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NBK contributes KD 1 mln to the restoration & rehabilitation of Kuwait's land border crossings
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FOOD SAFETY MOVES TO TOP SHELF AS KUWAIT STRESSES COMPLIANCE

Keep rotten, damaged food off co-op shelves

Sick employees banned from handling food

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: The Financial, Administrative and Cooperative Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Social Affairs has stressed the need for cooperative societies to strictly comply with the regulations of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) to ensure product safety and to protect consumers, say reliable sources.

Sources disclosed that the sector sent a circular to the cooperatives,

underscoring the importance of separating food products from detergents and chemicals in display and storage areas, allocating secure locations for them, and adhering to proper storage and appropriate temperatures for refrigerated and frozen goods.

Sources said the circular reiterated the prohibition of displaying or selling expired, damaged or unfit for human consumption food items, isolating products suspected of being unfit for human consumption, and guaranteeing the integrity of packaging and the clarity of production and expiration information.

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Kuwait Army photo

Chief of Staff of Kuwait Army Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian and US Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Middle East and Central Asia Michael Dimino along with the teams participating in the annual meeting of Kuwait-US Joint Military Committee.

New pact expands military cooperation

Kuwait, US cement longstanding defense ties

WASHINGTON, Aug 22, (KUNA): Chief of Staff of Kuwait Army Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian and US Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Middle East and Central Asia Michael Di-

mino co-chaired the annual meeting of Kuwait-US Joint Military Committee.

The General Staff said Saturday the meeting, held at the US Department of War headquarters, the Pen-

tagon, included several workshops involving participating teams from both sides to review joint cooperation in maintenance and training fields.

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Gulf water link gets urgency amid rising regional threats

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: The Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA) organized a workshop titled, "Studying the Feasibility of Building Water Interconnection Projects among GCC Countries," in co-operation with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretariat.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy participated in the workshop as the representative of Kuwait, along with the representatives of relevant authorities and experts in the fields of water, infrastructure and water security from other GCC member states.

The workshop program included the presentation of the consulting

firm about the results of the first phase of the study. This presentation covered the current condition of the water supply infrastructure and water interconnection among GCC countries, in addition to the required data to complete the subsequent phases of the study.

Former Minister of Electricity and Water Eng. Mohammad Boushehri confirmed that Gulf water interconnection is an urgent need due to the current circumstances in the region.

He explained that achieving Gulf water security requires diversifying water sources through the Red Sea in Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Sea in Oman, instead of relying on a single water source -- the Arabian Gulf.

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Nothing left for Iran but Abu Ja'al Al-Houthi

THE saying goes, "If God is angry with an ant, He gives it wings."

Looking at the world map, we see that Iran is small, no matter how large it appears, yet delusion made it see itself as larger than it truly is.

The Iranian regime looked at the political mirror and imagined itself to be a lion, while in reality, it is a cat whose claws were removed.

Events over the past five decades have confirmed this image. The Iranian regime brought sanctions upon its country when it deviated from the normal political conduct of nations and resolved to implement a plan full of delusions built on sectarian myths, which are incompatible with the Islamic world and unacceptable to the international community. The regime has failed more than once to achieve its illusory model.

Today, in light of the developments since Feb 28, the Iranian regime finds itself facing an increasingly angry international community that will not tolerate any sabotage. Iran's threat to energy supplies has united the world against it.

The threatening language adopted by the Iranian regime is directed more at its domestic audience than the international community, but it understands that threats will not change the facts.

The crisis has entered a phase of maximum pressure on the global economy and has exacerbated the suffering of the Iranian people.

Unfortunately, while the Iranian regime was spending billions supporting sectarian proxies, it neglected its own people, causing the suffering of more

than 90 million citizens.

On the contrary, when it was able to intervene in Syria, it deluded itself into thinking it could change the culture and beliefs of the Syrian people and mold them to its advantage. Therefore, with the fall of the regime of Bashar al-Assad, the horrific reality in Damascus, historically known as the beating heart of Arabism, began to unfold.

Lebanon fared no better. The sectarianism practiced by pro-Iranian groups eroded its national resilience and deepened divisions in this country, which is considered the 'barometer of the region'.

Thus, the sectarian rhetoric employed in Lebanon since 1979 has fueled the flames of sectarianism in the region and contributed to the rise of extremist and terrorist groups.

Today, the Iranian regime is like a cursed ant, following the recent developments in Iraq, the insistence of the Baghdad government to disarm the militias loyal to Tehran with the approval of all religious authorities, the fall of the Assad regime, the weakening of Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the awakening of southern Lebanon whose people found themselves living through a major catastrophe.

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KLS requests for lawyers seat at disciplinary table

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: The Kuwait Lawyers Society (KLS) addressed Dr. Essam Al-Rubaian, President of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in Kuwait, requesting that lawyers be allowed to attend disciplinary investigations and trials involving employees referred for investigation at government institutions, in order to safeguard employee rights and promote the principles of justice, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

KLS explained that some government institutions prevent lawyers from attending disciplinary investi-

gation sessions with their employees, citing the absence of a legal provision requiring or permitting such representation. This justification is incorrect, as the request does not contradict the general principles of jurisprudence or the principles of fair trials, including the principle that "actions are permissible unless explicitly prohibited" and that "a general rule applies unless otherwise specified."

There is no legal provision preventing a lawyer from accompanying an employee during an investigation. Therefore, the general rules guaranteeing the accused's right to legal representation and oversight of investigation proceedings should apply.

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the attacks recently launched by the Israeli occupation forces against Gaza Strip which left scores of civilian casualties.

The recurrence of such attacks risk undermining the efforts to bolster up the ceasefire in Gaza and implement the peace plan pursuant to the UN Security Council Resolution 2803, the Ministry warned in a press release on Thursday. (KUNA)

RIYADH: GCC Secretary General Jassem Albudaiwi on Saturday condemned the Israeli occupation authorities' continued settlement plans in the occupied West Bank, including the "EI" settlement project.

A GCC Secretariat statement said Albudaiwi underscored that advancing these plans represents a blatant challenge to international legitimacy and a systematic undermining of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. (KUNA)



Archbishop Eugene Martin Nugent, outgoing Apostolic Nuncio to Kuwait, with ambassadors, diplomats, business and civil society representatives and friends during a farewell reception.

'Gulf friendship transcends nationality, religion, culture'

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: Outgoing Apostolic Nuncio to Kuwait Archbishop Eugene Martin Nugent is preparing to embark on a new diplomatic mission as Apostolic Nuncio to the Czech Republic.

Aman Exchange Company orga-

nized a farewell reception in honor of the Apostolic Nuncio. The ambassadors of the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan, as well as the chargé d'affaires of the Bangladeshi Embassy, members of the business and civil society communities and friends attended the event.

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'Road fix' blitz targets 52 sites

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: The annual projects plan of the Ministry of Public Works for the current fiscal year includes 12 contracts for the study, design and supervision of infrastructure improvement and renovation works in 28 locations.

These projects will be tendered through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) in accordance with the law, as the estimated cost of each contract exceeds KD75,000.

The ministry is keen on raising the efficiency of sewage networks and addressing malfunctions due to the aging

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Loaded, but not going anywhere

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: Customs inspectors at the Nuwaiseeb border crossing seized two guns and 19 rounds of ammunition during a search of a vehicle entering Kuwait via the border crossing, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The General Administration of Customs (GAC) explained in a press release that a Smith & Wesson .38-caliber pistol and 16 rounds of ammunition were found in the vehicle's glove compartment. The driver also presented an AYZAZ 6.35-caliber pistol and three rounds of ammunition before the personal search.

The seized items were confiscated and referred to the relevant authorities for further legal action.



KDIPA and
2 Kuwait's new investment proposition



stc concludes summer
8 youth training program
& recognizes winning student project



11 anana turning
culinary memory
into digital legacy

Prayer Timings	
Fajr	03:57
Sunrise ..	05:20
Zohr	11:51
Asr	15:26
Maghrib ..	18:21
Isha	19:44

Kuwait strives to ensure aid reaches needy

Humanitarian projects seek sustainable impact: Al-Kandari

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22, (KUNA): Kuwaiti humanitarian giving continues to cross borders, carrying a message that extends beyond assistance toward building safer, more stable lives, through education, healthcare, water, relief and community development projects worldwide for vulnerable communities in need.

Under ‘Kuwait by Your Side’ campaign and noble directives, Kuwaiti charitable organizations are implementing projects from Zanzibar to Yemen, Gaza, Chad, Palestine, India and Africa, addressing diverse needs while opening new pathways of hope abroad.

In Zanzibar, Tanzania, Nama Charity of the Social Reform Society has continued developmental efforts through educational and humanitarian projects, including the KAF and Nama Educational Complex, orphanages, Nama School, Quranic school and food distributions.

Nama Charity Deputy CEO Abdulaziz Al-Kandari said the association’s humanitarian and development projects seek sustainable impact, combining urgent relief with development, capacity-building and careful field monitoring to ensure assistance reaches beneficiaries directly.

Al-Kandari said the association laid the foundation stone for an integrated educational complex with Bahrain’s KAF Humanitarian Society, comprising a mosque, school, artesian well, health center and Quran memorization center, serving the community for years.

He added that the field tour included opening an artesian well in a needy village, providing residents with reliable water, while emphasizing that water projects offer direct, sustainable benefits closely linked to health and stability.

In Yemen, the charity opened Noura Health Center on 205 square meters, featuring women’s, men’s and children’s clinics, emergency room, pharmacy,



Abdulaziz Al-Kandari



Dr Mohammad Al-Omran

laboratory, reception and services, expected to serve about 4,000 beneficiaries annually in underserved areas.

In Gaza, Nama continues its “Goodness Gives Them Water” campaign, distributing water tankers to displaced people in northern Gaza amid worsening humanitarian conditions, while Chad saw completion of the Wadha Al-Anzi Islamic Center project recently.

The center includes a mosque and Quran memorization facility, while copies of the Holy Quran were distributed to beneficiaries, reflecting a approach that links relief, education, religious programs and essential services across communities facing hardship.

Meanwhile, Quranic Minarets Association has pursued diverse humani-

tarian projects, supporting widows and vulnerable families in Palestine, delivering drinking water across Africa, digging wells in India and advancing Quranic programs, combining immediate relief with sustainable impact.

Director General Dr. Mohammad Al-Omran said the association’s work reflects its responsibility toward needy communities, stressing that charity should move beyond immediate assistance toward sustainable solutions that improve beneficiaries’ living conditions and strengthen their resilience.

He said projects included support for widows in Palestine and food baskets for vulnerable families, helping ease living burdens and strengthen their ability to face difficult circumstances while preserving dignity and supporting community stability.

Al-Omran noted that water projects distributed 60,000 liters across Africa and opened 30 wells in India, providing drinking water and creating more sustainable sources that can serve beneficiary communities over the longer term to come.

He added that the association continues serving the Holy Quran through the late Mutlaq Al-Qarawi Quran Memorization Competition, stressing that varied initiatives help ensure goodness reaches beneficiaries and addresses actual community needs effectively and sustainably.

He affirmed that Kuwaiti people’s generosity remains a cornerstone for sustaining and expanding these projects, saying every contribution can make a meaningful difference while the association continues strengthening values of compassion, solidarity and service abroad.

The projects’ geographic and sectoral diversity presents a renewed image of Kuwaiti giving, measured not only by numbers, but by changes in daily life, where water, education, medicine and food restore dignity and stability together.

Thus, under Kuwait by Your Side and noble directives, Kuwait’s humanitarian mission continues making the country a companion to people in need, leaving lasting schools, wells, health centers and human impact that outlives each project.

Take caution from typhoon, Kuwaitis in Vietnam warned

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 22, (KUNA): The Embassy of the State of Kuwait in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam urged Kuwaiti citizens present in Vietnam on Saturday to exercise extreme caution due to an approaching typhoon expected to impact several regions.

In an official statement, the em-

bassy stressed the vital importance of following all safety instructions and precautionary guidelines issued by the local authorities.

The embassy called on citizens to contact the mission’s emergency line at (+84 961 377 717) in case of any urgent assistance or emergencies.



KUNA photo
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah visits a health center in Al-Mutla'a.

MoH senior official checks out workflow in Mutla’a clinic trips

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah inspected the health centers in Al-Mutlaa to look into the workflow and assess the quality of services, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed that Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah visited the clinics, departments and support services, and reviewed patient flow, appointment booking, scheduling mechanisms, and service delivery pathways.

The officials and healthcare staff briefed the undersecretary on patient volume, nature of services provided, and key opera-

tional needs.

He met with several patients and listened to their feedback and experience regarding the services.

He also discussed with the officials and medical, technical and administrative staff various ways to raise the operational efficiency of the centers, cover their manpower, equipment and service needs, and ensure the optimal use of available resources.

During these discussions, he emphasized the importance of field monitoring as a tool for identifying the needs and challenges, and then to address them in a way that reflects positively on the quality of healthcare.

Third Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Conference on Sept 4

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: President of the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Association Dr. Sundus Al-Shuraida announced that the Third Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Conference will be held on Sept 4-5.

Al-Shuraida pointed out that the conference is the first of its kind in the Gulf region, allocated for pediatric hematology and oncology. She said the conference serves as a specialized scientific platform that brings together the experts and consultants from Kuwait and a number of leading regional and international medical and academic centers.

She stated that the conference features a diverse scientific program, which keeps pace with the rapid advancements in this specialization. “The program covers various topics like blood cancers and solid tumors in children, bleeding and coagulation disorders, inherited bone marrow failure, immune disorders, bone marrow and stem cell transplantation, gene therapy, precision

medicine, and long-term care for cancer survivors,” she elaborated.

She disclosed that the conference will discuss the most advanced diagnostic methods, innovative treatments, and the challenges in clinical practice.

She added the conference will host a distinguished group of international and regional experts from prestigious institutions, such as Imperial College London, Johns Hopkins University, Children’s National Hospital and SJD Barcelona Children’s Hospital, along with a select group of doctors and specialists from Kuwait and other countries in the region.

She indicated that the program consists of scientific lectures and educational and training workshops for doctors, nurses and various members of the multidisciplinary team.

She emphasized that the conference aims to enhance the position of Kuwait as a regional scientific hub in the field of pediatric hematology and oncology, and to promote continuing medical education, collaboration and the exchange of expertise.

Other Voices

KDIPA and Kuwait’s new investment proposition

By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

Kuwait is considering proposed amendments to its Direct Investment Promotion Law that, if enacted and implemented as intended, could materially reshape how foreign companies enter, operate and expand in the country. The changes are significant enough to alter some long-standing features of Kuwait’s business environment.

For international investors, several proposals address issues that directly influence investment decisions: ownership flexibility, speed of approvals, ease of dealing with government and clarity over incentives.

Investors could establish companies with up to 100% foreign ownership, acquire all or part of existing Kuwaiti companies, redomicile foreign companies to Kuwait, or operate through foreign branches. Crucially, an investment entity could be established without a Kuwaiti partner or local agent.

The proposed Investor Service Center is equally important. Rather than requiring investors to navigate multiple government entities, KDIPA would provide an integrated digital interface coordinating applications and procedures across government.

The framework also introduces clearer timelines, with relevant public authorities generally required to decide complete applications referred through the center within seven working days.

Attracting investment, however, is not simply about facilitating entry. Investors assess predictability, speed, legal protection and the ability to op-

erate efficiently. The amendments move in that direction while linking incentives more closely to economic contribution, including technology transfer, innovation, local content, exports and the employment and training of Kuwaitis.

There is another test: communication. KDIPA will need to explain these reforms consistently to investors, businesses and government stakeholders. Reform that is not clearly explained can easily be misunderstood—or defined by others in ways that do not reflect what it actually changes.

Legislation alone cannot guarantee success; implementation will determine whether these provisions translate into confidence. But the direction is encouraging: Kuwait appears increasingly focused on creating a more predictable, competitive and commercially credible environment in which international companies can invest and grow.



Al Anjeri

Delivery boy robbed

Egyptian building guard arrested for stealing TV

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: Criminal Investigation Department officers arrested an Egyptian building guard in Khaitan on charges of stealing a television, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, a surveillance camera helped identify the suspect and his vehicle’s license plate. The suspect confessed that he was experiencing financial difficulties and had stolen the television before selling it for more than 70 percent of its original price. The television was sold to another Egyptian national, who later shipped it to Egypt.

The buyer claimed he was unaware that the television had been stolen, saying he purchased it at such a low price because he believed the seller had been forced to reduce the price due to financial hardship.

Meanwhile, an Indian expatriate, who works as a delivery driver for an electronics store, reported to Maidan Hawally Police Station that his vehicle was parked in Hawally with a television worth KD 420 inside, which he was to deliver to a customer, when he discovered that the television had been stolen. He did not accuse anyone in particular. Investigations have been launched to find the culprit.

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100 transactions in day: The Ministry of Finance announced that the General Directorate of State Property Affairs processed 21,841 inquiries and procedures during the first seven months of 2026, averaging more than 100 transactions per day, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The requests were submitted by relevant oversight bodies, the Public Prosecution, and the Public Authority for Minors’ Affairs (PAMA).

The ministry explained that the large volume of inquiries reflects the directorate’s role as a primary source of data related to state property. The directorate’s rapid response to requesting entities serves as a major pillar in supporting oversight of public funds.

The ministry affirmed its commitment to continuously improving operational efficiency and expediting the provision of information, thereby enhancing transparency, supporting governance requirements, and safeguarding public funds.

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Timely intervention: The swift intervention of patrol officers prevented the fire in a vehicle being towed on a crane along the highway, after smoke suddenly started billowing from it.

Two patrol officers noticed the vehicle that broke down on the side of the road. They immediately offered assistance to the driver and called for a crane to tow it.

While the vehicle was being lifted, the officers were surprised to see smoke coming from it and quickly doused the smoke using a fire extinguisher. No injuries were reported.



Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

KISR to showcase wastewater cure innovation at China expo

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22, (KUNA): The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) announced Thursday that two researchers will showcase a wastewater treatment innovation at the 12th International Exhibition of Inventions in Guangzhou, China, from August 21-23.

KISR said in a press statement that Dr. Meshari Khajah and Dr. Mohammad Al-Montaser Ahmad, from its Water Research Center, will present their patent, which was granted by the US Patent and Trademark Office in August 2025.

The patent features a wetland system to treat wastewater generated by reverse osmosis. This improves water quality, allows for reuse in various applications and provides sustainable environmental and economic solutions, it explained.

The innovation helps reduce heavy metals, organic pollutants, nutrients, pathogens and microplastics, while boosting biodiversity and lowering car-

bon emissions.

KISR added that the system features low construction, operation and maintenance costs. Its simple design and financial efficiency enable the production of higher-quality water for reuse and the creation of new wildlife habitats.

The wetland system was tested on a pilot scale at the Sulaibiya Research Station between 2021 and 2023, with funding from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), KISR noted. This reflects the institute’s efforts to develop applied research that supports environmental sustainability and water resource efficiency.

The researchers’ participation in the Chinese exhibition follows their success at the 16th International Invention Fair of the Middle East, where the same patent won a gold medal and an award from the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity.

Mol opens registration for third batch of sergeant training course on Aug 23 via Sahel

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: The Education and Training Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Interior has announced the opening of registration for the third cohort of the Non-Commissioned Officer (Sergeant) training course, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The course will be held at the Non-Commissioned Officer Institute, which is part of the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences.

Registration will open at 12:00 noon on Sunday, August 23, 2026, through the Sahel application and will remain open until the required number of applicants is reached.

The applicants must hold a high school diploma, from either the science or arts section, or an equivalent qualification.

They must be at least 165 centimeters tall and between 18 and 28 years old as of August 23, 2026.

Applicants must be Kuwaiti citizens born to Kuwaiti fathers and must have good conduct and a good reputation. They must also pass the required height and weight assessments, an initial medical examination, general knowledge tests, aptitude tests, psychological tests, physical fitness tests, and a personal interview.

Applicants who score less than 60 percent of the total marks allocated for any test will be deemed ineligible and will not be allowed to proceed to subsequent testing.

If the number of applicants who meet the admission requirements exceeds the required number, selection will be conducted by lottery.

The course will run for 16 weeks, equivalent to one semester. Graduates will receive a certificate of completion of the foundational training course.

Those who successfully complete the course will be appointed as sergeants and will serve at the Ministry of Interior. During the course, they will receive a monthly stipend of KD 250.

Applicants must submit the required documents to the Registration and Admission Department according to the appointment scheduled through the Sahel application, after printing the application form and verifying the accuracy of the attached information.

All procedures must be completed through Gate 4 of the Registration and Admission Department at the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences. Applicants must wear black trousers and a white shirt.

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Kuwait, Algeria direct flights to solidify long-standing ties

Move to enhance economic, tourism exchange: envoy

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait Omar Belhadj confirmed the ongoing discussions on launching a direct air route between Kuwait and Algeria soon.

Belhadj made the announcement when he delivered a speech at the celebration of ‘Mujahid Day’, which falls on Aug 20.

The Embassy of Algeria organized the celebration, with members of the Algerian community in attendance.

According to the Ambassador, this step will facilitate economic and tourism exchange, serve the Algerian community and investors, and open more horizons for cooperation between the two countries.

He disclosed that the joint Kuwaiti-Algerian

Committee is preparing for its upcoming meetings, which will be chaired by the finance ministers of both countries, to follow up the investment and trade cooperation files.

He affirmed the depth of Kuwaiti-Algerian relations, praising the honorable stances of the State of Kuwait, its leadership and people, in supporting the Algerian liberation revolution and the Algerian cause until independence.

He added that he recently met with the assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs of Kuwait, during which they discussed issues of mutual concern. He commended the care that Kuwait provides to the Algerian community here.

He called on members of the community to



Omar Belhadj

continue adhering to the laws and regulations, affirming that the embassy is keen on maintaining communication with them and working hard to meet their needs.

He then underscored the importance of ‘Mujahid Day’ in commemorating the sacrifices of the martyrs and the milestones of the struggle to regain national sovereignty.

He said Aug 20 symbolizes two pivotal events in the history of the Algerian Revolution.

He indicated that the North Constantine offensives of 1955 constituted a turning point that contributed to expanding the scope of armed action and raising the voice of the revolution to the international community.

He added that the Soummam Conference in 1956 established the organizational and political frameworks for revolutionary action, and restructured the military leadership and the ‘wilayas’ (provinces).



Sheikh Jarrah Jaber



Beate Meinl Reisinger

Kuwait, Austria hold talks on latest regional developments

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah discussed regional and international developments over the phone recently with Austria’s Federal Minister for European and International Affairs Beate Meinl-

Reisinger.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the call also reviewed bilateral relations between the two friendly countries, and means to develop them on all levels in a manner that contributes to achieving mutual interests.

Kuwait, Tajikistan to boost cultural cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ambassador in Dushanbe, Mohammad Al-Ameeri, met recently with Tajikistan’s Minister of Culture, Matloub Khan Satyryan, discussing ways to enhance and develop cultural cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

In a statement to KUNA following the meeting, Ambassador Al-Ameeri said the discussions covered the trajectory of cultural relations between the two countries and a number of topics of mutual interest on both bilateral and multilateral levels, in addition to prospects for expanding cooperation in cultural and artistic fields.

Ambassador Al-Ameeri noted that the meeting addressed education, academic exchange, joint research, and the implementation of cultural programs, in addition to cooperation in media, culture, and youth affairs. This cooperation builds upon discussions held in October 2024 regarding strengthening collaboration in television, radio, culture, and youth.

He added that the meeting addressed the exchange of delegations and the organization of joint cultural and artistic events and programs that contribute to promoting awareness of the history, heritage, and culture of both countries and strengthening communication and rapprochement between the two peoples.



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Ambassador in Dushanbe, Mohammad Al-Ameeri, meets with Tajikistan's Minister of Culture, Matloub Khan Satyryan.

330 Kuwaiti women get homes in lottery organized by PAHW

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: The Women’s Housing Committee at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) organized a lottery on Thursday to allocate 330 rental housing units in Taima and Sulaibiya to eligible female citizens.

Committee Chairwoman Sheikh Bibi Al-Yousef Al-Sabah disclosed in a press statement that the lottery is the largest organized by the committee since its establishment — an affirmation of its commitment to provide suitable housing for eligible female citizens in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Sheikha Bibi Al-Yousef disclosed that the committee has distributed around 2,000 housing units to Kuwaiti women since its establishment, describing the figure as a significant achievement in the committee’s efforts to address the housing needs of eligible groups.

She added that Thursday’s lottery focused on several priority categories, including divorced women, widows, women

with disabilities, and those with limited income.

She stated that the committee has reached the stage of processing housing applications submitted in 2017 and 2018, adding that it also considers certain cases in which family circumstances entail expediting procedures for entering the lottery and obtaining a house.

She confirmed that the applicable regulations remain unchanged, confirming that the committee extended the period granted to beneficiaries to take actual residence in the housing unit after receiving it from two months to three months, rent-free, in consideration of the circumstances of female citizens.

She stressed the importance of beneficiaries occupying their housing units during this period and not leaving them vacant, warning that failure to occupy the unit may result in the withdrawal of the unit and cancellation of the housing benefit.

She called on the female citizens to fully cooperate with the committee and respond promptly to the request to update their data.

KPA set to enforce strategic plan

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: The Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) has forwarded the tender for consultancy services and the development of a strategic plan, with a total value of KD2.537 million, to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for pre-audit procedures.

KPA obtained approval from the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to award the tender to a single bidder.

Through this tender, KPA aims to

achieve several objectives, such as transitioning to a flexible and efficient system capable of dealing with challenges in the future, regulating operations and procedures, and activating accountability and transparency systems.

Upon completion, the project will develop services and activities in the ports and logistics sector, modernize infrastructure and technology to keep pace with best global practices, and develop those in the middle management to prepare them for senior positions in the future.

Other Voices

The wise, the naive, and lower

By Ahmad alsarraf

When we surrender ourselves to an anesthesiologist, allowing them to render us completely unconscious, and when we accept a surgeon cutting open our abdomens and chests and administering medication, we often do so because of our trust in the advances of science. This same trust leads us to board an airplane - that enclosed metal box - and ascend tens of thousands of feet into the air to transport us to distant lands.

Science itself tells us that the age of the Earth is estimated at approximately 4.5 billion years. Science tells us that early humans walked on all fours and that they began walking upright, distinguishing themselves from the great apes around 6 to 7 million years ago, based on the oldest clear fossil evidence.

New fossils dating back about 2 million years from that era have been discovered, providing even clearer evidence of the increasing capabilities of humankind. The most famous example is the fossil of “Lucy,” discovered in Ethiopia, who lived approximately 3.2 million years ago. Her skeleton clearly demonstrated an adaptation to upright walking.

Based on the fossil record, including the skulls and skeletons that have been discovered, the evolutionary path can be summarized in approximate chronological order.

Humans began with a small brain and the ability to climb trees. Then came Homo habilis, which is credited with crafting primitive stone tools.

Next came Homo erectus, which emerged about two million years ago and became one of the longest-surviving human species. They were the first to leave Africa, the original homeland of humans, and spread to Asia and Europe. They mastered fire and crafted more sophisticated stone tools. Their brains were larger than those of their



alsarraf

ancestors, and their skeletons were closer to those of modern humans.

Then came Homo heidelbergensis and its relatives, dating back approximately 300,000 to 700,000 years. They are considered a possible common ancestor of both Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens.

Neanderthals lived in Europe and became extinct about 40,000 years ago. Then came the Denisovans, a recently discovered human group identified through DNA extracted from bones found in a Siberian cave. They interbred with modern humans before eventually becoming extinct.

Modern Homo sapiens finally appeared, first in Africa around 300,000 years ago, based on skull discoveries in Morocco in 2017. This discovery revised the previous timeline, which had suggested that the great migration out of Africa began around 60,000 years ago and gradually led to the colonization of almost the entire world.

By approximately 40,000 years ago, our species was the only human species remaining on Earth following the extinction of all the others. Scientifically documented fossils have revealed significant differences in head size, arm and leg lengths, and height between the successive stages of human evolution.

Based on this brief yet highly complex scientific narrative, someone who calls himself an “Arabic linguist” confidently and insistently claims to have proof that the Arabic language was born with the creation of Adam. He asserts that the name “Adam” has no meaning, derivation, conjugation, semantic basis, plural, or dual form except in Arabic, despite the word itself existing in every other language in the world.

Everyone is entitled to say what they want. The problem is not what is said, but what is published.

The problem is that millions of people - the naive, the educated, and even professors - are willing to believe such claims, despite their contradiction with established scientific facts. The same applies to many other fantastical claims.

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KDIPA eyes global capital to power economic growth

Kuwait looks beyond oil with fresh investment offensive

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: The Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) has activated a strategic aspect of its development plans in order to accelerate the flow of foreign capital into the country by directly dealing with major international companies,

say reliable sources.

Sources said KDIPA organized intensive promotional tours covering European capitals and global financial centers to establish direct communication channels with international business leaders, and encourage them to open new markets and inject high-quality investments into Kuwait.

Sources revealed that these promotional visits are based on four vital pillars that form the backbone of the new economic strategy of KDIPA.

The first pillar aims to attract foreign capital, transfer expertise and localize modern technology.

The second pillar focuses on effectively marketing the incentives and advantages offered by Kuwaiti law to foreigners, highlighting tax and customs exemptions and guarantees of 100 percent foreign ownership of ventures.

The third pillar focuses on opening new markets and building a robust and sustainable network of strategic partnerships with international business communities and official institutions in Europe.

The fourth pillar relates to supporting the Kuwait Vision 2035, which aims to diversify national income sources and transform Kuwait into a regional financial and commercial hub that attracts businesses.

According to available information, this proactive move reflects the desire of Kuwait to strengthen its competitive position on the regional economic map.

The expected impact of this strategy is not limited to attracting liquidity, as it includes creating quality job opportunities for Kuwaiti nationals, and developing infrastructure by transferring and localizing global expertise.

Reports indicate that the KDIPA delegation's recent tour of major Italian industrial cities, including Rome and the financial center of Milan, confirms the desire of Kuwait to expand European investments in the country.

A source privy to such developments confirmed that the KDIPA visit to Italy was driven by the need to strengthen and develop Italian investments in Kuwait, which still constitutes a small percentage of the local market -- around 2.83 percent or KD55.8 million of the total volume

of foreign direct investment in Kuwait. The source stated that the initiatives of KDIPA aim to build long-term strategic partnerships.

The source indicated that Kuwaiti oil investments in Italy are made through Kuwait Petroleum International (Q8), which has a long and stable history in the Italian market -- spanning more than 30 years.

The source added that Q8 operates a wide network of fuel stations and depots, as well as private Kuwaiti investments in the real estate sector, which are notably concentrated in Milan.

Continued from Page 1

Nothing left

This reality was confirmed when Iran clashed with the United States of America and Israel. Most of its leaders were killed in the early days of the war, while it lost any sympathy from its neighbors, whom Iran turned into its primary enemy.

Political logic dictates that relations should be based on good neighborliness and respect for sovereignty in order to maintain an opportunity for intervention to support a strategic position. However, it seems that the Persian mentality, which is based on arrogance and imperial dreams, has destroyed all these values.

Today, all that remains for the Iranian regime is the Houthi group, a veritable dung beetle, which is trying to play the role assigned to it, but the Houthi group is breathing its last.

The end is near, as the crippling economic blockade on Iran tightens. The leaders of the Iranian regime are scrambling for short-term gains to escape when the time comes. They are certain that public accountability is coming sooner than later.

Everyone must prepare for the day after the fall of the Iranian regime to begin sustainable development in the region and to rid themselves of all the consequences caused by this evil regime over the past five decades.

Keep rotten,

Sources added that the circular

emphasized the need to comply with health regulations in buildings, warehouses and vehicles used for transporting products, maintaining the cleanliness of markets, refrigerators, cutting and packaging equipment, controlling insects and rodents, and ensuring the safe disposal of waste.

Sources revealed that the circular called for making sure that food handlers have valid health certificates and to prevent any employee exhibiting symptoms of any illness from working.

Sources stated that the circular bans the repackaging of food in a way that exposes it to contamination, as well as the circulation of products of unknown origin.

Sources added that the circular indicated the need to obtain approval from the concerned authorities prior to the circulation of products, and to allow PAFN inspectors to check food items and records, collect samples, and implement decisions to withdraw, destroy or suspend the circulation of non-compliant products.

'Road fix'

of some sections and the end of their service life.

Meanwhile, the ministry confirmed that major road maintenance works under the new contracts are scheduled for Aug 22-27 in 52 locations in the six governorates (including 13 highways and 39 residential areas).

The ministry indicated that modern mechanisms are being implemented to expedite the execution

and ensure continuous field monitoring to make sure that the implementing companies are complying with the agreed technical specifications and quality and safety standards.

The targeted locations include the Capital Governorate, Farwaniya, Rawda, Adailiya, Khaldiya, Mansouriya, Dasma, Dasman, Bneid Al-Ghar, Rai, Omariya, Rabiya, Shuwaikh Health Zone, Free Trade Zone, while the covered areas in Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorates are Dhahr, Jaber Al-Ali, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Qurain, Mangaf, Ahmadi, Sabahiyah, South Sabahiyah, Fahad Al-Ahmad, Qusour Adan and Messilah, in addition to the Kuwait International Airport, Dajeej, Mubarakiya and Subhan.

Gulf water

He stressed that serious steps are being taken towards Gulf water interconnection, including the study on a comprehensive Gulf water interconnection project conducted by a French company. He added that a decision had earlier been issued to start with a bilateral interconnection between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and then with the remaining member states, between 2016 and 2017.

He indicated that the decision of GCCIA to hold the workshop is in compliance with the directives issued by the leaders of the GCC countries at the 19th Consultative Meeting.

On the other hand, environmental activist Dr. Fnees Al-Ajmi stressed

the need to push for the implementation of the Gulf water interconnection project, taking into consideration the current regional circumstances, particularly the heinous attacks on the GCC countries.

He asserted that the success of the Gulf electrical interconnection project is an affirmation of the ability of the member states to realize the Gulf water interconnection ambition in order to overcome challenges posed the climatic conditions in these countries, particularly temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius and the arid regions that constitute most of the geographical area.

He said the Gulf water interconnection is an important project that contributes to diversifying water sources and ensuring the success of seawater desalination projects, upon which the member states depend primarily.

He revealed that the concerned authorities, especially the Ministry of Electricity and Water, are exerting tremendous efforts to provide the public with safe drinking water through the desalination plants and Kuwait Water Company.

He then suggested the construction of dams or rainwater reservoirs to utilize water from these sources in times of urgent need and lessen reliance on costly water produced by desalination plants.

Kuwait, US

The meeting also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on strategic partnership with the Maryland National Guard,

further strengthening military cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and the United States.

Al-Shuraian was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising senior officers and commanders from the Kuwaiti Army, the General Staff said, adding that the meeting underscored the longstanding defense partnership between both countries.

'Gulf friendship

Speaking at the event, Archbishop Nugent affirmed that he is proud of the years he spent in Kuwait and the Gulf region. "Wherever my path leads me, a part of my heart will remain here," he asserted.

He highlighted the most significant events he experienced during his time in the region, indicating that he arrived in the Gulf at a time the whole world was starting to rise from the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a series of international and regional challenges, including the war in Ukraine, war in Gaza, and the escalating military confrontation between the United States of America, Israel and Iran. He pointed out that the recent developments brought the reality of war closer to the Gulf region, bringing with it days of anxiety, airspace closures, flight disruptions, and loss of jobs for some friends.

He was quick to add that despite these difficult circumstances, his time in office was also marked by many moments of joy and hope, most notably the historic visit of

Pope Francis to Bahrain in November 2022, which he considers an unforgettable moment for the Catholic community.

He also cited the visit of Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Holy See, to Kuwait last January, on the occasion of the elevation of the Our Lady of Arabia Church in Ahmadi to the status of a minor basilica. He described the event as a historic milestone and recognition of the long-standing presence of the Catholic Church in Kuwait.

He praised the hospitality he experienced in Kuwait and the region, recalling gatherings around dinner tables, outings to the desert, and visits to chalets and diwanis (traditional Kuwaiti gathering places). He stressed that diplomacy is about building bridges between peoples, but some of the strongest bridges are built over dinner.

He talked about his visits to the American and Italian military bases and his participation in Christmas and Easter prayers.

He said "the Gulf taught me that friendship can transcend nationality, religion, language and culture." He indicated that he came as the representative of the Holy See with a mission to promote dialogue and encounter, and he is now leaving, having gained far more from the experience than he anticipated.

He concluded his speech by expressing his gratitude to his friends and to all those who shared his years of service in the region, praying that God continues to protect Kuwait and other Gulf states and grant them lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

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Vance campaigns at Ohio steel plant

Trump urges South Carolinians to make Graham GOP nominee for US Senate

MYRTLE BEACH, SC, Aug 22, (AP): US President Donald Trump sought Friday to boost Sen Darline Graham's effort to win a full term, telling thousands of supporters that the first step toward keeping her as their senator involves helping the political newcomer triumph in a Republican runoff next week.

The Republican president also begged them to pretend that he's on the ballot Tuesday - even though he is not - if that will help get them out to vote.

Voters will decide Tuesday whether Graham or Rep. Ralph Norman will be the Republican nominee for the US Senate on the ballot in November.

"You have to get out and vote," Trump said about Darline Graham, who is serving out the remainder of the term of her late brother, Sen. Lindsey Graham, who died unexpectedly in July. "And we need every South Carolina patriot to go to the polls and vote for Darline Graham."

Trump nodded to the reality that Republican base voters lose interest in elections when he is not a candidate for office, as is the case this year. Trump is serving his second and final term as president.

"So what I really want you to do is pretend, please, that I'm on the ballot. Just come and vote. It's so

important," Trump said. "So just say that I'm on the ballot one more time. You got to say it, and you got to come out and vote."

Trump, who encouraged Darline Graham to run and has given her his "complete and total endorsement," called her to the stage as he neared the end of his remarks.

"This is Trump country," she declared before leading the crowd in chants of "U.S.A."

Trump opened his remarks by declaring he was in a "very good mood" because Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts earlier Friday allowed construction to continue for now on the \$400 million ballroom Trump is adding to the White House. The project is being challenged in federal court.

He appeared jovial throughout and noted at several points that it was the end of the week.

"It's a Friday night. We have plenty of time, right?" Trump said at one point. "What the hell do I have to do? Go back, bomb Iran a little bit more?"

At another point, he resurrected a campaign staple by reading the lyrics from the 1960s song "The Snake" as he steered the speech toward illegal immigration. Trump used to read the lyrics in his past campaigns to illustrate what he said are the perils of allowing people to enter the United



US Vice President JD Vance speaks at the Cleveland Cliffs Middletown Works on Aug 21, 2026, in Middletown, Ohio. (AP)

States without authorization.

"Haven't done that in a long time," he said after he finished the reading. "That's our border."

He also called a cast of people on stage, ranging from Republican Tim Scott, South Carolina's other U.S. senator, to Karoline Leavitt, his outgoing White House press secretary.

Trump closed by encouraging people to vote for Darline Graham on Tuesday to preserve tax cuts, among other things. He said choos-

ing her would be a tribute to her brother, who was very close to the president, and, "I want it to happen."

"Good luck, Darline," he said before leaving the stage.

The Myrtle Beach rally was the sort of campaign trail occasion that Trump hasn't done as much of this year, compared with past midterms, making it a signal of the importance he is placing on a win for his pick.

It was also an opportunity for the

president to wade into friendly territory before the midterm elections that leave his party's control of Congress hanging in the balance. South Carolina hasn't elected a Democrat statewide in decades, its House delegation has only one Democrat and Trump's own victory in the 2016 presidential primary here helped propel him toward the nomination and ultimately the White House.

Also:

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio: US Vice President JD Vance returned to his hometown on Friday to campaign for Republican candidates at the steel plant where his grandfather worked and portray the Democratic Party his Papaw once supported as unrecognizable today.

Vance has highlighted his Rust Belt roots while trying to boost GOP candidates ahead of the November midterm elections. He has focused on promoting the Trump administration's economic policies and efforts to try to expand US manufacturing.

As he took the stage at the Cleveland-Cliffs Middletown Works facility, known as Armco Steel when his grandfather James Vance worked there for nearly 40 years, he remarked on sharing the space where the man whose name he shared once stood.

"Papaw was a welder in this place

for 40 years, and today his grandson stands here as the vice president of these United States. It's an amazing thing," Vance said.

The Middletown event comes as Vance is expected to ramp up his travel schedule with more public events and fundraisers, according to a person familiar with the plans who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

As they've campaigned this year, Vance, more than President Donald Trump, has acknowledged Americans' cost-of-living concerns, seeking to assure voters that the administration is working to reverse high prices, though he didn't offer specifics.

The vice president said, "We've got a lot of work to do" and "I'm not saying it's going to be easy or it's all going to happen overnight," but he said Trump was trying to reverse "40 years of American decline." He pointed to Trump's immigration and trade policies, including his tariffs, as trying to protect jobs like those at the steel plant.

Trump's tariff policies, though, have contributed to the higher costs Americans are facing, as taxes on imports have raised the price of imported products as well as those made domestically, according to the Congressional Budget Office.



A view of the rising water levels at the Wainaku Street Bridge in Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii on Aug 15. (AP)

Tropical storm forms on track to bring heavy rain to Hawaii

Tropical Storm Moke formed Friday in the Pacific Ocean, the National Hurricane Center said, on track to bring another round of heavy rain and wind to Hawaii as residents are still recovering from Hurricane Lala.

Moke was located about

660 miles (1,060 kilometers) southeast of Hilo and was moving west-northwest at 9 mph (15 kph). Maximum sustained winds were around 45 mph (75 kph), according to an advisory from the Miami-based hurricane center.

Like with Hurricane Lala, the Big Island is again expected to bear the brunt of the storm. It battered Hawaii last weekend without making landfall, downing trees and leaving roads covered in mud and rocks.

(AP)

Ceuta begins burial for migrants killed in mass border crossing

CEUTA, Spain, Aug 22, (AP): Against the murmur of prayers, body bags were lowered into graves marked only with numbers. Grave-diggers placed the first four victims in cinderblock plots while a small group of locals watched at a cemetery on the tip of North Africa.

The dead, whose identities are unknown, were among the more than 90 migrants who lost their lives during Spain's deadliest border crisis three weeks ago. Fueled by misinformation, poverty and a lack of opportunities, more than 72,000 people poured into Ceuta, a Spanish territory that neighbors Morocco.

At a Muslim cemetery in Ceuta, 18 migrants were laid to rest on Friday. An Islamic cleric read prayers and chants praising God while funeral workers worked quickly to lower the white body bags and cover them with soil. More migrants are expected to be buried soon.

The Moroccan Association for Human Rights, a left-leaning non-



Funeral workers bury migrants who died while trying to cross from Morocco into the Spanish exclave of Ceuta on Aug 21. (AP)

governmental organization, called for the burials in Ceuta to be halted until every effort had been made to identify the bodies and repatriate them to Morocco, the country of

origin for most of the migrants who made the perilous journey.

Many of those who died drowned or were killed in a stampede to cross a breakwater barrier near a border checkpoint.

In a statement, the NGO asked Morocco's foreign ministry to ensure that "the bodies are returned to the families so they can be buried with dignity."

It called the burials in Ceuta a "new human tragedy," adding to the "disaster of displacement and missing persons."

A spokesperson for Ceuta's city government said last week the paperwork to repatriate the bodies of the deceased was complete, but that Morocco's government hadn't accepted it.

Morocco's foreign ministry didn't respond to questions from The Associated Press about the burials that started on Friday in Ceuta or suggestions that Morocco is blocking the repatriation of identified migrant bodies.

Construction on WH ballroom to continue for now – chief justice

WASHINGTON, Aug 22, (AP): US Chief Justice John Roberts on Friday allowed the White House to continue construction on President Donald Trump's \$400 million ballroom project for now, as the Supreme Court considers the Trump administration's emergency request to intervene in lawsuits over the project.

The temporary order came hours before lower-court rulings would have forced a halt to aboveground construction of the project because Trump didn't get congressional approval.

It will remain in place until the Supreme Court issues a more durable decision, though the one-page document does not detail Roberts' reasoning or indicate when another ruling will be handed down. Roberts signed the order because he oversees emergency appeals of cases filed in the capital.

Trump thanked the high court and the chief justice during his remarks later Friday during a political appearance in South Carolina.

"When they say proceed, I think that's a good thing. That's a good thing," Trump said.

The case is coming before the nation's highest court as Trump, a Republican, exercises unparalleled assertions of presidential power and



Marine One with President Donald Trump passes over construction on the new White House ballroom on Aug 21, seen from the Washington Monument in Washington. (AP)

increasingly seeks to mold the capital in his own image.

The administration has argued that the president has total authority to renovate the White House and other federal buildings as he sees fit and that the ballroom project must be completed due to national security concerns.

When Trump first announced the plans for a new ballroom, he did not

emphasize national security. He said the project would be funded by private donations, including from himself.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation argues that Trump has no unilateral authority to undertake the work, which has included demolishing the East Wing. Lawyers for the preservation group accused the White House of trying to "outrun the courts" by accelerating construction.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Military administration, firefighters work on a fire at a shopping mall following a Russian drone attack in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine on Aug 21. (AP)

9 dead in Moscow, Kyiv attacks

Russian drones kill 16 at Ukraine mall

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 22, (AP): Russian drone and missile strikes killed at least seven people in Ukraine, officials said Saturday, while a Ukrainian drone attack on Russia's Krasnodar region killed two others, a day after a strike on a Ukrainian shopping center killed 16 people.

Moscow's forces have recently intensified their ballistic missile attacks on Kyiv, exploiting Ukraine's chronic shortage of US-made Patriot air defense interceptors, the sole weapon in its arsenal able to shoot down the missiles.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that one person was killed and another wounded in the latest attacks when ballistic missiles hit railway infrastructure in the capital, Kyiv, overnight.

Russia's Defense Ministry said that its forces had hit a locomotive depot.

In a separate attack, local authorities said two people were killed Saturday afternoon in a Russian ballistic missile strike on the Kyiv region, which surrounds the capital.

Russian drone strikes also killed one person overnight in the Zaporizhzhia region, local officials said Saturday, with a daytime attack killing three others and wounding 15. Zelenskyy said that three people were also wounded in an attack on a minibus in the regional capital, also called Zaporizhzhia.

In Russia's southern Krasnodar region, authorities said that two children were killed and two adults were wounded in a Ukrainian drone strike.

The latest attacks came a day after Russian drones struck a shopping center in the city of Kryvyi Rih in central Ukraine on Friday.

Dnipropetrovsk regional head Oleksandr Hanzha said in the early hours of Saturday that the death toll had risen to 16 and nine people remain missing after the attack, which wounded another 130.

Kryvyi Rih is the hometown of Zelenskyy, who described the attack as a double-tap strike, in which an initial wave of drones hit the area followed by a second wave as rescue workers responded. The Ukrainian

leader said the fire, which spread across 9,000 square meters (around 97,000 square feet), had been extinguished and rescue efforts were underway.

Kryvyi Rih has been hit multiple times during the 4½-year all-out war between Russia and Ukraine, with one of the deadliest occurring in April 2025, when 20 people were killed, including nine children.

Large-scale Russian strikes have become a regular occurrence this summer, with Friday's attacks landing just 24 hours after Russia pounded Kyiv with scores of missiles and drones in a nighttime assault that killed 16 people.

The capital has been hit hard repeatedly in recent weeks: 17 people were killed in a strike on Kyiv and its surrounding region just over two weeks ago, and nine died in another attack on the city two days before that. The United Nations said last week that Kyiv was one of the hardest-hit cities in July, with at least 54 civilians killed and 202 wounded.

Europe

Sweden sword attack kills 1, injures 2: An 18-year-old man with a sword attacked a school Friday in central Sweden, leaving one person dead and at least two others seriously injured, a police chief said.

Police Chief Tommy Aliksson told a news conference that the suspect had been arrested following the attack at the school in the central town of Fagersta, northwest of the capital, Stockholm.

Police confirmed that shots were fired during the arrest. It was not clear whether the suspect had been injured, but he was being held in custody - not treated in a hospital. (AP)



Belarus to close embassy in Finland: Belarus will close its embassy in Finland from Sept. 1, 2026, the National Legal Internet Portal of Belarus announced on Friday.

The decision was made by the Council of Ministers on Thursday.

Belarus and Finland established diplomatic relations in 1992, and the Belarusian embassy in Helsinki began operations in December 2011. (Xinhua)



Hungary marks national day: Hungary marks its



Police and emergency personnel outside Brinnelskolan during a major emergency response after a man with a sword reportedly injured several people at the school in Fagersta, Sweden on Aug 21. (AP)

national day with traditional ceremonies, music concerts, and a redesigned evening spectacle in Budapest, as the country's new government hosted its first Aug.20 celebrations with significantly reduced spending.

The holiday, commemorating the foundation of the Hungarian state over 1,000 years ago and its first king, Saint Stephen, began with the raising of the national flag and the swearing-in of new military officers in front of parliament. The event was also the first official appearance for newly inaugurated President Andras Baka. (Xinhua)

US and South Korean militaries wrap up annual exercise early

SEOUL, South Korea, Aug 22, (AP): The US and South Korean militaries wrapped up their annual drill six days earlier than initially scheduled on Friday in a conciliatory gesture toward North Korea, though the North said the step isn't enough to persuade it to return to talks.

US President Donald Trump had earlier abruptly ordered the Pentagon to "substantially reduce" the Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise just before it began Monday. Trump cited what he described as a good relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korea's refusal to support him over the war in Iran.

South Korea's military said the Ulchi Freedom Shield, a command post exercise with the US, ended on Friday.

This month's exercise was initially reportedly scheduled to be held in two phases for 11 days in simulation of North Korean attacks - the first part until Friday on defensive operations and the second part until Aug. 27 on counteroffensive operations. North Korea is extremely sensitive to the second phase.



US military vehicles are seen parked at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, South Korea on Aug 21. (AP)

South Korea and the US had also planned to hold 14 joint field training exercises during the Ulchi Freedom Shield period. But they've agreed to halve them as well, according to South Korea's military.

Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, brushed aside Trump's overture on Wednesday, saying that reduc-

ing the duration and size of the drills won't change their "provocative, aggressive nature."

The next day, North Korea fired about 10 short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea, apparently following through with its previous threat to respond to the US-South Korean drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal.

Asia

‘Myanmar military strike kills 14 at monastery’: An airstrike on Friday by Myanmar's military on a Buddhist monastery in Myanmar's central Sagaing region killed 14 people who were taking part in a weeklong meditation retreat, an opposition group and a resident said.

The attack is the latest in a series of frequent and deadly aerial strikes targeting armed pro-democracy forces and ethnic armed groups in the country. The strikes often cause civilian casualties.

The attack occurred in Swel Le Oh village in Myaung township, about 75 kilometers (45 miles) west of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, according to Nway Oo, a spokesperson for the Civil Defense and Security Organization of Myaung Township, or CDSOM.

Nway Oo said that 14 people, including three women, were killed and 20 others were wounded when a fighter jet dropped a bomb in the compound of the village's monastery. (AP)



Debris litters a Buddhist monastery after an airstrike hit Swel Le Oh village in Myaung Township, Sagaing Region, Myanmar, on Aug 21. (AP)

In Guangxi, cumulative rainfall was 10 to 40 centimeters (4 to 16 inches) in some areas and more than 90 centimeters (35 inches) in hard-hit areas, the national meteorological center said in July. (AP)

Explosion kills 1, 2 missing in Shandong: One person was killed and two others remained missing after an explosion struck a residential compound in Linyi City, east China's Shandong Province, on Friday, local authorities said.

The blast occurred at 3:38 p.m. in a detached single-story residence in Wangqiao Community in the Yihe New Area, according to a statement released by a joint working group set up after the incident.

Other people injured in the explosion have been taken to hospital and are not in life-threatening condition. Search and cleanup operations are still underway at the site. (AP)

‘Beijing, Jakarta should work together to advance Global South cooperation’

Indonesia and China discuss increasing defense cooperation, energy security

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Aug 22, (Agencies): Top ministers for Indonesia and China agreed during meetings in Jakarta on Friday to increase their defense cooperation and strengthen food and energy security.

The meetings come as Jakarta deepens military ties with China while trying to maintain its long-standing non-aligned foreign policy and balance relations with other major powers.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Indonesia and China agreed to better coordinate on their top development and security priorities as the two countries modernize.

Wang said the dialogue will "send a clear signal to the world of solidarity and cooperation between our two major emerging-market countries."

Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono said the two sides discussed strengthening food, energy and mineral security through the development of industries that support national resilience, which in the future will encompass areas such as artificial intelligence, the joint development of communications satellites and other advanced technology initiatives.

"We also agreed to facilitate trade, including market exploration and the expansion of market access for Indonesia's flagship commodities," Sugiono, who uses one name, said in a jointly released statement.

The countries' defense ministers, Indonesia's Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin and China's Dong Jun, met separately and discussed intensifying defense cooperation.

"We also invite the Chinese armed forces to participate in joint exercises, such as the Heping Garuda exercise, which is a concrete example of the re-



From left: China's Defense Minister Dong Jun, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Sugiono and Indonesia's Defense Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin pose for a group photo during their 2+2 meeting between Indonesia and China in Jakarta, Indonesia on Aug 21. (AP)

lationship between the Indonesian National Armed Forces and the Chinese armed forces," Sjamsoeddin said.

He added that Indonesia and China will collaborate on a joint munitions factory in Indonesia, which will also produce missiles and rockets. China will transfer technology to Indonesia as part of the plan, which is set to begin in 2027.

Indonesia's economic ties with China have flourished in recent years, reaching about \$167 billion in 2025.

China has become Indonesia's largest trading partner and plowed billions into major infrastructure projects such as the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway and Cirata, Southeast Asia's largest floating solar power project, on a reservoir in West Java, 130 kilometers (80 miles) from the capital, Jakarta.

Disagreements have emerged over the pricing and timing for the projects, but China says it is determined to follow through on them in keeping with President Xi Jinping's signature "Belt and Road" initiative to build infrastructure throughout the region.

Wang Yi on Friday called on China and Indonesia to pool the strength of developing countries and work together to advance cooperation among the Global South.

Wang made the remarks during the Second Ministerial Meeting of China-Indonesia Joint Foreign and Defense Ministerial Dialogue in Jakarta.

Under the new circumstances, China and Indonesia should continue to carry forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the Bandung Spirit, Wang noted.

Pakistan rejects allegations of mistreatment of imprisoned Khan

ISLAMABAD, Aug 22, (AP): Pakistan's government has rejected allegations by the family and party of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan that he was being subjected to "cruelty, mental torture, punitive solitary confinement and medical neglect" as baseless, saying the accusations weren't supported by prison and medical records.

Khan isn't being held under a government order, but as a "convicted prisoner" serving sentences imposed by courts following judicial proceedings, the Ministry of Information said in a written response to The Associated Press.

The government's response came hours after Khan's family and opposition party accused authorities of violating a Supreme Court order by taking him to a government hospital for a medical examination instead of a private hospital designated by the court.

Khan's sister, Uzma Khan, told a news conference that she was at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, a government-run hospital in Islamabad, when her brother was brought there overnight.



Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan gives a press conference at his home, in Lahore, Pakistan, on May 18, 2023. (AP)

Khan's sister said that during a meeting with her, Khan complained that he had been kept in solitary confinement, which she said amounted to mental torture for him. Suhail Afridi, a senior leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, or PTI, also accused the government of violating the order by taking Khan to the pub-

lic hospital.

Khan's personal physician, Dr. Faissal Sultan, said that he had been escorted to Shifa International Hospital, where he waited for Khan until early Friday. Sultan said he was eventually told that Khan had been returned to Adiala prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi.

Lat/Am

Quake shakes Peru, 2 injured: A magnitude 6.7 earthquake shook Peru's southern Andes Mountains on Thursday, injuring at least two people and damaging homes, health centers and schools, authorities said.

According to the US Geological Survey, the quake occurred at 1 pm local time (18:00 GMT) and was centered 38 kilometers (24 miles) northwest of the city of Upahuacho, in the Parinacochas province of the Ayacucho region. It had a depth of 66 kilometers (41 miles).

The earthquake was felt in several regions of southern Peru, including Ica, Arequipa, Huanavelica, Apurimac and Cusco, as well as in the capital, Lima.

Luis Vásquez, head of Civil Defense, told reporters that two people were injured while evacuating their homes during the earthquake in Coracora, the capital of Parinacochas province.

Authorities also reported damage to 22 homes, six health centers and a school across several districts in Ayacucho and Cusco, including the towns of Puquio, Pullo, Coracora, Upahuacho, San Pedro and Pichari.

Vásquez said rockfalls were reported on hillsides near Coracora. The Peruvian Navy ruled out a tsunami threat.

Earthquakes are frequent in Peru which is part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an area of frequent seismic activity.

In 2007, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake in a province of the Ica region left nearly 600 people dead. (AP)



Vásquez

US sanctions cocaine trafficking network: The US Treasury sanctioned 15 people for their involvement in a network that allegedly shipped thousands of kilograms of cocaine per month from Ecuador through Mexico, destined for the United States.

The announcement comes as the US has ramped up attacks against fishermen in the Caribbean and the Pacific, killing more than 200, as part of the Trump administration's push to expand joint anti-drug trafficking operations in Latin America.

"Operating under the guise of legitimate fishing businesses, a fleet of Ecuador-based vessels near Manta, Ecuador, secretly transfers cocaine to small power boats - known as go-fast vessels - that transit north through the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPAC), en route to the United States," the Treasury Department said.

The members targeted are allegedly part of Los Choneros and Los Lobos, two Ecuadorean gangs previously designated by the US as foreign terrorist organizations. The drugs are then smuggled through Mexico to the US by the Sinaloa Cartel and Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generación (CJNG), also designated FTOs.

Ecuador has struggled to contain drug violence since 2021 as rival cartels partner with local gangs and battle for control of routes and coastal ports used to smuggle cocaine. The country is wedged between Colombia and Peru, the world's top cocaine producing countries.

Last year, Ecuador recorded its highest homicide rate in decades of 50 murders per every 100,000 residents, according to the Ministry of the Interior.

The country under President Daniel Noboa has become a strong partner of US President Donald Trump in counter-narcotics operation in the region.

Two US warships with interceptor boats and helicopters will patrol Ecuador's territorial waters to support the fight against drug trafficking, Ecuadorean Defense Minister Gian Carlo Loffredo announced Thursday. (AP)

Cameroon's President Biya returns after long stay abroad raising health concerns

YAOUNDE, Cameroon, Aug 22, (AP): President Paul Biya returned to Cameroon after staying abroad for more than two months, which had raised concerns about the 93-year-old leader's health and a possible power vacuum in the Central African country.

Biya arrived at the international airport in the capital, Yaoundé, aboard a flight from Geneva, Switzerland, after more than 10 weeks away.

The world's oldest president, who has led Cameroon since 1982, began his eighth term in office in November after winning a widely disputed election in October.

Biya had left the country on June 7 for what his office described as "a brief private stay in Europe," but it became the longest recorded absence of his presidency.

The health of the president has long been a topic of speculation as he spends significant time in Europe, including France and Switzerland, where he often spends weeks while leaving governance to key party officials and family members.

Cameroon's constitution does not specifically prohibit a president from



Cameroon's President Paul Biya, of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement party, waits to cast his vote during the presidential elections on Oct 7, 2018, in Yaounde, Cameroon. (AP)

leaving the country for months. But without a vice president, an appointment Biya has full control over, the opposition has described the country as being run on "autopilot."

Biya's close collaborators were at the airport on Thursday, but he was not shown descending from the plane and held no briefings. He was

seen waving to supporters from his vehicle.

The results of Biya's nearly half-century in power have been mixed. Armed insurgencies by Boko Haram in the north and separatists in the west, along with a stagnant economy, have left many young people disillusioned with the leader.

New opposition group protests in Tunisia after power, water cuts

TUNIS, Tunisia, Aug 22, (AP): A summer of extreme heat has left many Tunisians short of water and electricity - and full of anger at the country's leadership. Protesters rallied in the capital Tunis on Thursday, many calling on President Kais Saied to leave power.

Mobilized by a new opposition collective, the demonstrators pleaded for improvements to basic utility services and an end to medicine shortages, rising living costs and restrictions on freedoms. Some denounced what they described as the president's failure to meet the people's demands since he was elected seven years ago.

The protest was called by the Nafas movement, which seeks to bring together political parties and independent figures beyond the North African country's traditional opposition to Saied.

The umbrella initiative, launched in May, has been calling for an end to what it describes as government failure and injustice in the country that was the birthplace of the Arab Spring pro-democracy uprisings.

The protest came during a summer of extreme heat, with temperatures reaching up to 50 degrees C (122 F)



People take part in a protest against rising prices, declining purchasing power and shortages of basic goods in Tunis, Tunisia on Aug 20. (AP)

in some parts of Tunisia. The heat wave pushed electricity demand to record levels and led state-owned utility STEG to introduce rationing measures in several regions.

The power cuts also affected water pumping stations, exacerbating long-running concerns over access to drinking water in parts of the coun-

try. Shelves of bottled water emptied quickly as lengthened blackouts disrupted factory operations.

The production slowdown was deepened by a shortage of raw plastic materials, triggered by ongoing shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, which cut off petrochemical exports to North Africa for bottle manufacturing.

Kuwait oil up \$3.45 to \$93.71 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22, (KUNA): Kuwaiti crude oil gained USD 3.45 during Friday's trading to reach USD 93.71 per barrel (pb), compared with USD 90.26 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC)

said Saturday.

Benchmark Brent crude declined by 10 cents to USD 94.39 pb and West Texas Intermediate went down by 77 cents to USD 87.06 pb.

Business

Empowering young talent through practical experience & innovative thinking

stc concludes summer youth training program & recognizes winning student project



stc's summer youth training program.



KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, concluded its summer youth training program following an intensive month-long journey that provided university students with practical exposure to the corporate environment. Throughout the program, participants had the opportunity to learn directly from specialists across different areas of the business, experience the dynamics of the workplace and put their knowledge into practice through hands-on activities and challenges.

The experience was designed to take students beyond the traditional training environment and introduce them to different aspects of professional life. Participants attended lectures, workshops and specialized sessions covering marketing, public relations, corporate communications, content creation and customer experience. As the program progressed, students were encouraged to apply what they had learned through practical activities that brought them together to exchange ideas and experience the value of collaboration in turning those ideas into meaningful outcomes.

This journey ultimately led participants to one of the program's main challenges, where they worked in teams to develop innovative ideas for new products, services or solutions. The challenge gave stu-

dents the freedom to think creatively while applying the knowledge and perspectives they had gained throughout their training. Each team then had the opportunity to bring their idea to life by presenting their final project before a specialized judging committee. The submissions were evaluated based on the strength of the idea, marketing strategy, quality of execution and presentation, as well as the collaboration demonstrated by each team.

Following the final presentations, stc recognized the team behind the best project, celebrating the creativity of its concept and the quality of the proposed solution. The recognition marked an important milestone for the students, giving them the opportunity to see their work evaluated within a professional setting after spending the program developing their skills and ideas. Taking the experience a step further, stc will study the possibility of applying the winning concept into an implementable project, in line with the Company's ongoing commitment to empower the youth, while supporting their initiatives in ways that can truly show their potential.

The conclusion of the program also provided an opportunity to recognize all participating students for the commitment and enthusiasm they demonstrated throughout their training journey. Beyond the knowledge gained during the sessions, the experience offered participants a closer look at the professional lifestyle and

provided them with an opportunity to develop skills that complement their academic studies as they prepare for the next stage of their careers.

In a statement, stc indicated that the summer youth training program comes as part of the Company's continued commitment to invest in young national talent and create learning opportunities that connect academic knowledge with practical experience. Providing students with direct exposure to a professional working environment allows them to discover their capabilities, explore their interests and gain valuable experience that can help them make more informed decisions as they begin shaping their career paths.

The Company added that empowering young people goes beyond providing them with knowledge, but also requires creating an environment where they can experiment with their ideas and learn through experience. The enthusiasm demonstrated by the students throughout the program, particularly when developing and presenting their final projects, reflects the potential of young national talent when given the opportunity to contribute. stc will continue supporting training and educational programs that help prepare students for the workforce while encouraging them to play an active role in the future development of Kuwait's telecom and digital sectors.

Egypt market cap tops EGP 4 trillion

UIC, Egypt promote bilateral investment

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: The Union of Investment Companies (UIC), in cooperation with the Commercial Office at the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Kuwait, organized a webinar bringing together economic and investment leaders from Kuwait and the Arab Republic of Egypt. The webinar aimed to highlight developments and reforms in the Egyptian market, showcase available investment opportunities and products, and open new avenues for cooperation between the investment communities of the two countries.

The webinar brought together nearly 50 senior executives and professionals from Kuwait's investment and financial sectors, along with H.E. Mohammad J. Abu Al-Wafa, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Kuwait; Mr. Abdullah H. Al-Terkait, Chairman of the Union of Investment Companies (UIC); Mr. Omar Radwan, Chairman of the Egyptian Exchange (EGX); Ms. Nashwa Salah, Minister Plenipotentiary (Commercial) and Director of Investment Promotion at the Egyptian Commercial Service; and Mr. Essam Brekaa, Minister Plenipotentiary (Commercial) and Head of the Commercial Office at the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Kuwait.

Al-Terkait: A Platform Connecting Kuwaiti Investors with Regional Opportunities

Mr. Abdullah Al-Terkait emphasized that the webinar was organized as part of UIC's role in establishing direct channels for investment companies and investors in Kuwait to explore opportunities available in regional markets and engage directly with decision-makers and economic and financial institutions.

He noted that Egypt represents an important market and a key economic and investment partner for Kuwait, pointing out that more than 1,800 Kuwaiti companies invest in Egypt, reflecting the confidence Kuwaiti investors place in the Egyptian economy. He stressed that the next phase offers significant potential to further strengthen cooperation and build new partnerships between institutions and investment companies in both countries.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Terkait added that Kuwaiti investment companies possess extensive expertise extending beyond asset management to wealth management, funds and portfolios, financing, as well as the arrangement and structuring of investment opportunities. These capabilities, he said, position them to play a greater role in connecting capital with investment opportunities locally, regionally and internationally.

Radwan: EGP 4 Trillion in Market Capitalization and New Investment Products

For his part, Mr. Omar Radwan reviewed the developments witnessed by the Egyptian market over the recent period, noting that the market capitalization of the Egyptian

Al-Terkait:

- 1,800 Kuwaiti companies invest in Egypt, with broader opportunities ahead for cooperation between the two countries

Radwan:

- Egyptian Exchange market capitalization exceeds EGP 4 trillion as reforms enhance the market's attractiveness to investors

Abu Al-Wafa:

- We look forward to expanding and diversifying Kuwaiti investments and strengthening the presence of Kuwaiti investment institutions in the Egyptian market

tian Exchange has exceeded EGP 4 trillion, equivalent to approximately USD 83 billion, alongside record levels in trading indicators.

Mr. Omar Radwan noted that more than 385,000 new investor codes have been registered on the Egyptian Exchange since the beginning of the year, while the number of daily transactions has exceeded 300,000 and daily trading value has surpassed EGP 15 billion. He said these indicators reflect the expansion of the investor base, increased market awareness, and growing demand for the investment instruments available in the market.

He also reviewed a range of financial instruments and products that the Egyptian Exchange is working to develop and diversify, including derivatives, Sukuk, bonds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), and the carbon market, contributing to meeting the needs of different investor segments and enhancing the market's ability to attract both domestic and foreign investment.

Mr. Omar Radwan stressed that structural reforms, the development of market mechanisms, and enhanced transparency are key pillars of the Egyptian Exchange's efforts to improve market efficiency and increase its attractiveness to investors.

Abu Al-Wafa: A Call to Strengthen Kuwaiti Investment Presence

For his part, H.E. Mohammad J. Abu Al-Wafa emphasized that the distinguished relations between Kuwait and Egypt provide a strong foundation for further cooperation, expressing his aspiration for economic and investment cooperation to develop in a manner that reflects the depth of the political and fraternal relations between the two countries.

He encouraged Kuwaiti investment companies to increase their investments in Egypt, expand and diversify their investment base, and strengthen the presence of Kuwaiti investment institutions across various sectors. He also encouraged them to capitalize on the opportunities offered by the Egyptian economy and benefit from direct dialogue with the leadership of the Egyptian Exchange and relevant officials to assess these opportunities on clear economic and investment grounds.

In the same context, Ms. Nashwa Salah, Minister Plenipotentiary (Commercial) and Director of Investment Promotion at the Egyptian Commercial Service, emphasized that Kuwait-Egypt economic rela-

tions represent a model of partnership based on mutual interests. She noted that bilateral trade between the two countries reached approximately USD 1.387 billion in 2025, compared with USD 1.311 billion in 2024, representing growth of 5.8%.

She added that total Kuwaiti investment flows into Egypt amounted to approximately USD 7 billion between 2004 and the end of 2025, according to statistics from the Central Bank of Egypt.

UIC's Role Extends Beyond Highlighting Opportunities to Building Investment Bridges

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Abdullah Al-Terkait emphasized that the importance of the webinar lies in bringing Kuwait's investment community into direct dialogue with the entities concerned with the Egyptian market, enabling investors to gain clear, first-hand insights into reforms, market developments, new products and investment opportunities directly from officials and decision-makers.

He stressed that through such initiatives, UIC seeks to build investment bridges and connect its member companies with regional and international markets and opportunities, rather than merely highlighting those opportunities. This approach creates a platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange and the assessment of opportunities with the potential to develop into tangible investment partnerships and projects.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Terkait added that the participation of nearly 50 representatives from Kuwait's investment and financial community reflects strong interest in gaining a deeper understanding of developments in the Egyptian market. He reaffirmed that UIC will continue to serve as a platform connecting Kuwait's investment community with economic institutions, markets and decision-makers regionally and internationally, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of Kuwait's investment sector and broadening the scope of opportunities available to its member companies.

The webinar concluded by emphasizing the importance of maintaining dialogue and communication between the two sides and building on the longstanding economic relations between Kuwait and Egypt to generate further practical investment opportunities and partnerships that advance the mutual interests of both countries.

Workers put in longer hours

Iran endures economic strain as sanctions tighten & jobs vanish

TEHRAN, Aug 22, (AP): Tehran's grocery stores are well-stocked, but many families can barely afford the basics. Unemployment is soaring and those with jobs are working more hours for money worth half as much as a year ago, putting food, medicine and everything else - except for heavily subsidized gasoline - further out of reach.

"We have virtually given up on many things," said Ahmad Karimi, 52, a taxi driver and father of two who has been working 15-hour days to make ends meet. "We're cutting out fruit, we're cutting out protein, we've given up leisure, we even work on weekends."

Nearly six months into the war with the United States and Israel, the Iranian economy is taking a beating under the force of sanctions and a naval blockade that is making it extremely difficult for the country to export oil, its most valuable product.

Whether this intensifying economic pressure will translate anytime soon into military or political concessions from Iran remains to be seen - but some experts are skeptical. Since the war began, Iran has been attacking oil-rich neighbors and U.S. bases in the region, and disrupting shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, its biggest strategic advantage.

Iran is trying to use this retaliatory pressure - which is driving up energy prices globally - to bring the war to an end on the best terms possible. It is pressing for sanctions relief, and seeking enough control over the strait to demand payment from ships passing through to deliver energy and other goods.

The Trump administration - which is stuck fighting over a waterway in a war that was launched to curb Iran's nuclear program - is now promising to deliver even tougher sanctions to try to squeeze the Islamic Republic into submission. But experts say U.S. President Donald Trump may be underestimating how long Iran can hold out.

Iran has been subject to Western sanctions for years and has become deft at partially circumventing them. It has expanded domestic production, used informal cross-border trade networks, bought restricted goods through third countries, and used a shadow fleet to transport its oil.

"Iran's resistance capacity not only avoids collapse, it also prevents the economic pain from translating into the political pressure and changes that the U.S. expects," said Hadi Kahalzadeh, an expert on Iran's economy at Brandeis University.

Tehran's sprawling Grand Bazaar is regularly packed with shoppers hoping to find more affordable staples than at the country's grocery stores, where rice is 60% more expensive and beef is 150% more expensive than before the war.

A mother of two from northern Iran posted a photo on X this week after purchasing milk, eggs, toilet paper and a few other items, but no meat. She complained that it cost 89 million rials (about \$65).

"Buying basic necessities has become our main priority, and our shopping basket has gotten smaller and more limited," the 41-year-old told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.

"The emotional toll and the pressure we're under are another story," she said. "Every time we have to say no to our children, every time we have to go back and forth over a decision, whether it's a class you'd love your children to take or something they really want you to buy for them, it's genuinely exhausting."

By the end of the year, inflation in Iran is expected to rise nearly 70%, according to the International Monetary Fund, and the country's economy - devastated by a decade of sanctions before the war - is forecast to shrink by more than 5%.

While gasoline has remained cheap thanks to government subsidies, even that might not last forever as supplies get tighter. A presidential aide told Iranian

state television last week that the country is now using more gasoline each day than it produces and may need to raise prices - something that in the past has led to widespread protests.

Iran's theocratic leaders were already facing economic discontent before the U.S. and Israel started the war on Feb. 28. Protests had spread across the country at the beginning of the year before they were violently put down, with thousands killed and tens of thousands believed to have been arrested.

Many Iranians have now turned at least some of their economic frustrations toward the countries behind the sanctions and the attacks that have destroyed factories and critical infrastructure and killed scores of civilians, said Hassan Golmoradi, a Tehran-based economist.

"Despite the hardships and difficulties, they have shown considerable patience in putting up with the resulting economic pressures," Golmoradi said.

Iran's leaders have said it is a treasonous offense - punishable by death - to take part in anti-government protests.

"They do suffer, but they do not think that by joining violent protests they can achieve something for themselves and their families," said Mohammad Farzanegan, a professor of Middle Eastern economics at the University of Marburg in Germany.

On Wednesday, Trump vowed on social media to unleash against Iran the "most crushing economic operation ever taken against any country." He also threatened secondary sanctions on nations and companies that continue to do business with Iran.

The United Arab Emirates, which for years had enabled Iran to circumvent sanctions and receive goods from other countries, announced this week it was suspending all trade with Tehran. Trump had called the leader of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the day before the announcement.

With the economic struggles, the elected government of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has said it favors a negotiated end to the war. "What concerns us is people's livelihoods and their economic situation, and we are doing everything we can to deal with it," he told reporters last week.

But the most powerful force in Iran remains the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which has only become stronger after withstanding U.S. and Israeli airstrikes that killed Iran's top leaders during the war's opening salvos. The Guard is pressing for greater concessions from the U.S., including Iranian control over the Strait of Hormuz and financial compensation for the war.

With negotiations to end the war stalled, Iran's hardliners believe their country can endure the conflict's economic pressures longer than their adversaries.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, this month appointed a former Revolutionary Guard commander to head Iran's powerful Supreme National Security Council, a sign that he favors the hard-line approach.

Official government statistics put Iran's unemployment rate at 9.1%, though state-affiliated media outlets have said the real figure is most likely many times higher. A Labor Ministry official said last week that by late May, just three months into the war, more than 1 million jobs had been lost.

In a sign that Iran's leaders are at least somewhat concerned about public opinion, the government has refrained from enforcing mandatory hijab regulations as harshly as it had been - a social freedom that has long been sought by many.

But these days many Iranians are focused on how their lifestyles are restricted economically. Karimi, the taxi driver, said Iran's leaders will need to do something soon to alleviate the financial pressures he and others are feeling.

"The people won't be able to continue living like this," he said. "We're simply breathing, surviving, and trying to make it from one day to the next."

Supporting government efforts to develop infrastructure & enhance readiness

NBK contributes KD 1 mln to the restoration & rehabilitation of Kuwait's land border crossings



NBK's proven record of strategic initiatives reinforces its leadership in national and social responsibility.



KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: Reflecting his commitment to strengthening national partnerships with government entities and supporting state institutions in the delivery of vital projects, Mr. Isam J. Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), visited the Ministry of Interior, where he met with H.E. Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

nounced a KD 1 million contribution to support the restoration and rehabilitation of Kuwait's land border crossings, including Abdali, Salmi and Nuwaiseeb. The contribution supports government efforts to develop the infrastructure of the border crossings and enhance their readiness.

This contribution reflects NBK's deep-rooted sense of national responsibility and its steadfast commitment to protecting Kuwait's vital assets. It also reaffirms that the role of national institutions extends beyond supporting the economy to actively enhancing the readiness of strategic facilities and supporting the state's efforts under all circumstances.

The initiative also reflects NBK's approach to directing its contributions towards projects of national priority, in line with its position as a leading institution committed to supporting Kuwait's development journey and strengthening the foundations of growth and stability.

Building on this foundation, the contribution underscores NBK's leadership in national and social responsibility, as well as its long-standing record of launching and supporting strategic initiatives with sustainable impact. It reflects the Bank's vision of creating meaningful value for society and contributing to the advancement of the state's development aspirations.

It is worth noting that, during its Meeting No. (32/2026) – (118), held on August 18, the Council of Ministers approved the Ministry of Interior's request to accept NBK's KD 1 million contribution in support of the restoration and rehabilitation of the country's land border crossings.

Flexible savings & trust accounts for children

NBK introduces end-to-end digital onboarding for Zeina children's accounts

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues to reinforce its leadership in digital innovation and advanced banking services with the introduction of digital onboarding for the Zeina Account through the NBK Mobile Banking App, becoming the first bank in Kuwait to offer a fully end-to-end digital journey for opening accounts for minors without the need to visit a branch.

The launch forms part of NBK's broader strategy to accelerate digital transformation and continuously enhance the customer experience by delivering innovative banking solutions that respond to evolving needs and expectations, while providing greater convenience, flexibility and efficiency across its digital channels.

Through the Zeina Account digital onboarding service, parents can now open accounts for their children entirely through the NBK Mobile Banking App, anytime and from anywhere, without visiting a branch or completing any paper-based procedures. The service marks a significant advancement in the experience of opening children's accounts within Kuwait's banking sector.

The service delivers a seamless, fully integrated digital journey covering electronic verification of the child's information, secure upload of the required documents, completion of Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements for the minor, selection of the appropriate account type, and completion of the account-opening process through a single, secure and streamlined digital flow.

Parents also benefit from the flexibility to select the account that best suits their children's needs within the Zeina Package, whether through the Al-Jawhara Savings Account or the Trust Account, while helping instill a culture of saving and financial planning from an early age.

As part of NBK's commitment to delivering a seamless and fully integrated banking experience, the service incorporates a smart exception-handling mechanism for cases that may require additional verification of the relationship between the parent or guardian and the child. Such applications are automatically referred to a specialized team for review and completion of the required procedures within the same day, ensuring a swift process while maintaining the highest standards of accuracy and reliability.

The new service provides customers with a faster and more convenient banking experience by eliminating the need for branch visits and enabling every step of the account-opening process to be completed digitally. This saves time and effort while making banking services more accessible anytime and from anywhere.

NBK's continued investment in advanced digital technologies is driving the development of customer-centric banking solutions that deliver greater ease, efficiency and convenience. This approach supports wider adoption of digital channels and reinforces the Bank's commitment to providing advanced banking services that keep pace with the rapid evolution of the sector.

Beyond enhancing the digital banking experience, the service also supports NBK's efforts to advance financial awareness and encourage families to plan early for their children's financial future. By helping instill the principles of saving and financial responsibility from a young age, NBK aims to contribute to the development of a more financially aware and future-ready generation.



- A seamless end-to-end digital journey encompassing electronic verification, secure document upload, KYC completion and account selection
- Smart exception-handling for cases requiring additional verification
- An advanced, paperless banking experience that saves customers time and effort
- Innovative solutions that elevate the customer experience and advance digital transformation

Through this initiative, NBK reaffirms its continued investment in innovation, digital transformation and the development of advanced banking solutions that offer customers greater convenience, flexibility and accessibility, while maintaining the highest standards of security and reliability.

NBK continues to strengthen its leadership in digital banking by delivering innovative, customer-centric solutions that create meaningful added value, enhance the overall banking experience and support the aspirations of customers and future generations toward a more secure financial future.

Four services, one seamless platform

ALSAYER unveils seamless digital app to transform vehicle ownership experience

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 22: ALSAYER Group has officially launched the ALSAYER App, a fully integrated digital platform that redefines how customers manage, service, and personalize their vehicles. Rooted in the Group's customer-centric strategy and commitment to meaningful innovation, the app consolidates every key dimension of vehicle ownership into a single, intuitive experience.

According to Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO ALSAYER Group "Owning a vehicle should be effortless from day one. The ALSAYER App is our promise to every customer — that world-class service and convenience are no longer aspirations, they are standards."

What the App Offers
Roadside Assistance
Customers can request help in seconds — selecting from a full range of services including battery support, towing, and tyre assistance. Automatic location sharing and real-time technician tracking ensure fast, transparent, and stress-free roadside support from dispatch to completion.

My Vehicle
A complete ownership dashboard giving customers instant access to vehicle details, warranty coverage, full service history, insurance information with renewal reminders, in-app service booking, and prepaid package balances — all in one organised and always-accessible space.

Hayyak Membership
The digital Hayyak card lives inside the app, putting exclusive partner privileges at the customer's fingertips. Browse offers by location or category, view discount details, and get directions to partner venues — making membership benefits part of everyday life.

Accessories
A curated digital showroom for vehicle accessories, filtered by model and trim level. Customers can explore products, view pricing, and register interest directly — connecting seamlessly with ALSAYER specialists to complete their personalization journey.

"The ALSAYER App is more than a digital tool. It is a statement of intent — that we will continue to raise the standard of what automotive service means



ALSAYER App

in this region" commented Bengt Schultz Chief Operating Officer ALSAYER Group.

Ivan Tkachenko Chief Information Officer, ALSAYER Group said "The launch of ALSAYER App is part of the evolution program initiated by the Group IT Department with a strategic vision of revamp the system landscape, improve collaboration between the IT and business to offer better solutions for customers and accelerate innovation especially in AI area".

The ALSAYER App is now available on the Apple App Store and Google Play. All existing and new customers are invited to download the app and experience smarter vehicle ownership today.

Lebanon economy seen shrinking 6.4%

BEIRUT, Aug 22, (Xinhua): Lebanon's economy is projected to contract by 6.4 percent in 2026 as renewed conflict has interrupted a tentative economic recovery, the World Bank said Friday in its latest Lebanon Economic Monitor.

The report said the economy had begun to stabilize in 2025, with real GDP growing an estimated 4.2 percent, marking its strongest performance since 2019. However, the escalation of conflict in March brought the recovery to a halt, with damage to infrastructure, population displacement, and supply-chain disruptions weighing on the economy.

Tourism and domestic consumption, main drivers of the 2025 rebound, were also hit, according to the report, titled "A Conflict-Torn Economy."

"Lebanon's fragile recovery has been sharply set back by the renewed conflict," said Dahlia Khalifa, World Bank division director for the Middle East department, stressing the need for advancing banking and fiscal reforms to restore confidence and mobilize reconstruction financing.

The report noted that Lebanon's fiscal position remained relatively strong during the first half of

2026, building on a surplus of 3.9 percent of GDP in 2025. But public finances are expected to face growing pressure from rising humanitarian and reconstruction costs, wage demands, and slowing revenue growth.

Lebanon's public debt remains unsustainable, with no talks on debt restructuring underway, the report added.

Inflation is forecast to rise to 17.5 percent this year, driven by supply disruptions, higher shipping costs and rising oil prices, further eroding household purchasing power.

The Lebanese pound has remained broadly stable with support from foreign exchange reserves and tighter liquidity, though the World Bank warned of renewed pressure if external inflows weaken or conflict-related shocks persist.

The report estimated that the conflict would reduce GDP growth by 10.4 percentage points compared to a no-conflict scenario.

It warned that prolonged displacement, asset damage, and disruptions to education and health services could weaken medium-term growth.

Paris Summit puts green investment in focus

PARIS, Aug 22, (KUNA): On the first day of the Paris 2026 Global Investment Summit, scheduled on September 1, participants will address the future of climate and sustainability-related investment during a panel titled "Climate, Sustainability, and the Green Investment Agenda."

The session brings together a select group of investors, experts, and policymakers to examine the standards that enhance the credibility of green projects and boost their ability to attract institutional funding, amidst growing global interest in responsible investment and the shift toward more sustainable economic models.

The session will also focus on the transition of sustainability from a general framework of environmental commitments into a pivotal factor in investment decisions.

This involves developing clearer standards for transparency and measurement, enabling investors to evaluate projects, assess their adherence to environmental goals, and determine their potential to deliver both economic returns and sustainable impact.

Participants will explore the factors that make green projects more credible and attractive to capital, as well as the role of data and measurable indicators in performance assessment.

They will also discuss the importance of clear frameworks that help financial institutions and investors distinguish between projects with genuine impact and initiatives lacking precise standards for measuring outcomes.



Beef cows gather at the Diamond J Angus Ranch, March 31, 2026 near Mandan, N.D. (AP Photo/Jack Dura, File)

US to import 300,000 tons

Trump eases beef import tariffs to decrease prices

WASHINGTON, Aug 22, (AP): President Donald Trump announced Friday that his administration will allow more beef to be temporarily imported into the U.S. without triggering higher tariffs, which drew swift pushback from cattle producers and conservative rural-state Republicans.

Beef prices have climbed to record highs amid a drop in the number of U.S. cattle, consistent consumer demand and limits on cattle from Mexico, where the animals are facing a flesh-eating pest. The U.S. president has also imposed 50% tariffs on Brazil, a major beef exporter.

Trump remains under pressure to cut costs and address affordability issues ahead of November’s midterms. But ranchers, normally some of the president’s biggest supporters, are enjoying some rare profitable years and worry cheap beef imports will reduce cattle prices - and with it, the incentive to increase herd sizes.

“We all want lower grocery prices, but as I’ve said for months, we cannot do it at the expense of American producers,” Sen. Deb Fischer, R-Neb., said in a statement. “Flooding the market with foreign beef hurts our livestock industry and undermines the long-term solution: growing the U.S. cattle herd to meet demand.”

When asked by reporters Friday evening about criticism of the deal, Trump said, “I love the ranchers; they’ve done a fantastic job. But they admit that we need a little help, and, in order to get the prices down, so that’s what we’re doing.”

Sen. Tim Sheehy, R-Mont., said in a social media post just hours after Trump announced the deal that the president’s “heart is in the right place,” but importing beef will “harm our ranching families who feed the nation.”

And Sen. Pete Ricketts, R-Neb., said that while he appreciates the administration’s focus on grocery prices, “short term policy shifts do not equal long term solutions.”

The deal, Trump said, allows up to 300,000 metric tons of ground beef to be imported into the U.S. for the next 90 days without activating an “out of quota” tariff, which is a tax that goes into effect once a certain quantity of that product enters the country.

The president said on social media that he had committed to ensuring the imported beef would be sold at 25% below current market rates, making it cheaper for American consumers.

Trump didn’t specify which countries would import the beef while speaking to reporters Friday, but said “there are a few” and that they’ll send the “highest quality beef.” A White House official said the deal is with foreign beef exporters who have agreed to the discount on beef.

“You don’t put America first by putting U.S. cattle producers last,” U.S. Cattlemen’s Association President Justin Tupper said in a statement. “This move will weaken our markets and gamble with food safety in the process.”

The president’s announcement and other market interventions sacrifice “long-term stability for short term messaging,” Colin Woodall, CEO of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, said in a statement.

Glynn Tonsor, a professor at Kansas State University who focuses on the cattle and beef industry, said he would like to see more details about the latest deal but that his immediate assessment was that it wouldn’t have a big effect on prices.

That’s because 300,000 metric tons amounts to roughly 3% of what Americans eat yearly, he said. “The relative magnitude we are talking about is pretty small.”

David Anderson, professor of agricultural economics at Texas A&M University, said he was skeptical other countries could redirect so much beef to the U.S. in such a short time period.

“Is that even achievable?” he questioned in a phone interview.

The White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a plan that has yet to be finalized, said the beef in question is lean beef trimmings that are used for ground beef production. Trump plans to sign an executive order formalizing the directive within two weeks, the official said. The administration made a push last year to buy more beef from Argentina to try to bring down prices.

The president said Friday that his plan would help grow the U.S. cattle supply, which is the smallest it’s been in decades. Some ranchers and experts said the opposite effect was more likely.

“Imports have been a major contributor to the decline in the U.S. cattle inventory,” said Bill Bullard, the CEO of the R-CALF USA, which represents independent cattle producers. “Using more imports today will exacerbate that decline and will prevent herd expansion.

Alibaba quarterly profit dips 75% as AI investment spending grows

HONG KONG, Aug 22, (AP): China’s technology giant Alibaba on Thursday reported a 75% drop in profit for the latest quarter as it invested big in artificial intelligence infrastructure, even as revenue coming from its AI-related services gained 45%.

The Hong Kong- and U.S.-listed company, which started out in e-commerce and online retail but is increasingly focused on AI technologies, said that its profit for April-June was at 10.5 billion yuan (\$1.6 billion), down from 43.1 billion yuan (\$6.4 billion) the same quarter last year.

Quarterly revenue grew 9% to almost 269 billion yuan (nearly \$40 billion), with revenue from its AI cloud and compute services up 45% to 48.4 billion yuan (\$7.2 billion).

But capital expenditures, including investments in AI infrastructure to meet customer demand, jumped 75% to 67.7 billion yuan (about \$10

billion) during the quarter, weighing on profits.

Alibaba attributed the significant increase in spendings to factors including “fluctuations” in procurement cycles, increase in CPU, or central processing unit, compute capacity in anticipation of growing customer adoption of AI “agents” and higher pricing of chip components.

“As we continue to ramp up our supply, our AI and Cloud revenue growth will accelerate further in the coming quarters, alongside continued improvement in profitability,” said Alibaba CEO Eddie Wu in prepared remarks during an earnings conference.

Alibaba’s U.S.-traded shares fell more than 3% Thursday.

Alibaba, one of China’s biggest companies, said last year it planned to invest at least 380 billion yuan (about \$56 billion) over three years in cloud computing and AI infrastructure.

Canada vows dollar-for-dollar retaliation

US imposes 50% tariffs on \$20 bln of Canadian goods

WASHINGTON, Aug 22, (AP): The United States imposed 50% tariffs on \$20 billion worth of Canadian products early Saturday, and Canada immediately said it would retaliate, after last-ditch negotiations failed to resolve the latest strain in already tense relations between the historic allies.

President Donald Trump’s import taxes will hit about 5% of what Canada ships to the United States every year, including products ranging from hockey sticks to tongue depressors.

“Canada will match those tariffs dollar for dollar to protect our workers and businesses,” Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said in a statement. The retaliation escalates the trade conflict and calls into question the future of a North American trade pact between the United States, Canada and Mexico that is crucial to industry in all three countries.

Canada sought concessions on Trump tariffs on steel, aluminum, autos and lumber that the United States was unwilling to provide, a senior Trump administration official told reporters.

“Tonight, Canada declined to finalize the trade deal under the terms agreed earlier this week. Despite the U.S. offer to Canada to receive the best treatment of any major exporter to our market, new demands and walk-backs of other commitments by Canada have upended the careful balance reached in the past days,” U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said in a statement read to reporters on a press call shortly before midnight.

Carney blamed Washington for the breakdown, saying “last-minute changes in the U.S. proposed terms were unfair, uneconomic, and called into question the reliability of any deal.” He said he had suspended negotiations and directed Canada’s negotiating team to return to Ottawa.

Carney said his government would announce additional support for Canadian workers and businesses in the coming days.

Greer said the U.S. offer was “forward-looking” and included “a historic economic and national security partnership.”

No further talks have been planned. The breakdown in negotiations marked a sharp reversal from two days earlier, when officials from the two countries sounded as if they were headed toward a compromise.

Carney said Canada’s goal throughout the negotiations had been to secure the best possible agreement, “never a deal at any price or on any deadline.”

The political impact will likely be even bigger

than the economic fallout. The countries sold each other \$880 billion worth of goods and services last year.

The tariffs were initially supposed to kick in at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday. But Trump extended the deadline for three days to allow talks to continue, but the two countries still could not reach an agreement in time.

The two countries have wrangled for decades over trade, poking each other over sore spots like Canadian softwood lumber imports and U.S. access to Canada’s protected dairy market.

Somehow, they still managed to remain friends, allies and trading partners. Canadian soldiers fought alongside Americans in Afghanistan after 9/11. The 5,525-mile U.S.-Canada border is undefended, and nearly 330,000 people and \$2 billion worth of goods cross it every day; 800,000 Canadians live in the United States.

Trump’s approach to dealing with Canada marks an extraordinary departure from the traditionally cooperative relationship between the two countries. Trump has hit Canadian goods with tariffs - in a push to bring manufacturing back to the United States - and has repeatedly made inflammatory comments about turning Canada into America’s 51st state.

Carney said Canada had recognized that “America has changed” and that the two countries would “not return to our old relationship.”

The Canadian public is fed up. A petition to expel the U.S. ambassador, a Trump ally, has collected nearly 248,000 signatures since July 21. It accuses Ambassador Pete Hoekstra of having “normalized” Trump’s talk of annexing Canada, among other things.

The two countries had good reasons to find a compromise.

Nearly 72% of Canada’s goods exports last year went to the United States. And the Trump administration might be wary of imposing a hefty new tariff - paid by U.S. importers who try to pass along the cost to consumers via higher prices - ahead of November’s midterm elections. American voters are already frustrated with the high cost of living.

“Canada likely wanted further sector-specific relief than the U.S. was willing to offer, or Canada’s concessions did not go far enough,” said Ryan Majerus, a partner at King & Spalding and a former U.S. trade official. “Either way, I think both sides will be under immense pressure in the coming days to still find an off-ramp. But if Canada has agreed to also impose tariffs, the off-ramp may be even harder to find.”

Díaz-Canel opens economy to private banks, imports & fast-food chains

Cuba questions US sanctions amid economic reforms

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 22, (AP): The United States has demanded that Cuba open up to private investment, and Cuba has passed sweeping reforms to encourage just that. So Cuba’s U.N. ambassador says he wants to know why Washington keeps piling on sanctions that stymie the very economic opening it has sought for decades.

Ambassador Ernesto Soberón Guzmán, in an interview this week with The Associated Press, directed his question to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the main architect of the Trump administration’s Cuba policy:

“What are you afraid of? If you are so convinced that the Cuban government is an incompetent government, why do you need to implement almost every two weeks new sanctions?”

The U.S. State Department responded to a request for comment with a quote from Rubio saying new sanctions will continue to be announced every couple of weeks to close off “escape valves that they’re trying to create in every mechanism.”

Then on Thursday, the U.S. imposed more economic penalties on Cuban industries, targeting state-owned mining, metal and construction companies.

Cuba has been pushed to the brink by an oil blockade imposed by the United States in January on top of a decades-old embargo, coupled with the escalating sanctions. The moves by President Donald Trump’s administration, meant to put pressure on the government by depriving it of funding, have worsened already debilitating blackouts, cut workers off from public transport, crippled infrastructure and deepened shortages in medicine and food in the Caribbean island nation.

Guzmán said the sanctions are the main obstacle to Cuba opening up its economy. He said the impact of the U.S. measures - specifically the shortage of electricity and lack of fuel to run a business or travel - has turned off investors and tourists, a major source of Cuba’s income.

Some companies have pulled out of Cuba, including the Spanish hotel chain Meliá, which relied on tourist revenue and cited “significant operational, legal, economic and financial difficulties” in explaining its decision to leave.

“Literally, the United States has done everything imaginable to try to prevent foreign investors,” said William LeoGrande, a pro-

fessor at American University and a leading expert on U.S.-Cuba relations. “When they say, ‘Well, we want to see Cuba open up to foreign investment,’ they’re being disingenuous. ... It’s not possible for them to succeed without some kind of sanctions relief.”

The goal of Trump’s Republican administration, he said, is “not just to open up Cuba economically but to overthrow the Cuban government - to change the nature of the Cuban political system.”

John Kavulich, president of the U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, said Cuba had to make changes when it lost its economic lifeline with the U.S. ouster in January of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro.

“The result is the Cuban government in the last eight months made more commercial, economic and financial changes to the country than they have as a group since the revolution,” he said.

Nonetheless, the Trump administration keeps ratcheting up sanctions, putting more pressure on Cuba, which is responding by making more changes, Kavulich said.

“But from our standpoint, there are two parts missing: One is Cuba implementing by regulation everything that it’s announced, and secondly, the Trump administration allowing U.S. companies to have more access to the Cuban marketplace while these changes are underway,” he said.

The changes announced by Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel in June aim to significantly shift Cuba’s economy and industry, which have been strictly controlled by the socialist government since the 1959 revolution.

They include more space for private businesses, imports and exports without the state as an intermediary, free hiring of personnel, authorization for private banks, investment by Cubans abroad and opportunities for fast-food chains to establish themselves on the island.

Guzmán said there are opportunities for investments in real estate, solar farms and energy to help ease the country’s electricity shortage, as well as in marinas and the tourism industry.

Christopher Hernandez-Roy, acting director of the Americas program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, recalled that the last economic opening under President Barack Obama’s Democratic administration “was later throttled by the Cubans them-

selves, who feared that the opening went too far and appeared to threaten political control.”

Today, he said, it appears the Cubans really do want economic reforms and outside investment. Díaz-Canel’s economic reforms are not impossible, but U.S. sanctions “significantly constrain their prospects for success,” Hernandez-Roy said.

He noted the irony that U.S. pressure “is helping push the Cubans toward greater economic liberalization out of necessity, while simultaneously limiting the resources and access necessary for those reforms to actually improve the economy.”

In late June, after the reforms were announced, the U.S. slapped sanctions on five state companies, three linked to a business conglomerate run by Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces. Best known as GAESA, it is believed to command nearly 40% of Cuba’s gross domestic product.

Rubio, a former U.S. senator from Florida whose parents were born in Cuba, did not appear to be impressed by the newly announced economic changes. He last month called Cuba “a failed state” with “a bad economic model.” He said Cuba’s leaders “don’t know what they’re doing” and “don’t know how to fix their economy.”

“I think the challenge that Cuba has faced for the last 15 years is they want to somewhat improve their economy, but they’re afraid that if they improve it too much they’ll lose political control over people,” he said.

The United States is prepared “to do what we can do to effectuate a positive change in Cuba because it directly impacts our national security” since it is only 90 miles (145 kilometers) from the U.S. mainland, Rubio said. “And we want Cuba to be prosperous. We want Cuba to be free.”

The Cuban ambassador said implementing the economic changes would be far easier without the sanctions, if American companies were involved in Cuba and if trade between the two countries was possible.

He said the good news is that talks are taking place between the United States and Cuba. He declined to give details of what he called “very sensitive conversations.”

“But the point here is that even when Cuba is changing a lot,” Guzmán said, “the U.S. government keeps the same policy of aggression towards the Cuban people.”

Tesla recalls nearly 3 mln vehicles in China over door handle safety risks

HONG KONG, Aug 22, (AP): Tesla and other Chinese carmakers are making a major recall of more than 4 million vehicles over safety concerns mostly related to their door handles, according to Chinese authorities on Friday.

The U.S. carmaker is recalling about 2.98 million China-made and imported EVs including Model 3, Model Y, Model X and Model S over door handle safety risks, according to China’s State Administration for Market Regulation.

The recall, the largest this year according to Chinese media, comes a few months after Chinese authorities said in February that starting next year, it would be banning hidden car door handles that are commonly seen on Tesla electric vehicles and many Chinese EV models.

China has stepped up scrutiny recently on hidden, or flush, car door handles following EV accidents in the country and elsewhere, in which cars’ hidden electronic doors failed and trapped people inside.

In a notice on the Chinese regulator’s website, it cited safety risk. In extreme situations, such as a severe collision that causes an electrical system failure, the car handles could hinder car users from quickly opening the doors to escape, or prevent rescuers outside the car from gaining access, the notice said.

Some experts in the industry said the automakers should value safety over design.

Cui Dongshu, head of the China Passenger Car Association, called the recall “an inevitable step” in the development of the electric vehicle industry and said automakers were “being responsible” by moving toward a more reliable, “safety-first” approach.

“This represents, in part, the growing pains of the industry. At the same time, however, this move signifies a policy-driven safety upgrade,” said Cui.

Tesla will perform software updates on the vehicles to mitigate risks, the

notice added. Tesla did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday.

Xiaomi, the Beijing-based Chinese technology giant, is recalling more than 390,000 vehicles. Hangzhou-based Leapmotor is recalling over 370,000 cars. Other Chinese carmakers, including Geely and XPENG are also recalling some vehicles.

The reasons given in each case were similar, mostly relating to issues with their car door handles.

A report published by the People’s Daily, the official newspaper of China’s ruling Communist Party, said the large-scale recall “serves as a unified safety upgrade” for existing vehicle models ahead of the 2027 implementation of the ban on hidden car door handles.

“For the rapidly evolving NEV (new energy vehicle) industry, competition should be defined not only by the pace of technological innovation but also by the high standards set for safety,” the newspaper said.



In Matera, Basilicata, Nonna Silvia showing one of her favorites: oven baked pasta with fried eggplant and cheese. A summer treat.



anana founders Blake and Teodoro filming in Oliena, Sardinia, one of the world's five blue zones, where three different Nonnas taught local dishes.



Nonna Anna teaching homemade gnoc-chi, ricing the potatoes before forming them. Her kitchen, perfectly unchanged, in the background.

Nonna knows best!

By Marlon Aquino Malinao
Managing Editor – Arab Times

We have grown accustomed to recipes arriving at the speed of a swipe, frantic 30-second videos, immaculate plating, the clinical pinch-of-this-gram-of-that measurements and polished TV chefs who seem to command every ingredient with military precision.

But some of the world's most precious recipes were never written down at all. They lived instead in the hands of grandmothers, in kitchen cupboards, on flour-dusted counters and in the instinctive gestures of people who could tell, without measuring, when a dish was ready. They were recipes remembered rather than recorded, tasted rather than calculated, passed from one pair of hands to another through generations.

And with every generation that passes, some of them risk disappearing. That quiet loss is what inspired Teodoro Mefalopulos, co-founder of heritage culinary platform anana, to build something decidedly different: not another recipe website, but a living digital archive of the food, people and stories that make family cooking worth preserving.

In an exclusive conversation with Arab Times, Mefalopulos spoke about the memories that gave birth to anana, the irreplaceable wisdom of grandparents and his ambition to preserve culinary traditions far beyond Italy.

A recipe lost is a story lost
For Mefalopulos, anana did not arrive as a lightning-bolt idea scribbled on a whiteboard. It grew slowly from childhood, memory and loss.

His grandparents had nurtured his love of food and cooking. The family kitchen became a place where food was not merely prepared but experienced, where recipes were demonstrated rather than dictated and where knowledge seemed to pass almost effortlessly from one generation to the next.

But as his grandparents grew older and began passing away, he discovered a painful truth.

He was losing more than people.

He was losing recipes.
“I began noticing, sadly, that as I started losing my grandparents, I was losing some of these recipes that no one had taken the time to write down,” he recalls.

The realization was both simple and profound. A recipe could vanish not because it was forgotten, but because nobody had stopped long enough to preserve it.

That prompted a question: Could these extraordinary family recipes be captured on an international scale without stripping away the instinct and intimacy that made them special in the first place?

That question eventually became anana.

One childhood memory remains particularly vivid. Mefalopulos once tried to recreate a traditional Roman dish of summer tomatoes stuffed with rice and baked with potatoes. His attempt, by his own admission, was a spectacular failure.

But the kitchen disaster taught him something.

There was a kind of culinary alchemy in what his grandparents did, a finesse impossible to capture simply by listing ingredients and quantities.

“There’s some finesse and nuance here that these grandparents have that we just don’t,” he says with a laugh.

That nuance became central to the philosophy behind anana.

Why the “Nonna” matters

At the heart of anana is the nonna – the Italian word for grandmother.

The choice is deliberate. For Mefalopulos, the nonna represents something much bigger than a family elder. She embodies generations of accumulated knowledge, intuition and experience in the kitchen.

In a digital food culture dominated by influencers, professional chefs and picture-perfect dishes, anana deliberately looks elsewhere.

To the nonna.

The grandmother.

The home cook.

The person who has been making the same dish for decades without ever needing to consult a recipe card.

“Grandparents all over the world... have just done it the longest. They’ve withstood the test of time,” Mefalopulos says.

There is something quietly powerful about that idea.

Culinary mastery does not necessarily come with a certificate, a restaurant kitchen or years of formal training. Sometimes, it comes from making the same dish hundreds of times until the hands simply know what to do.

Grandparents, Mefalopulos argues, challenge the assumption that great cooking must be formally taught.

They cook by memory. By instinct. By feel.

And anana wants to capture that knowledge before it slips away.

anana turning culinary memory into digital legacy

Rather than extracting recipes from their cultural surroundings and reducing them to lists of ingredients and instructions, the platform films cooks in their own homes, allowing their kitchens, voices, habits and surroundings to become part of the story.

The result is something between a cooking platform, cultural archive and family album.

Because the dish is only half the story. The person who makes it is the other half.

From Italy to Kuwait and beyond

Although anana’s roots are Italian, its ambitions are anything but provincial.

The same challenge exists across the Middle East, where recipes have long traveled from one generation to another by word of mouth. In Kuwait, dishes such as machboos, mutabbag and zubaidi can change subtly and sometimes dramatically from one household to the next.

One family may use a particular blend of spices. Another may insist on a different cooking method. A grandmother may add something that does not appear in any cookbook but somehow makes the dish taste unmistakably like home.

There may be no single authoritative version.

And according to Mefalopulos, that is precisely the point.

“There is no such thing as a correct recipe,” he says. “There’s a respect for iterations of the recipe.”

For anana, those differences are not imperfections to be corrected. They are fingerprints.

One grandmother may add an ingredient another would never consider. One family may cook a dish longer use a different spice or prepare it for an entirely different occasion.

Those divergences are not culinary errors. They are the imprint of geography, memory, family and time.

“That nuance and that difference,” Mefalopulos says, is exactly what anana wants to highlight.

The idea feels particularly at home in Kuwait, where cultures and cuisines coexist within the same neighborhoods, workplaces and families.

Mefalopulos imagines a platform where a Kuwaiti grandmother, a Filipino grandmother and an Indian grandmother can stand side by side, figuratively and literally, sharing the dishes that shaped their families.

It is a portrait of food culture as it actually exists: layered, evolving and richly textured.

Choosing authenticity over clicks

The internet is awash with free recipes. Many are supported by advertising, sponsored content or affiliate links. anana chose another road.

From the beginning, Mefalopulos says, the team decided against offering a free version because it wanted to protect the experience and the integrity of the brand.

“We really didn’t want to monetize off of ads and affiliate marketing that slowly over time can erode a brand,” he explains.

The subscription model also serves another purpose: ensuring that the grandparents who contribute their knowledge are compensated.



Shopping with Nonna Anna before she made her iconic rice-stuffed tomatoes. For her, the quality of the ingredients matters as much as the dish itself.

That decision reflects one of anana’s central principles. If a family recipe represents years sometimes an entire lifetime of knowledge, the person carrying that knowledge should not be treated merely as content.

They are the source. They are the storyteller.

They are part of the heritage being preserved.

It is an unusual in an online world where people routinely give away their knowledge

in exchange for views, likes and exposure.

anana instead places a monetary value on something that has traditionally been treated as priceless: inherited knowledge.

The long-term ambition is equally substantial which is to expand into more than 20 countries in the years to come without allowing scale to flatten the stories that made the platform meaningful in the first place.

When Nonna doesn’t measure

Traditional digital recipes often demand precision: grams, calories, macros, cooking temperatures and exact timings.

Heritage cooking has never been quite so obedient.

A pinch becomes a handful. A little becomes “until it looks right.” Cooking time becomes “until it smells ready.”

For generations, this instinctive approach has been part of the charm of home cooking. A grandmother does not necessarily need to know whether she has added 4 or 5 grams of an ingredient. She knows when the dish tastes right.

anana embraces that wonderfully imprecise language.

Its nutritional labels carry a cheeky reminder of the philosophy: “Nonna doesn’t measure, so neither do we.”

Beneath the humor is a serious idea.

Cooking is not always a mathematical exercise. Sometimes knowledge resides in the senses: the sound of onions sizzling, the smell of garlic changing color, the texture of dough beneath the fingertips, or that elusive moment when a sauce has finally reached the right consistency. These are things a spreadsheet cannot teach.

And they are precisely the details that can disappear when traditional cooking is reduced to a sterile list of instructions.

More than a meal
Mefalopulos does not want anana users to



In Montescaglioso, Basilicata, Nonna Carmela teaching baked peppers with breadcrumbs, a light dish made for scorching southern summer nights.

The questions we forget to ask

For younger generations worried that their own family traditions may vanish, Mefalopulos offers advice that requires neither an app nor a subscription. Sit with your grandparents. Ask questions.

Listen.

Write the recipes down.

Most importantly, let them talk.

“Give them the opportunity to talk, write down the recipe so that they don’t disappear, and ask them the questions that maybe you never have,” he says.

There is something almost deceptively simple about the advice.

In an age of smartphones, cloud storage and endless digital archives, preserving a family recipe may begin with something far more old-fashioned: sitting across from someone you love and asking, “How did you make this?” The answer might be a recipe.

It might also be a story.

It might lead to a memory about a wedding, a childhood home, a difficult journey, a family celebration or someone who is no longer around to tell it themselves.

And that, perhaps, is what anana ultimately hopes to preserve.

Not just the instructions for making a dish, but the human history simmering behind it.

Because recipes can be copied.

Techniques can be taught.

Ingredients can be replaced.

But a grandmother’s voice, the rhythm of her hands and the story behind the food she made for her family are far harder to recreate.

“Some of the most beautiful conversations exist in the simplest questions,” Mefalopulos says.

Sometimes, all it takes to keep a piece of heritage alive is to ask before it is too late.

Actions make difference

How parents can help kids make friends at new school



Students from Thomas Leadership Academy play on the school's playground in Eatonville, Fla., on Aug. 23, 2023. (AP)

NEW YORK, Aug 22, (AP): For students starting at a new school, the first day holds many questions: Will they see any familiar faces? Who will they sit with at lunch? Who will they play with at recess?

"I'm this much nervous," said Iman Fair-Seldon, 5, holding her hands about 4 inches (10 centimeters) apart. Iman will start first grade next month at a new school in southern New Jersey, near Philadelphia. Despite the nerves, she said she is excited to make new friends.

Starting at a new school or making a big transition, such as moving from elementary school to middle school, can be challenging. Parents may want to help but aren't always sure what to say or do. Here's some advice from both grown-ups and the ultimate experts: kids who have gone through transition themselves.

Parents of young children have significant influence over where their children spend time and with whom, experts say. They can seek out activities that create opportunities for connection, such as parks, playgrounds and birthday parties, and decide when their children are ready for activities like sleepovers.

"Initially, parents have a huge impact when it comes to the friends that children have," said Dr. Asha Barber Sutton, a licensed marriage and family therapist and an associate dean of academic affairs at National University in San Diego. "More than we would like to believe, our actions as caregivers make a difference in terms of how children experience the world."

Amira Fair, Iman's mother, says she prefers to keep to herself, but she pushes past those feelings to help her daughter develop relationships. "I make it my business to exchange numbers and try to schedule monthly play-dates," she said. "One thing I tried to do, especially at her old school, was go to every single birthday function, say hi to the parents, get a present, see the family."

Parents can't manage every friendship for their children, experts say. Instead, they can help children develop their own sense of what makes a good friend: Are they kind? Are they honest? Can you be yourself around them? Some difficult interactions can help children learn what they value in a friend and how to handle conflict, Sutton said.

Parents can also ask questions to help their children think about what they value in friendships: What qualities do you like in your friends? Who makes you feel comfortable being yourself? Those conversations can give children a framework for evaluating their own friendships when problems arise, experts say.

Jaiden Journet, a 14-year-old starting at a new high school in North Carolina, suggests parents ask their kids: "Have you found anything you have in common with anyone?"

Parents can also support their children through encouragement, especially if they are shy or anxious. Encouraging children to get involved in extracurricular activities or to try something new can help them meet people with similar interests.

Shia Watts, 16, says trying something new led her to some of her friends at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, California.

"Last year, I was part of theater production. I'd never done that before, but I met so many amazing people," she said.

When Jamir Gonzalez transferred last year to Uncommon Camden Prep High School in New Jersey, he joined the baseball and debate teams.

"If you have any hobbies, find out if they have that at your school, and if they do, talk to the people that are there," said Jamir, now a 16-year-old senior.

Once students find opportunities to connect, starting the conversation is the next step, experts say. Smiling, complimenting others and asking questions can help start a conversation and keep it going.

Iman, the New Jersey 5-year-old, remembers how she met her now "B-F-F-F-F-F." It started with a compliment.

"I think I said, 'I like your shirt,' and then she said, 'Thank you.' And I said, 'So what's your name?'" she recalled.

Students may find it harder to start conversations when their peers are on their phones, wearing headphones or focused on screens. Experts say parents can encourage children, particularly teens, to put devices away at times so they can be more present and engaged with the people around them. One way to help: Stop texting your child at school, some teachers and experts say.



An archaeologist holds up a ceramic snake head that he unearthed while excavating skeletal remains at the Huaca Pucllana archaeological site in Lima, Peru. (AP)

Archaeologists unveil skeletal remains linked to ritual in Peru

LIMA, Peru, Aug 22, (AP): Archaeologists unveiled the skeletal remains of an adult they believe was buried as an offering near the base of Huaca Pucllana, an ancient adobe pyramid in Peru's capital of Lima.

The remains are believed to be those of a man who may have been sacrificed during a ritual in which a canal linked to a ceremonial pool was closed.

Gladys Paz, the archaeologist who led the excavation, said the bones will help researchers better understand "the rituals of the Lima culture" and reconstruct ceremonies performed hundreds of years ago.

Paz said that the body was buried inside a canal, resting on its left flank, with the skull facing the pyramid and the Pacific Ocean.

The Lima culture flourished between the first and seventh centuries along Peru's arid central coast, about 700 years before the rise of the Inca Empire. Huaca Pucllana was one of the

most important ceremonial and administrative centers of the Lima culture, which disappeared centuries before a group of Spanish conquistadors founded Lima in 1535.

Today, the pyramid is surrounded by parks, leafy streets and upscale apartment buildings in the districts of Miraflores and San Isidro.

Huaca Pucllana is open to tourists, with a restaurant serving Peruvian specialties like ceviche, stir-fried beef and roasted alpaca meat.

According to Peru's government, there are more than 400 archaeological sites across metropolitan Lima. Pieter Van Dalen, an archaeology professor at the National University of San Marcos who was not involved in the excavation, said that it's common to find tombs, mummified remains and other burial-related items along Peru's coast. Such discoveries have also been made while construction workers dig canals to install gas pipes.

Books

Anticipated books explore violence, power, grief & politics

5 must-read fall books from James to Biden

NEW YORK, Aug 22, (AP): Book lovers this fall can look forward to a wealth of fiction, biographies, memoirs, poetry collections and topical nonfiction. Here are five upcoming works you'll likely be hearing about.

Marlon James' fantasy series "Dark Star" was a showcase for his extraordinary and boundless imagination. In "The Disappearsers," he returns to his native Jamaica and to the murderous reality of his Booker Prize-winning "A Brief History of Seven Killings." The new novel, longlisted for the Booker, is framed around the horrifying beating in 1988 of eight gay men who had been rehearsing for a play. James weaves together humor, popular culture, compassion and some very hard experience. "I refuse to believe there is any lesson to be learned from suffering an atrocity," James writes, "other than always be on guard for the ways people turn on you." (Sept. 1)

Kai Bird is best known as the co-author with Martin J. Sherwin of "American Prometheus," the biography of nuclear scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer that became the basis for Christopher Nolan's Oscar winner "Oppenheimer." In "American Scoundrel," he and Susan Goldmark (his wife) trace the influence of the late political operator Roy Cohn, from his early years as the top aide to Sen. Joseph McCarthy to his mentorship of a young Donald Trump. "American Scoundrel" draws upon government documents, archival material and dozens of interviews, including, to the authors' surprise,



This combination of book cover images shows "American Scoundrel: Roy Cohn's Dark Journey from Joe McCarthy to Donald Trump" by Kai Bird, "Music Against the Night: A Novel" by Yiyun Li, "Promise Me, America" by Joe Biden, "Switzzy" by Emma Cline, and "The Disappearsers" by Marlon James. (AP)

Trump, who "answered our cold calls on his personal cell on several occasions," Bird writes in the acknowledgments section. Trump was "gracious, if not exactly forthcoming about his memories" and declined to meet in person, because, he told them, "I'm the president. I'm very busy. I have China calling. I have Russia calling. I cannot do it." (Sept. 1)

Emma Cline has well established her mastery of inhabiting the alienated mind, of dramatizing youthful transience, aspiration and deception, most famously in her celebrated debut, "The Girls." In "Switzzy," long-listed for the Booker Prize, Cline gives us a retired businessman with failing mental capacity, en route to an assisted dying facility in Zurich. Cline breaks up the story into brief, affectless passages as a once-"Valuable Person" reckons with his memories and concludes that "He

had always stayed on the surface. His whole life." (Sept. 8)

"Music Against the Night" is Yiyun Li's sixth novel, and first book since last year's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Things in Nature Merely Grow," her unsparing memoir about the suicides of her two sons. Li this time appears to have written a very different narrative - about a late 18th-century piano prodigy whose fame barely outlasted his lifetime and the orphaned wanderer-musician who makes the ill-fated decision to marry him. The novel is a story of music, but also a meditation on "the night," death - parents, friends, children, everybody. "It is despair that one must not submit to," Li writes late in the book, adding a dark, Shakespearean warning: "A child's death can never feel neutral to a parent; a child's death is a negation of time, which no longer has now and then, now and again, now and later, only

now and now and now and now and now, now." (Oct. 13)

Memoirs are often presidents' best chance to define their legacy, although readers and critics may have different priorities, whether Richard Nixon and Watergate or Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky. Joe Biden will understandably want to focus on his defeat of Donald Trump in 2020, the passage of landmark legislation on green energy and the appointment of the first Black woman to the Supreme Court, Ketanji Brown Jackson, among other achievements. But the public will likely be seeking answers to more unwanted questions, notably the state of Biden's health while he was in the White House, the backstory to his disastrous debate against Trump and his decision soon after to call off his reelection campaign. (Nov. 17)

As political books fade, novelists, romantasy hits & awaited releases dominate

Fiction leads star-studded fall book season

NEW YORK, Aug 22, (AP): Mid-term election news will fill the headlines this fall, but, among book buyers, fiction will likely have top billing.

Former President Joe Biden's "Promise Me, America" stands out not just as a White House memoir - presidential memoirs are events unto themselves - but as a rare high-profile political book over the next few months. Nonfiction sales have slumped in recent years and political books haven't approached the peaks of President Donald Trump's first term.

"The energy in political books seems to be subdued. I think folks are just ranting out," says Kristen McLean, an analyst and vice president for client insights at Circana, which tracks retail book sales.

"I think the (news) cycle is moving a bit too quickly for a lot of the very specific political books to catch on," says Shannon DeVito, Barnes & Noble's senior director of books.

Michael Lewis' "Blockers," a probe into Trump's second term through the eyes of government workers, may be the only new release to rival the impact of Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan's summer bestseller, "Regime Change." This fall's notable political offerings otherwise revisit the Biden years, from "Promise Me, America," to former Middle East envoy Brett McGurk's "Brink: Inside the Race to Free the Oct. 7 Hostages" to Akbar Shahid Ahmed's study of Biden's Gaza war policies, "Crossing the Red Line."

Even Bob Woodward, who for decades released timely exposés of sitting presidents, is passing on current politics. In "Secrets: A Reporter's Memoir," he reflects on presidents and White House sources dating back to the Nixon administration and the Watergate scandal that made him famous..

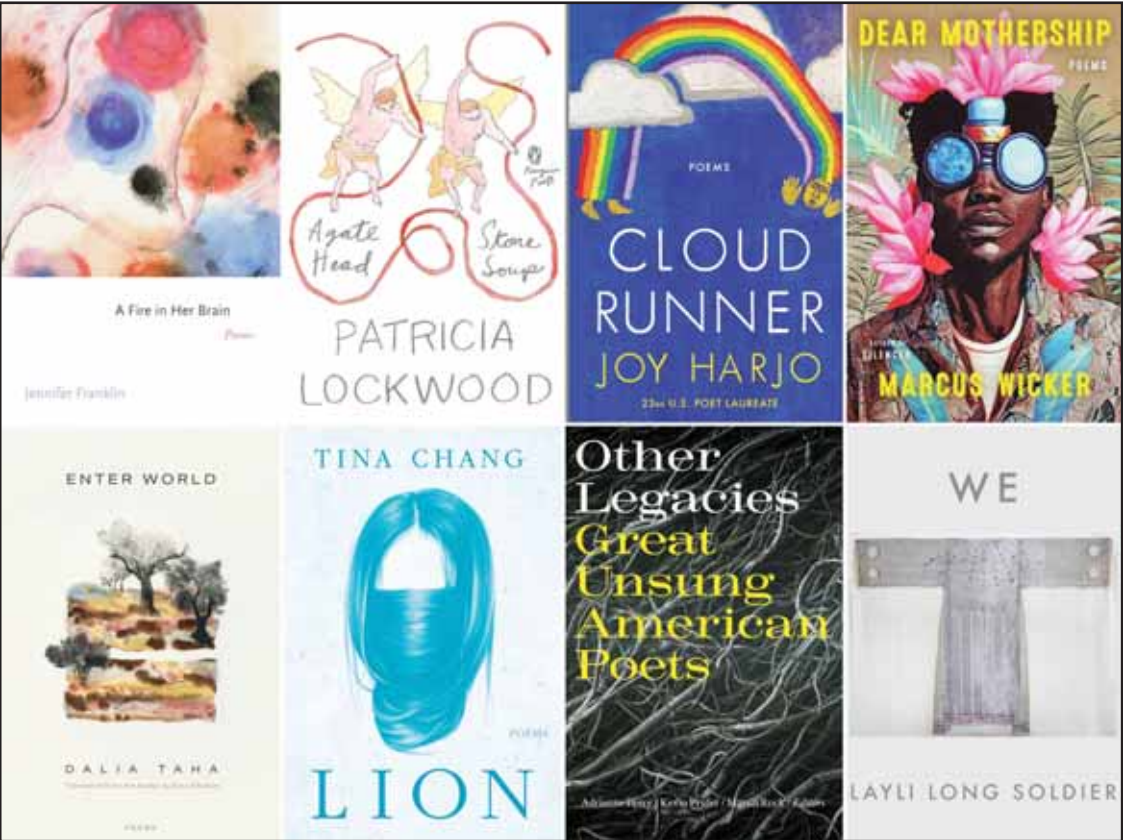
"Because he's going more into his own life, I expect he'll have a different and broader audience than for his other books," DeVito says.

Novelists Barbara Kingsolver and Herman Diaz, co-winners three years ago of the Pulitzer Prize, will share honors again as two of the featured authors in a busy season. Kingsolver's "Partita," about a one-time musical prodigy drawn again to her past, is the first since "Demon Copperhead," her Pulitzer-winning retelling of Charles Dickens' "David Copperfield." Meanwhile, Diaz has followed his Pulitzer-winning "Trust" with the dystopian, Dickensian "Ply," about a young thief in a chaotic future society.

Diaz says he met Kingsolver at the Pulitzer ceremony, where the two drank bourbon and bonded over literature and other common interests.

"I don't think literature is a race or a tennis tournament," Diaz says. "I think the more good books that are out there, the richer the conversation becomes and the more readers are engaged."

Fiction sales have been solid in 2026 and will likely remain high if only because the two most prominent romantasy authors, Rebecca Yarros and Sarah J. Maas, have new books coming. Maas is releasing "A Court of Splintered Harmony," the sixth volume of "A Court of Thorns and Roses," with the seventh installment scheduled for early next year. Yarros' "Threshing Day" compiles 13 stories featuring characters



This combination of cover images shows poetry books, top row from left, "A Fire in Her Brain: Poems" by Jennifer Franklin, "Agate Head/Stone Soup" by Patricia Lockwood, "Cloud Runner: Poems" by Joy Harjo, "Dear Mothership: Poems" by Marcus Wicker, bottom row from left, "Enter World: Poems" by Dalia Taha, "Lion: Poems" by Tina Chang, "Other Legacies: Great Unsung American Poets," and "We" by Layli Long Soldier. (AP)

from her Empyrean series, and her stand-alone "Peculiar Stars" finds protagonist Callista Moran stranded on an island after a sailing accident and discovering unexpected sides to herself.

The new fiction list also features Nobel laureate Jon Fosse's latest, "Vaim Hotel," and three contenders for the Booker Prize - Marlon James' "The Disappearsers," Emma Cline's "Switzzy" and Rebecca Perry's "May We Feed the King."

The book most primed for gossip is Rachel Cusk's "Life of M," a meta-novel about a movie star who may or may not be based on Natalie Portman. The season's longest-awaited novel is likely Chad Harbach's "The Brightness": The parallel and intertwining lives of two close friends in their 20s is his first novel since his acclaimed 2011 debut, "The Art of Fielding."

Min Jin Lee's "American Haggwon" is her first novel since 2017 and her celebrated "Pachinko." Emily St. John Mandel's "Exit Party" is a story of futuristic breakdown from the author of the futuristic classic "Station Eleven." Yiyun Li, Edwidge Danticat, Kate Atkinson, Deesha Philyaw, Diane Williams, Laleh Khadivi, R.F. Kuang and Nora Labiner also have fiction coming out.

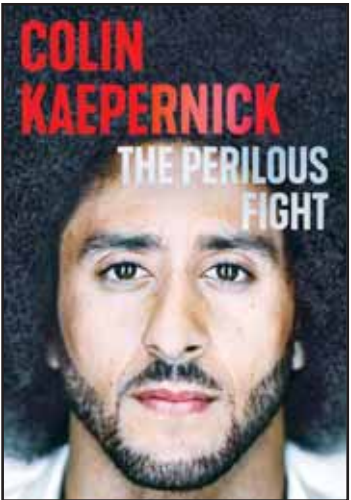
Fans of Stephen King (and the late Peter Straub) can look forward to "Other Worlds Than These," the final "Talisman" novel. Alice Hoffman launches a new series with "The Witches of Cambridge" and Brandon Sanderson has begun "Blightfall," written with Janci Patterson. "The French Illusion" is John Grisham's latest thriller. S.A. Cosby's "Truth to Power" is a Marvel Crime novel featuring superhero/sleuth Luke Cage.

A trio of Oscar-winning superstars will tell their stories this fall: Sylvester Stallone's "The Steps," its title a reference to the actor's iconic upward run in "Rocky"; Michael Douglas' "One Helluva Ride,"

which the actor and producer has called a corrective to the blurry legends of fame; and Dustin Hoffman's "Look at Me," promoted by publisher Simon Six as "an intimate memoir about art, ambition, family, friendship, love, aging, and the mysteries of a creative life."

Gloria Steinem looks back on her early years in "An Unexpected Life" and former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick reflects on his activism in "The Perilous Fight." Chuck Lorre's "Sitcom" is a memoir from the creator behind "Two and a Half Men" and "The Big Bang Theory." Eric Dane's "My Book of Days" comes out just months after the "Grey's Anatomy" star died from ALS.

Ancient poetry seems new again thanks to Christopher Nolan's adaptation of "The Odyssey," which has placed editions by Emily Wilson and the late Robert Fagles high on bestseller lists. Wilson has a new book out this fall, "Crossing the Wine-Dark Sea," essays that cover everything from Greek tragedy to "slut-shaming" Helen of Troy to the "sly laughter" of Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion's "WAP."



This cover image released by Legacy Lit shows "The Perilous Fight" by Colin Kaepernick. (AP)

In "Cloud Runner," former U.S. poet laureate Joy Harjo tries to express what she acknowledges may be inexpressible, the death three years ago of her daughter, Rainy Ortiz: "I have lost my girl./Some things do not belong in words," Harjo writes. Jennifer Franklin channels the mind of James Joyce's gifted, ill-fated daughter Lucia in the collection "A Fire in Her Brain."

New work is also expected from Layli Long Soldier, Tina Chang, Patricia Lockwood, Dalia Taha, Avis Blackbird and Hieu Minh Nguyen. The anthology "Other Legacies" features tributes from Rae Armantrout, Edward Hirsch and other prizewinners to such lesser-known poets as Rachel Loden, Julia de Burgos and Stephen Jonas.

Another writer enriched by a Nolan movie - Kai Bird, co-author of "American Prometheus," the biography adapted into "Oppenheimer" - has co-written "American Scoundrel," the story of lawyer/political fixer/Trump mentor Roy Cohn. In "The Rush," award winner Nathaniel Philbrick revisits the 19th century quest for gold. The acclaimed science writer James Gleick examines the evolution of communication in "The Telephone: A New History." Two books, Timothy W. Ryback's "53 Days" and Victor Sebestyen's "Weimar Germany," examine the fall of democracy in 1930s Germany, while other releases warning of contemporary threats include Naom Klei and Astra Taylor's "End Times Fascism" and Pulitzer winner Jill Lepore's "The Rise and Fall of the Artificial State."

Public radio host Celeste Headlee's "Freedom's Daughters" is one of many works this fall that center on race and racism. Grandmaster Flash has collaborated with Robert "Scoop" Jackson on a history of rap and hip-hop, "Birth of a Culture," and Stephanie Phillips' music history "We Were Here" highlights artists from Sister Rosetta Tharpe to Living Colour.

Near-total lunar eclipse coming up with Americas in prime position

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Aug 22, (AP): Now it's the moon's turn to pull a disappearing act.

After being shut out of this month's total solar eclipse, the Americas will have the best seats in the celestial house when Earth's shadow briefly envelops the moon. Almost the entire lunar surface will be masked Thursday night into Friday - a whopping 96% - making this an especially deep partial eclipse.

The moon is already in the spotlight. NASA sent the Artemis II astronauts on a record-breaking lunar flyby in April, the prelude to eventually landing on the surface and building a base swarming with people and robots over the next several years.

"This is a great time to be part of the space program, right? We're not slowing down," NASA astronaut Jack Hathaway told The Associated Press from the International Space Station last week.

It's the second act of the greatest

show in the solar system, coming two weeks after a total solar eclipse paraded through Greenland, Iceland and Spain.

Eclipses always travel in pairs as the sun, moon and Earth align so precisely that one obscures the other. That's because the moon is 400 times smaller than the sun, which is 400 times farther away, making them appear the same size - a cosmic coincidence and gift from the universe.

Unfolding at a more leisurely pace, the upcoming lunar eclipse will have a much bigger audience than Europe's solar show. The eclipsed moon will be visible to billions across North and South America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, provided the skies are clear.

The lunar eclipse may also be visible to Hathaway and the nine other people living off the planet - seven astronauts at the International Space Station and three aboard China's orbiting outpost.

Space provides a "unique perspective" for viewing cosmic wonders like eclipses and auroras, said the space station's commander, Jessica Meir.

In this case, Earth will pass between the moon and the sun, casting a reddish-orange shadow onto our closest neighbor. Because this is a partial eclipse, the lineup won't be perfect and it won't be a true blood moon. The partial phase of the eclipse will last more than three hours. But the entire eclipse, from the time the full moon enters the faintest, outermost edge of Earth's shadow until it leaves, will stretch 5 1/2 hours.

The eclipse will peak just after midnight EDT.

Nearly 1 billion people in the US, Canada, and Central and South America will have front-row views for the entire eclipse. More than 3 billion people - 44% of the world's population - will be in position to catch at least part of it.



A man views the lunar eclipse, Tuesday, March 3, 2026, in South Portland, Maine. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty, File)

Public health challenges vast, effective treatments desperately needed

New therapies help people with schizophrenia – but access woefully inadequate

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

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By Matthew Kurtz
Wesleyan University

It's common to hear casual descriptions of "schizophrenic" behavior, describing a person oscillating between two extremes.

"I really want that luxurious Italian cashmere sweater," followed by "What am I saying? I can't even afford a \$20 polyester top right now!"

I'm a professor of psychology who studies cognition and rehabilitation in schizophrenia, and I have found that these misunderstandings are not limited to the public. Health officials and political leaders who make critical decisions about funding and resources for schizophrenia can also hold these poorly informed views.

Better awareness is needed as researchers around the globe are actively studying a suite of innovative, non-drug treatments targeting the cognitive and social challenges common to the disorder.

Initial results from this research show great promise for therapeutic benefit. Unfortunately, few people

with the disorder ever gain access to these treatments.

Schizophrenia as it is currently known by specialists was first described in 1899 by Emil Kraepelin, a German psychiatrist who combined several disorders previously thought to be separate under a single label. He called it "dementia praecox," or early-onset dementia.

According to Kraepelin, schizophrenia could be recognized by several key symptoms. One was hearing illusory voices that often commanded the patient to take specific actions like "throw the cup of water you are holding into the face of the psychiatrist trying to interview you." Another was holding strange beliefs, such as "A communication device has been placed inside my brain and is transmitting my thoughts to the police."

Kraepelin also defined the disorder by its trajectory, which he thought was an inevitable worsening of daily living skills over time.

Today, schizophrenia in the US is diagnosed using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, or DSM, which is the gold standard for classification of psychiatric conditions. The DSM's definition criteria are based on many of the same

signs and symptoms that Kraepelin described more than 125 years ago.

While many of Kraepelin's observations were spot on, his views on the disorder causing inevitable worsening were incorrect. Studies following people from the onset of symptoms show that approximately 40% of those diagnosed with the disorder have mild or no symptoms, hold jobs within their community and have significant social relationships for sustained periods of their lives.

For the majority of people with schizophrenia, however, the condition is persistent, disabling and isolating.

The World Health Organization lists schizophrenia among the top 10 leading causes of disability.

Some estimates suggest at least 1 in 5 homeless people suffer from a severe mental illness, often schizophrenia.

Other data shows that 15% of inmates in US state prisons have severe mental illnesses like schizophrenia.

The public health challenges are vast, and effective treatments are desperately needed.

Kraepelin alluded to difficulties with concentration in his description of schizophrenia. But research since the early 2000s has revealed that dif-

ficulties in cognitive and social processes are among the most central - yet most overlooked - aspects of the condition.

The vast majority of people with schizophrenia suffer from some level of cognitive difficulty: paying attention, like tracking a conversation with a friend; actively retaining information, like remembering a new password while a website's login page refreshes; or forming new memories, such as what one ate for breakfast, at what time and with whom. These difficulties persist even when the acute phase of illness has passed and the person is stable.

Some schizophrenia patients I work with may describe in rich detail how they are the son of Jesus Christ, how their internal organs have been forcibly removed from their body and replaced by someone else's, or how they will soon part the waters of a local river. When they struggle to pay attention to my clinical advice or fail to remember something I said just a minute before, I am struck by how cognitive difficulties like memory and attention would be easy to miss in the face of such dramatic symptoms.

People with schizophrenia also struggle socially. They are not always able to recognize others' emotions

through facial expressions or tone of voice, place themselves in another's shoes to understand motivations, or recognize that friends and family are not trying to sabotage their goals.

The good news is that over the past 15 years, mental health experts have developed new therapies to address difficulties with cognition and memory among people with schizophrenia - and scientific studies are increasingly showing that the treatments are effective.

One treatment, called cognitive remediation, includes exercises to improve mental sharpness. For example, a person may practice remembering the location of items in a refrigerator, with the goal of eventually linking the skill to finding items in a supermarket.

In more than 100 controlled trials, cognitive remediation has been shown to improve cognition and function in daily living skills.

Other therapies focus on teaching strategies to better understand the emotions and motivations of others and help people with schizophrenia avoid jumping to negative conclusions. For example, a relative's benign remark about the texture of a turkey dinner at a family gathering might be interpreted by someone

with schizophrenia as a statement meant to embarrass them. Training in social cognitive skills makes people with schizophrenia less likely to assume that others are trying to hurt or undermine them.

Both cognitive and social cognitive therapies teach people with schizophrenia to think more flexibly and use a broader range of strategies to understand their world.

While no therapy is a cure, the new behavioral treatments offer hope even for those with the most severe forms of the disorder.

Unfortunately, few mental health treatment centers currently have the expertise or resources to offer these time- and effort-intensive therapies. A 2025 report from the WHO found that roughly two-thirds of people with schizophrenia around the world do not receive any kind of specialized mental health treatment - let alone the novel therapies described in this article.

Until these treatments become more accessible, improvements in functioning in mild to more severe forms of the illness will be poorer than they should be, and people with schizophrenia will fall short of their potential for living richer and more satisfying lives. (AP)

Alfalfa sprout tied to food-poisoning outbreak in 15 states: health officials

NEW YORK, Aug 22, (AP): US health officials say a food-poisoning outbreak tied to alfalfa sprouts and involving multiple germs has sickened people in 15 states.

State officials announced the outbreak earlier this week, saying they documented more than three dozen cases in Minnesota and Wisconsin. On Friday, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the agency is aware of 55 cases nationally, including four people who have been hospitalized.

The CDC said cases are also reported in Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota and Washington.

Of 34 sick people interviewed, 26 reported eating alfalfa sprouts, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Food poisoning outbreaks tend to be defined by one type of germ, but this outbreak involves people with salmonella and different strains of E. coli.

Shiga toxin-producing E. coli - or STEC - can cause stomach cramps and bloody diarrhea. Infections can lead to a severe complication that involves acute kidney failure.

Salmonella poisoning can cause



A microbiologist points out an isolated E. coli growth on an agar plate at the Washington State Department of Health on Nov. 3, 2015, in Shoreline, Wash. (AP)

diarrhea, fever, severe vomiting, dehydration and stomach cramps.

Officials are linking cases to alfalfa sprouts produced by Everything Sprouts, a Minnesota grower, and sold under the Calco and Everything Sprouts brands to restaurants and grocery stores. The company has yet to

issue a recall, the FDA said.

Last year, the FDA sent a warning letter to Everything Sprouts, saying inspections the year before identified several points of concern, including a leaking roof that was dropping water onto bean sprouts and workers' smocks.

New CDC director acknowledges agency problems in staff meeting

NEW YORK, Aug 22, (AP): In her first large staff meeting, the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention promised to advocate for the agency while acknowledging that congressionally funded programs lacked staff and employees were feeling burned out.

Dr. Erica Schwartz also said she wouldn't hesitate to disagree with US Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. if necessary - but said she wouldn't do so publicly.

Schwartz started at the head of the Atlanta-based federal agency last week, taking the reins from a series of temporary directors. She spoke to CDC employees Wednesday at her first "all hands" staff meeting. The Associated Press heard a recording of the meeting.

Schwartz mentioned an AP story this week about CDC programs that have congressional appropriations but functionally are dead or nearly dead because the CDC staffers who did the work were laid off by President Donald Trump's administration or remain on leave.

She did not say exactly what she will do about these "zombie"



A sign marks the entrance to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters on Aug 27, 2025, in Atlanta. (AP)

programs and about staffers who feel exhausted and overloaded, but said she will meet with CDC staffers to learn more about the situation and what can be done.

"The good news is, I'm here," she said. "I'm Week 1 of being here, and now I can certainly be able to advocate for the CDC. I think when you have (had) that leadership vacuum, it's, you know,

it's hard to get that advocacy."

Schwartz previously served in uniformed government jobs with the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Public Health Service. When she disagrees with other leaders she does so in private, "because that's just part of the uniformed service person in me," she said. She said she would continue to do so, but "not in front of the media."



Residents and frontline workers embark on Ebola outbreak awareness campaign in Beni, North Kivu province, eastern Congo on Aug 21. (AP)

Efforts to contain outbreak hampered by armed conflict

Congo receives more than 16,000 doses of Ebola vaccine

BUNIA, Congo, Aug 22, (AP): Congo has received more than 16,000 doses of the Ervebo vaccine as the country grapples with the fastest Ebola outbreak in history, the country's health minister said.

The 16,250 doses arrived at the N'djili International Airport in the capital, Kinshasa, late Friday, as part of 70,000 doses expected from the World Health Organization and partners that were announced on Thursday. More doses are expected early next week.

The current Ebola outbreak in Congo is caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, which currently has no approved treatment or vaccine. It can spread easily and go undetected because some of its symptoms are similar to other illnesses, such as malaria. The Ervebo vaccine is licensed to treat Ebola and has been effective in past outbreaks. The WHO said it may provide some protection against the Bundibugyo virus.

The latest outbreak, which has recorded 2,557 deaths out of the 5,375

confirmed cases across six affected provinces, is spreading at an unprecedented rate and is on track to surpass the deadliest outbreak on record, which killed over 11,000 people across West Africa between 2014 and 2016. Data from the Africa Centre for Disease Control shows that transmission has not yet peaked and could reach three times its known rate.

Efforts to contain the outbreak have been hampered by armed conflict between the government and rebel groups, which control key cities in the hot spot; attacks on medical personnel and facilities; an itinerant labor population and people displaced by the armed conflict; and a lack of critical infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Isaac Batisa is only a child but he spends his days digging for gold at a mining site in eastern Congo, hoping to earn enough money to support his family.

The 11-year-old is among hundreds of people, many of them children, working at the artisanal gold mine in

eastern Congo's Ituri province, where the country's fast-moving Ebola outbreak is concentrated.

For Batisa, though, his immediate concern is not the disease which has killed more than 2,300 people among over 5,000 cases. He just wants to return home with some earnings, sometimes as little as \$2 a day.

As the outbreak spreads and kills people faster than any other outbreak of the disease in history, a major source of concern for monitoring efforts is miners constantly on the move and in hard-to-reach, unsafe territories.

The Associated Press gained rare access into one of Ituri's largest mines, in the locality of Iga-Barrière, where miners crowd into pits to dig for gold. Although there are no known reports of the outbreak reaching any of Congo's mining sites, officials say it's difficult to know the true situation in hard-to-reach areas. Most new cases and deaths are reported among groups not being monitored, they say.

Ebola spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person or through contaminated objects and surfaces. However, measures in place to limit the spread, such as regular handwashing and social distancing, are not followed at the artisanal mining sites, where work to extract gold is done by workers using basic hand tools like shovels and pans. Many of the mines are illegal, with miners making efforts to evade local authorities.

The Bundibugyo virus causing the current outbreak in Congo is less common than others that cause Ebola disease, which is complicating the response, because there are no specific treatments or vaccines.

In parts of the east, including Ituri, artisanal gold mining draws a highly mobile workforce as miners travel across villages in search of gold and related work while small-scale traders travel between mining areas and population centers to trade the mineral.

Collapses triggered by change in treatment

Bayern knew of Musiala’s neurological issue for at least a year

BERLIN, Aug 22, (AP): Bayern Munich has been aware of Jamal Musiala’s neurological issue for at least a year, board member for sport Max Eberl said.

Musiala collapsed during successive games over the past week, causing alarm for teammates, opponents and spectators. Eberl and Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said the incidents were triggered by a change in the treatment Musiala was receiving for the neurological issue.

The player said in an Instagram post after the latest collapse against Heidenheim on Tuesday that he had been diagnosed with “absence seizures caused by a neurological dysfunction” but there was “no additional health risk” and that he in-

tends to keep playing as before.

While the 23-year-old Musiala’s collapses caused what Bayern honorary president Uli Hoeness said Wednesday was a “drama” for the club, Eberl and Kompany projected an aura of calm.

“We’ve been dealing with this all of last season,” Eberl said. “We’ve worked with it, we’ve handled it, and now it’s a situation where a young person is suddenly confronted with this out of nothing - a situation we are helping him navigate.”

Kompany said Musiala is being left out of his squad for Saturday’s German Supercup match at Borussia Dortmund because of the extra attention on the player, but that everyone at the club is relaxed about his condition as “we’ve been deal-



Munich’s Jamal Musiala receives medical treatment during a pre-season soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and RB Leipzig in Munich, Germany. (AP)

ing with this for a long time.”

“The initial shock happened a while ago,” Kompany said. “Since then, we’ve gathered much more information, gained a far better understanding of the situation, and made every decision based on the best possible advice from top experts ... we’re past the stage where this is a major topic of internal discussion.”

Kompany said the speculation from outside was normal because Musiala’s condition had only just become public.

“I just spoke to Jamal. He said, ‘Vinnie, no problem, you can mention it.’ But he made a change to his treatment, and that had some side effects,” the Bayern coach said. “That’s why it happened the first

time and then the second time. It’s totally normal to try something different during treatment. Now we want to go back to how things were before - when nobody knew anything about it.”

Eberl said it was normal for anyone taking pills to say they’ll be happy when they don’t have to take them.

“Now the task is to adjust the medication again so he gets back to where we were before - a state where he had been seizure-free for a very, very long time,” Eberl said. “That’s the process we are overseeing medically, with the medical professionals bearing primary responsibility, of course.”

Kompany said Musiala would train individually next week.

Taylor’s late three gives Sky Dramatic win over Valkyries



Toronto Tempo’s Isabelle Harrison (21) scores a basket as Portland Fire’s Holly Winterburn (77) watches during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Vancouver, British Columbia, Friday, Aug. 21, 2026. (Ethan Cairns/The Canadian Press via AP)

Tempo snaps 12-game skid

CHICAGO, Aug 22, (AP): Sydney Taylor hit a pull-up 3-pointer with 1.6 seconds left and the Chicago Sky beat the Golden State Valkyries 73-70 after squandering a 21-point lead.

The Sky won their season-high third straight game. Chicago (15-22) has seven games left in the regular season and is six games behind Dallas for the eighth and final playoff spot.

The second-place Valkyries (25-11) are a game ahead of Las Vegas and 1 1/2 games in front of Indiana.

The game was interrupted when multiple sex toys were thrown onto the court in the third quarter. It is the second straight night that a WNBA game was halted for the same reason. During Atlanta’s 124-88 win over the Sparks in Los Angeles on Thursday night, the game was stopped when a sex toy was tossed onto the court.

Kaitlyn Chen made a 3-pointer and layup that gave Golden State a 70-67 lead with 46.3 seconds left. Taylor tied it with a straightaway 3 about 12 seconds later and Chen missed a floater to set up the winner.

Taylor dribbled down the clock and hit a side-step 3-pointer over Veronica Burton.

Natasha Cloud made 5 of 5 from 3-point range and led Chicago with 17 points. Kamilla Cardoso had 14 points and 10 rebounds and Taylor also scored 14.

Laeticia Amihere scored a career-high 16 points on 7-of-7 shooting, Janelle Salaun added 13 points and Tiffany Hayes had 10. Burton, the only Valkyries

started to reach double figures, scored 11.

Golden State’s Gabby Williams left the game about 2 1/2 minutes into the second half and did not return. The All-Star finished with two points on 0-for-6 shooting in 14 minutes.

Lynx 94, Mystics 84

In Washington, Olivia Miles scored 24 points Natasha Howard added 21 points on 10-of-12 shooting and the Minnesota Lynx beat the Washington Mystics for their sixth straight win.

The Lynx (31-7) have won 16 of 17 have a 4 1/2-game lead on second-place Golden State in the WNBA standings.

Washington (21-15) fell into seventh, a half-game behind New York.

Howard finished with seven rebounds, five assists and three blocks. Kayla McBride scored 18 points and Courtney Williams had 13 points, eight assists and six rebounds for Minnesota. Williams fell to the floor in the closing seconds and led the game due to an apparent lower-body injury. Napheesa Collier (rest) did not play.

Kiki Iriafen had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Mystics. Shakira Austin added 17 points and eight rebounds and Michaela Oyenewere scored 14.

McBride hit back-to-back 3s, the second of which banked in from the left wing and gave the Lynx a 92-82 lead with 1:20 remaining.

A 9-0 run gave the Mystics a 76-75 lead with about eight minutes to go. Howard answered with a pullup jumper, Miles followed with a 3 and Minnesota led the rest of the way.

Tempo 82, Fire 79

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Isabelle Harrison

had 25 points and 10 rebounds and the short-handed Toronto Tempo snapped a 12-game skid with win over the Portland Fire.

The Tempo (11-25) won for the first time since a 93-91 victory against New York at the Bell Centre in Montreal on July 12.

The game drew a crowd of 12,414 at Rogers Arena. Toronto plays its second game in Vancouver on Sunday against the Las Vegas Aces, also at Rogers Arena.

The Fire (15-21) are 5 1/2 games behind the Dallas Wings for the eighth and final playoff spot. Portland has eight games remaining in the regular season. The Fire, who are at Dallas on Tuesday, split their two other games against the Wings this season, with the road team winning each game.

Kiki Rice scored a career high-tying 19 points on 7-of-9 shooting, and Laura Jukaite added 15 points for Toronto.

Bridget Carleton made five 3-pointers and scored 10 of her 18 points in the first quarter for Portland. Megan DiLeo had 14 points, Emily Engstler scored 13 and Serah Williams 10.

Nyadiew Puoch, Carleton and Engstler each hit a 3-pointer in a 13-0 run that gave Portland a 76-75 lead with 3:28 to play. Neither team scored again until Harrison made a floater about two minutes later and Toronto led the rest of the way.

Carleton air-balled a contested 3-point shot just before the buzzer.

The Fire led by as many as 13 points in the first quarter, and Rice converted a three-point play that gave Toronto a 75-63 lead with 6:26 remaining.

Mavs buy out Thompson

DeRozan set to join Nuggets

DENVER, Aug 22, (AP): DeMar DeRozan has agreed to sign a one-year contract with the Denver Nuggets worth the veteran minimum of \$3.9 million, a person with knowledge of the deal said Friday.

It will be DeRozan’s fifth team in his 18th season for a six-time All-Star looking for his first championship. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreement hasn’t been announced.

The addition of DeRozan gives the Nuggets a veteran backcourt presence after sending young, versatile wing Peyton Watson to Cleveland as part of a four-team trade. The 23-year-old Watson started a career-high 40 games last season and averaged career bests in points (14.6), rebounds (4.9) and assists (2.1). He missed the first-round series with a hamstring injury as the Nuggets were eliminated by Minnesota. Aaron Gordon also was hampered by calf tightness in the series.

Bringing in a veteran like DeRozan may go a long way in showing All-NBA center Nikola Jokic the team is committed to staying competitive. Last month, Jokic reiterated his desire to remain with Denver. He held off signing his contract extension until next summer when he can sign a five-year supermax contract that would be worth around \$350 million.

The Nuggets won their first NBA title in 2023, but have been eliminated early in the last three postseasons. They signed forward/center Marvin Bagley III this summer and brought back forward Spencer Jones by matching the Oklahoma City Thunder’s offer sheet.

It’s a deal that pushed Denver into the second apron. Crossing into that territory makes roster construction increasingly difficult.

DeRozan, the ninth overall pick by Toronto in 2009, spent his first nine seasons with the Raptors, only to get traded to San Antonio for Kawhi Leonard as his former team won the title in Leonard’s only season in 2018-19.

The 37-year-old DeRozan spent three seasons with the Spurs and three with Chicago before joining Sacramento the past two seasons. He was part of sign-and-trade deals in the moves to the Bulls and Kings.



In this file photo, Dallas Mavericks guard Klay Thompson handles the ball during an NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks in Dallas. (AP)

DeRozan averaged 18.4 points last season, ending a 12-year run of averaging at least 20 points per game. He has had just two winning seasons since going to the playoffs his last five years with the Raptors. DeRozan made the postseason once with Chicago.

Meanwhile, the Dallas Mavericks and Klay Thompson have agreed on a contract buyout, ending a two-year tenure that was wrecked by the shocking trade of Luka Doncic.

Thompson intends to sign with the Miami Heat once he clears waivers, according to a person familiar with the five-time All-Star’s plans. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Friday because Thompson has yet to reveal that detail publicly. Assuming he is not claimed by another club, Thompson may be able to sign with the Heat as early as Sunday.

The buyout announcement comes after the Mavericks missed the playoffs in both of Thompson’s seasons, which came after Doncic led Dallas to the NBA Finals in 2024.

Thompson joined Dallas in a sign-and-trade with Golden State, giving the Mavericks one of the league’s all-time great 3-point shooters to complement Doncic and another high-scoring guard in Kyrie Irving.

But the high hopes for that three-some imploded after the Mavericks sent Doncic to the Los Angeles Lakers for the oft-injured Anthony Davis in a deal before the trade deadline in 2025. Irving tore the ACL in his left knee a month later and hasn’t played since. Davis was traded to the Washington Wizards just before the February trade deadline last season.



In this file photo, Sacramento Kings guard DeMar DeRozan dribbles downcourt during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

City agrees club-record sale of Savinho to Tottenham

LONDON, Aug 22, (AP): Manchester City is making another major sale after reaching an agreement with Tottenham for the transfer of Brazil winger Savinho.

The clubs have agreed to a deal for Savinho worth 85 million pounds (\$115 million), making it a club-record sale for City, a person with knowledge of the transaction confirmed to The Associated Press on Friday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the details of the deal have not been made public.

Neither City nor Tottenham have made any official comment about the transfer.

The imminent departure of Savinho comes days after City sold Spain captain Rodri to Barcelona a deal worth 76.5 million euros (\$88.5 million).

City has also sold midfielder Tijjani Reijnders, defender Nathan Ake and released John Stones and Bernardo Silva this offseason, with the only senior outfield addition being England midfielder Elliot Anderson for a reported club-record fee of 116 million pounds (\$155 million).

It means City - swatted aside 3-0 by Arsenal in the Community Shield on Sunday - is likely to be busy in the final week of the summer transfer window as Enzo Maresca, the recently hired coach following the departure of Pep Guardiola, reshapes the squad for a new era.

Savinho joined City in 2024 to much fanfare and for 40 million euros (\$43.6 million) from sister club Troyes after a successful loan spell at Girona - another team in the City-led umbrella organization. But he didn’t live up to his billing as a potential star of the future.

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Shakhtar to host CL games at Chelsea

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 22, (AP): Ukrainian soccer club Shakhtar Donetsk said on Friday it has agreement to play home Champions League games at Chelsea, which for nearly 20 years was owned by Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich.

Shakhtar has at least four home games in the elite competition that starts in September but cannot play in Ukraine for security reasons during the full Russian military invasion that started in February 2022.

The war begun by Russia also forced Abramovich to sell Chelsea under pressure from British government sanctions. The club’s ownership group now includes United States businessman Todd Boehly and Behdad Eghbali of Clearlake Capital.

Shakhtar said it will play four home games in the main phase at Chelsea’s Stamford Bridge “subject to regulatory approvals” from UEFA. The opponents will be decided at the competition draw next Thursday in Monaco.

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Al-Sulaibikhat judo team sweeps Arab Open Championship

Impressive medal haul of 26 golds

EL ALAMEIN, Egypt, Aug 22: Al-Sulaibikhat Club’s judo team claimed first place overall at the Arab Open Judo Championship in El Alamein, Egypt, after a dominant performance throughout the tournament.

The Kuwaiti club produced an impressive medal haul of 26 gold, six silver and six bronze medals, underlining its dominance across the various competitions and securing the top spot in the overall standings.

The achievement adds to Al-Sulaibikhat’s growing list of successes in judo and further enhances the club’s reputation at Arab competitions.

Al-Sulaibikhat Sports Club Secretary Nasser Mansi Al-Anzi said the achievement was the result of sustained hard work and dedication from the players, technical and administrative staff, as well as the continued support of the club’s board.

Mansi said the latest triumph adds to a long series of achievements by Al-Sulaibikhat’s judo teams across different levels and age groups. He praised the athletes for consistently producing

strong performances and achieving impressive results at various championships.

He also reaffirmed the board’s commitment to supporting judo, describing it as one of the club’s most successful sports. He praised the players and coaching and administrative staff for their efforts in maintaining the team’s winning tradition and representing both the club and Kuwaiti sport with distinction.

Gold: Bader Nasser Mansi, Omar Al-Anzi, Fahd Al-Anzi, Waleed Al-Dhafeeri, Abdulaziz Al-Huraigi, Bader Al-Shammari, Muath Al-Anzi, Saud Al-Shammari, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Saud Al-Anzi, Muhanna Al-Hajri, Jassim Kamal, Talal Al-Saba, Osama Al-Anzi, Fahd Mubarak and Abduljalil Al-Shammari.

Silver: Sultan Nasser Mansi, Fahd Al-Anzi, Muhammad Ali, Saud Al-Rahili, Barjas Al-Shammari, Abdulwahab Al-Shammari and Saleh Al-Obaidan.

Bronze: Ghaith Al-Badhali, Saif Al-Ali, Musab Al-Shammari, Barak Al-Shammari, Yahya Al-Dhaian, Samir Mahmoud, Ahmed Al-Anzi, Harith Al-Shammari and Musa Al-Dhaian.



Judo champions Bader and Sultan Mansi

Kuwaiti visits WADA headquarters in Montreal

World Aquatics President Al-Musallam highlights need to safeguard sport’s independence, integrity



Al-Musallam during his visit to WADA in Montreal.

MONTREAL, Canada, Aug 22: World Aquatics President Husain Al-Musallam visited the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) headquarters in Montreal, Canada, on August 19, where he met with WADA President Witold Bałak and Chief Executive Officer Olivier Niggli to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation to protect athletes and promote integrity and fairness in sport.

The talks focused on cooperation between World Aquatics and WADA, particularly following recent changes and developments to WADA’s regulations and governance frame-

works.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that anti-doping tests are administered fairly and equally to all athletes without discrimination. They also stressed the importance of having testing carried out by independent, impartial and internationally recognized organizations to enhance confidence, transparency and fairness in the anti-doping system.

Al-Musallam thanked Bałak and Niggli for their warm reception, constructive discussions and continued cooperation in promoting clean sport and protecting athletes.

He also took part in a meeting of WADA’s Athletes’ Council, which featured an open discussion on the future of sport and the evolving challenges facing athletes and the global sporting community.

Al-Musallam reiterated World Aquatics’ commitment to competition policies based on fairness, sporting integrity, equal opportunities and the protection of women’s sport. He noted that several international sports organizations and federations have adopted policies in recent years that broadly reflect principles introduced by World Aquatics in 2022.

Sinner withdraws from tournament with knee injury

Serena to team up with Alcaraz at US Open

NEW YORK, Aug 22, (AP): Serena Williams will team up with Carlos Alcaraz to create a powerhouse mixed doubles pair in her return to the U.S. Open.

The U.S. Tennis Association announced Saturday that Williams and Alcaraz had been given a wild card into the tournament. The mixed doubles main draw begins Tuesday.

It will be Williams’ first time playing at the U.S. Open since 2022. The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion returned to tennis this summer.

She has not said yet if she will play singles in New York, though the USTA is still holding one women’s wild card if she wants to compete. Williams played singles at Wimbledon and played doubles with older sister Venus at the Cincinnati Open.

Alcaraz announced this week he would return to defend his U.S. Open singles title after being sidelined since April with a right wrist injury.

Meanwhile, top-ranked Jan-nik Sinner withdrew from the U.S. Open, unable to recover from a right knee injury that has sidelined him since winning the Wimbledon title.

Sinner beat Alexander Zverev

last month for his second straight title at the All England Club, but then pulled out of the hard-court tournaments in Montreal and Cincinnati that serve as a warmup for the U.S. Open.

The 25-year-old Italian wrote Friday that he won’t be ready when the main draw begins on Aug. 30.

“Even though I have been working hard with my team and my

medical staff, we have now had to make the difficult decision that I will not be able to compete at the US Open this year,” Sinner wrote in a post on X.

“We have been back on court in Monte Carlo over the last couple of days and have realized that I still need more time to recover from my right knee issue. I’m obviously very sad and disappointed, as New York has a special place in

my heart. I was very much looking forward to coming back and playing in the electric atmosphere in front of the great fans there.”

Sinner was the 2024 U.S. Open champion and lost to Alcaraz in last year’s final.

Alcaraz posted on social media that he would be ready to play in New York after he has been out of action since April because of a right wrist injury.

The rivalry between those two has dominated men’s tennis in recent years, and they met in the last three Grand Slam finals in 2025. Alcaraz took the most recent one with his four-set victory in New York.

That ended Sinner’s title reign after he beat Taylor Fritz in straight sets in the 2024 final.

Sinner is 44-3 with six titles this year. He had a stunning collapse at the French Open, blowing a two-set lead while struggling in the heat in his second-round match against Juan Manuel Cerundolo. He then sat out until Wimbledon, where his victory gave him five Grand Slam titles.

It will be the first time Sinner has missed a Grand Slam tournament since making his major debut at the U.S. Open in 2019.



Serena Williams, of the United States, reacts after a winning point during a women’s doubles match with her sister Venus Williams against Marta Kostyuk, of Ukraine, and Peyton Stearns, also of the United States, at the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament in Mason, Ohio. (AP)

Root thrilled as England’s all-seam attack crushes Pakistan

LEEDS, England, Aug 22, (AP): England’s all-seam attack has captain Joe Root stoked about what more they can achieve after swatting aside Pakistan in the first test at Headingley.

England won by an innings and 103 runs inside three days. Pakistan was bowled out for 171 and 135 against England’s 409.

Ollie Robinson and Josh Tongue took eight wickets each, Jofra Archer grabbed three, and Gus Atkinson one. Batting all-rounder Dan Lawrence bowled one over of off-spin, a maiden, to break up the barrage of seam on a fair pitch.

Robinson, in his first test since

June, and Archer played together in a test for the first time. They handled the new ball.

Tongue and Atkinson won the Hundred for Manchester Super Giants in the final last Sunday and had only one day of training for the test.

The in-and-out Robinson has played the most tests, 22, and Atkinson the least, 13. If they can all stay fit - always a big if - the home Ashes series against Australia is less than a year away.

“It’s very exciting because I still think they don’t know how good they are yet and what they’re capable of, and I think that’s a great place to be when you can

put in performances like that,” Root said.

“An attack with that kind of variety, different things to call upon at different times in the game ... and as well the fact they bowled well in partnerships.”

Root was no less happy with the batting in the bowler-friendly conditions. Jordan Cox replaced the injured Jacob Bethell at first drop and Lawrence was recalled for the first time in two years to try and fill the allrounder spot vacated by the retired Ben Stokes.

Both contributed half-centuries: Cox (73) and Lawrence (51) beside Root (66) and Harry Brook

(91).

“We found a really good tempo, managing the phases,” Root said.

“Jordan Cox coming in at three and playing with such control, such a calm nature.

“Dan coming in at six and getting a score like he did, Brooky showing why he’s the best player in the world. Lots of good stuff to take into Lord’s (second test) and start the series.”

Root’s decisions as captain were also on song, right from winning the toss and choosing to bowl. Root said before the match he didn’t want to try to captain like Stokes. It would be too hard to try, anyway, he added.

FIFA rift deepens

Infantino defies request to skip Caribbean youth tournament

GENEVA, Aug 22, (AP): Gianni Infantino defied a request by one of his FIFA vice presidents to stay away from an Under-14 soccer event in the Caribbean and instead made a rare public appearance during the global furor over his failed plan to sell future World Cup profits to private investors.

On Saturday, Infantino posted photos on his Instagram account showing the FIFA president meeting political and soccer officials from the Dominican Republic on the sidelines of a Caribbean Football Union (CFU) youth tournament in the Punta Cana resort.

On Friday, Infantino had been asked not to go by Victor Montagliani, the Canadian president of Miami-based continental soccer body CONCACAF, to avoid being a distraction from the soccer games.

“I believe that considering the governance crisis surrounding FIFA as a result of your controversial FIFA Forward Enterprise proposal, the media will focus on this situation,” Montagliani wrote in an emailed letter seen by The Associated Press, “which will unfortunately significantly take away from the technical nature of the CFU youth competition.”

“As such, I respectfully ask you in the name of football to reconsider your attendance as it will unfortunately undermine the technical nature of this important youth development activity,” Montagliani wrote.

FIFA declined to comment on the Montagliani request, though noted it directly funds regional bodies like the CFU with up to \$5 million from each four-year World Cup cycle.

Montagliani has aligned with fellow FIFA vice presidents Aleksander Ceferin from European body UEFA and Asian Football Confederation president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa in seeking to end Infantino’s increasingly executive presidency now in its 11th year.

They accused Infantino two weeks ago of “deception” in secretly planning over the past year to spin off FIFA’s multi-billion dollar commercial activities to a subsidiary 20% owned by investors led by Joshua Kushner.

Infantino withdrew the project on Aug. 1 amid a global backlash by soccer leaders and fans, and hours after his own chief operating officer published stinging criticism of the proposal and his leadership style in a statement to the AP. The Zurich-based COO, Kevin Lamour, was fired this week.

Caribbean member federations are seen as potential supporters for Infantino to peel away from their CONCACAF leadership. South American body CONMEBOL has backed Infantino as its best path to hosting more games at the 2030 World Cup it wants expanded from 48 teams to 64.

The FIFA leader has not taken questions publicly since the \$20 billion FFE project was revealed July 28 by British daily The Times, and on Friday in Punta Cana he evaded a reporter from British broadcaster Sky News.

Asked by Sky reporter James Matthews if he had betrayed the sport and should resign, Infantino said “Thank you so much” and made quips about both men being bald.

Infantino is aiming to be re-elected for a fourth and final term in office through 2031 at the FIFA election congress next March in Rabat, Morocco. FIFA has set Nov. 18 as a deadline for would-be candidates to enter the race.

Best of the Rest

Messi and Ian Fray fined over incidents: Inter Miami’s Lionel Messi and Ian Fray have been fined undisclosed amounts for making contact in the head and neck area of opponents in separate incidents during second-half stoppage time in a 2-2 draw against Philadelphia, MLS said Friday.

Messi slapped the Union’s Quinn Sullivan on the back of the neck as the two exchanged words Wednesday night. Messi scored his first goal since the death of his father, Jorge Messi, and added an assist. (AP)

□ □ □

Georgia women’s soccer team breaks record: The University of Georgia women’s soccer team broke the NCAA attendance record for men or women with a crowd of 25,433 on Thursday night at Sanford Stadium for a 6-0 victory over James Madison.

Honoka Hamano scored twice for Georgia in the “Soccer in Sanford” match honoring the 30th anniversary of the United States women’s gold-medal victory over China in the 1996 Olympics at the iconic 93,033-seat football stadium.

The crowd broke the women’s mark of 14,410 set in the 1999 NCAA championship between North Carolina and Notre Dame in San Jose, California. (AP)

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NEWS



Arsenal's Mikel Merino, 2nd right, attempts a shot at goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Coventry City in London. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait Handball Federation referees continue overseas training camp in Slovenia

Kuwait falls to Qatar at Asian Junior Handball Championship



Kuwait Handball referees continue training camp in Slovenia.

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

AMMAN, Jordan, Aug 22: Kuwait suffered a 19-30 defeat to Qatar in the second round of Group B at the 11th Asian Junior Handball Championship in Amman, Jordan.

The tournament, which runs until August 31, saw Iran defeat Saudi Arabia 28-20 in the other Group B match. In Group A, South Korea overcame India 37-27, while Bahrain cruised past hosts Jordan 41-19.

Qatar moved to the top of Group B with four

points. Iran sit second with two points, ahead of Kuwait on goal difference, also with two points. Syria and Saudi Arabia are fourth and fifth respectively without a point.

Bahrain lead Group A with four points, ahead of South Korea on goal difference, while Uzbekistan, Jordan and India remain without points.

The championship follows a single round-robin format, with the top four teams from each group advancing to the quarter-finals. The group winners will face the fourth-placed teams, while the runners-up will meet the third-placed sides. The four quarter-final winners will advance to the

semi-finals, with the remaining teams competing to determine the lower rankings.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Handball Federation referees are continuing their overseas training camp in Slovenia as part of preparations for the upcoming season and competitions.

Federation Secretary-General Qayed Al-Adwani visited the camp and met with the referees to review their training program and preparations. He highlighted the importance of such camps in developing refereeing standards and ensuring officials are fully prepared for the challenges of the new season.

Ashkanani selected to officiate at Asian Volleyball Champ'ship

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

TIANJIN, China, Aug 22: Kuwaiti international referee Abbas Ashkanani has been selected by the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) to officiate matches at the 2026 Asian Women's Volleyball Championship in Tianjin, China, from August 21 to 30.

Ashkanani's appointment highlights the growing international recognition of Kuwaiti volleyball referees and their ability to officiate major continental competitions. He is expected to oversee several matches alongside a number of international referees during the tournament.

The appointment marks another important milestone in Ashkanani's refereeing career and further reflects the strong reputation of Kuwaiti officiating on the international stage.

Meanwhile, the Salwa Al-Sabah Club women's volleyball team has traveled to Abu Dhabi to compete in the Fatima Bint Mubarak Volleyball Tournament.

The team hopes to deliver a strong performance and represent Kuwaiti sport with distinction. Its participation is part of the club's efforts to provide its players with valuable international experience strengthen their technical level and prepare them for upcoming



International referee Abbas Ashkanani

competitions.

The squad features a group of players eager to make an impression and achieve positive results after completing preparations for the tournament.

Best of the Rest

Flick leaves exit door open for first team quartet: FC Barcelona coach Hansi Flick on Saturday left the door open for several players in his squad to leave the club before the end of the current transfer window.

Speaking to the press ahead of his side's La Liga debut away to Elche on Sunday night, Flick was asked about players such as defenders Jules Kounde and Alejandro Balde, along with Hector Fort and midfielder Marc Casado, who are currently training apart from the main squad as the club looks to move them on this summer. (Xinhua)

Man United stunned as Hull makes dream return

Arsenal sweeps aside promoted Coventry

LONDON, Aug 22, (AP): Hull made a dream return to the Premier League after a nine-year absence, beating Manchester United 2-0 on Saturday to puncture any preseason optimism surrounding the 20-time champions.

First-half goals from Semi Ajayi and Nobel Mendy at set-pieces consigned United to a tepid loss away to a team that was promoted via the second-tier Championship playoffs at the end of last season and is widely expected to be among the relegation candidates.

United finished third last season to secure a return to the Champions League, rewarding interim manager Michael Carrick with a permanent contract as well as a new midfield in Youri Tielemans and Andrey Santos. Marcus Rashford has come back from a loan spell at Barcelona and entered as a halftime substitute.

They struggled to impress along with many other players in a lackluster team display that showed United - last a Premier League champion in 2013 under Alex Ferguson - still has far to go to recapture its former glories and is unlikely to challenge for the title, at least on this evidence anyway.

"We have a bit to improve on - it was never going to be perfect,"

Carrick said.

"One game doesn't change the direction of everything," he added. "It doesn't change the direction of the football club."

Everton had a famous fan in its stadium watching a 2-0 win over Crystal Palace.

Andy Burnham took in his first Everton match since becoming Britain's prime minister last month and saw Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall and Thierno Barry score goals for the hosts.

Senegal forward Ismaila Sarr, linked with a move away from Palace, wasn't in the matchday squad for Pierre Sage's first game in charge of the team. Palace lost Morocco defender Chadi Riad to what appeared to be a serious knee injury that forced him to be carried off on a stretcher.

Ipswich was another promoted team to win in the opening round of games, scoring in the 90th minute through Jack Clarke to beat his former club Sunderland 2-1.

Leeds also scored a late winner, with Anton Stach's 88th-minute free kick enough to dispatch Nottingham Forest 1-0.

Newcomer Christos Tzolis helped set up two goals as defending champion Arsenal opened the Premier League season by dismantling promoted Coventry 3-0 to spoil the visitor's long-awaited return to the top flight.

After ending a 22-year wait for



Leeds United's Harry Wilson, centre left, attempts to pass the ball under pressure from Nottingham Forest's Ibrahim Sangare during the English Premier League soccer match between Nottingham Forest and Leeds United in Nottingham, England. (AP)

the Premier League title, Arsenal showed why it's favored to repeat as champion by completely dominating Frank Lampard's side in a game that was one-sided from start to finish.

Kai Havertz, Bukayo Saka and captain Martin Odegaard scored for

the Gunners, who spurned chances to pad the scoreline even further.

"The perfect start," Odegaard said.

For Coventry, it was a rude welcome back to the Premier League after a 25-year absence. Having won the second-tier Champion-

ship last season by a wide margin, Lampard's side simply looked out-matched as it was repeatedly taken apart by a marauding Arsenal.

Tzolis was the only summer signing to start for the host but the left winger showed he could give this attack an added dimension

by helping to set up both opening goals.

First he stole possession to feed defender Riccardo Calafiori, who squared the ball for Havertz to slot home in the 15th minute. The Greece international then sent a cross in from the left that goalkeeper Carl Rushworth managed to only push into the path of Saka, who scored into an empty net in the 23rd.

"Amazing, he played a brilliant game," Odegaard said of Tzolis. "He has been brilliant all pre-season. He's so lively, it's hard to defend him. He's a really intelligent player, he always looks up and finds the right pass."

Odegaard added the third shortly after the break after his scuffed shot looped in out of reach of Rushworth. The Arsenal captain gave an apologetic shrug as a celebration.

"It was not the best finish but I was there," Odegaard said.

At the other end, the only time Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya was troubled was when a speculative overhead kick from Loum Tchaouna from outside the box sailed just high of the bar in the 42nd. The visitor's only effort on target came in the 86th, when Jack Rudoni managed only a weak header straight at Raya.

On Sunday, Manchester City - demolished 3-0 by Arsenal in the Community Shield last weekend - looks to bounce back against Bournemouth and Liverpool travels to Newcastle.



Mercedes driver George Russell of Britain leads at the start during sprint race at the Formula One Dutch Grand Prix in Zandvoort, Netherlands. (AP)

Norris on pole for Dutch GP as Russell cruises to sprint win

ZANDVOORT, Netherlands, Aug 22, (AP): Lando Norris found unexpected pace to beat his rivals and the weather to take pole position for the Dutch Grand Prix on Saturday after George Russell took a sprint race win on Formula 1's return from its mid-season break.

As rain started to fall on the Zandvoort track, McLaren's Norris made the most of his final run to reclaim pole by 0.102 of a second from Russell, whose Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli - the standings leader - was third.

"A little surprised, honestly, but a decent lap," said Norris, who'd been critical of his car in the earlier sprint race and credited McLaren with making the right changes.

"We had to try something because what we had before wasn't going to be enough," he said, adding the changes were small but "enough to give me some confidence."

Norris won the last race in Hungary on July 26 but was deflated after the sprint, saying McLaren wasn't competitive at all in slower corners.

Russell is rebuilding his title challenge after losing ground to Antonelli last month and said it was "a real joy" to drive in qualifying. The plan now is to "get in my groove again and try to fight with them tomorrow," he added.

Lewis Hamilton lost ground to Antonelli in the standings in the sprint race. His difficult day continued with fifth in qualifying.

The sprint race was a display of domination from Russell, who started from pole position, quickly built a gap to Norris in second and managed the pace from there, taking his first win since the Austrian Grand Prix in June.

"Obviously a great start to the weekend," he said.

Charles Leclerc snatched second off Norris with a daring pass into the inside of the first corner with six laps to go, but couldn't get close enough to try passing Russell.

Norris held off a late charge from Antonelli to stay third as the Italian pulled out of a potential overtaking move on the final lap.

"We just don't have the pace in general, especially in the slow-speed corners," Norris said.

Fourth-place Antonelli, starting fifth after car damage in qualifying, still managed to extend his standings lead by three more points to 53 because Hamilton could only manage seventh for Ferrari.

F1 still hasn't had a wet race this year but came tantalizingly close as rain fell as the drivers were heading back to the pits, seconds after the sprint finished.

"If there was one more lap it would have been a very, potentially, different end to the race so I'm glad the rain came when it did," Russell said.

While it stayed dry, overtaking was difficult, even in a year where the cars' electrical power has made back-and-forth passes common. The overtakes by Leclerc and Antonelli were the only changes of position anywhere in the top 11 finishers.