of 18 and 54, two 52-year-old Spaniards and two Germans of 77 and 78 years, Peru's Transportation Ministry said. The other two fatalities were the

pilot Américo Salazar and copilot Irenka Guanilo del Carpio, it said in an official report.

President Keiko Fujimori expressed regret over the accident and said a "temporary suspension" of the airport was being considered, though the decision will be made once she receives reports from the relevant ministries.

Peruvian authorities said the accident is under investigation. Aerodiana was not immediately available for comment. (AP)

Truck explodes outside Colombia police base, injuring 11 officers

BOGOTÁ, Colombia, Aug 2, (AP): Colombia's government on Saturday blamed the nation's largest remaining rebel group for an explosion outside a police base that injured 11 officers and killed a police dog.

The attack took place early Saturday in Cucuta, a city along Colombia's border with Venezuela, where drug gangs and rebel groups have long fought for the control of smuggling routes.

Gen. William Rincon, the director of Colombia's police, said the blast came from a truck that had been left outside a building that serves as the headquarters for police in Norte de Santander Province. The pre-dawn explosion damaged much of the building's roofing and shattered its windows.

"This was a vile terrorist attack," Rincon said. "We will not rest until we find those who are responsible and have them prosecuted."

In a message on X, Colombian Defense Minister Pedro Sanchez blamed the National Liberation Army rebel group for the attack, and offered a \$60,000 reward for information leading to those behind the car bombing.

The attack comes as Colombia prepares to inaugurate a new president. Next Friday, Abelardo de la Esperiella, an ultra conservative who has promised to cancel peace talks with the nation's remaining rebel groups, will be sworn into office in Cali, another Colombian city where rebel groups have staged attacks recently.

The National Liberation Army, or ELN, has been fighting Colombia's government for decades, and is believed to have 6,000 fighters operating in Colombia and neighboring Venezuela.

The group was founded in the 1960s by union leaders, students and peasants seeking social justice, but has largely transformed into a criminal organization that profits from illegal gold mining and drug trafficking, according to Colombian authorities, with President Gustavo Petro often accusing its leaders of acting as "drug lords dressed up as guerrilla fighters."

Under outgoing President Gustavo Petro, who was elected in 2022, Colombia staged peace negotiations with the ELN. But the talks fell apart early last year, after the ELN staged attacks in the rural area north of Cucuta, in which an estimated 78 people were killed. At least 56,000 had to flee their homes.

Incoming President Abelardo de la Esperiella has said he will confront the ELN and criminal groups in Colombia with greater military force, and will resume the aerial fumigation of coca crops, the raw material for cocaine.



Police inspect the scene after a truck exploded outside a police station in Cucuta, Colombia, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026. (AP)



Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez speaks during a press conference in Caracas, Venezuela, on July 2. (AP)

Venezuelans watch new round of talks between government, opposition with cautious optimism

CARACAS, Aug 2, (AP): Venezuelans are watching the start of a round of US-backed talks between the ruling party and the opposition on Saturday with cautious optimism after several previous negotiations failed to bring reconciliation.

The latest talks follow the January capture of then-President Nicolás Maduro by US forces, and will focus on strengthening democracy and restoring rights after nearly three decades of socialist rule.

The talks will be led by members of Venezuela's overwhelmingly pro-government National Assembly and a group of former opposition lawmakers who previously attempted to oust Maduro. US officials say they will have a facilitating role.

"I hope these people (the government) finally understand that we won't move forward with the usual arbitrary actions; they must respect agreements," said Soraida Martínez, a 58-year-old homemaker. "Both sides need to make concessions for the good of the country."

Saturday's meeting comes nearly seven weeks after a gathering in Caracas between National Assembly chief Jorge Rodríguez - the brother of Acting President Delcy Rodríguez - and former lawmaker Dinorah Figuera, who briefly returned to Venezuela after nearly eight years in exile.

In 2023, Figuera was selected to represent opposition lawmakers from the 2015 National Assembly, which was widely regarded as Venezuela's last democratically elected institution. She has said the priority is to develop an institutional agenda that transcends the interests of Venezuela's political groups, as proposed by the Trump administration.

After US forces captured Maduro and his wife, the Trump administration proposed a three-phase plan for Venezuela comprising stabilization, recovery and democratic transition.

On Friday, the US State Department said Washington had no intention of dictating how Venezuela's election would be run and that it understood the complications of trying to prepare for a vote while still recovering from devastating earthquakes.

Reinforcing the resilience of its business model despite regional tensions

Boursa Kuwait records net profit of KD 13.74 million in the first half of 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: Boursa Kuwait Securities Company held its Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, 30 July 2026, and announced its financial results for the six months ended 30 June 2026, recording a net profit of KD 13.74 million.

The company achieved total operating revenues of KD 23.39 million for the six months ended 30 June 2026, while operating profit for the period stood at KD 17.11 million. Meanwhile, earnings per share stood at 68.42 fils for the period ended 30 June 2026.

In addition, the company's financial position was reflected as its total assets grew to approximately KD 127.68 million while shareholders' equity (attributable to the parent company) stood at KD 67.51 million as of 30 June 2026.

Resilient performance and a diversifying revenue base

"Boursa Kuwait entered 2026 against a backdrop of serious regional geopolitical tensions that have persisted through the first half of the year and into the current period. Despite the pressures that weighed on first-quarter performance, including the precautionary suspension of trading in early March to protect the market and its participants, the company demonstrated a strong capacity to adapt and to regain growth momentum during the second quarter, as both operating revenues and net profit returned to growth compared with the corresponding period of 2025," said Chairman Mr. Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi.

This financial performance underscores the momentum in the company's recovery, with the year-on-year net profit decline narrowing from 24.59% in the first quarter to 9.09% in the first half, reflecting an improvement in quarterly performance and a return to growth in the second-quarter results.

"These results indicate that Boursa Kuwait was one of the top performers in the region, affirming the strength and resilience of our business model in navigating economic and regional developments. This performance rests on the diversification of revenue sources and on operational and financial discipline in cost management, which has contributed to enhancing operational efficiency and supporting the sustainability of performance," he added.

Al-Kharafi stressed that Boursa Kuwait continues to manage its business with a disciplined approach, while remaining committed to further developing the Kuwaiti capital market, protecting investor interests and strengthening its role as a fundamental pillar in supporting the national economy and achieving Kuwait's development objectives.

Market development and the transition to a multi-asset financial market

Mr. Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi emphasized that regional crises and volatility have not deterred Boursa Kuwait from continuing to implement its ambitious strategy to develop the market's structural infrastructure and expand its investment options, with the first half witnessing significant milestones in the Market Development (MD) Program.

"The launch of the bonds and sukuk trading platform in April and the listing of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in June represent a strategic step in the development of the Kuwaiti capital market, reinforcing Boursa Kuwait's transition from a market focused primarily on equities to a multi-asset financial market, which helps broaden investment options for a wider base of investors and opens new avenues of financing for companies and financial institutions," he said.

The launch of the fixed income platform and the listing of exchange-traded funds completed the second part of Phase Three of the Market Development Program (MD 3.2), which also included the implementation of the Central Counterparty (CCP) framework and the upgrade of brokerage firms to Qualified Broker status.

The Boursa Kuwait Chairman concluded his statement with a note of thanks, saying, "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my sincere thanks to our shareholders for their continued confidence, and to the executive management and the company's employees for their dedication and commitment. I also thank the Capital Markets Authority and the capital market apparatus for their ongoing cooperation and continued support, and our investors and market participants for their trust."

Al-Kharafi also affirmed Boursa Kuwait's continued commitment to developing a more efficient and transparent financial market that serves the national economy.

Alongside the financial results, Boursa Kuwait continued to enhance the market's operational efficiency and to implement its strategic priorities during the first half of 2026, which was reflected in market performance, trading stability and the sustained flow of institutional and international investment.

The Kuwaiti capital market demonstrates its resilience and operational efficiency

Overcoming the impact of regional geopolitical tensions and oil price volatility that weighed on investor sentiment, the Kuwaiti capital market demonstrated a strong ability to maintain stability and operational efficiency during the first half of 2026.

The market emerged as one of the most resilient in the region, ranking third among GCC capital markets in terms of All-Share Total Return Index performance, behind Muscat and Saudi Tadawul. It was also one of only three Gulf markets to deliver a positive return during the first half of the year, with the index posting growth of 0.2%, while several regional markets posted negative returns.

Total return reflects the total value delivered to shareholders through both share price appreciation and sustainable cash dividends.

These indicators are particularly significant given the heightened regional uncertainty and the challenges posed by disruptions to trade flows and supply chains. They underscore the strength of listed companies' financial positions, the efficiency of the capital market ecosystem across its operational, regulatory and legislative components and its ability to sustain market activity even under the most challenging conditions.

"The Kuwaiti capital market's 0.2% return on the All-Share Total Return Index, together with its ranking as the third best-performing market in the GCC, demonstrates the resilience of its operational and regulatory framework in navigating geopolitical shocks," said Boursa Kuwait Chief Executive Officer Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi.



Bader Al-Kharafi



Mohammad Al-Osaimi

■ Total operating revenues reached KD 23.39 million, with operating profit at KD 17.11 million and earnings per share at 68.42 fils
■ Bader Al-Kharafi: Boursa Kuwait was one of the best performers in the region, and the recovery in second quarter earnings underscores the resilience of our business model in the face of challenges, while our strategy continues to deliver on the transformation towards a multi-asset market with the launch of the fixed-income platform and the introduction of exchange-traded funds (ETFs)
■ Mohammad Al-Osaimi: The All-Share Total Return Index posted growth despite market volatility, as total trading value reached KD 9.82 billion. Institutional investors accounted for 70.08% of market activity, while international investors represented 18.79% of the total value traded

utive Officer Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi

"This performance sends a clear message of confidence to the investment community, reflecting the financial strength of our listed companies and their steadfast commitment to delivering sustainable value and tangible cash returns to shareholders. It further reinforces Boursa Kuwait's position as a resilient and trusted investment destination, well equipped to preserve and grow capital amid regional challenges," he added.

Stable trading activity and liquidity

The Kuwaiti capital market maintained stable liquidity and orderly trading throughout the first half of the year, supported by continued enhancements to operational infrastructure, which helped mitigate the impact of regional challenges on trading activity and ensured the efficient flow of liquidity.

- Total value traded: KD 9.82 billion
- Average Daily Trading Value (ADTV): KD 84.64 million
- Total market capitalization: Approximately KD 52.16 billion

"The total value of shares traded during the first half reached approximately KD 9.82 billion, with an average daily trading value of KD 84.64 million," said Al-Osaimi. "These indicators reflect the continuity of market activity and the efficiency of its operational infrastructure despite a complex regional environment. Boursa Kuwait is committed to strengthening market liquidity and deepening its sustainability to support the long-term efficiency and resilience of the Kuwaiti capital market."

A diversified investor base and a stronger market structure

Boursa Kuwait continued to strengthen the market's structure and diversify its investor base during the first half of 2026, attracting high-quality listings to the "Premier" Market and further enhancing the Kuwaiti capital market's investment environment. These efforts contributed to maintaining market balance and sustaining trading activity despite regional challenges.

■ Trading activity by investor type: Institutional investors accounted for the largest share of total market activity at 70.08%, while retail investors represented 29.92%

■ Trading activity by geography: International investors, including GCC nationals, accounted for 18.79% of the total value traded, compared to 81.21% for local investors

"Institutional investors accounted for 70.08% of total market activity during the first half of the year, while international investors represented 18.79% of the total value traded. Together, these figures highlight the resilience of institutional participation and the continued diversity of the market's investor base despite regional volatility," stated Al-Osaimi.

"They also reflect the continued success of Boursa Kuwait's efforts to foster a transparent investment environment supported by high-quality disclosures, strengthening price discovery and reinforcing investor confidence across all market segments," he added.

Sustainable operational readiness and international investment engagement

Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer emphasized that business continuity and the resilience of the exchange's technological infrastructure were instrumental in maintaining orderly market operations and safeguarding investor interests during the period of heightened geopolitical tensions.

The company maintained full operational readiness throughout this period,



supported by robust risk management frameworks and stress testing aligned with international best practices, ensuring uninterrupted trading and the continued protection of market participants under exceptional circumstances.

As part of its strategy to promote the Kuwaiti capital market and attract international investment, Boursa Kuwait continued to strengthen its engagement through:

- Global investor interaction: The exchange solidified its presence within the international investment community, participating in the Fifth HSBC GCC Exchanges Conference and organizing its 17th Corporate Day in London, which brought together representatives of listed companies and leading global financial institutions.

- Advancing corporate sustainability: Boursa Kuwait published its fifth standalone Sustainability Report, highlighting the progress achieved in 2025 in implementing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards in line with international best practices and its commitment to creating long-term sustainable value. The exchange also released the updated edition of its ESG Reporting Guide, which guides listed companies on how to improve disclosure quality, strengthen transparency and further embed sustainability practices across the Kuwaiti capital market.

Institutional commitment

Boursa Kuwait believes that sustainable capital markets are built on a strong foundation of trust, transparency and efficiency, and that continuous development is essential to meeting the evolving expectations of investors and the demands of global markets.

The exchange continues to work closely with the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC) and all stakeholders across the capital market apparatus to enhance market efficiency and depth while further strengthening its operational and technological infrastructure in line with international best practices.

Boursa Kuwait also remains focused on advancing initiatives that enhance the Kuwaiti capital market's competitiveness and reinforce its appeal to local and international investors. Through these efforts, the exchange continues to support Kuwait's ambitious goal of becoming a leading regional financial and investment hub, in line with the objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Hamed Al-Tamimi secures Chief HR role at Gulf Bank

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: As part of its ongoing efforts to empower young talent, develop national leaders, and provide them with opportunities to assume senior leadership positions, Gulf Bank has announced the appointment of Mr. Hamed Al-Tamimi as Chief Human Resources Officer. The appointment recognizes his distinguished career spanning more than 19 years at the Bank, during which he held various roles across Retail Banking, Operations, and Human Resources, most recently serving as Acting Chief Human Resources Officer.



Hamed Al-Tamimi

ment of its future objectives. This commitment stems from the Bank's dedication to supporting Kuwait's vision of building a knowledge-based economy led by qualified young professionals capable of competing regionally and internationally.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr. Hamed Al-Tamimi expressed his appreciation for the trust placed in him, saying: "I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the executive management for their confidence in me. This trust represents a significant responsibility and a strong motivation to continue working with the utmost commitment and professionalism. During the next phase, we will focus on continuing our development journey and strengthening the strategic initiatives that support the achievement of the Bank's objectives in line with its future vision."

He added: "We will ensure that Human Resources remains an active partner in Gulf Bank's transformation and sustainable growth journey. We will also continue enhancing the employee experience and adopting the latest global human resources practices to foster a motivating and flexible work environment that supports innovation and creativity across the Bank."

Regarding his academic and professional qualifications, Al-Tamimi holds a bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems, in addition to several professional certifications from leading international universities and institutions in data analytics, operational excellence, compliance, and specialized skills development.

The Bank stated that Mr. Hamed Al-Tamimi's promotion to Chief Human Resources Officer reflects its confidence in his capabilities and experience. It also reaffirms the Bank's commitment to implementing its strategy of empowering national talent, developing human capital, and fostering an innovative work environment that supports the achieve-

FUN Program offers students unique internship experience at Zain

Zain connects students with career-building opportunities at INJAZ fair

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: Zain Kuwait took part in the latest edition of INJAZ Kuwait's annual Internship Fair, giving university students and fresh graduates a closer look at the company's training opportunities and the experience of working in the telecom and technology sector.

The fair's opening ceremony was joined by INJAZ Kuwait Vice Chairman Adel Al-Shamali, INJAZ Kuwait CEO Laila Hilal Al-Mutairi, Zain Kuwait's Youth Empowerment and Community Partnerships Team Leader Faisal Al-Duwaihees, as well as representatives of participating partners and students.

Zain's booth drew strong interest from students looking to gain early workplace experience. Visitors learned more about the company's training opportunities and the skills they could build by working alongside Zain employees, including communication, customer service, public relations, teamwork, and project management.

During the fair, Zain also showcased the internship opportunities available through the Zain Future University Network (FUN) Program, one of its flagship youth empowerment initiatives. The program allows participants to gain practical experience at the company through part-time placements, supported by a monthly financial incentive.

Since its launch in 2008, the FUN Program has empowered thousands of students to strengthen their personal and professional skills, gain a clearer understanding of workplace expectations, and build experience that supports their future careers. A number of high-performing FUN participants have later gone on to join Zain as full-time employees.

The FUN Program brings together a broad range of year-round initiatives. These include internships, a



The event introduced fresh graduates to careers in the telecom and technology sector.



The Zain FUN team.



Adel Al-Shamali, Laila Al-Mutairi, and Faisal Al-Duwaihees at Zain's booth.

summer program that places young people in Zain branches for direct workplace exposure, workshops and training sessions focused on personal and professional development, and FUN Talks, which connects students with entrepreneurs and inspiring business leaders to share experiences and offer a closer look at the world of entrepreneurship. Together, these initiatives help young people build confidence, strengthen

their employability, and prepare for their next steps.

Zain's annual participation in the fair builds on its longstanding strategic partnership with INJAZ Kuwait, which has continued for more than two decades. Over the years, the two organizations have worked together on a wide range of educational and training programs designed to develop young people's capabilities, encourage them to pursue their am-

bitions, and support them in turning ideas into viable projects.

Zain remains committed to initiatives that bring students closer to the workplace and help them build the skills needed to navigate a fast-changing job market. This reflects the company's belief in empowering a generation that is ready for the future and able to contribute meaningfully to innovation, entrepreneurship, and Kuwait's economy.

KFH holds H1 2026 earnings webcast



AlShamlan: Strong financial performance drives future growth and reinforces KFH’s resilience



Al-Samdan: Sustainable growth in key indicators, higher operating income, and net profit



Al-Mukhaizeem: Disciplined strategy execution boosts results, presence, and role integration across the Group

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held the earnings webcast to highlight the Group’s financial performance and results during H1 2026. The webcast was attended by KFH Group Chief Executive Officer, Khaled AlShamlan, Group Chief Financial Officer, Abdulkarim Al-Samdan, and Group Chief Strategy Officer and Acting Group Chief International Banking Officer, Eng. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem.

KFH Group Chief Executive Officer, Khaled AlShamlan

KFH Group Chief Executive Officer, Khaled AlShamlan commenced the meeting by shedding light on the Bank’s financial performance for H1 2026.

He said: “KFH reported in H1 2026 a net profit of KD 363.1 million, reflecting a growth of 6.1% compared to H1 2025. The earnings per share (EPS) reached 18.86 fils, representing an increase of 4.9% compared to the same period last year.”

He added: “Net financing income reached KD 649.4 million, an increase of 6.9% compared to the same period last year.Total operating income increased to KD 990.5 million, representing an increase of 9.9% compared to the same period last year. Additionally, cost-to-income ratio improved to 30.6% during H1 2026, compared to 34.3% for the same period last year, showcasing our commitment to operational excellence.”

He continued: “Net operating income for the first half of the year reached KD 687.9 million, reflecting an increase of 16.2% compared to the same period last year. The growth in our financial indicators during the first half of this year reflects the Group’s sustained ability to achieve balanced growth amid a rapidly evolving and challenging operating environment at regional and global levels.

Strategic developments

AlShamlan added: “KFH continued to strengthen its financial position, with total assets reaching KD 42.2 billion at the end of H1 2026, an increase of 9.7% compared to the end of the first half of the previous year. Financing receivables reached KD 22.8 billion, an increase of 11.5% compared to the end of H1 2025. Depositors’ accounts amounted to KD 21.6 billion, an increase of 9.4% compared to H1 2025, while shareholders’ equity amounted to approximately KD 5.8 billion, an increase of 4.2% compared to the same period of the previous year. Also, capital adequacy ratio reached 17.47%, exceeding regulatory requirements, which underscores robust capital base of KFH.”

“In line with our commitment to sustaining shareholder value, the Board of Directors has recommended distributing a semi-annual cash dividend of 10 fils per share, reinforcing shareholder confidence through sustainable, long-term returns,” AlShamlan explained.

Market leadership and global recognition

AlShamlan said:”KFH’s scale and market leadership continue to differentiate the Group regionally. The Bank ranked first in Kuwait and 12th regionally on Forbes’ list of the 100 largest public companies by market value. KFH market capitalization reached KD 14.1 billion by the end of H1-2026.”

He added:”We are leveraging our international platform of more than 600 branches across 10 countries to capture cross-border opportunities, finance priority infrastructure, and support SMEs reinforcing KFH’s role as a trusted partner for growth across our core markets.”

Social Responsibility and Sustainability

AlShamlan confirmed that KFH continues to translate its social responsibility into high-impact national initiatives. Since 2019, the Bank’s partnership with the Ministry of Justice has contributed approximately KD 61 million to support heavily indebted citizens. The Bank has also strengthened strategic partnerships with key minis-

tries across education, youth protection, health, justice, and social development, reinforcing its role as a national partner in sustainable community progress. This impact was recognized by Global Finance, which named Kuwait Finance House the World’s Best Islamic Bank for CSR 2026.

Operational Efficiency and Innovation

AlShamlan said that: “Digital transformation remains central to KFH’s growth strategy, with our online platform now processing more than 600 million transactions annually strengthening customer engagement, efficiency, and risk control. We are also investing in future-ready national talent, highlighted by 100 employees earning specialized professional certificates through the Injaz scholarship program.”

“As we move forward, despite recent geopolitical challenges, KFH will continue to focus on its strategic priorities: enhancing asset quality, improving financial performance and group synergies, advancing our digital infrastructure, and elevating the customer experience all within a solid risk management framework. We remain committed to maintaining our strong financial position while seizing market opportunities to drive future growth,” He added.

“Our strong financial performance in H1-2026 reflects the effectiveness of our strategies and our ability to navigate challenges in the evolving banking and regional landscape,”AlShamlan concluded.

Abdulkarim Al-Samdan, Group Chief Financial Officer:

Meanwhile, Group Chief Financial Officer, Abdulkarim Al-Samdan stated that KFH Group’s financial performance for the first half of 2026 demonstrated strong growth in core banking activities,highlighting key indicators.

Regarding the H1 2026 financial highlights, he pointed out that operating income grew faster than shareholder profit, with part of the improvement absorbed by precautionary provisions. The balance sheet became more productive as excess liquidity was redeployed. The Group’s geographic breadth is a key source of resilience, where the operating platform now generates a broader and more diversified income base, supported by scale, efficiency and contributions from multiple markets. Management’s priority is to sustain that return profile through disciplined financing growth, active funding and margin management, productivity and conservative capital allocation.

Al-Samdan pointed out that the international operations represented 39.4% of financing and 47.4% of deposits. The important point is that no single geography is the sole driver of the Group earnings.

He emphasized that income diversification creates value only when the operating platform remains productive, which KFH Group sought to achieve by reducing operating expenses by 2.1% to KD 302.7 million.

Al-Samdan explained that the credit provision balance is as important as the current-period charge. While IFRS 9 expected credit loss was KD 525.1 million, the provision balance under Central Bank of Kuwait regulations was KD 1,029.1 million, leaving a KD 504.0 million buffer.

Regarding liquidity profile, the liquidity ratios show strong headroom; management’s focus is the cost and economic deployment of that liquidity.LCR was 202.1%, NSFR was 123.5%, and the Kuwait financing-to-deposit ratio was 81.8%, against the current requirements shown on the slide of 80%, 80% and a 100% ceiling, respectively.

CET1 was 13.5%, Tier 1 was 15.7% and total CAR was 17.5%, above the current requirements of 10.5%, 12.0% and 14.0%, respectively.

“We manage capital to support risk-adjusted growth,

absorb stress and provide appropriate distributions. The Group retains approximately 350 basis points of headroom above the current total capital requirement, providing capacity to pursue profitable growth,” Al-Samdan added.

Eng. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem, Group Chief Strategy Officer & Acting Group Chief International Banking Officer

Meanwhile, Group Chief Strategy Officer & Acting Group Chief International Banking Officer, Eng. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem shared insights into Kuwait’s economic landscape and KFH’s strategic progress in the first half of 2026.

He said that: “At mid-year, the global economy remains resilient. The IMF projects growth of 3.0% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027, with inflation expected to ease in 2027. While trade growth may moderate in 2026, the outlook points to gradual recovery, supported by continued policy discipline.”

Regarding Kuwait’s economic and project outlook, he said:”Kuwait’s economy is expected to improve gradually after a softer Q1, with the IMF projecting growth to recover to 2.8% in 2027. Project activity remains supportive, with USD 2.0 billion in Q2 awards and a strong pipeline underpinning future activity and financing opportunities.”

For monetary and banking sector environment

He highlighted that the Central Bank of Kuwait kept its discount rate at 3.50% through H1 2026. Inflation remained moderate at 2.2% in June, while the IMF expects average inflation to reach 2.8% in 2026.

Strategic priorities

Al-Mukhaizeem said that against this backdrop, KFH remained well positioned, supported by a strong balance sheet, prudent risk management, diversified income, and a broad regional presence. Entering H2, the Group retains the resilience and capacity to support customers and finance the real economy.

KFH advanced key strategic priorities during H1 by launching secure banking through WhatsApp, while KFHOnline mobile application continued to offer more than 200 services. The Group also expanded savings solutions supporting education, retirement, entrepreneurship, and home ownership.

He emphasized that KFH continued to translate its digital strategy into measurable improvements in customer experience, speed, and efficiency, earning Euromoney’s 2026 Best Digital Bank in Kuwait award. The Group also deepened integration across Turkey, Bahrain, Egypt, and the UK through shared technology and aligned risk frameworks, strengthening its project finance capabilities across infrastructure, energy, and urban development. In recognition of this progress, Global Finance named KFH the World’s Best Islamic Project Finance Provider for 2026.

Global Awards

Al-Mukhaizeem added that KFH earned more than 25 awards and rankings in H1 2026, reinforcing the strength of its franchise and the consistency of its execution. Key recognitions included World’s Best Islamic Financial Institution and World’s Best Islamic Corporate Bank from Global Finance, Best Digital Bank from MEED magazine, and Kuwait’s Best Private Bank from Euromoney. Together, these awards validate KFH’s leadership across Islamic banking, digital banking, private banking, and corporate banking.

“The first half of 2026 reinforced the importance of financial strength, diversification, and disciplined execution. KFH enters the second half with strong capital, an expanding digital ecosystem, and clear priorities, committed to Kuwait’s development and sustainable long-term shareholder value,” he concluded.

In collaboration with leading medical centers & hospitals

National Bank of Kuwait launches 0% interest financing solution to cover treatment expenses

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: As part of its continued commitment to staying closer to its customers and providing innovative banking and financing solutions that meet their diverse needs, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the launch of a new initiative that enables customers to cover treatment costs through financing solutions at 0% interest and repayment periods of up to five years, in collaboration with a number of leading medical providers in Kuwait.

The medical providers participating in the current phase include Dr. Nael Al-Hazem Center, Bayan Dental Center, International Hospital, and Al Seef Hospital. Through this initiative, customers can benefit from various medical and treatment services through flexible financing options that help them access the healthcare they need with ease and flexibility.

This step reflects NBK's ongoing commitment to developing its offerings, and provide innovative financial solutions that address customers' diverse needs and enhance their quality of life.

The initiative also represents an extension of the Bank's approach to developing an integrated suite of financing solutions that address customers' requirements across different stages of their lives. NBK is committed to providing flexible and easily accessible services that enable customers to manage their financial obligations with greater efficiency and convenience, while supporting their access to essential services that enhance their wellbeing and quality of life.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, Mr. Abdullah Al-Faras, Senior Vice President – Head of Direct Sales at National Bank of Kuwait, said: "NBK places its customers at the forefront of its priorities and is always committed to providing innovative financial solutions that meet their evolving needs. From this perspective, we launched this initiative, which enables customers to cover treatment costs through financing at 0% interest and repayment periods of up to five years, helping facilitate their access to the medical and treatment services they need."

"We continue to broaden our network of healthcare partners and will soon announce the addition of more medical centers, clinics, and hospitals to this initiative, providing our customers with greater choice while reaffirming the Bank's continued commitment to delivering innovative solutions and high-quality services that meet their diverse needs," Al-Faras added.

Moreover, Al-Faras affirmed that the initiative forms part of the Bank's ongoing efforts to deliver meaningful added value to its customers through strategic partnerships with leading institutions across vital sectors that serve their everyday needs. Through these partnerships, customers can access exclusive benefits and services that enrich their banking experience and further enhance the quality of services provided to them.

NBK continues to strengthen its network of partnerships with leading entities across various sec-



Abdullah Al-Faras

Al-Faras: We remain committed to expanding our healthcare partner network, offering customers wider options and more flexible solutions to access quality medical services with ease
NBK always places its customers at the forefront of its priorities through innovative financial solutions that meet their evolving needs



tors, driven by its belief in the importance of building an integrated ecosystem of services and benefits that meet customers' aspirations and provide them with real added value. This initiative aligns with the Bank's strategy to leverage its expertise and capabilities to deliver innovative financial solutions that elevate the customer experience and provide greater flexibility and choice in line with their lifestyles and evolving needs.

Through this initiative, NBK reaffirms its continued commitment to innovation and to developing its

services and products in a way that meets customers' aspirations and keeps pace with their changing needs. The Bank also continues to reinforce its leadership by establishing strategic partnerships with a select group of leading institutions across various sectors, reflecting its ongoing commitment to enriching the customer experience and delivering added value that goes beyond traditional banking services, further strengthening its position as a trusted financial partner that accompanies customers across different aspects of their lives.

Central banks hold rates as dollar weakens & yen surges

By National Bank of Kuwait

An exceptionally dense week delivered central bank decisions on three fronts, a decisive softening in US data and the busiest earnings slate of the quarter and ended with the dollar broadly weaker. The FOMC held the funds target range at 3.50%-3.75% in a rare three-way-debated meeting, with three officials Kashkari, Hammack and Logan dissenting in favour of a 25bps hike, while Chair Warsh kept his options open and pressed ahead with his overhaul of the Fed's forward guidance framework. The hawkish optics were quickly overtaken by the data: the advance estimate showed Q2 GDP slowing to 1.5% annualised, well below the 2.3% consensus, on softer government spending and a wider import drag, while June core PCE rose just 0.1% MoM softer than expected easing to 3.3% YoY, and initial jobless claims picked up to 197K from 187K. The repricing pushed the DXY down roughly 0.8% to close the week near 100.00. The week's most dramatic move came from Tokyo MoF intervention on Thursday drove USD/JPY from above 163.00 to a low of 157.80 a 3% single day yen surge, the largest since late 2022 before the BoJ on Friday held its policy rate at 1.00%, warned that underlying inflation is running above the 2% target, upgraded its growth forecast and kept the door open to further hikes. In Europe, the BoE held Bank Rate at 3.75% in a 6-3 split with the dissenters favouring a hike, as Governor Bailey balanced a "more uncertain and inflationary" global backdrop against more benign domestic conditions, while eurozone Q2 GDP beat expectations at 0.4% QoQ; EUR/USD closed the week at 1.1520 and GBP/USD at 1.3480. Down under, Australia's Q2 CPI undershot forecasts where headline fell 0.1% QoQ with the trimmed mean easing to 3.6% YoY prompting markets to pare RBA hike bets only a day after Governor Bullock said the Board remained "prepared to act". AUD/USD nonetheless closed higher at 0.7030 on broad dollar weakness. Equities powered through the busiest week of the earnings season. Microsoft surged around 15% and Amazon 10% on results, while Apple fell 7% on soft Services and China revenue, with the four hyperscalers guiding to a combined \$720-745bn of 2026 capex reaffirming the AI investment cycle and lifting the S&P 500 toward 7,510 into Friday. In commodities, crude retreated sharply from the prior week's Red Sea-driven spike above \$100, with Brent easing below \$86 and WTI to around \$82 as tanker traffic through Hormuz normalized.

United States

Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh Faces Market Backlash and Credibility Strain

Following an FOMC vote of 9-3 to keep interest rates steady at 3.5%-3.75%, Warsh held his second post meeting press conference since taking office in May. Rather than reassuring investors, the event triggered a negative market response long-term Treasury yield spiked to their highest level since 2007, while short-term yields dropped. Meanwhile, market expectations that the Fed would pause rates again at the next meeting jumped significantly to 45%. This dynamic signals that investors fear the central bank is failing to address stubborn inflation which has outpaced the 2% target for over five years and will ultimately be forced into harsher, more aggressive policy shifts later. Ironically, Warsh had previously criticized his predecessor, Jerome Powell, over rising long-term yields, attributing the issue to a lack of credibility. Though Wednesday's context involved a rate pause rather than a cut, and Warsh argued that rising yields could stem from strong business investment, investors largely disagreed. Analyst Jon Hilsenrath noted that Warsh failed to clearly outline what conditions would force him to hike rates against persistent inflation. Furthermore, Warsh has abandoned the traditional Fed practice of "forward guidance," arguing that signalling future moves creates inflexibility and blinds the central bank to authentic market signals. Because he refuses to explain his decision-making process or clarify why the current rate is appropriate, economists were left bewildered. During the briefing, Warsh downplayed a recent drop in the consumer price index while simultaneously calling inflation "elevated." He also cast doubt on the Fed's long-term commitment to its standard personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index target of 2%, noting that an internal task force might recommend changing or downplaying the official target next year. This ambiguity regarding his strategy and inflation goals led prominent economists to question Warsh's credibility. Adding to his troubles, three FOMC members dissented from the decision to

Previous Week Levels					This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1369	1.1353	1.1546	1.1527	1.1450	1.1700	1.1569
GBP	1.3316	1.3270	1.3493	1.3480	1.3400	1.3600	1.3482
JPY	163.70	157.57	163.94	157.57	156.00	158.50	156.43
CHF	0.8176	0.8037	0.8206	0.8074	0.7950	0.8150	0.7884

hold rates steady, raising the unprecedented prospect that Warsh could eventually find himself as the first Fed chair to land in the minority on a rate vote. Just months into his tenure, Warsh finds himself in a precarious position, facing mounting scepticism from both Wall Street and within the central bank itself.

U.S. Economy Grows by 1.5% in Q2 2026, Slowing More Than Expected Amid Trade and Investment Drags

The U.S. economy expanded at a slower than expected annualized rate of 1.5% in the second quarter of 2026, falling short of both the 2.1% growth recorded in Q1 and economists' forecasts of 2.1%, according to the advance estimate from the BEA. The slowdown was driven by a larger drag from net trade (-1.01%), a contraction in government spending (-0.8%) following Strategic Petroleum Reserve oil sales, a negative contribution from private inventories (-0.67%), and a moderation in non residential fixed investment (8.4% vs. 10.6%), which included a tenth consecutive quarterly contraction in structures (-5%). However, the data also highlighted resilient pockets: consumer spending accelerated sharply to 3.2% led by gains in prescription drugs, new light trucks, furniture, and food services equipment investment remained robust at 15.2%, and residential investment ticked up 1.5% to mark its first increase in six quarters.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 99.914.

United Kingdom

Bank of England Holds Interest Rate at 3.75% Amid 6-3 Split Vote and Rising Inflation Concerns

The Bank of England maintained its benchmark interest rate at 3.75%, matching economists' forecasts. The Monetary Policy Committee voted 6-3 to keep rates steady, with Megan Greene, Huw Pill, and Catherine Mann dissenting in favor of a 25 basis point hike. While a hold was widely expected following June's drop in headline inflation to a 15-month low of 2.6%, the growing number of dissenters up from two previously signaled a more hawkish stance than anticipated.

The central bank noted a consensus that energy price risks remain skewed upward. Greene pointed out that inflation has stayed above target for roughly five years and warned that new supply chain pressures, such as AI hardware constraints and a secondary Red Sea energy chokepoint, are impacting markets. She argued that a proactive rate hike could help prevent second-round inflation effects. Pill similarly advocated for an immediate increase to cut through market noise and send a clear signal regarding upside risks stemming from the Gulf, helping insulate the inflation target.

Following the announcement, the pound rose 0.08% against the dollar to \$1.3376. Analysts like Felix Feather of Aberdeen observed that the expanding dissent highlights deepening committee anxieties over inflation, keeping future rate hikes on the table if inflation fails to cool further.

The GBP/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.3480

Aisa Pacific

Japanese Yen Jumps Up to 3% in Massive Rally Sparked by Apparent Intervention and Fed Policy Shift

The Japanese yen surged by up to 3% against the dollar on Thursday, marking one of its most significant single day jumps in recent years and prompting widespread speculation of currency market intervention. The rally violently pushed the currency from around ¥163 to briefly cross past ¥158 per dollar amid a massive spike in trading volumes. Though it later settled up 2.4% on the day, sources revealed that the New York Federal Reserve acting for the U.S. Treasury conducted a dollar-yen rate check, a subtle form of soft intervention that often precedes direct foreign

exchange operations. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Fox Business on Thursday that the yen "seemed very undervalued to me." Meanwhile, the Bank of Japan, Japan's Ministry of Finance, and the New York Fed either declined to comment or did not immediately respond. The dramatic shift follows intense pressure on Japanese authorities to halt the currency's steep decline, especially after previous interventions in April and May failed to yield long-term support. Last week, Japan's finance minister threatened "appropriate and bold action" after the yen breached ¥163 per dollar for the first time in 40 years. Mizuho strategist Masayuki Nakajima noted that the scale of Thursday's move matched past FX interventions, pointing out that previous cycles also kicked off immediately following a Federal Reserve rate decision. According to PGIM head of global bonds Robert Tipp, the Fed's choice to leave interest rates steady which weakened the dollar provided Japanese authorities with an ideal opening to capitalize on greenback vulnerability. EBS platform data indicated an intraday surge of roughly \$80 billion in dollar-yen volumes, cementing trader suspicions of state intervention. Traders in Tokyo and London noted that thin summer market liquidity amplified the impact of the move. Over the past year, mounting inflation fears, fiscal policy concerns, and high energy import costs have ravaged the yen and Japan's bond market, driving 10-year yields near 3% for the first time this century. While the Bank of Japan is anticipated to hold its interest rate steady at 1% on Friday, investors are eagerly looking for hawkish hints regarding future rate hikes. Concurrently, the broader dollar index fell 0.9% on Thursday following weaker-than-expected U.S. economic growth data.

Bank of Japan Holds Interest Rate at 1% in 8-1 Vote, Warns Core Inflation Could Exceed 2% Target

The Bank of Japan maintained its policy interest rate at 1% on Friday by an 8-1 vote, with board member Hajime Takata casting the sole dissenting vote in favor of a hike to 1.25%. In its latest economic outlook, the BOJ cautioned that core inflation is expected to climb to a level "clearly above" 2% starting in the second half of the 2026 fiscal year spanning from September to March driven by rising crude oil prices, the recent weakening of the yen, and wage growth being passed onto selling prices. Although Japan's core inflation stood at 1.6% in July and has remained mostly below 2% throughout 2026, the central bank expects inflation to eventually moderate back toward the 2% objective as oil costs drop. The decision arrives immediately on the heels of an apparent currency intervention on Thursday evening, executed alongside U.S. authorities who conducted a "rate check" a classic precursor to direct intervention. The yen, which was previously languishing near the 162-165 comfort zone around 163 against the dollar, rallied sharply to hit a high of 157.96. State Street senior fixed income strategist Masahiko Loo noted that the move proves the Ministry of Finance remains intolerant of excessive yen depreciation. Speculation has intensified regarding whether the BOJ might accelerate its tightening cycle. Bloomberg reported prior to the meeting that BOJ officials are open to moving faster than the current market expectation of one rate hike every six months. While the central bank stopped short of explicitly confirming a speed-up, it affirmed that it will continue raising rates given that accommodative financial conditions and approaching inflation targets risk pushing prices uncomfortably high and harming the broader economy. As a result, analysts like Loo suggest a rate hike in September or October has become a distinct possibility.

The USD/JPY currency pair last seen trading at 157.57.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30770.

Smart ways to use AI for personal finance

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



By Pawan Jain

University of Michigan Flint

Finding good financial advice can be stressful - and expensive. That's one reason why chatbots have become an increasingly popular and free alternative.

But using artificial intelligence to answer your pressing money questions also carries hidden dangers. I'm a finance professor who has been closely watching the spread of AI into personal finance, and I recently warned that AI is riskiest when it sounds most confident. I advised readers to bring in a human professional for high-stakes financial decisions.

One response came back that caught my attention: What if you can't afford an adviser?

For many households, that's the reality. A traditional adviser can cost hundreds of dollars an hour, which makes little sense when your savings are modest. For those people, AI isn't a second opinion but the only financial adviser they'll ever have. So the useful question isn't whether they should use it; it's how to get something actually helpful out of it without being misled.

My answer: For people who can't afford ongoing advice, AI is genuinely useful for budgeting, paying down debt and low-cost investing.

The skill lies in using AI well. Here are some simple guidelines to get accurate and actionable answers when you engage with a chatbot:

The gap between AI and a human adviser is narrowest for commonsense guidance. Build a small emergency fund. Pay down high interest debt. Contribute enough to your workplace retirement plan to capture the full employer match, which is free money. Invest in low-cost, diversified index funds. Don't panic-sell when markets fall.

None of this is controversial. It's consensus advice, and it's precisely where AI is reliable and its confidence is earned.

Here are a few examples of specific questions that a chatbot handles well:

■ My daughter is 6, and I would like to have around US\$60,000 saved by the time she starts college. How much do I need to set aside each month to get there, and what rate of return does that assume?

■ I'm carrying credit card debt at 22% interest, a car loan at 7%, a student loan at 5%, and I've allotted \$300 a month to put toward them. Which takes priority?

■ My employer matches 50 cents on the dollar up to 6% of my paycheck for my retirement fund, and I earn \$58,000 annually. How much do I need to contribute to capture the full match, and what's that worth for a year?

■ My retirement plan has a fund charging 0.85% a year and an index option charging 0.05%. If I put away \$40,000 over 25 years, what does that gap cost me?

■ I'm the only earner in my household, my income varies month to month, and my expenses run about \$3,200 per month. How large should my emergency fund be, and where should I invest it?

■ My retirement plan offers a 2055 target date fund and an S&P 500 index fund. What's the difference, and what factors should I consider while choosing one of the two?

Notice what these questions have in common. Each is a general question with a well-established answer, and every fact specific to you is one you supply rather than one the tool has to guess. Give it the facts and ask it to do the reasoning, and its responses are genuinely strong.

For these questions that are 90% of your financial life, AI is a useful free guide, and for someone who had no professional guidance at all, that's a real gain. The danger lives in the other 10%, and the key is telling the two apart. A typical chatbot will answer anything you type - including questions it should not - in fluent prose that can be confidently wrong.

So slow down whenever a decision is large, irreversible, tax-related or being sold to you. Examples include negotiating a windfall or inheritance; making early withdrawals from or conversions between retirement accounts; claiming Social Security; taking on major debt; and weighing any pitch for a product like an annuity or whole life insurance.

Inherited retirement accounts alone carry withdrawal and tax rules that a chatbot can state with total confidence and still get wrong for your specific case, at a cost of thousands of dollars.

Once the list of questions is set, here are some precautions to take once you engage with a chatbot.

Make it ask you questions first.

Open with, "Before you advise me, ask me the questions a good financial planner would ask." Generic answers come from under-specified questions, and you learn which details will actually produce a more useful outcome.

Ask it to argue against itself. After any recommendation, reply: "Give me the strongest case against this, and the situations where it would be wrong for me." If it can't engage in response, that's a sign the bot is entering a more dangerous mode. This one precaution does more than any other to signal for you to be careful.

Make it show its assumptions. If the bot projects that your savings will grow to an impressive number, ask what assumption it made and what would change it. You'll learn that it assumes steady returns every year, no missed contributions and no fees. That means the projection is just information, not a promise.

Verify the facts. Contribution limits, tax brackets and deadlines all change, and this is exactly where AI can be subtly out of date. Check the IRS or the Social Security Administration directly. If one number drives your decision, don't take it on a chatbot's word.

Never share identifying details. Don't offer account information, Social Security numbers or logins. Describe your situation in general terms. Good advice doesn't require handing over data that can be used against you.

If your main need is simply to invest, robo-advisers sit between a free chatbot and an expensive human. These automated platforms build and rebalance a diversified portfolio of low-cost funds based on your goals and risk tolerance, typically for an annual fee of 0.25% to 0.50% of assets under management, often with little or no minimum balance.

In a 2022 study of a large robo-advisory platform, my co-authors and I found that typical users skew young and male, and are often small investors - exactly the people that traditional advice has priced out. We also found that new account sign-ups rise during periods of high market volatility. People reach for these tools when markets turn turbulent, which is when automated discipline helps most and a panicked move costs most.

The catch: Robo-advisers run on preset models and the inputs you give them. They won't handle a divorce, an inheritance or a complicated tax year. If your life changes and you don't update your inputs, the strategy won't adjust on its own.

Let's say you can afford a professional. What advantage does human advice offer over a bot?

It's not just about the material results. In a new study, I found that the value of human advice shows up as lower financial anxiety rather than higher returns. It wasn't about simply having an adviser. Rather, the comprehensiveness of the planning put clients at ease: detailed attention across estate, investment, retirement, risk management and tax questions, as well as advice about the psychology of money.

That benefit, I found, was concentrated almost entirely among households with lower financial literacy, where the effect was roughly six times larger than among the most financially sophisticated, for whom it was negligible.

Two further findings are practical. My research found that clients of Certified Financial Board-certified advisers reported more comprehensive service across all six planning areas, so the credential is a reasonable proxy for what actually helps. And AI use showed no sign of substituting for human advisers, and it did not predict lower financial anxiety.

Reassurance is the one function current AI does not supply.

Hiring a human for help doesn't require splurging on an adviser on retainer. You can save here with fee-only planners, who charge a flat hourly rate to answer one focused question for a few hundred dollars, through professional and certification organizations such as the CFP Board, the Garrett Planning Network, the XY Planning Network, or the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors.

In addition, many workplace retirement plans and credit unions offer free coaching. For handling debt, nonprofit credit counseling is available through the National Foundation of Credit Counseling. And if your annual income is \$69,000 or less, the IRS' free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provides tax help at no cost.

So the choice isn't between AI or a pricey adviser. It's AI for the everyday questions, a robo-adviser for hands-off investing if you want one, and a single affordable hour of human time at the red-flag moments, ideally with someone who does comprehensive planning rather than a single transaction. That last point isn't just a preference - it's what the evidence says actually reduces the worry. (AP)

Bourdain biopic all garnish, no gravitas



This image released by A24 shows, from left, Michael Jibrin, Dominic Sessa, Antonio Banderas, and Stavros Halkias in a scene from "Tony." (AP)

Movie plates modern culinary giant's youth, not his legacy

Tony,' the Anthony Bourdain biopic, is a coming-of-age tale for a modern culinary giant. Set over just a summer, it's also clearly an appetizer. And like all first courses, it leaves you with a nice first taste - but still hungry.

Director and co-writer Matt Johnson has frustratingly taken liberties with a formative period in Bourdain's life, but still only manages to tell the story of how a callow lad became somewhat of a less callow lad after toiling in a restaurant kitchen on Cape Cod in 1975.

In "Tony," the world-weary, forever romantic, noodle-slurping Bourdain that we would fall in love with decades later via travel shows like "Parts Unknown" stays firmly out of grasp. What's perhaps most frustrating is that this could have been a fine movie without Bourdain at its center at all. Who doesn't like a good coming of age? Why did it have to be Bourdain if Bourdain never gets to be Bourdain?

Dominic Sessa plays the teenage chef-traveler as an angular misfit, his tall frame hunched, peering at people through a mop of unruly curls, his chin forever jutted downward - a surly Bob Dylan in kitchen whites. We rarely see moments of joy flash on his face, even for lust or food. He never unlocks. Even a beautifully documented moment in Bourdain's life - when the sea that summer was filled with stripers, triggering a mass fishing frenzy at night - doesn't trigger awe.

Bourdain spent two chapters talking about this time in Provincetown, Massachusetts, in his star-making 2000 memoir, "Kitchen Confidential," and he would return in TV episodes of "A Cook's Tour" and "Parts Unknown." It was certainly an important time in the young Bourdain's life, but hang too much on it and the hanger apparently collapses.

The new movie opens with a quote from "Kitchen Confidential": "I was - to be frank - a spoiled, miserable, narcissistic, self-destructive and thoughtless young lout, badly in need of a good ass-kicking." He got that as he went from dishwasher to plating shrimp cocktails and learning the insult-based, testosterone-filled ways of the kitchen.

Bourdain would develop two love affairs during this fate-



This image released by A24 shows director Matt Johnson, left, with actor Dominic Sessa on the set of "Tony." (AP)

ful summer: One, a delight for the kitchen - the pressure, the camaraderie, the artist's heart, the pirate's adoration of heat and knives - and, another, hard drugs. "This is where I bought my first bag of heroin," he says in "Parts Unknown." But, like a collapsing soufflé, it fails at that first task - never

showing us how this wannabe writer with a Velcro wallet in a Stooges T-shirt pivoted to become a global culinary raconteur. And it never depicts Bourdain's own heroin use.

Johnson, who co-wrote the screenplay with Matthew Miller, Todd Bartels and Lou Howe, heightens what should

be a small, beautiful awakening by crafting a completely new culinary mentor for Bourdain and adding showy references to 17th-century chef François Vatel and 18th- and 19th-century "sin eaters." Did we need a devastating, Hollywood action movie-like kitchen fire here? No. You can almost feel the filmmakers try to argue for a car chase.

Antonio Banderas steps into the role of the mentor, but it's a fuzzy image. His character is spiritual, punctual and deeply religious, yet silently overseeing a very misogynistic, racist and drug-addled workforce. Our film's Bourdain will inspire him to reach higher by adding a lobster thermidor to the menu, one of those tired devices by which the mentee becomes the mentor. (The gorgeous Banderas fails to fully capture the book's mentor with a "gin-blossomed face" and "boozier's gut.")

What's most frustrating is we never feel Bourdain's muse come alive. He doesn't, over the course of more than 100 minutes, become an evangelist for cuisine or its power to heal, celebrate and embrace. He acknowledges - from "Kitchen Confidential," in a childhood chapter - that oysters tasted "of the future" - but the rat in "Ratatouille" had better passion.

There are lovely moments, like when shucked oysters are used to flirt or when chef Eric Ripert, a longtime friend of Bourdain, makes a cameo, or whenever actor Emilia Jones as Bourdain's love interest appears. Leo Woodall also does a fantastic turn as Bourdain's kitchen and drug pal, Sal.

Focusing on a slice of time from a cultural icon - most recently done for The Boss in "Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere" - is a now-savvy alternative to the cradle-to-grave biopic. But "Tony" fails as an origin story. The cook is off.

"Tony," an A24 release that debuts in theaters in Los Angeles and New York on Aug. 7 and expands on Aug. 21, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "pervasive language, drug use and sexual content/nudity." Running time: 106 minutes. Two stars out of four. (AP)

The Conversation

Legacy in limbo: What the Boseman feud teaches families

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

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By Reid Kress Weisbord, Rutgers University - Newark and Naomi Cahn, University of Virginia

Chadwick Boseman's death from colon cancer in 2020 shocked his fans. The actor and playwright, best known for starring in Marvel's first "Black Panther" movie, worked throughout his private battle with the disease.

Six years after he died at 43 without a will, he is back in the news because of a dispute among his loved ones.

His multimillion-dollar estate is once again in a California courtroom. Boseman's two brothers have asked a judge to remove his widow, Simone Ledward, from managing and settling the estate. They also want the judge to hold Ledward in contempt of court. They claim that the resolution of his estate has stalled due to delays, poor communication and mismanagement. Ledward has not yet responded publicly to these claims.

This family feud involving a celebrity highlights three legal issues that intrigue us as scholars of inheritance law. First, when someone dies without a will, their property passes to heirs in accordance

with their state's laws. Second, putting one heir in charge of an estate can create friction with the other heirs. And third, judges can remove that person for serious misconduct.

You might presume that when someone who is married dies without a will, their surviving spouse automatically gets everything. That's not always true.

Every state has its own intestacy statute. Those laws establish rules determining who inherits property when someone dies without a valid will. They vary considerably.

In California, where Boseman died at his Los Angeles home, the law divides the property of married people into two categories known as "community property" and "separate property."

The surviving spouse inherits all of the couple's community property, which generally includes assets earned during the marriage.

But Chadwick Boseman married Ledward Boseman only six days before his death, although they had been involved in a long-term relationship that they generally kept quiet. When a Californian dies after a marriage that didn't last long, there is not likely to be much community property.

So the fate of separate property, which generally includes assets acquired before marriage or received by gift or inheritance after a couple ties the knot, becomes very important in those situations.

If a California resident dies childless and without a will while their parents are still alive - as was true for Chadwick Boseman - their spouse gets only half of any assets classified as separate property. The rest goes to their parents.

That appears to be why Carolyn and Leroy Boseman, the actor's parents, have a financial interest in the estate despite his marriage. However, the couple assigned their inheritance rights to Kevin Boseman and Derrick Boseman, Chadwick's brothers.

To settle an estate, someone has to locate all of the deceased person's assets, pay off their debts, deal with their taxes, talk to all heirs and creditors, file reports with the court, and finally distribute what is left.

Boseman's widow is playing that role because California law gives the surviving spouse first priority to administer the estate. All of this takes place in probate court, which is where estates are administered.

That means Ledward Boseman is playing two different roles.

She's one of the heirs entitled to inherit a share of Chadwick Boseman's wealth and future income generated by his intellectual property. And she's the estate administrator responsible for managing the estate as a whole.

Wearing both of those hats can create conflict because heirs often disagree over whether the person managing the estate is acting for the benefit of everyone or favor-

ing their own interests.

That's why disputes over executors and other estate fiduciaries are among the most common issues raised in probate litigation.

As the court-appointed administrator, Ledward Boseman owes fiduciary duties of loyalty and impartiality to all heirs, including Boseman's parents and their assignees, Boseman's brothers. That means she cannot favor her own interests over theirs. She must also maintain accurate records, keep other heirs reasonably informed and distribute the estate's assets according to law.

Writing a will and thinking carefully about who should manage the estate can help loved ones stay out of disputes like this. For example, if your relatives tend to bicker, it may be better to choose a neutral person instead of one of your heirs to manage your estate.

A lawyer, accountant or professional fiduciary - someone with expertise regarding the handling of estates - may be more likely to earn everyone's trust than someone who stands to inherit some or all of your assets.

But that person will usually be paid for their work. By contrast, relatives who serve in this role often choose not to accept payment because waiving compensation can have tax advantages.

In Boseman's estate, for example, his widow waived her fee for serving as the administrator. To be sure, paying a neutral person may cost more, but it can also help

prevent expensive lawsuits and family conflict.

The Boseman case also highlights a remedy that probate judges use sparingly: removing the estate administrator. Replacing the person in charge of an estate can increase costs and delay its resolution. Because of these downsides, judges usually require something more serious than a mere family disagreement before they make this type of change.

Removal is usually requested when heirs claim there have been long delays, poor communication, bad record-keeping, conflicts of interest, failure to follow court orders, or other actions that could harm the estate.

Right now, the late actor's brothers have made these claims. It will be up to the court to decide whether it should remove his widow after hearing from both sides.

No matter what happens, this case shows how most estate disputes are not just about legal rules. They often arise from common human problems such as uncertainty, family conflict, slow communication and different expectations.

Preparing a solid estate plan cannot guarantee family harmony after death. But by naming who should manage the estate, and providing guidance that helps prevent disputes, it can mean a deceased person's loved ones will fare better than they would have had the state's default inheritance rules kicked in. (AP)

Word Cup banner appears in art, clothing, tattoos, and murals

How football made the Malvinas a new cultural symbol

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Aug. 2, (AP): It took a World Cup to transform a remote cluster of islands that's home to more sheep than people into a cultural juggernaut.

A decision by Argentina's players to unfurl a banner about the disputed Falkland Islands after defeating England in the World Cup semifinals carried a historical cause onto the T-shirts, bedroom walls and Instagram feeds of a new generation. In the weeks since, the image that has endured from the tournament in soccer-crazed Argentina hasn't been of Lionel Messi. It's been the crudely painted sign reading: "The Malvinas are Argentine."

The South Atlantic archipelago, known in Argentina as the Malvinas, is claimed by both Argentina and Britain, which fought a 10-week war over the territory in 1982.

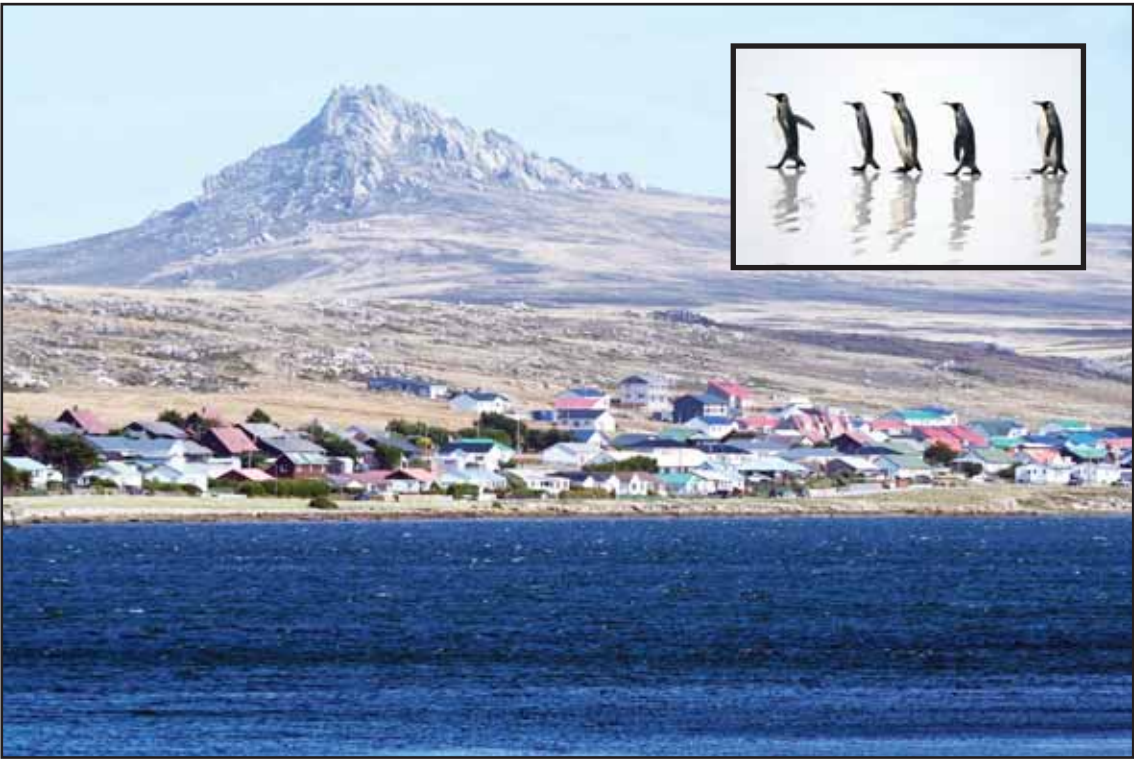
The banner spawned a marketing bonanza in Argentina, appearing on stickers, tote bags, sneakers, artwork and soccer jerseys. It was draped over bars, painted onto subway walls and tattooed onto calves and forearms. Thousands of Argentines downloaded "Malvinas Sans," a typeface modeled on the banner's hand-painted lettering. Colorful murals of the islands and of war veterans popped up across the country.

"The World Cup is now over, and yet people are still talking about the Malvinas because the Malvinas somehow became part of the World Cup," said Edgardo Esteban, an author and veteran of the war. "Kids in schools are asking me, 'What's this Malvinas thing?' Now there's a passing of the torch."

None of Argentina's players had been born when the country's military dictatorship invaded the Falklands in 1982, holding the islands for 73 days before British forces recaptured them in a war that killed 649 Argentine and 255 British troops.

But they grew up in a country haunted by the humiliation of that ill-fated invasion, widely seen as a desperate bid for popularity by the weakened junta that fell a year later. As Argentina emerged from the trauma of the brutal dictatorship, many veterans and families of conscripts killed in the war felt their sacrifices had been sidelined by a nascent democracy that sought to distance itself from the disaster.

"As veterans, we spent a long time feeling silenced, forgotten, pushed aside," Esteban said.



Mount Tumbledown stands tall behind Stanley on the Falkland Islands, also known as Islas Malvinas, Monday, March 16, 2026. (Inset) King penguins walk along the shore at Volunteer Point on the Falkland Islands, known also as Islas Malvinas, March 19, 2026. (AP)

It took a different World Cup to break that silence. When Argentina played England in the quarterfinals in Mexico City in 1986, Argentine soccer great Diego Maradona scored two goals - including his notorious handball known as the "Hand of God," which he dedicated to those killed in the war and said was revenge for the Malvinas.

Over the decades, Argentina's claim on the islands became enshrined in its constitution. The Malvinas appeared on road signs. Each year, the country's leaders

honor the war dead with wreath-laying ceremonies.

Britain has administered the Falkland Islands since 1833 and says the people who live on the islands should determine their status, pointing to a 2013 referendum in which residents voted overwhelmingly to remain a British protectorate.

The islands, which lie 480 kilometers (300 miles) off Argentina's coast, are home to some 3,600 people, roughly 450,000 sheep and over 1 million penguins, according

to government figures.

Ahead of this year's semifinal against England, Argentine Security Minister Alejandra Monteoliva warned fans that Malvinas-themed signs would not be allowed inside the stadium due to FIFA's ban on political messages.

As Argentine players ran onto the field to celebrate their victory, supporters tossed what appeared to be a white bed sheet onto the pitch. Midfielder Giovanni Lo Celso pulled it open to reveal the message hand-painted in bold black letters: "Las Malvinas son Argentinas," or "The Malvinas are Argentine." Teammates Cristian Romero and Lisandro Martínez helped spread the banner wide before TV cameras and cheering fans.

After the match, British politicians and fans took to social media to vent their anger, helping amplify a wave of online posts criticizing both Argentina and its national team, digital researchers said.

On Wednesday, FIFA charged Argentina's soccer federation for players parading the banner and charged two players for striking Spain opponents moments after the final.

In Argentina, the banner became a sensation, eclipsing for many both the disappointment of the team's defeat to Spain and the flood of hostile commentary.

"Despite not having won the tournament or brought home the trophy, every single player was welcomed back as a popular hero," said Juan Rattenbach, an Argentine political expert on the Malvinas.

Iván Marcasiano, 36, owns a Buenos Aires print shop that has struggled to keep up with explosive demand for T-shirts printed with players holding the banner.

"The players had the courage to display a flag on the field that fans had been banned from bringing into the stadium. That gesture, showing that it's up to ordinary Argentines to carry our demands forward, really resonated with young people," Marcasiano said.

"They reached an audience that might never have participated in this kind of activism or historical remembrance before."

When Marcasiano offered on Instagram to screen-print the image onto fans' Argentina jerseys free of charge, 3,500 people - from teenagers to war veterans - showed up at his shop in a single day, he said.

Books

'Great-great-grandfather likely borrowed the book'

150-year-overdue book found in fireplace returned to library

MELBOURNE, Australia, Aug 2, (AP): A book on Greek antiquities has been returned to an Australian public library about 150 years late, with water damage from years bricked into a fireplace.

The book was returned to the library in the seaside town of Kiama last week by a local Ross Simmons who had found it during recent home renovations inside a tea crate bricked into a sealed fireplace, Kiama Library manager Michelle Hudson said.

"We've never had anything that old come back to us," Hudson said Thursday.

"I follow lots of libraries on social media and often you'll get things that are maybe 30 or 40 years old when they're cleaning out estates and stuff like that," she added.

Ross Simmons, told The Associated Press on Friday he assumed the book was borrowed by his great-great-grandfather John Simmons, who had owned the house where it was found.

"I'm making an assumption. He was in residence in the cottage around about that time and his children were probably too young," Ross Simmons said.

The library opened in 1872, and the book, "Antiquities of Athens," published in 1858, was marked as No. 506 in the library's original collection of around 1,000 books. Hudson suspects the book was lost within a few years of the library opening.

The late return fine would be around 28,000 Australian dollars (\$19,500), allowing for inflation, Hudson said. That was calculated on the British three pence-a-week over-



In this photo provided by Jane Thompson, library manager Michelle Hudson holds the book "Antiquities of Athens", after its return in Kiama, Australia, on Wednesday, July 29, 2026, an estimated 150 years late. (AP)

due fee that was printed on the inside cover of the book, along with a list of rules that applied when the library

opened.

But Hudson said the library's records of borrowers in the 1870s had

been lost. "Unfortunately, we have a missing link. There's nothing in the book that tells us who the last borrower was," Hudson said.

Library rules in the 1870s stated that a book had to be returned and an overdue debt paid before another book could be borrowed. "Maybe that's why they never returned it to us," Hudson said.

Antiquated rules of the day included that up to three books could be borrowed by households in which at least six members were "known to be able to read." Proof of reading ability is no longer required to use today's library.

In the 1870s, books were not lent to people who arrived at the library in a "state of intoxication." Library users are now asked to leave if their behavior impacts others, but the rules are not specific about intoxication.

Ross Simmons said he had no idea why his English immigrant ancestor, who had also served as an alderman in Kiama's municipal government, would not have returned the book.

He said he hadn't been concerned by the prospect of being held liable by an angry librarian for his family's debt.

"I've spent a lifetime dealing with irate customers and being irate with customers himself. Just stick to your guns and say do your worst," the 77-year-old said.

The returned book will be displayed in the library's local history collection.

"We're not going to allow it to go back out again. We don't want to wait another 150 years for this book to be returned," Hudson said.

'Platforms continue to kill kids'

Child safety lawsuits increase against social media platforms

WASHINGTON, Aug 2, (AP): The families of four teenagers who died by suicide are suing Meta, TikTok, Snapchat and YouTube over what they describe as "years of escalating harms" from using their platforms that eventually resulted in their deaths.

The lawsuit, filed recently in the Superior Court of Delaware, is the latest in a flurry of suits filed against the social media giants that alleges their platforms are addictive and dangerous.

The complaint was filed on behalf of four families from Texas, North Carolina, Minnesota and Tennessee whose children died over a 14-month period starting in July 2024 through September 2025.

The Social Media Victims Law Center is bringing the suit on behalf of the families, and its founding attorney, Matthew Bergman, said it's "particularly salient" that the children in this case died "long after" similar suits had been filed.

"These platforms continue to kill kids, despite the platitudes of their executives," Bergman said in an interview. "This is a clear and present danger to the health and safety of children, not just in the United States but around the world."

The four teens who died by suicide each experienced harms including social media addiction, severe sleep deprivation, depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation after years of using the social platforms, the complaint states. Livi Castro died at age 13, Riv Kelleher at 14, Nathaniel Chambers at age 17 and Dawson Holden at 18.

The complaint alleges the social media companies knew they were causing harm to young users.

A spokesperson for Google, which owns YouTube, said in a statement that "providing young people with a safer, healthier expe-



This combination of 2017-2022 photos shows the logos of Facebook, YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat on mobile devices. On Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, Seattle Public Schools filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court, suing the tech giants behind TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Snapchat, seeking to hold them accountable for the mental health crisis among youth. (AP)

rience has always been core to our work. In collaboration with mental health and parenting experts, we've built services and policies to provide young people with age-appropriate experiences, and parents with robust controls. We send our deepest sympathies to the families and are reviewing the claims in this lawsuit."

Representatives for Meta, TikTok and Snap did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Sacha Haworth, executive director of The Tech Oversight Project, said in a statement that parents, activists and whistleblowers have come forward and met with lawmakers for years and "while Congress has dragged its feet, more children have died."

Federal legislation of social media has moved at a glacial pace. The Senate passed the Kids Online Safety Act - which had the support of parents' groups and children's advocacy organizations - exactly two years before this lawsuit was filed.

The Conversation

How computers leak secrets without being hacked: side-channel attacks explained

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



By Chetan Jaiswal
Quinnipiac University

When people hear the word cyberattack, they usually imagine someone guessing a password, planting malware, stealing a computer, hacking an organization's network or exploiting a flaw in software. A side-channel attack works differently. It looks for clues a computer gives away while doing ordinary work.

A simple analogy is a locked safe. A thief may not know the combination and may not be able to break the lock. But if the thief can listen closely as the dial turns, small clicks or churns or pauses might reveal something about what is happening inside. The safe is not meant to share that information, but its physical behavior still leaks clues.

Modern computers have their own versions of such clues. For example, each computer might take different amounts of time to complete different tasks or may use different amounts of electricity. The hardware - processors, memory, graphics cards and storage drives - may leave tiny patterns as they work.

I'm a computer scientist who studies security and privacy. I define a side-channel attack as an attempt to observe these indirect clues and use them to infer something private.

This is what makes these side-channel attacks unusual. The weakness comes from the way a machine performs its work. The attacker does not steal a password directly or break into the computer, but instead studies the traces left behind by the machine while it is operating.

The idea is not new. In 1985, Dutch researcher Wim van Eck showed that electromagnetic signals from video display units could be captured and decoded, raising the possibility of eavesdropping on what a screen displayed. The screen was not intentionally broadcasting its contents. It was leaking signals as a side effect of operating.

In the 1990s, side-channel attacks became especially important in cryptography, the science of protecting information. In 1996, cryptography researcher Paul Kocher showed that carefully measuring how long certain operations took could reveal private information from systems using common cryptographic methods. A few years later, Kocher and fellow cryptographers Joshua Jaffe and Benjamin Jun showed that measuring power consumption could help recover secret keys from tamper-resistant devices such as smart cards.

These discoveries changed how engineers thought about security. It was not enough to ask whether an encryption algorithm was mathematically secure. It was even more important to ask whether the device running the algorithm leaked hints through timing, power, sounds or other physical behavior.

There are several common types of side channels:

- A timing attack looks for small differences in how long operations take.
- A power attack studies electricity use.
- Electromagnetic attacks examine unintended signals.
- Acoustic attacks use sound.

In one striking example, researchers showed that the faint noise produced by a laptop during certain cryptographic operations could be used, under experimental conditions, to extract a 4,096-bit secret cryptographic key.

The examples that brought side-channel attacks into wider public discussion were processor attacks. Modern computer processors such as CPUs are

extremely fast because they predict what a program is likely to do next. This technique, known as speculative execution, helps computers run more efficiently. But in 2018, cybersecurity researchers discovered two vulnerabilities, dubbed Meltdown and Spectre, in the technique. They showed that these predictions could leave behind measurable traces. A malicious program could use those traces to learn information that should have been protected from it.

Meltdown and Spectre mattered because they challenged one of the basic premises of modern computing: that different programs running on the same machine should be kept separate. They also showed that performance features built deep into computer chips could have security consequences.

Since then, researchers have continued to find new side-channel attacks in modern hardware. One such side-channel attack revealed in 2022, called Hertzbleed, showed that changes in processor frequency - normally used to save power and manage performance - could become a timing signal that could, in some cases, expose remote servers' cryptographic secrets.

Another side-channel attack, dubbed Downfall and revealed in 2023, affected certain Intel processors. It showed how a feature called Gather could leak older pieces of data left inside the processor after earlier work. Zenbleed, also revealed in 2023, affected AMD Zen 2 processors and could allow sensitive information from another process to appear where it should not.

Side-channel research has also moved beyond CPUs. GPU.zip showed that graphics processors, or GPUs, can sometimes leak visual clues through the way they handle image data behind the scenes, including the pixels from another webpage in the Google Chrome browser. GoFetch, published in 2024, showed that a hardware feature in many Apple processors designed to predict future memory needs could undermine protections in cryptographic software and help extract secret keys. (AP)

MoH launches new enzyme therapy for patients with phenylketonuria

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: The Ministry of Health announced the commencement of the new enzyme therapy for patients with phenylketonuria (PKU), a significant step reflecting its ongoing commitment to provide the latest treatments for rare genetic diseases.

Dr. Hind Al-Sharhan, a genetic and metabolic diseases consultant at Farwaniyah Hospital, explained in an interview with Kuwait TV that PKU is a rare genetic metabolic disorder resulting from a deficiency or absence of the enzyme responsible for breaking down the amino acid phenylalanine. She said the absence of this enzyme leads to its accumulation in the blood and brain, which can cause serious complications affecting the nervous system and cognitive development if not detected and treated early.

She confirmed that Kuwait implements a national newborn screening program, which leads to the early detection of the disease from the first days after birth, enabling immediate initiation of treatment and minimizing complications.



Dr. Al-Sharhan

She indicated that the medical care for PKU patients includes a comprehensive treatment system that begins with providing specialized formula milk and phenylalanine-free supplements, making sure that the child receives all the necessary nutrients and amino acids for healthy growth, and developing individualized nutritional programs tailored to the health condition of each patient.

She stated that the concerned medical and nutritional teams monitor patients regularly by measuring phenylalanine levels in the blood and assessing nutritional needs based on age, weight and laboratory test results, thus, ensuring safe levels are maintained and risks are minimized.

She asserted that the introduction of the new enzyme therapy is a vital advancement in the treatment of the disease, as it aims to improve the body's ability to process the amino acid, allowing patients to gradually expand their dietary options.

She pointed out that providing this treatment is part of a comprehensive strategy to develop the treatment of genetic and rare diseases through the introduction of the most advanced internationally approved treatment technologies, provision of innovative medications, and expansion of early detection programs and continuous follow up.

Billions of people go to bed hungry every day: UN deputy secretary-general

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 2, (Xinhua): Today, one in 10 people across the world still lives in extreme poverty, 2.3 billion people go to bed hungry every night, and more than 2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said.

Speaking at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on the "Way forward to 2030," Mohammed said the 2026 UN Secretary-General's report on progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals indicates that more than a third of SDG targets are on track or making moderate progress, but progress remains deeply uneven across the goals and among countries.

She said that among the more than one-third of the SDG targets on track or making moderate progress, access to electricity has reached 92 percent of the world's population, and Internet connectivity has increased from 40 percent in 2015 to 74 percent today.

The SDGs matter, and they are making a difference, said Mohammed. "But our world today is very different from 2015."

While multiple, intersecting crises -- from geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty to the climate crisis,



The symbol of the United Nations is displayed outside the Secretariat Building on Feb 28, 2022 at United Nations Headquarters. (AP)

biodiversity loss, food insecurity, debt distress, and widening inequalities -- continue to slow progress across the SDGs and test the ability to deliver, the planet is warming at an alarming pace and violent conflict has reached its highest level in decades, she said.

"These are not isolated challenges," warned the deputy secretary-general.

"The question before us is not

whether the SDGs remain relevant ... The question is whether we are prepared to make the choices, mobilize the financing and strengthen the cooperation required to deliver them," she said, calling for stronger multilateral cooperation, increased investment, and integrated solutions that can advance multiple SDGs simultaneously while strengthening resilience to future shocks.

More than 50 different date labels used across US

Do you toss food once date on label has passed? Experts say that's often waste

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 2, (AP): If you've ever tossed out a carton of milk or a container of yogurt solely because the date on the packaging had passed, you're not alone.

Many people throw away food simply because of the date printed on the label. But often it is still perfectly edible, according to experts.

With no federal regulations requiring standardized labels for dates on food except for baby formula, it's no surprise that deciphering terms like "Best Before," "Best By," "Best If Used By," "Enjoy By," and "Sell By" can be mind-boggling.

What most people don't realize is that those labels are more about how fresh something is - not how safe the food is to eat.

California is trying to bring some clarity with a new law that requires food manufacturers to use just two labels: one for quality and another for safety.

Here are a few tips to help you understand food date labels and keep perfectly good food out of the trash even if you don't live in California.

In the United States, more than 80% of consumers discard food ap-

proaching the package date label at least occasionally, a 2019 study by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found.

"The date labels guarantee quality up until that point," said Donald Schaffner, a food safety expert at Rutgers University. "They are not about the safety of a product."

Food date labels vary state by state and are determined by the food manufacturer. Researchers from the University of Maryland found that more than 50 different date labels are used across the United States.

"They're based on when the manufacturer thinks that product will taste its best, when its quality will be at its peak," said Rachel Zemser, a San Francisco Bay Area food scientist who helps food companies design, launch and market new food products.

Unopened canned food like beans, tomatoes, fruit, vegetables, and any shelf-stable food package in liquid, will last for years after the date stamped on its label. The same goes for boxes of soy milk or boxes of almond milk, or any food that's been



A date is stamped below a Sell By label on a carton of eggs displayed at Park Plaza Fine Foods on June 30, 2026, in San Francisco. (AP)

heat-treated and sealed to stay safe without refrigeration.

Dry goods, like cookies, crackers and cereal, also have a long shelf life because the low moisture in them doesn't allow bacteria to grow.

"People can use their best judg-

ment by smelling and tasting the product because dry crackers and cookies, and things of that nature, may be stale but they are not going to make you sick if you eat them," Zemser said.

But extra precautions should be

taken with beef, chicken or fish. They can go bad even if it's in your refrigerator, but wrapping them tight in plastic and freezing it before the "best by" date on its packaging could help it last longer.

"Most bacteria needs moisture and air to grow and thrive, so very dry products will last, but I wouldn't risk it with meat," Zemser said.

The FoodKeeper, a website and free app developed by the Department of Agriculture, Cornell University, and the Food Marketing Institute, provides guidance on how long foods stay fresh and safe to eat.

California became the first state in the US to standardize food labels by banning "sell by" dates.

The law that went into effect July 1 requires manufacturers selling food in California to use two standardized labels: a "Best If Used By" label for peak quality and a "Use By" label for product safety. "Sell by" dates are used by stores to ensure products are being displayed for a reasonable amount of time before quality declines, said Nate Rose, a spokesperson for the California Gro-

cers Association.

"Think of it like an internal referencing system for store managers and employees," he said.

New York state lawmakers recently passed a similar measure for labels that is awaiting Gov. Kathy Hochul's signature.

The only product legally required by the federal government to have an expiration date is infant formula. It should not be consumed past that date because its nutrients decline over time.

"Infant formula is the sole source of nutrition for the infant, and the concern is that the child could have a nutritional deficiency" if given expired formula, Schaffner said.

In general, people should use their own judgment and look for signs like mold, strange odors and unusual colors to decide whether or not to toss out food.

And follow your taste buds. "Practice your own food stock rotation, buy appropriate amounts of food, don't buy giant amounts that you won't be able to eat," Schaffner said. "Because who wants to eat poor quality food?"

Mediterranean's warming waters drawing hundreds of invasive species

ROME, Aug 2, (AP): The Mediterranean of our ancestors is no more.

Scientists say climate change, caused mainly by burning oil, coal and gas, is making the Mediterranean Sea hotter, bringing hundreds of new and invasive fish species that decimate indigenous populations.

As biodiversity diminishes, coastal communities will struggle to make ends meet in the ways they've known for generations.

"The Mediterranean of our grandfathers, of our elders, and of the Greeks, of ancient Greece is lost forever. So many of those changes are irreversible," said Ernesto Azzuro, a marine biologist with the Italian National Research Council's Institute for Marine Biological Resources and Biotechnology.

Scientists have designated the Mediterranean as a climate change "hot spot," with its waters expected to warm by 2 to 6 degrees Celsius (3.6 to 10.8 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100. Heat waves are likely to become more frequent and more extreme, according to the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change, an independent network of scientists.

Ronan McAdam, an oceanographer with the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change, said a key factor in the warming is that the sea is an enclosed basin and warmth can't dissipate like in the vastness of the oceans.

The warming waters have made an inviting new home for invasive species like the spotted puffer fish, a voracious predator and the "worst invader," Azzuro said.

These species are now heading toward France and Spain after entering the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal.

The U.N. food and agriculture body's General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean said such invasive species have been present for decades, but their spread accelerated after the early 2000s, coinciding with rising sea temperatures. For example, the lionfish was first recorded in the eastern Mediterranean in 2012 and has expanded rapidly westward.

"The Mediterranean will be even poorer, even with less species, simply because climate change is really making this part of the Mediterranean, especially the eastern part of the Mediterranean, really unsuitable for

native species," Azzuro said.

Cyprus, due to its proximity to the Suez Canal, was first to feel the impact of these invasive fish. Lionfish supplanted indigenous stocks like the red mullet to the dismay of fishers, who have seen local varieties popular with customers greatly diminish.

Then there are rabbitfish that can devour algae from the sea bottom, destroying the habitat for many indigenous species.

"We know what should be done. We should reduce the use of fossil (fuels)," said Piero Genovesi Papik, a zoologist with Italy's Higher Institute for Environmental Protection and Research. "But that's definitely an urgent matter for the humanity, and we all know the solutions, but of course they require a global and joint vision."

Azzuro said about 1,000 invasive species have been identified in the Mediterranean, with 800 of them firmly established.

The changes are stark. Azzuro said the shallows of the eastern Mediterranean have lost 93% of their mollusk population. Along the Adriatic coast, once abundant with mussels, nearly all have died off because of the sea temperatures that at times have exceeded 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit).

From Venice in the north to Bari in the south, "the die-off was spectacular," he said. "Unless we ... find population able to survive through these different climates, the future of mussels is not a happy future, at least in the Adriatic Sea."



Lionfish lie on a fishing boat off the coast of Larnaca, Cyprus, in the eastern Mediterranean on Dec 20, 2025. (AP)

Azzuro said his institute and its partner a few years ago launched a campaign, "Beware of those four," to raise awareness about the dangers that invasive species pose to human health.

For instance, puffer fish is toxic and potentially lethal if consumed by humans. The lionfish's poisonous spikes can badly hurt anyone who's stung.

Scientists are discussing how coastal communities can cope. One way is to commercialize invasive species that are edible. Another is to pay fishers to catch inedible ones like the puffer fish so they can be incinerated.

Some species, like the lionfish, have "clear economic benefits because it's sold at very high prices, especially in some countries," Azzuro said. But fishers haven't taken advantage of the invasive dusky spinefoot, whose population has grown significantly in Italian waters.

Papik, the zoologist, said that while it's "too late" to reverse the spread of invasive species in the Mediterranean, there are practical ways to mitigate the impact.

First is to prevent their further migration by enforcing an international treaty obliging national authorities to treat ballast waters inside incoming ships that may carry such species.

"This is something that is technically doable and that can reduce the number of ... new alien species by 95 to 99%," he said. Another tactic is treating ship hulls with special paint that thwarts unwanted hitchhikers from latching on.



A firefighter carries a hose while battling a wildfire in San Martin de Valdeiglesias, west of Madrid, Spain on July 26. (AP)

UN, scientists warn that strong El Nino will add fuel to 'a planet already on fire'

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 2, (AP): A strengthening El Nino has already broken records for intensity at its early stages, and it likely will spark even more wild weather worldwide as it grows, "adding fuel to a planet already on fire," United Nations officials warned Friday.

A key area of the Pacific Ocean used to measure the strength of El Nino this week reached its warmest and most intense level ever recorded for the 15th week since it formed, which is early in its lifetime, scientists at Columbia University reported.

El Nino - a natural warming of the Pacific near the equator that warps weather patterns worldwide - won't peak for several months and should last through spring 2027. The World Meteorological Organization, a UN agency, cautioned on Friday that it will likely trigger extreme heat, drought and rainfall well into next year.

"Two months ago, I warned that El Nino was arriving on our doorstep. Now it is inside the house - and turning up the heat," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters Friday. "We have already endured a summer of

extremes - record-shattering heat domes; apocalyptic wildfires raging in Spain, France and far beyond; thousands of lives lost in the scorching conditions."

"But according to the latest science, this is only a warm-up act," Guterres said, saying as the El Nino strengthens it will be "adding fuel to a planet already on fire."

"We are in uncharted territory," he said. "The climate crisis is in overdrive."

Most computer forecast models are showing that this El Nino will likely break the all-time record for intensity when it peaks, sometime late fall or so, but that's not guaranteed, scientists said.

It's still early in the nearly year-long life of a typical El Nino to see many direct effects yet, but they are coming, scientists said, agreeing with Guterres' warnings. El Nino's effects will combine with the long-term global warming from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

"We're seeing something that is the warmest July ever recorded for that specific region," used as an El Nino indicator, Columbia University climate scientist Jeffrey Shaman

said. "A year from now, it's going to be very hot in the Northern Hemisphere. And we're going to possibly have a summer like we've never experienced globally."

But before then, the strong El Nino is likely to cause changes in rainfall patterns that will bring chaotic extremes to different parts of the world in fall and winter. There's a strong chance of drought and wildfires in Indonesia, India and other parts of Asia, south and east Australia, chunks of South America and southern regions in Africa, the WMO warned. Other areas, including much of the United States and fire-struck Southern Europe will get above average rain.

"This El Nino, developing against the backdrop of unprecedented ocean heat and rising temperatures, provides governments and communities with a window of opportunity to anticipate risks and act before impacts unfold," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo.

While El Nino and climate change are separate phenomena, their effects create a harmful combination - and people aren't taking the connection seriously enough, Guterres said.

New growth fund will be established to support global rally development initiatives

FIA completes ‘Deal of the Century’ for FIA World and European Rally Championships

DUBAI, Aug 2: The Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA), the global governing body for motor sport and the federation for mobility organisations worldwide, has today announced a landmark long-term commercial rights agreement for the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) and FIA European Rally Championship (ERC). It follows the acquisition of WRC Promoter GmbH by Cosmobilis and Park Square Capital.

The biggest deal in the history of these championships, this agreement marks a new chapter for the WRC and ERC. Supporting the FIA’s vision under President Mohammed Ben Sulayem, it will bring significant new investment into the sport, helping to strengthen and grow its world-class motor sport portfolio for years to come.

This deal has been designed for the rallying community and developed to deliver real benefits for fans, competitors, event organisers and the FIA’s Member Clubs. Through this agreement, rallying will become more accessible, more competitive, and more commercially successful. As the sport grows, the FIA will continue to focus on the strong governance and regulations that provide the foundations for rallying’s long-term success.

Alongside the FIA, the new promoter team of French automotive technology and services platform Cosmobilis and private credit in-



Left: Rally legends line up at the starting point as FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) and FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) machines prepare to unleash their power. Right: Mohammed Ben Sulayem, President of the FIA – portrait during the Formula 1 Qatar Airways British Grand Prix 2024, 12th round of the 2024 Formula One World Championship from July 5 to 7, 2024 on the Silverstone Circuit, in Silverstone, United Kingdom.

vestor Park Square Capital share a commitment to growing the sport’s global audience and deepening fan engagement. The FIA will also benefit from significantly increased visibility of its brand across events and broadcasts around the world.

This is a pivotal moment for the WRC, which is preparing for a major regulatory overhaul. Next-generation technical regulations, due to take effect in 2027, have been designed to make the sport safer, more competitive and affordable at the highest level, while the establishment of a new FIA Growth Fund will support projects that drive the success and development of rally-

ing worldwide. Through this fund, growth will be felt across motor sport, from the highest levels of the championships to entry-level grassroots participation.

Cosmobilis and Park Square Capital have outlined ambitious plans to take the WRC and ERC to the next level, putting fans at the heart of the sport and making rallying more exciting, accessible, and engaging. Through stronger storytelling, enhanced distribution, and new multi-platform content, fans will be closer to the action than ever before.

To deliver this vision, the new promoter has built a team of experts, led by newly-appointed CEO Éric



Boullier, a highly experienced motor sport executive with a track record at the highest levels of international motor sport.

President of the FIA, H.E. Mohammed Ben Sulayem, said: “This is truly the deal of the century for rallying, and I am proud to announce this transformative step forward, and never before seen levels of investment.

“Not only will it deliver real benefits to fans, competitors and our member clubs worldwide, but this investment signifies confidence in the future of our sport as its global popularity continues to grow.

“The future of our championships

is at the heart of every decision we make, and we have ensured that we not only secure the right partner for today, but one who shares our long-term vision. My thanks to FIA Deputy President for Sport, Malcolm Wilson and his dedicated team for delivering this, and I am looking forward to working closely with our new promoter.

“Rallying is a huge part of my personal story, it has shaped who I am and how I work, and I am deeply committed to its future. This is an important moment for our sport and as we enter a new era I am proud that we have a new partner in place to help us drive forward the bright future of these championships.”

FIA Deputy President for Sport, Malcolm Wilson OBE, said: “I have spent my entire professional life in the FIA World Rally Championship, so I know exactly what this sport means to its competitors, its organisers, and above all its fans. In over 40 years in the sport, I have never seen investment on this scale into rallying – this deal really is that significant and I’m full of optimism for what it means for the fans, competitors and organisers.

“From the beginning, our focus has been on finding a partner that not only recognises the WRC’s enormous potential, but understands its character, heritage and the responsibility that comes with shaping its future.

Highlights

■ Following FIA approval, Cosmobilis, a French automotive technology platform and Park Square Capital, a leading private credit investor, have acquired WRC Promoter GmbH.

■ The landmark new deal will drive never before seen levels of investment into rallying, transforming the sport, its governance, and the financial strength of the FIA.

■ The new agreement will expand the global audience, enhance fan experience, and create new growth opportunities across both championships.

■ FIA branding will be significantly increased across worldwide events and broadcasts.

“Cosmobilis and Park Square Capital share that ambition. With a new era approaching through the WRC27 regulations, and with the FIA establishing a groundbreaking growth fund to drive the sport’s development, this is a real opportunity to strengthen the championship, grow its global audience, and deliver the kind of future this sport and its fans deserve.”



Markéta Vondroušová celebrates a career-defining moment with the iconic Wimbledon trophy.

Star raises safety concerns

Vondroušová handed 4-year ban after refusing doping test

LONDON, Aug 2: Wimbledon champion Markéta Vondroušová has been suspended for four years after refusing to provide a doping sample during an out-of-competition test at her home on December 3, 2025, according to the full report released by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA).

The Czech player declined to submit a sample when a doping control officer arrived at her residence at around 8 p.m., outside her allocated one-hour testing window.

Vondroušová argued throughout the proceedings that several factors influenced her decision, including stress, mental health struggles, concerns over her privacy and safety, and the timing of the test. She also claimed that the officer did not properly confirm her identity.

The former Wimbledon champion said she had raised concerns that the visit took place outside the scheduled testing period and described the situation as a serious invasion of her privacy, adding that she was told such situations were part of life as a professional athlete.

However, anti-doping authorities confirmed that out-of-window tests are allowed under the regulations. During the visit, Vondroušová communicated with the officer through the intercom but did not open the door. She later shared a recording of the exchange with her agent and informed her partner, Andrew Paulson, that a doping official was outside her home.

The tribunal concluded that Vondroušová understood the circumstances and that her refusal to provide a sample was a voluntary decision. Under anti-doping rules, refusing a test carries the same punishment as a proven doping violation.

The 2023 Wimbledon champion will now serve a four-year suspension, keeping her sidelined until June 21, 2030.

Cunningham insists she won’t be a distraction for Indiana

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug 2, (AP): Sophie Cunningham says she’s unconcerned that the rallies against transgender participation in women’s sports that have accompanied the Indiana’s Fever’s recent games are a distraction for the WNBA team.

Cunningham made the comments before the Fever’s game Friday night against the Portland Fire. Outside, a group rallied for the second straight game in support of Cunningham and her recent comments about transgender athletes.

“I think at the end of the day, I come in and I do my job,” Cunningham said. “I think everyone who knows me personally, they know that I’m full of love. I’m bubbly. I love the people around me. I love basketball. I love inspiring the next generation and doing that in a positive light. And so that doesn’t even cross my mind. Doesn’t cross my teammates’ minds.

“And again, I’m here to play basketball, but I’m also here to be me, and I’m not gonna like shadow that or hide or, you know, dim my light just because maybe people don’t agree with that.”

Portland’s rally came after a similar rally for Cunningham earlier in the week before the Fever’s game at the Seattle Storm. Both rallies only attracted about two dozen participants and a bevy of onlookers.

“I have honestly had nothing to do with them,” Cunningham said. “I think it’s people just practicing their rights of freedom of speech and doing what other fans have been doing since the WNBA has started. And so props to them, props to everyone who is able to be competent and be bold and courageous enough to speak their truths.” Another rally was planned for Sunday in Minneapolis when the Fever play the Minnesota Lynx.

In Seattle on Tuesday, two Cunningham supporters sat courtside at Climate Change Arena holding signs. A co-owner of the Storm, Celeste Keaton was later fined an undisclosed amount and suspended for five games by the WNBA for an exchange with the two supporters.

The Storm also apologized for the incident, but did not provide details about the exchange, releasing a statement that said: “We remain committed to creating a welcoming and respectful environment for anyone who attends a Storm game.”

The Seattle rally promoted statewide ballot initiative, IL26-638, that would bar transgender students from participating in girls’ athletics at Washington schools. It also praised Cunningham, who voiced support for barring transgender athletes from girls’ and women’s sports in recent interviews.

“I am here to be a cheerleader for Sophie Cunningham, who has so bravely put her head above the parapet to protect women and girls in our sports and in our locker rooms,” said Amy Souza, who was among those at the Portland rally.

PHOENIX, Aug 2, (AP): Sabrina Ionescu had 27 points and 10 assists, Han Xu scored 17 points off the bench, and the New York Liberty edged the Phoenix Mercury 94-92 on Saturday.

Xu, who had 11 points in nine minutes in the first half because Jonquel Jones was in foul trouble, shot 6 of 9 from the field, including 3 for 6 on 3-pointers. Jones had half her 16 points in the fourth quarter with nine rebounds and five assists.

Breanna Stewart had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Liberty (17-13), who finished 19 of 19 from the foul line.

DeWanna Bonner and Kahleah Copper both had 25 points for the Mercury (11-19) and Alyssa Thomas had 17 points. Bonner played in her 565th career WNBA game, tied for second with Diana Taurasi for most in a career.

New York had an eight-point lead entering the final minute but Copper, who had her 10th game of at least 25 points, made a pair of free throws and when Bonner hit a 3 with 24.1 seconds to go it was 92-90.

It took the Mercury 11 seconds to commit two fouls, which sent Stewart to the line for a four-point lead with 13 to play. Thomas answered with a layup with four seconds to go but time ran out.

Sky 84, Liberty 83

In Chicago, Sydney Taylor hit a 3-pointer with less than a second remaining and finished with 29 points as the Chicago Sky beat the Las Vegas Aces.



Sydney Taylor of the Chicago Sky dribbles the ball during a WNBA game against the New York Liberty in New York. (AP)

gas Aces.

Taylor broke from the lane and curled around a screen at the top of the key to take an inbounds pass from Natasha Cloud for the catch-and-shoot winner that ended the Sky’s seven-game losing streak against the defending champions. It also gave first-year Chicago coach Tyler his first win against his former team.

Chicago took a timeout and advanced the ball after A’ja Wilson, who scored 36 points, made a layup with 3.2 seconds left.

Cloud had 11 points and DiJonai Carrington 10 for the Sky (11-18), who were 0-6 in overtime and one-score games.

Jackie Young had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Aces (20-9). Wilson also had a double-double with 12 rebounds. NaLyssa Smith added 17 points and Las Vegas reserves contributed just five points.

The Sky were down 10 with 7 1/2 minutes to play before taking a 79-78 lead on a basket by Elizabeth Williams with 2:25 to go. It was their first lead since 11-9.

Young had 10 points, six rebounds and two assists as the Aces built a 20-16 lead after one quarter. She had the last two 3-pointers and Las Vegas had three in a 9-0 run that turned an 11-9 deficit into an 18-11 lead.

Wilson had nine points in the second quarter and the Aces led 40-37 at the half.

Wilson scored 13 points in the third quarter when the Aces turned a one-point lead into a 13-point edge and taking a 65-55 advantage into the fourth quarter.

Recognition celebrates Seine clean-up success

Paris receives first World Aquatics Eco award

PARIS, Aug 2: Paris has been named the recipient of World Aquatics’ inaugural Environmental Award in recognition of its landmark restoration of the Seine River, a project that gained global attention during preparations for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The award celebrates the city’s extensive efforts to clean and restore the Seine, dramatically improving water quality and transforming the river into a safe and accessible public space once again.

For the first time in nearly a century, more than 100,000 people have been able to swim in the Seine at five designated locations, underscoring the lasting environmental legacy of the Paris Olympics and the success of sustainable urban renewal.

The Environmental Award itself reflects World Aquatics’ sustainability values. It is made entirely from recycled materials, while its ribbon is produced from recycled competitive swimwear.

World Aquatics President Captain Husain Al-Musallam congratulated Emmanuel Grégoire, Mayor of Paris, and Antoine Guillou, Deputy Mayor of Paris, thanking them for their continued support of the federation’s environmental goals and sustainable development initiatives, as well as their leadership in the successful rehabilitation of the Seine River.



World Aquatics President Captain Husain Al-Musallam presents the inaugural Environmental Award to Paris officials, recognising the city’s successful restoration of the Seine River.

Messi returns as Inter Miami drops points against Crew

Lewandowski scores 2 goals in home debut as Chicago beats Charlotte

MIAMI, Aug 2, (AP): Brais Méndez scored a late equalizer in his MLS debut and the Columbus Crew played Inter Miami to a 2-2 draw.

Columbus (5-8-5) ended Miami's six-game winning streak. Miami (11-2-5) is still unbeaten in seven straight games.

Méndez curled a free kick from the right side that went untouched off the post and into the net in the 84th minute to tie it.

Lionel Messi, who entered as a substitute in the 53rd after leading Argentina to its second straight World Cup final appearance, had several good scoring chances in the closing stages but couldn't find the back of the net.

Columbus also scored on an own goal in the first half.

Luis Suárez opened the scoring in the 16th for Miami - with his seventh goal in the last four regular-season games. Suárez became the fifth player in MLS history to record at least 10 goals and five assists in each of his first three MLS seasons.

Noah Allen gave Miami a 2-1 lead on a header in first-half stoppage time.

Robert Lewandowski scored two goals, including the winner, in his home debut for the Fire, helping Chicago beat Charlotte FC 2-1.

Lewandowski, who made the move from FC Barcelona in a two-year deal with Chicago, equalized in the 20th minute off a screamer from outside the box that tied the game at 1.

He connected on his second goal of the night in the 68th minute with a go-ahead shot to the bottom left corner to seal the win for the Fire (9-6-2), who played their first home match in over two months.

Ezekiel Alladoh scored the winner in the 97th minute, one minute after Neil Pierre equalized the match, as the Philadelphia Union rallied from two goals down to beat Atlanta United 3-2 in stoppage time.

With goals in the 96th and 97th minutes, the Union became the first team to score both the game-tying and game-winning goals in consecutive minutes of second-half stoppage time since the LA Galaxy did so on July 14, 2018.

Evander scored a go-ahead goal from distance in the 82nd minute and Cincinnati beat the San Jose Earthquakes 4-2 in a game delayed over two hours due to weather.



Columbus Crew's Jamal Thiarié (19) and midfielder Sean Zawadzki (25) collide during the first half of an MLS soccer match against the Inter Miami in Miami, Fla. (AP)

Evander became the fourth player in MLS history to record at least 10 goals and 10 assists in three consecutive seasons. He joined Luciano Acosta (2022-24), Hany Mukhtar (2021-23), and Preki (1996-98).

Guilherme Santos and Agustín Bouzat both scored as the Houston Dynamo shut out Sporting KC 2-0.

Houston (9-6-2) now sits in fourth place in the Western Conference, two points up on Real Salt Lake.

Santos netted the first goal of the night in the 55th minute with an outside-the-box shot that found the back of the net on an expected goal of 3%. With the goal, he became the ninth player in MLS history to score or assist on at least 17 of his club's first 25 goals in a season.

Brandon Bye scored the go-ahead goal in the 82nd minute and the Portland Timbers handed the rival Seattle Sounders their fifth straight loss with a 2-1 victory.

Kevin Kelsey also scored for the Timbers (7-8-3), who are undefeated in four straight games.

Kalani Kossa-Rienzi scored the



Los Angeles FC's Ryan Hollingshead (24) tackles Vancouver Whitecaps' Oliver Larraz (8) during the second half of an MLS soccer match. (AP)

lone goal for the injury-depleted Sounders (7-7-3).

The Pacific Northwest rivals went into the match with the series even at 16-16-11 in Major League Soccer play. With the win, the Timbers are now 11-8-4 over the Sounders at Providence Park.

Rafael Navarro converted a 94th-

Mijahir Jiménez scored two goals in his first MLS start, Emil Forsberg added another in the 43rd minute and the New York Red Bulls beat Orlando 3-2.

New York (7-7-4) has posted a 4-0-2 mark in the last six meetings across all competitions against Orlando, including a 2-1 victory in the opening match of the season.

Orlando (6-10-2) has not defeated New York since a season sweep in 2023.

Thomas Müller scored on a penalty kick late in the second half as the Vancouver Whitecaps battled back for a 1-1 draw with Los Angeles FC.

The Whitecaps (10-3-4) and LAFC (10-5-4) remain tied in the Western Conference with 34 points apiece.

The Whitecaps controlled most of the opening half, but Son Heung-min's goal gave LAFC the lead at halftime.

Müller's goal came in the 76th minute after he was hauled down in the box by defender Yevhen Cheberko. Müller calmly struck the ball into an open side of the net.

Tai Baribo equalized in the 77th minute to help D.C. United rally for a 2-2 draw against Nashville SC.

Nashville (12-2-4) took control late in the first half when Sam Surridge converted a penalty in the 32nd minute, and Abdul Shakur Mohammed extended the lead eight minutes later with a left-footed finish from the center of the box.

Silvan Hefti pulled D.C. United (5-5-8) within one in the 56th minute, scoring from the center of the box before Baribo tied it 21 minutes later, finishing from the left side of the box off a pass from Louis Munteanu.

Prince Owusu scored an equalizer in the 59th minute, and CF Montréal erased a two-goal halftime deficit to draw the New England Revolution.

Montréal responded quickly after the break with Brayan Vera scoring from outside the box in the 52nd minute off an assist from Efraín Morales, ending Montréal's three-match regular-season scoreless streak.

Owusu completed the comeback seven minutes later, heading in a pass from Luca Petrasso to make it 2-2.

Anders Dreyer scored from the penalty spot in the 64th minute as San Diego FC drew Minnesota United 1-1.

Minnesota (6-6-6) struck almost immediately when Tomás Chancalay scored in the third minute, finishing from the center of the box off an assist from Wil Trapp to give United a 1-0 lead.

San Diego (5-7-6) nearly answered four minutes later, but Marcus Ingvarsen hit the crossbar from the center of the box.

Marcel Hartel scored in the 72nd minute and St. Louis played Real Salt Lake to a 1-1 draw.

St. Louis (7-6-5) extended its club-record unbeaten streak to eight matches.

RSL (8-6-3) has struggled on the road this season, picking up just one win while dropping five matches.

Jonathan Sirois made nine saves to earn his first clean sheet of the season as FC Dallas played LA Galaxy to a scoreless draw.

Dallas (7-5-6) was held without a goal for the second straight game.

LA (5-7-7) has two losses and two draws since MLS play resumed following the World Cup break. The Galaxy's last victory came on May 16 at Seattle.

JT Marcinkowski recorded his first clean sheet since May 16.

Former England striker Welbeck joins Chelsea from Brighton

Brentford pays club-record fee for Lens midfielder Mamadou Sangaré

LONDON, Aug 2, (AP): Brentford has paid a club-record fee to sign Mamadou Sangaré from Lens, the Premier League club said.

The 24-year-old Mali midfielder agreed a five-year contract, with an option for a further year.

The precise fee was undisclosed but reports say it surpasses the 42.5 million pounds (\$57.3m) that Brentford paid Bournemouth for Dango Ouattara a year ago.

"Mamadou is someone that we've tracked for quite some time," Brentford manager Keith Andrews said. "At Lens, he performed at such a consistently high level for a team that finished second in the league.

"Added to that was his form for Mali, where he became a really key player for them. He's a player that adds to a really good midfield that we already have. He also adds qualities that we don't have."

Sangaré had an outstanding debut season for Lens, also helping the club to win the French Cup for



In this file photo, Brighton's Danny Welbeck celebrates after scoring during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton and Liverpool in Brighton. (AP)

the first time.

Chelsea continued its off-season recruitment drive by signing former England international Danny Welbeck from Premier League rival Brighton.

The 35-year-old striker, who

has been capped 42 times by his country, will head straight for Hong Kong to join up with head coach Xabi Alonso and his new team-mates on their pre-season tour.

"When you hear of the inter-

est from Chelsea, it's something that fills you with such immense pride," Welbeck said after signing a two-year deal. "Knowing the history of Chelsea, it's a club that wants to win trophies and is pushing to do that every single season.

"I'm really honoured to come to a club of this stature at what feels like a really exciting time. I've got that fire in my belly and I'm ready to give it everything for this club to make everyone at Chelsea, and the supporters, proud."

No fee was disclosed for Welbeck, who joins fellow new recruits Morgan Rogers, Maxence Lacroix, Marco Palestra and Geovany Quenda at Stamford Bridge.

Welbeck began his career at Manchester United and also enjoyed a five-year spell with Arsenal. He joined Brighton from Watford in 2020.

He has made 400 Premier League appearances and has Champions League experience and two World Cup campaigns to his name.

'Injunction should cover the entire class of 2022'

Chancellor grants 19 college players a 5th season

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug 2, (AP): A judge in Colorado and a Nashville chancellor issued rulings that will give 30 basketball players a fifth season of eligibility and prevent the NCAA from keeping them out of the transfer portal.

I'Ashea Myles of the Davidson County Chancery Court issued a temporary injunction to Jalen Washington and 18 other players to retain their eligibility.

"Defendant shall recognize Plaintiffs as eligible for the 2026-2027 basketball season and shall not deny or impede their recruitment, transfer, or certification on the basis of the challenged eligibility determination," Myles wrote in her 33-page ruling.

A few hours later, U.S. District Court Judge Charlotte N. Sweeney in Colorado granted a preliminary injunction giving student-athletes from the high school Class of 2022 another year of eligibility for the upcoming school year. Former Minnesota basketball player Cade Tyson was among the 12 athletes named in the Colorado case.

Sweeney ruled that the injunction should cover the entire class of 2022 high school graduates facing similar circumstances.

Myles, who heard motion arguments July 22,

also ordered that the transfer portal open at noon Monday until 8 a.m. on Aug. 10 for any player wanting to enter and schools wanting to reach out.

The NCAA referred The Associated Press to a statement from President Charlie Baker on X on proposed legislation to regulate college sports. Baker called the "chaos" from Friday's



In this file photo, Vanderbilt forward Jalen Washington (13) shoots the ball past Arkansas forward Malique Ewin, right, during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in the final of the Southeastern Conference tournament in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

rulings are why it's "long past time" leaders in college sports call for the immediate passage of the Protect College Sports Act.

"Failed professionals will continue to use college sports as a fallback option - robbing the next class of young athletes of college scholarships," Baker said.

On June 23, the NCAA approved a new eligibility model for Division I athletes that will allow five seasons of competition over a five-year period that begins with their full-time enrollment or the academic year following their 19th birthday, whichever occurs first.

Washington, who played last season at Vanderbilt, was the lead plaintiff in the complaint filed July 6 by the Texas Trial Group seeking the injunction. Others include Chendall Weaver, last at Texas; A.J. Storr, Mississippi; Jason Edwards, Providence; Daniel Egbuniwe, St. Bonaventure; and Zachary Davis, Memphis.

"On the eve of congressional consideration of the Protect College Sports Act, the NCAA points to its inevitable judicial losses as evidence that Congress should grant it broader legal protections," the Texas Trial Group said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Best of the Rest

Warriors re-sign Melton and Payton II: The Golden State Warriors re-signed free agent guards De'Anthony Melton and Gary Payton II.

The moves to retain Melton and Payton mean that the Warriors will have 10 of the 12 players who had the most playing time last season back under contract for the 2026-27 season. Golden State went 37-45 last season and missed the playoffs after losing to Phoenix in a play-in game.

The 28-year-old Melton appeared in 49 games last season, averaging a career-high 12.3 points, 3.2 rebounds, 2.6 assists in 23.0 minutes per contest. He missed the first 22 games of the season recovering from a left knee that sidelined him for all but six games in his first season with Golden State in 2024-25. Melton has played in 405 career games over eight seasons with the Warriors, Phoenix, Memphis and Philadelphia. (AP)

□ □ □

Sparks send Kelsey Plum to Mercury: The Los Angeles Sparks traded All-Star guard Kelsey Plum to the Phoenix Mercury for a first-round pick next year, Monique Akoo Makani and a second-round draft choice in 2028, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Sunday because they weren't authorized to speak publicly on the trade.

The deal was finalized late Saturday night ahead of Sunday's trade deadline and was first reported by ESPN. It's rare for an All-Star to be traded in the middle of the season, only happening a handful of times before Saturday night.

Plum, who is a free agent at the end of this season, has been sidelined since June 21 because of a lower leg injury. She practiced earlier this week and was expected to play Sunday in the Sparks' game against Portland before getting traded. (AP)

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NEWS



Vassilios Bratsiakos, head coach of the senior national team.

Sports

Bratsiakos takes charge of Kuwait basketball team ahead of qualifiers

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: The Kuwait Basketball Association has appointed Greek coach Vassilios Bratsiakos as head coach of the senior national team ahead of the FIBA Asia Cup 2027 Qualifiers, which begin in the United Arab Emirates on August 23.

The move is part of the federation's efforts to strengthen the national team's technical setup and maximize its chances of qualifying for the Asia Cup finals.

Bratsiakos is expected to oversee the Blue team's preparations in the coming

days, focusing on tactical work and naming the final roster for the opening qualifying window.

The 1970-born coach arrives with significant experience in Gulf basketball. A former professional player, he launched his coaching career in Greece with Kymi B.C. before moving to the region, where he managed Al-Najma in Bahrain and Al Sadd in Qatar. During his spell with Al Sadd, he guided the club to multiple domestic titles and established a strong reputation.

Kuwait Basketball Association treasurer Ghazi Al-Otaibi said Bratsiakos was selected because of his

proven coaching credentials, successful track record with clubs and national teams, and valuable knowledge of basketball in the Gulf.

"His experience and familiarity with the region make him the right choice for this stage," Al-Otaibi said.

He added that the appointment is initially for the first window of the Asia Cup qualifiers and forms part of the federation's strategy to strengthen the technical staff and ensure the national team is fully prepared for the challenges ahead as it pursues qualification for the 2027 continental championship.

KFA president backs sustainable approach to global soccer development

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 2: Kuwait Football Association (KFA) President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef stressed that any decisions regarding the future of FIFA's development programs must prioritize the interests of national associations and ensure continued support for their strategic plans.

Sheikh Al-Yousef said Gianni Infantino's decision to end plans for the FIFA Forward Enterprise project reflects a responsible approach focused on protecting the needs of FIFA's member associations and maintaining the effectiveness of development initiatives benefiting soccer worldwide.

He noted that the KFA supports any project designed to improve the global soccer system, but highlighted that the success of such initiatives depends on their ability to meet the requirements of national associations while providing additional value without affecting existing development programs.

The KFA president praised the impact of the FIFA Forward program, which has helped associations develop infrastructure, improve gover-



Kuwait Football Association President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef

nance, and strengthen technical and administrative capabilities. He emphasized that maintaining the continuity of these programs remains essential for the future growth of football.

Sheikh Al-Yousef concluded by

reaffirming Kuwait's confidence in FIFA President Gianni Infantino and its support for efforts aimed at expanding the game, creating more development opportunities, and serving the interests of football associations around the world.

UEFA calls on Infantino to step down

Schiffer: Swiss continued FIFA presidency 'unacceptable'

ZURICH, Aug 2: FIFA President Gianni Infantino's troubles appear far from over despite abandoning his controversial plan to privatize parts of the World Cup's commercial rights, with reports suggesting he now faces a decisive choice: resign or risk a vote of no confidence.

European media outlets reported that UEFA is pushing for Infantino to step down, claiming that all 55 member associations of the European governing body are prepared to support a motion to remove him if he refuses to leave. UEFA reportedly needs the backing of 43 members to call for such a vote.

Infantino came under intense criticism after introducing the proposal last week, which was met with widespread opposition from football bodies and officials concerned about the future direction of the World Cup.

UEFA said it had lost confidence in Infantino and called for changes at the top of FIFA following the gov-



Claudius Schiffer, the head of the European Professional Football Leagues Association.

erning body's decision to scrap plans to sell a stake in World Cup commercial rights estimated at \$20 billion.

While welcoming FIFA's withdrawal of the proposal, UEFA said future decisions of such magnitude must not be made without proper consultation with all stakeholders.

The European body also stated that it had lost faith in several figures

within FIFA's leadership structure.

FIFA's decision to abandon the plan came after a backlash from regional confederations, which said they were surprised by the proposal and demanded greater transparency in the way major commercial decisions are handled.

The episode has intensified concerns over Infantino's leadership approach, with football officials calling



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

for stronger oversight of decisions that could have a major impact on the sport's governance and financial future.

Reports also suggested that Infantino was set to take a leading executive role at FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), the proposed commercial arm that would manage FIFA's business rights, with an expected annual base salary of around \$30 million before

bonuses.

The head of the European Professional Football Leagues Association has questioned Infantino's future as FIFA president, saying it would be difficult for him to remain in charge after the collapse of his controversial plan to sell stakes in World Cup commercial rights.

Claudius Schiffer, whose organization represents 53 men's and

women's football leagues, said Infantino was facing a single likely outcome following the widespread backlash from continental football bodies over the proposal.

"After seeing how this entire situation unfolded, and realizing that FIFA's key bodies were not involved in the decision, there is usually only one outcome in a company or organization," Schiffer told Swiss newspaper SonntagsZeitung.

Asked whether Infantino had become unacceptable as FIFA president, Schiffer replied that this is normally the consequence when someone pushes through a major commercial deal without the knowledge or approval of others within an organization.

UEFA and CONCACAF have already announced that they have lost confidence in Infantino's leadership after FIFA abandoned plans to sell a stake in World Cup commercial rights.

Schiffer, who also serves as CEO of the Swiss Super League, said the proposal raised concerns that FIFA's priority was shifting toward maximizing returns for external investors by expanding the number of major competitions in the future.

'Very tough' to leave Detroit'

Dodgers land Skubal in a blockbuster deadline deal

WEST SACRAMENTO, Calif., Aug 2 (AP): The Los Angeles Dodgers have acquired the biggest prize on the trade deadline market, getting two-time reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Tarik Skubal from the Detroit Tigers.

Skubal got the news during the Tigers' 8-6 win over the Athletics and was emotional after the game as he prepared to leave the team that drafted him in 2018 and developed him into a star to join the two-time defending World Series champions.

"I'm excited to be a Dodger," he said. "I'm excited to get down there and meet all those guys and chase three championships in a row. That's hard to do, so I'm so excited to a part of that. But it's a lot of different emotions. Definitely kind of a roller coaster a little bit."

Skubal is the latest star to join the high-priced roster for the Dodgers that already has big-name players like Shohei Ohtani, Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Mookie Betts. If everyone is healthy, he could be part of a rotation with Ohtani, reigning World Series MVP Yamamoto, fellow two-time Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell and Tyler Glasnow. The Dodgers lead the majors with a 3.36 ERA from their starting pitchers and now add Skubal to the mix.

The Dodgers are in first place in the NL West and were already the favorites to become the first team to three-peat since the New York Yankees from 1998-2000 before adding Skubal. They began the season with a \$323.3 million opening-day payroll for their 40-man roster and a \$163.7 million tax for a \$487.1 million total. They will pay Skubal about \$9.5 million for the remainder of the season.

ESPN first reported the deal and said the Tigers would receive three mi-

nor league prospects in right-handers River Ryan and Brady Smith and outfielder Zyrhir Hope.

Skubal is eligible for free agency after the World Series. He has a \$32 million salary, a record total in arbitration, after the team offered \$19 million, and is expected to sign a massive contract in the offseason.

The 29-year-old lefty said in July that it was his preference to finish the season with the Tigers and to compete for a World Series championship, which has eluded the franchise since 1984. Skubal took the loss in the decisive Game 5 of the division series against Cleveland in 2024 and then got a no-decision in a 15-inning loss to Seattle in Game 5 of the division series last year.

He said it was "very tough" to leave

the Tigers having fallen short of the goal of winning a title.

"Ever since that '24 Game 5, the failure that I experienced on the mound, I've used that as fuel to try and bring a World Series to the city of Detroit. I truly did," he said. "That whole offseason I've never been more motivated and then go in and we lose Game 5 again. That failure kind of sparks some more motivation, just to dig deeper and see how good you can truly be. The goal was always to win a World Series for the city, for the organization that took a chance on me. It's tough. I love all those guys in there. They're some of my best friends."

Detroit planned to contend again this season, bolstering the Skubal-led rotation by giving two-time All-Star



Detroit Tigers pitcher Tarik Skubal tips his hat after his 1,000th career strikeout during the first inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles in Detroit. (AP)

pitcher Framber Valdez a \$115 million, three-year contract in free agency and retaining three-time All-Star infielder Gleyber Torres with a \$22 million deal.

The Tigers, though, got off to a rough start and are currently 2 1/2 games out of the last wild-card spot in the American League.

"It's crazy. Going into the season, this isn't what I planned on doing," Skubal said. "But circumstances change, situations change, and I'm very appreciative of everything the Tigers have done for me."

They bounced back in June and most of July to get into playoff contention with Skubal leading a rotation and three All-Stars in the lineup: rookie infielder Kevin McGonigle, catcher Dillon Dingler and outfielder Riley Greene.

With a chance to possibly persuade management to keep Skubal by improving its playoff positioning, Detroit lost ground by dropping four of its last five games at home, including Skubal's last start that was made even more memorable by a late-inning collapse.

The Tigers led Baltimore 7-0 after six innings Wednesday and lost 10-9 in 12 innings. Skubal started the game, recorded his 1,000th career strikeout and was cheered at every opportunity by a crowd of 34,406.

"I've watched this guy rise to the top of the sport," manager A.J. Hinch said. "He's carried us a lot. I'll forever be grateful that our paths crossed and the things that he did for this organization and for a couple of playoff teams. His presence, his work ethic, his example, his dominance. There's so much to go through, it's hard to capture in one quote or kind of one setting. But I'm very grateful that I was able to manage him for the time that I did."



Colombia's Nicolas Gomez celebrates at the finish line as he wins the men's cycling gold medal road race at the Central American and Caribbean Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. (AP)