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Zain Group H1 2026 net profit soars 73% YoY to reach KD 220 mn



'Justice begins with impartial investigations'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah urged newly graduated investigators to uphold integrity and impartiality, and to apply the law with fairness and objectivity to ensure the truth

is revealed, rights are protected, and justice is achieved.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef made the remarks in a speech delivered during his patronage and attendance of the graduation ceremony of the eighth batch of investigators at the General

Department of Investigations, comprising 486 investigators, and their taking of the legal oath, according to a Ministry of Interior press statement issued Monday.

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Ministry of Interior photos

Left: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah delivers his speech. Right: Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef attends the graduation ceremony of the eighth batch of investigators at the General Department of Investigations.

Hormuz shutdown drags on

Kuwait, Pakistan FMs discuss regional security and stability

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received a phone call on Sunday from his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

During the phone conversation, they discussed cooperative relations between both friendly countries, ways of further promoting and developing them, the latest regional developments and efforts aimed at strengthening regional security and stability.

Separately, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Iran will not reopen the Strait of Hormuz until

the United States met its conditions. "It is up to the U.S. side to stop and make amends for its illegal and destructive actions," Esmail Baghaei said Monday, noting the American blockade of Iranian ports.

Iran wants the U.S. to lift the blockade, pay compensation for months of war damage, lift economic sanctions and release Iran's frozen assets. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz - a waterway that normally carries roughly one-fifth of the world's traded oil supplies - has become the war's most lasting consequence. The impasse has kept energy prices as a major focus of U.S. politics ahead of November's midterm elections.

Iran is holding separate talks with Oman over transit through the strait, including potentially a temporary shipping corridor. But it has said any actual reopening is contingent on talks with the U.S.



Sheikh Jarrah

Kuwait 'sharpens' surgical oversight

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi issued a ministerial decree on regulating surgical procedures and medical interventions in the public and private sectors in order to guarantee patient safety and raise the level of adherence to professional and regulatory standards.

Decree No. 220/2026 defines the professional powers and privileges of doctors by linking the performance of surgical procedures and medical interventions to the specialization, license and professional privileges of the doctors, according to the classifications established by the relevant departmental councils and approved by the undersecretary of the ministry.

The decree stipulates the need to obtain the patient's informed consent before performing surgical procedures and medical interventions, disclosing the identity of the participating medical team, and documenting this in the medical file of the patient.

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Newswatch

7.4 Colombia quake kills 73

BOGOTA, Aug 10, (AP): A powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia on Monday, killing at least 73 people, trapping residents under debris of collapsed buildings and forcing people to evacuate their homes as far as the capital of Bogotá.

The epicenter was in San Jose Del Palmar, a community of about 4,800 people in the Choco region about 250 miles (400 kilometers) west of Bogotá, the U.S. Geological Survey and Colombia's counterpart reported. The USGS said it struck at a depth of 66 miles (107 kilometers). The quake also was felt in neighboring Ecuador and Panama, though minimal damage was reported there.

Local officials confirmed that at least 40 people were killed in the department of Risaralda, where the hard-hit city of Pereira is located, and 27 people in the Valle del Cauca department, where Colombia's third-biggest city, Cali, is located. Two people also died in the city of Manizales.

At least three of those killed in Valle del Cauca were children, the governor said.

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Day by Day

THERE are many songs and even more proverbs that speak of patience.

It is said that Job endured until his body weakened, yet God did not forsake him. Joseph endured the darkness of prison, and then the world opened up for him. Jacob wept with grief until he lost his sight, then regained it with the return of his beloved son Joseph.

Patience, as they say, is the key to relief. God takes vengeance on the oppressor before his death and takes from him the rights of those he has wronged. Until justice is done, the oppressed may see the oppressor brought to a wretched state. Glory be to God, the Avenger!

As a poet said, "God's power surpasses the power of anyone. Every oppressor must eventually fall victim to someone more oppressive than himself." ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Photo by Samer Shqair

As heat and humidity bear down on Kuwait, children turn the Souq Mubarakia fountain into a welcome play ground and refuge from the sweltering weather.

'Al-Kulaibin' opens door to moderate weather

Kuwait endures summer's final blast

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (Agencies): Kuwait is experiencing a hot weather on Monday, with relative humidity expected to rise in the evening and horizontal visibility declining in some areas due to fog, said Dhirar Al-Ali, director of the

Meteorological Department.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Ali said weather maps and numerical models indicate that the country is currently under the influence of an extension of the Indian monsoon

depression, accompanied by a hot and humid air mass. The conditions are contributing to higher humidity levels and reduced visibility in some areas.

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Kuwait busts 'homegrown' marijuana op, citizen held

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior announced Monday the arrest of a Kuwaiti citizen in Al-Dohah area for operating a marijuana cultivation farm and possessing six ki-

lograms of marijuana, cultivation equipment, a quarter kilogram of hashish and KD 17,820 (around USD 58,000).

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Ministry of Interior photo

A Kuwaiti citizen is pictured alongside the seized items.

Kuwait tech complex nears launch at 92 pct completion

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Kuwait Technology Entrepreneurship Complex is nearing completion, with a record-breaking 92 percent completion rate, paving the way for its official launch this year, according to information obtained by the newspaper.

This vital project is part of the accelerated efforts of the government to digitize the financial and economic sectors and improve the investment environment to attract foreign capital.

Documents revealed that the project is overseen by the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) in partnership with Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), while Boeing is in charge of its implementation.

This collaboration is part of the Offset Program, which was approved by the Cabinet as a smart mechanism for

recycling the inputs and profits of huge projects implemented by international companies in Kuwait and transforming them into development opportunities.

The project is the foundation of the policy of the country in terms of establishing a sustainable knowledge-based economy. It is a national initiative for the creation of an integrated business incubator and a training center for digital industries.

The main objective of the project is to develop young Kuwaiti talent, equipping them with digital economy skills and empowering them to transform their innovative ideas into competitive entrepreneurial ventures.

The complex will operate based on an integrated model that combines practical training with direct knowledge transfer from international institutions and companies.

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By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has launched the "Report" service through the Sahel application for enabling citizens and residents to report violations within PAM's jurisdiction online.

The service is designed to facilitate the rapid detection and handling of violations.

PAM Director of Public Relations and Media Mohammed Al-Muzaini said the new service allows citizens and residents to participate in monitoring and supporting government efforts to address negative practices that affect Kuwait's reputation, as well as follow up on labor and humanitarian issues.

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8 Al-Tijaria reports 3.4% rise in H1 net profit to KD 9.38 mln



10 NBK named 'Top Employer in Kuwait and Banking Sector'



10 stc successfully conducts Kuwait's first AI-powered real-time voice translation trial



Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:48	Asr	15:29
Sunrise ..	05:14	Maghrib ..	18:33
Zohr	11:53	Isha	19:59



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Premier

Amir congratulates Ecuador President on ‘National Day’

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable to the President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa, congratulating him on the country’s National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Noboa good health, and Ecuador and its people further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad

Al-Sabah also sent a cable to the President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa, congratulating him on the country’s National Day.

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

PM congratulates Ecuador

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent a cable to the President of Ecuador Daniel Noboa, congratulating him on the country’s National Day.

KBA issues advisory for members

‘Refrain from publishing rulings on drug cases favoring clients’

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Kuwait Bar Association (KBA) urged its members to refrain from publishing rulings on drug cases in favor of their clients, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The association asserted that this advisory is part of the social and national responsibilities of the legal profession and its role in supporting the efforts of the country in combating drugs.

It affirmed its appreciation for the efforts of lawyers in fulfilling their professional mission, upholding the rule of law, protecting rights and freedoms and ensuring the right to defense. It explained that publishing or highlighting rulings in the media could convey unintended messages that some people might exploit to find loopholes to evade

punishment.

It stressed that its advisory is not intended to restrict the lawyers’ freedom to publicize their professional achievements, but rather to emphasize their social responsibility and the necessity for their media discourse to align with the values of the profession and in the interest of the public.

It added that the country achieved positive results in combating drugs, considering the official announcement on the 44 percent decrease in the number of drug cases following the implementation of the new Anti-Narcotics Law. It stressed that combating drugs is a shared national responsibility, and that the lawyer is a partner in protecting society, just as he is a partner in achieving justice.

Asian suspect held as bid to smuggle 1 kg ‘heroin’ foiled

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Customs Investigation and Search Department at Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC), in cooperation with the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Interior Ministry, thwarted an attempt to smuggle narcotics through a shipment coming from Pakistan, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Inspectors suspected the shipment and a thorough search ensued, resulting

in the seizure of three tablets filled with heroin, weighing about one kilogram, and one tablet filled with a crystalline substance suspected to be methamphetamine, weighing around 250 grams.

KGAC affirmed that in coordination with DCGD, the Asian suspect was apprehended and referred to the concerned authorities to complete the legal procedures, along with the confiscated narcotics.

‘Investing in Gulf youth is a priority’

RIYADH, Aug 10, (KUNA): Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi said investing in Gulf youth, developing their skills and empowering them are top priorities for GCC leaders.

He said youth are the cornerstone of the GCC countries’ future and the main driver of their development and prosperity.

The GCC Secretariat said Monday that Al-Budaiwi made the remarks during his participation in the closing ceremony of a program held by the Gulf Academy for Leadership and Innovation in the UK on Sunday.

The ceremony was attended by Prince Turki Al-Faisal and several senior officials.

Al-Budaiwi said GCC countries are keen to provide a supportive environment for youth and opportunities to gain knowledge and experience, strengthen their capabilities, and turn their ideas and ambitions into initiatives serving their communities and countries.

He added that such efforts would enable youth to contribute effectively to shaping the future and keep pace with the rapid changes taking place worldwide.

Kuwait hailed for providing ASEAN residents safe living

ASEAN ’versary marked in camaraderie, unity

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the State of Kuwait Haji Sulaini bin Haji Said underscored the importance of the relationship between Kuwait and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Speaking at the event organized by the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the ASEAN, the Ambassador confirmed the aspiration of his country to fully benefit from the achievements of the previous summits and to strengthen cooperation in organizing upcoming events in order to push the relationship between the two sides to broader horizons.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Nawaf Al-Ahmad attended the event, during which the Ambassador commended the accession of Kuwait to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. He considers this move a reflection of the commitment of Kuwait to adhere to the principles of peaceful cooperation and respect for international law.

He disclosed that the year 2023 marked a milestone in the history of relations between the ASEAN and Kuwait -- the first summit between the two sides, which ushered in a new chapter of such relations and co-operation.

He said the second summit between the ASEAN and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) adopted the ASEAN 2035 Framework for Cooperation. He indicated that this is a collective commitment to strengthen partnership in trade, investment, energy security, food security, digital transformation, tourism, education and climate action.

He commended the role of the Kuwaiti government in supporting cooperation with the ASEAN, while affirming the importance of continuous joint efforts to strengthen the partnership between the ASEAN member states, Kuwait and other GCC countries, thereby, contributing to a more prosperous and stable future for the people in the region.

He added that the ASEAN, which was established in 1967, has evolved into a community of 11 countries and more than 680 million people, working together to build a more inclusive, resilient and people-centered region.

He highlighted the success of the ASEAN in expanding its partnerships beyond Southeast Asia, stressing the importance of collaborating with international partners to overcome common challenges and enhance opportunities for development and prosperity.

He stated that the ASEAN embassies in Kuwait work closely through the ASEAN Committee to strengthen bilateral relations with Kuwait, raise awareness on Southeast Asian cultures, and foster understanding and communication between the people of the region and the Kuwaiti society. He disclosed that these efforts include organizing cultural, social



Ambassadors and diplomats at the cake-cutting ceremony.



Media persons photographed with the ambassadors and diplomats.

and humanitarian activities, as well as environmental and community initiatives.

He then expressed his appreciation to the Kuwaiti government for providing a hospitable and safe environment for ASEAN residents in Kuwait, especially under the current circumstances and the challenges that the region is facing.

He asserted that Kuwait’s open society and culture of coexistence allowed everyone to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the ASEAN in an atmosphere of friendship and unity.



Kuwaitis and expatriates visit the heritage Souq Mubarakiya to buy their needs. Everything is available here – from vegetables to fish, meat, clothes and perfumes. The old guard can be seen passing their time in the local ‘shisha cafes’.

Other Voices

What are Shiite Islamic religious authorities?

By Ahmad alsarraaf

THE Shiite school of thought differs from other Islamic schools in several ways, including the “religious authority” to whom committed Shiites turn when needed, following their opinions, rulings, and guidance.

According to Shiite traditions, the concept of religious authority emerged after the disappearance of the Twelfth Imam, leading believers to consult religious scholars on matters such as issuing religious rulings, adjudication, and other religious affairs.

As a result, religious leadership became less tied to the state and more closely associated with religious seminaries (Hawzas), particularly as countries expanded and the number of followers increased.

The most senior scholars are known as “Grand Ayatollahs” who have reached the level of ijthad, or independent reasoning, and are regarded as among the most learned religious scholars. Their followers, known as “muqallids,” or those who follow them, pay khums, a religious contribution traditionally calculated as one-fifth, or approximately 20 percent, of their income or gains.



alsarraaf

Historically, these religious authorities have operated independently of ruling powers and are primarily based in Najaf and Karbala in Iraq, and Qom in Iran. There is usually more than one religious authority at any given time, with each maintaining a network of followers and representatives.

Outside the Ja’fari Shiite school of thought, the Ibadi school, which is prevalent in Oman and parts of North Africa, has a somewhat similar system. Ibadis have their own religious authorities and institutions, but their system does not follow the same structure as the Twelver Shiite model, which is based on individual emulation of a supreme religious authority. They are also not required to pay khums as a one-fifth tax.

Among Sunni Muslims, there is no single religious authority. Instead, religious guidance is provided through institutions such as Dar al-Ifta (Houses of Fatwas) or by Grand Muftis, depending on the country and school of jurisprudence.

The Hanafi school, for example, is prevalent in Turkey, the Caucasus, Uzbekistan, the Levant, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan. The Maliki school is widespread throughout North Africa, Sudan, Upper Egypt, and several other African countries. The Shafi’i school is prevalent in Egypt, Yemen, Palestine, Jordan, East Africa, Somalia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei. The Hanbali school is prevalent in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

In many of these countries, muftis are state employees and typically receive high salaries. However, there is no single, universally accepted authority responsible for issuing religious advice or fatwas. Independent religious bodies and scholars also exist outside government institutions.

Nevertheless, the Shiite religious establishment, particularly its Grand Ayatollahs, wields considerable moral authority. During the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, a Grand Ayatollah issued a fatwa prohibiting the acquisition, sale, or purchase of stolen Kuwaiti property. This fatwa significantly deterred many people from buying stolen goods.

During the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani issued a fatwa permitting cooperation with the occupying US forces.

A Shiite religious authority is not merely a mufti, but serves as a source of religious and political guidance, whose rulings may be followed by followers in matters of worship and daily life. These rulings, however, are not necessarily binding on the followers of other religious authorities.

In the past, some Grand Ayatollahs have aligned themselves with government positions when it suited their interests. Religious authorities have not always been opposed to governments, nor have they been entirely independent in their views.



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Tents erected illegally on state land are uprooted by the Municipality.

Municipality defines various encroachments on property

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Kuwait Municipality recently carried out a series of campaigns to remove encroachments on state properties in various governorates.

In an interview with Al-Akhbar TV, Director of the Violations Removal Department at the Capital Governorate branch of the Municipality Eng. Suleiman Al-Ghais confirmed that the municipal teams removed several violations in Shuwaikh residential area, including an illegal diwaniya (traditional Kuwaiti gathering place) on the oppo-

site side of the street.

Al-Ghais explained that the Municipality does not remove encroachments upon discovery, as the procedure begins with issuing a warning to the violators, and then granting them a grace period of two weeks to remove the violation and rectify the situation.

He added that encroachments on state properties are not limited to the illegal construction of diwaniyas and other structures, as they include the unauthorized use of public spaces, installation of canopies and fences outside property boundaries, expansion of sidewalk and surrounding areas, and putting barriers or structures that obstruct public access.

Iran muddying waters by mixing truth & falsehood

"ACCORDING to Russia Today, which quoted Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei, he shared a photo of Iranian oil experts in Kuwait in 1991 who had come to extinguish the oil-well fires set by the Iraqi aggressors," Kuwaiti journalist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"He posted the photo of the Iranian experts in Kuwait and addressed Kuwait on the X platform, saying, "The honorable Iranians extinguished the fires that befell you, but now you have become part of the evildoers against our people." The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman is trying to muddy the waters by mixing truth with falsehood and misinformation, while obscuring the facts.



Hassan Ali Karam

If such a statement had come from an ordinary person, ignorant of the facts and far removed from the truth, perhaps it could be excused. But is Baghaei genuinely ignorant of the facts, or is he deliberately spreading false information?

"Kuwait has never denied the participation of a firefighting team from Iran's oil sector in extinguishing the oil-well fires. But why did Baghaei fail to mention that firefighting teams from ten countries also participated in the operation? According to international media reports, Kuwaiti firefighting teams were among the most active participants and played a significant role in extinguishing the fires within a relatively short period. The countries whose teams participated in extinguishing the oil-well fires included Kuwait, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, Iran, Hungary, and Romania.

"The Iranian firefighters did not come simply as volunteers to help their Muslim brothers, particularly at a time when Kuwait was in desperate need of assistance from its brothers, friends, and all those who stood with it during that critical period. The Iranian firefighting team did not come for free. They received full compensation in dollars, just like the teams from the other countries that participated in the firefighting mission. Does Baghaei really think that anyone in Kuwait or elsewhere believes these claims? Baghaei seems to think he has inherited the role of Hitler's propaganda minister, Goebbels.

"Where do you live, Baghaei? Do you really think there are people who would fall for such lies and nonsense? We live in an age of openness, and free media. Iran did not make a decisive and principled decision to support Kuwait during the ordeal of the Iraqi invasion. Having just emerged from an eight-year war with a common enemy - an ignorant and destructive force in the region - Iran should have been among the first to defend and support Kuwait. Had Saddam Hussein succeeded in conquering Kuwait, the entire region could have fallen under his control, given Kuwait's strategic importance in the region.

"Under Rafsanjani's leadership, however, Iran adopted a middle-ground position, securing control of the other half of the Shatt al-Arab waterway from Iraq following a humiliating concession by Saddam, who had hoped to secure Iran's support during the war. Iran also received hundreds of military and civilian aircraft. Rafsanjani took what he wanted from Saddam and then turned his back on him. Kuwaitis are not enemies of Iran or any other country. All Kuwait seeks is good-neighborly relations and the exchange of interests without greed or favoritism, particularly given the many shared interests between the two countries.

"Kuwait harbors no malicious intentions or ambitions toward Iran or any other country. Unfortunately, malice and greed often come from the closest of neighbors. Baghaei should learn this lesson well. Kuwait has not forgotten Iran's role in extinguishing the fires, but lies and distortions of the facts are unacceptable."

Also:

"There are moments in history that are not measured by victories in wars or by the number of agreements signed, but rather by the extent to which they change the way nations think," Kuwaiti lawyer and writer **Yousef Rashid Al-Hajri** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"We are living through one of those moments today. The world we knew years ago no longer exists. The rules that governed international relations for decades have become increasingly fragile in the face of a new reality, where power is built through multiple means and the balance of influence is shifting at an unprecedented pace.

"Geography is no longer the sole source of power, and natural resources are no longer a guarantee of stability. Instead, knowledge, technology, economic strength, and the ability to make timely decisions are the factors shaping the future of nations. Countries that fail to keep pace with this transformation do not lose a single battle but they lose their ability to influence the future. The most dangerous thing that can befall any society is not a lack of resources, but complacency with past achievements and the belief that yesterday's accomplishments are enough to protect tomorrow.

"History teaches us that nations that ceased to develop were not defeated

because they were weak, but because they believed that time would stop at the limits of their achievements. In our region, where international and regional interests intersect, stability must become a renewed national project. Therefore, future planning must be bolder, investment in human capital must be a priority, institutions must be built on merit, and education, innovation, and the digital economy must be viewed as pillars of national security.

"Experience has shown that a state with an informed populace, strong institutions, a resilient economy, and responsible media is better equipped to confront crises. Modern battles do not always begin with the sound of cannons. They may begin with a false report, a cyberattack, economic pressure, or an attempt to undermine trust between citizens and state institutions. A state's strength is not measured solely by its resources, but by the strength of its vision and its ability to transform resources into achievements, crises into opportunities, and challenges into a springboard toward a more secure future.

"Kuwait, with its balanced political history and respected diplomatic legacy, is capable of continuing along this path, provided that development remains a permanent choice rather than a temporary response to circumstances. The world does not wait for the hesitant, and the future does not reward those who merely observe events. Perhaps the most important lesson of this era is that survival belongs to the most prepared, not the most complacent. In a rapidly changing world, it is not enough to preserve what we have; we must have the courage to build what tomorrow requires."

□ □ □

"The US-Iranian confrontation has entered a highly sensitive phase, in which efforts to keep negotiation channels open are unfolding alongside escalating military and economic pressures," political and military expert Brigadier General **Dr. Mohammad Hijab** wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"Despite ongoing indirect contacts between Washington and Tehran, recent developments on the ground suggest that the prospects for de-escalation are gradually diminishing, as renewed military strikes and a widening scope of tensions extend to the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, and the Iraqi arena. This situation underscores the fragility of the diplomatic track and its inability, thus far, to contain the escalation.

"The United States is attempting to manage the crisis through a strategy that combines military pressure and economic sanctions while maintaining a window for a political solution, should Iran demonstrate a willingness to make concessions regarding its nuclear program, maritime security, and the full reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran continues to benefit from its regional influence to raise the cost of confrontation by threatening maritime routes and mobilizing its allies across the region. This allows it to maintain sustained pressure



Dr. Hijab

on Washington and its partners without triggering a full-scale regional war. "The Gulf states remain the most affected by this complex equation, as its repercussions extend far beyond security concerns to impact energy security and international trade. Disruptions to navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait threaten the flow of oil exports and global supply chains, while increasing transportation and insurance costs and directly affecting regional and international economic stability.

"In this context, Kuwait stands out as a model of strategic balance. Kuwait maintains its right to protect its sovereignty and national security while simultaneously seeking to avoid direct military confrontation. Kuwait's recent positions reflect this approach through efforts to strengthen its defense capabilities, alongside diplomatic efforts that reaffirmed its rejection of any aggression and called for de-escalation through political solutions and dialogue.

"Current developments confirm that both Washington and Tehran recognize the limitations of a military solution. Both understand that any agreement that fails to address the root causes of the crisis will remain vulnerable to collapse. While the United States is relying on continued military and economic pressure, Iran is relying on its maritime routes and network of regional allies to raise the cost of confrontation. Given this fragile balance, the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait, remain the most vulnerable to the repercussions of the crisis. This makes strengthening Gulf coordination and intensifying diplomatic efforts a strategic imperative to prevent further escalation.

"Based on current developments, the crisis appears to be heading toward three main scenarios - a continuation of a fragile truce punctuated by limited clashes, a gradual slide towards wider escalation if communication channels break down, and partial agreements that ease tensions without addressing their underlying causes, leaving the region vulnerable to a new cycle of crises and uncertainty."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Farwaniya Governorate photos

Top and above: Governor of Farwaniya and acting Governor of the Capital Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah meets the officials.

Council reviews development plans, projects

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Governor of Farwaniya and acting Governor of the Capital Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah presided over the Farwaniya Governorate Council meeting on Monday, with the council members and representatives of the concerned government agencies in attendance. The Governor warmly welcomed the attendees, while underscoring the importance of the council meetings in strengthening coordination and integration among various government entities

and in monitoring the implementation of development plans and projects.

The council discussed several items on the agenda and reviewed updates related to the development and service projects.

A number of observations and proposals aimed at improving government performance and raising the efficiency of services were discussed.

The Governor stressed the necessity of continuous cooperation among the concerned authorities, speeding up project completion, and following up the implementation of the recommendations of the council.

He commended the efforts of the council members and representatives of the concerned government agencies, particularly their cooperation and joint work for the benefit of those residing in Farwaniya Governorate in order to realize their aspirations in the development and service sectors.

Double-murder suspect held trying to flee via Iraq border

Elderly man beaten by trio in row over parking

By Munaif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Criminal Investigation, arrested an Egyptian suspect in connection with a premeditated murder case in which two residents were killed in Kabad in Jahra Governorate.

Intensive security efforts led to the identification and tracking of the suspect, who was

arrested while attempting to flee Kuwait.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that security forces received a report of an assault inside a livestock pen in Kabad, and immediately responded to the scene, where they found two residents who had been stabbed and had died from their injuries.

Search and investigation teams carried out the necessary procedures and identified the suspect. The murder weapon was also found near the scene. Through intensive investigations and evidence gathering, detectives were able to quickly identify and track the suspect. In coordination with the Land Border Security General Department, the suspect was spotted in Al-Ratqa as he

attempted to flee by crossing the border fence. He was arrested and referred to the concerned authorities for legal action.

□ □ □

Elderly man assaulted: A citizen in his fifties reported being assaulted by three unidentified individuals following a dispute over a parking space at a shopping mall in Jahra Governorate, reports Al-Anba daily.

He explained that he was waiting in the mall's parking lot when a vehicle carrying three men blocked his path. The men got out of the vehicle, pulled and struck him, claiming they had the right to park in the space, before leaving the scene.



MoCI photo

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. It was discovered that its operators were storing, cleaning, polishing, refurbishing, and reconditioning used tires in preparation for displaying and reselling them to consumers.

PAFN destroys 173 kg of non-eatable food in raid

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) conducted an inspection tour of food warehouses in Farwaniya Governorate as part of its monitoring plan to ensure compliance with health regulations.

The inspection resulted in the issuance of five violation reports for non-compliance with health requirements, as well as the destruction of 173 kilograms of food deemed unfit for human consumption.

PAFN reaffirmed its commitment to continuing inspection tours and taking legal action against violators to protect public health and ensure consumer safety.

117 cars seized & 4,400 citations issued in raids

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry continued its field campaigns in various governorates, resulting in the impoundment of 117 vehicles and the issuance of around 4,400 traffic violation citations recently.

A security source disclosed that these campaigns focused on violations and traffic behaviors that endanger the lives of other road users.

LARGEST SPREAD IN TOWN

Child Buffet	Adult Buffet
KD 3.450	KD 5.950
EVERY THURSDAY DINNER ONLY 6 PM TO 11 PM	EVERY FRIDAY LUNCH & DINNER 12:30 PM TO 4:30 PM & 6 PM TO 11 PM
HAWALLY ONLY EVERY SATURDAY LUNCH ONLY 12:30 PM TO 4:30 PM	

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Extreme left: Kuwaiti delegation with the GCC Secretary General. The Kuwaiti team is led by Mashael Al-Kulaib and the Kuwaiti delegation with the former Saudi Foreign Minister Turki Al-Faisal (extreme right).

Kuwait stresses significance of integrating special needs people with society

LONDON, Aug 10, (KUNA): The Gulf Academy for Leadership and Innovation (GALI) on Sunday concluded its summer program in London with a final ceremony held at the University of Reading in western London. The delegation of people with special needs, headed by Member of the Capital Governorate Council, Mashael Al-Kulaib, was present at the event. Speaking to KUNA, Al-Kulaib said that the Kuwaiti delegation’s partici-

pation in this program reflects the significance of empowering and integrating individuals with special needs into international forums, particularly in the presence of key international figures. She noted that creating broader horizons for the active involvement of individuals from this group across various fields enhances their presence and highlights their capabilities and personal achievements, promoting the

concept that true inclusion means partnership, equal opportunities, and active involvement in shaping the future. On this occasion, she voiced deep gratitude and appreciation to all those contributing to the journey of inclusion and empowerment, and to advancing a societal culture that views difference as a source of strength, creativity and achievement.

KUNA photos

Demand grows in ease of transactions

PAHW provided over 223,000 e-services in 6 months

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) provided more than 223,000 electronic services to citizens in the first half of 2026. Deputy Director General for Public Relations and Development at PAHW Omar Al-Ruwaieh stated that the growing demand for electronic platforms is an affirmation of the success of the authority in easing transactions and improving services. Al-Ruwaieh disclosed that PAHW served

10,571 citizens through its reception centers at the main building and branches, in addition to providing 519 services through video conferencing. He said the number of services completed through the Sahel application and official website of the authority reached 133,432, while 78,931 services were completed through the chatbot. He added that the number of users of electronic services reached 325,412 and the number of housing services available through the Sahel increased to 38. He indicated that the five most frequently used

online services during the first half of the year are obtaining the ‘To Whom It May Concern’ certificate, updating telephone numbers, requesting to open a housing file with rental allowance, obtaining a certificate of monthly installment and requesting electricity connection. He confirmed that PAHW continues to develop its online services, such that it recently launched a range of new services like mortgage cancellation, debt and claim settlements, installment payments, fees and subscriptions for companies and the engineering sector, requests to stop debt collection, and rental allowance from the employer.

MoE preps for academic year

New strategy rolled out

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei said Sunday that the launch of educational cultural centers is part of the Ministry of Education’s strategy to prepare students for the upcoming academic year, review and reinforce basic skills, and address learning gaps through engaging and motivating teaching methods, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Tabtabaei

Al-Tabtabaei made the remarks during an inspection tour of the educational cultural center at Khaled Al-Mudhaf School in the Capital Educational Zone, accompanied by Undersecretary Khaled Al-Rashid and Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs Hammad Al-Hamad. During the tour, Al-Tabtabaei reviewed the educational programs offered to students, monitored their implementation, and assessed student participation. According to a statement issued by the ministry, Al-Tabtabaei emphasized the importance of utilizing the summer break to support academic achievement and restore students’ motivation to learn, preparing them to return to school with greater confidence and readiness. During the tour, Minister Al-Tabtabaei reviewed the educational programs offered and received an explanation of the implementation mechanism for the educational plan and the targeted skills in core subjects. He observed some classes and interactive activities and

met with a number of students, as well as the educational and supervisory staff at the center. According to the statement, Al-Tabtabaei noted that the increasing turnout at the educational cultural centers reflects the interest of students and parents in summer educational programs. He said 7,560 students have registered at 12 free educational cultural centers serving students from first through ninth grade. Based on this high demand and the ministry’s commitment to providing the largest possible number of students with access to the educational programs offered, Al-Tabtabaei directed that the operating period of the educational cultural centers be extended by an additional week, with the programs now continuing until August 27 instead of August 19. The Minister of Education emphasized that the centers aim to provide a more interactive and engaging learning experience through active learning methods, learning through play, and peer learning, in addition to interactive activities, workshops, and competitions. He stressed the importance of continuously monitoring the quality of the programs offered and assessing the extent to which students benefit from them to ensure the achievement of the desired educational objectives and the optimal use of the summer vacation. Al-Tabtabaei praised the efforts of the educational, administrative, and supervisory staff working at the centers and their role in ensuring the success of the programs and providing a stimulating learning environment for students. It is worth noting that the cultural and educational centers, whose programs began on August 2, offer free foundational programs in Arabic, English, and mathematics based on educational plans prepared by the technical guidance departments. The programs focus on developing the essential skills and concepts students need to transition more effectively to the next stage of their education.

Juvenile arrested for driving without a license

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Ahmadi traffic officers arrested a juvenile for driv-

ing without a license. A security source revealed that the traffic officers noticed the juvenile driving in the area. The officers signaled for the juvenile to pull over and then he was referred to the concerned authorities, while the vehicle was impounded.

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Continued from Page 1

Kuwait ‘sharpens’

The decree specifies the powers of doctors and the levels of supervision for surgical procedures and medical interventions as per their job title and the regulations. It stresses the need to prioritize emergency cases that cannot be delayed, and ensuring the availability of operating rooms and the necessary medical personnel to handle them immediately. It emphasizes the importance of providing continuous medical care after surgical procedures and interventions by monitoring the patient and documenting the treatment plan. It stipulates the comprehensive documentation of all medical procedures, including recording the details of the surgical operations performed and the medical team involved, whether in the medical file or the operating room log. It states that no additional surgical intervention should be performed during a procedure except in case of emergency, and that a sufficient number of operating rooms should be operational to accommodate emergency cases. It mandates the surgeons employed by the ministry to provide surgical care in private facilities, in accordance with the approvals and procedures specified in the decision. It authorizes the undersecretary of the ministry or his designee according to the administrative hierarchy to approve the temporary suspension of the authority to perform surgical procedures or interventions when necessary. It also allows the review of requests related to overlapping jurisdictions between different medical specializations within three months of the publication of the decree. It underscores the necessity of ensuring that the performance of surgical pro-

cedures and interventions is linked to the field of specialization, licensing and approved professional privileges of the doctor. It states that the scheduled elective surgeries must be performed by a doctor at the specialist level or higher. A doctor at the assistant level (registered physician) or resident level is not permitted to perform surgery or any medical intervention independently. It regulates the handling of cases requiring additional expertise during surgical procedures. It mandates a doctor encountering difficulties or challenges during a surgical procedure to seek assistance from experienced colleagues before altering the type of surgery or halting it, provided the patient’s condition permits. It prohibits surgeons from performing more than one surgical procedure simultaneously or leaving the operating room during surgery except in case of extreme necessity and after ensuring the patient’s complete insurance coverage. In emergency or necessary cases, the decree allows the assignment of surgeons employed by the ministry to provide surgical care in private healthcare facilities, subject to the approvals and procedures outlined in the decree. It requires the heads of surgical departments to hold a meeting at least once a month to review cases involving complications and deaths, analyze their causes, and assess shortcomings and observations. It sets certain controls for cases of amputation of body parts or organs, and cases of excision or tissue sampling, including completion of the specified procedures, sending samples for examination, following up results of the tissue examination, informing the patient about the result, and documenting this in his medical file.

Continued from Page 1

One tap

He emphasized that the “Report” service aligns with PAM’s strategy to expand community participation and strengthen cooperation between individuals and government entities, thereby supporting efforts to regulate the labor market.

Meanwhile, PAM Public Relations and Media Supervisor Nadia Al-Hamad said the service was launched to coincide with the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and allows citizens and residents to report violations through the Sahel application, thus supporting PAM’s oversight efforts and promoting compliance in the labor market.

She stressed that whistleblowers’ information is kept strictly confidential and is not disclosed.

Al-Hamad affirmed that specialized teams review and verify reports and take the necessary action under the direct supervision of PAM’s Director General, Engineer Rabab Al-Osaimi.

She indicated that PAM has received numerous reports through the service, reflecting the community’s awareness of the importance of protecting the labor market and safeguarding rights.

In addition, Zainab Makki, Head of the Database Department at PAM, explained that the “Report” service can be accessed through “Sahel Individuals” by logging into PAM services, selecting the service, specifying the type of report, and providing a detailed description of the violation. Users can attach a photo of the violation and submit the report directly to PAM.

She emphasized the importance of providing clear and accurate information to help specialized teams respond quickly and expedite inspection and follow-up procedures.

Makki revealed that reported violations include those involving domestic worker recruitment offices, unlicensed workers and companies, as well as employing workers during the midday work ban from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

‘Justice begins

The ceremony was attended by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Major General Abdulwahab Al-Wahib and Director-General of the General Department of Investigations Major General Dr. Faisal Al-Mikrad.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef affirmed that working in the field of investigation is a national responsibility and a trust that requires integrity, impartiality and commitment to applying the law with fairness and objectivity, ensuring that truth is established, rights are safeguarded and justice is upheld.

He stressed that Kuwait places its trust in its graduating sons and daughters and that they must live up to this

trust and responsibility, making justice and the law the foundation of their duties and applying the law to everyone without exception, as “there is no distinction between the prominent and the ordinary, nor between an office holder and others.”

For his part, Director-General of the General Department of Investigations Major General Dr. Faisal Al-Mikrad delivered a speech highlighting the important role investigators play within the justice and law enforcement system, as well as the responsibility entrusted to them to perform their duties with integrity and honesty.

The eighth-batch graduates then took the legal oath before the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. The oath was administered by Prosecutor General Dr. Ibrahim Al-Sharqawi, marking the beginning of their professional careers and their assumption of duties at the rank of Investigator (C).

The batch marks the first time female police personnel have graduated to work in the field of investigations, in a step that strengthens the participation of female cadres in the sector.

Kuwait busts

The ministry said in a statement that the arrest came after the General Department for Narcotics Control completed investigation and surveillance procedures, which led to identifying the farm’s location and arresting the suspect along with the seized narcotics, cultivation equipment and cash.

It pointed out that monitoring and investigations revealed that the suspect was cultivating marijuana and possessing narcotic substances “for trafficking and abuse.”

The suspect and the seized items were referred to the competent authorities to take all necessary legal measures, the ministry added.

Kuwait endures

Winds are fluctuating in direction and tending southeasterly, with light to moderate speeds ranging from 6 to 26 kilometers per hour.

The weather is generally hot and humid during the day and remains hot to hot and humid at night. Humidity is expected to gradually decrease from Tuesday morning as winds shift to the northwest.

Maximum temperatures range between 44 and 46 degrees Celsius, while minimum temperatures range from 31 to 34 degrees Celsius.

Al-Ali urged citizens and residents to follow the latest weather updates through the department’s official website, mobile application and social media accounts.

He also advised asthma and allergy sufferers, people with chronic illnesses and children to exercise caution when going outdoors due to the high temperatures and humidity, and to remain in air-conditioned places whenever possible.

Meanwhile, the Al-Ojeiri Scientific Center announced that summer is entering its final stages with the arrival of the “Al-Kulaibin” season on August 11, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, the center explained that this season marks the end of the intense summer heat, followed by a gradual shift toward more moderate weather and the arrival of the Suhail season.

The Al-Kulaibin season lasts 13 days and represents a transitional period between the peak of summer heat and the appearance of the Suhail star, which is associated with the beginning of a gradual improvement in weather conditions.

The season begins with high temperatures and intense heat, accompanied by increased humidity levels. Southern and southeasterly winds are expected to influence weather conditions during this period.

The winds known as “Al-Samoom” begin to subside during the Al-Kulaibin season, while the earth’s interior gradually begins to cool. As the season draws to a close, temperatures begin to decline and the weather gradually becomes more moderate. This period also witnesses a gradual increase in the length of the nights compared with the days.

Kuwait tech

The project includes advanced incubator programs and business ventures designed to accelerate the growth and expansion of startups in the country.

Data indicate that the project focuses on artificial intelligence (AI) and all the advanced and modern technological aspects. It will contribute to building strong collaborative relationships with the private sector, academic institutions and international organizations.

A reliable source revealed that the project has three major objectives. First is the localization of technology and knowledge transfer to benefit from the expertise of the investment and technology arms of the international companies implementing the project. Second is the digital empowerment of Kuwaiti youths by developing a promising and capable generation equipped with innovative skills, artificial intelligence, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Third is to contribute to economic diversification by expediting the transition towards a knowledge-based economy and activating the role of the digital private sector in line with the development goals of the country.

Fiber optic works begin across 36 areas

MEWRE seeks bidder deposit forfeiture

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy asked the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), in its meeting last Wednesday, to apply Article 66 of Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016 and confiscate the initial deposit of one of the winning bidders for the construction of a service and administrative building for the ministry.

The ministry explained that it made this request due to the failure of the concerned bidder to pay the final deposit and sign the contract despite being notified in writing on two separate dates.

The CAPT Board of Directors decided to postpone issuing a decision on the request and invited a representative of the winning bidder to attend its meeting.

Article 66 of the aforementioned law grants CAPT the right to confiscate the initial deposit if the winning bidder fails to sign the contract and pay the final deposit within the deadline or withdraws for any other reason at any stage of the tendering process. The article also permits the imposition of any other penalty in accordance with the law.

On the other hand, the CAPT Board of Directors approved the request of the ministry to award the tender for the maintenance of

street lighting equipment in the Capital Governorate to the bidder who met the terms and specifications at a total cost of KD1.349 million. Upon the approval of CAPT, the tender will be referred to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for review and audit.

The ministry also confirmed the start of fiber optic cable extension works in the main substations in 36 areas. This project will contribute to infrastructure development and raise the efficiency of the communication and control systems. Excavation and backfilling works are carried out from Aug 9-29. The ministry confirmed that this work will not disrupt the electricity services.

Kuwait non-oil exports reach KD 481.6m in Q2

Nearly 5,000 certificates issued

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced on Monday that its international relations department issued 4,989 certificates of origin for Kuwait’s non-oil exports to various countries around the world in the second quarter of 2026.

The total value of these exports reached KD 481.6 million (about USD 1.55 billion), while the fees collected were KD 25,000 (approximately USD80,300), the ministry said in a statement.

These figures show the continuation of export activity of national products and enhance their presence in global and regional markets, it stated.

Exports to the GCC countries made up the largest share of total exported products during the period, with 4,381 certificates valued at KD 351.8 million (approximately USD1.13 billion), the statement pointed out.

The fees collected reached KD 21,000 (approximately USD67,600).

Exports to Arab countries amounted to 591 certificates, with a total value of KD 23.1 million (approximately USD74.2 million), and the fees collected hit KD 3,800 (approximately USD12,100), according to the statement.

Exports to the EU countries and the countries of the two American continents were 15 certificates evaluated at KD 106.8 million (nearly USD 343.2 million) with total collected fees of KD 198 (approximately USD

636).

The ministry emphasized that it would continue its efforts to support national exports and facilitate procedures to issue export certificates in a manner that contributes to enhancing the competitiveness of Kuwaiti products and creating broader opportunities for regional and global markets, it said.

Kuwait’s factories export their products to markets around the world, including the GCC countries and Arab countries, as well as countries across Europe and Africa, Asia and Australia, and across North and South America.

These products are varied, including liquefied gases, food products, polyethylene, organic solvents, empty cardboard boxes, refined oil, mineral oil liquids, medical oxygen, dairy products, copper rods and others.



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El-Sayed spoke with Obama as Michigan Democrats look to unite

WH immigration crackdown looms over Minnesota Senate primary

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug 10, (AP): In the streets surrounding a drab federal office complex next to the Minneapolis airport, the beleaguered resistance to President Donald Trump found its footing.

As US immigration agents staged at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building for a monthslong deportation campaign, protesters with whistles and cellphone cameras assembled to oppose them. Two were shot and killed in the city's streets before Trump pulled back under pressure.

Months later, those confrontations remain the backdrop to Minnesota's Democratic primary for U.S. Senate on Tuesday, which features establishment-backed US Rep Angie Craig and the more progressive Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan. The immigration debate is an added schism in a race that otherwise echoes many of the other left versus center divides that have played out across the United States this year.

Craig voted for tighter enforcement soon after Trump returned to office last year, only to later express regret for her decision after the Republican president sent a surge of agents into Minneapolis. She backed a resolution that condemned anti-semitism after a 2025 firebombing

in Boulder, Colorado, and expressed thanks for law enforcement, including US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.

Those votes may turn out to be some of the most fraught of Craig's eight-year career in Congress, decisions that Flanagan has highlighted while trying to portray her rival as unwilling to fight an unpopular administration in Washington.

"I think that's when she lost my vote permanently and that's why I will not vote for her no matter what," said Bryce Bohne, 40, of Minneapolis. The teacher and owner of an educational tourism company is supporting Flanagan.

Around the Whipple federal building, the fences and barriers are down. The ambient soundtrack is no longer the whistles and chants of protesters, just the rumble of departing jets and passing buses.

But the signs of what happened remain. A few volunteers in bright orange vests keep vigil across the street for 12-plus hours a day, ready to help people getting released from immigration detention or leaving hearings at the immigration court inside.

A few miles away, visitors still bring fresh flowers and handwritten notes to memorials marking the



US Rep Angie Craig (left), and Minnesota Lt Gov Peggy Flanagan participate in a forum for US Senate candidates at Farmfest on Aug 5, in Morgan, Minn. (AP)

spots where Renee Good and Alex Pretti were killed.

Craig flipped a Republican-held seat in 2018, and every two years she overcame millions of dollars of attack ads to win tough reelection campaigns.

Until Craig's Senate run, the heat came from the right. Newly under fire from the other side, the decisions she made as a swing-seat congresswoman have become a liability as a

statewide Senate candidate. At one recent event, she adopted the language of the insurgent left, though it did not always seem to come naturally.

"The working class keeps getting screwed," she told volunteers preparing to knock on doors for her Saturday in Brooklyn Park, a Minneapolis suburb. "Folks, I don't know about you, but it is time that we had a working folks reno- reso- renova-

tion."

Here, she took a breath.

"-revolution in this country."

In Craig's view, she is well suited to the antiestablishment fervor gaining a foothold in the Democratic Party. Raised by a single mother in an Arkansas trailer park, she has known economic hardship. The lesbian mother of four grown children, she is not the archetype of a traditional member of Congress.

She was one of the House Democrats to call for President Joe Biden to drop out of the 2024 race after his disastrous debate performance against Trump. As a relatively junior member of Congress, she pushed successfully to become the top Democrat on the Agriculture Committee, jumping ahead of long-tenured colleagues.

"I consider myself a progressive" she told reporters after her event Saturday. "Every race that I run, Republicans run ads against me saying I vote with Democrats 96, 97% of the time."

"Of course, in the primary," she added, "people want to point out the few votes I've taken against Democrats."

Chief among them was the Laken Riley Act, the first bill passed by Congress after Trump started his

second term. It requires federal authorities to detain migrants accused of theft and violent crimes.

Craig and nearly 60 other Democrats in the House and Senate voted for the bill early in 2025.

Also:

BRIDGEWATER, NJ: Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic nominee for US Senate in Michigan, said Sunday he has spoken with **Barack Obama** and hopes the former president campaigns with him as the party tries to unite after a bitter primary that exposed deep rifts between its progressive and moderate wings.

El-Sayed said his Friday conversation with Obama was "really warm and inspiring." The candidate did not provide details.

"I was grateful for his advice. It was very warm, very inviting, and I know that he knows the critical role that Michigan is going to play," El-Sayed told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Asked if he would like to see Obama come to Michigan to drum up support for Democrats before the midterm elections in November, El-Sayed said he "really" hoped so and that Obama "knows a lot about winning Michigan" after carrying the state in the 2008 and 2012 presidential races.



The New York skyline and Statue of Liberty are seen on May 12, 2025. (AP)

Boat capsizes in NY Harbor, woman and baby die

The operator of a boat that capsized in New York Harbor, killing a mother and her infant daughter, is facing criminal charges and authorities are investigating whether the vessel was an illegal charter, the U.S. Coast Guard said Sunday.

The 22-foot Bayliner speedboat overturned around 10:25 p.m. Saturday near Liberty Island, home to the Statue of Liberty, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Twelve people were rescued from the water before police arrived, and police divers later located the 27-year-old woman and 5-month-old girl in

the water. Both were taken to a hospital where they were pronounced dead. According to the Coast Guard, the others were in stable condition.

"We are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life last night, and our thoughts are with the victims' family and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time," said Capt. Doreen McCarthy, the Coast Guard Sector New York commander. "We are extremely grateful for the heroic, swift actions of our partner agencies and Good Samaritan vessel who assisted in rescuing survivors from the water." (AP)

Count Binface, man in can with plan, seeks Parliament seat in Britain

LONDON, Aug 10, (AP): Timing is everything in comedy and, so it seems, in British politics for a perennial joke candidate who wears a garbage can on his head.

Count Binface, a self-described intergalactic space warrior, has landed in the center of the U.K.'s political universe ahead of a special election Thursday that was derided as a farce long before the ballot was packed with nearly three dozen candidates - many from the silly end of the spectrum.

Binface, who has run against prime ministers past and present, was the first to throw his bucket in the ring when Reform UK leader Nigel Farage abruptly quit Parliament and said he would seek reelection to clear his name over financial allegations.

"Game on, Nige," Binface declared soon after Farage, portraying himself as the victim of a witch hunt, said he would represent the people against the establishment.

But when the major political parties denounced Farage's move as a political stunt and boycotted the Clacton-on-Sea election in southeastern England, the trash-talking comedian was launched into prime position as default challenger. He has been on a nonstop media blitz since.

"I'm the only fresh thing on the menu," Binface told The Associated Press on a day of interviews with reporters from Japan, the Netherlands, Italy and Germany. "You're all sick of these politicians, as good as they're trying to be, but you know you need something different, a little bit of secret sauce."

The jokes have continued nearly nonstop - and not all are coming from the man in the can with a 20-point plan.

"If (Farage) wants to spend the summer arguing with a bin, I won't stop him," then-Treasury Secretary Rachel Reeves, known more for number-crunching than playing for



Count Binface is interviewed at a studio in London ahead of the Clacton by-election on July 29. (AP)

yuks, said as she officially accepted Farage's resignation and set the stage for the special election.

Under Binface's black cape, rubbish bin and ample body armor that looks straight out of a low-budget sci-fi film, is a middle-aged comedian named Jon Harvey trying to keep his cool during a sweaty summer.

You'd never know who was in there from talking to his alter ego. Binface never breaks character and delivers snarky ripostes when challenged to lift the lid.

"Has anyone here seen 'Return of the Jedi'?" he said to a BBC host in reference to the "Star Wars" sequel where Darth Vader is unmasked. "Nobody wants to know what's under the recycling. ... It's absolutely putrefying."

Harvey is a married father of two who grew up in London and studied the classics at Oxford. He has been a TV writer on the political comedy "The Thick of It" and the humorous news quiz "Have I Got News for You." He's the author of a sports memoir written after his brother's death and Binface's memoir: "What

on Earth? An Alien's Guide to Fixing Britain."

In a country where almost any adult citizen can run for office - regardless of where they live - eccentric candidates are a celebrated electoral tradition. On the 3-foot-long (0.9-meter-long) Clacton ballot, there are no fewer than three members of the Monster Raving Loony Party, including Nick the Incredible Flying Brick and Baron von Thunderclap.

Harvey's turn in politics began almost a decade ago when he blasted to earth from the so-called planet of Sigma IX as Lord Buckethead to run for the House of Commons seat held by then-Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May. She won handily, but Binface rocketed to fame and landed on "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver."

But the use of Buckethead, borrowed from a "Star Wars" parody, ended in "an unfortunate battle on the planet Copyright." He was reincarnated as Binface to take on Prime Ministers Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak.

Trump announces staff secretary Will Scharf to be new WH counsel

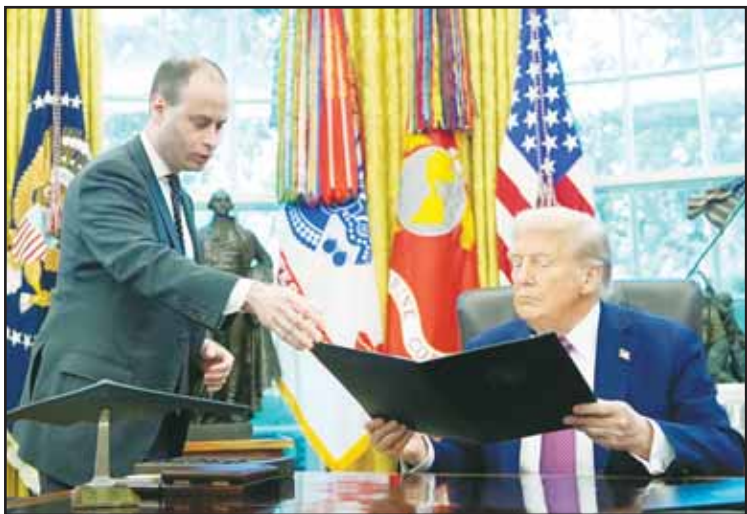
WASHINGTON, Aug 10, (AP): US President Donald Trump announced Sunday that his new White House counsel will be Will Scharf, the staff secretary who as the Trump-appointed head of the National Capital Planning Commission helped secure approval for the \$400 million ballroom project.

Trump said that, beginning Sept 1, Scharf will be replacing David Warrington, who will be leaving the administration to join the private sector. Trump noted that Scharf previously served as a federal prosecutor and represented him in a number of cases, including at the Supreme Court.

"Will is Tough, Strong, and Smart! He also loves our Country, and respects the Law," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Will Scharf will do a great job as White House Counsel!"

The shakeup in the White House counsel's office comes at a critical juncture - just months ahead of the midterm elections, where Trump's Republican Party will be fighting to hold on to control of Congress. Democrats have vowed to pursue investigations into Trump and his administration if they are successful in November.

The White House counsel's job is



White House staff secretary Will Scharf, (left), hands US President Donald Trump an executive order to sign in the Oval Office of the White House on Sept 5, 2025, in Washington. (AP)

to advise on legal and policy questions related to the presidency. The office is the primary White House contact for the Justice Department, and it handles presidential pardons, works on judicial appointments and reviews legislation. The office also helps investigate and manage congressional investigations into the administration and lawsuits against

the president when he is sued in his official capacity.

During Trump's first term, Scharf worked to get judges and justices confirmed for him. They included U.S. Supreme Court Justices Brett Kavanaugh - who himself served as White House staff secretary for President George W. Bush - and Amy Coney Barrett.

Europe

Ukraine drone attack kills 13 in Russia: A Ukrainian drone attack Monday on the Russian city of Nizhnekamsk killed 13 people, including a child, and wounded 75 others, authorities in the Tatarstan region said. The Ukrainian military said it hit an oil refinery there.

Russian officials didn't say what the drones targeted, but the city is an important oil refining hub, home to two refineries and a petrochemical plant. Ukraine has targeted Russian oil facilities with long-range drones almost daily in recent months. The barrage has caused fuel shortages in Russia, eaten into Russian refining capacity and unsettled the Russian public.

Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** says it is a campaign to force Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table and stop his more than



Zelenskyy

4-year-old invasion.

Nizhnekamsk came under a "massive" drone attack targeting industrial and civilian facilities on Monday morning, according to the press service of Tatarstan's head, Rustam Minnikhanov. No further details were immediately available. (AP)

□ □ □

Suspected Irish crime boss lands in Dublin: The alleged leader of an Irish organized crime gang was extradited to Ireland from Dubai on Sunday to face allegations that he ran an international drug smuggling and money laundering empire with tentacles that stretched to Britain, Spain and the U.S.

The Irish Air Corps plane carrying Daniel Kinahan, 49, landed at an airport on the outskirts of Dublin on Sunday evening after courts in Dubai refused to block his extradition.

Kinahan was taken to the Special Criminal Court in Dublin where he was charged with directing the activities of a criminal organization. He was ordered to remain in custody at the high-security Portlaoise Prison about 90 miles (145 kilometers) southwest of the capital. His next court appearance is scheduled for Oct. 5. (AP)

Spain imposes border checks on Italian travelers in tit-for-tat move over Ceuta

MADRID, Aug 10, (AP): A diplomatic spat between Spain and Italy over the rush of tens of thousands of migrants to the Spanish territory of Ceuta escalated on Saturday after the government in Madrid announced border controls on Italian travelers in response to Rome's decision to impose sanctions on visitors from Spain.

Italians arriving at Barcelona airport were subject to random police checks after the controls were put into effect overnight, according to Spain's state news agency EFE.

The Spanish government said the controls would stay in place for at least a month after Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni rejected Spain's warning on Friday that it would take "proportionate measures to protect the interests and dignity of its citizens" if Rome didn't lift its own restrictions by an Aug. 9 deadline.

Italy began enforcing air and sea border controls on Spanish citizens on Aug. 1 following Meloni's scathing criticism of the progressive migration policies of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

The feud was triggered after the sudden arrival of 72,000 migrants from Morocco at Spain's North Af-



People walk on a beach as they attempt to cross from the Moroccan northern town of Fnideq to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on July 31. (AP)

rican territory late last month. Although most of the migrants have since gone back, more than 80 migrants died, including some who drowned or were trampled in a stampede to cross a breakwater barrier, according to Spanish and Moroccan authorities.

The migrant rush on Ceuta also reignited the immigration debate within the European Union, whose lead-

ers criticized Sanchez for policies that they suggested were responsible for the massive influx.

Hawkish EU leaders like Meloni pointed to such policies, including a Spanish government decision to carry out an amnesty for immigrants without residency permits who could prove they had been living in the country for at least five months and arrived before Jan. 1 this year.

Bid to bolster readiness against North’s threats

S.Korea, US to begin exercises next week

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 10, (AP): South Korean and US troops will begin their annual exercises next week to beef up readiness against North Korean threats, the allies announced Monday, days after North Korea resumed ballistic missile testing activities that are banned by the UN.

The Ulchi Freedom Shield is to begin next Monday for a 11-day run and its scale will be similar to previous years with about 18,000 South Korean soldiers participating in it, South Korean military spokesperson Jang Do-young told reporters.

Speaking at the same news conference, US military spokesperson Ryan Donald said by incorporating realistic threats including “lessons from recent conflicts,” the exercise will serve as an opportunity to further strengthen the alliance’s readiness and capabilities through combined, joint, all-domain operations.

He cited North Korea’s dispatch of troops to support Russia’s war against Ukraine in recent years.

“DPRK soldiers have been deployed and fought in Ukraine and they’ve taken those lessons they learned there and brought them back to North Korea,” Donald said, using the abbreviation for North Korea’s full name. “That changes the DPRK capability and our training accounts for that threat.”

The upcoming summertime drill is one of the two main combined exercises conducted by South Korea and US militaries annually, along with their springtime training. The US military said the Ulchi Freedom Shield features “live, virtual, constructive and field-based training.”



Col. Jang Do-young, (left), public affairs director of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff and Col. Ryan Donald, public affairs director of the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea attend a press briefing for the Ulchi Freedom Shield 2026 exercise at the Defense Ministry in Seoul, South Korea on Aug 10. (AP)

North Korea had no immediate comments. But it has steadfastly described any major US-South Korean military drills as a practice to invade North Korea and responded with provocative weapons tests and fiery rhetoric. South Korean and US officials have said their joint exercises are defensive in nature.

Asia

Tropical storm causes flooding in China: Tropical Storm Dolphin dumped heavy rain in eastern China on Monday, causing flooding in places after making landfall as a typhoon the previous day.

Authorities have warned of risks of severe flooding and landslides in some areas.

Dolphin had maximum sustained winds of 65 kph (40 mph) in the morning and was continuing to weaken, Taiwan’s Central Weather Administration said.

The China Meteorological Administration said Dolphin was moving northwest at 15 to 20 kilometers per hour (9 to 12 mph) and was expected to continue weakening until it dissipates.

Dolphin made landfall Sunday evening in Taizhou in Zhejiang province with winds of 151 kph (93 mph), after bringing heavy rain to northern Taiwan over the weekend. (AP)



A car is pinned by a fallen tree in the aftermath of Typhoon Dolphin in Wenzhou in eastern China's Zhejiang province on Aug 10. (AP)

Indonesia battles growing wildfires: Indonesia intensified efforts Monday to combat a growing number of wildfires across the archipelago, deploying helicopters, hundreds of firefighters and disaster personnel as blazes spread through a popular national park in East Java and peatlands in Sumatra during an unusually dry season, officials said.

East Java authorities said the largest blaze is burning in Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park in East Java province, where about 743 hectares (1,836 acres) have been scorched.

Dry weather and strengthening El Nino conditions raised the risk of more forest and land fires during the peak dry season, Indonesia’s Forestry Ministry said in a statement Sunday.

It said the fire has burned large areas of dry grassland, vegetation and protected edelweiss flowers as flames have spread to the Penanjakan area, a popular

viewpoint for tourists visiting Mount Bromo, one of Indonesia’s best-known attractions. No injuries or evacuations have been reported. (AP)

Govt shooting kills 1, ex-Thai lawmaker held: A man was arrested following a shooting incident Monday that killed one and injured another in a government office outside Bangkok, days after a student opened fire at his school and family home in the same province, killing at least eight people.

The shooting occurred around 11 a.m. at the offices of the Nonthaburi Provincial Administrative Organization, according to the provincial public relations department. It said the suspect, identified as Chalong Riewraeng, a former lawmaker, was arrested.

Thongchai Yenprasert, chief executive of the organization who police believe was the target, died from critical wounds at a hospital after being shot in the face and neck, while his driver was shot in the arm and is in stable condition, officials said. (AP)

New law locks out last-minute voters

New Zealanders at home and abroad urged to enroll for election

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Aug 10, (AP): New Zealand’s Electoral Commission launched a campaign Monday urging New Zealanders at home and abroad to register to vote or update their details in the system, warning that a legal change ahead of November’s election means voters must be enrolled in advance.

Measures enacted by government lawmakers in December and lambasted by their opponents removed a policy allowing New Zealanders aged 18 and older to enroll on election day, including when they arrived at a polling place to cast their vote.

New Zealanders must now be registered and have their addresses and other details updated in the system 13 days before election day, or they will be turned away from polling places. This year’s enrollment deadline is Oct 25 ahead of the Nov 7 election. They can begin voting from Oct. 26 in the country, or from Oct. 21 if they are overseas.

The country’s center-right government, which is seeking a second term in power, introduced the enrollment cut-off in a suite of changes to electoral law, which also included a ban on prisoners voting and approval for larger anonymous political donations.

Governing parties said the deadline to enroll was enacted to curb the increasing length of time taken to reach a final result after election day.

“The experience last time was by virtue of having on-the-day enrollment we ended up in a situation where it took us three weeks to count the vote, which was the longest it had ever taken us as well,” Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, leader of the National party, told Radio New Zealand in July.

Detractors, including the center-left opposition parties, said the government wanted to curb so-called special votes, which are cast by New Zealanders abroad or away from



A couple arrive to vote at a polling station in Auckland, New Zealand on Oct 17, 2020. (AP)

home and by those not already registered to vote on election day and counted afterward. Special votes have favored left-wing parties in modern times.

of the opposition Labour party, told reporters in July when he pledged to reverse the measures if he became prime minister.

The Electoral Commission, an independent agency that runs New Zealand’s vote, said about 700,000 special votes were still expected. Officials predicted that even with the new enrollment deadline, reaching an election result would take 20 days after voting finished, instead of 23 days without the cut-off.

A total of 89% of those allowed to vote in New Zealand were enrolled so far, according to Electoral Commission figures. Voting is optional in New Zealand but enrollment for those eligible and living in the country is compulsory, with failure to do so punishable by a fine of 100 New Zealand dollars (\$59).

There are up to 1 million New Zealanders living abroad, although it isn’t known how many are eligible to vote. Those eligible can vote from overseas by downloading ballot pa-

pers from the commission’s website, having them signed by someone else and uploading them online.

The Oct. 25 enrollment deadline also applies to overseas voters. Some people could also cast ballots in person, officials said.

“Most countries, many countries, will have our embassy and you can go along and vote there,” said Karl Le Quesne, New Zealand’s chief electoral officer.

Young people were traditionally more likely to leave their registration until nearer polling day, Le Quesne said. A campaign beginning Monday to urge enrollment before the deadline would include ads on social media, gaming and streaming platforms to target young people.

“There are still 440,000 unenrolled, of which 200,000 are aged between 18 and 25, so that’s the cohort we really need to be getting the attention of,” said Simon Moore, the commission’s chair.



A villager prepares to cross floodwaters in a small boat in Alengmora village in Jorhat, India on Aug 10. (AP)

Flood death toll in India’s Assam reaches 100

The flood crisis in India’s north-eastern Assam state remained critical on Monday, with the death toll reaching 100 after two more people died overnight, officials said.

Several rivers remain above danger levels, raising the risk of fresh flooding in vulnerable areas, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority said.

Days of heavy monsoon rain has caused rivers, including the Brahmaputra, to overflow that inundated communities while disrupting livelihoods and damaging infrastructure.

The river, one of Asia’s largest that originates in China’s Tibet region and flows about 900 kilometers (560 miles) through Assam, flooded villages, swept away homes and forced nearly 300,000 people into government-run relief camps, officials said.

The floods that began last month displaced more than 700,000 people and submerged vast stretches of farmland and damaged roads and other local infrastructure. (AP)

Quake shakes Colombia and Ecuador prompting people to evacuate homes

BOGOTA, Colombia, Aug 10, (AP): A powerful earthquake in western Colombia on Monday shook the South American nation and neighboring Ecuador, prompting people to evacuate homes and buildings.

The United States Geological Survey and Colombia’s counterpart both reported a 7.4 magnitude, while relatively deep. Both reported the epicenter in San Jose Del Palmar, a community about 250 miles (400 kilometers) west of Colombia’s capital, Bogota.

Authorities did not immediately report damages or injuries.

The tremor follows two back-to-back 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes in Venezuela in late June. Those earthquakes destroyed hundreds of buildings and killed more than 5,000 people.



People stand outside their homes after a quake was felt in Bogota, Colombia on Aug 10. (AP)

Final phase of elections begins in Pakistan-administered Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, Aug 10, (AP): Voters went to the polls Monday in the final phase of elections for the legislative assembly in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, following weeks of violent protests and clashes with security forces that overshadowed campaigning in the disputed Himalayan region, officials said.

Men and women began lining up early at polling stations in Poonch district in the disputed Himalayan region, where four assembly seats were being contested.

Raja Shakeel, a spokesperson for the regional election commission, said voting was underway in four constituencies despite a boycott call by the outlawed Joint Awami Action Committee, or JAAC, which had urged residents not to participate in the election.

Pakistan’s ruling Pakistan Muslim League-N party has already secured a majority and is expected to form the regional government for the first time in a decade after winning 24 of the 34 seats decided in the first two



This is a locator map for Pakistan with its capital, Islamabad, and the Kashmir region. (AP)

phases of voting.

Security was tightened around polling stations as voters cast ballots to choose their representatives in Kashmir, which is divided between Pakistan and India.

Both countries claim the Himalayan region in its entirety. They have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since gaining independence from British colonial rule in 1947.

Ugandan statesman in race to become next secretary-gen of United Nations

KAMPALA, Uganda, Aug 10, (AP): A Ugandan statesman is in the race to become the next secretary-general of the United Nations, the latest entrant in a contest that includes six others who want to succeed Antonio Guterres at the end of this year.

Backed by Uganda, Olara Otunnu is traveling in New York “to meet delegations and engage in interactive dialogue” with the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council, said Adonia Ayebare, Uganda’s permanent representative to the UN.

Otunnu had to get visa assistance, with Ugandans currently barred from entering the US as part of measures to prevent the spread of Ebola, Ayebare said.

Otunnu, 75, is a veteran of the UN system who has been in retirement since unsuccessfully contesting the Ugandan presidency in 2011.

He was once seen as a favorite to replace the Egyptian Boutros-Boutros Ghali as UN secretary-general in 1997, but was blocked by the Ugandan authorities now nominating him. Then the president of the International Peace Institute in New York, Otunnu was not on good terms with the government of



In this photo provided by the Uganda Media Center, Ambassador Olara Otunnu, Uganda’s candidate for UN secretary-general, poses for a photo in Kampala, Uganda, on Aug 4. (AP)

President Yoweri Museveni. Ghana’s Kofi Annan won the job.

Annan named Otunnu a UN under-secretary-general and his special rep-

resentative for children and armed conflict. Otunnu served in that role between 1997 and 2005, the year he won the Sydney Peace Prize for “his ceaseless efforts to protect children in time of war and his promotion of measures for the healing and social reintegration of children in the aftermath of conflict.”

Educated at Oxford and Harvard Law School, he was Uganda’s representative to the UN between 1980 and 1985, serving for a year as president of the Security Council. He also briefly served as Uganda’s foreign minister in the 1980s. He is widely respected in Uganda as an elder statesman.

“Even though the UN is now occupied with a number of issues across the board, the most important single mandate for the UN remains the issue of peace and security,” Otunnu told reporters last week.

He pointed out that as president of the Security Council, he designed the system of straw balloting, which is still in use as the so-called Otunnu Formula, first deployed with the selection in 1981 of Peru’s Javier Pérez de Cuéllar as UN secretary-general.

Boursa Kuwait closes nearly flat

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait's general index edged up 3.99 points, or 0.04%, to close Monday's trading session at 8,877.25 points.

Trading activity reached 281.2 million shares through 20,369 transactions, with a total value of KD 75.3 million, equivalent to approximately USD 245.6 million.

The Main Market Index declined 20.09 points, or 0.22%, to settle at 8,976.87 points. A total of 169.7 million shares changed hands through 10,775 transactions worth KD 29.7 million, or approximately USD 96.8 million.

Business

Strengthening sustainability & community initiatives in Q2

Al-Tijaria reports 3.4% rise in H1 net profit to KD 9.38 mln

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Mr. Abdulfatah Marafie, Chairman of The Commercial Real Estate Company (Al-Tijaria), stated that the Company's financial results for the period ended 30 June 2026 recorded net profits of KD 9,375,380 (Kuwaiti Dinars nine million three hundred seventy five thousands three hundred eighty only), representing an increase of 3.4% compared with the same period of the previous year.

Commenting on the financial results for the first half of 2026, Mr. Marafie stated that, despite the prevailing geopolitical circumstances and their impact on economic conditions, the first half of the year witnessed stability in net operating income, growth in the results of associate companies, and a decline in valuation gains on certain investments compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

With regard to the Company's financial indicators for the first half of 2026, the return on shareholders' equity reached 3.1%, the return on total assets stood at 1.8%, and the return on the Company's capital amounted to 4.8%, representing increases of 1.6%, 3.3%, and 0.44%, respectively, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Mr. Marafie affirmed that, despite the current geopolitical circumstances, Al-Tijaria has maintained



Abdulfatah M. R. Marafie, Chairman

its strong performance while closely monitoring ongoing developments and assessing their potential impact on economic conditions. The Company continues to take proactive measures to adapt to these challenges, safeguard shareholders' rights, and preserve its strong financial position.

In line with its strategy of diversifying its international investments and expanding its recurring income portfolio, Al-Tijaria, through its subsidiaries, has invested in an income-generating logistics and transportation centre in the State of Texas, USA.

During the second quarter of 2026, the Company, together with its strategic investors, also successfully exited from its investment in 501 First Residences in Miami, a 40-storey residential tower comprising 476 units, following the successful development and sale of the residential units, resulting in profits

being recognized by the Company.

Mr. Marafie also highlighted that, during the second quarter of the year, Al Tijaria Real Estate Company continued to implement a number of community, environmental, and educational initiatives, reaffirming its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and its role as an active partner in supporting sustainable development. The company also remains committed to effectively implementing the principles of corporate governance through initiatives that serve the community, promote sustainability, and create a positive and lasting impact.

As part of its ongoing efforts, the company entered a strategic annual partnership with Omniya to sponsor the fourth edition of the "Omniya Madrastak" competition. The initiative aims to raise environmental awareness among public school students by promoting sustainability, recycling, and waste segregation at source through educational and practical activities that encourage environmentally responsible behavior.

The company also sponsored the "Most Sustainable Product or Service" Award within the University Category of the Company Program, organized by INJAZ Kuwait, reaffirming its commitment to supporting youth and promoting sustainability and entrepreneurship. In addition, the company delivered a training session for students on the future of the workplace, technology, and artificial intelligence, and served on the judging panel for students' projects, encouraging innovation and supporting the development of young national talent.

As part of its commitment to promoting inclusion and empowering people with disabilities, the company, in collaboration with the Integrated Care Foundation for People with Disabilities (ICAN), organized a Cooking Workshop, hosted by Symphony Style Hotel, under the patronage and in the presence of Her Highness Sheikha Sheikha Al Abdullah Al Khalifa Al Sabah. The initiative aimed to develop participants' practical skills, enhance their self-confidence, and encourage their active participation in society.

The company also organized a Blood Donation Campaign across several of its properties, including Al Tijaria Tower, Symphony Style Mall, and Boulevard Mall, in cooperation with the Kuwait Central Blood Bank, to promote the spirit of social responsibility, encourage humanitarian values and community solidarity, and support the Kuwait Central Blood Bank in meeting its blood supply requirements.

Al Tijaria also launched its awareness campaign under the slogan "Conscious Consumption... A Sustainable Future," aimed at raising awareness of the importance of conserving electricity and water and promoting a culture of responsible resource consumption, in line with Kuwait's national efforts to preserve natural resources and advance sustainable development. The campaign featured awareness messages across the Company's social media platforms, digital screens throughout its properties, and an internal awareness circular for employees, encouraging the adoption of more sustainable consumption practices.

In conclusion, Mr. Abdulfatah Marafie prayed to Almighty God to protect Kuwait and its people from all harm and to bless Kuwait with lasting peace, safety, and stability under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah; and His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, may God preserve and protect them. He also extended his sincere appreciation to the company's shareholders, the members of the Board of Directors, and all employees for their dedication, commitment, and continued support, reaffirming that Al Tijaria Real Estate Company will continue to dedicate all its capabilities and resources to realizing its long-term vision through the ongoing development and expansion of its investments in line with its strategic plans, contributing to sustainable growth, enhancing the company's value, and delivering rewarding returns and long-term value for its shareholders.

Action Energy pledges \$1M to Kuwait emergency fund

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Action Energy Company K.S.C.P. announces a USD 1 million contribution to the Kuwait Emergency Response Fund, reaffirming its commitment to its national and social responsibility and supporting the government's efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness and mitigate the impact of the heinous Iranian aggression on critical infrastructure and vital facilities.

Amid the recent regional developments, Action Energy remained fully committed to serving its national oil company partners, maintaining its presence and operations across Kuwait. As a Kuwaiti operator committed to the country's long-term energy objectives and a home-grown integrated upstream services provider, the Company stands ready and fully mobilized to support the continued recovery of the energy sector.

The contribution reflects Action Energy's commitment to supporting the protection and rehabilitation of the nation's vital assets, while reinforcing the partnership between the public and private sectors.

As a trusted national partner, Action Energy remains committed to supporting State institutions during exceptional circumstances and contributing to the resilience, stability, and long-term sustainability of Kuwait's energy sector.



Financial Results H1 2026

REVENUE
1.14
KD BILLION **↑5%**

EBITDA
378
KD MILLION **↑6%**

NET INCOME
220
KD MILLION **↑73%**

EPS
51
FILS

CUSTOMERS
51.9
MILLION **↑2%**

The Board of Directors declared an interim dividend of **17 fils** per share for the **first half of 2026**, to the shareholders already registered in the company's register on the record date of Thursday **1/10/2026**.

The Corporate Action Time Schedule:

Cum Date *	28/9/2026
Ex Date	29/9/2026
Record Date	1/10/2026
Payment Date	6/10/2026

Cash dividend will be transferred to the bank accounts of the shareholders, who are registered in the electronic transfer service for the distribution of profits, as of Tuesday **6/10/2026**.

Shareholders who were not able to register in the electronic transfer service for the distribution of profits, shall contact the local banks to register in this service or through their electronic services, according to the instructions issued by the Kuwait Clearing Company.

* Cum-Dividend Date:

The last day on which the share must be purchased so that the shareholder is registered in the company's register on the record date and therefore is entitled to receive dividends.



Revenue grows 5% YoY to reach KD 1.14 bn

Zain Group H1 2026 net profit soars 73% YoY to reach KD 220 mn

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Zain Group, a leading TechCo providing innovative ICT and digital lifestyle communications in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa reported impressive consolidated financial results for second quarter (Q2) and six-months (H1) ended 30 June 2026. Zain served 51.9 million customers at the end H1 2026, a 2% increase Year-on-Year (YOY), driven by network expansion and the appeal of 5G services across four markets.

Zain Group H1 2026 revenue grew 5% YoY to reach KD 1.14 billion (USD 3.71billion) compared to H1 2025. EBITDA grew 6% YoY to reach KD 378 million (USD 1.23 billion), reflecting an EBITDA margin of 33%. Net income for the first six months soared 73% YoY, reaching KD 220 million (USD 717 million). Net income for H1 2026 includes a gain of USD 411 million from Group’s strategic investments undertaken by Zain Ventures. H1 2025 Earnings per share stood at 51fils (USD 0.17).

Zain Group Q2 2026 revenue grew 5% YoY to reach KD 568 million (USD 1.85 billion) compared to Q2 2025. EBITDA reached KD 196 million (USD 639 million), reflecting a healthy EBITDA margin of 35%. Net income soared 90% to reach KD 140 million (USD 457 million). Net income for Q2 2026 includes a gain of USD 288 million from Group’s strategic investments undertaken by Zain Ventures. Q2 2026 earnings per share stood at 32 fils (USD 0.11).

Key Operational Highlights for H1 2026

- The Board declared an exceptional interim dividend of 17fils per share, that will be payable to entitled shareholders on 6 October 2026
- Zain successful USD 747 million bid for 75% ownership interest in a Syrian telecom entity with a 25-year technology-neutral license (20 years plus 5-year extendable). Target to launch Zain brand in Syria in Q1 2027
- Data revenue grew 15% YoY to reach USD 1.5 billion, representing 40% of total Group revenue
- Over the six months, Zain Group invested USD 252 million in CAPEX (7% of revenue)
- Operations in Kuwait, KSA, Bahrain and Jordan witness solid growth in 5G and data revenues
- Impressive net profit growth in KSA +84% and Iraq +7% for H12026
- Growth verticals revenue grew 36% YoY to reach USD 479 million, representing 13% of total Group revenues
- Zain Ventures strategic investments record notable gains of USD 411 million for the six-month period
- Fintech customer base increases 35% YoY driving revenue growth of 29%
- Group wide enterprise revenue witnessed 13% growth YoY, as ZainTECH and B2B teams win key business and government accounts. ZainTECH revenue healthy growth of24% YoY
- Zain Omantel International (ZOI) records robust revenue growth of 45%YoY

Commenting on Q2 and H1 2026 results, Chair of the Board, **Mrs Nour Al-Jassim** said:

“As a leading regional TechCo, the Board is working closely with executive management to sustain this positive trajectory and to advance our ESG and business initiatives, reinforcing our commitment to delivering sustainable shareholder value. In parallel, we are strengthening our constructive engagement with regulators and key stakeholders across our footprint, ensuring that the meaningful connectivity and customer experience we deliver across all business segments remain exceptional.”

“Building on this remarkable H1 2026 performance with Earnings Per Share (EPS) of 51 fils, the Board is pleased to declare an exceptional interim dividend of 17 fils per share.”

Mr. Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented, “This 15-year high exceptional financial performance over the past six months reflects our disciplined navigation of regional challenges, coupled with the successful implementation of AI-driven operational efficiencies, targeted strategic investments, and the accelerated monetization of our 5G networks.”

“The Board of Directors declaration of a special 17 fils per share interim dividend reflects the confidence and success of our ‘4WARD–Progress with Purpose’ strategy that is propelling the Group’s diversified operating model to new levels of performance and value creation. It also reaffirms the strong financial solvency of company’s balance sheet and future growth prospects.”

“The sustained growth in our core mobile business and key growth verticals of enterprise, fintech, and digital services is our primary focus as we continue to invest in digital infrastructure and integrate AI solutions everywhere to elevate the customer offering and experience.”

“To mitigate the impact of the ongoing regional crisis across affected markets, our dedicated teams are working tirelessly alongside our technology partners to maintain critical connectivity and ensure continuity of businesses and livelihoods for those we serve. I am truly proud of and inspired by our 8,000-strong workforce.”

“The performance of our home Kuwait operation is gratifying, particularly given the ongoing conflict that is inevitably affecting the business. Significant investments in expanding our 5G-Advanced network are enabling Zain Kuwait to retain its customer base and grow enterprise and data revenues, despite intense competition. The strong net-profit performance of our operations in Saudi Arabia and Iraq reflects the successful



Nour Al-Jassim



Bader Al-Kharafi

- Board declared an exceptional interim dividend of 17 fils per share for H1 2026
- Group consolidated EBITDA grew 6% to KD 378 million (USD 1.23 billion)

Leadership comments:

- Chair of the Board, Mrs Nour Al-Jassim: “Our focus will be to maintain this positive trajectory and advance our ESG and business initiatives to create sustainable shareholder value”
- Vice-Chairman & Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi: “15-year high financial performance a result of AI-driven operational efficiencies, strategic investments and monetization of 5G networks”

Key business H1 ’26 highlights:

- Customer base expanded 2% to51.9m driven by appeal of 5G services and network expansion
- Data revenue grew 15% to reach USD 1.5 billion, representing 40% of total Group revenue
- Outstanding net profit growth in KSA (+84%), and Iraq (+7%) for H1 2026
- Zain Ventures strategic investments record notable gains of \$411 million for H12026
- Fintech customer base increases 35% YoY driving revenue growth of 29% YoY
- Enterprise revenue grew 13% as ZainTECH and local B2B teams win major clients
- Zain Omantel International (ZOI) robust revenue growth of 45% YoY
- Growth verticals delivered USD 479 million in revenue, a strong increase of 36% YoY
- Zain awarded 25-year license (20-year plus 5-year extendable) in Syria, plan to launch in Q1 2027

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for the first six months (H1) of 2026

Total Managed Active Customers	51.9 million	
Revenue	KD 1.14 billion	(USD 3.71 billion)
EBITDA	KD 378 million	(USD 1.23 billion)
EBITDA Margin	33%	
Net Income	KD 220 million	(USD 717 million)
EPS	51 fils	(USD 0.17)

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for the second quarter (Q2) of 2026

Revenue	KD 568 million	(USD 1.85 billion)
EBITDA	KD 196 million	(USD 639 million)
EBITDA Margin	35%	
Net Income	KD 140 million	(USD 457 million)
EPS	32 fils	(USD 0.11)

monetization of the substantial network investments made in these markets. Jordan and Bahrain likewise delivered solid results. In Sudan, a 40% currency devaluation impacted an otherwise im-

pressive performance in local-currency terms, as site networks continue to be restored and expanded across Khartoum.”

“We will continue to invest in and support the

positive trajectory of ZainTECH and Zain Omantel International, both of which are performing exceptionally well and delivering essential ICT and connectivity services across the region and beyond. We remain highly confident in these key strategic growth verticals, as we are in our fintech vertical, (Bede in Kuwait, Bahrain, and Sudan; Tamam in KSA; and Zain Cash in Jordan and Iraq) whose combined customer base now exceeds 6.4 million, driving financial inclusion through life-enriching services.”

“We are fortunate to have made strategic investments through Zain Ventures, including venture-capital funds and participation in the global startup ecosystem. These include high-growth, globally recognized companies such as SpaceXAI, which have had a significant positive impact on our financial performance. Zain Ventures will continue to actively pursue investments that create value and enhance shareholder returns.”

Concluding, Mr Al-Kharafi noted, “Our successful bid for a 25-year telecom licence in Syria underscores our confidence in the country’s economic recovery and long-term prospects, while also reinforcing longstanding Kuwaiti–Syrian ties. With the Zain brand launch in Syria expected in Q1 2027, this expansion will further strengthen our presence in the Levant, alongside our operations in Iraq and Jordan, enabling us to capture meaningful synergies across the region. It will also enhance regional connectivity by delivering cross-border digital services that leverage Zain’s technological capabilities and scale.”

Financial KPIs of key markets for three months and six-months period ended 30 June 2026

Kuwait: Zain Group’s flagship and most profitable operation maintained its market leadership position, with a customer base of 2.6 million. Revenue reached KD 90 million (USD 294 million), while EBITDA increased 2.4% YoY to KD 35 million (USD 113 million), reflecting EBITDA margin of 39%. Net income for Q2’26 reached KD 19 million (USD 63million), with H1’26 net income reached KD 36 million (USD 116m). Data revenue was bolstered by the addition of over 500 5G-Advanced sites, leading to an increase of 8% to represent 41% of total revenues for H1’26. Performance was supported by strong broadband growth, improved prepaid monetization, and B2B enterprise momentum, partially offset by lower device sales and roaming activations.

Saudi Arabia: Zain KSA delivered a strong Q2 performance, with its customer base increasing 8% YoY to 8.9 million. Revenue stood at USD 707 million, while EBITDA increased 3% to USD 233 million, with 33% EBITDA margin. Net income jumped 60% YoY to USD 54 million. Notably,H1’26 net income soared 84% to USD 108 million, supported by higher USF income. Data revenue increased 6% to represent 42% of total revenues for H1’26. Performance was supported by a more diversified revenue base, improved operating efficiency and continued growth across digital andB2B services powered by its 5G-Advanced network. During the period, Zain KSA also strengthened its digital capabilities through the launch of its AI Center of Excellence and Smart Hajj platform, while expanding its cybersecurity offering and strategic partnerships across key sectors.

Iraq: Zain Iraq recorded revenue of USD 334 million in Q2 2026, marking a 7% YOY increase, with half-year revenue reaching USD 660 million, up 10% from H1 2025. The performance was driven by effective execution of its commercial strategy, continued network deployment in strategically relevant regions, and a strong contribution from its subsidiaries Horizon and NextGen all delivered despite the continued impact of regional instability and challenging macroeconomic environment.EBITDA grew 4% to USD 122 million in the quarter and 5% to USD 232 million for the six-month period, while net profit rose 3% to USD 41 million in Q2 and 7% to USD 71 million for the half-year. The customer reached 20.4 million, maintaining market leadership in Iraq.

Sudan: Zain Sudan customer base increased 9% YoY to 12.9 million, neverthelesscontinues to operate in a highly complex environment. A further 40% currency devaluation, with the FX rate moving from SDG 2,140 perUS\$ in June 2025 to SDG 3,550 in June2026, weighed significantly on the reported financial performance.Including the impact of IAS 29, Q2 revenue declined 7% YoY to USD 126 million, while EBITDA decreased 13% to USD 66 million. Net income reached USD 59 million for Q2’26 and USD 115 for H1’26. Data revenue increased 38% to represent 37% of total revenues for H1’26.

Jordan: Zain Jordan delivered a solid Q2, achieving steady financial and operational growth. Revenue grew 4% YoY to reach USD 154 million, while EBITDA grew 5% to USD 60 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 39%. Net income grew 2% to reach USD 21 million. H1-26 net income grew 1% to reach USD 40 million. The expansion of 5G services and expansion of FTTH in city centers, commercial zones and other strategic locations, drove data revenue growth of 11% to represent 57% of total revenues for H1’26.

Bahrain: Revenue for the quarter reached USD 52 million.EBITDA grew 2% to reach USD 15 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 30%. Net income for the second quarter increased 1.4% to reach USD 3.7 million. H1-26 net income grew 1.2% to reach USD 6.8 million. The operator’s 5G network drove healthy growth in enterprise revenues, while also supporting a 3% growth in-data revenue now representing47% of total revenue for H1’26.



Zain Group HQ building

According to LinkedIn’s rating for 2025

NBK named ‘Top Employer in Kuwait and Banking Sector’

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: National Bank of Kuwait was recognized by LinkedIn platform as the top employer in Kuwait and the banking sector for 2025, which comes as a confirmation of its leadership in attracting competencies and establishing an ideal work environment for its employees.

This recognition underscores NBK’s leadership and unwavering commitment to fostering an attractive and motivational work environment rooted in innovation, empowerment, and diversity. NBK places employee well-being and professional development at the core of its priorities, reflecting the Bank’s firm belief that employees are the cornerstone of success and that investing in human capital is fundamental to long-term sustainability. This approach further strengthens NBK’s position as the employer of choice in the private sector.

LinkedIn’s rating is a significant achievement that reaffirms NBK’s distinguished workplace culture, which consistently prioritizes its employees and strives to deepen their engagement with the institution. The Bank remains committed to enhancing employee satisfaction by providing comprehensive support for its employees’ professional and personal growth.”

More Than Just A Workplace
NBK is very keen to providing a unique work environment, taking “More than just a workplace” as its slogan, as the bank pays great attention to its employees’ physical and mental health, and strives to encourage maintaining a healthy balance between professional and personal life through applying flexible working hours, paternity leave, in addition to many other initiatives that motivate employees and focus on their well-being.

The Group Human Resources puts great efforts into developing the bank’s work environment by encouraging innovation and creativity, as well as supporting employees’ build a sustainable and aspiring profes-

- A new achievement reflects NBK’s leadership in establishing an attractive and motivational work environment.
- NBK believes that investing in human capital is key to achieving success and sustainability.
- The Bank provides comprehensive support for its employees’ professional and personal growth.



A group photo of the bank’s executive management with the new employees hired during 2025.

sional career. This has contributed to further enhancing NBK’s position as a leading institution whose standards are akin to major international workplaces.

Moreover, NBK continues to develop its workforce on the Group level and prepare future leaders by providing advanced educational and training programs that focus on in-

novation and creativity. NBK is also determined to give its employees true and remarkable opportunities to help them successfully pave their career paths.

A Sustainable Investment in Human Capital

Based on its strong belief in the importance of human capital investment, NBK continues to grant its un-

wavering support for national young talents, especially fresh graduates, by providing for them suitable job opportunities and enhancing their skills with advanced training programs prepared in collaboration with the local and international universities and training centers as per international standards.

These programs are inclusive of all professional levels, starting from new recruits to leaders, as every employee undergoes a training path that corresponds to their professional position and qualifies them for higher levels, which plays a pivotal role in preparing inspiring, distinguished, and powerful banking leaders.

Employee Loyalty and Satisfaction: A Top Priority

NBK diligently strives to enhance its employees’ loyalty and elevate their satisfaction levels by establishing a positive institutional culture and providing development and growth opportunities through sustainable professional development programs and initiatives that promote empowerment, appreciation, and personal-professional life balance.

Kuwaitization and Diversity

NBK retains a high Kuwaitization percentage at 77.4% as of end of 2025, which aligns with the Central Bank of Kuwait requirements. To that end, NBK is always striving to develop initiatives that attract local talents. On the other hand, female participation in the workforce at NBK reached 42.4% of total employees as of end of last year, which highlights the bank’s commitment to equality and inclusiveness.

It is worth noting that NBK is one of the top institutions that seriously promotes equality and diversity in the workplace. NBK’s recruitment strategy relies on attracting, upskilling, and developing talents with the best training and development programs, which makes the bank the workplace of choice in the private sector among young nationals, and it proudly retains the highest retention rate of national employees.

As part of its strategy to lead digital innovation

stc successfully conducts Kuwait’s first AI-powered real-time voice translation trial

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the successful completion of Kuwait’s first trial of AI Calling, an AI-powered real-time voice translation service. The milestone marks a significant step in the Company’s efforts to introduce next-generation communication technologies and reflects stc’s strategy to lead digital innovation as it prepares for the future deployment of the service.

The successful trial demonstrated the service’s ability to provide seamless, real-time voice translation between Arabic and English, enabling users to communicate naturally without language barriers. Powered by an advanced artificial intelligence model, the solution delivers high accuracy with low latency, offering a smooth communication experience across both personal and business interactions. Once introduced commercially, the service will be natively integrated into stc’s network, ensuring scalability, reliability, and a consistently high-quality customer experience.

The AI-powered solution is expected to create new opportunities across a range of sectors by enabling more effective multilingual communication. Industries such as e-commerce, delivery services, and customer service stand to benefit from faster and more seamless interactions, helping businesses enhance operational efficiency while improving customer experience. The technology also supports a more connected and inclusive communications en-



vironment by reducing language barriers and enabling smoother day-to-day interactions.

In a statement, stc indicated that the successful completion of the trial reflects the Company’s commitment to introducing innovative technologies that anticipate evolving customer needs while strengthening its portfolio of AI-driven services. As the first telecom operator in Kuwait to successfully test AI-powered real-time voice translation, stc continues to reinforce its position at the forefront of digital

transformation by developing advanced solutions that deliver meaningful value to customers and businesses alike.

The Company added that integrating the service directly into stc’s network will provide the foundation for delivering a reliable and scalable communication experience once the service is commercially deployed. Building on the success of the trial, stc will continue expanding its AI-enabled solutions portfolio and exploring emerging technologies that enhance connectivity, support Kuwait’s digital transformation journey, and contribute to building a more connected, inclusive, and prosperous communications ecosystem.

About stc

Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2008. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Boursa Kuwait in December 2014.

stc Kuwait is a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and solutions to customers, both for individuals and enterprises, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc Group. stc Kuwait has expanded its portfolio by acquiring companies such as Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait, and e-portal Holding Company and its subsidiaries.

Wall Street rises

Weak jobs data puts US economy in focus

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP): The economy, inflation and how those forces could impact the lives of Americans were front and center over the past week. Trips to the grocery store and gas station are more painful than they were last year, and rising costs are impacting the decisions of both households and businesses.

Here’s a snapshot of prominent economic data and news that occurred over the past week and what it potentially means for you.

U.S. employers unexpectedly cut 23,000 jobs last month, and Labor Department revisions shaved 103,000 jobs off payrolls in May and June. The unemployment rate dipped to 4.1% only because Americans left the job market.

The July jobs numbers from the Labor Department Friday marked a sharp reversal for the American labor market and a political setback for President Donald Trump less than three months before his Republican party seeks to keep full control of Congress in the midterm election.

Forecasters had expected job creation to approach 100,000 last month.

Local public schools cut 50,000 jobs in July, restaurants and bars 26,000, retailers 19,000.

The 4.1% unemployment rate was the lowest since June 2025 - but it dropped for the wrong reasons: Fewer people were competing for work as 264,000 dropped out of the labor market. The share of those working or looking for work fell to 61.4%, the lowest since February 2021.

U.S. job openings fell slightly in June, but the labor market continued to show resilience in the face of an economic shock from fighting in Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Employers posted 7.36 million vacancies in June, down from 7.54 million in May, the Labor Department said Tuesday. The numbers were in line with economist expectations. Openings rose by 97,000 at warehouse, transportation and utility companies and 39,000 at federal government agencies. Openings dropped at wholesalers and manufacturers of nondurable goods.

Layoffs were little-changed at 1.8 million, and the number of people quitting their jobs - a sign of confidence in their prospects -

rose slightly.

The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate rose for a fifth consecutive week to its highest level in just over a year, marking the latest strain for prospective homebuyers who are facing steep borrowing costs.

The benchmark 30-year fixed rate mortgage rate rose to 6.69%, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday, up slightly from 6.66% reported last week. By comparison, the average rate was 6.63% at this time last year - and hadn’t been higher than its current level since late July in 2025.

Higher mortgage rates can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, limiting homebuyers’ purchasing power. As rates rise, that can lead prospective home shoppers to delay buying a home, one reason U.S. home sales have been sluggish this year.

Meanwhile, borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages - which are often sought by borrowers looking to refinance a home loan - fell slightly this week. That rate averaged at 6.01%, down from 6.04% last week. A year ago, it was at 5.75%, Freddie Mac said.

The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits rose last week but layoffs remain in the historically healthy range of the past few years.

U.S. filings for jobless aid in the week ending August 1 rose by 1,000 to 199,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The previous week’s figure was revised up by 1,000 to 198,000.

Weekly filings for unemployment benefits are considered representative of layoffs and are close to a real-time indicator of the health of the U.S. job market.

Stocks climbed on Wall Street Friday and Treasury yields fell after the government reported that employers unexpectedly cut 23,000 jobs last month.

The S&P 500 edged higher, and was hovering around the record it set on Tuesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nasdaq composite both rose. Every major index was on track for weekly gains.

The bond market reacted more strongly to the weaker signal on the job market, which can be seen as allowing the Federal Reserve more time before raising interest rates to fight inflation.

3 tricky decisions for every retirement plan

Many aspects of retirement planning are the subject of hot debate, even among experts. Here are three tricky decisions that confront people planning retirement today.

It’s impossible to say at the outset of retirement what the “right” withdrawal rate is. You don’t know what the major asset classes will return or how high (or low) inflation will run during your retirement. Nor do you know how long you’ll live.

But you have to use something, and this is where the disagreements come in. A 4% starting withdrawal rate, with annual inflation adjustments to that initial dollar amount thereafter, is often cited as a “safe” withdrawal system for new retirees. Research we conducted at the end of 2021 suggested that a 3.3% withdrawal rate was a safe starting point for new retirees with balanced portfolios over a 30-year horizon. When we revisited the research in late 2022, our safe starting withdrawal percentage was 3.8%. By late 2023, that number had popped up to the classic 4%, thanks to rising fixed-income yields and moderating inflation. At the end of 2024, it was 3.7%, and 3.9% at the end of 2025. Further complicating matters is that retirees don’t spend the same amount, adjusted for inflation, year after year.

There’s a comforting consensus in a few key areas.

According to a 2019 study, about half of people turning 65 will need some type of paid long-term care. But paying for it can be financially devastating. What’s up for debate is whether and how to protect yourself.

The long-term-care insurance market is deeply troubled today. While recent interest rate hikes have improved the economics of the long-term-care insurance industry, premiums have increased and several insurers have gotten out of the business.

That’s why purchasing pure long-term-care insurance is by no means a no-brainer. Hybrid products offer a long-term-care rider bolted onto a life insurance policy or annuity, but they’re complicated and often pur-

chased with a lump sum.

Take a hard look at your retirement portfolio to decide whether your assets are sufficient to self-fund, you’re likely to qualify for Medicaid, or you fall somewhere in between. From there, you can create a long-term-care action plan.

Academic researchers have long championed simple income annuities for retirement, arguing they provide longevity risk protection and a higher payout than would be available from fixed-rate investment products like bond funds. Annuities have been getting even more attention as payouts tend to get better during a period of rising interest rates.

But annuity types vary widely, from single-premium immediate annuities to more complicated products that provide equity exposure, guaranteed minimum living benefits, and death benefits.

Research has demonstrated that the peace of mind that accompanies the purchase of a basic annuity is greater than would be associated with holding the same amount in investment assets. Yet the annuity products that retirement researchers generally like best - the plain-vanilla immediate and deferred-income annuities - have struggled in the sales department. Investors may be reluctant to part with the capital to purchase them, and advisers may not have a strong motive to recommend them.

While there’s no consensus on whether annuities are a must-have or which types to buy, there’s little doubt that the lifetime income they offer is in short supply. That’s especially true given that only about a fourth of baby boomers retiring today have pensions, and that number trends down for the generations behind them.

The starting point when thinking about lifetime income isn’t an annuity. It’s Social Security, which is basically an annuity backed by the U.S. government. Only after maximizing lifetime income through Social Security should an annuity come into play. (AP)

This image released by Sony Pictures shows a scene from “Spider-Man: Brand New Day.” (AP)

Spider-Man spins box office gold

Nolan’s Odyssey sails into billion-dollar glory

NEW YORK, Aug. 10, (AP) — “Spider-Man: Brand New Day” continued its blistering pace in theaters, collecting \$144.5 million domestically over its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, while Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” set a new high for the director.

The Sony-Marvel release has accrued \$1.67 billion worldwide in just 10 days of release, putting it on a trajectory to be among the biggest blockbusters ever. Domestically, no movie has wracked up a higher total faster. In U.S. and Canadian cinemas, “Brand New Day” has grossed \$655.1 million thus far. Overseas, it’s already surpassed \$1 billion.

It took only seven days for “Brand New Day” to become the highest grossing movie of the year, easily displacing “Toy Story 5” (\$1.07 billion worldwide). No Sony film has ever cleared \$100 million in its second weekend before. It came close to toppling the best sophomore frame on record: “The Force Awakens,” with \$149.2 million in 2015.

Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” also crossed \$1 billion. In its fourth weekend, the Universal Pictures re-

lease added \$31.5 million domestically to bring its global total to \$1.1 billion.

Nolan’s Homeric epic is the director’s first movie to reach that threshold since 2012’s “The Dark Knight Rises.” It now ranks as Nolan’s biggest box-office hit ever, not accounting for inflation, eclipsing both “The Dark Knight Rises” (\$1.08 billion) and 2009’s “The Dark Knight” (\$1 billion). Nolan’s “Oppenheimer” (\$975 million) ended just shy of the milestone.

A big part of that success, of course, has been on IMAX. With \$147.3 million domestically on the company’s large-format screens, “The Odyssey” now ranks as IMAX’s highest grossing domestic release of all time. “The Odyssey” still has one major market left. It opens in China on Friday.

“Spider-Man: Brand New Day” and “The Odyssey” have helped drive Hollywood to its best box-office year since the pandemic. Ticket sales are running 18.5% ahead of last year, according to Rentrak. There have already been five \$1 billion movies — more than any year since 2019. The other two were “Michael” and “The Super Ma-

rio Galaxy Movie.”

Rentrak forecasts that the overall summer theatrical revenue will reach \$4 billion on Monday. That seasonal mark has long been a sign of thriving business for Hollywood. Since the pandemic, the only summer to surpass \$4 billion was 2023, when “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer” drove ticket sales.

According to Rentrak, summer revenue is just \$14.8 million shy of \$4 billion through Sunday.

A pair of comedies tried to provide some counterprogramming to the blockbusters but made little impact.

“One Night Only,” a Will Gluck-directed romantic comedy where premarital sex is outlawed except for one night a year, opened with \$5.7 million. The Universal release, starring Monica Barbaro and Callum Turner, cost about \$25 million to make. Reviews weren’t good (46% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) but audience scores (a “B+” CinemaScore) were better.

Coming in fourth was Fox Searchlight’s “Super Troopers 3,” the third in the long-running comedy series from the comedy troupe Broken Lizard. It debuted with \$4 million.

Two new limited releases packed theaters. A24’s “Tony,” starring Dominic Sessa as a young Anthony Bourdain, grossed \$348,955, good for one of the best screen-average openings of the year: \$58,159 per theater. Mubi’s “Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma,” from “I Saw the TV Glow” filmmaker Jane Schoenbrun, debuted with a per-location average of \$50,300 across five screens.

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak:

1. “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” \$145 million.
2. “The Odyssey,” \$31.5 million.
3. “One Night Only,” \$5.7 million.
4. “Super Troopers 3,” \$4 million.
5. “Toy Story 5,” \$3.9 million.
6. “Minions & Monsters,” \$3.5 million.
7. “Moana,” \$2.8 million.
8. “Ice Cream Man,” \$2 million.
9. “The Invite,” \$717,568.
10. CatVideoFest 2026, \$568,414. (AP)

Variety

LAS VEGAS: The case of rap icon Tupac Shakur’s killing has been unresolved for decades; now the man charged in his 1996 killing in Las Vegas is going to trial.

Duane “Keffe D” Davis, 63, faces one charge of murder with a deadly weapon with the intent to promote, further or assist a criminal gang in Shakur’s death. Jury selection begins Monday, with the trial scheduled to last about a month.

The trial will bring to a head one of the biggest mysteries in the hip-hop world that gripped the public for decades. Shakur, who also went by the stage names 2Pac and Makaveli, is considered one of the most influential rappers of all time.

Shakur was shot in Las Vegas on Sept. 7, 1996. He was in a black BMW with music mogul Marion “Suge” Knight on their way to Club 662, where Shakur was scheduled to perform, when a white Cadillac pulled up beside them. Gunfire erupted. Shakur, who was in the passenger seat, was shot multiple times and died six days later, while Knight survived.

The case went cold until recent years, when public statements and a tell-all memoir from Davis revived the case. He was a leader of South Side Compton Crips at the time of Shakur’s death. Davis was arrested in 2023 and pleaded not guilty. (AP)



Duane Davis appears in Clark County District Court, Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026, in Las Vegas. (AP)

‘Michael,’ ‘Reacher’ headline week’s streaming blitz



This combination of images shows promotional art for the films. “Normal,” from left, “Michael,” and “Don’t Say Good Luck.” (AP)

The blockbuster biopic “Michael” and a new documentary about Travis Barker are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

Also among the streaming offerings worth your time this week, as selected by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists: players can get back on the gridiron in “Madden NFL 27,” a new season of “Reacher” drops and Carly Simon releases her first album in more than a decade.

The Michael Jackson biopic “Michael” begins streaming Aug. 10 on Starz after a \$1 billion run at the box office. Director Antoine Fuqua’s estate-approved dramatization of Jackson’s life stars his nephew Jaafar Jackson as the King of Pop. In my review, I wrote that “Michael” “slides a sequin glove over the pop star’s tarnished legacy, shrouding Michael Jackson’s complications with a conventional biopic that, if you cover your ears, sounds great.”

The Netflix-Sandler connection continues in “Don’t Say Good Luck” (Aug. 14), a Happy Madison production starring Sandler’s daughter Sunny. In the coming-of-age comedy, she plays a high school theater student whose school play aspirations are complicated

by her mother’s illness. Co-starring Melanie Lynskey.

In “Normal” (Aug. 14 on HBO Max), Bob Odenkirk extends his action-hero resume beyond the two “Nobody” movies. In director Ben Wheatley’s film, Odenkirk plays a substitute sheriff who arrives in a wintry Minnesota town full of strange happenings, including the recent death of the previous sheriff. In my review, I called it “a hyperviolent Midwestern Western that cleverly inverts some genre standards with a pleasingly loose hold on reality.”

- AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Less than three minutes into “Travis Barker: Louder Than Fear,” a new documentary about the famed Blink-182 drummer, and audiences are launched into the aftermath of the devastating plane crash he survived in 2008. The film follows the esteemed musician from 2017 to 2026, but doubles as a celebration of his life before and after the life-altering crash, a central event in a career full of them. It’s a must-watch for fans, or simply those in need of a dynamic doc about resiliency. Stream it on Hulu on Aug. 13.

Singer Carly Simon has been in headlines as of late; in July she shared that she has

been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and was recently treated for skin cancer. It makes her forthcoming album “Comes In Waves” — her first album of original songs since 2008, out Friday, Aug. 14, — even more of a miracle. “Working on the music gave shape to days that did not always have much shape. It gave me somewhere to go without having to leave the room,” she said in a statement. “It reminded me that illness can change your life without becoming the whole of your life.”

Becky G is back with the bilingual “Baraja Bendita,” a new album and her first since leaving Kemosabe Records. Fans expecting more of 2024’s “Encuentros,” which explored rancheras and corridos, may be wise to return to that release. This one, out Friday, she has assured in interviews, is still a celebration of her Mexican heritage. It is still Becky G, after all — but largely, it is a return to her rap-pop roots.

- AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

The first three episodes of Season 4 of “Reacher” starring Alan Ritchson drop on Prime Video on Wednesday, Aug. 12. The new episodes are based on book 13 in the Jack Reacher series by Lee Child called “Gone To



This combination of images show promotional art for “Travis Barker: Louder Than Fear,” left, and “Reacher.” (AP)

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Kyle Chandler and Aaron Pierre star in the new HBO series “Lanterns,” which premieres Sunday, Aug. 16 on HBO Max. The show is based on DC Comics’ Green Lantern characters. Chandler and Pierre play Hal Jordan and John Stewart, members of the intergalactic law enforcement tasked with maintaining order throughout the universe and its galaxies. Their job takes them to Earth where they investigate a murder in Nebraska. “Lanterns” is the second live-action series in the debut phase of the new DC Universe under co-chairs James Gunn and Peter Safran. Part sci-fi superhero story, it’s also inspired by mysteries like “True Detective.” (AP)

- AP Writer Alicia Rancilio

NCCAL brings Kuwait’s archaeological history to The Avenues

‘Hellenistic Terracotta Figurines’ exhibition showcases Failaka’s historical heritage



Upper part of a terracotta statue of a girl from the Hellenistic period (150–280 BC), found on Failaka Island, Kuwait, and displayed in a museum case with its identification label.



A limestone dolphin statue from the Hellenistic period (150–280 BC), found on Failaka Island, Kuwait, displayed in a museum case with its identification label.



A terracotta bearded male head from the Hellenistic period (150–280 BC), excavated at the Hellenistic Fortress Site on Failaka Island, Kuwait, displayed alongside other small terracotta artifacts in a museum display case.



Officials from the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) pose together during the ‘Hellenistic Terracotta Figurines’ exhibition, held at The Avenues Mall as part of the 18th Cultural Summer Festival.



The National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) booth at The Avenues Mall, as part of the 18th Cultural Summer Festival.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): The “Hellenistic Terracotta Figurines” exhibition, held at The Avenues Mall as part of the 18th Cultural Summer Festival, showcases an important aspect of Kuwait’s cultural and historical heritage through a collection of terracotta figurines and models discovered on Failaka Island, formerly known as Ikaros, dating back to the Hellenistic period (280-150 BC). The three-day exhibition features a variety of these figurines, offering visi-

tors a glimpse into life on the island during this significant historical period. The exhibition highlights the diversity of the terracotta figurines, their various uses, and the cultural, religious, and social meanings they convey. It also provides visitors with an opportunity to explore an important chapter in the history of Failaka Island and its role as a site of cultural interaction during the Hellenistic period. The exhibits further demonstrate the significance of these

archaeological artifacts in documenting aspects of daily life, practices, and customs of the time. The exhibition is part of the efforts of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) to present Kuwait’s cultural and historical heritage in an interactive format. It also gives visitors to The Avenues Mall an opportunity to discover firsthand an important part of Kuwait’s archaeological heritage.



President George W. Bush, center, poses with President-elect Barack Obama, and former presidents, from left, George H.W. Bush, left, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, right, Jan. 7, 2009, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. (AP)

Trump goes unnamed, parallels resonate

Clinton, Bush, Obama turn to essay writing on presidency

WASHINGTON, Aug 10, (AP): When George W. Bush wrote an essay this year about another president named George, he avoided mentioning the one named Donald. So did Barack Obama and Bill Clinton. The three ex-presidents joined a roster of historians and authors in contributing to the In Pursuit project, a 250th-anniversary series that had each writer produce an essay about a president or first lady. Though the project was explicitly designed to transcend today’s politics, some of its essays nevertheless reflect anxieties that are flaring in the era of President Donald Trump over the use of power, the health of the democracy and the integrity of the presidency. The project is being curated by Colleen Shogan, the U.S. archivist who was fired without explanation by Trump last year. She instructed contributors not to be partisan or ideological. “Everybody took those instructions and that guidance very seriously,” she told The Associated Press. The goal was for all Americans to “feel welcome to be able to read these lessons and essays and learn something from them.” The mission, Shogan said, “is to surface the lessons from the past 250 years of American history, so that we can learn from those lessons, from both our successes and our failures, so we can plan for the present and the future. It’s what has been described as debriefing the American story.” The essays cover 43 presidents - all but Democrat Joe Biden and Republican Trump - and 30 first ladies. They are being published chronologically and weekly into December. Trump and Biden were judged too fresh to be appraised by history, a call that may have also set aside passions of the moment. Without naming Trump, Bush’s essay is difficult to read without thinking of Trump’s reluctance to cede power after his 2020 election defeat and his musings about a third term in defiance of the Constitution’s two-term limit. Bush’s essay celebrates George Washington, the original “No Kings” guy. Bush, a Republican, hails a man whose legacy only grew larger because he modeled the limits of the presidency for centuries to come. “Our first president could have remained all-powerful,” Bush writes, “but twice he chose not to. In so doing, he set a standard for all presidents to live up to.” First, Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Continental Army, then set the precedent of serving only two presidential terms before that limit was enshrined in the Constitution. Bush went on: “George Washington’s humility in giving up power willingly remains among the most consequential decisions and important examples in American politics.” Bush’s essay, released Presidents Day as the first in the series on Substack, drove heavy engagement. Retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who led U.S. and international forces in the Afghanistan War, sized up a fellow general, Ulysses S. Grant, in another essay that drew much attention for its parallels with today. McChrystal presents the Union general and post-Civil War president as a leader who displayed “an absolute commitment to principles larger than personal ambition” and who, before his presidency, resisted pressure on military leaders to “align with political factions and be loyal to a person rather than the Constitution.” The emphasis on personal loyalty resonates in a time when Trump has repeatedly demanded fealty from officials in his administration. The “temptation to bend institutions toward personal power is not unique to Grant’s era,” McChrystal writes. “Our future still depends on whether our leaders choose law over loyalty.” This month, in the latest In Pursuit installment, Democrat Clinton writes about Theodore Roosevelt, focusing on that president’s drive to expand the universe of “we the people” at the expense of powerful corporate interests, while also emphasizing Roosevelt’s exclusionary views on Black and Indigenous people. The essays frequently address presidents’ failures alongside their accomplishments, a contrast with Trump’s calls for federal cultural institutions to stick to patriotic interpretations of American history.

Pat reflects on late singer’s music, artistry & possible biopic

Houston’s legacy lives on with new album & barbie

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP): It was four decades ago next year that Whitney Houston released “I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me),” a timeless hit in a career made up of them. And it is just one of her 11 Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 singles, all of which have been compiled into a new album, “WHITNEY,” released Friday. The record is part of ongoing birthday celebrations for Houston, who would’ve turned 63 on Sunday. There’s also the fifth annual Whitney Houston Legacy of Love gala, taking place Saturday night, and a Whitney Houston Barbie — her first, ever, courtesy of parent company Mattel — releasing Sunday. AP has no shareholders, no corporate owners and no payroll. Help us keep our journalism available to anyone by registering for free. “It’s a dream come true,” says Pat Houston, the executor of Whitney Houston’s estate and her sister-in-law. In this interview, Pat Houston discusses the No. 1 hits collection, the new Barbie, if a “Michael”-style biopic is on the table and more. It has been edited for clarity and brevity. AP: Why a collection of her No. 1 hits and why now? HOUSTON: Whitney always believed that the ultimate collection represented the very best of her career. And you know, it brought together songs that defined generations. It broke records. It touched hearts around the world. And those kinds of hits were not just chart toppers, they were the soundtrack to millions of lives and a testament to a voice that will never be duplicated. So, you know, celebrating her No. 1s is really a no-brainer. AP: There’s also the first Whitney Houston Barbie arriving Sunday. She’s wearing her 1987 “I Wanna Dance with Somebody” music video look. HOUSTON: It is her first ever Barbie. And let me tell you something, what made this journey special is because Whitney and I had conversations about Barbie more than 20 years ago. And to see this vision finally come to life decades later is both emotional and very much inspiring. You know, it served as a beautiful reminder that some dreams take time. And when



Whitney Houston performs at the pre-Grammy gala & salute to industry icons with Clive Davis honoring David Geffen in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Feb. 13, 2011. (AP)

they’re rooted in love and purpose, you can transcend generations and that’s what this Barbie is doing. Visiting the showroom and working hand-in-hand with Mattel’s talented team, it was an honor to witness how much they care about the creativity and the commitment they had behind celebrating Whitney’s legacy to make this such a meaningful experience. AP: Music industry giant Clive Davis died in June. His legacy is inextricable from Whitney Houston’s legacy. How do you view him? HOUSTON: You can’t mention Whitney Houston and not mention Clive Davis and you can’t mention Clive without mentioning Whitney Houston. Every conversation that Clive Davis has in music, he ultimately speaks about Whitney Houston. He played a very, very important role in her life. And it went beyond the music. They truly loved one another. He was a part of her and still is a part of her legacy. Whitney would tell you herself, “I had the talent and the craft, but this is someone that revered my career.” And he did until the day that he died. And I so appreciate that from Clive. AP: Next year is the 35th anniversary of “The Bodyguard.” Any big plans? HOUSTON: There are some things that we’re working on. Until the i’s are dotted and the t’s are crossed, I never like to say. AP: The Michael Jackson biopic was a smash this year. Would you want to do something similar with Whitney? Maybe a two-part film? HOUSTON: Whitney’s catalog is incredible and that voice is matchless. Of course there’s plenty of things that can be done, but you don’t want to do an overkill. You don’t wanna oversaturate the industry without having purpose. It has to have purpose in order for us to put something out there or deliver something to you. But yes, different things come to the table all the time, but we’re cautious and careful. AP: And 2027 marks 15 years since Whitney Houston’s death. How do you hope people view her legacy? HOUSTON: Never forgetting that voice and what she represented to the music industry. Forget about everything else, it’s what she brought to the industry. Whitney’s voice showcased passion. Her artistry is incredible. And there are live shows that some people have never seen before. I would love to come up with or produce some of the shows and present some of those shows that have never been seen before, because it would blow you away to see that gifted talent. That’s probably one of my ultimate goals, I guess. It’s not just movies. But just releasing music and shows that people in other parts of the world have seen, but North America hasn’t seen, if you can understand what I’m saying.

Vintage computers find new life in the age of AI

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif., Aug 10, (AP): Software engineer Josh Dersch loves old computers. He spends countless hours tinkering in his garage, trying to coax decades-old machines back to life. He estimates he owns more than 200 vintage computers and devices in his Seattle home. “It’s always been fascinating to me to see the origins of things,” Dersch said. “It’s a fun challenge to debug and repair. You can understand the entire system from top to bottom.” Dersch is part of a growing community of vintage computer collectors who are preserving the classic machines that helped launch the digital revolution. While Silicon Valley has since moved on to shaping the future of artificial intelligence, these hardware enthusiasts are intent on saving the Atari, Commodore and IBM machines that are ancestors to today’s laptops, wearable devices and smart phones. Where others see junk, people like Dersch see artifacts of computer history that are worthy of attention and respect. They delight in hearing the beeps and chimes of their childhood and firing up



Software engineer Josh Dersch, standing, shows a 1970s Xerox Alto computer he restored at the Vintage Computer Festival in Mountain View, Calif., Sunday, Aug. 2, 2026. (AP)

a low-def game of “Pong” or “Space Invaders.” “The enthusiasm for the history of computers and all the stuff around it is growing,” said Erik Klein, president of the Vintage Computer Federation, which organizes an annual festival at the

Computer History Museum in Mountain View in the heart of Silicon Valley. This year more than 3,500 people attended the two-day Vintage Computer Festival in early August that celebrated the 50th anniversary of Apple, founded in 1976 in nearby Cupertino, Calif. It featured a panel with co-founders Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne reminiscing about the company’s early days as a scrappy startup led by the late Steve Jobs. More than a dozen such gatherings have since sprung up in cities across North America, South America and Europe. Growing interest is reflected in more demand for vintage computers in online marketplaces, Klein said. Rare, iconic computers like the Apple-I - the company’s first product - can fetch hundreds of thousands of dollars. Collectors exhibited the computer systems that they have painstakingly restored to their original working condition, allowing attendees to play with the computers built long before the internet, social media and AI transformed the world.

‘Outbreak is still spreading at an alarming and unprecedented rate’

No Ebola cases found on quarantined river boat, say Congo authorities

KINSHASA, Congo, Aug 10, (AP): No cases of Ebola have been detected among passengers on a river boat that was placed in quarantine near Kinshasa, health authorities have said.

The confirmation announced on Saturday eased concerns that the rare Bundibugyo virus might spread to the Congolese capital.

More than 200 boat passengers were placed in quarantine on Thursday in the port of Maluku, 65 kilometers (40 miles) from Kinshasa, after one traveler who was previously aboard the boat died with symptoms matching the Ebola virus.

Specialist teams from the Ministry of Health were deployed to Maluku to examine all of those on board. Those exhibiting suspicious symptoms had samples taken and sent to a laboratory for analysis, the ministry said on Saturday, adding that the vessel was also decontaminated.

The National Institute of Biomedical Research, which is responsible for testing, said that all suspected cases tested negative for Bundibugyo. It urged the population of Kinshasa to remain calm.

Congo has been battling an Ebola outbreak that has been deemed the fastest in history in terms of transmission, with confirmed cases since it started in May reaching 4,200, including over 1,900 deaths.

The river boat passenger had become sick and disembarked nearly three weeks ago in Pimu, in the province of Mongala, more than 1,000 kilometers from Kinshasa along the Congo River, Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya said on Thursday. The capital has no confirmed Ebola case, he added.

News of the passenger’s death caused panic in Kinshasa, which is far from the eastern region hit by the outbreak, the second-largest outbreak on record, behind the 2014-2016 West Africa outbreak that recorded more than 28,000 cases, including over 11,000 deaths.

Ebola is highly contagious and spreads through contact with bodily fluids such as vomit, blood or semen, and with contaminated surfaces and materials such as bedding and clothing.

Health authorities say between 60% and 70% of new cases in the



Wiza Bondele, a health worker on the prevention and control team, washes his hands upon arrival at the Ebola treatment centre in Ituri province, eastern Congo, on Aug 5. (AP)

current outbreak are recorded outside of contacts being monitored, and that the outbreak is spreading at an “alarming” rate faster than efforts to track it.

The medical charity Doctors

Without Borders said this week that the outbreak is still “spreading at an alarming and unprecedented rate” and that the response, which has been expanding, “is still not reaching communities quickly enough to

break transmission chains.”

Meanwhile, Wiza Bondele goes to work every day at a hospital in Congo with one goal in mind: to slow the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak on record.

At an Ebola treatment hospital in the eastern Ituri province, the epicenter of Congo’s ongoing outbreak, Bondele disinfects contaminated areas, checks visitors’ temperatures and enforces handwashing protocols - work that puts him at risk of getting infected.

But like hundreds of other front-line health workers, including burial teams and drivers, Bondele says he has been working without pay since the outbreak was declared in mid-May in one of Congo’s most remote and conflict-hit regions.

Poor welfare for front-line workers has been a key source of concern in the outbreak. The payment issues and attacks on health teams and facilities have forced some health workers to walk off the job, disrupting critical care in the outbreak that authorities say continues to spread at an alarming rate and faster than efforts to track it.

Ebola spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected people or contaminated materials, a risk Bondele is well aware of.

“Sometimes patients are bleeding or vomiting blood. We clean and disinfect those places,” the 29-year-old infection control worker told The Associated Press while on duty. “With risks like that, we deserve salaries.”

Confirmed cases in the outbreak have exceeded 4,000, including over 1,800 deaths, according to the latest government data. It is the second-largest Ebola outbreak on record, behind the 2014-2016 West Africa outbreak that recorded more than 28,000 cases, including over 11,000 deaths. Another from 2018-2020 killed at least 2,200.

This outbreak has been linked to the Bundibugyo virus, for which there are currently no approved vaccines or treatments.

A veteran of Congo’s 2018 Ebola response, Bondele returned when the virus resurfaced, believing his experience could help protect his community in Ituri, which accounts for nearly 90% of the Ebola cases.

Jalapeños linked to US salmonella outbreak tracked to Mexican farm and distributor

NEW YORK, Aug 10, (AP): Jalapeño peppers linked to a multistate salmonella outbreak have been traced back to a grower in Sinaloa, Mexico, federal officials say.

At least 345 people in 27 states have been reported getting sick from the salmonella strain linked to the jalapeños. Most have been in Minnesota and Colorado. No deaths have been reported, but officials say 36 people have been hospitalized.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Wednesday that the chili peppers were moved into the U.S. by Coast Citrus Distributors. The company has recalled the peppers and is notifying its customers, which include some prominent Mexican food restaurant chains, officials said.

Coast Citrus Distributors didn’t immediately respond to a Thursday voicemail seeking comment.

The Food and Drug Administration said that of the 191 people interviewed in the outbreak investigation, 177 - or 93% - reported eating at a Mexican-style restaurant, including Chipotle Mexican Grill and Qdoba, from June 14 to July 14.

Chipotle Mexican Grill said Tuesday that it had removed jalapeños from some of its restaurants. Qdoba on Wednesday said the company had proactively removed jalapenos from all of its restaurants.

“Given their actions to remove product from their stores, neither of



This Nov 19, 2013 file photo shows a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention logo at the agency's federal headquarters in Atlanta. (AP)

these establishments are considered a current ongoing risk to consumers in this outbreak,” CDC officials said in a statement.

Salad chain Sweetgreen said Thursday it also removed jalapeños from its menu, where they are an ingredient in two of its 15 dressings. It was more bad news for Sweetgreen, which also saw sales plummet in July because of customer concerns over the cyclospora outbreak linked to iceberg lettuce. Sweetgreen doesn’t serve iceberg lettuce but said Thursday that customers are generally concerned about fresh produce.

The FDA is investigating whether any of the jalapeños went to grocery stores. The agency may announce additional actions on its recalls webpage, health officials said.

Health officials in Mexico said they opened an investigation and made a field visit Thursday to a packing plant in the northern state of Nuevo Leon.

Salmonella bacteria cause about 1.35 million infections in the United States every year, and outbreaks have been tied to sources such as cucumbers, eggs, unpasteurized milk, fresh basil, geckos and pet bearded

dragons.

Within hours or days of being exposed to the bacteria, infected people can suffer from diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps. The illness usually lasts four to seven days, and most people recover without treatment.

Young children, retirement-age adults and people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for more severe illness, according to the CDC.

Shares of Chipotle, based in Newport Beach, California, tumbled nearly 10% on Tuesday and have not recovered. Sweetgreen shares dropped 14% in after-hours trading Thursday.

Meanwhile, Taylor Fresh Foods, parent company of Taylor Farms, is voluntarily recalling some products that include jalapenos because of worries about a possible salmonella contamination.

The announcement comes a few weeks after Taylor Farms voluntarily recalled its iceberg lettuce products sourced from central Mexico because of a potential link to a multistate cyclospora outbreak that has sickened people across the U.S.

Taylor Fresh Foods said that it was pulling some products including jalapenos from store shelves after finding out that Coast Citrus Distributors was voluntarily recalling fresh jalapeños due to a potential salmonella contamination.



Kellogg's Froot Loops are displayed in a Costco in Pittsburgh, July 14, 2025. (AP)

Kellogg removing artificial dyes from cereals by end of this year

WASHINGTON, Aug 10, (AP): WK Kellogg said that it will remove artificial colors from all its cereals by the end of this year.

The change comes a year ahead of schedule. Kellogg said last August that it would remove synthetic dyes from its cereals by the end of 2027.

But the company said Thursday it has identified fruit- and vegetable-based juices that will give cereals like Froot Loops and Apple Jacks their distinctive colors. The Battle Creek, Michigan-based company said it has also invested in equipment that will allow it to transition to natural colors.

The company said it is also removing BHT, an artificial preserva-

tive, from the small number of cereals that still contain it.

“More and more consumers are looking for foods made with simple, recognizable ingredients and we are proud to meet those expectations even sooner than planned,” Kellogg’s Chief Growth Officer Doug VanDeVelde said in a statement.

Kellogg has faced pressure for years to remove artificial ingredients from its cereals, which it has already done in other countries like Canada. In 2024, dozens of people rallied outside Kellogg’s headquarters and delivered petitions with 400,000 signatures asking the company to remove artificial dyes and BHT.



People walk over a stone dam, that is normally covered by water, towards the ‘Maeuseturm’ (mice tower) in the middle of the river Rhine in Bingen, Germany Monday on Aug 10. (AP)

Western Europe sets new temperature record

UK, France prepare for another heat wave

PARIS, Aug 10, (AP): The UK and France are bracing for the fifth heat wave of the season, adding to an intense stretch of hot weather that has repeatedly sent temperatures soaring across Europe since May.

National weather agency Météo-France is warning about temperatures approaching 40 C (104 F) from Tuesday onward in southeastern France. And in the U.K., an amber heat health alert for most of England will be in place beginning Tuesday as temperatures are forecast to climb to 36 C (96.8 F) later this week.

Across Europe, the extreme heat began in May and has contributed to major wildfires, prolonged drought and new national temperature records, as well as thousands of projected heat-related deaths.

Globally, so far this is the third-hottest year, behind 2024 and 2025, climate statistics show. But 2026 still has time to catch up. Thanks to the one-two punch of accelerated human-caused global warming and a supersized El Niño - a periodic warming of parts of the Pacific that leads to temperature variations around the globe - there’s an increasing chance that by the end of the year, 2026 could become the hottest year on record, scientists said.

Last month saw the highest average sea surface temperature ever recorded for July across the extratropical oceans, or the oceans free of seasonal sea ice, according to the European climate agency Copernicus.

That was partially fueled by developing El Niño conditions in the equatorial Pacific, the service said. The new average record for July is 20.96 degrees Celsius (69.73 degrees Fahrenheit), which beat the 2023 record of 20.89 C (69.60 F).

But last month’s average surface air temperature globally was 16.90 C (62.42 F), making it only the joint second warmest July on record, tied with July 2024, Copernicus reported.

In Western Europe, meanwhile, the average temperature record for the June-July period hit 21.62 C (70.92 F), Copernicus said, toppling the 2022 record.

“Persistent high-pressure systems trapped heat over western Europe, the extreme temperatures also amplified widespread drought. As soils dry out, they lose their ability to provide natural cooling, allowing heat to build more readily,” said Samantha Burgess, strategic lead for climate at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.

“This is a clear example of how climate change is intensifying heat extremes, with heat and drought increasingly reinforcing one another.”

In France alone, heat wave alerts were issued for the first time on record in May, when more than half the country recorded new monthly temperature highs. The heat intensified in June, a period during which at least 5,700 more deaths than usual were recorded, according to France’s public health agency.

Météo-France said June 23 was the hottest day ever recorded in the country. Temperatures climbed as high as 44.3 C (111.7 F) in the southwest.

Two other heat wave episodes were recorded in July, amplifying a historic wildfire in southwestern France that forced 220,000 people to flee their homes in one of the continent’s biggest evacuation efforts since World War II.

Leave it: Dog trainers help pets avoid venomous snakes

TUCSON, Arizona, Aug 10, (AP): Ripley, a medium-sized dog with a strong prey drive, curiously approached Brian, a large western diamondback rattlesnake, until she got a quick zap on the neck meant to simulate a venomous viper’s bite.

Suddenly, the 2-year-old blue heeler mix wanted nothing to do with Brian’s textured brown skin or furiously rattling tail. Ripley was never in danger because Brian had his venom glands removed years ago.

Dog trainer J.J. Belcher of Sublime Canine in Tucson, Arizona, said the single shock delivered one recent morning from an electronic training collar should be sufficient to keep Ripley away from venomous snakes that can sicken or even kill a dog.

Belcher said Ripley can come back in a year for a free training session to make sure the lesson stuck.

Ripley’s owners, Amber Schneider and Wendy Timm, said they opted for the training because the dog regularly hunts small animals.

“We have an acre of natural desert and respect all the snakes, but she’s very curious about wildlife,” said Timm. “We are doing this because we want to keep our dog safe.”

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals says as many as 150,000 dogs are bitten by venomous snakes each year in the United States. In the rattlesnake hot spot of Arizona, emergency veterinarian Dr. Sarah Carotenuto says the Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson treats four to six dogs daily for rattlesnake bites, along with an occasional cat.

Training programs to protect canines from poisonous snakes are offered around the U.S., especially in the Western deserts, woods and grasslands that are home to western diamondbacks. The snakes can reach over 5 feet long (1.5 meters) and strike in less than a second when they feel threatened.

There are also classes from Illinois to Florida to guard animals against eastern diamondbacks, timber rattlers and other venomous snakes.

Carotenuto said the snakebite survival rate for pets is 94% with quick



This undated photo shows trainer JJ Belcher, (right), using his western diamondback rattler Brian to teach a dog to avoid poisonous snakes in Tucson, Arizona. (AP)

treatment, which can cost thousands of dollars depending on how much antivenom and hospitalization is needed.

“Do bring us your dog quickly, but please don’t bring us the snake!” emphasized Carotenuto. Some people have brought in the guilty snake, but it’s unnecessary to identify the exact species before administering antivenom effective against all kinds of rattlers.

Carotenuto, who teaches at the University of Arizona’s College of Veterinary Medicine, said she’s participating in a research study there into whether rattlesnake-aversion training works, and which method is most effective.

Like Belcher, most trainers insist that the use of the electronic collar is necessary to ensure a dog will avoid poisonous snakes.

“It’s a very fast and effective form of training,” said Belcher, who has traveled around the Western U.S. for more than two decades teaching rattlesnake avoidance to thousands of pet and working dogs, including search-and-rescue animals and the occasional police dog.

He acknowledged the growing debate about the use of electronic training collars, a method that the

American Humane Society has opposed as cruel.

The ASPCA doesn’t explicitly oppose electronic collars, but insists they be used correctly.

“This type of training can be highly effective - however, we recommend that such training be conducted only under the guidance of a trainer knowledgeable in the principles of avoidance learning,” said Pamela Reid, vice president of ASPCA’s behavioral sciences team.

“It is imperative to weigh the dog’s risk of a snakebite against the potential fallout from using an electronic collar,” she said.

Training a dog to come reliably when it’s called and to “leave it” when it is interested in something dangerous “can go a long way toward keeping a dog safe,” she said.

Belcher said he has developed an alternative positive-reinforcement program for clients who are squeamish about electronic collars, but nobody has wanted to pay the \$2,500 he would charge for the multiple sessions. A single visit with the collar costs \$125.

Another trainer, Mike Parmley in Salt Lake City, teaches as many as 500 dogs every year, usually in small classes of four to six.

Pease claims runner-up spot, boosts World Championships hopes

Olympic champion Rivera secures second straight US women’s gymnastics title

PHOENIX, Aug 10, (AP): Hezly Rivera listened more than she talked two summers ago in Paris when she was the “wait, who?” member of the star-laden U.S. women’s Olympic gymnastics team.

Those days are over. Long over.

The wide-eyed newcomer is gone, replaced by a poised and professional 18-year-old who is embracing her role as the leader of the sport’s next wave as the 2028 Olympics approach.

The proof was on display during the final round of the U.S. gymnastics championships on Sunday, when Rivera - still not quite 100% while recovering from a hamstring injury sustained at the Pan Am Games in June - won her second straight national title with a poised and polished performance that solidified her status as the current face of a women’s program two years out from the 2028 Games in Los Angeles.

Rivera’s two-day total of 111.950 was more than a point clear of runner-up Claire Pease, making Rivera the first American woman not named Simone Biles to go back-to-back since former world and Olympic champion Jordyn Wieber did it in 2011 and 2012.

Heady company to be sure, but company in which Rivera increasingly feels like she belongs. It might not have seemed like it in the summer of 2024 when she ceded the spotlight to her more accomplished teammates, but the relentlessly upbeat Texan has no problem admitting these days she wants to lead from the front.

“I am comfortable with it,” she said. “And I just love kind of being a leader in a way.”

Anna Liukin, who coaches Rivera alongside her husband Valeri, called Rivera “motherly.” Rivera laughed when the description was passed along because well, it’s strange to hear as a teenager. Yet in many ways, it’s applicable.

Lee and Jade Carey helped Rivera navigate her way through the sport’s biggest stage and come out with a gold medal on the other side. She feels



All Around second place finisher Claire Pease, left, All Around Champion Hezly Rivera, center, and All Around third place finisher Charleigh Bullcock, right, pose for a photograph at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships in Phoenix. (AP)

it’s her duty to do the same to the generation of gymnasts just starting to find their way as the lure of a potentially life-changing hometown Games in Los Angeles looms.

“I think it’s just really important to give pep talks because when you’re

young, you’re still learning a lot,” she said. “So I just think it’s good to get positive vibes.”

Even if producing them takes a little practice. Rivera relied on that practice Thursday when a fall on uneven bars - perhaps her strongest event - sent her tumbling down the leaderboard. She shook the miscue off and found herself in fourth heading into Sunday.

A comeback still seemed somewhat unlikely when Rivera began Sunday with a gritty bars set that included her fighting through a mini-stall just before her dismount and ended with her and giving Valeri Liukin a “what are you gonna do?” shrug after a dismount that included a small step.

Yet twenty minutes later, it was long forgotten during a graceful balance beam routine that brought her to within striking distance of the lead.

“It took a few years to learn that, but I’m at a point now where it’s just like there already,” she said. “I don’t really have to think about it too much.”

Her black-and-white bedazzled leotard glittering under the lights, Rivera put on a performance that made her look every bit the star she has become.

Rivera never glanced at the scoreboard to mark her progress, too intent on trying to stay warm and focused during sometimes lengthy delays. If she was bothered, it didn’t show. Every time she saluted the judges, Rivera was all business.

Now she heads into the fall hoping to make her first world championship team. Rivera was practically a lock last year before rolling her ankle during selection camp, something Liukin called “heartbreaking.”

Provided she can stay healthy, Rivera is eager to make up for lost time in the first major international team meet since Paris. Yes, her hamstring still isn’t quite there, but she found her way to the top of the podium anyway.

“I think it just shows how strong I am mentally,” she said. “Because physically everything’s there. But the mental aspect of things is definitely where it’s at. You can’t really do this without having a strong mentality.”



Ty Gibbs (54) drives ahead of Austin Dillon, right, during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa. (AP)

Bell second after leading 108 laps

Gibbs claims NASCAR Cup victory at Iowa speedway

NEWTON, Iowa, Aug 10, (AP): Ty Gibbs didn’t question his crew chief’s final pit call.

“I can’t do anything about it, so you just run with it,” Gibbs said.

Gibbs used late pit strategy and held off Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Christopher Bell over the final 20 laps to win the NASCAR Cup Series race Sunday at Iowa Speedway.

Gibbs - the 23-year-old grandson of former NFL coaching great and NASCAR team owner Joe Gibbs - won by 0.253 seconds over Bell for his second victory of the season and his career.

Gibbs and Bell each pitted with 60 laps remaining in the 350-lap race, but while Bell took four tires, Gibbs just went with two right-side tires, and came out ahead. And when leader Ross Chastain pitted on Lap 330, Gibbs took over the top spot and fought off a late charge by Bell.

Tyler Allen, Gibbs’ crew chief, thought taking two tires was the only chance to get ahead of Bell in that final pit cycle.

“We knew after practice the left sides weren’t wearing much and they tended to refire OK,” Allen said. “So in terms of coming into the race, it was definitely a viable option.”

Gibbs liked the aggressive call.

“I think in the position with our points situation, for sure,” he said.

Gibbs, who picked up his first career win April 12 at Bristol, came into the race ranked fourth in the season standings, and moved into second - 103 points behind JGR teammate Denny Hamlin.

Gibbs, who had an issue in the pits on his first stop of the day when his jack fell too early during the tire change, fell back to 28th before charging back.

“You’re kind of hosed after that deal,” Gibbs said. “So you’ve got to stay locked in and keep working.”

It was the seventh second-place finish of the season for Bell, who led 108 laps.

“Ty did a really good job,” Bell said. “He did a great job of managing the race.”

Pole-sitter Ryan Blaney, who won the inaugural 2024 Cup Series race at the 0.875-mile oval, was third after leading a race-high 129 laps.

Josh Berry finished fourth. It was Berry’s best finish of the season, and only his third top-10 finish. Hamlin finished fifth.

Chase Briscoe was sixth. Chastain recovered to finish seventh. AJ Allmendinger was eighth, followed by defending race winner William By-



Ty Gibbs holds up his trophy after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race, Sunday at Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa. (AP)

ron. Austin Dillon was 10th.

Tyler Reddick’s summer struggles continued when he crashed into Erik Jones four laps into the race.

The rear end of Reddick’s car slid entering Turn 1, and Reddick ran into Jones before hitting the wall. Reddick finished last in the 36-car field.

“A 100% that was on me,” Reddick said. “It’s something I don’t normally do, make those kinds of mistakes. Just gut-wrenching on a lot of levels. I thought we kind of figured out what we needed to do for the race today, and made a killer mistake earlier.”

Reddick won the first three races of the season, and four of the first six, and has five wins overall. But he has had four finishes of 30th place or worse in the last six races.

Hamlin had brake issues during practice Saturday, which led to the team changing brake rotors and a cooling unit. Hamlin had to go to the rear of the field, but surged back to finish fifth despite having more brake issues during the race.

“I just had white knuckles every lap, not knowing where my car was going to land when I got in the corner,” Hamlin said. “That was a crazy race to have to do it the whole time without (brakes), but you’ve got to do what you’ve got to do, and the team did an amazing job. I would take that day a hundred out of a hundred days.”

“I’ve never seen Denny that exhausted,” Joe Gibbs said. “I think he drove his heart out.”

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug 10, (AP): Kayla McBride made a WNBA-record 10 3-pointers and finished with a career-high 43 points as the Minnesota Lynx beat the Dallas Wings 103-90, becoming the first team to clinch a spot in the WNBA playoffs.

The Lynx (27-7), who set a franchise record with 18 made 3s, have won 12 of 13.

McBride made 10 of 14 from behind the arc and 16 of 21 overall before she left the game with 1:21 remaining to a standing ovation. The previous mark of nine made 3s had been done eight times by six different players, most recently by Toronto’s Marina Mabrey on June 25.

Olivia Miles had 20 points and 13 assists for Minnesota. Napheesa Collier scored 17 and Natasha Howard 12.

The Wings (19-13) have lost three consecutive games and six of their last eight.

Liberty 111, Aces 71

In New York, Marine Johannes scored a career-high 27 points, hitting seven 3-pointers, and New York routed short-handed Las Vegas.

The Aces (22-11) were playing the second-half of a brutal back-to-back that had them in Minnesota on Saturday and facing the Liberty less than 24 hours later. A’ja Wilson, Chelsea Gray and Jackie Young all missed the New York game to rest.

With the trio out, Las Vegas was missing 57 points per game. Brianna Turner, Dana Evans and Jewell Loyd took their places in the starting lineup and couldn’t make up for the lost production. The three new starters combined for eight points.

New York (20-13) has won four straight and seven of its last eight games. The Liberty went right at the Aces, scoring the first five points of the game. They were up 24-15 after the first quarter and led 50-39 at the half. New York put the game away



Minnesota Lynx guard Kayla McBride (21) drives to the basket on Dallas Wings guard Paige Bueckers in the first half of a basketball game in Minneapolis. (AP)

to start the third quarter, scoring the first seven points, five by Rebecca Allen. Las Vegas didn’t score for the first 5:37 of the third quarter until NaLyssa Smith made a layup.

Mystics 95, Mercury 75

In Washington, Shakira Austin had 19 points and 11 rebounds, Sonnia Citron also scored 19 points and Washington beat Phoenix to extend its win streak to seven games.

Citron shot 7 of 9 from the field, 5 of 6 from 3-point range, and had six assists.

Michaela Onyenwere and Cotie McMahon scored 13 points apiece for the Mystics (19-12). Kiki Iriafen had 12 points and nine rebounds.

The No. 11 pick in the 2026 draft, McMahon has scored in double figures in three consecutive games and six times this season.

The Mercury (12-22) have lost three games in a row and four of their last five.

Kahleah Copper led the Mercury with 15 points and Noemie Brochant added 13. Alyssa Thomas had 10 points, 10 rebounds and six assists.

Phoenix led 21-20 at the end of the first quarter but made just 12 of 34 (35.3%) from the field in the second and third combined as the Mystics stretched their lead to 22 points going into the fourth.

Valkyries 84, Sparks 78

In Los Angeles, Cecilia Zandaslasi scored 15 points on 5-of-5 shooting from 3-point range, Tiffany Hayes added 14 and Golden State blew most of a 19-point lead before beating Los Angeles.

Gabby Williams and Kayla Thornton scored 11 points apiece for the

Valkyries (23-9), who have won four straight and have the best record in the WNBA since June 24 (13-2).

The Valkyries were 12 of 18 (66.7%) from the field and Zandaslasi scored nine points on 3-of-3 shooting from 3-point range in Golden State’s highest-scoring first quarter this season to take a 29-15 lead into the second.

Golden State took a 66-47 lead, its biggest of the game, when Kaitlyn Chen made a layup 24 seconds into the fourth quarter. The Sparks scored 26 of the next 34 points to trim the deficit to a point when Ariel Atkins hit a 3-pointer with 1:38 remaining.

Williams made a straightaway bank shot, Janelle Salaun hit a 3-pointer and Thornton made two free throws with 21 seconds left that gave the Valkyries an 81-73 lead.

Coach leaves lasting legacy

NBA coaching great Nelson dies at 86



In this file photo, Chuck Daly Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Don Nelson speaks during a press conference before Game 2 of the NBA Finals basketball series against the Oklahoma City Thunder in Oklahoma City. (AP)

NBA history to have at least 250 wins with three different franchises - Milwaukee, Dallas and Golden State - also serving as general manager for all three franchises. He was a three-time coach of the year and made the playoffs 18 times in 31 seasons. He went to the conference finals three times with the Bucks and once with the Mavericks, never winning a title.

Nelson introduced what is now known as the point forward, and his up-tempo style of offense created a buzz. He said the idea of shifting from the dominant big men of the 1970s to an offense focused on speed and the fast break came from his playing days under Celtics Hall of Fame coach Red Auerbach.

“The league really hadn’t seen an

offense like the one we were running, and the results were undeniable,” Nelson wrote in 2016 in The Players’ Tribune.

Nelson said that “without Red Auerbach teaching me the mechanics of running the fast break, none of it would have been possible. He deserves all the credit for Nellie Ball, and for how fast the game of basketball is played today.”

Nelson played 11 of his 14 seasons in Boston and was on five Celtics championship teams under four different coaches. He became an assistant coach in Milwaukee after retiring as a player, then took over after coach Larry Costello resigned 18 games into the 1976-77 season.

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Cameroon and Malawi clinch World Cup qualification on day of upsets at WAFCON

CASABLANCA, Morocco, Aug 10, (AP): Cameroon shocked defending champion Nigeria and Malawi stunned Ghana to reach the semifinals of the Women’s Africa Cup of Nations on Sunday and seal World Cup qualification.

Cameroon goalkeeper Michaela Bihina excelled and her team held on as the 19-year-old Myriam Nyadjou’s early goal was enough for the Indomitable Lionesses’ 1-0 win over 10-time champion Nigeria.

It’s the first time that Nigeria has failed to reach the semifinals, where Cameroon will face host nation Morocco on Wednesday.

But the Super Falcons will also rue missing the chance to qualify for the 2027 Women’s World Cup. All four semifinalists qualify automatically for the tournament in Brazil, while Nigeria and the other losing quarterfinal teams play on Thursday with two spots in an intercontinental playoff tournament up for grabs.

Malawi, playing its first WAFCON tournament, clinched World Cup qualification for the first time thanks to a starring performance from Temwa Chawinga, who scored one goal and set up the other in a 2-1 win over Ghana in Rabat.

“I’m quite excited!” the Kansas City Current forward said about her team’s historic feat.

Chantelle Boye-Hlorkeh got Ghana off to a great start with a volley inside the far post, but Chawinga promptly replied with

a fine strike of her own.

Rose Kadzere scored the winner late when she took Chawinga’s pass by a defender with her first touch and slid the ball past the goalkeeper with her next.

Malawi, which defeated Nigeria 3-2 in their first group game, next faces Algeria in Rabat on Wednesday.

Cameroon had played Nigeria 13 times before at the Women’s Africa Cup and only won once before Sunday’s match in Casablanca.

Nyadjou scored in the 19th minute with a thunderous free kick straight into the top left corner. It was the only part of the goal left unguarded by the Nigerian defenders’ wall.

Nigeria had dominated possession and created more chances, keeping Bihina busy.

Nigeria was dealt another blow toward the end of the first half when star forward Rinsola Babajide had to go off injured.

‘Tears of joy’ as Vollering wins Women’s Tour for second time

NICE, France, Aug 10, (AP): After winning the Women’s Tour de France for the second time, Demi Vollering tried hard to hold back tears while the Dutch national anthem played.

It was her toughest moment of the day after an ultra-dominant performance on the bike from the 2023 champion.

She secured an impressive stage win, and in doing so extended her overall lead over Polish rider Katarzyna Niewiadoma-Phinney to 1 minute, 18 seconds clear of the 2024 champion.

Vollering raised her bike in the air moments after crossing the finish line in Nice. Niewiadoma-Phinney had started ninth and final stage only eight seconds behind Vollering, who got a time bonus for winning it.

Finally, as the Dutch anthem ended, a lone tear trickled down the side of Vollering’s face. A few more soon followed as her achievement hit home.

“It’s not only the dream of winning the Tour de France. It’s also the dream of living this life, of working hard along with passionate people,” the 29-year-old Vollering said. “It all starts with dreaming. Go chase the dreams and don’t let anyone stop you.”

Nobody could on Sunday.

Knowing that she was well clear, Vollering began to

celebrate as the line approached, raising her arm in triumph and then tapping her head with her finger to show her mental strength.

“I was thinking about a lot of things as I was approaching the finish line. I thought that I had never won in the yellow jersey before,” Vollering said. “I thought about how much work has gone into this victory. I thought about the people who have been behind me.”

She finished the stage 1 minute, 4 seconds ahead of Spaniard Paula Blasi Cairol and Niewiadoma-Phinney, who looked tired but was all smiles later on the podium.

Former Giro d’Italia champion Elisa Longo Borghini of Italy was third overall in the Tour - 4:29 behind - after Marlen Reusser lost valuable time after crashing going downhill after the second of the day’s four climbs.

Reusser ended up 14th overall at nearly 26 minutes behind.

Niewiadoma-Phinney had it all to do on the final climb, especially with her rival sitting on her wheel, and was unable to pressure Vollering.

Vollering attacked about 800 meters from the top and dropped Niewiadoma-Phinney - as she did when winning Saturday’s eighth stage to take the overall lead from her rival.



Netherlands’ Demi Vollering celebrates on the podium after winning the Women’s Tour de France cycling race (Tour de France Femmes) in Nice, France. (AP)

Brennan surges into FedEx Cup playoffs with victory at Wyndham Championship



Michael Brennan reacts after winning the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro. Inset: Brennan poses with the trophy. (AP)

Niemann gets 9th LIV win

GREENSBORO, N.C., Aug 10, (AP): Michael Brennan made five straight birdies to pull away from Beau Hossler and close with a 6-under 64 to win the Wyndham Championship and reach the PGA Tour’s lucrative postseason.

Brennan came into the final tournament of the regular season at No. 105 in the FedEx Cup. Now his season gets extended by at least one week after his second PGA Tour title in two years. The FedEx Cup playoffs start Thursday with the FedEx St. Jude Championship at the TPC Southwind in Memphis, Tennessee. Only the top 70 players advance, and Brennan shot up to No. 47.

Jackson Koivun, who left Auburn in June and won the 3M Open in only his third start, narrowly hung on to the 70th spot and goes from college to the postseason in only two months.

Brennan made birdie on the final hole to finish at 22-under 258, matching the tournament record at Sedgefield shot three other times, most recently last year by Wake Forest grad Cameron Young.

Ben James, the No. 1 player from the PGA Tour University ranking who has a card already secure for 2027, fell out of contention on Saturday but roared back with a 61 to finish third.

Joaquin Niemann closed with a 2-under 69 Sunday for a three-shot victory in LIV Golf New York, extending his record with his ninth career victory in the last three years.

Jon Rahm shot 76 and tied for 41st, but that still was enough to win the season points title for the third straight time since the two-

time major champion joined LIV Golf.

Niemann, who won earlier this year in South Korea, went wire-to-wire at Trump International. He finished at 16-under 268. Harold Varner III caught Niemann until the Chilean pulled away late with a birdie on the 13th and an eagle on the par-5 15th. Varner shot 70 to finish second.

Bryson DeChambeau shot 71 and tied for 38th, 23 shots out of the lead. He cannot catch Rahm with one tournament remaining.

Frankie Harris made an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a 12-under 59 and won the Pinnacle Bank Championship on Sunday with a par on second playoff hole for his first Korn Ferry Tour title in only his sixth start this year.

Harris shot 27 on the back nine of The Club at Indian Creek by making just over 153 feet of putts. Alistair Docherty birdied his last four holes, including a 53-foot putt on the 16th, for a 64 to force a playoff at 22-under 262.

On the 18th for the second playoff hole, Docherty went long of the green, chipped to 6 feet and missed the par putt.

Harris became the fourth player in the last six weeks with a 59. He became the ninth player worldwide to have a sub-60 final round and win the tournament.

California teen Asterisk Talley picked up her biggest win yet Sunday when she surged past Anna Iwanaga of Japan for an 8-and-6 victory to win the U.S. Women’s Amateur.

The 17-year-old Talley earned her second USGA title before even leaving high school. She also teamed to win the U.S. Women’s Amateur Four-Ball in 2024, the same year she was runner-up in the U.S. Women’s

Amateur and U.S. Junior Girls.

Iwanaga, who shared the medalist honors during the 36-hole qualifying, won the ninth hole in the morning for a 1-up lead. But that was the last hole Iwanaga won. Talley squared the match with a birdie on the 11th, and she birdied the next two holes and never looked back.

The victory gets Talley into the U.S. Women’s Open next year at Inverness Club in Ohio.

Anna Huang won her fourth Ladies European Tour title when the 17-year-old Canadian closed with an eagle for a 3-under 70 and a two-shot victory over Charley Hull, who four-putted for double bogey on the 17th hole and shot 69. The 17-year-old Huang is the youngest player with four LET wins.

Mirabel Ting closed with a 5-under 67 and made birdie on the first playoff hole against Rachel Kuehn to win the Smoky Mountain Championship for her first Epson Tour title.

Christofer Blomstrand closed with a 3-under 68 for a two-shot victory over fellow Swede Adam Wallin in the Scottish Challenge.

Darren Fichardt of South Africa closed with a 4-under 68 and won the Staysure PGA Seniors Champion by five shots over Mikael Lundberg at Trump International in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Yuzuki Yoshizawa won the Hokkaido Meiji Cup on the Japan LPGA with a 4-under 68 for a two-shot victory over Kana Nagai.

Eunsoo Jang closed with a 3-under 69 for a one-shot victory in Jeju Samdasoo Masters on the Korea LPGA.

Rayo turns to Leganes amid stadium safety fears

PSG strengthens defense by signing Digne

PARIS, Aug 10, (AP): Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain has strengthened its defense by signing left back Lucas Digne from Aston Villa on a three-year contract.

PSG announced the deal on Sunday evening without giving financial details. Sports daily L’Equipe said it paid the Premier League club 10 million euros (\$11.6 million).

The 33-year-old Digne was born in the Paris suburbs and previously played for PSG after joining from Lille in 2013. He then represented Roma and Barcelona before spending eight years in the Premier League with Everton and Villa.

An energetic defender with accurate passing, the left-footed Digne became a France regular in recent years under former coach Didier Deschamps. He played at the recent World Cup, where Les Bleus reached the semifinals, and has 64 caps.

“I am very honoured to be returning to Paris Saint-Germain following the wonderful experience I had here more than 10 years ago,” he said. “I am particularly impressed by how the club has developed over the years.”

PSG recently signed France winger Maghnes Aklouché from Monaco and begins its Ligue 1 title defense at home to Rennes on Aug. 23.

Rayo Vallecano will play its first home game of the season at second-tier Leganes’ stadium because of unsafe conditions at its own venue.

Vallecano had been searching for somewhere to host its top-flight Spanish league match against Alaves on Aug. 20 after the Vallecas Stadium was deemed unsafe to host games by local authorities.

Spanish media were reporting that Rayo was considering playing its home games in the city of Burgos, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) from where the club is based in southern Madrid.

Rayo fans, one of the most active and loyal in Spain, had been upset because of the long distance needed to watch the club play.

Leganes, though, said in a statement Monday that it reached an agreement with Rayo and Madrid authorities to allow the club to play at its stadium “given the delicate situation” affecting the Vallecas.

It said the agreement was made “provided that certain minimum guarantees are met to safeguard the interests” of Leganes fans and the club itself.

Rayo is not expected to play at Vallecas for a long time, as work is needed to renovate the venue so that it can comply with health and safety standards.

Rayo is one of the most outdated clubs in the Spanish league in many aspects, including the lack of direct online ticket sales for its home matches.

The club said the search for season tickets among fans has been significant despite the stadium issue.

Rayo finished eighth in the league last season and reached the Conference League final, which it lost to Crystal Palace.

Rayo begins its league campaign at Seville on Saturday.



Lucas Digne

Best of the Rest

Thorns survive Legacy rally behind Tordin’s hat trick: Pietra Tordin scored three goals and the visiting Portland Thorns held off the Boston Legacy 4-3 on Sunday in the first meeting between the teams.

In the day’s other National Women’s Soccer League matches, Angel City FC and the Seattle Reign played to a 2-2 draw, and Bay FC and the Chicago Stars went scoreless. At Centreville Bank Stadium in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Tordin’s first career hat trick gave Portland enough cushion to survive Boston’s comeback attempt after Thorns coach Robert Vilahamn was ejected in the 58th minute for intentionally deflecting a dead ball away from play.

Awarded a free kick in just the second minute of the match, Tordin pinged the shot off goalkeeper Casey Murphy’s gloves. Four minutes later, Sophia Wilson scored to put Portland ahead 2-0. (AP)

Sinner pulls out of Cincinnati Open due to knee injury

CINCINNATI, Aug 10, (AP): Jannik Sinner, the world’s No. 1 men’s tennis player, withdrew from the Cincinnati Open because of a knee injury.

Sinner, who hasn’t competed since capturing his second straight Wimbledon title last month, also withdrew from the tournament in Toronto that began Wednesday.

The 24-year-old Sinner has five Grand Slam titles and just needs to win the French Open to complete the career Grand Slam.

“After consulting with my doctors and my team, I have to announce that I need to withdraw



In this file photo, Jannik Sinner of Italy reacts to winning against Alexander Zverev of Germany in the men’s singles final at Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. (AP)

from the Masters 1000 tournament in Cincinnati,” the Italian said in a statement released by tournament officials. “My right knee has been bothering me and even though we have been working hard with my medical team, I have to accept that I’m not ready to compete yet. I’m very disappointed not to be able to play in Cincinnati. I can’t wait to be back next year and I’m now focusing on getting ready for the U.S. Open.”

Sinner’s announcement follows a similar decision by Carlos Alcaraz, who said Tuesday he also was withdrawing from the hard-court event in Cincinnati because of a lingering wrist injury.

The absences mean fans in Cincinnati will not see either of the world’s top two players when men’s singles begins Saturday.

Two years ago, Sinner won the title in Cincinnati, which traditionally is one of the last stops before the U.S. Open and serves as a warmup. He then went on to win the U.S. Open.

Last year, Alcaraz dethroned Sinner with a four-set victory in the U.S. Open final. The 23-year-old Spaniard will try to defend his title when the main draw of the tourney begins Aug. 30.

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Mexico players celebrate after winning the the CONCACAF U-20 final soccer tournament against the United States in Mexico City. Alfaro's 2 headers lift Mexico to a 2-0 win over the US to retain CONCACAF U-20 title. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi set for blockbuster Zain Premier League opener



Youngsters take part in Zain Premier League draw.



Zain Premier League trophy for the 2026-2027 season.



KUNA photos

Kuwait FA officials attend the draw ceremony for the 65th Zain Premier League.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10, (KUNA): The Kuwait Football Association (KFA) held the draw on Monday for the 65th edition of the Zain Premier League, with the 2026-2027 season set to kick off on August 25.

The new season will feature 12 teams: defending champion Ku-

wait Club, Al-Qadsia, Al-Arabi, Al-Salmiya, Kazma, Al-Fahaheel, Al-Nasr, Al-Tadamon, Al-Jahra, Al-Shabab, and the champion and runners-up of the First Division.

The opening-round draw produced a high-profile clash between defending champion Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi, one of the most anti-

pated fixtures of the first round.

Al-Qadsia will face Al-Fahaheel, Al-Tadamon will meet Kazma, Al-Jahra will take on Al-Shabab, and Al-Salmiya will play Al-Nasr. The First Division champions will face the runners-up.

Under the competition regulations, the league will be played on a

home-and-away basis, with matches scheduled over two days each week and three games played per day.

The KFA announced Sunday that Zain Telecommunications will remain the sponsor of both the Premier League and First Division after winning the bidding process for the next four seasons.

UEFA, CONCACAF and AFC accuse FIFA of ‘breach of trust’

‘Soccer belongs to no individual and no institution’

NYON, Switzerland, Aug 10, (AP): UEFA, CONCACAF and the AFC believe that FIFA president Gianni Infantino’s recent plan to sell an interest in the World Cup was a “fundamental breach of trust” with the institutions world soccer’s governing body serves.

In an “open letter to the football family” revealed on Monday, UEFA, CONCACAF and the AFC also said that “when trust is broken through deception, when an individual places himself above the collective that entrusted him with authority, that duty has been abandoned.”

UEFA runs soccer in Europe, CONCACAF does the same for North, Central America and the Caribbean, while the AFC governs the sport in Asia.

The letter was co-signed by UEFA president Aleksander Čeferin, AFC president Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, CONCACAF president Victor Montagliani and three general secretaries.

“Football is the world’s greatest shared passion. It belongs to no individual and no institution. It belongs to the players, the fans, the clubs, the member associations and every institution entrusted with safeguarding its future,” the open letter said. “It is in that spirit, as confederations representing its members, that we speak collectively today.”

Infantino is facing a revolt after his failed plan to sell stakes in the World Cup to private equity investors.

“It is not the conduct of a custodian of the game, but of one who believes the game is answerable to him,” the letter said. “These are not the qualities football deserves in its leadership. That is why we have taken this stance: not lightly and not alone, but together, and out of duty to the



FIFA president Gianni Infantino with AFC President Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa.

game we serve.”

UEFA previously issued a threat to boycott the World Cup and other FIFA competitions despite the governing body abandoning and apologizing for its failed plan.

Norway’s soccer federation called for Infantino to step down, while the English Football Association has also withdrawn its support for Infantino’s re-election next March.

“Football’s strength has always been its unity. We call for that unity to be honoured now,” the letter said. “For leadership that serves football, not seeks to command it.”

Last Wednesday, FIFA said it had apologized for errors made over the failed plan but that senior staff at a crisis meeting in Morocco “reaffirmed their full support” for his presidency.

However, the nature of the meeting was also met with criticism.

“FIFA’s own letter also confirms that only one elected official was present at the leadership meeting in Morocco,” the open letter said. “No FIFA Council members or Member Associations were invited to participate. Only the management committee, composed of FIFA-employed senior staff, was present.”

FIFA was also urged to go further than just acknowledging mistakes were made.

“It treats this as a failure of communication, when what football witnessed was a failure of judgment,” the letter said. “There remains no recognition that attempting to sell an interest in the FIFA World Cup was a profound failure of judgment - not just a procedural misstep, but a fundamental breach of trust with the very institutions FIFA exists to serve.”

In a statement Saturday, FIFA defended Infantino against what it called a “concerted and ongoing effort” to undermine his leadership of the organization.

That statement followed a report by British newspaper The Daily Telegraph raising questions about an exit package paid by UEFA to a female staffer who worked with Infantino when he was general secretary of European soccer’s ruling body.

UEFA confirmed that a “departure payment” was made to the employee and said it was “in line” with regulations at the time.

Infantino worked at UEFA for 16 years before being elected FIFA president.

Burgan set for North Macedonia camp ahead of Club World Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassh/Arab Times Staff



In this file photo, Burgan player is tackled as he goes for a shot.

camp before traveling to Egypt two days later to finalize preparations for the championship.

Burgan was drawn in Group B alongside German powerhouse Fuchse Berlin, host Al Ahly of Egypt and the winner of the preliminary-round match between Hungarian side Veszprém and Australia’s Sydney.

Group A includes Spanish giant Barcelona, Morocco’s Montada Derb Sultan, Brazil’s Pinheiros and the winner of the preliminary-round encounter between Egyptian club Zamalek and Los Angeles of the United States.

Burgan will face a tough challenge against some of the world’s leading clubs after making history by winning the Asian Club Championship for the first time. The triumph secured the club a place at the prestigious global tournament.

Burgan has also moved to strengthen their squad ahead of the new season and their Club World Championship campaign, completing six new signings to give national coach Yaqoub Al-Mousawi greater depth and options.

The club signed Al-Qadsia player Abdullah Al-Attiyah and five players from Al-Salmiya — Hussein Salman, Bandar Al-Shammari, Mohammed Al-Bahr, Hassan Rajab and Yousef Rajab.

The new arrivals will join the existing squad, including Japanese professional Yasuhiro, as Burgan seek to build on their historic Asian success.

The reinforcements are part of the club’s strategy to strengthen several positions with experienced and technically capable players while maintaining the core group that delivered the historic continental title.

Kazma seeks Colombian reinforcement

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassh/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 10: Kazma is set to strengthen its volleyball squad with a Colombian professional after Indonesian player Farhan withdrew from the team due to his commitments with the Indonesian national team.

The change follows the rescheduling of the 2026-2027 volleyball season, which coincided with Farhan’s international commitments and led him to apologize for being unable to continue with Kazma.

The club’s volleyball management has moved quickly to secure a replacement and is close to completing a deal with a Colombian player whose identity has yet to be disclosed. He is expected to arrive in Kuwait in October, in time for the start of the new season.

Meanwhile, Kazma has completed the arrival of members of its technical staff, with Brazilian fitness coach Renato Santos and statistician Daniel Melo joining the team.

The club announced their arrival through its official X account as preparations continue for the upcoming competitions and the 2026-2027 season.

The coaching staff is working



Players challenge for the ball during Kuwait and Egypt match at the Arab U-17 Volleyball Championship in Manama.

to raise the players’ physical and technical fitness levels ahead of the demanding schedule, particularly following the changes made to the season calendar.

Kazma began its local preparations around three weeks ago under Saad Yaqoub, the club’s volleyball technical director, with the participation of the local players.

The management has also strengthened the squad by signing Abdulrahman Al-Mulla and Fahad Al-Kout, in a bid to increase the team’s competitiveness and challenge for titles next season.

Meanwhile, Kuwait’s U-17 national volleyball team opened its campaign at the second Arab U-17 Volleyball Championship in Manama with a 0-3 defeat to Egypt. The tournament runs until August 17.

Egypt won the sets 25-16, 25-16 and 25-12. Kuwait then faced Saudi Arabia in the second round of the preliminary stage.

The teams have a rest day today before the third round gets underway tomorrow. Kuwait will meet host Bahrain, Saudi Arabia will face Egypt, while Jordan will take on Algeria.