

GULF STANDS UNITED AS REGIONAL THREATS MOUNT

Kuwait keeps defenses razor-sharp



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

State of darkness governs Iran

WHEN states break their international agreements, they do not just become rogue states, they also turn into gangs. In the Iranian case, the whole world is facing an unprecedented situation, as gangs control a major regional country.

Since Feb 28, shadowy figures have been ruling this large country. We no longer know who the Iranian decision-maker is. Every day there is a different stance, either from the Revolutionary Guard or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while it is clear that the presidency is powerless, and the parliament is merely an echo chamber for the Revolutionary Guard.

Therefore, when I said in previous articles that the world must discipline the current regime, I was reading pages from the Persian history. The mentality of imperial rule is based on the elimination of the other, even if that other is a son or brother, concealing the true objective while always declaring different positions.

In recent days, Tehran set six new conditions for opening the Strait of Hormuz. Actually, these conditions have no relation to reality, because the defeated do not dictate terms. Nevertheless, it seems that the Supreme National Security Council of Iran entered the fray again, attempting to reassert itself, or rather, to bolster the public image of its secretary, Mohammad Baqer.

The truth is that the six conditions of Iran are considered a reversal of all the progress achieved over the past six months and a renewed economic upheaval in the international landscape. These conditions transformed the Strait of Hormuz into a tool of pressure against the world, thereby, returning the world to the Middle Ages when pirates controlled the seas.

Iran's incitement of the Houthis to close the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and of Iraqi militias to launch terrorist attacks on neighboring countries are disrupting the global energy flow and exacerbating inflation.

I previously stated that Iran is using starvation as a weapon of annihilation, because halting the export of fertilizers and other goods, along with the global drought, will increase the number of people suffering from hunger worldwide. The path that Iran and its proxies are pursuing is creating a global crisis.

Consequently, the world must realize that maintaining the status quo will only lead to more terrorism and blackmail of nations, especially given the international community's silence in the midst of the turmoil plaguing the global economy. Diplomatic settlements have proven ineffective, as Tehran reneged on its commitments in the Islamabad negotiations.

On the other hand, if Iran benefits from maintaining the state of neither war nor peace, and if regional countries and the United States of America are unwilling to engage in a large-scale regional war, then only one solution remains -- the regime must change from within. After months of fighting, the Iranian regime has become significantly weaker. With increasing economic hardship for Iranians, the conditions are ripe for a strategic and effective operation to eliminate the regime that is causing trouble for the world.

Any other solution will only prolong the life of this rogue regime, thus, providing it with the oxygen it needs to continue blackmailing neighboring countries and the world, and igniting pointless wars in the region once again. Today, it is clear that a dark force is ruling Iran.

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Ministry of Defense photo

Kuwait's Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah conducts an inspection tour of several key military sites on Saturday.

Diplomatic push gains momentum

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (Agencies): Kuwait on Sunday welcomed a statement by members of the United Nations Security Council condemning missile attacks by the Houthi militia against Saudi Arabia since July 13 and attacks targeting commercial vessels since July 22.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Kuwait's appreciation for the Security Council members' emphasis on adherence to international law and relevant UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 2216, as well as respect for Yemen's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Kuwait also stressed its rejection of actions that threaten regional security and the safety and freedom of maritime navigation.

The Foreign Ministry renewed Kuwait's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for all measures taken by the Kingdom to protect its sovereignty and security. It also reaffirmed support for Yemen's legitimate government and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen in efforts to achieve peace, security and stability in the country.

Meanwhile, Bahrain also welcomed the Security Council statement condemning Houthi missile attacks against Saudi Arabia and attacks on commercial vessels.

Bahrain's Foreign Ministry affirmed the Kingdom's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for all measures taken to safeguard its sovereignty, security and stability and protect its vital interests.

Continued on Page 5

Assault cases plunge 53 pct as Kuwait law gets tougher

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait announced that the statistics of the Ministry of Justice on cases registered at the Public Prosecution showed 53.2 percent decrease in the number of assault cases in the first half of 2026 compared to the same period in 2025, while the total number of cases declined from 607 to 284.

Al-Sumait disclosed that the breakdown of cases showed 7.7 percent decrease in the number of premeditated murder and attempted murder cases -- from 26 to 24, misdemeanor assault cases decreased from 376 to 137 or 63.6 percent, murder threats or causing physical harm cases decreased from 99 to 56 or 43.4 percent, suicide and attempted suicide cases decreased from 61 to 34 or 44.3 percent, and felony assault causing severe physical harm cases decreased from 16 to six or 62.5 percent.

He affirmed that the government continues to develop the penal system through the approval of legislative amendments in 2025 and 2026. He said these amendments include the cancellation of Article 153 of the Penal Code that provided a legal excuse for reducing the sentence for a man who killed his wife or a female relative if he caught her in the act of committing adultery,



Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait

revocation of Article 159 of the Penal Code that stipulated a mitigating circumstance for a mother who killed her illegitimate child, toughening penalties for manslaughter and unintentional injury, criminalizing the possession of bladed weapons in public places without justification, harsher penalties for using such weapons to assault or intimidate others, issuance of a new law for protection against domestic violence, and prohibition of waiving or settling charges in cases of children assaulting their parents and crimes committed against children and those with diminished or incapacitated legal capacity.

Day by Day

THOSE who understand life well and can distinguish between good and bad, would say, "If you want to live happily, don't analyze and interpret everything. Sometimes, ignoring certain things is important. Those who analyzed diamonds discovered that their origin is coal."

Wise people know when to grieve, when to rejoice, when to remain silent, and when to pay attention to details. Avoiding the evils of life is a virtue. Many are those who harm others with their words or writings, only to eventually fall victim to the consequences of their own actions.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait unleashes tough anti-concealment law

Illegal business? Deportation could follow

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Decree-Law No. 78/2026 on combating commercial concealment, which consists of 14 articles, was published in the official gazette, Kuwait Al-Youm, on Sunday.

The Decree-Law will take effect six months after its publication. It will regulate economic activities and standardize the business environment, thereby, enhancing transparency, fairness and equal opportunities.

It prohibits the engaging in commercial activities without obtaining a license or concealing individuals engaged in economic activities in violation of the law.

It prohibits a natural or legal person from engaging in economic activity for their own account or in partnership with others without obtaining a license or exceeding the scope of the granted license.

It prohibits enabling any person to engage in economic activity in violation of the law, whether directly or indirectly.

Article Three stipulates a prison sentence of not less than one year and not more than three years, and a fine ranging from KD10,000 to KD100,000, or the equivalent of the total profits obtained, whichever is higher, or one of these two penalties. Fines are multiplied according to the number of violators or the number of violating activities.

Article Five holds the de facto owner of the legal entity liable if it is proven that they were aware of the violation or that it occurred as a result of their breach of administrative duties. It also states that the legal entity is jointly liable with its employees when the violation is committed in its name or for its benefit.

Article Six obligates the court, upon conviction of those involved, to order the confiscation of funds and profits obtained from the commercial concealment offense, in addition to closing the establishment, revoking the license, and deporting the expatriates involved, while respecting the rights of bona fide third parties.

Continued on Page 5

Major haul exposes drug network

Lyrica trail leads to 12 arrests

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Interior Ministry recently conducted a security campaign, led by DCGD Director General Brigadier General Mohammad Qabazard and Deputy Director General Brigadier General Sheikh Hamad Al-Sabah, resulting in the arrest of 12 individuals involved in eight drug cases.

In one case, the anti-drugs officers, in coordination with Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC), arrested a suspect who received a shipment arriving from another country, as narcotics were found in the shipment.

During interrogation, the suspect confessed that an individual outside Kuwait instructed him to receive the shipment in exchange for money.

The seized drugs included 86,700 Lyrica capsules, 940 grams of heroin, 405 grams of methamphetamine (crystal meth), 100 tablets of psychotropic substances, 100 milliliters of synthetic cannabinoids (chemical oil), 20 grams of marijuana, four glass bottles containing synthetic cannabinoids, and three weighing scales.

All those arrested in the campaign were referred to the concerned authorities.

Entity deletion sans the queue

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) launched the "Deletion of Entity" online service through the Sahel application, as part of its ongoing efforts to develop electronic services and facilitate transactions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The new service allows property owners and real estate unit owners to submit deletion requests electronically, streamlining the transaction process and reducing the need for in-person visits.



Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi and other officials attend the opening of the Jaber Al-Ahmad Kidney Dialysis Center in Ahmadi Governorate.

A legacy of giving

83 units Jaber Al-Ahmad Kidney Dialysis Center opens in Ahmadi

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi inaugurated the Jaber Al-Ahmad Kidney Dialysis Center in Ahmadi Governorate, a donation from the family of HH the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Al-Awadhi affirmed that the opening of the center is part of the mission of the ministry to expand medical services in health districts and bring these services closer to the citizens by offering them in their residential areas.

He revealed that this is the largest kidney dialysis center in Ahmadi, indicating that it includes 83 dialysis units with a total capacity of more



MoH photos

Minister of Health presents a commemorative shield.

than 600 patients if fully operational. He added the center has five floors covering an area of more than 10,000 square meters and it was constructed according to the latest medical and engineering standards.

Continued on Page 5

NBK provides 'Plus' Package to support young customers starting their careers



Al-Baleed Archaeological Park: gateway to Oman's history & diverse civilizations



Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:47 Asr 15:29
Sunrise .. 05:13 Maghrib .. 18:34
Zohr 11:53 Isha 20:00



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince

Amir receives Crown Prince, Prime Minister & ministers

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (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 Yusuf Al-Sabah, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jar-rah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Crown Prince audiences

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Kuwait achieves global milestone at 37th FIAP Biennial 2026 held in Brazil

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has achieved a new global milestone in photography, placing sixth at the 37th FIAP (Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique) Biennial for Black and White Photography held in Brazil in 2026.

In a statement to KUNA on Sunday, the Kuwait Society for Photographic Arts said the biennial brought together 33 countries presenting a total of 340 photographic works, with each nation submitting 10 works by 10 photographers that were assessed by an international jury comprising experts from Argentina, Spain and Chile.

Kuwait scored 150 points in the overall evaluation, including 103 points for individual works and 47 points for the coherence and technical cohesion of the group portfolio, earning the country sixth place worldwide.

The Kuwaiti delegation consisted of ten photographers: Majed Al-Zaabi, Mohammed Murad, Talal Al-Rabah, Mohammad Awad, Khalil Nadoum, Mohammad Khurshid, Yaqoub Al-Kandari, Mohammad Mirza, Mahdi Baqer and Abdulaziz Al-Asousi.

Mohammad Awad, Kuwait's representative to FIAP and a member of the Kuwait Society for Photographic Arts' board of directors, received the award during the federation's activities in Brazil, where the ceremony honoring winners also featured an exhibition of the biennial's winning works.



Left: Mohammad Awad, Kuwait's representative to FIAP is honored at the event. Right: Pictures from Kuwaiti photographers displayed at the exhibition.



KUNA photos

Ireland took first place globally and won the FIAP World Cup with 189 points, followed by Spain, Russia, Italy and France, while Kuwait finished ahead of several countries with strong presences in international photography.

The society described the achievement as a new addition to Kuwait's photographic record that confirms the distinguished artistic level of

Kuwaiti photographers and their capacity to compete for advanced positions in international forums, thereby enhancing Kuwait's profile on the global photography scene.

The Kuwait Society for Photographic Arts was officially announced by the Ministry of Social Affairs in December 2017 to serve as an official umbrella for photographers to meet, exchange experience, and organize exhibitions, activities and international participation.

Kuwait mulls investment hike in agriculture sector

‘Food security top priority in new reforms era’

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The latest government report revealed a steep decline in agricultural investment, with foreign direct investment (FDI) not exceeding 0.88 percent of total incoming investments, amounting to only KD17,341,446 million.

A reliable source confirmed that the country put food security on top of its priorities, hence, it laid down a plan within the new reform era. This plan is based on two parallel tracks to bridge the investment gap. First is attracting and nationalizing major international partnerships, and second is empowering and supporting national talent and expertise.

According to the source, the government ex-

erted tremendous efforts to expand the base of local and foreign direct investments in the agricultural sector through catalyst mechanisms.

The source disclosed that the plan includes securing supplies, laying down flexible schemes to mitigate geopolitical risks and disruptions to global supply chains, updating legislation to attract capital, and transferring knowledge and modern agricultural technologies, such as hydroponics and vertical farming.

The source clarified that the new government vision will not only attract foreign investors, as it will include a comprehensive empowerment plan for Kuwaiti farmers to provide unprecedented facilities and incentives to raise the efficiency of local production and enhance the competitiveness of Kuwaiti products.

The source added that the government focused on the agricultural landholders by offering incentives that ease access to low-interest loans through the Industrial Bank of Kuwait (Agricultural Portfolio), allocating plots by expanding the distribution of agricultural land as per the criteria that guarantee actual productiv-

ity, providing fertilizers and seeds at subsidized prices, and protecting local products at retail outlets to enhance their competitiveness.

The source affirmed the importance of transitioning to smart agriculture by using hydroponic and vertical farming technologies and smart greenhouses that mitigate climatic factors and save 90 percent of water consumption.

The source underscored the need to activate partnerships between the public and private sectors by launching major government projects for the production and storage of commodities, and opening the door for local and international companies to manage and develop them.

The source added that maintaining food security necessitates a comprehensive economic vision, which restructures the procedures in order to attract investments to the agricultural sector.

The source indicated that the decline in agricultural investment to only KD17 million is a warning bell, hence, the need for immediate action to transform Kuwait from importer to exporter of food products.

Program launched to empower Kuwaiti youth, become leaders

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Under the patronage of Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait, the third edition of the “Leadership Mentoring Program” was launched in cooperation with the Kuwait Lawyers Society, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Sumait

The launch of the third edition coincides with International Youth Day. The program includes a series of training courses and workshops designed to develop participants' skills.

The program aims to develop leadership

skills and enhance the professional capabilities of Kuwaiti youth, preparing them for the future. It is being implemented in line with the Cabinet's directives to empower Kuwaiti youth and qualify them to assume leadership positions.

Program Director Jamila Al-Otaibi said the program focuses on empowering middle-management employees and recent graduates and preparing them for the job market.

She explained that this third edition marks the first time that young men and women are participating together, noting that previous editions were limited to women. This expansion aims to broaden the program's scope to reach wider sectors and fields, providing opportunities for everyone to develop their capabilities.

Other Voices

October 7 and Netanyahu

By Ahmad alsarraf

The Atlantic magazine published an article titled “How Netanyahu Destroyed Israel's Standing in the United States?” by the renowned Jewish American journalist Franklin Feuer.

Feuer recounts that in 1982, Netanyahu was working as a sales representative for a Jerusalem-based furniture company when the Israeli ambassador to Washington approached him and persuaded him to join forces to promote Israel to Americans.



alsarraf

Netanyahu quickly became the face of Israel on American television. From then on, he dedicated himself to promoting his country. Forty years later, he has failed in his mission. While solidarity with Israel was once one of the few issues on which Democrats and Republicans agreed, the repercussions of the October 7 attacks and Israel's subsequent crimes in Gaza have undermined that consensus.

Two years ago, 19 Democratic senators voted against selling weapons to Israel. Last April, that number rose to 40 out of 47, including presidential candidates. A Muslim and opponent of Zionism was elected mayor of New York City, the city with the largest Jewish population in America.

A pro-Palestinian candidate is certain to win a seat in Congress. Criticism of Israel has become a major topic on the agenda of leading liberal senators. Vice President Vance, the front runner for the 2028 presidential nomination, has stated that disgraced financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein had ties to Israeli intelligence. Vance has also accused Israel of conspiring against his diplomacy with Iran. According to Feuer, such comments would have been enough to expel any Republican from the party just a few years ago.

In Feuer's view, Netanyahu could have halted the decline in Israel's reputation had he made an effort to respect Obama or demonstrate a genuine desire for a just and equitable solution to the Palestinian issue. Even if he believed the Palestinians were uninterested, he acted with blatant arrogance and recklessness.

Then came President Donald Trump, whom Netanyahu now considers “Israel's best friend,” and in whom he saw a golden opportunity.

His groveling loyalty to Trump went beyond mere flattery, and Trump rewarded him by moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal.

The number of members of Congress refusing to accept money from AIPAC grew. Democratic presidential candidates recognized this new trend and sought to promote themselves through high-profile confrontations with Israel. This division exposed Netanyahu, who had repeatedly claimed that no one understood Americans better than he did.

Then came the American-Israeli attack on Iran and its proxies, with the stated goal of eliminating the only Jewish-majority state in the world. Netanyahu fiercely countered the military threats, but he lost on the very battlefield that had shaped his career. He had come to power by convincing Americans of the righteousness of his cause, but once in office, he acted as though American conviction no longer mattered.

Feuer believes that Netanyahu never grasped that his past successes were achieved under favorable circumstances and decades of American sympathy for the Israeli cause. When those circumstances changed, Netanyahu did not adjust his strategy; instead, he concluded that he could not change the minds of Americans who were hostile to the Jewish state.

Netanyahu's disregard for global public opinion was further demonstrated by his selection of some of the most unsavory figures to form his government. He did not allow criticism of their statements or policies. He failed to present a clear plan for Gaza and rejected American attempts at normalization, fearing that doing so would anger right-wing parties.

Ultimately, Israel will regret the extent of American political support it has lost under Netanyahu. Politically independent voters have become more sympathetic to the Palestinians than to the Israelis. Sixty percent of adult Americans hold a negative view of Israel. A majority of Republicans under 45 oppose renewing the military aid package to Israel. Support is also waning among young evangelicals, who were once a strong pro-Israel voting bloc. Feuer's commentary ends here.

All these dramatic changes would not have been possible without the deadly “Al-Aqsa Flood” operation of October 7, 2023, regardless of our deeply negative opinion of those who carried it out. The restoration of rights and the success of revolutions often require bloodshed.

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Kuwaiti women urged to update housing request

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Women's Housing Affairs Committee at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced the activation of an online service for updating rental housing applications through the Sahel app, in accordance with the Cabinet's directives on digital transformation.

The committee explained that Kuwaiti women registered with PAHW who have an existing rental housing application will receive a notification through the Sahel app. The notification will include a link to access the application update service and upload the required documents.

The committee urged all those who receive the notification to promptly update their information and upload the required documents within 90 days of the announcement date, adding that applications that are not updated within the specified period will be canceled, effective October 16, 2026.

The required documents for the update include:

- A copy of the applicant's civil ID card.
- A copy of the nationality certificate.
- A copy of the marriage certificate for married women, divorce certificate for divorced women, or husband's death certificate for widows.
- School certificates for children covering the last two academic years.
- A certificate from the General Ports Department showing travel history for 2024, 2025, and 2026.
- A certificate from the Real Estate Registration Department confirming that neither the applicant nor her spouse owns any real estate.
- A certificate from the Commercial Registry Department.
- A recent certificate from the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), if a family member has a severe or moderate disability.
- A salary certificate. If the applicant is unemployed, a certificate from PAHW is required.

Minister issues decrees, dissolves 6 erring NGOs

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah issued ministerial decrees on the dissolution of six non-governmental organizations (NGOs) after a thorough review and evaluation of the work of public benefit associations.

These decrees include the suspension of the boards of directors and employees of the erring NGOs, such that they are not allowed to dispose funds and documents.

The ministry shall oversee the liquidation procedures in accordance with the law.



Jahra Governorate photo

Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi presents certificates of appreciation to Dr. Mazhar Al-Shammari.

Governor honors Dr. Al-Shammari for his superb role in medical field

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi honored Dr. Mazhar Al-Shammari in recognition of his distinguished medical efforts and contributions, following the successful complex surgical procedure at the Chest Diseases Hospital in collaboration with a select group of international experts and doctors.

The Governor commended the efforts of the national doctors and medical staff. He

also praised the achievements that prove the advanced level of healthcare services in Kuwait.

Al-Shammari emphasized that utilizing visiting doctors and international medical expertise contributes to the exchange of knowledge and the transfer of the latest surgical techniques and practices, thereby, developing the capabilities of the national staff and raising their efficiency in handling delicate and complex cases.

MoH supplies ‘tablets’ for biometrics

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9 : The Ministry of Health supplied tablets for fingerprinting to the health districts, hospitals and its headquarters as an alternative for employees who are unable to use their personal devices or the fingerprinting system.

The ministry issued Administrative Circular No. 25/2026, stating that the employees can use the tablets available at their workplace if their personal device malfunctions or if the fingerprinting system is unavailable for any work schedule -- regular work hours, on-call or overtime.

It also stressed to the relevant departments, sectors and health facilities the need to always ensure the readiness of the fingerprinting tablets, make them available to the

employees, and immediately report technical issues of malfunctions. It added that the circular takes effect upon its issuance.

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20 industrial plots shut: Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) Shamlan Al-Jahdali issued a decision to close 20 industrial plots in Subhan Industrial City, Jahra Vocational Area, South Amghara and Mirqab Industrial Area due to various violations.

These violations included expired contracts, improper storage of hazardous materials, obstructions to firefighting equipment, closure of the plots during inspection visits, operating without a valid contract or license, worker accommodations that did not meet the safety requirements, and operating without a license.

diwaniya



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Gov't sole body to solve issues of 'downtrodden'

"WE urge and demand that the government follow up on all articles published by columnists and pay close attention to the opinions and ideas they contain that serve the public interest," columnist **Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"These articles shed light on forgotten issues, or on matters deliberately ignored by some officials, such as the problem of waste and piles of dilapidated construction debris, excavation work, and damaged crops in both remote and nearby areas of Kuwait. These issues need to be addressed so that Kuwait can become a more beautiful and better place.



Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber

"We call upon our wise government to pay attention to the problems faced by important segments of society, such as farmers, fishermen, livestock owners, and others who have no support except from their compassionate government. The Kuwaiti government helps the people of other countries, so how much more should it care for its own citizens? These people need someone to stand by them, listen to them, and work to resolve problems that have been lingering for years. Those who experience a problem are best positioned to explain it and present their circumstances and suffering. Those who are directly affected cannot always understand the plight of those who are not.

"The esteemed government should expedite the resolution of citizens' problems, provided that the solution does not violate the law. Responsibility is not limited to going to the office and enjoying the privileges of the position; it also includes listening to complaints and working diligently to resolve them. An official should be the eyes and ears of the citizen, identifying problems and finding appropriate solutions.

"An official's duty is to correct mistakes whenever they occur, thereby earning the citizens' trust and reassuring them that the government is responding to their legitimate demands without placing additional burdens on them. I hope that officials will read this article and take its message into consideration."

Also:

"Whenever I stay in London, I pray at the Regent's Park Mosque, which is considered the oldest mosque in Britain," columnist **Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"It was founded in 1942 and renovated between 1974 and 1978, with contributions from several Islamic countries, including a £2 million donation from Saudi Arabia. The mosque's design resembles the Dome of the Rock in occupied Jerusalem. The mosque is currently in need of restoration, particularly its dilapidated copper dome. I hope that Islamic countries will contribute to its restoration.

"The Regent's Park Mosque hosts numerous activities that highlight the cultural and enlightening role of Islam. It is a major cultural center and houses a large library. Therefore, caring for it, maintaining it, and preserving its heritage character is a responsibility shared by all Islamic countries, as this strengthens the Islamic presence in the United Kingdom.

"Followers of other religions around the world care for their places of worship and preserve their heritage sites. Mosques in European countries, and in the West in general, do not receive similar attention. I urge the ministries of endowments in Islamic countries to allocate funds for the maintenance and restoration of this mosque, which can accommodate approximately five thousand worshippers, in addition to a designated area for women and several other facilities.

"The Regent's Park Mosque Board of Trustees is doing its best to preserve the mosque. However, these efforts require a sufficient budget to cover regular maintenance and daily activities. The Muslim community in the United Kingdom has a long and rich history. Maintaining the mosque and educating members of the Muslim community about their faith requires providing all the necessary resources for this cultural center and central mosque."



"This incident occurred 36 years ago, during the treacherous Iraqi invasion, when my late friend sat on the sidewalk in front of his house between the afternoon and sunset prayers, waiting for the call to prayer across from the mosque and reflecting on the situation," Kuwaiti writer **Tariq Idris** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"My friend (May God have mercy on him) could hear only with the help of his hearing aids, which he had removed at that moment so that the sounds of the street would not disturb his thoughts and peace of mind. As he sat there, he suddenly felt someone kick him in the side and then strike him with the butt of a weapon while speaking to him in an Iraqi dialect. My friend remained silent and did not respond. He raised his head while still seated to see who was

addressing him. The two Iraqi soldiers asked him where his house was and why he was sitting in the street.

"At this point, he put in his hearing aids and explained that he was waiting for the call to sunset prayer, pointing toward his house. The third soldier, who was driving the vehicle, said to his companions in an Iraqi dialect, "Kadhim, leave him alone. He is deaf and doesn't understand." The soldiers left him alone and did not harm him. This story takes on a different meaning today as we witness the plight of the Iraqi people, caught between shadow governments and the policies of various Iraqi political parties.

"It is unfortunate that Iraq has become a nation deaf to reason, lost to the ambitions of a handful of political thieves who have plundered its wealth. Today, Iraqi Prime Minister Ali Al-Zaidi is exposing to the world the crimes of obscene enrichment and the rampant looting of oil and other sources of Iraqi national income. We want the Iraqi people to understand the true objectives of their current government and its leader, so they can stand with them and abandon the parties that have plundered Iraq's wealth.

"These parties have been deaf to reason because they are controlled and directed from abroad. The Iraqi people must reject this imposed political agenda and stand with their wise leadership. People of Iraq, save Iraq and abandon the political parties."



"A king sentenced two men to death for a crime they had committed, setting the execution date for one month after the verdict was issued," columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"One of the two convicts was resigned, submissive, and despairing. He clung to a corner of his cell, weeping and awaiting his execution. The other, however, was clever and began thinking of a way to save himself, or at least postpone his execution.

"One night, he thought about the king and his interests. He remembered that the king loved horse riding. Suddenly, an idea struck him. He called for the jailer and demanded to see the king about a serious matter. The king agreed to meet him and asked what the matter was. The prisoner told the king that he could teach the king's horse to fly within one year, on the condition that his execution be postponed.

"The king imagined himself soaring through the sky on the back of the only flying horse in the world and agreed to the prisoner's offer. The other prisoner heard the news and, utterly astonished, said to him, "You know that horses cannot fly, so how dare you suggest such a crazy idea?" The clever prisoner replied, "I know that, but I have given myself three possible chances of gaining my freedom - first, the king might die within this year, second, I might die, and a death in bed is preferable to execution, and third, the horse might die."

"While this story is fictional and may not be entirely true, its meaning is valid. Whenever you face a problem, do not despair or lose hope, and do not settle for a single solution. Think creatively and look for dozens of possible solutions, for perhaps one of them will bring relief after hardship and put an end to the ordeal.

"On March 27, 1964, a massive earthquake struck Anchorage, the capital of the U.S. state of Alaska, devastating the city in just four and a half minutes with a magnitude of 9.2 on the Richter scale. Buildings were ripped from their foundations or split in two. The city had a population of approximately 100,000. Twenty-eight hours after the earthquake, it became clear that the residents had responded with remarkable compassion and cooperation.

"After the tremors subsided, people went out searching for survivors. They used ropes to pull those trapped under the rubble to safety. Drivers transported the injured to hospitals, and everyone offered their help in whatever way they could. This was a level of compassion rarely seen in ordinary times. According to sociologists, disasters bring out the best in people. Others attribute these trials to religious beliefs, saying that God wants us to be compassionate and merciful toward one another."

"Disasters can even succeed in resolving political and social problems. When the earthquake struck Indonesia in 2004, it created the conditions necessary to end the civil war in Aceh province. The COVID-19 pandemic also helped lower crime rates in Britain, while pollution in New Delhi plummeted, revealing clear blue skies free from environmental pollution. The entire world now agrees that government authority has strengthened since the outbreak of COVID-19, as governments have taken necessary health measures and played an active and effective role by injecting money into the economy and rescuing struggling businesses and sectors."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Security and safety of all on top: Governor

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Farwaniya Governor and acting Capital Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with some newly appointed security officials, including Director of the Farwaniya Governorate Emergency Police Department Colonel Mohammad Abdulhadi Al-Hajri, Deputy Director of the department Colonel Fahad Nayef Al-Mutairi, Director of the Farwaniya Governorate Traffic Patrols Department Lieutenant Colonel Dhahi Rajaan Al-Nassafi, and Deputy Director of the same department Lieutenant Colonel Faisal Me-shaal Al-Saeed.

The Governor warmly welcomed the security officials, congratulating them on assuming their duties and wishing them success in their respective posts. He underscored the importance of continuing to strengthen cooperation between Farwaniya Governorate and security agencies to maintain security and safety and improve the services provided to citizens and residents.

The guests expressed their gratitude to the Governor for the warm reception, affirming



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Farwaniya Governor and acting Capital Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives the newly appointed security officials.

their commitment to continue coordinating with the governorate to better serve the

public and guarantee security and stability throughout the governorate.

Lebanese woman using forged degree to get license deported

Degree bought in home-country for \$1200

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Residence Affairs Investigation Department referred a Lebanese woman in her twenties to the Administrative Deportation Department after confirming that she had submitted a forged higher-education certificate to fulfill one of the requirements for obtaining a driver's license, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the woman's arrest came as part of the authorities' efforts to verify the educational qualifications submitted by expatriates, as well as monitor cases involving changes of profession and transfers to new jobs.

The electronic link between the relevant authorities, including the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), is regularly maintained and contributes to uncovering cases of forgery and manipulation of qualifications and employment data.

The General Department of Investigation received confidential information that the woman had used a forged university degree to obtain a driver's license. The information was verified, and the necessary investigations were conducted.

The woman confessed to the forgery, admitting that she had contacted a Lebanese citizen residing in Lebanon who helped her obtain the forged degree for \$1,200.

During the investigation, the expatriate revealed to detectives details of how and where the forgery was carried out. The investigation is ongoing.

It is worth noting that the requirements for expatriates to obtain a driver's license, according to the relevant ministerial decree, include a two-year residency permit, a university degree, and a minimum salary of 600 dinars. However, certain categories are exempt from some of these requirements.

These exemptions include drivers, sales representatives, and passport and immigration officials, provided they hold valid driver's licenses issued by their home country or another country, without the need for consular authentication.

The exemptions also extend to the wives of doctors, pharmacists, university professors, managers, judges, consultants, oil technicians working for oil companies, physical therapists, and other medical professionals, in accordance with the applicable regulations and decrees.

Man fined KD350 for beating another

Asian drug peddlers nabbed in early morning swoop

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Ahmadi Security Command support patrols arrested three Asian men in possession of narcotics early morning recently, one of whom was wanted in connection with a drug trafficking case in Mahboula, reports Al-Anba daily.

Ahmadi Security Directorate support patrols, during routine patrol early morning, became suspicious of a car parked on the side of the road with three people inside. When officers approached, the men attempted to flee but were apprehended. A check revealed that one of them was wanted in connection with a case. A precautionary search of the men also uncovered narcotics.

During interrogation, the suspects confessed to distributing narcotics to their customers in the area.

The suspects, along with the seized narcot-

ics, were referred to the Drug Control General Department.



KD350 fine imposed: The Sixth Circuit of the Criminal Court imposed a fine of KD350 on an individual involved in an assault case and referred the civil case filed by the victim to the competent civil court to deliberate on the compensation claim, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Public Prosecution referred the defendant to trial for causing injuries to the victim, urging the court to impose punishment according to the Penal Code.

Attorney Ismail Dashti, lawyer of the defendant, argued that the evidence was insufficient, asserting that the case file did not contain enough evidence to warrant a tougher penalty. He asked the court to take into consideration the mitigating circumstances and the surround-

ing events, such that his client is subjected to a lighter punishment.



Victim of fraud compensated: The Court of Appeals obligated a gang of citizens and expatriates to jointly pay KD100,000 compensation to a citizen after convicting them of fraud related to deals of luxury watches and cars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Attorney Fahad Al-Shatti, lawyer for the citizen, filed the case on behalf of his client. He said the compensation is for the damages that his client suffered as a result of the incident, affirming the right of the victim to demand civil compensation for the damages caused by the crime. The compensation ruling was issued after the defendants were sentenced to three years in prison for fraud.

Worn tires refurbished in Jleeb warehouse for sale

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Capital Inspection Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with the Farwaniya Criminal Investigation Department, raided a warehouse in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh that was being used to store used car tires.

Faisal Al-Ansari, Director of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, explained that the inspection teams, in cooperation with the Farwaniya Governorate Criminal Investigation Department, raided the warehouse and discovered that its operators were storing, cleaning, polishing, refurbishing, and reconditioning used tires in preparation for displaying and reselling them to consumers.

The raid resulted in the confiscation of 390 used car tires, along with polishing tools and equipment used to clean and refurbish the tires.

The site was closed by the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), and coordination is underway with Kuwait Municipality and the Environment Public Authority to take the necessary measures to destroy the used tires in accordance with approved procedures and requirements.

Al-Ansari confirmed that a report was filed regarding the incident and that the necessary legal procedures are being taken against the violating warehouse and its operators in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

He stressed that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will continue to intensify its monitoring and inspection of markets and commercial establishments, identify violations, and take the necessary legal action.

1 acquitted, 2 jailed, 1 deported for extortion

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Court of Appeals upheld the acquittal of one defendant and rejected the appeal of the Public Prosecution in a coercion, detention and extortion case, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The higher court increased the sentence of two defendants to four years in prison with hard labor, and ordered the deportation of one of these defendants after serving his prison sentence.

The Public Prosecution charged three defendants with detaining the victim inside the diwaniya of one of the defendants, threatening him with a weapon, forcing him to sign three promissory notes totaling KD30,000, and taking his civil identification card with the intent of extorting money from him. It also charged another defendant with threatening the victim through WhatsApp to demand money based on the promissory notes he signed under duress.

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HH the Amir

HH the Crown Prince

HH the Prime Minister

Amir congratulates President of Singapore on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to the President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Shanmugaratnam good health, and Singapore and its friendly people further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad

Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to the President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished President Shanmugaratnam good health and wellbeing.

PM congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to the President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

MoE's minister mourns passing of ex-music overseer Al-Qatami

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Minister of Education, Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabai, personally and on behalf of all ministry employees, mourned the passing of Ahmad Abdulaziz Mohammad Al-Qatami, former General Technical Supervisor of Music Education, praying to Almighty God to grant him mercy and forgiveness and admit him to Paradise, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The minister expressed his deepest condolences and sincere sympathy to the deceased's family, relatives, and the entire educational community, highlighting the dedication and valuable contributions the late Al-Qatami made throughout his educational career.



Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Qatami



KUNA photos

Top and above: The Summer Evening Futsal Clubs Championship for Girls kicked off amidst an enthusiastic atmosphere and strong competition among the participating students.

First summer evening futsal contest for girls kicks off amid fun & fanfare

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Under the auspices of the Kuwaiti School Sports and Higher Education Federation, the first Summer Evening Futsal Clubs Championship for Girls was held at Zubaida Intermediate School for Girls, amidst an enthusiastic atmosphere and strong competition among the participating students.

In this regard, Dr. Hessa Arab, Acting Director of the Department of Technical Guidance for Physical Education, confirmed that the tournament came to develop and refine the students' football skills, and to discover sporting talents in a competitive environment that supports the values of fair competition among the students.

Dr. Arab explained that these initiatives enhance the role of school sports in building a promising athletic generation, and expressed her thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the Minister of Education, Engineer Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabai, for providing the opportunity of summer school clubs and his continuous support for activities that contribute to investing the energies of female students and developing their capabilities.

For her part, the head of the Ahmadi Summer Center, Hiba Al-Hazza, confirmed that this tournament is the first of its kind at the level of all summer club centers for girls from all educational districts for the intermediate and secondary levels of football, noting that the main goal of it is to exchange experiences between the players, enhance acquaintance between the students and give them the opportunity to interact and compete with clubs from other centers to raise their technical level and gain field experience.

Al-Hazza said that the tournament witnessed a wonderful turnout and remarkable interest from the students and parents, and it also resulted in the discovery of many sporting talents during the summer club period, as at the end of the event the best player, the best goalkeeper and the top scorer of the tournament were honored in encouragement of the outstanding participants.



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SAB nod awaited for new projects

Al-Na'ayem to get pumping station

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is waiting for the State Audit Bureau (SAB) to approve nine contracts for the development of water and electricity networks and maintenance works in its facilities in various governorates, say reliable sources.

Sources revealed that the ministry had earlier obtained approval from the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to award the contracts to bidders that meet the technical requirements. Sources said the ministry will then refer the contracts to SAB at different times for pre-audit, audit and review procedures to ensure the integrity of the project phases, starting from the initial tendering up to the awarding of the contracts.

Sources indicated that these contracts include raising the efficiency of the networks and carrying out the necessary maintenance works. Sources disclosed that the most important of these contracts is for the maintenance of high-voltage lines in the first district, at a cost of KD2.156 million, in addition to the contract for the supply of metering connections for the distribution network of overhead lines.

On the other hand, the ministry intends to construct a water pumping station and its associated facilities in Al-Na'ayem. The project is included in the contract plan of the ministry for the current fiscal year and it is expected to be tendered through CAPT.

This is in line with the efforts of the ministry to secure potable water and meet the demand in new areas, including Al-Na'ayem, which will soon witness the implementation of economic and strategic projects that contribute to improving the investment environment and increasing value-added opportunities for local and foreign investors.

License mandatory: Municipality

'Rectify businesses or face KD 5,000 fine and closure'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Kuwait Municipality on Sunday affirmed that it fully supports economic activities through the recently launched 'Get your business licensed through correct steps' campaign, which aims to raise awareness among business owners about the need to comply with the regulations and meet the requirements in order to avoid violations and penalties, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement during the first field tour in the Capital Governorate, Advertising Supervisor at the Audit and Follow-up Department in the Capital Governorate branch of the Municipality Hamad Al-Nimran clarified that the campaign is not limited to commercial business licenses, as it also covers the craft, professional, investment and industrial activities.

He underscored the need to fully abide by the regulations and laws to avoid hefty fines that could reach KD5,000 and other penalties such as closure of the business.

He said the field teams involved in this campaign are focusing on three types of violations -- opening a business without a license, adding unlicensed space, and adding or practicing an unlicensed activity without obtaining approval from the Municipality.

He disclosed that the department conducts daily inspection of investment, commercial and industrial areas in the governorate to monitor and document violations, indicating that warnings are issued for minor infractions which do not warrant a citation.

He urged the business owners to follow the official social media accounts of the Municipality to benefit from the awareness messages and guidelines that are published regularly, and to contact the Municipality for more information.



Al-Nimran

PACI deletes addresses of 287 residents

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced in the Sunday edition of the official gazette, Kuwait Al-Youm, the cancellation of the residential addresses of 287 individuals based on the declaration of the homeowners or due to the

demolition of the building. These individuals must visit PACI to register their new address or do so through the Sahel application after providing the required supporting documents within 30 days of this announcement. According to Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, a fine not exceeding KD100

will be imposed on each person. Moreover, PACI launched the ‘Removal of Address’ service on the Sahel application to allow property or real estate owners to submit an address removal request online. It added that applicants can attach the required documents, submit the request and then track its status through Sahel.

Humidity builds as Kuwait heat persists

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (KUNA): Kuwait will see hot and humid weather through early Tuesday, with light fog reducing visibility in some areas, the Meteorological Department said Sunday. Acting Director Dhirar Al-Ali told KUNA that the country is affected by the Indian seasonal low, bringing a hot and humid air mass,

particularly to coastal areas. Relative humidity is expected to rise Sunday evening, with light fog reducing visibility along coastal areas. Winds will be variable to southeasterly at speeds of eight to 30 km/h. Al-Ali said temperatures are forecast to reach highs of 44 to 46 degrees Celsius and lows of 30 to 32 degrees.

Continued from Page 1

83 units

He said the center provides a range of services like pharmacy, laboratory, emergency rooms, dialysis units, administrative and technical.

He disclosed that this is the second donation of the family of HH the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in terms of the establishment of a kidney dialysis center, stating that the previous donation was a similar center in Jahra Governorate. He expressed his gratitude to the family of HH the late Amir for this generous donation, and to all those involved in establishing and managing the center.

Meanwhile, Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad asserted that Kuwait is proud of the opening of the Jaber Al-Ahmad Kidney Dialysis Center. He said it is one of the largest centers in the governorate and it is a significant addition to the healthcare system of the country. He said the center will reduce waiting times for patients and improve the quality of healthcare services.

He reiterated that is this the second such center, following the Jaber Al-Ahmad Kidney Dialysis Center in Jahra Governorate.

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the family of HH the late Amir for their generous donation. He also expressed his gratitude to Al-Awadhi, the ministry, all medical, engineering and technical staff, and all entities that contributed to the completion of the center.

Representative of the donor, Sheikh Fahad Al-Jaber – one of the heirs of HH the late Amir, stressed that serving patients is a religious and humanitarian duty with the aim of alleviating their suffering and instilling hope in them.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Jaber indicated that the Kuwaiti people are inherently generous and charitable, recalling the humanitarian stances of HH the late Amir, may Allah have mercy on him.

Present at the opening ceremony were Head of the Crown Prince Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Al-Jaber, Undersecretary of the ministry Sheikh Thamer Al-Jaber, Sheikh Dr. Suleiman Khalifa Al-Sabah, and the children of HH the late Amir.

Kuwait keeps

It stressed that Saudi Arabia’s security and stability are an integral part of the security of Bahrain and all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, citing the countries’ historic ties, shared destiny and the GCC Joint Defense Agreement. Bahrain also commended Saudi Arabia’s diplomatic, developmental and humanitarian efforts in Yemen and its role in supporting a comprehensive and sustainable political solution based on the Gulf Initiative, the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 2216.

The Bahraini Foreign Ministry further praised Saudi Arabia’s role in establishing a multinational defensive maritime coalition aimed at strengthening maritime security, protecting freedom of navigation and international trade, and safeguarding global energy supplies.

Through its current non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council, Bahrain called on the international community to assume its responsibilities and adopt a firm stance to deter attacks threatening maritime navigation and international trade, in accordance with international law, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and relevant Security Council resolutions.

Kuwait discusses regional developments

Separately, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah held a phone call on Sunday with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan.

During the call, the two sides discussed the latest regional developments, diplomatic efforts to enhance security and stability, and measures to ensure the safety and freedom of maritime navigation.

Sheikh Jarrah also held a telephone conversation Sunday with Oman’s Foreign Minister Badr Al-Busaidi to discuss the latest regional developments.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the talks also focused on diplomatic efforts to strengthen regional security and stability and ensure the safety and freedom of maritime navigation.

Sheikh Jarrah also received a phone call from Egyptian Minister of Foreign

Affairs, Emigration and Expatriates Dr Badr Abdelatty. The two officials discussed regional developments and diplomatic efforts aimed at enhancing security and stability and protecting the safety and freedom of maritime navigation.

Kuwait condemns attack on UAE tanker

Kuwait on Saturday strongly condemned an Iranian attack on an Emirati commercial vessel transiting the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

During a telephone call with UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Sheikh Jarrah expressed Kuwait’s firm rejection of the attack targeting an Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) tanker.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister reiterated Kuwait’s unwavering solidarity with the UAE and its full support for measures taken by Abu Dhabi to protect its national sovereignty, territorial security and strategic maritime interests.

The Arab Interior Ministers Council also strongly condemned the targeting of the UAE-flagged ADNOC tanker, describing the incident as a serious threat to maritime security and freedom of international trade.

In a statement, the council’s General Secretariat said the attack was a flagrant violation of international law and threatened maritime navigation, international trade and global energy supplies.

It expressed full solidarity with the UAE and support for measures taken to counter such threats, protect its interests and resources, and safeguard the security of its territory, citizens and residents.

Defense Minister checks military readiness

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, accompanied by Chief of the General Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraiaan, conducted an inspection tour of several key military sites Saturday to assess combat readiness and review field operations.

During the tour, Sheikh Abdullah stressed the importance of maintaining the highest levels of operational efficiency, emphasizing that full readiness is essential to enabling the Kuwaiti Army to fulfill its duty of protecting national security and territorial integrity.

According to a Ministry of Defense statement, the minister praised military personnel stationed at various command posts for their dedication and high morale, urging them to maintain constant vigilance and the highest standards of professionalism in serving the country.

Elsewhere, Yemen’s Iranian-backed Houthi rebels on Sunday struck a government-held port on the country’s Red Sea coast, killing several people and deepening fears over threats to strategic Middle East shipping routes and a potential return to civil war. They also said they attacked an oil facility in neighboring Saudi Arabia.

The National Resistance Forces, a Yemeni government-allied force, said at least seven people - four troops and three civilians - were killed and 15 civilians were injured in the Houthi attack on Yemen’s Red Sea port of Mokha.

Fayed al-Noman, assistant undersecretary of the information ministry, said the rebels fired missiles and drones, severely damaging port buildings and piers as well as commercial goods and food supplies. The military later said the Houthis tried to attack with an explosive-laden unmanned boat, and that missiles landed in several areas, including near a television channel.

Mokha is one of the main ports under Yemen’s internationally recognized government and has been renovated to handle shipping that avoids the Houthi-held port of Hodeida.

The Houthis claimed the attack, saying they targeted military forces and warehouses.

Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesperson, said they also targeted an Aramco refinery in the Saudi city of Jazan with a drone in response to Saudi drones’ breaching Yemen’s airspace over the provinces of Hajjah and Saada.

The Saudi Energy Ministry reported a fire at a facility belonging to the Aramco refinery, with no casualties. The ministry did not say what caused it.

The attacks threaten to reignite Yemen’s civil war after a 2022 truce stopped major fighting in the impoverished Arab country.

The Strait of Hormuz, crucial to global supplies of oil and natural gas, was considered an international waterway before the war.

Iran and Oman, which bracket the

strait, are working to finalize a temporary deal that would reopen it, with ships entering through a route near Iran and exiting through a route near Oman, according to two people familiar with the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Ships would transit without paying fees or tolls during the interim period.

The agreement is designed to restore an earlier, separate agreement between the U.S. and Iran and restart a 60-day clock for them to negotiate over Iran’s nuclear program.

According to the two people, the deal is endorsed by members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and is expected to be jointly announced by Iran, Oman, the United States and the International Maritime Organization of the United Nations. But the people stressed the terms could still change before the deal is final.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told reporters that negotiations with Oman about “new maritime routes” through the Strait of Hormuz were in the final stages but “this, however, does not mean that the Strait of Hormuz will reopen.” That step requires conditions that “have been conveyed through intermediaries.”

Iran’s powerful Supreme National Security Council on Saturday said the strait will not reopen until the U.S. “corrects its behavior.”

Tehran’s demands include that the U.S. never threaten Iran again, a permanent end to the war with Iran and its armed allies, a lifting of the naval blockade of Iranian ports and a withdrawal of U.S. military from the area. The U.S. also must “completely compensate” Iran for war damage, lift sanctions and “unconditionally” release frozen assets.

The U.S. Central Command has said the blockade had redirected 53 commercial vessels, disabled two and boarded two through Saturday.

Araghchi said an “exchange of messages through intermediaries” is continuing with the U.S., but that doesn’t constitute negotiations, which “cannot resume until the violations of the memorandum of understanding have ended and the United States has remedied the provisions of the memorandum that it violated.”



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ICE says it expects to equip every officer and agent in field with body cameras by the end of August

WASHINGTON, Aug 9, (AP): US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Saturday it expects every officer and agent in the field to be equipped with a body camera by the end of August, a rapid expansion that could provide an unprecedented visual record of the federal government’s immigration enforcement operations.

But whether the public will get to see that footage remains largely up to ICE.

The agency defended its body-worn camera policy amid questions about provisions allowing ICE leadership to withhold or indefinitely delay footage after serious injuries or deaths in custody. Acting Director David J. Venturella said the restrictions are intended to protect investigations and privacy and are consistent with federal law and policies at other federal law enforcement agencies.

Venturella’s statement came in response to an Associated Press report on ICE policy, including a provision calling for the expedited release of footage after a serious injury or death in custody when doing so is determined to be in the “best interests of the agency.”

Venturella said the AP “mischaracterized” the policy by conflating that provision with ICE’s broader authority to release body-camera



A federal agent wears an Immigration and Customs Enforcement badge in New York, June 10, 2025. (AP)

footage. He said the policy clarifies that footage should not be released when doing so could compromise investigations or privacy.

The AP report did not say the provision governs every release of body-camera footage. It focused on ICE’s policy for releasing footage after some of the most consequential encounters with the public: those involving serious injury or death.

The AP sought comment from ICE before its initial story on Friday. The agency provided partial responses, without addressing the provision that

with body-worn cameras by the end of August.”

The AP quoted Christopher Schneider, a sociology professor at Brandon University in Canada, who said that selective releases are routine in some law enforcement agencies but usually not so clearly contemplated in policy. “In some ways, ICE is saying the quiet part out loud,” he said.

The story noted that ICE’s sister agency, Customs and Border Protection, has not released footage of the fatal shooting of Alex Pretti in Minneapolis in January. CBP Commissioner Rodney Scott told lawmakers that it was part of an investigation and would be made public “when it’s appropriate.”

Also:

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon revoked former US Air Force Secretary **Frank Kendall’s** “eligibility” to access classified information and barred him from holding “any sensitive position,” alleging Friday that he disclosed sensitive information about Air Force One’s capabilities to the media.

It follows reporting last month, including from The New York Times, on security concerns over the new, Qatari-gifted Air Force One, including that it lacked the advanced antimissile capabilities of its forebear.



US President Joe Biden speaks during a Department of Defense Commander in Chief farewell ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall on Jan 16, 2025, in Arlington, Va. (AP)

Joe Biden’s prostate cancer spreads, causing pain: son

LONDON, Aug 9, (AP): Former US president Joe Biden’s prostate cancer has spread to other parts of his body and is causing him pain, even as he continues to speak out on public issues, his son Hunter said in an interview.

In a wide-ranging interview with the BBC broadcast late on Friday, Hunter Biden grew emotional as he discussed his father’s condition, describing it as very sad to watch.

“The cancer has spread, metastasized into his bones and further,” he said. “It’s very painful and it’s very debilitating in many respects.”

Joe Biden, 83, was the oldest man to serve as US president and his age was a source of concern for much of his four years in office. He and his White House advisers have faced intense criticism for allegedly concealing the extent of his problems, especially after he was forced to abandon his bid for re-election after a disastrous debate with his eventual successor, Donald Trump.

The former president revealed his cancer diagnosis in May of last year, less than four months after he left the White House.

No immediate way forward for SAVE America Act

US senators head for exits without meeting President Trump demands for voting bill

WASHINGTON, Aug 9, (AP): Senators headed for the exits in the predawn hours Saturday, ending for now a crushing standoff over President Donald Trump’s demands that they stay in session to pass a strict proof-of-citizenship voting bill before the summer recess.

While they wrapped up many key priorities in the overnight votes, advancing Trump’s SAVE America Act was not among them.

Instead, Republican senators who had brought the chamber to a standstill spoke to Trump late in the evening about an alternative plan: They would try again to approve elements of the voting bill as part of a broader GOP budget package to fund the Iran war and replenish the Pentagon when they return to work in September.

“Obviously, with the president at his direction, this is what he wants to do,” said Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, the GOP budget committee chairman, flanked by Sens. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Rick Scott, R-Fla., after their phone call with the president.

The sudden wind-down after weeks of Trump ramping up his de-

mands shows just how deeply the president is able to reach into the halls of Congress to set the agenda or disrupt it, the executive directing the affairs of the legislative branch. While Trump is often seen as a de facto speaker of the House, he is invariably trying his hand at mastering the Senate.

Trump had poked and prodded Senate Majority Leader John Thune for weeks to pass the SAVE America Act, a bill that does not have enough support from the Republicans who hold majority power, let alone the Democrats whose votes would be needed to advance it in the Senate.

The president has gone so far as to insist the Senate abandon its filibuster rules to jam the SAVE America Act past the 60-vote threshold that is typically needed to advance legislation in the chamber - something Thune and most senators have no interest in doing.

“John’s trying. He’s trying hard. I really believe that. But if he doesn’t get there, it would be unfortunate,” Trump said in an interview with Punchbowl News that posted Friday.



US Sen Chuck Grassley walks through the Senate subway at the U.S. Capitol during a vote, Friday, August 7, 2026, in Washington. (AP)

Thune himself has worked to carefully balance the often unusual demands of the president with the political reality of his slim GOP majority. Republicans are down one vote with the prolonged absence of Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the former leader, who

said this week he was released from a rehabilitation center and is recovering at home.

“I think everybody’s, for the most part, on the same page,” Thune, R-S.D., said about the trio’s call with Trump, adding that eventually the Senate would have to tackle another

budget bill.

During a daylong session that dragged for nearly 20 hours, Thune successfully powered through a lengthy list of other Trump priorities. Senators confirmed the president’s pick of Todd Blanche as the attorney general, passed a sweeping Russian sanctions package to aid Ukraine, and approved a bipartisan package to fund the government into December in an early step toward avoiding a government shutdown.

The Republicans also tried to push forward a slimmer voting bill that would require people to show IDs before casting ballots for federal elections. It failed to advance, largely on a party-line vote with Democrats opposed.

But the failure to make progress on the SAVE America Act had erupted as an online crusade for Trump’s allies in Congress, amplified by activists urging them on.

Led by Lee, a growing group of senators was refusing to adjourn for the summer break without passing Trump’s priority voting bill.

At dinnertime, Thune gathered all the Republican senators for a meet-

ing as the standoff deepened at the Capitol. There was no immediate way forward for the SAVE America Act or the broader budget bill. Thune encouraged the trio of senators to talk to the president, which they did, before regrouping back at Thune’s office.

“We had about a two-hour conference meeting trying to figure out, you know, what we need to do to, to come to an agreement, to accomplish what the president wanted,” Johnson said. “Then we had discussion with the president, he agrees.”

Lee acknowledged he was disappointed by the outcome, but said he understood the political reality of the situation.

“We are not in a position right now where we have the wherewithal to pass it,” Lee told reporters at the Capitol, after the three senators emerged from Thune’s office following their call with Trump.

Near daybreak, when the Senate did call for the vote to adjourn, Lee and others objected with hearty nos.

On the simple voice vote, the ayes had it, and the motion to adjourn was adopted.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, emergency services personnel work to extinguish a fire of residential buildings following Russian missile attacks in Odesa, Ukraine on Aug 9. (AP)

Russia, Ukraine exchange overnight strikes, kill seven and many injured

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 9, (AP): Russia and Ukraine exchanged strikes overnight that killed civilians and injured many others on both sides, local authorities reported.

In Russia’s border region of Belgorod, Ukrainian drones killed five people and injured two dozen others including a 4-year-old boy, according to the regional administration.

Russian missiles struck a high-rise apartment block in Kharkiv’s Saltivskiy district, killing two people and injuring 13, according to regional head Oleh Syniehubov. Eight more people were injured in Ukraine’s Black Sea port of Odesa after “dozens of missiles and drones” struck the city and surrounding region, according to local administration head Oleh Kiper.

Large-scale Russian missile strikes on Ukrainian cities have become almost routine in recent weeks, with Moscow exploiting Ukraine’s critical shortage of interceptors for the U.S.-made Patriot systems - the sole air defense weapon in its arsenal able to shoot down ballistic missiles.

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has for months lobbied other countries, especially the U.S., to send Ukraine more Patriot systems made scarcer by the Iran war, arguing they are crucial for defending civilians.

Failing that, Zelenskyy wants to make Patriot ammunition in Ukraine or get approval from Elon Musk to use his Starlink satellite communications system to guide strikes inside Russia that can hit its missile launchers.

Meanwhile, Kyiv has kept up long-range drone strikes against Russian energy infrastructure, as well as the country’s largest online retailer, Wildberries, and other targets deep inside Russia, sparking a fuel crisis.

Russia’s defense ministry on Sunday claimed its overnight strikes hit drone warehouses in the Kharkiv region, as well as fuel depots and stores of other materiel belonging to Ukraine’s armed forces at the port of Odesa.

It said its forces had shot down 153 Ukrainian drones during the night, including over Russian-occupied Crimea and the Black and Azov seas.

In Russia’s Belgorod region, the authorities said Ukrainian drone strikes damaged 29 apartment blocks and five private houses, as well as administrative buildings and unspecified “commercial facilities.”

Also:

SOPIA, Bulgaria: A drone entered Bulgarian airspace on Saturday and exploded close to an international gas pipeline shortly after crossing the border from Romania. There were no casualties or damage.

Drones straying into NATO airspace have not been uncommon since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The defense ministry in Sofia, Bulgaria’s capital, later said there were indications the drone was the kind used by Ukrainian armed forces and that the incident was likely accidental. Bulgaria and Romania are both members of NATO and the European Union.

Wildfires force 20,000 to flee as British Columbia declares state of emergency

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Aug 9, (AP): British Columbia declared a state of emergency Saturday after a fast-moving wildfire destroyed homes and forced more than 20,000 people to flee communities along Okanagan Lake in western Canada, with dozens rescued by aircraft.

Premier David Eby announced the emergency as more than 100 wildfires burned across the province, nearly half of them out of control in hot, windy weather and prolonged drought. Thousands fled on jammed roads as officials warned that “explosive” conditions could threaten more communities.

Summerland, home to about 12,000 people, was ordered evacuated overnight, along with about 8,000 people in and around nearby Peachland. Eby’s office confirmed “significant structure loss” but said officials could not yet assess the damage because the area remained an active fire zone.

The speed of the fire forced even emergency officials to flee. Erick Thompson, an emergency official with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, said he had to abandon the emergency operations center and evacuate his family.

“I had to leave the EOC to come and get my family to leave this area.



An emergency vehicle passes a closed section of Highway 97 south of Peachland, British Columbia, Canada, on Aug 8. (AP)

We’re heading south,” he said in a video posted early Saturday from his vehicle as traffic backed up around him.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said they are investigating a possible wildfire death near Summerland, but hazardous conditions have prevented authorities from confirming

the fatality.

Some residents were trapped as the fire advanced, Eby said, while search-and-rescue crews continued looking for others who may have been caught. British Columbia Forests Minister Ravi Parmar said 18 firefighting aircraft rescued more than 50 people.

2 drones spotted flying over German army base

BERLIN, Aug 9, (AP): Two drones were spotted flying over a German military base in the western part of the country earlier this week, just two days after a drone carrying explosives was found at a key cargo airport, the German Armed Forces said on Saturday.

Security surveillance at the Bundeswehr base in Mechernich reported seeing two drones around 10 p.m. on Thursday, according to a statement from the German Joint Force Command. The sightings were confirmed and military police forces deployed to the site.

The military said the Euskirchen police department has opened an investigation. The police did not immediately respond to a request for comment and the military did not release additional details.

Recently, drone sightings over civilian and cargo airports have been more widely reported. Last year, mysterious drone flights over the airspace of European Union member countries alarmed the public and authorities, and also prompted the cancellation of dozens of flights that stranded thousands of passengers.

Thursday’s sighting of the two drones came after a drone with explosives was found at Germany’s Leipzig/Halle Airport shortly before midnight on Tuesday.



A view of the entrance to the Bleiberg Barracks, in Mechernich, Germany. Around 10:00 pm on Thursday evening, the security center at the Bundeswehr base in Mechernich reported that two drones had been spotted over the property, a spokeswoman for the Bundeswehr’s Operational Command confirmed upon inquiry. (AP)

Nuclear deterrence only increases risk: mayor

Nagasaki marks 81st atomic bomb anniversary

TOKYO, Aug 9, (AP): Nagasaki marked on Sunday the 81st anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the southwestern city, as the mayor called nuclear weapons “absolute evil,” denounced growing support for nuclear deterrence and called on the Japanese government to adhere to its three postwar non-nuclear principles.

The anniversary coincided with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s government revising the country’s defense policy to further bolster the military’s offensive capability. Speculation has risen about whether Takaichi, who supports nuclear dissuasion, may allow nuclear weapons to be brought into the country, going against the third non-nuclear principle.

Mayor Shiro Suzuki said that while some countries argue the possession of nuclear weapons helps deter potential attackers, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had demonstrated that humans can cross the line.

“The theory of nuclear deterrence is extremely dangerous and fragile. Nuclear weapons are not a ‘necessary evil’ but an ‘absolute



People observe a minute of silence during a ceremony to mark the 81st anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing at the Peace Park in Nagasaki, southern Japan on Aug 9, 2026. (AP)

evil,’ and can never coexist with humanity,” Suzuki said. “To all leaders of the nuclear states and nations relying on nuclear deterrence, you must face the reality that the more you rely on nuclear deterrence, the more you increase the risk of a nuclear war.”

The United States launched the Nagasaki attack on Aug. 9, 1945, killing 70,000 by the end of that year, three days after the bombing of Hiroshima that killed 140,000. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, 1945, ending World War II and the nearly half-century of aggression across Asia.

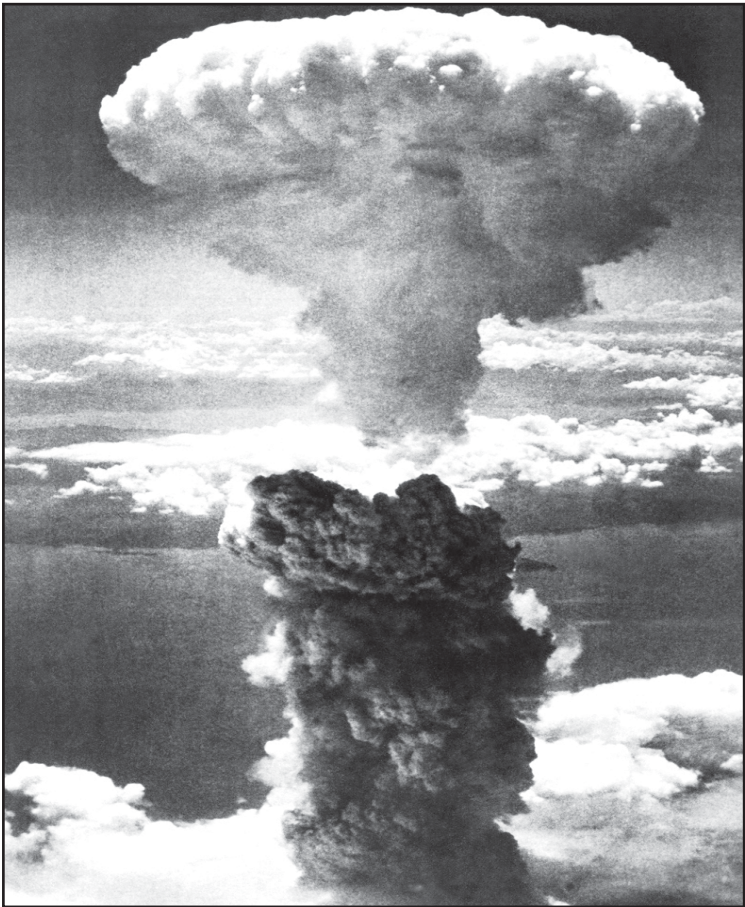
Representatives from more than 90 countries attended the ceremony at the Peace Park on Sunday and observed a moment of silence at 11:02 a.m. when a B-29 dropped a plutonium bomb, known as “Fat Man.”

Suzuki singled out the Japanese government, demanding it uphold Japan’s war-renouncing Constitution, attend the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons review conference later this year and stick to the three non-nuclear principles.

Takaichi supports the first two principles of not possessing and developing nuclear weapons.

The prime minister, who attended Sunday’s ceremony, reiterated her policy of taking “a realistic and pragmatic approach” toward achieving a world without nuclear weapons. As she did in Hiroshima, Takaichi remained ambiguous about the three non-nuclear principles and only reiterated that Japan currently maintains the policy.

Takaichi, in her speech at the ceremony, did not mention the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which Tokyo has refused to sign because Japan is under the protection of the U.S. nuclear umbrella.



A giant column of smoke rises after the second atomic bomb ever used in warfare explodes over the Japanese port town of Nagasaki, Japan on Aug 9, 1945. (AP)

China prepares for Typhoon Dolphin

Shanghai cancels 1,300 flights

BEIJING, Aug 9, (AP): Shanghai’s two airports canceled more than 1,300 flights and authorities relocated some 300,000 people in surrounding regions as China prepared for Typhoon Dolphin, after the storm brought heavy rains to northern Taiwan.

The outer bands of the storm on Saturday hit northern Taiwan, including the capital Taipei, bringing rain. Some Taiwanese airlines also canceled their flights to China Sunday.

The storm’s maximum sustained winds were estimated at about 162 kilometers per hour (101 mph) as of Sunday morning. It is bringing heavy rains, creating a risk of severe flooding as well as landslides and is expected to hit Zhejiang province and northern parts of neighboring Fujian province late Sunday.

Forecasters in China predicted that areas could see 200-400 mm (7.9-15.7 inches) of rainfall over the next few days. Authorities are warning of severe landslide risks in Zhejiang.

Shanghai’s Hongqiao and Pudong airports respectively also canceled about 60% of Sunday’s expected flights, according to the Paper, Shanghai’s state media.



A passenger walks by a closed door of a coach station where all glass windows and doors are reinforced with protective tape in preparation for the approaching typhoon Dolphin in Hangzhou in eastern China’s Zhejiang province, Sunday, Aug. 9, 2026.

On Saturday evening, authorities in Zhejiang evacuated some 390,000 people in the city of Taizhou. Authorities in Shanghai evacuated some 30,000 plus from riskier areas. Zhejiang authorities also suspended all water-based activities, including ferries and cruises.



In this photo released by the East Java Regional Disaster Mitigation Agency, firefighters attempt to extinguish a wildfire that razes through Mount Bromo National Park in Probolinggo, Indonesia on Aug 8. (AP)

Wildfire in Indonesian national park grows

Indonesia sent airplanes and hundreds of firefighters on Sunday to fight a blaze in a popular national park, one of a growing number of wildfires the country is battling during an unusually dry season.

The largest fire reported this week has burned about 176 hectares (435 acres) of Mount Bromo, located within the Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park in East Java province, one of Indonesia’s best-

known tourist destinations. Authorities closed the park to visitors Saturday and Rudijanta Tjahja Nugraha, the park chief, said the shutdown would remain in effect until further notice. (AP)

Flights to the island regularly canceled

As blackouts stretch for days, life in Cuba revolves around small bursts of electricity

HAVANA, Aug 9, (AP): A 20-minute burst of electricity is a small miracle in Havana nowadays - a miracle that sometimes comes at 3 a.m.

That’s when 72-year-old Leidis Rodríguez frantically cooked beans after the lights switched on this week following hours of uninterrupted blackouts.

“The power has come back on, everyone go!” Rodríguez shouted.

In the wake of sometimes dayslong blackouts in Cuba - fueled by the oil blockade imposed by the Trump administration in January - Cubans are planning their lives around the lights turning back on.

Those small bursts of relief last a few minutes or a few hours. They come at any time, day or night. Increasingly, electricity flicks on when Rodríguez and her 41-year-old daughter, Yaimara Matos, would normally be asleep.

When the power comes on, the family stops everything they’re doing.

“You want to do everything at the same time - wash clothes, iron, cook, tidy the rooms, because it’s impossible in the dark, and even get a little relief from the heat,” Matos said. “What we used to do in 10 hours, we now have to do in two.”

That’s the case for Cubans across the island, whose lives have been transformed by one of the worst crises the island has seen since the Cuban revolution. Daily life has turned into a tangle of compounding crises families have to unravel.

Public transportation and cultural events have come to a standstill. So has tourism, the country’s economic engine, especially as tourism companies have withdrawn, leaving 25,000 hospitality jobs vacant. Flights to the island are regularly canceled and workdays have been shortened to adjust to the new reality of a Cuba without power. Medicine shortages have worsened and food rots in fridges without power.

“If there’s no electricity, there’s no water because it doesn’t get pumped



People sleep on the Malecón seawall to escape the heat of their homes during a power outage in Havana, Cuba, before sunrise on Aug 5. (AP)

to the tank. When there’s water, there’s no electricity,” Rodríguez lamented.

Power outages are nothing new to the Caribbean nation. Endemic blackouts began to worsen five years ago as a result of a crumbling energy grid, decades-long U.S. sanctions and failed economic reforms by the communist-

run government.

But the quality of life began to rapidly deteriorate when US President Donald Trump threatened to impose a tariff on any goods from countries that sell or provide it with oil, Cuba’s main source of power. The move, combined with even more rigid sanctions, was aimed at pressuring Cuba’s government into political change. The worst effects have been felt by average Cubans.

Previously, most blackouts were scheduled by the government to save power, so each family knew how long they would be without electricity - usually two or three hours. Now there is no longer any predictability: an outage can last 12 hours, 30 hours or longer. Increasingly, the entire island goes dark. Last weekend’s grid collapse marked the sixth time this year.

Cubans like Rodríguez and Matos, long accustomed to adapting to crisis, have found ways to cope. The family bought a small power generator, which they’re only able to run a few hours a day.

Others install solar panels - often sent by relatives abroad. Some purchase rechargeable fans or solar-powered vehicles since gasoline is also unavailable.

Lianet Barroso once cooked with a gas stove. Now she cooks over a wood fire. Unsure of when she will next get water when the power does go on, she fills up as many plastic bottles as she can.

“Life for Cubans has become difficult, harsh and sad,” Barroso said.

In several municipalities, particularly in Havana, residents staged neighborhood protests after blackouts lasting more than 48 hours, banging pots and pans and burning garbage piled up on street corners.

Meanwhile, with inflation surging as Cuba’s currency is increasingly devalued against the dollar, many people are struggling to even pay for food that could later go bad in a blackout.

This is not an isolated incident: gov

Car bomb attack targets SW Colombia

CALI, Colombia, Aug 9, (AP): A car bomb exploded Saturday in southwestern Colombia, the army said, a day after conservative political neophyte Abelardo de la Espriella was sworn in as Colombia’s new president.

The army alleged the attack was carried out by two dissident groups of the now-defunct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. The groups did not accept the peace agreement that FARC signed a decade ago with the Colombian government.

The explosion took place at a toll plaza on the Pan-American Highway, the main road in the country’s southwest. The army said two security guards suffered minor injuries in the attack. One of the guards told authorities that the explosion was caused by a vehicle that had been abandoned by an individual who fled on a motorcycle.

The affected road connects the departments of Cauca and Valle del



Soldiers walk through a toll plaza along the Pan-American Highway damaged in a car bomb explosion that the army blamed on FARC dissident groups in Santander de Quilichao, Colombia on Aug 8. (AP)

Cauca, whose capital, Cali, hosted Friday’s swearing-in ceremony for de la Espriella. During his inaugural speech, he outlined his security

policy and warned illegal groups that “they have two paths: submit to the rule of law or confront the security forces.”

IS-linked group kills 13 in Congo village: local civil society group

KINSHASA, Congo, Aug 9, (AP): Militants affiliated with the Islamic State group attacked a village in Congo near the border with Uganda early Saturday, killing at least 13 people and burning and looting homes, a local civil society group said.

The attacks occurred in the village of Banana École, a suburb of the territorial capital of Mambasa.

Marie-Noelle Anotane, the head of the New Civil Society of Congo/ Mambasa, and Sylvain Andali, a local resident, told The Associated Press that the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF, were behind the violence.

Both said the militants used known ADF tactics.

“This death toll of 13 civilians is only provisional because most residents aren’t responding to calls, and searches are continuing in other surrounding villages,” said Anotane.

The attacks forced people to choose between staying or risking travel to other parts of the province



M23 rebels escort government soldiers and police who surrendered at an undisclosed location in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jan 30, 2025. (AP)

where the fastest-spreading Ebola outbreak in history rages.

“I decided to leave Mambasa for Bunia because I fear repeated attacks by the ADF,” said Andali. “Many of my neighbors have already died, and I must protect my life and the lives of my family.”

Iraq oil exports down 75%

BAGHDAD, Aug 9, (KUNA): Iraqi Oil Minister Bassim Mohammad announced on Saturday that the nation's crude oil exports have plummeted by 75 percent due to the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz and regional military escalation.

Speaking at a press conference in Baghdad, the minister revealed that Iraq is currently exporting only a quarter of its pre-war volumes, which stood at approximately 3.5 million barrels per day (bpd) prior to the outbreak of regional hostilities on February 28.

In line with its commitment to supporting customers throughout their financial journeys

NBK provides ‘Plus’ Package to support young customers starting their careers

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: As part of its commitment to supporting customers throughout their financial journeys and providing the best services and offers that keep pace with their evolving needs, National Bank of Kuwait offers a seamless transition from the Youth Package to the “Plus” Package upon receipt of their first salary. This ensures the continuity of banking benefits and provides access to solutions and services specifically designed to meet the requirements of the early stages of their professional careers.

The Plus package aims to support customers kickstarting their careers through a comprehensive suite of banking services and benefits that help them manage their finances more efficiently, access flexible financial tools tailored to their evolving needs, and establish sound financial habits from the very beginning of their professional journey.

The package includes a range of exclusive banking benefits, most notably cash rewards upon salary transfer and exclusive lifestyle offers, in addition to the option to obtain the KWT Visa Infinite Credit



Abdullah Al-Najdi

Al-Najdi:

■ The Plus package is designed to meet the needs of young people as they transition from university life to the job market.

■ We aim to be a true financial partner for the youth by offering benefits that meet their needs and exceed their expectations.

■ We continuously develop our services and provide a comprehensive mix of financial and digital benefits.

Card, which provides cashback and lifestyle benefits such as cinema offers and discounts at restaurants and premium outlets.

Moreover, the package enables customers to utilize smart savings tools, such as the NBK e-Savings Account, which is a fully digital account designed to help customers

easily achieve their financial goals through options like goal setting, automatic saving, and the “round-up” feature, as well as flexible deposits that offer various options for growing savings.

NBK is committed to enhancing the youth segment’s comprehensive digital experience in tandem

with the increasing reliance on smartphones for banking transactions. Customers can easily manage their various banking needs through the NBK Mobile Banking App, which enables them to open accounts, track expenses, make payments, and apply for banking products instantly without the need

to visit a branch.

On this occasion, Abdullah Al-Najdi, Associate Vice President – Segments at NBK, said: “The Plus package embodies a continuation of the relationship we have been building with our customers since their academic life. By recognizing that the transition from university to the



workforce is a pivotal stage in their lives, we aim to be their true financial partner by offering added value through a range of benefits that meet their needs and exceed their expectations”.

Al-Najdi added: “We are consistently committed to supporting young people from their first banking experience as students through to the start of their professional careers. We aim to continually enrich their banking experience to boost their self-confidence and independence, while supporting their long-term financial well-being”.

Finally, Al-Najdi emphasized that the Plus package reflects NBK’s commitment to empowering the next generation through smarter financial management, distinctive lifestyle benefits, and seamless digital banking services, ensuring they have everything they need to confidently embark on their future.

It is worth noting that the Consumer Banking Group at NBK takes into account the youth segment when crafting all its services, enhancements, and advanced solutions, as well as the exceptional prizes and offers it provides.

US payrolls break the hike case as Hormuz breakthrough crushes oil

By National Bank of Kuwait

The two stories that defined this week – geopolitical de-escalation and a softening US labour market. July non-farm payrolls fell 23K against consensus of an 85K gain, the first monthly decline in years, with June revised down sharply to 20K from 57K, and while the unemployment rate slipped to 4.1%, the improvement came from falling participation rather than hiring. The print lands hard on the FOMC’s hawkish dissenters, and the signal had been building all week, where JOLTS openings slipped to 7.36M and initial claims held at 199K while continuing claims rose to 1.80M, low firings alongside lengthening unemployment spells, even as ISM manufacturing jumped to a four-year high of 55.6, leaving an economy that is still growing but no longer hiring. The war premium, meanwhile, deflated: a Turkish-mediated framework between Iran and Oman to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, built around a 60-day provisional shipping corridor with agreed coordinates, moved to the verge of announcement, with officials suggesting a deal could be sealed soon. Brent whipsawed on the headlines, sinking back near \$80/bbl as the breakthrough firmed. In Europe, the euro was the week’s big winner, pushing through 1.1540 toward the 1.1600 resistance on de-escalation and a eurozone manufacturing PMI of 51.9, with factory output the strongest since March 2022. While UK services returned to growth at 52.1 with confidence at a five-month high. In Asia-Pacific, the yen consolidated its intervention-driven gains and pressed toward 157.00 as US yields fell, New Zealand’s unemployment jumped to a decade-high 5.6%, fuelling RBNZ rate-cut bets. Canada bucked the softening trend emphatically, adding 75K jobs in July as unemployment fell to a two-year low. Equities set records early in the week, the S&P 500 touched all-time highs near 7,710, with more than four in five companies beating estimates this earnings season, before turning choppy as the payrolls miss cut both ways, softer rate pricing against a growth scare, while gold rose during the week and the DXY closed the week at 99.539.

United States

ISM Manufacturing Jumps to 55.6, a Four-Year High, as the Factory Sector Shrugs Off the Energy Shock

The US factory sector delivered the week’s upside surprise, with the ISM manufacturing PMI rising 2.3 points to 55.6 in July, comfortably above the 54.0 consensus, the strongest reading since May 2022 and a seventh consecutive month of expansion as both production and employment accelerated. The strength suggests manufacturing is absorbing conflict-related supply disruption and elevated energy costs better than feared, helped by reshoring-linked investment and defence demand.

JOLTS Openings Slip to 7.36M as Claims Hold at 199K: A Labor Market Cooling at the Hiring End

The week’s labor data painted a consistent picture of gradual, orderly cooling. June JOLTS job openings fell to 7.36M from a downwardly revised 7.54M, below the 7.44M consensus, taking the openings rate to 4.4%, although hires rose 96K to 5.35M, layoffs held near historic lows at 1.77M and quits were flat at 3.2M, signaling stable worker confidence. Initial jobless claims came in at 199K against a 205K consensus, with the four-week average at a cycle-low 198.75K, but continuing claims jumped 24K to 1.801M. The data release shows low firings alongside lengthening unemployment spells, the

Previous Week Levels					This Week’s Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1536	1.1499	1.1580	1.1558	1.1500	1.1685	1.1600
GBP	1.3451	1.3431	1.3508	1.3488	1.3400	1.3600	1.3492
JPY	158.41	157.01	158.57	157.78	156.00	158.60	155.50
CHF	0.8123	0.8055	0.8129	0.8077	0.7910	0.8140	0.7916

signature of a market where demand is fading at the hiring margin rather than through layoffs.

July NFP Falls 23K, June Revised Down to 20K; Unemployment Dips to 4.1% on Participation

The July employment report delivered the week’s defining shock: non-farm payrolls fell 23K against consensus of an 85K gain, the first monthly decline in years, while June was revised sharply lower to 20K from an initially reported 57K, leaving the hiring trend barely positive. The unemployment rate ticked down to 4.1% from 4.2%, due to a fall in participation rates, and losses were led by local government education and retail trade. Coming after JOLTS and claims data pointing the same way, the print flips the burden of proof: a labour market in “slow hire, slow fire” mode is now visibly stalling on the hiring side, and September hike pricing was pared aggressively in the aftermath as front-end yields and the dollar fell. Attention shifts to Wednesday’s CPI, where a soft print would all but close the door on the dissenters’ case, while an energy-led upside surprise would leave the Committee squeezed between weakening employment and unfinished disinflation.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 99.539.

Canada Defies the Trend: 75K Jobs Added in July as Unemployment Falls to a Two-Year Low

Canada’s labour market delivered a blowout on the same morning the US disappointed, adding 75.1K jobs in July - five times the 17.8K consensus, with the unemployment rate falling from 6.5% to a 6.4%. The report validates the Bank of Canada’s upgraded growth narrative, with Q2 tracking around 2.5% annualized on broadening consumer spending, exports and investment, and further entrenches the on-hold stance at 2.25%, with inflation excluding gasoline near target at 2.2% doing the heavy lifting. The loonie firmed on the twin impulse of domestic strength and broad US dollar weakness, though the Hormuz breakthrough cuts both ways for Canada: softer crude weighs on the terms of trade even as de-escalation supports risk appetite.

The USD/CAD currency pair was last seen trading at 1.3938

United Kingdom

Eurozone Factory Output Hits a Post-2022 High

The euro was the week’s principal beneficiary of the Hormuz breakthrough, with the single currency squeezing higher as the energy channel, the eurozone’s key vulnerability through this conflict, began to price relief. The dataflow helped: the eurozone manufacturing PMI rose to 51.9 in July, with the output index at 52.9, the strongest since March 2022, even as new orders grew only marginally and export orders declined across France, Spain, Italy and Austria; input-cost inflation eased to a five-month low. On the policy front, several ECB officials have flagged that conflict-driven price pressures

could yet require higher rates, with markets pricing roughly 75% chance of a rate hike in the upcoming meeting.

The EUR/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.1558

UK Services Return to Growth at 52.1 as Business Confidence Hits a Five-Month High

The UK’s dominant services sector returned to expansion in July, with the final PMI at 52.1, revised up from the 51.8 flash and a marked improvement on June’s 48.8, ending two months of contraction. New orders rose for the first time since February on stronger consumer spending and technology demand, input-cost inflation eased to its lowest since February on reduced fuel and gas costs, and business confidence climbed to a five-month high on hopes of greater global stability; employment fell for a 22nd straight month, but at the slowest pace since October 2025. Coming a week after the MPC’s 6-3 hawkish-leaning hold at 3.75%, the data support a soft-landing path in which the BoE can stay patient while the oil-driven inflation impulse fades.

The GBP/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.3488.

Aisa Pacific

Yen Consolidates Intervention Gains Near 157.50 as Tokyo Defends Its Line

The yen spent the week consolidating the gains delivered by late July’s suspected MoF intervention, which drove USD/JPY from above 163.00 to 157.80, with the pair settling around 157.50 as two-way risk returned to a market that had traded one-way for months. The BoJ’s hawkish hold at 1.00%, warning that underlying inflation is running above the 2% target and upgrading its growth forecast, keeps October normalization expectations alive, while the still-viable policy gap of roughly 260bps versus the Fed means carry demand has not disappeared, but only become more expensive to hold against intervention risk.

The USD/JPY currency pair was last seen trading at 157.78.

New Zealand Unemployment Hits a Decade-High 5.6%

New Zealand’s labor market delivered the region’s downside surprise, with the unemployment rate jumping to 5.6% in Q2, the highest in a decade and above the 5.4% consensus, from 5.3%, even as employment rose a stronger-than-expected 0.5% QoQ, as the participation rate climbed to 70.7% and underutilization surged to 13.8% from 12.9%. With private wage growth of around 2.0% lagging 4.1% CPI inflation, real incomes are compressing and markets moved to build RBNZ rate-cut pricing, sending the kiwi lower across the board on the release.

The NZD/USD currency pair last seen trading at 0.5893.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30710.

EU backs €658 mln for Cyprus

Cyprus to supply natural gas to EU by March 2028

NICOSIA, Aug 9, (AP): European consumers can expect natural gas from an undersea deposit off Cyprus to help meet their energy needs as early as March 2028, the island nation’s energy minister said.

Michael Damianos said the East Mediterranean is fast becoming an alternative energy source for European nations as Russia’s war in Ukraine and upheaval in the Middle East compel the continent to seek out new sources.

Damianos said partners TotalEnergies of France and Italy’s Eni made a final decision last month to proceed with developing the Cronos natural gas field off Cyprus’ southern coast. The project will be the first time gas from east Mediterranean deposits is supplied to European markets.

“It’s important for Europe at this time because of the war in Ukraine, because of this situation in the Middle East, that Cyprus is going to be an alternative source of gas,” Damianos told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview Friday.

According to the Eni-TotalEnergies consortium timetable, work on a pipeline from Cronos to existing infrastructure at Egypt’s massive Zohr natural gas deposit 105 kilometers (65 miles) away will begin later this year and take up to 18 months to complete.

Once that’s done, the gas will be conveyed to the Damietta processing facility on Egypt’s northern shore where it will be liquefied for transport by ship to Europe.

Piping Cronos gas to Egypt for processing was the most economically viable option, costing roughly \$2 billion (1.73 billion euros) or half the estimated cost of developing other gas fields inside Cypriot waters because of its proximity to existing infrastructure.

Although the agreement is for all of the more than 3 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas in Cronos to go to Europe, there’s a clause in the deal so that about a fifth of that amount could be used to cover some of Egypt’s domestic energy needs.

“It’s a small reserve,” said Damianos. “Our income as a country is not going to be huge, so its importance is not the money, its importance the commencement of being a producer and having first gas.”

Cronos is one of six natural gas deposits discovered so far inside Cyprus’ Exclusive Economic Zone off its southern coastline. Two of those, Glaucaus and Pegasus, jointly hold an estimated 6.9 tcf. ExxonMobil and partner QatarEnergy, which were licensed to develop those fields, say they expect gas from Glaucaus and Pegasus to start flowing by 2033.

“What we can say that Exxon is the type of company that sticks by the timelines and sometimes delivers even earlier,” Damianos said.

The energy minister said Exx-



Cyprus’ Energy Minister Michael Damianos talks during an interview with The Associated Press in Nicosia, Cyprus, on Aug. 7, 2026. (AP)

onMobil plans to expand its exploration activities off Cyprus and is expected to receive an additional license to search for hydrocarbons.

Another gas field - the first to be found off Cyprus some 15 years ago - is Aphrodite, which holds an estimated 5.6 tcf. Damianos said a final decision by a Chevron-led joint venture to develop the field is expected in the summer of 2027. A pipeline will link the deposit directly to Egyptian facilities to supply the country’s domestic energy needs according to an agreement with Chevron.

Part of the Aphrodite field lies in Israeli waters and it’s hoped an arbitrator will decide the percentage Israel is entitled to by next month.

Damianos also hailed the entry of French investment company Meridiam as a backer to the Great Seas Interconnector project, an electricity cable that will connect Europe’s power grid with that of Cyprus and eventually Israel.

The ambitious project would not only end Cyprus and Israel’s energy isolation, but it would be an important building block for the IMEC initiative - a new energy and trade route to the Gulf and India that the European Union is pursuing.

But the project is now tied up in red tape over its real cost above an earlier estimate of \$2.2 billion. A European Investment Bank report that’s due in the next few months will offer clarity over its cost. That’s important for Cyprus because under an existing agreement, Cypriot energy consumers would have to put up as much as 63% of the cable’s construction cost, meaning a significant jump in electricity prices.

Additional private investment is being courted to offset that burden on Cypriot consumers while additional EU funding is being weighed, said Damianos.

The EU has already committed \$760 million (658 million euros) for the project.

“It’s a very important project for Europe because it connects Cyprus which is isolated to the European grid. And the idea is to then proceed and connect to Israel,” Damianos said.

KD 60.7 mln traded on 233.8 mln shares in 15,323 deals

Boursa Kuwait general index edges up 0.09%

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Sunday’s session with the general index up 7.64 points, or 0.09 percent, to 8,873.26. Turnover totaled 233.8 million shares via 15,323 cash deals, worth KD 60.7 million (about USD 198 million).

The main market index slipped 6.99 points, or 0.08 percent, to 8,996.96, on 142.2 million shares traded in 9,513 transactions worth KD 26.3 million (about USD 85.7 million). The premier market index

advanced 11.15 points, or 0.12 percent, to 9,307.48, with 91.5 million shares changing hands in 5,810 deals valued at KD 34.4 million (about USD 112.2 million).

The Main 50 Index outperformed, gaining 54.67 points, or 0.53 percent, to 10,394.33. Trading in the blue-chip gauge reached 85.8 million shares across 5,923 cash transactions, totaling KD 16.8 million (about USD 54.8 million).

KFHOnline offers over 200 digital banking services

KFH strengthens its leadership in digital banking innovation



KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continued to consolidate its leading position in digital banking through KFHOnline, available via mobile and the website. The platform provides integrated, secure, and user-friendly services tailored to customers’ daily needs. These include advanced electronic payment and settlement solutions, online account opening, the buying and selling of gold, and a wide range of essential banking transactions.

KFHOnline offers over 200 digital banking services, featuring a modern design and smart solutions. The bank has completely upgraded the application, reinforcing its leadership in digital innovation and its commitment to providing advanced financial solutions for a seamless banking experience. This milestone also highlights KFH’s excellence in executing its digital transformation strategy.

The mobile application provides a wide range of local and international money transfer services such as WAMD money transfer service and co-branded international money transfer services in

cooperation with Western Union. This service enables customers to conduct fast and secure transfers, whether in cash, directly to bank accounts, or to digital wallets worldwide, with access to Western Union’s extensive global network.

Meanwhile, KFH Pay also provides a flexible and fast mechanism for fund transfers and requests, allowing customers to send payment links or use phone numbers to request funds from individuals or groups. Customers can create custom groups for these requests and easily track everyone’s payment status through KFH Pay’s “Transactions History” list, enhancing transparency and monitoring.

Applying for a financing online through KFHOnline app has become more convenient. Customer can submit their financing request through the Finance Services menu in the app and select Finance Request option, without the need to visit a branch.

KFH also provides a fully integrated ecosystem of digital banking card services, allowing

customers to instantly issue virtual prepaid cards temporarily suspend and reactivate cards, view KFH Rewards points, and access full card details through the application.

The Bank has also made progress in allowing customers to update their Civil IDs and authenticate their identities without using a physical card. Customers can easily transfer funds from their prepaid cards to their personal bank accounts. In addition, KFH customers with supplementary family cards can now manage limits for both those additional cards and their primary debit cards.

As part of enhancing added value, the bank added KFH Offers section, integrated into KFHOnline app, where customers can explore a diverse array of exclusive benefits.

This comprehensive suite of digital services reflects KFH’s commitment to providing an integrated, technology-driven banking experience. This approach aligns with a strategic vision that anticipates industry trends, ensures sustainable excellence, and reinforces KFH’s digital leadership.

The Board recommends an interim cash dividend of 3 fils per share for the first half of 2026

Action Energy Company reports H1 2026 financial results

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Action Energy Company K.S.C.P. (Premier Market Boursa Kuwait: ALFTAQA), Kuwait’s leading local partner for integrated upstream services, owner and operator of one of the youngest rig fleets in the region, today announced its financial results for the first half ended 30 June 2026.

Highlights

- Record contracted backlog of approximately KWD 349 million, split approximately 61% drilling services and 39% oilfield services, providing multi-year revenue visibility.
- Revenue grew 34.4% YoY to KWD 18.1 million, driven primarily by the full six-month contribution of the 10 new rigs deployed during 2025, with 20 rigs operating throughout the period compared to a partial-period contribution in the prior year.
- EBITDA increased 28.3% YoY to KWD 9.0 million, with an EBITDA margin of 49.8%, in line with the financial guidance provided at the time of the Company’s listing.
- Net profit nearly doubled, rising 96.6% YoY to KWD 4.4 million, reflecting the full-period contribution of the enlarged rig fleet and stable underlying operating margins.
- The Board of Directors recommended an interim cash dividend of 3 fils per share for the first half of 2026, amounting to approximately KWD 1.7 million, the Company’s first interim distribution, reflecting confidence in its earnings visibility and its commitment to consistent shareholder returns.
- Cash flow from operations rose 48.1% YoY to KWD 5.4 million, in line with the growth in profitability.
- KWD 20.5 million invested during the period in fleet expansion and new oilfield services platforms, with total property, plant and equipment reaching KWD 142.7 million.
- Net debt to equity improved from 1.65x to 0.84x YoY, with total equity exceeding KWD 86 million, reflecting a significantly stronger and more resilient capital structure.
- 202 rig moves were completed during the period, compared to 100 in H1 2025, with the fleet maintaining 100% utilisation and recording no HSE incidents.

Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Chairman of Action Energy Company (AEC), said: “H1 2026 reflects the resilience of AEC’s business model, with net profit nearly doubling year-on-year and our contracted backlog reaching a record KWD 349 million. In line with our commitment to delivering sustainable returns, the Board has recommended an interim cash dividend of 3 Fils per share. We remain committed to operational excellence, creating long-term value for our shareholders, and supporting Kuwait’s long-term energy ambitions as a trusted national partner.”

Ahmad Mohammad Al-Ajlan, Board Member and Chief Executive Officer, said: “H1 2026 confirms the scalability of our operations and the execution of our diversification strategy, with revenue up 34.4% and net profit up 96.6% year-on-year. During the period, the Company invested KWD 20.5 million in expanding its fleet and new service lines. Our contracted backlog reached a record of approximately KWD 349 million, with oilfield services now representing 39% of the total, reflecting the progress of our diversification into higher-value service lines. With expansion financing secured, seven new rigs under mobilisation, and new service lines coming onstream, the Company is well positioned for continued growth. We remain focused on creating long-term value for national oil companies, our partners, and our shareholders.”



Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Chairman



Ahmad Mohammad Al-Ajlan, Board Member and CEO

ported by disciplined preventive maintenance and operational standards in place since the Company’s inception. A total of 202 rig moves were completed during the half, compared to 100 in H1 2025, reflecting the full-period activity of the enlarged workover fleet and KOC’s drilling schedule. Drilling services revenue increased 39.0% YoY to KWD 13.99 million, while rig leasing and mobilisation revenue grew 13.8% to KWD 3.23 million.

Oilfield Services

Oilfield Services account for approximately 39% of the Company’s backlog, with an average remaining contract duration of 6–7 years. During H1 2026, the Company continued to advance the mobilisation of its electric submersible pumps (ESP), Slickline, and once-through steam generator (OTSG) service lines in line with the planned schedule, investing KWD 5.5 million across these platforms during the period. Other operating revenue, which includes ancillary and inspection services, increased 60.8% YoY to KWD 0.85 million. The continued build-out of this segment further strengthens the diversification of the Company’s revenue streams and deepens its integration across the upstream value chain.

Strategic Developments

The Company’s total contracted backlog reached a record of approximately KWD 349 million as at 30 June 2026, split approximately 61% drilling services and 39% oilfield services, reflecting the continued expansion of the Company’s oilfield services platform alongside its core drilling operations.

The Company also entered into a strategic joint venture (JV) with Kellton, a global AI-led digital transformation and enterprise technology company, to drive AI-led digital transformation across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) energy sector.

Regional geopolitical developments during the period resulted in some increase in logistics and supply chain costs; however, business operations, contract execution and customer activities continued without material disruption, and no impairment indicators were identified.

Interim Dividend

The Board of Directors has recommended an interim cash dividend of 3 Fils per share for the six-month period ended June 30, 2026, representing a total distribution of approximately KWD 1.7 million, and marking the Company’s first interim cash dividend.

Business Outlook

AEC enters the second half of 2026 with strong revenue visibility supported by a record multi-year contracted backlog with Kuwait Oil Company, full fleet utilisation, and a clear pipeline of new rig deploy-



ments and oilfield services contracts under mobilisation. The Company’s strategic priorities for the remainder of the year remain centred on the mobilisation of the ESP, Slickline and OTSG service lines and the seven new rigs, execution of the record backlog, fleet expansion and operational readiness, diversification into higher-value oilfield services, and maintaining financial discipline, safety and operational excellence.

AEC expects EBITDA margins to remain in line with the guidance provided at the time of listing as the contracted backlog is fully deployed and new rigs reach steady-state operations, with the ESP platform expected to carry an attractive margin profile. Over the medium term, the Company targets a revenue mix of approximately 60% drilling and 40% oilfield services, and intends to maintain net debt to equity below 1.25x. Outstanding capital commitments of KWD 23.2 million at 30 June 2026 are expected to be funded through undrawn approved bank facilities and operating cash flow. Action Energy continues to monitor regional developments closely while maintaining its focus on delivering high-quality services and creating long-term value for its shareholders.



الشركة العمليّة للطاقة (ش.م.ك.ع.)
Action Energy Company (K.S.C.P)

H1 2026 RESULTS

KD Million

REVENUE 18.1 ▲ 34.4% H1 2025 13.5	EBITDA 9.0 ▲ 28.3% H1 2025 7.0	NET PROFIT 4.4 ▲ 96.6% H1 2025 2.2	EPS (FILS) 7.72 ▲ 29.5% H1 2025 5.96 Fils	BACKLOG 349 Drilling 61% Oilfield 39% % Business Line Split
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Cash pile falls to \$365.5 bln

Berkshire Hathaway posts \$25.7 bln Q2 profit

OMAHA, Aug 9, (AP): Berkshire Hathaway’s new CEO Greg Abel spent a significant chunk of the company’s massive pile of cash as it invested \$10 billion in Google’s parent company and repurchased about \$4.5 billion of its shares.

The conglomerate that legendary investor Warren Buffett built reported its second-quarter earnings Saturday morning and disclosed that its cash holdings had shrunk to \$365.5 billion from nearly \$400 billion at the end of March.

Berkshire’s report suggested that it had added more than \$21 billion worth of commercial, industrial and other stocks to its portfolio, but the earnings report doesn’t name the stocks it bought. That won’t be revealed until a separate filing later this month.

Abel took over as CEO in January when Buffett retired after six decades leading the company. But Buffett remains chairman.

CFRA Research analyst Cathy Seifert said investors should be encouraged by the amount of shares Berkshire’s repurchased although Geico’s performance was a concern because its underwriting profits fell 45% and lagged far behind other big auto insurers.

“I think there are two key takeaways that should encourage investors: The fact that they bought back shares after not having done things of this magnitude for several years now. And the other positive thing is the ability to produce the 10% operating revenue growth in the quarter,” Seifert said.

Abel announced in March that Berkshire had resumed buying back its own shares for the first time in more than two years, but investors were underwhelmed when the company only repurchased about \$234 million worth of Berkshire stock in the first quarter.



Portraits of Berkshire Hathaway’s Warren Buffett, left, and CEO Greg Abel sit in a semi truck at the Pilot display in the Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting on May 2, 2026, in Omaha, Neb. (AP)

The purchases in the second quarter that were disclosed Saturday demonstrate that Berkshire is serious about buybacks, but it is on the low end of the range that investors were expecting. Buffett watchers had been predicting repurchases somewhere between \$5 billion and \$11 billion based on a filing Buffett made when he announced his annual charitably donations in July.

The company’s standard is that it only repurchases shares when Abel and Buffett believes they are selling for less than they are worth. They do not plan to spend a specific amount like many companies do. Most of Berkshire’s repurchases were made in June. They may not be buying much now as the stock just hit a new 52-week high

on Thursday.

Berkshire previously repurchased \$78 billion worth of its own stock between 2018 and 2024.

In addition to the Google stock Berkshire bought this spring, the Omaha, Nebraska-based company also completed a \$6.8 billion acquisition of homebuilder Taylor Morrison but that didn’t close until July so it’s not reflected in these quarterly figures.

Berkshire’s bottom line profit more than doubled to \$25.667 billion, or \$17,868.44 per Class A share, on a big paper gain in the value of its investments as the company lapped last year’s \$3.8 billion writedown in the value of its Kraft Foods stake. A year ago Berkshire reported earning \$12.37

billion, or \$8,600.89 per Class A share.

But Buffett has long urged investors to pay more attention to Berkshire’s operating earnings to get a better sense of how its dozens of companies are performing because those numbers exclude investments. By that measure, Berkshire’s operating profit grew to \$12.983 billion, or \$9,038.30 per A share, from \$11.16 billion, or \$7,759.58 per Class A share.

Berkshire owns several major insurers, including Geico, a collection of big utilities, BNSF railroad and a varied assortment of manufacturing and retail companies, including Precision Castparts and See’s Candy.

Fines up to €375,000 per call for companies violating ban

French government bans unsolicited telemarketing calls

PARIS, Aug 9, (AP): France will ban unsolicited telemarketing calls under a new law aimed at protecting consumers from intrusive sales pitches and shielding vulnerable people from fraudulent commercial practices.

The law backed by President Emmanuel Macron’s government enters into force on Aug. 11.

While several countries have tried opt-out systems, France is hoping more muscular obligatory opt-in rules will be more effective.

Here’s a look at the law and its potential impact.

Previously in France, people who wanted to avoid marketing calls had to register their number with a government-run service, but consumer groups said some call centers ignored the list.

Now, “businesses are prohibited from contacting consumers without their prior consent,” said Alice Vilcot, chief of staff at the Directorate-General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Prevention of Fraud. “That consent can be withdrawn at any time.”

The government says the law is a response to years of consumer complaints. Authorities estimate that about three-quarters of people in France receive at least one unsolicited sales call every week, and many receive more.

In 2024, 11 consumer organizations issued a joint call for a ban, denouncing “relentless harassment of consumers through countless unwanted telemarketing calls to both landlines and mobile phones - an intrusion that has become a regular part of their daily lives.”

Parliament approved the law last year. Individuals who make illegal calls can be fined up to 75,000 euros (\$87,000) per call. Companies can face fines of up to 375,000 euros (\$435,000) per call.

There are exceptions. Consumers may consent to receive marketing calls, for example by checking a consent box on a form. Companies can contact customers with new commercial offers if they already have a contractual relationship.

People can report unsolicited calls through a government website.

Vilcot noted that an Ireland-based company was fined 6 million euros (\$6.9 million) last year for violating France’s previous telemarketing rules by calling people on the no-call list.

France’s new law has raised concerns in Morocco, where the minister of employment, Younes Sekkouri, told lawmakers up 50,000 jobs were at risk in the country’s call centers. Sekkouri said the industry has attracted around \$100 million in investment and generates more than \$1 billion in annual revenue in the country.

Low labor costs, a large French-speaking workforce and relatively weak unions have made Morocco an attractive outsourcing destination for international companies, particularly French firms seeking to reduce costs.

Youssef Chraïbi, president of the Moroccan Federation for Outsourcing Services, told the local daily Le Matin that the French market has historically accounted for more than 80% of the industry’s revenue.

“Pure telemarketing now represents only 15% to 20% of total activity,” Chraïbi said, adding that the sector has increasingly diversified beyond traditional call center services.

Neighboring Germany has had a similar ban since 2009.

The Netherlands tightened rules on telemarketing calls last month. The country had already banned unsolicited sales calls but now, companies are not allowed anymore to call their own customers with promotional offers without previous authorization.

Many other countries rely on opt-out systems.

In the United States, people can sign up for the national Do Not Call registry, which cuts down on unwanted sales calls, Canada has its own Do Not Call list, while the U.K. has the Telephone Preference Service.

In Britain, companies that call people who have opted out can be fined up to 500,000 pounds (\$670,000) per call.

NIGC chair vacancy leaves enforcement, deals in limbo

ALBUQUERQUE, Aug 9, (AP): On opening day at the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma’s new Harrah’s-branded casino, the tribe’s chairman watched customers pack the gambling floor while a queue of cars spilled out of the parking lot.

“We couldn’t let them in because we were so full,” Chairman Jacob Keyes said. “That’s a direct impact from the Harrah’s name.”

But a vacancy in Washington is preventing the tribe’s partnership with the gambling giant from moving beyond branding. Plans for Harrah’s parent company to take over day-to-day management of the casino in Chandler, Oklahoma, stalled after it opened in April, because no one is at the helm of the federal commission that oversees tribal gambling.

The last chairperson of the National Indian Gaming Commission stepped down from the role in January. President Donald Trump has not nominated anyone to fill the vacancy. Absent a chair, the commission is unable to perform some key responsibilities, like enforcing legal and safety violations, approving new tribal gambling laws and certifying management agreements between tribes and casino operators.

Industry leaders say the agency’s inertia risks delaying business deals, weakening oversight and leaving tribes without a key advocate in Washington as they grapple with an emerging threat posed by online prediction markets.

“At this crucial time, the (National Indian Gaming Commission) is operating with one arm tied behind its back,” said Jonodev Chaudhuri, a former NIGC chair from 2013 to 2019 and a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. “That’s a very precarious position for tribes and Indian gaming.”

There’s a lot at stake for tribes that rely heavily on casino revenue to fund healthcare, housing, education and other vital services. Tribal gambling brought in a record \$46 billion in 2025, nearly triple the annual casino revenue of gambling powerhouse Nevada.

With its Harrah’s contract stuck in limbo, the Iowa Tribe’s small government staff finds itself managing the 175,000-square-foot (16,258 square-meter) casino, a mammoth task it had intended to outsource.

“It’s discouraging. We’re paying a fee and not getting the full value,” Keyes said.

The decision to outsource management was strategic: Harrah’s branding would bring in more business than existing staff could accommodate. Instead, staff has to balance management with other priorities like preparing tribal budgets and overseeing social programs, Keyes said.

The three-member gaming commission was formed in 1988 to regulate casino-style gambling and promote economic development on tribal lands. Some 250 tribal governments across 29 states now operate 545 gambling facilities, the commission said.

Under federal law, its enforcement powers are vested solely in the chairperson. Industry leaders say its inability to cite casinos for violating federal law or force the emergency closure of unsafe facilities is particularly troubling.

In a typical year, the commission issues several citations to tribes for operating casinos on unauthorized lands, failing to submit required financial statements, misusing revenues and other violations. The commission’s last enforcement action was issued on Jan. 12 - the same day acting chairperson Sharon Avery’s term expired. She remains

on the commission.

The commission declined an interview request and said in an emailed statement that tribal officials and its field staff provide “excellent regulation” amid the leadership gap. But Steven Light, an expert in tribal gambling law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, said the lack of enforcement power could discourage investment in tribal gambling and slow business growth.

“Markets function best when there’s stability and certainty around processes and rules,” Light said.

The commission vacancy comes as the popularity of online prediction markets like Kalshi and Polymarket explodes. Tribal leaders fear those platforms, which allow users to wager on the outcome of virtually any event, could violate their sovereignty and take a bite out of gambling revenue.

“Every dollar generated by Indian gaming goes to fund healthcare for our people, education for our children, housing for our elders,” said David Bean, chairman of the Indian Gaming Association and a citizen of the Puyallup Tribe.

At least eight tribes have sued prediction market platforms, alleging they accept bets from tribal lands and in states where tribes have exclusive gambling rights in violation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, which the gaming commission is tasked with enforcing.

Prediction markets argue their users are engaging in futures trading, not gambling, and dispute claims that they are circumventing regulation.

The commission chairperson typically serves as an advocate for the tribal gambling industry in Washington, according to former commissioners and staffers. Yet it’s been conspicuously silent while the federal government weighs how to regulate prediction markets, said Joe Valandra, the commission’s chief of staff from 2005 to 2007 and a citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

James Siva, who leads the California Nations Indian Gaming Association and is vice chairman of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, said the Trump administration’s support of and business ties to the prediction markets industry could explain why it hasn’t filled the vacancy.

“These things are happening in conjunction with each other,” Siva said in April at a news conference with the Indian Gaming Association. “It is not a coincidence by any means.”

The commission’s last Senate-confirmed chairperson termed out under former President Joe Biden without a successor in place.

A White House spokesperson called the commission a “valued board” but did not say when a new nomination will be made.

In April, Trump appointed Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Billy Kirkland, a citizen of the Navajo Nation, to the commission. That’s raised questions about potential executive branch influence over an agency designed to be independent.

“This crosses that threshold in an uncomfortable way,” said Shannon O’Loughlin, the commission’s chief of staff from 2015 to 2017 and a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Keyes said a crucial opportunity to develop his tribe’s economy hangs in the balance. He doesn’t see the commission vacancy as partisan play.

“I don’t want to sound like sour grapes, but when have Native American issues ever been prioritized by the federal government?” he said.

Madagascar’s \$170 mln cable car system halted after weeks

ANTANANARIVO, Aug 9, (AP): The idea was unique for sub-Saharan Africa: Use cable cars to lift thousands of commuters above the daily gridlock in one of Africa’s fast-growing cities.

But the system ran for only a few weeks, and now the car-less cables hang unused above Madagascar’s capital in what might be a \$170 million mistake by one of the world’s poorest countries.

The cable car system in Antananarivo was promoted and inaugurated by former President Andry Rajoelina before he was deposed in a military coup late last year following youth-led protests alleging widespread government failures.

He reasoned it was the best way to end the reliance on aging, overcrowded minibus taxis that create traffic jams stretching for hours, an annoyance for many in the island nation off east Africa. Light rail wouldn’t work because of the area’s marshlands, he said.

“Antananarivo was built for 300,000 inhabitants. Now there are three million of us,” Rajoelina said when the cable cars were unveiled in 2024.

Rajoelina called the system’s opening last year a landmark moment, like France building the Eiffel Tower.

Officials said the cable cars could carry up to 75,000 people a day, take 2,000 vehicles off the roads and cut commutes from up to three hours to about 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the route.

At the unveiling, Rajoelina and his prime minister rode above Antananarivo’s steep hills and tightly packed neighborhoods. But few ordinary Madagascans followed.

The unusual transit system, built over three years for around \$173 million with loans from France, has run into a common problem for Africa and its more than 1.5 billion people: affordability.

Officials set the fee for users at between 70 and 90 U.S. cents a trip - six to eight times the price to ride in a minibus. Many people have been unwilling to pay that in a country where the average monthly salary for a commuter is around \$72, according to a 2022 report by the World Bank.

Poverty affects around 75% of Madagascar’s population of 30 million people.

Pieter Onderwater, a public transport planning consultant and guest lecturer at the Center for Transport Studies at the University of Cape



Cable cars cut across the skyline during testing in Antananarivo, Madagascar, Sunday, April 6, 2025. (AP)

Town in South Africa, said Madagascar’s government and the cable car system’s French developers may have missed how money is more important than convenience for most people on a poor continent.

“Obviously people will not use it because money is far more key than time,” Onderwater said. “The price is six times higher than a conventional (minibus) taxi? Well then, we just sit in traffic because we know better things to do with that money.”

The cable cars also provoked anger from residents who for years had complained about a lack of basic public services like water and electricity. They questioned why those issues weren’t addressed first.

Residents remain suspicious of the cable car project, which also faced electricity outages that often brought it to a halt.

“In a city where they cannot even fix the roads, how can we trust being more than 20 meters (65 feet) above the ground when there is a power

cut?” said Erica, an Antananarivo shop owner who gave only her first name. “And if something goes wrong, how long would it take them to fix it?”

During the coup that removed Rajoelina, some cable car stations were burned or otherwise damaged as people accused the government of being out of touch with their needs.

A transitional government led by coup leader and former army colonel Michael Randrianirina took over in October but has not mentioned any plan for the cable cars. The government did not respond to questions.

A consortium that built the system inspected it in March and submitted findings to Madagascar authorities “to decide on the next steps,” a French company that was part of it told the AP.

Commuting in the capital is becoming more of a challenge.

Antananarivo’s population has increased by more than 10 times since the 1960s, spurred by rural-to-urban migration that is happening across Africa. Africa’s urban population of 700 million people is expected to double by 2050, according to the intergovernmental Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

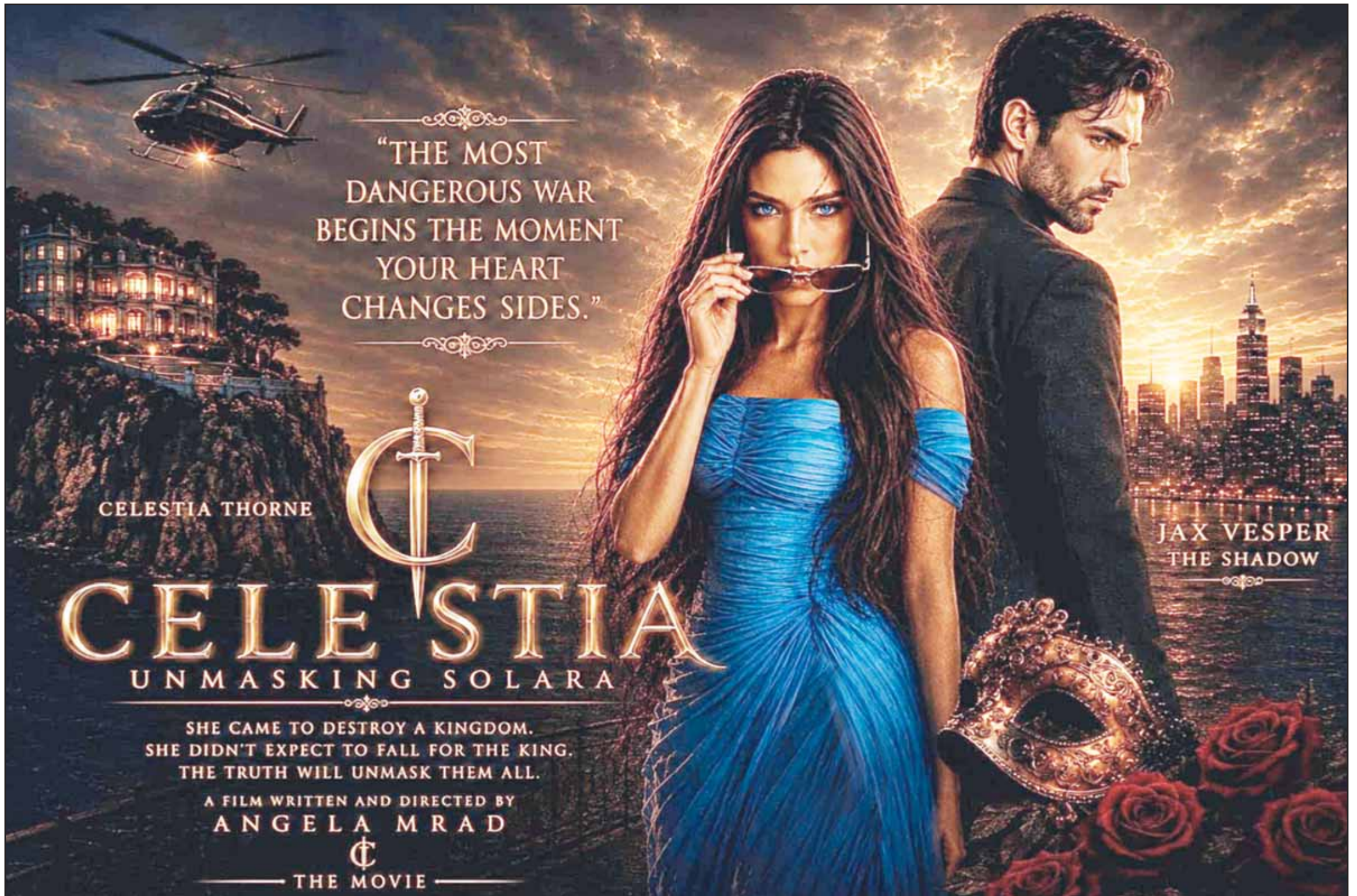
That brings huge demand for more public transport as well as other services like housing, health, education, water and electricity.

And yet Africa has some of the world’s least developed public transport systems despite some of the fastest urbanization rates, according to Transport Africa, a research institution.

Onderwater said African governments have generally left transport to the private sector, which has proved relatively effective with the swarm of minibus taxis known as kombis in South Africa, matatus in Kenya and danfo in Nigeria that carry the vast majority of people to work.

Some commuters in Antananarivo expressed wonder at the thought of being lifted above the daily grind in a cable car, but they were brought back to earth by concerns about cost, reliability, safety during strong storms including cyclones and other practicalities.

Hery Ratsimbazafy, an office worker, said the cable cars - which don’t go right into the city center - simply don’t serve his needs: “It doesn’t help me get where I need to go.”



What if a movie poster could speak? Angela Mrad answers with CELESTIA

When the creator becomes the creation: Angela Mrad as CELESTIA

Lebanese-Greek writer and filmmaker Dr. Angela Mrad continues to build a complete cinematic universe around her highly anticipated project CELESTIA: UNMASKING SOLARA, introducing a new approach to the cinematic poster through an epic audiovisual reveal that invites audiences not only to see the poster, but to hear it.

With the release of a new cinematic video, Mrad unveils the official poster of CELESTIA: UNMASKING SOLARA, alongside the first visual reveal of its two central characters, Celestia Thorne and Jax Vesper – The Shadow. Their first appearance is presented through a carefully crafted cinematic vision that reflects the atmosphere, mystery, and artistic identity of the world of Solara.

But this time, the poster is not presented as a static image alone.

Mrad introduces the concept of a “poster with a voice” — transforming the traditional poster reveal into an audiovisual experience. Accompanying



Dr. Angela Mrad on set.

the poster is an original epic poetic piece, presented through a dramatic musical style and created specifically for this cinematic reveal.

Through this approach, Mrad offers a new creative interpretation of the cinematic poster: an image that can be seen, and a story that can be heard.

The concept is captured in the statement accompanying the release:

“Some posters are not meant just to be seen... but also to be heard.”

The cinematic video also offers a glimpse into the creative process shaping the project, giving audiences a closer connection to the artistic vision behind CELESTIA, while preserving the mystery surrounding its central story.

The release marks another chapter in the carefully constructed CELESTIA campaign, following the initial announcement of the project and the unveiling of its official logo. Each reveal has been designed to gradually build the universe of Solara, introducing audiences to its characters, atmosphere, mythology, and visual identity.

With this latest reveal, the poster itself becomes part of the storytelling — no longer simply an image promoting a film, but an audiovisual extension of its world.

At the heart of this cinematic universe stands Celestia, a character whose creation was deeply connected to Mrad’s own vision as both filmmaker and actress. From the moment she wrote the character, she already envisioned herself stepping into the role on screen.

As Angela Mrad explains:
“When I wrote CELESTIA, I already knew that I wanted to be the actress who would bring her to life. I created her as a writer, envisioned her as a filmmaker, and from the very beginning, I saw myself stepping into the role of Celestia on screen. She was never just a character I wrote — she was a character I knew I would become.”

CELESTIA is not just a new character. She is a symbol. A world of her own. She is CELESTIA.”

— Angela Mrad
CELESTIA: UNMASKING SOLARA

The statement adds another dimension to the reveal: Celestia is not simply a character being introduced to audiences, but a character conceived from the beginning with her actress already in mind.

The cinematic video ultimately leaves audiences with the defining line of the film:

“THE MOST DANGEROUS WAR BEGINS THE MOMENT YOUR HEART CHANGES SIDES.”

CELESTIA: UNMASKING SOLARA
The truth will unmask them all.
Welcome to the world of CELESTIA.



“When I wrote CELESTIA, I already knew that I wanted to be the actress who would bring her to life. I created her as a writer, envisioned her as a filmmaker, and from the very beginning, I saw myself stepping into the role of Celestia on screen. She was never just a character I wrote — she was a character I knew I would become.”

CELESTIA is not just a new character. She is a symbol. A world of her own. She is CELESTIA.”

“THE MOST DANGEROUS WAR BEGINS THE MOMENT YOUR HEART CHANGES SIDES.”

Al-Baleed Archaeological Park: gateway to Oman’s history & diverse civilizations

By Safeyah Al-Hajri

DHOFAR, Aug 9, (KUNA): Al-Baleed Archaeological Park is one of Oman’s key historical and tourist landmarks. It forms part of the Land of Frankincense sites listed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List, for its cultural value that reflects the depth of Oman’s history and the diversity of its historical periods.

Al-Baleed Archaeological Park Director Saeed Al-Amri said the site in-

cludes the ancient city of Al-Baleed, dating to the Bronze Age around 2500 BC, through the Iron Age and into the Islamic period, when the city flourished commercially and architecturally. The park also houses the Museum of the Land of Frankincense, which presents Oman’s history through two main halls covering the period from the Stone Age to the advent of Islam. It also highlights frankincense and its historical uses.

The site includes Al-Baleed Creek, which served as an important ancient mari-

time outlet. Visitors can explore the area by boat, with facilities also available to facilitate movement around the park. Al-Baleed Mosque is another prominent Islamic landmark at the site. Built in 850 AD, it features 144 columns across about 1,742 square meters, reflecting the city’s religious and architectural importance.

Together, these landmarks reflect the history of a city that was once a major commercial and cultural center and remains a key destination for visitors exploring Oman’s heritage.



Saeed Al Amri, director of Al Baleed Archaeological Park.



The ancient city of Al Baleed, with roots dating back to the Bronze Age.



Inside the Museum of the Frankincense Land, one of Oman’s most significant historical and tourist landmarks, showcasing traditional Omani architecture.

Theater

2,300-year-old theater stages inclusive production at Epidaurus

‘The Trojan Women’ tells story of war’s survivors



From left to right, Eirini Kourouvani, a wheelchair dancer, Evi Saoulidou and Lydia Fotopoulou perform during a dress rehearsal of Euripides’ tragedy The Trojan Women, staged by the National Theatre of Greece, at the Ancient Theater of Epidaurus, Greece, on Thursday, July 30, 2026. (AP)

EPIDAUROS, Greece, Aug 9, (AP): As Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” renews global fascination with Homer, a cast of disabled and non-disabled performers in Greece is staging the war’s other story.

It’s not about the triumph of returning heroes, but the suffering they left behind.

“The Trojan Women,” with a cast of 22, was staged at Epidaurus, the ancient open-air stone arena in southern Greece. It marked what organizers called the first fully accessible performance in the ancient theater’s 2,300-year history.

While Homer followed warriors sailing home from Troy, the playwright Euripides - writing some three centuries later - turned to the city’s ruins and its women, forced into exile and enslavement.

The ancient theater offered a full range of ac-

cessibility services for the Aug. 2 performance. Blind audience members received Braille programs, tactile models and live audio description, while deaf spectators followed overhead titles. Physical adaptations also improved access throughout the site.

“It’s the first time a performance at Ancient Epidaurus has been made accessible to everyone,” said Greg Polychronidis, a Paralympic gold medalist who attended the event. “Today was a celebration of equality and it should serve as an example for everyone, forever.”

For many of the performers, standing on the ancient stage was itself part of the message: a voice for those often overlooked. Eirini Kourouvani, a 58-year-old cast member who uses a wheelchair, had never set foot inside the theater before.

“It is just grand,” she said. “I feel my heart

opening up as wide as this theater is.”

Ioanna-Maria Gertsou, a blind psychologist, attended with Babu, her guide dog.

“We too have the right to attend performances on an equal footing,” she said, relieved that her dog remained quiet during the play.

The National Theater of Greece produced the performance, and accessibility services were designed by the nonprofit Liminal with financial support from Greece’s Alpha Bank.

Argyro Chioti, the National Theater’s artistic director, said the production should become the norm rather than the exception.

“This was complex, not simple. It required months of planning. It cost money. And it required very specific organizational expertise,” she said. “But that’s the standard and venues we need to reach - the major stages and the major theaters.”

Istanbul’s free-roaming cats

ISTANBUL, Aug 9, (AP): Cats are an inseparable part of daily life in Istanbul, where thousands of free-roaming felines share the city’s streets, waterfronts, markets and historic neighborhoods with its more than 16 million residents.

They can be found almost everywhere - lounging outside bookstores and cafes, wandering through bazaars, watching ferries cross the Bosphorus, resting near mosques or unexpectedly appearing at soccer stadiums and wedding photo shoots.

For many visitors, the city’s cats become as memorable as landmarks such as the Hagia Sophia or the Grand Bazaar. Often, they can be found inside the landmarks. A cat named Gli lived in the Hagia Sophia for years, becoming a social media celebrity before dying in 2020 at the age of 16.

Residents routinely feed and care for the animals and small shelters and feeding stations can be found across the city. Their presence dates back to the Ottoman era, when cats helped protect homes and food stores by controlling rodents. Today, they remain a distinctive symbol of Istanbul and its long tradition of coexistence between people and animals.



A cat sleeps next to newlyweds during their photo session at Galata bridge in Istanbul, Turkey, Tuesday, July 21, 2026. (AP)



Stray cats wait next to a fisherman at Karakoy sea promenade in Istanbul, Turkey, Wednesday, June 24, 2026. (AP)



A youngster plays with a cat near Galata tower in Istanbul, Turkey, Tuesday, June 30, 2026. (AP)



A stray cat sits on a bench in front of the Ortakoy mosque in the early morning in Istanbul, Turkey, Friday, June 26, 2026. (AP)

Craft recognized as part of China’s national intangible cultural heritage

Tibetan artisans preserve centuries-old Pulu wool weaving tradition

SHANNAN, Tibet, Aug 9, (AP): More than a dozen men and women sit at wooden looms, sliding shuttles through rows of wool yarn before pulling each thread tight. They repeat it again and again as they weave Pulu, the traditional woolen fabric that has clothed people on the Tibetan plateau for centuries.

They work at the Ethnic Huaji Handwoven Cooperative in Shannan, where artisans are trying to preserve one of Tibet’s oldest weaving traditions while creating jobs for local residents.

Founded in 2008 by Tibetan artisan Pasang, the cooperative employs more than 100 local residents, including some people with disabilities, while teaching younger Tibetans a craft that he feared was disappearing.

The cooperative specializes in Zeter, a finer variety of Pulu made from especially soft wool from the necks and backs of sheep. He said the finer wool makes the yarn more difficult to spin than that used for ordinary Pulu.

Pasang said that because Zeter is lighter, softer and more delicate than



Workers weave Pulu, a traditional wooden fabric into clothing, at wooden looms near statues of Princess Wencheng and Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo at the Ethnic Huaji Handwoven Cooperative in Shannan in western China's Tibet Autonomous Region on July 23, 2026, as seen during a government organized visit for foreign journalists. (AP)

ordinary Pulu, it was presented as a tribute from Tibet to the Chinese imperial court during the Ming dynasty.

Pasang said he learned the craft from his parents at a time when fewer than 10 people still knew how to

weave Zeter.

He added that the craft has been recognized as part of China’s national intangible cultural heritage, and that he hopes younger generations will continue practicing it.



An elderly woman works on a loom at the Ethnic Huaji Handwoven Cooperative in Shannan in western China's Tibet Autonomous Region on July 23, 2026, as seen during a government organized visit for foreign journalists. (AP)

The wool comes from sheep raised around Shannan, about 3,700 meters (12,100 feet) above sea level.

Statues of Tibet’s 7th century King Songtsen Gampo and his Chinese bride, Princess Wencheng, stand at the center of the workshop,

surrounded by wooden looms. According to local tradition, the weaving craft dates to when Princess Wencheng introduced weaving techniques to Tibet after marrying the king.

In Chinese official history, their

marriage symbolizes the historical ties between Tibet and China. “It integrated Tibetan and Chinese cultures,” Pasang said about the fabric’s history.

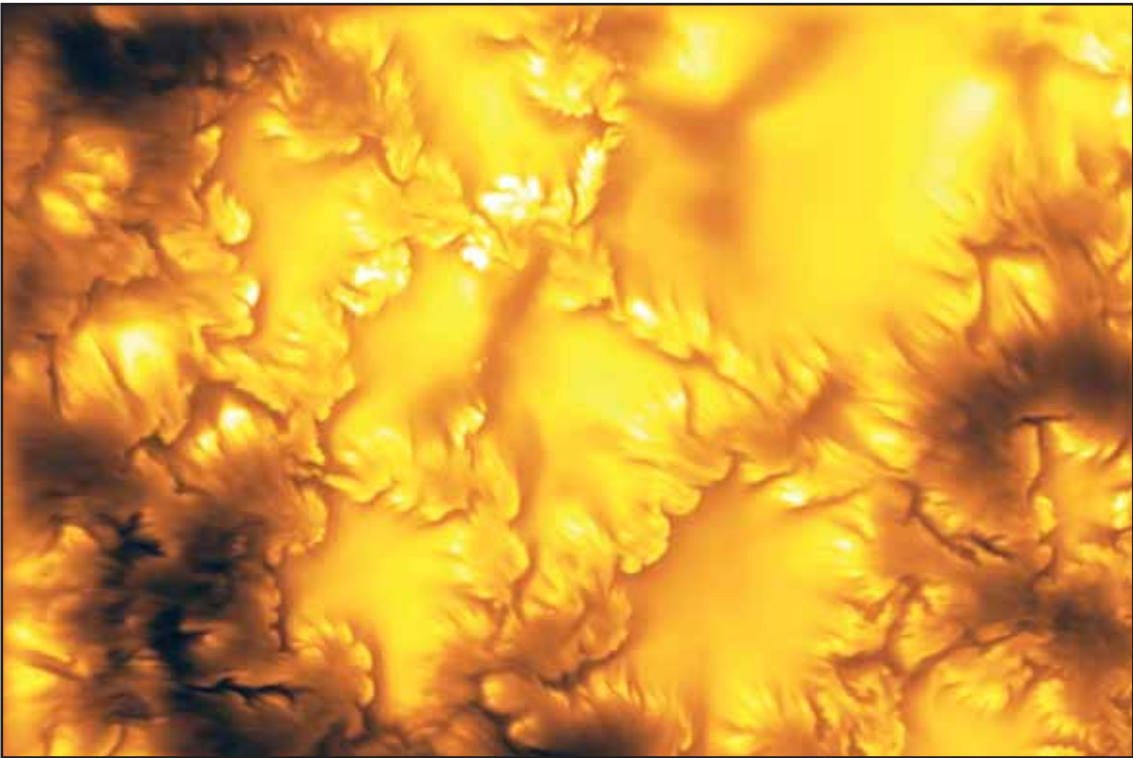
The Associated Press joined a government-organized trip to Lhasa and Shannan last month, which included visits to the cooperative, palaces, Buddhist temples, tourist sites, an eldercare center and local businesses.

Next to the workshop, a small showroom displays scarves, shawls, jackets, bags and other products made from Pulu and Zeter. Pasang said most sales are in Tibet, although customers also come from elsewhere in China.

Tsering Yangchen has been working for seven years in the cooperative. The 80-year-old woman moved from another county and said she struggled to find work before joining the workshop, where instructors taught her and others how to weave.

She said Pulu is more than just a product she weaves.

“We usually wear them,” she added. “They are made from pure wool.”



This undated image provided by the NSF National Solar Observatory on Monday, Aug. 3, 2026, shows the sun's surface. (AP)

New images of the sun show its surface in the finest detail yet

NEW YORK, Aug 9, (Agencies): Scientists have captured images of the sun's surface in the finest detail yet, revealing a strange and dynamic facade.

It's dangerous to look directly at the sun without proper eye protection. But researchers were able to peek at its scorching surface with the help of the National Science Foundation's Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope, located on the island of Maui in Hawaii.

Scientists originally took the images for a different reason: to fine-tune and test the limits of the telescope. But when they looked at the results, they realized they'd photographed the sun's bright outer shell at higher resolution than ever before.

What's more, they saw strange feathery patterns rippling across the surface.

"That reminds me of famous paintings, like the swirling skies in Van Gogh's Starry Night," said solar physicist Ruizhu Chen with Stanford University, who was not involved with the new research.

Researchers saw ripples of instability on the sun's surface caused by bits of magnetized plasma moving past each other at different speeds - similar to waves that stir when a gust of wind blows over water. It's a well-known phenomenon that guides how fluids move.

This has been glimpsed on Earth and other planets like Jupiter and Saturn, but "it has not been observed ever at that level on the solar surface," according to study co-author Friedrich Wöger with the National Solar Observatory.

The findings were published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

Scientists are curious about the sun's inner workings to better track massive bursts of energy called

coronal mass ejections that can hurl toward Earth. When they hit, they can trigger solar storms, potentially scrambling GPS communications and producing colorful auroras.

Also:

WASHINGTON: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronauts **Jessica Meir** and **Anil Menon** began a spacewalk outside the International Space Station (ISS) to prepare the 3B power channel for the future installation of new roll-out solar arrays.

In a statement, NASA added that "once installed, the arrays will provide additional power to support critical station operations, including its safe and controlled deorbit."

Meir is spacewalk crew member 1, wearing a suit with red stripes. Menon is crew member 2, wearing an unmarked suit.

Pack wipes to clean any dirty surfaces your kiddo might touch

With right preparation, international trips with babies possible and even fun

WASHINGTON, Aug 9, (AP): Traveling with babies and toddlers can be daunting for parents. Questions about air travel, what to pack and safety are often top of mind, especially on long-distance flights and international trips.

"Traveling with kids is a whole new world," said Dr. Shannon Thompson, a pediatrician at Cleveland Clinic Children's, adding that it's important to "enjoy your kiddo on your trip" as much as you can.

Here are some tips and tricks for parents to travel safely with young children - and have fun with them, too.

Before you decide where to stay, consider your options for baby-proofing. Check whether items like portable playpens, cribs and high chairs are offered to guests. If you are staying somewhere with stairs, a balcony or a pool, inquire about baby gates; if they are not provided, see if they are available for rent nearby or consider bringing travel-friendly foldable mesh gates. Pack electrical outlet covers and wipes to clean any dirty surfaces your kiddo might touch.

For babies, safe sleeping is still essential on vacation. Children younger than 1 should sleep on their back on a flat, firm surface such as a mattress in a bassinet, crib or playpen with nothing more than a fitted sheet, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. The organization also recommends babies sleep in the parents' room - but not in the parents' bed - for at least the first six months.

You should also consider how you will get to your lodging: Will you fly in and rent a car or take a taxi, or take public transit from the airport? Will you mostly be driving or walking? For parents, these factors can determine whether you want to bring a stroller and a car seat, both of which you can gate check for free when you fly, or rely on using a sling or baby carrier.

"Flying with kids is one of those big, intimidating things," said Thompson, the pediatrician. "I think the biggest thing to think about is always safety and then of course their comfort."

While children under two can fly in their parents' lap, the Federal Aviation Administration recommends securing them in their own safety seat, such as a car seat certified for use on planes. This requires buying a seat for your child.



A child watches a plane at the Jorge Newbery airport in Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 14, 2016. (AP)

For long-haul or international flights, ask the airline if they have bassinets available.

Food and drink for babies and toddlers, including breast milk, formula and puree pouches, are considered medically necessary liquids by the Transportation Security Administration. That means they are not subject to the standard 3.4-ounce (100-milliliter) limit for carry-on liquids. The same goes for ice packs used to keep such liquids cool. Let the TSA officer know if you have these in your carry on when you go through security screening.

In addition to snacks, don't forget to carry on diapers, wipes, a portable

changing pad and sealable plastic bags for disposal. Bring extra clothes to layer or change in case of accidents or messy spills.

Swallowing and chewing can help with ear pressure, so nursing little ones or giving them a bottle or pacifier can ease discomfort during take-off and landing.

Speak with your pediatrician beforehand if your kiddo is prone to ear infections, and before traveling abroad, ask them what vaccines may be recommended.

For flights with young kids, Christy Slavik, owner of the travel agency Mom Approved Travel, recommends "having little surprises that you can distract them with" - such as sticky mats for travel-sized play doh, suction cup toys and other games that are small and light to pack.

If sightseeing once at your destination, think about ways to make activities more fun and interactive. For art museums, bring notebooks that kids can draw in, or ask them what types of animals they can find in the paintings, Slavik said.

"Kids need a mission. They need games," she said. "You have to get creative sometimes when you're traveling."

Exposing children to other cultures, foods and languages can also be fun. Some may enjoy picking out snacks at markets, for example, or learning foreign words for their favorite dishes and activities.

There are options for places to stay that are family friendly, with amenities such as pools or games. For those traveling abroad on a budget, many hostels offer private rooms for families so they don't have to share a dorm-style room with bunk beds. Hotels and hostels provide the opportunity to meet other travelers, including fellow children who can become playmates.

Helping moms actually enjoy their vacation - and relax amid the stress that can come with planning and traveling - is a core goal of Slavik's travel agency.

One way parents can get a break is by planning trips with grandparents or other family members. This helps with babysitting duties, while also allowing loved ones to have special bonding time with kiddos. Just make sure they also have their own down time and aren't wearing themselves out, Slavik said.

"When you bring grandparents to a vacation, you're giving them the opportunity to experience those moments together," she said.

Why is Venus hotter than Mercury, when Mercury is closer to the Sun?

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

By Vahe Peroomian

USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you'd like an expert to answer, send it to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com.

Why is Venus the hottest planet, whereas Mercury is closer to the Sun? - Sejal M., age 7, Bangalore, India

When the solar system had just formed, 4.5 billion years ago, Venus was probably a tropical paradise. Oceans of water likely covered its surface, and puffy clouds dotted its skies. At that time, Mercury, the planet closest to the Sun, was undoubtedly the hottest planet in the solar system.

But then the Sun grew brighter, and a series of events known as a runaway greenhouse effect caused Venus's surface temperature to soar well past Mercury's. To be sure, as the closest planet to the Sun, parts of Mercury are still extremely hot. Its surface temperature on its sunlit side is around 800 degrees Fahrenheit (430 degrees Celsius), hot enough to melt lead.

I'm a space scientist with a passion for teaching physics and astronomy. I've seen Venus shine brightly in the western sky just after sunset, and, on rare occasions, seen Mercury briefly appear as an "evening star."

Venus isn't the only planet that has experienced a greenhouse effect. Today, the same phenomenon keeps Earth's surface habitable.

Warm objects emit electromagnetic radiation, or light, because their atoms and molecules are constantly vibrating. Earth's surface is warmed by the Sun and gives off infrared light, which is invisible to your eyes. Humans and animals also glow in infrared, and most of the energy released by a campfire is infrared radiation. The hotter an object is, the more infrared radiation it emits.

On a planet without an atmosphere, such as Mercury, this energy escapes directly into space. As a result, there is an enormous difference in temperature between Mercury's blistering hot sunlit side and its night side, where temperatures can drop to minus 290 degrees F (minus 180 degrees C).

On Earth, greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, including molecules of carbon dioxide, methane and water vapor, absorb and trap some of this infrared radiation, acting like a blanket around the planet and keeping the surface warm.

Earth's average surface temperature is about 59 F (15 C). Without greenhouse gases, the temperature would be closer to 0 F (minus 18 C), and Earth would resemble a giant snowball. We definitely need a moderate greenhouse effect to make our planet habitable.

But how could Venus, a planet that is nearly the same size as Earth and that was once made up of the same things, end up so different from our home world? There are several clues to why Venus is such a hot, unpleasant planet today.

Scientists agree that because of their similar sizes and proximity to the Sun, Earth and Venus likely started out with comparable amounts of water and carbon dioxide. On Earth, most of the carbon dioxide is dissolved in the oceans or locked away in rocks, such as limestone. Venus may once have stored carbon dioxide in a similar

way.

Scientific models of stars indicate that the Sun has grown about 40% brighter since the early history of the solar system. Four billion years ago, it emitted only about 70% of the energy it does today.

Scientists disagree about whether Venus ever had long-lived oceans. But evidence suggests the planet possessed lots of water early in its history. As the Sun's brightness increased, more and more water would have evaporated into the atmosphere. Without surface water to absorb and store carbon dioxide, nearly all of this greenhouse gas accumulated in the atmosphere.

This process, in turn, would have caused even more evaporation and even more warming, a feedback loop known as a runaway greenhouse effect. Today, carbon dioxide makes up about 96% of Venus' atmosphere, and its surface temperature is a nearly constant 867 F (464 C) day or night. Venus is now stuck in this state, and its atmosphere and surface temperature will remain like this for a very long time.

Imagine how thick Earth's atmosphere would be if all the oceans evaporated and all the carbon dioxide dissolved in them were released into the air. Something very much like this happened on Venus.

As a result, the atmospheric pressure at Venus' surface is more than 90 times greater than Earth's atmospheric pressure at sea level. To experience such a high pressure on Earth, you would have to dive to a depth of about 3,000 feet (940 meters). That much pressure is like having five elephants standing on your shoulders!

You may have heard scientists warn that Earth could experience some of the same processes affecting Venus if human-caused climate change continues unchecked. Global temperatures are rising as people burn coal, oil and natural gas for industrial activities and transportation, releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere for a long time. As more and more accumulates there, it traps more heat, raising the temperature on the planet's surface.

Another major greenhouse gas is methane. As Earth warms, an important source of methane is thawing permafrost, the permanently frozen ground found mostly in the Arctic. When the icy ground thaws, it exposes organic matter that had been frozen for thousands of years, including ancient plants, mosses, and even the remains of woolly mammoths and other large animals.

Bacteria can then decompose that matter, and as they do, they release methane into the atmosphere.

As Earth warms, more permafrost melts, releasing even more methane and creating a vicious cycle. Earth may never reach the extreme temperatures found on Venus today. However, our planet could become a much less comfortable place as temperatures rise.

However, Earth's surface temperature will never reach anywhere near that of Venus in our lifetime, and Venus will remain the hottest planet in the solar system - despite being farther from the Sun than Mercury.

Hello, curious kids! Do you have a question you'd like an expert to answer? Ask an adult to send your question to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com. Please tell us your name, age and the city where you live.

And since curiosity has no age limit - adults, let us know what you're wondering, too. We won't be able to answer every question, but we will do our best. (AP)



A paddle boat in Lake Mead near the Hoover Dam, far below the bathtub ring of light minerals indicating the lack of water, near Boulder City, Nev on Aug 7. (AP)

Lake Mead hits historic low water level as Colorado River struggles

BOULDER CITY, Nevada, Aug 9, (AP): Lake Mead, the largest reservoir in the United States, has plummeted to its lowest water level since it was filled some 90 years ago, another sign of the crisis plaguing the Colorado River system.

Water levels at the reservoir, which straddles the Arizona-Nevada border outside Las Vegas, hit 1,040.4 feet (317.1 meters) above sea level on Friday, according to federal data. That's just below the record set on July 28, 2022, according to the US Bureau of Reclamation.

"It's extremely significant and extremely concerning. You have three-quarters of the population of the Colorado River Basin, some 30 million people, who are directly impacted by risks to Lake Mead," said J.B. Hamby, chairman of the Colorado River Board of California and a board member of the Imperial Irrigation District, the largest user of the river's water. Hamby said it is vital for states that use Colorado River water to reduce water use.

Drought and dry conditions have stretched along the length of the Colorado and are particularly intense at its source in the Rocky Mountains.

Melting snow provides important water for the river. This past winter, however, saw the worst snowpack on record for the Colorado River Basin, adding more stress on farmers, industry, wildlife and hydropower producers, as well as the 40 million people across seven U.S. states, tribal nations and Mexico who rely on the waterway.

Years of overuse combined with drought and rising temperatures have been depleting Lake Mead and Lake Powell, the country's second-largest reservoir. Both are the lowest they have been in nearly seven decades.

To protect the strained system's ability to produce hydropower, federal officials said Thursday that they will not release cool Lake Powell water from Glen Canyon Dam in northern Arizona to protect a threatened native fish, the humpback chub, whose habitat is between the reservoirs.

Federal officials recently announced a short-term proposal to stave off a crisis in the beleaguered waterway, after states that rely on it - California, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah - failed to reach an agreement on how to share the dwindling resource in the long term.

The federal proposal called for the Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada to take less water. The Bureau of Reclamation, which released the plan, said it was flexible: Deeper cuts could happen in drier times, while states would have more time to collectively agree on how to manage the scarce resources.

Severe drought in 2022 on Lake Mead, which is held back by Hoover Dam, exposed human remains and forced water officials in Las Vegas to pump water from deeper within the reservoir to continue to supply water to millions of people.

Levels at Lake Powell have dropped so much that it has become difficult to descend far enough to reach the water. Boat ramps have had to move, shut down or be built anew.

Lake Mead and Lake Powell are not alone. Of the 54 Western reservoirs tracked by the Bureau of Reclamation, nine recently recorded their lowest levels in the last three decades.

Lynx clinches playoff spot with win over Aces

Mitchell sets WNBA record as Fever hold off Sky

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug 9, (AP): Olivia Miles scored 26 points, Napheesa Collier added 22 and the Minnesota Lynx beat the Las Vegas Aces 98-87 to clinch a WNBA playoff berth.

Natasha Howard added 17 points, nine rebounds and six assists for the Lynx, who improved their record to a league-best 26-7. Jackie Young led Las Vegas with 23 points, while A’ja Wilson had 16 points and eight rebounds.

Minnesota led by four at the half, but reserve Dorka Juhasz made bit plays on consecutive possessions to help the Lynx push their lead to double figures late in the third quarter. First she hit Courtney Williams on the wing for a 3-pointer, and on the next possession Williams returned the favor, setting up Juhasz for a 3 of her own from the top of the key to make it 66-55.

Las Vegas responded immediately with a 7-0 run, keyed by Young’s three-point play. Collier scored the next seven points, including back-to-back 3s off feeds from Miles, to restore Minnesota’s cushion.

In the fourth quarter, Jewell Loyd was called for a flagrant foul on a reckless closeout on Kayla McBride’s jump shot. McBride made all three free throws, and Collier finished the possession with two more free throws to put Minnesota up 85-72.

Miles scored 10 points in the fourth quarter.

McBride hit four 3-pointers in a back-and-forth first quarter that ended with Miles banking in a buzzer-beater from just over the halfcourt line to give the Lynx a 28-25 lead after 10 minutes.

The Lynx built their lead to six



Indiana Fever’s Kelsey Mitchell (0) goes up for a shot against Chicago Sky’s Courtney Vandersloot, left, during the second half of an WNBA basketball game in Chicago. (AP)

in the second quarter before Young converted all three free throws after being fouled beyond the arc. Young and Smith later added a pair of free throws apiece to bring the Aces within a point, but Collier found Miles atop the key and the rookie buried a

3 to put Minnesota on top 49-45 at the half.

Clark 90, Fever 86

In Chicago, Kelsey Mitchell scored 27 points to set a WNBA single-season record with her 16th straight game of 20-plus points,

Caitlin Clark had 26 points and 11 assists but a potentially costly eighth technical foul, and the Indiana Fever beat the Chicago Sky.

The Sky’s DiJonai Carrington was ejected in the first quarter after being called for a Flagrant 2 foul on

Sophie Cunningham. Minutes later, Carrington posted on social media the words “WHITE PRIVILEGE” and tagged the Fever.

Mitchell made 11 of 22 shots with three 3-pointers for Indiana (20-12). Next up is the overall record, a 20-

game run by the Las Vegas Aces’ A’ja Wilson spanning two seasons.

Clark finished with at least 25 points, 10 assists and five 3-pointers for the eighth time in her career. The feat has been accomplished just four other times in league history.

But the All-Star guard was assessed her eighth technical foul after making contact with a referee - though said it was inadvertent and no words were exchanged which was rescinded by the WNBA.

Aliyah Boston added 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Fever, and Makayla Timpson scored 10.

Natasha Cloud and reserve Rachel Banham both scored 17 for Chicago (12-2) and Kamilla Cardoso added 14 points and nine rebounds.

Fire 100, Storm 93

In Portland, Bridget Carleton scored 24 points, including four 3-pointers, and the Portland Fire handed the Seattle Storm their 11th straight loss.

Jade Melbourne had 23 points for the Storm (6-28), the first team in WNBA history to have two double-digit losing streaks in the same season. Seattle was coming off a 92-86 loss to New York Liberty on Wednesday night.

The Storm closed to 75-72 early in the fourth quart on Ezi Magbegor’s jumper, but Jordan Harrison’s 3-pointer extended the Fire’s lead to 82-75 with 7:26 left. Carleton’s 3-pointer pushed Portland’s lead to 88-78.

Portland (13-19) was coming off a 97-83 win over fellow expansion team Toronto on Thursday that snapped a five-game losing streak.

The Storm led 30-27 after the opening quarter, but Portland went on a 17-5 run to go up 44-35 after Carleton’s 3-pointer. The Fire went on to lead 56-47 at the break.

Hoopoes takes US pommel horse crown

Richard wins first US gymnastics all-around title

PHOENIX, Aug 9, (AP): Frederick Richard won his first U.S. men’s gymnastics all-around title, flashing the form he believes can make him a contender at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Competing with the goggles that have long been his trademark and still recovering from multiple injuries that have slowed his training, Nedorosick came off the horse midway through his routine on Saturday and his two-day total of 28.366 put him well behind gold medalist Patrick Hoopes, who has - for now at least - supplanted Nedorosick as the best American on a demanding apparatus that is often pivotal in international competitions.

The 22-year-old Richard, a key member of the men’s team that earned bronze at the Paris Games two summers ago, posted a two-day total of 170.015, two points clear of runner-up Shane Wiskus and three points ahead of promising newcomer Danila Leykin.

The charismatic, socially-media savvy Richard has made it his mission to bring his sport to a larger audience. That includes breaking norms - and the rules - by ditching the traditional stirrup pants on a handful of events in favor of shorts and compression leggings, all under a singlet featuring his “Frederick Flips” logo.

The fashion statement costs Richard three-tenths (0.3) every competition he does it, a move that he has unequivocally said is worth it to bring visibility to a side of the sport that often oper-



Fred Richard competes in the men’s rings event during the U.S. Gymnastics Championships in Phoenix. (AP)

ates in the shadow of the more popular women’s program.

After Thursday night’s opening round - when he found himself just two-tenths (0.2) ahead of the 19-year-

old Leykin - Richard doubled down, saying he would sacrifice a national championship if that’s what it came to.

Fortunately for Richard, he didn’t have to choose. His confident performance

across six rotations on Saturday marked the latest step forward in a comeback year after a disappointing 2025 in which he found himself left off both the national and world championship teams.

Preparations focus on fitness work: Habib

Al-Arabi, Al-Sulaibikhat kick off preseason training

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Al-Arabi’s senior handball team begins its preparations for the 2026-27 season today, with the opening phase of the training program focused on improving physical fitness and building the players’ strength.

The team will train at the club’s outdoor court and use the gym for strength and conditioning sessions, with the main indoor hall currently occupied. The program has been drawn up by national head coach Hussein Habib.

Al-Arabi has made several additions to its squad ahead of the new season, signing South Korean player Jinho Kim, Burgan’s Hamad Dayed Al-Adwani and Kuwait Club’s Mohammed Amer as the club looks to build a stronger squad capable of competing for honors.



Al-Arabi’s defense scrambles to block the attack as an opposing player rises for a shot on goal.

Habib said the initial stage of the preparations would concentrate on physical conditioning, with the coaching staff aiming to improve fitness levels and strengthen the players before gradually introducing ball work and technical and tactical drills.

He stressed the importance of commitment and hard work throughout the preparation period, saying the objective is to ensure the team reaches the required level of readiness when competitive action begins.

Al-Sulaibikhat will also launch

its preseason preparations today after making significant changes to its squad and coaching staff.

The club has appointed national coach Hussein Habib and recruited Serbian Jovan Milosevic, Brazilian Leandro da Silva and Frenchman Nicolas Clair as its foreign professionals.

The “North Reds” have also strengthened their local contingent with goalkeeper Hussein Karam, Nasser Al-Faraj, Fahad Abdulhadi and Mahmoud Ali, while Kazma’s Abdulaziz Al-Najjar has joined on a one-season loan.

First-team manager Hussein Sawan said Al-Sulaibikhat is targeting a strong campaign and hopes the “North Reds” can mount a serious challenge for domestic titles. He expressed confidence in the coaching and administrative staff and the players to produce a competitive and respectable season.

NEW BERLIN, Wis., Aug 9, (AP): Milwaukee Bucks guard Tyler Herro said he isn’t dwelling on his contract status and what that means for his future now that he’s joined his hometown team.

Herro, a Milwaukee-area native who graduated from nearby Whitnall High School in Greenfield, came to the Bucks in the trade that sent two-time MVP and nine-time All-NBA forward Giannis Antetokounmpo to the Miami Heat.

The 26-year-old guard has one year remaining on his contract and could become an unrestricted free agent after the 2026-27 season if he doesn’t get an extension.

“I’m not really worried about it right now,” Herro said while speaking at a youth basketball camp he was hosting. “It’s a new slate for me, for the coaches, really for the organization as a whole. I don’t think that needs to be a burden over anyone’s shoulders.”

Herro’s future has been the subject of speculation ever since news broke in June that he was heading to Milwaukee in the Antetokounmpo trade. The Bucks also acquired Jaime Jaquez Jr., Kel’el Ware, Kasparas Jakucionis and draft capital that included the rights to 2026 No. 13 pick Nate Ament.

Milwaukee’s roster already is heavily tilted to the backcourt.

The Bucks selected another shooting guard in this summer’s draft when they took Arizona’s Brayden Burries with the No. 10 pick. Their top two returning scorers from last season are guards Kevin Porter Jr.

(17.4 ppg in 38 games) and Ryan Rollins (17.3 ppg in 74 games).

Herro, who had spent his first seven NBA seasons in Miami, is eager to bounce back from a 2025-26 season in which injuries limited him to just 33 games. Herro has averaged over 20 points each of the last five seasons, and he earned an All-Star selection in 2025.

He joins a franchise in transition after trading away the most impactful player in franchise history. New coach Taylor Jenkins inherits an overhauled roster after the Bucks endured a 32-50 season that snapped a string of nine straight playoff appearances.

“I probably have the biggest chip on my shoulder that I’ve had in my career, coming to Milwaukee,” Herro said. “We’ve been through a lot. Just being able to come here with a new slate, a brand-new team, a brand-new organization, a brand-new coaching staff. ... We all have chip on our shoulders. Coach Jenkins himself has a chip on his shoulder, the guys who came in the trade with me. It’s not just about me. I think everyone on the team has a chip.”

That motivation comes from leaguewide pessimism surrounding how this team will fare without Antetokounmpo.

“Obviously there’s going to be people who probably don’t think we’ll win many games, but that’s the opposite of what we’re thinking,” Herro said. “We want to win as many games as possible and really set a culture from day one.”



Milwaukee Bucks guard Tyler Herro speaks to reporters at a youth basketball camp Saturday in New Berlin, Wis. (AP)

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Morocco and Algeria earn Women’s World Cup spot

RABAT, Morocco, Aug 9, (AP): Sakina Ouzraoui and Hanane Ait El Haj both scored and Morocco earned a spot in next summer’s Women’s World Cup with a 2-1 victory over South Africa in the quarterfinals of the Women’s Africa Cup of Nations.

Thembi Kgatlana scored the lone goal for South Africa in the 67th minute. She had an earlier chance in the 22nd minute but her shot was just off target.

morocco took the lead in the 32nd min-

ute when Ouzraoui volleyed a shot over South Africa goalkeeper Kaylin Swart.

Algeria also earned its first berth in the Women’s World Cup with a 2-1 victory over Ivory Coast.

Inès Khiris and Amira Braham scored for Algeria, which will face the winner of Sunday’s quarterfinal between Malawi and Ghana in a semifinal Wednesday in Rabat.

After an earlier goal was disallowed for offside, Ivory Coast’s Inès Konan broke

through with a goal in the 29th minute.

But Ivory Coast’s N’Sira Ouedraogo was shown a red card in the 42nd minute for a foul on Algeria goalkeeper Chloé N’Gazi, and the team was down a player for the rest of the match.

Khiris scored in the 58th minute with a long blast that Ivory Coast goalkeeper Aram-atou Diakité got a hand on but couldn’t stop.

Ivory Coast had a chance to pull in front with a penalty kick in the 62nd minute, but

Rebecca Elloh’s attempt went off the post.

Braham gave Algeria a 2-1 lead in the 64th minute with another stunner from distance that bounced before entering the goal.

Algeria’s Morgane Ikene was stretched off in the first half with an apparent foot injury.

Ivory Coast still has a chance to qualify for the World Cup. The losing quarterfinal teams play on Thursday for a spot in an intercontinental playoff.



Players challenging for the ball during the friendly match between Kuwait and Jordan.

Kuwait U-20 team falls to Jordan in friendly

Kuwait's U-20 national team suffered a 1-0 defeat to Jordan in a friendly at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium as both sides continue their preparations for the AFC U-20 Asian Cup qualifiers. Kuwait will compete in a qualifying group hosted by Cambodia, beginning its campaign against Japan on Aug. 31. The Blues will then face Yemen on Sept. 3 before completing its group-stage schedule against hosts Cambodia on Sept. 6. Kuwait will have another opportunity to test itself against Jordan tomorrow when the teams meet in a second friendly.

Kuwait began preparations for the qualifiers in July with a training camp in the Netherlands, where the squad played three friendly matches as part of its buildup. The team will travel to Bangkok next week for a two-week camp, during which it will play two more friendlies. Kuwait will face the United Arab Emirates on Aug. 19 before taking on Iraq on Aug. 24. Following the Bangkok camp, the Kuwait delegation will travel to Cambodia to begin its qualifying campaign, with the team aiming to reach the AFC U-20 Asian Cup finals.

SA edges Argentina as Kolisi limps off with recurring hamstring injury

Captain doubtful for series against New Zealand

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Aug 9, (AP): South Africa scraped past Argentina 17-10 in test rugby at the possible expense of inspirational captain Siya Kolisi on Saturday.

Kolisi trudged off in the 25th minute of his first match in seven weeks after damaging his hamstring. He may be a doubt to lead the Springboks back home against New Zealand in two weeks in the opening test of the blockbuster Greatest Rivalry series. "I hurt my hamstring again unfortunately," he said. "It's tough but I can't be sad about it. There's nothing I can do but go in for a scan and see how long I'm out for." The skipper was among a core group of Springbok stalwarts given match time in Buenos Aires after missing the Nations Championship in July because of injuries. Caps record-holder Eben Etzebeth and flyhalf Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu played every minute and lock Lood de Jager, coming back from a hip injury, endured into the third quarter.



South Africa Ethan Hooker is tackled by Argentina's Santiago Carreras during a rugby test match in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)

They got to celebrate a 12th straight test win, but only just. The depleted Pumas almost snatched a draw after the full-time hooter. From a tap penalty in front of the Springbok posts, they pounded the visitors for 15 phases until the final high pass to an unmarked Matías Moroni was dropped. Coach Felipe Contepomi thumped his booth and Moroni was in tears. South Africa coach Rassie Erasmus expected the grind. For the tune-up for the All Blacks he made 13 changes from the side which beat Wales 43-0. He picked players recovered from injuries, guys who had limited time during the Nations

Championship, or players on the fringe of the squad. They prevailed against a surprisingly tough Pumas outfit who, because the game was outside the international window, couldn't summon Europe-based stars such as captain Julián Montoya, Marcos Kremer, Joaquín Oviedo and Justo Piccardo. They debuted four forwards. The difference came in the second half when the Springboks reserves made their superior experience count and scored the winning try from a scrum. Santiago Carreras, from 45 meters, and Feinberg-Mngomezulu traded early penalty kicks. Then from lineout ball, prop

Boris Wenger stood in a gang tackle and offloaded for flanker Benjamín Grondona to burst clear to the tryline. As good as the Pumas were, they spent the remaining half-hour to halftime in their own territory. They were solid in the set-piece and kicked cleverly, winning the aerial contestables but lacking a decisive last pass. The Boks were also diligent but crashing into a good Pumas defense. After a long sustained attack, Springbok frustration was manifested by Feinberg-Mngomezulu resorting to a drop goal attempt that hit the crossbar. The Springboks didn't really threaten the tryline until the brink of halftime when a couple of offloads by the centers and fullback Aphelele Fassie joining the line allowed right winger Edwill van der Merwe to skirt the defense and score. Erasmus emptied his bench in the third quarter and the fresh power showed in the increasingly one-sided scrums. The pressure finally told when Canan Moodie trapped Pumas fullback Gerónimo Prisciantelli and forced a five-meter scrum. The Springboks popped the tighthead side, splintered the Pumas scrum and No. 8 Cameron Hanekom cruised over the tryline in the 63rd minute. Then the defense just held on.

Barcelona pushes Alvarez to seek Atletico exit

Mourinho questions Silva's fitness after Real debut

MADRID, Aug 9: Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho has questioned Bernardo Silva's physical condition after the Portuguese midfielder made his first appearance for the club in a pre-season victory over Ferencváros. Silva, one of Real Madrid's new signings, came on during the second half of the 2-1 win two days ago. Mourinho, however, expressed concerns over the midfielder's fitness following his summer break. "He didn't do any activity during the holiday and showed that he was in very poor physical condition," Mourinho said. Despite his criticism, the 63-year-old coach was positive about Silva's potential, praising his mentality and describing him as a player with the qualities needed to succeed at the highest level. Silva joined Real Madrid on a free transfer after leaving Manchester City. He turned 32 on Aug. 10 after spending the summer representing Portugal at the 2026 World Cup before taking a break following a demanding season. Against Ferencváros, Silva operated in central midfield



Bernardo Silva



Julian Alvarez

rather than on the right, where he has played regularly in recent seasons. Mourinho explained the decision by saying Silva still needs to develop physically and that he lacked some strength during the game. "I put him in the No. 10 position, where he also performs very well," Mourinho said. Silva arrives at Real Madrid with a wealth of experience, having won six Premier League titles and the Champions League during his time with Manchester City. Mourinho will expect that experience to play a key role as he builds his new-look Real Madrid squad. Meanwhile, Barcelona is continuing its pursuit of Julian Alvarez despite Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone once again making it clear that the club does not want to sell the Argentine striker. According to Spanish newspaper Mundo Deportivo, Simeone's latest comments in Seoul, where Atletico are conducting their preseason preparations, have not changed Barcelona's approach to the transfer. Simeone reiterated his backing for the position taken by Atletico CEO Miguel Angel Gil

Marin, stressing that Alvarez's situation should be assessed from a sporting perspective. Despite Atletico's firm stance, Barcelona remains determined to sign the Argentina international, whom Simeone considers an important part of his plans for the new season. Alvarez is reportedly the priority target for Barcelona sporting director Deco and coach Hansi Flick to lead the club's attack. The next few days could prove crucial in determining the striker's future. After returning from his vacation and rejoining Atletico training, Alvarez is expected to discuss his situation with Simeone and could personally ask the club to consider a transfer. Barcelona's first priority is to convince Atletico to listen to offers for Alvarez and agree to open negotiations. Only then would the Catalan club be in a position to submit a new proposal for the player. Mundo Deportivo added that Barcelona is also expected to resolve Ferran Torres' future, with his potential departure being addressed alongside the club's pursuit of Alvarez.

Bahrain tops Kuwait in Asian U-17 Handball Championship warm-up

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 9: Bahrain's U-17 handball team defeated Kuwait in the first of two friendly matches between the sides as both teams prepare for the upcoming Asian Championship, which serves as a qualifier for the World Championship and will be held in Jordan from Aug. 21 to 30. The match was played as part of Bahrain's ongoing training camp in Kuwait, with both teams using the encounters to fine-tune their preparations ahead of the continental tournament. Kuwait's U-17 team, coached by Croatian Ivan Dragic with national assistant Khaled Al-Mulla, previously held training camps in Slovenia and Croatia, where it played several friendly matches to improve its technical and physical readiness. The coaching staff is using the final stage of preparations to correct mistakes identified during the friendly games and settle on the squad and lineup for the Asian Championship, where Kuwait faces a demanding group-stage schedule. Kuwait has been drawn in Group B alongside South Korea, hosts Jor-



Bahrain players preparing for action.

dan, Syria, India and Iran. Bahrain will compete in Group A with Japan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Uzbekistan and Taiwan. The two teams will meet again tomorrow in their final friendly before traveling to Jordan. The second encounter will give both coaching staffs another opportunity to assess their players, address weaknesses and finalize their tactical plans and lineups ahead of the tournament.

Salah stars in Trabzonspor video showcasing Turkish culture, cuisine

ISTANBUL, Aug 9: Trabzonspor has turned to Egyptian superstar Mohamed Salah in a new promotional video highlighting the culture, traditions and cuisine of the Turkish city, while celebrating his arrival at the club. In the video posted on its official social media accounts, Salah visits a Turkish family home and receives a warm welcome before sitting down to enjoy a selection of traditional dishes associated with Trabzon, located on the Black Sea coast. Trabzonspor accompanied the video with the message: "To those who said, 'You'll only see him in your dreams' ... at Trabzonspor, dreams come true." The clip showed Salah in a relaxed family atmosphere as the club showcased the

city's hospitality and traditions. The video forms part of Trabzonspor's efforts to capitalize on Salah's huge international following to promote the club and the city. The Egyptian captain's move to the Turkish side has attracted significant attention both domestically and internationally. Salah arrived in Turkey on Wednesday to a huge reception from supporters in Istanbul before making his first appearance at Trabzonspor's stadium, where he was welcomed by a large crowd. Trabzonspor confirmed that Salah joined the club on a two-year deal as a free agent. Media reports indicate that the Egyptian forward will earn €17 million per season.



Egyptian superstar Mohamed Salah in a new promotional video.

Best of the Rest

LA Galaxy signs Roberto through 2028: Spanish midfielder Sergi Roberto has joined Major League Soccer's LA Galaxy with a two-year contract through 2028. The Galaxy announced the deal Saturday with the 34-year-old Roberto, who spent the past two seasons at Serie A's Como following the conclusion of his 18-year career at Barcelona in 2024. His Galaxy contract contains an option for the 2028-29 season. "Sergi brings a combination of leadership, technical quality, tactical intelligence and championship experience that few players have," Galaxy general manager Will Kuntz said in a statement. "He has been a key member of some of the greatest teams of his generation and understands not only what it takes to win, but what it means to be a winning team. Sergi's character, positional versatility, and leadership will be invaluable." Roberto was a resourceful central midfielder for Barcelona's dominant teams built around Lionel Messi throughout the 2010s, earning 25 trophies in all competitions with the Blaugrana. After making his first-team debut at 18 years old, he recorded 19 goals and 43 assists in 373 appearances, culminating in a year as Barça's captain in 2023-24. The club won seven La Liga titles and two UEFA Champions League crowns during his tenure. (AP)

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NEWS



Atletico Madrid's Iker Luque, left, battles for the ball with Manchester City's Josko Gvardiol during the preseason friendly soccer match between Manchester City and Atletico Madrid in Seoul, South Korea. Manchester City won 3-1. (AP)

Sports

UEFA escalates Infantino row, weighs probe into FIFA chief

Governing body rejects challenge to Swiss presidency

NYON, Switzerland, Aug 9: UEFA is considering opening an investigation into allegations involving FIFA President Gianni Infantino and a former UEFA employee dating back to his time as secretary-general of European soccer's governing body, according to The Telegraph.

The British newspaper previously reported that Infantino paid the woman a six-figure sum following an alleged relationship between them. UEFA has acknowledged receiving the payment and said it was aware of allegations concerning a relationship between Infantino and the former employee.

According to the report, the woman was later promoted to an administrative position at UEFA and received a 30% salary increase. Then-UEFA President Michel Platini was reportedly informed about the situation and gave Infantino an ultimatum, according to sources cited by the newspaper.

The woman subsequently left UEFA with an allowance provided under the regulations governing employee departures at the time. She was also reportedly given £45,000 a year in funding to pursue a qualification at a business school.

UEFA is now seeking to establish the circumstances surrounding the payments and determine whether the alleged relationship influenced personnel decisions during Infantino's time at the organization. The review is also expected to cover his conduct during his tenure at UEFA from 2000 to 2016.



In this file photo, then-UEFA Secretary General Gianni Infantino inspects the match balls before a draw.

FIFA has strongly rejected the allegations and defended Infantino. A spokesperson said the FIFA president "categorically denies" the claims, describing them as completely false and saying any suggestion of improper conduct or violations of FIFA's statutes or regulations is defamatory.

FIFA has also pushed back against efforts to challenge the legitimacy of Infantino's presidency, insisting that any process must comply with its statutes, democratic procedures and governance framework.

Echoing recent statements from CONMEBOL and CAF, FIFA said it would not support or tolerate any attempt to hold a presidential election process outside the organization's established rules and procedures.

FIFA stressed that Infantino was democratically elected by its member associations and continues to carry out his duties under the mandate granted to him.

The governing body also accused unnamed parties of conducting what it described as coordinated efforts to undermine FIFA and its president through allegations and misinformation.

FIFA said those without the support of its member associations should not attempt to achieve through allegations or insinuations what they cannot accomplish through the organization's established democratic processes.

The governing body added that recent reports contained unsupported assertions and claims it considers false, while stressing that legitimate scrutiny remains welcome.

"Speculation and insinuations should not be presented as facts," FIFA said, adding that repeating an allegation does not make it true.

Al-Arabi intensifies training ahead of East Bengal clash

Kuwait Club defeats Barnet as Kuwaiti Clubs continue preseason preparations

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

LONDON, Aug 9: Kuwait Club defeated English side Barnet 3-1 in a friendly during its training camp in London.

Mohannad Al-Mahameed, Faisal Zayed and Mohammed Dahham scored for the "Whites," who were playing their third friendly of the camp.

The team previously lost 2-0 to Portsmouth and 1-0 to Milton Keynes. The team is preparing to defend its Premier League title, with the new season scheduled to begin on Aug. 25, while also getting ready for its AFC Champions League Two campaign.

Al-Arabi coach Goran Sablic has increased the intensity of training as the "Greens" prepare to face India's East Bengal the day after tomorrow in the AFC Champions League Two playoff round.

Al-Arabi arrived in Kolkata on Friday and began training the following day. The sessions have focused on maintaining high intensity and finalizing the lineup for the crucial encounter.

The team held its main preseason camp in Erzurum, Turkey, where it played four friendlies. Al-Arabi lost 3-1 to Egypt's Pyramids and



Al-Qadsia goalkeeper Hamid Al-Qallaf takes part in training session.

3-1 to Erzurumspor, drew 1-1 with Vanspor and ended the camp with a 4-0 victory over Ümitedspor's reserve side.

Al-Qadsia will play its third friendly of its Turkish training camp tomorrow when it takes on Algerian side ES Setif.

The "Yellows" opened their friendly schedule with a 3-1 victory over Saudi Arabia's Al-Orouba before drawing 1-1 with Al-Zulfi.

Al-Qadsia is preparing for its upcoming AFC Challenge League campaign.

Al-Fahaheel suffered a 3-1 defeat to Egyptian club Al-Mokawloon Al-Arab in a friendly played two days ago during the "Braves" training camp in Alexandria.

The Kuwaiti side had opened its friendly schedule with a 1-1 draw against Al-Sekka Al-Hadid.

Al-Salmiya will face Algerian side ASO Chlef this evening in its third friendly of its training camp in Izmit, Turkey.

The "Samawe" began its friendly schedule with a goalless draw against Qatar's Al-Markhiya before losing 3-0 to Egyptian club ZED FC. Kazma recorded a 4-1 victory over Saudi side Al-Raed in its second friendly two days ago in Turkey.

Nasser Mohammedouh, Shabib Al-Khalidi, Torles and Jrah Al-Halili scored for the "Orange."

Kazma previously drew 2-2 with Qatar's Al-Waab and will face Bahrain's Khalidiya this evening before completing its friendly program against Algerian side ASO Chlef next Thursday.

Kazma is preparing for the new domestic season as well as the Gulf Champions League.

Kuwait takes on Saudi Arabia in Arab U-17 Volleyball Champ'ship



Kuwaiti player spikes the ball as opponents defend.

MANAMA, Aug 9: Kuwait's U-17 national volleyball team faces Saudi Arabia at 5 p.m. today in its second match of the second Arab U-17 Volleyball Championship, currently being held in Bahrain and running until Aug. 17.

Three matches are scheduled today, with Kuwait meeting Saudi Arabia, Jordan playing Egypt, and Algeria facing host Bahrain.

Kuwait will look to build on its opening performance and secure a positive result that strengthens its hopes of reaching the semifinals.

The tournament features six teams — Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and Algeria — competing in a single round-robin format.

Each team will play five matches, with the top four advancing to the semifinals.

Kuwait began its preparations for the championship in early July with a series of domestic training sessions before traveling to Cairo for a training camp. During the camp, the team played four friendly matches as the coaching staff worked on improving the players' technical and physical readiness, assessing different options and finalizing the lineup for the tournament.

The young Kuwait side will be aiming for consistent performances and positive results as it seeks to challenge for a place among the tournament's top teams.



Inter Miami defender Ian Fray, left goes for the ball against Monterrey midfielder Diego Rossi, right, during the second half of a Leagues Cup soccer match in Miami. (AP)

Rossi helps Monterrey to Cup win over Messi-less Inter Miami

MIAMI, Aug 9, (AP): Diego Rossi scored the go-ahead goal in the 90th minute to help Monterrey to a 2-1 win over Inter Miami, which played without Lionel Messi, in the group stage of the Leagues Cup on Saturday night.

Messi returned to his native Argentina following the death of his father, Jorge, earlier in the day. It is not known when the 39-year-old star forward will return to the club.

The 39-year-old Messi took a two-week break after leading Argentina to a runner-up World Cup finish. He made his first appearance as a reserve when Inter Miami tied Columbus 2-2 in an MLS match Aug. 1. Messi then had two goals and an assist in Inter Miami's first Leagues Cup match - a 4-2 win against Atletico San Luis on Wednesday.

Miami (1-1-0, 3 points) won the 2023 Leagues Cup and reached the final last year, but its chances of advancing to the knockout stage appear bleak with one match remaining in its 18-team group.

The strike by Rossi, who was acquired July 3 from the Columbus Crew, capped a two-goal sec-

ond half for Monterrey (1-1-0, 3 points). Rossi won the 2022 MLS Golden Boot for Los Angeles FC and he helped Columbus to titles in the 2023 MLS Cup and 2024 Leagues Cup.

Monterrey erased a 1-0 halftime deficit on Hugo Cuypers' equalizer in the 47th minute. Cuypers was an 2026 MLS All-Star and scored 13 goals in 11 games this season for the Chicago Fire before his transfer to Monterrey on July 23.

Rodrigo De Paul put Inter Miami on the board with a strike from 25 yards that landed inside the left post in the 32nd minute.

As he celebrated the goal, De Paul temporarily removed his No. 7 jersey to reveal Messi's No. 10 in support of his national team and club teammate, which resulted in a yellow card.

Monterrey defender Carlos Salcedo went off due to an injury in the 15th minute and was replaced by Jorge Rodríguez.

Both clubs conclude the group phase on Wednesday. Miami will host León while Monterrey will visit Nashville.

Olympian Hudson-Smith says he's unsure if he's been paid what's owed by Grand Slam Track

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug 9, (AP): Olympic silver medalist Matt Hudson-Smith says he has "a memory like a fish" and doesn't know if he's been paid what he's owed by Grand Slam Track, the league that filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection late last year.

Hudson-Smith spoke Sunday at a press conference ahead of the Euro-

pean championships in Birmingham, England, and addressed four-time Olympic champion Michael Johnson's comments, in an interview with the Telegraph, that he had now "been able to get these athletes paid."

Johnson formed the league by providing star athletes with salaries and appearance fees to compete on a four-event circuit in 2025. There also

was prize money at each race but the series was cut short when Grand Slam Track canceled its final meet last June in Los Angeles.

"I'm going to be real, I have a memory like a fish, so I can't remember what's going on," said Britain's Hudson-Smith, a two-time European champion in the 400 meters.

A filing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court

in Delaware in January listed Hudson-Smith as being owed \$147,500.

"This whole year, I've been just focused on Europeans. Grand Slam, I don't know if I've been paid, to be honest with you, and you can quote that," said the 31-year-old Hudson-Smith, who won silver in the 400 at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The court filing listed more than

300 people and companies owed some \$40 million. Eric Edwards Jr., a lesser-known hurdler, was on the list and told The Associated Press in January that the money was earmarked for practical needs like paying rent.

Johnson told the Telegraph that he's spent the past year finding solutions for the athletes.

"Everybody's been paid - \$11 million for three track meets - more money than has ever been paid to track athletes to compete," Johnson said.

A note on the bottom of the Telegraph's video interview of Johnson said: "Johnson raised \$11m to pay athletes but some of that is held in escrow and still in the process of being distributed."