



Cabinet touts PACA ACI membership
Page 2



KUWAIT CABINET TAKES PULSE OF AIRPORT T2 PROJECT



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, accompanied by ministers, tours Kuwait International Airport's new Terminal 2 project on Tuesday.



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Iran is a fireball burning itself

THE unfolding events indicate that the United States of America is not in a hurry to resolve the conflict with Iran through military approach, as long as it has more painful tools for the Tehran regime, such as the tough, suffocating and seemingly insurmountable economic sanctions.

The calculations surrounding the upcoming American midterm elections in November played a crucial role in changing the landscape. The United States shifted from military warfare, bombing and destruction to inciting public unrest against the Iranian regime.

Voices demanding an end to the daily suffering of the people have started to rise, most notably from former President Mohammad Khatami and current President Masoud Pezeshkian. Undoubtedly, this is in favor of America.

This situation is not new, as the Iranian people have endured sanctions for 47 years. However, there have been loopholes through which aid has been channeled to alleviate the severity of the living conditions. Furthermore, Iranian proxies have played a role in distracting the international community from the internal situation.

Today, the situation changed with the fall of the

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PM hits 'full throttle' button on Terminal 2

Progress tracked across three bundles

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, accompanied by the ministers, conducted an inspection tour of the new Kuwait International Airport Terminal 2 (T2) project on Tuesday.

The tour was held on the sidelines of the Cabinet meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister at the new T2 terminal building.

During the tour, His Highness and the ministers received a detailed briefing from Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, and Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as project officials.

The briefing covered all aspects of the project, the latest developments in its implementation, and progress made across its three main bundles.

Bundle one covering the construction, completion, furnishing and maintenance of the new passenger terminal, bundle two covering service buildings, access roads to the new terminal and car parks, and bundle three covering aircraft stands, taxiways and service buildings associated with the new terminal.

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PM Diwan photos
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is briefed on the Kuwait International Airport Terminal 2 project during an inspection tour on Tuesday.

Capital takeoff eyed

Kuwait targets global aviation partnerships

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The government intends to open new avenues for expanding aviation partnerships, in addition to developing and offering unprecedented incentives and facilities for international investors. The aim is to ensure that Kuwait keeps pace with the construction boom at Kuwait International Airport and transform it into a regional aviation hub.

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Repeat road sins can lead to court

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The General Traffic Department at the Ministry of Interior has warned against repeating certain traffic violations, such as non-compliance with overtaking regulations and deliberately obstructing traffic flow on public roads.

The department indicated that the repetition of these two violations could lead to the referral of offenders to court.

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo
Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with South Korean counterpart Cho Hyun.

Kuwait, South Korea discuss ways to advance bilateral ties

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a written letter on Tuesday to South Korean President Lee Jae Myung regarding bilateral relations, ways to strengthen them, and current regional developments.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the letter was delivered by Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, to his South Korean counterpart Cho Hyun during their meeting in Seoul, as part of the Kuwaiti minister's official visit to the Republic of Korea.

The meeting reviewed the strong relations between the two countries, with both sides affirming their shared commitment to enhancing coopera-

tion and coordination across various fields and at all levels, in a manner that advances bilateral ties and serves their mutual interests.

The two ministers also discussed the latest regional and international developments and exchanged views on issues of common interest, particularly developments in the region and diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalation and promoting security and stability.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Jarrah met on Tuesday with former United Nations Secretary-General and President of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Ban Ki-moon during his official visit to the South Korean capital, Seoul.

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Day by Day

PRESIDENT of the United States Donald Trump is a great man. He has changed the situation in the Middle East, and we should not dwell on personalization.

Trump is the man of the current era who humbled the Sasanian civilization. It is Trump who humiliated the remnants of the Persian civilization. These remnants are suffering today from Trump's statements, while he has brought them hunger and popular uprisings against the mullahs' regime.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait applauds US move to delist Syria

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry on Tuesday Welcomed the US decision to remove Syria from the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

In a press statement, the ministry commended the decision as a significant step towards the recovery, reconstruction and development of Syria, and regaining its normal regional and

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Toyota recognized as
the Most Influential
Automotive Brand



15

Japan Embassy hosts
reception to back
Kuwaiti athletes ahead
of Asian Games

Kuwait draws curtain on commercial concealment

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) underscored the importance of enhancing transparency in the business environment and raising the level of compliance with Decree Law No. 78/2026 on combating commercial concealment.

This announcement was made during the awareness seminar that KCCI organized Monday at its headquarters to explain the procedures

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Photo by Samer Shqair
Left to right: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Marwa Badah, KCCI Deputy Director General Emad Al-Zaid, Director of Kuwait Business Center Abdullah Abdulwahab Al-Haraz



Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:00	Asr	15:24
Sunrise ..	05:22	Maghrib ..	18:18
Zohr	11:50	Isha	19:40



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Prime Minister

Amir congratulates Uruguay Pres. on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory letter to the President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Yamandu Orsi, on his country's Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished President Yamandu Orsi good health and wellbeing, and more progress and prosperity to Uruguay and its people.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-

Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to the President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Yamandu Orsi, on his country's Independence Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished President Yamandu Orsi good health and wellbeing.

PM congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to the President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Yamandu Orsi, on his country's Independence Day.

Investment eyed in defense, oil, health, AI

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Monday a telephone call from his French counterpart Sebastien Lecornu.

During the call, His Highness the Prime Minister conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to President Emmanuel Macron and Lecornu.

During the phone conversation, His Highness the Prime Minister pointed to the official invitation from His Highness the Amir to



HH the PM



Sebastien Lecornu

President Macron so as to visit Kuwait this year, which coincides with the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic

relations between the two friendly countries

Both sides also discussed close bilateral relations between the two countries and means of strengthening cooperation to serve the interests of the two countries and their friendly peoples.

In addition, they focused on investment in defense, oil, health and AI domains, alongside the latest developments on regional and international levels, and sharing views on some issues of common interests.

His Highness the Prime Minister extended his heartfelt condolences over the wildfires broke out in eastern France, wishing a rapid recovery to those injured.

Kuwait combats desertification, land degradation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): A Kuwaiti delegation headed by Kuwait's Ambassador to Mongolia Mutlaq Al-Thuwaimer participated in the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), hosted in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia until August 28, under the theme "Restoring Land, Restoring Hope."

In a statement to KUNA on Tuesday, Ambassador Al-Thuwaimer said that Kuwait's participation reflects its national efforts to promote sustainable land management, combat desertification, and support joint international action to address land degradation and drought.

He added that this participation contributes to

achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of "Kuwait Vision 2035", enhancing the resilience of ecosystems, and preserving natural resources for current and future generations.

For her part, Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Nouf Behbehani, told KUNA that the Authority's participation comes within the framework of its efforts to strengthen Kuwait's presence in international environmental forums and follow up on related issues and files.

Behbehani explained that the EPA places great importance on combating desertification, land degradation, drought, and sand and dust storms,

in addition to strengthening cooperation and exchanging expertise with countries and international organizations in scientific and technical fields.

The Kuwaiti delegation participating in the conference includes representatives from the EPA, the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Kuwait Oil Company, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, and Kuwait University.

The conference will discuss several important issues, notably restoring degraded lands, enhancing resilience to drought, and the sustainable management of land, rangelands, and sand and dust storms.

Cabinet touts PACA ACI membership

Pakistan, France dominate in flurry of fast-changing scenarios

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet on Tuesday commended the Public Authority for Civil Aviation's joining of the Airports Council International (ACI) as a step towards promoting Kuwait's presence in the network of world airports.

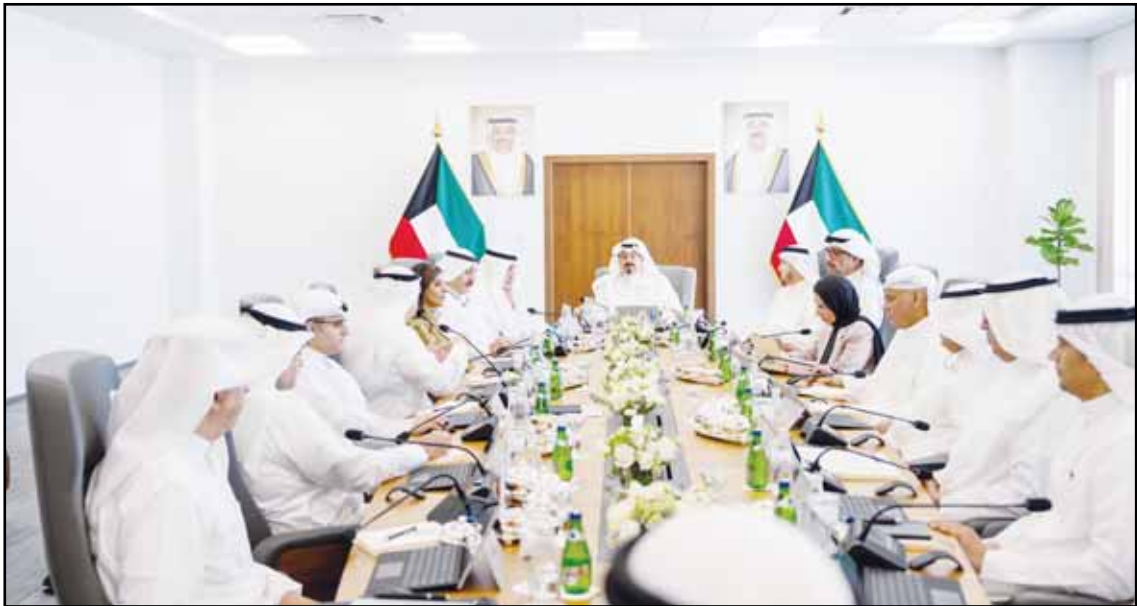
This came during the Cabinet's weekly meeting held at the new Kuwait International Airport Terminal 2 (T2) under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The Cabinet said that the step would bolster ongoing efforts aimed at advancing the Kuwait International Airport system in line with the international best practices and standards, saying that ACI comprises 811 members running more than 2,200 airports in over 160 countries around the world.

The ACI intends to promote the safety, security, efficiency, and sustainability of airports, and to advance service quality and the passenger experience, it said, adding that ACI membership enables the Public Authority for Civil Aviation to leverage expertise, data, training programs, and international standards, participate in specialized committees and events, and exchange best practices with major global airports.

This comes as His Highness the Prime Minister, accompanied by the ministers, conducted an inspection tour of the new Kuwait International Airport Terminal 2 (T2) project earlier in the day.

At the onset of the meeting, the Cabinet was apprised



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet meeting.

of a handwritten letter received by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of the Republic of Sudan Abdelfattah Al-Burhan concerning the fraternal bilateral relations between the two countries.

The message was delivered to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah by Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Mohi El-Din Salem Ahmad.

The Cabinet was then briefed on His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sa-

bah's meeting with Lieutenant General Mohammad Asim Malik, National Security Adviser and Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait.

The ministers then reviewed the outcomes of the phone call received by His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah from his French counterpart Sebastien Lecornu.

During the call, His Highness the Prime Minister conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to French President Emmanuel Macron and Lecornu.

During the phone conversation, His Highness the Prime Minister pointed to the official invitation from His Highness the Amir to President Macron to visit Kuwait this year, which coincides with the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries.

Both sides also discussed close bilateral relations between the two countries and means of strengthening cooperation to serve the interests of the two countries and their friendly peoples.

Furthermore, the ministers were informed of the meeting between His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Lieutenant General Mohammad Asim Malik, National Security Adviser and Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait.



KUNA photos
Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian discusses boost in ties with several military attaches.



Kuwait, Australia, Jordan and Egypt to enhance military ties

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraian on Tuesday discussed with several military attaches issues of mutual interest, mainly military cooperation and ways to enhance and develop it in support of military relations between Kuwait and brotherly and friendly countries.

The Army General Staff said in a press statement that the discussions took place during Al-Shuraian's separate meetings with Jordanian Military Attache Brigadier General Adnan Al-Khattab, Egyptian Military Attache Brigadier General Mostafa Al-Dalal and Australian Military Attache Colonel Dean Clark.

Kuwait attends Arab League forum

Threat to family fabric in Arab region under study

CAIRO, Aug 25, (KUNA): The Arab League launched Tuesday an analytical study on current threats to family foundations in the Arab region and ways to address them nationally and regionally, with Kuwaiti participation.

The study aims to support family-related policies and programs, strengthen social cohesion and help address challenges arising from rapid social, economic, demographic, cultural and technological changes.

The launch followed a decision by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs at its 44th ordinary session in 2024 to adopt the study as a guiding document for member states.

Minister Plenipotentiary and Director of the Family and Childhood Department at the Arab League Lubna Azzam said the study reflects the League's efforts to support the family as a fundamental institution and cornerstone of social cohesion and sustainable development.

She said Arab families face challenges including poverty, multidimensional inequality, food insecurity, displacement and asylum, as well as other developments affecting family stability and their ability to fulfill their roles.

Azzam said the study also implements Arab League Council on a Summit Level Resolution No. 809, adopted at the 31st ordinary summit in 2022, concerning cultural diversity and protection of the family and marriage institution.

She noted that Resolution No. 1037, adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs at its 44th ordinary session, endorsed the study as a guiding document for developing relevant national and regional policies and programs.

The sessions discussed challenges facing Arab families, national and regional responses, and the exchange of expertise and practices.



KUNA photo

Members from the Arab countries launch a study on challenges facing Arab families.

Participants also reviewed recommendations on family programs and awareness initiatives.

Kuwait participated through a joint delegation representing the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

Other Voices

A solution to food supply smuggling crimes

By Ahmad alsarraaf

Almost every week, we hear or read about customs inspectors successfully seizing smuggled food supplies hidden in suitcases or containers destined for export.

Why does this shameful practice continue despite those involved knowing that the penalty is far greater than what they can gain from such an illegal act? It seems that the reason lies in the ease of obtaining these goods, often at very low prices, in addition to their high quality.

As a result, these goods can easily be sold at reasonable profits in several countries, including Egypt, Sri Lanka, and some neighboring countries. There will always be people willing to sell what they obtain for next to nothing at a reasonable profit.

Maintaining the status quo under the pre-

text that these subsidies serve needy citizens is inaccurate. We must consider a better way to provide assistance to these citizens while putting an end to the blatant waste of public funds. This waste has continued for nearly 55 years, and its cost has probably far exceeded \$25 billion.

And this is only in relation to food subsidies, let alone the subsidies spent on fuel, water, electricity, and other necessities.

The waste of food subsidies can be stopped and the system can be implemented in other ways.

A monthly allowance can be deposited into the bank account of each family that can prove its need. These families can also be given the right to purchase their necessities from the local cooperative society up to a specified monthly limit.

To minimize waste and ensure, as much as possible, that subsidized goods reach the families who need them most, those wishing to benefit from the program should submit an application to the relevant authority through the cooperative society to obtain the subsidized goods. They should also submit a writ-

ten declaration confirming their need for the subsidized goods and pledge not to distribute or resell them, while accepting responsibility for any violations.

Applicants should sign a declaration stating that they have a limited income not exceeding, for example, one or two thousand dinars.

Any family that provides misleading information or handles subsidized goods illegally should be deprived, for a specific period, of access to these subsidized goods.

Tens of thousands have applied for subsidized food rations, not wanting to burden the state, especially under these difficult circumstances, and not wanting to compete with low-income earners for their share of state funds.

The relevant authorities should remove sugar from the list of subsidized items, as every family in Kuwait has at least one diabetic member. I also suggest removing luxury items such as zubaidi fish, shrimp, and others.



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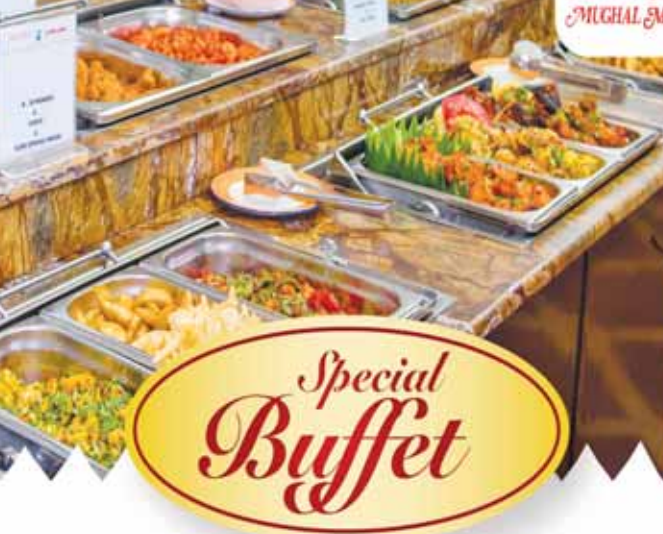
Friends of the Mountains

‘PADA committed to better serve disabled’

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Al-Abdali Exhibition sees strong demand for fresh local dates and figs

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: A tour of the fourth edition of the Al-Abdali Dates and Figs Exhibition was held at the Livestock Company Hall, with the participation of approximately 45 farmers.

The exhibition witnessed brisk sales and growing demand for locally produced dates and figs.

Several farmers were interviewed about sales volumes, prices, crop varieties, and the journey of the produce from the farm to the points of sale.

Faisal Al-Zoubi, supervisor of the Al-Abdali farm at the Livestock Company Hall, affirmed that the Al-Abdali Exhibition is witnessing a remarkable turnout for local products, as some varieties sell out before the end of the daily sales hours, which run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

He explained that the exhibition features a wide selection of date varieties, including Wanana, Red Sukkari, Barhi, Medjool, Sagai, and Khalaas, in addition to around five varieties of figs, most notably "Asal Brown," Turkish, Spanish, and Jassim figs.

The demand is concentrated primarily on "Asal Brown" figs, while Khalaas, Barhi, Medjool, and Wanana are among the most sought-after date varieties among consumers.

The most distinctive feature of local produce is its freshness, as the dates and figs are harvested on the same day and transported directly from the Al-Abdali farms to the exhibition hall, without undergoing the lengthy refrigeration and transportation processes typically required for imported products.

Al-Zoubi emphasized that Kuwaiti farmers have proven their competence and ability to provide agricultural and food products, both during the COVID-19 pandemic and amid the challenges posed by geopolitical instability to global supply chains. They recently faced difficulties in securing some production inputs, including fertilizers, but managed to overcome these challenges by finding alternatives and maintaining production.

He noted that the Dates and Figs Exhibition is being held for the fourth consecutive year as part of a series of events aimed at supporting farmers and marketing their products.

Al-Zoubi also announced plans to hold a vegetable festival in approximately six weeks, which will continue for around eight months at the same venue.

He called on the public to visit the exhibition and learn more about the produce of Kuwaiti farms, stressing that buying local products represents direct support for farmers and encourages them to continue their work and increase production.

Meanwhile, farmer Saleh Bader Al-Dhabib affirmed that the Al-Abdali Dates and Figs Exhibition represents an important outlet for marketing local produce, especially for small farmers who face difficulties accessing commercial markets.

Al-Dhabib stated that the Al-Abdali farms produce approximately 120 varieties of dates, while participating farmers are showcasing around 12 highly sought-after varieties, including Barhi, Khalaas, Rathana, Sagai, Samran, Zamil-ya, and Medjool, in addition to about six varieties of figs.

He explained that the products undergo monitoring and inspection from the farm to the exhibition. Oversight is carried out by the participating farmers themselves, in addition



Part of the exhibition.



Fahd Al-Daei speaking to colleague Marwa Al-Bahrawi. Photos by Samer Shqair

to official monitoring by the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Kuwait Municipality.

Monitoring begins during the date palm pollination season, which typically takes place in March and April, depending on weather conditions. Regular visits are then conducted every two to three weeks to ensure the quality of the produce and its compliance with the participation requirements.

The participation requirements include the farmer owning the displayed products, ensuring that the fruit comes from their own farm, and providing transportation to the exhibition site.

Al-Dhabib confirmed that PAFN conducts direct supervision at the exhibition hall, noting that farmers obtain the necessary permits before displaying their products.

He revealed that the price of a kilogram of Barhi dates is around half a dinar, while some rare or premium varieties range from one to one and a half dinars per kilogram.

Al-Dhabib confirmed that prices have remained relatively stable since the start of the exhibition.

He noted that farmers are looking to explore opportunities to export surplus production in the future, particularly Barhi and Medjool dates to the Saudi market, pointing out that the quality of some local varieties gives them a competitive advantage in regional markets.

Furthermore, farmer Mu'taz Saud Al-Omani, one of the festival organizers, said the exhibition represents an important outlet for Al-Abdali farmers to market their produce, and praised the Livestock Company's initiative to host farmers and bring their products together in one location.

Al-Omani explained that production this season was lower than last season due to unusual weather conditions. Rainfall extended into late April and May, affecting the ripening of some fruits. The fruit on some date palm trees has not yet reached maturity.

He pointed out that the festival allows consumers to see a wide variety of dates, including Barhi, Khalaas, Samran, Zamil-ya, Ibrahim, and Medjool, in addition to various fig varieties.

Al-Omani emphasized the importance of presenting and packaging local produce in an attractive manner to consum-

ers, noting that some farmers offer small incentives to buyers, such as adding another variety for them to try.

He also stressed the crucial role of the media in introducing the public to local products, indicating that some exceptional varieties are not readily available in the markets.

Moreover, farmer Diab Al-Hassan confirmed the success of local cultivation and production of "Jassim figs," describing them as a 100 percent Kuwaiti product.

Al-Hassan stated that the exhibition represents an important outlet for farmers to showcase and market their produce directly to consumers.

He explained that the benefits of figs are not limited to eating them fresh, as they can also be dried or processed into jam and other products.

A number of farmers have already begun utilizing the crop to produce processed products.

The price of a box of figs starts at one dinar and reaches a maximum of 2.5 dinars, while its weight ranges from approximately 950 grams to 1.1 kilograms.

Al-Hassan revealed plans to expand the cultivation and production of rare or high-demand varieties, including white okra and Spanish broccoli, in addition to other products currently being developed for future release.

In addition, farmer Fahad Abdulrahman Al-Duai confirmed that his participation extends beyond selling fresh produce to include processing products on the farm, which adds value to local produce and extends its shelf life.

Al-Duai revealed that the farm produces date syrup, fig jam, and dried figs, confirming that the processed products are in high demand among consumers.

He expressed his hope for additional marketing outlets, whether through cooperative societies or other channels, to reach a wider consumer base.

Al-Duai called for the establishment of permanent outlets for selling these products so that the marketing of local produce is not limited to seasonal festivals.

Furthermore, farmer Saleh Al-Dubaib revealed that he has entered into an Egyptian-French-Kuwaiti partnership for the import, cultivation, and distribution of potatoes.

Indicating that the venture began in 2026, he revealed that he has become the product's agent in Kuwait.

He affirmed that the venture benefits from agricultural expertise available in Egypt rather than relying entirely on imports from European markets.

Al-Dubaib stated that the first shipment for the Kuwaiti market is approximately 50 tons, emphasizing that quantities will gradually increase according to market needs and demand for the product.

He stressed that date prices at the exhibition have remained relatively stable since the beginning of the event.

Al-Dubaib said the price of a kilogram of Barhi dates is approximately half a dinar, while prices for some premium or rare varieties range between one and one and a half dinars per kilogram.

He emphasized the farmers' commitment to offering local produce at affordable prices for consumers.

Also, farmer Diab Al-Hassan affirmed the farmers' commitment to keeping fig prices accessible to consumers, explaining that the price of a small package starts at one dinar and reaches a maximum of 2.5 dinars. The package weighs approximately 950 grams to 1.1 kilograms, depending on its size.

He stressed that the goal is to provide consumers with a local product of both quality and affordability.

MoSA tightens co-ops 'noose'

Check on graft, trickery

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Cooperative Sector at the Ministry of Social Affairs, in coordination with the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), is conducting surprise inspection of cooperative societies, starting with Al-Qadisiyah Cooperative Society.

Acting Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Sayed Issa confirmed that the selection of cooperatives for surprise inspection is random, indicating that inspections will expand in the coming period to include other cooperatives in various governorates.

He pointed out that the joint inspection tours aim to ensure the cooperatives' compliance with regulations and laws, and that work is carried out according to proper procedures.

He indicated that the inspectors looked into the food supply chain Al-Qadisiyah Cooperative Society, from receiving and distributing goods, to methods of preservation and storage, isolation of damaged items and handling of returns. He revealed that the inspected products include cheeses, olives, oils, biscuits, cocoa, pasta and others.

He stated that no violation was recorded during the inspection tour, but certain observations were referred to the management of the cooperative and the latter immediately took corrective action.

Financial

He explained that the ministry is in charge of monitoring the financial and administrative operations of cooperative societies, as well as overseeing their boards of directors, while other government entities handle matters related to their respective jurisdictions.

He urged the public and the shareholders to submit their complaints to the relevant authority. He said reports about spoiled, damaged or expired food fall under the purview of PAFN, while complaints regarding price increases or discrepancies must be submitted to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and comments related to licensing are submitted to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry or Kuwait Municipality. He added that labor-related issues between cooperative societies and their employees fall under the jurisdiction of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM).

He went on to say that in case serious financial or administrative violations

are confirmed, the Ministry of Social Affairs shall take legal action to dismiss or dissolve the boards of directors, and then appoint a new board to correct the path of the concerned cooperative.

He affirmed that several cooperative societies have started amending their operating methods and adhering to proper procedures.

Importance

He stressed the importance of preserving the cooperative sector, considering it is a vital economic and social institution and a unique system in the region. He pointed out that the funds of the cooperative societies belong to the shareholders and that their services are for those residing in the areas where they are located.

He asserted that the Ministry of Social Affairs is open to the idea of developing the management of central markets, operational methods of supermarkets and related investments, while affirming the issuance of a new regulation (no. 196/2026), which will be implemented once the electronic platform is completed ahead of schedule.

On the other hand, Dr. Saud Al-Jalal, Director General for Inspection and Control Affairs at PAFN, said that the inspection tour was conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs to strengthen cooperation between the two entities and to ensure the safety of food products offered to the public and those stored in the cooperative societies.

He disclosed that the inspection tour included assessing the warehouses, verifying food preservation and storage methods, and inspecting the area designated for storing spoiled goods to ensure its separation from the area designated for food preparation.

He confirmed that some minor violations were recorded and addressed, and the administration of the cooperative vowed not to repeat such violations. He said the inspectors will visit the cooperative again within three days to ensure full compliance with the regulations.

He urged the consumers to report food safety concerns to PAFN through its hotline or the "Tawasul" platform.

Meanwhile, inspectors from the Hawally Governorate Inspection Department at PAFN inspected many food establishments.

This resulted in the issuance of 11 violation citations and disposal of 96 kilograms of adulterated meat product and those whose origin is unknown. Other violations are failure to comply with health and sanitation regulations and some employees have no health certificates.



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Repeat road

Kuwait targets

According to informed sources, the government is prioritizing direct investment in the local aviation sector due to a significant gap that presents Kuwait with a real challenge. Neighboring countries are leading a massive investment boom, including multi-billion-dollar airport expan-

Kuwait, South Korea

Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also met on Tuesday with South Korea's National Security Advisor Wi

Kuwait applauds

Kuwait draws

He stressed the need for considerable insight into the economic and social impacts of the law, particularly on

that addressing the phenomenon has gone through several stages, including the Commercial Law No. 68/1980,

Al-Haraz said the total number of beneficiaries reached 258,395 individuals and 212,186 of whom are Kuwaitis (82.1 percent) and 46,209 are non-Kuwaitis (17.9 percent). He emphasized that disclosing the beneficial owner does not rectify the violation, and that disclosing a beneficial owner who is legally prohibited from engaging in any economic activity does not grant them the right to do so. He added that disclosing the beneficial owner does not constitute a license, lifts the prohibition or alters the terms of ownership, as it rather reveals the actual state of ownership or control.

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America

Crews make progress against Nevada wildfire: Crews have started to contain a wildfire in the Sierra Nevada foothills near Reno, Nevada, that destroyed more than 30 homes as it spread perilously close to dense neighborhoods, officials said Monday.



Zumstein

Firefighters are also contending with hot temperatures and low humidity. At least 32 homes have burned and six are damaged, but authorities said those numbers are sure to rise as assessment teams begin to survey the charred areas. (AP)

□ □ □

Indiana homes still without power after storms: Things became all-too familiar for Kimya Williams after storms rumbled through Gary, Indiana, earlier this month leaving big chunks of the mostly-Black city in the dark for two weeks.

The power outage reminded the 50-year-old of what she experienced in New Orleans in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina knocked out electricity to many.

Williams' home was one of more than 38,300 homes and businesses in Gary to lose power from the Aug. 11 storms. She initially tried to stick it out and stay put, but the darkness got the best of her and Williams' left for Indianapolis to stay with her children. (AP)

US set for largest mass visa revocation in history targeting up to 200,000 foreigners

WASHINGTON, Aug 25, (AP): The Trump administration is preparing to revoke the business and tourism visas of up to 200,000 foreigners who have applied for or are currently seeking asylum status in the United States. If it happens, the move would be the largest single mass revocation of visas in US history and would likely face legal challenges.

Unless challenged or revised, the State Department is expected to announce in the coming weeks the revocation of so-called B1 and B2 visas issued between 2016 and 2026 whose holders have sought asylum or are now seeking asylum, according to State Department documents obtained by The Associated Press and two US officials. The action will be taken in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security.

"We are coordinating with DHS to identify and revoke the nonimmigrant visas of foreigners who have come to the United States claiming to be short-term visitors, but then file for asylum to stay here permanently," said State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott.



US President Donald Trump walks past Secretary of State Marco Rubio as he arrives for a roundtable on the American mining industry on Aug 7, at the State Department in Washington. (AP)

He declined to comment on the number of visas that might be revoked, saying "as the process will be ongoing, the number of revocations remains dynamic and will be done on a rolling basis."

The revocations would not necessarily result in their immediate deportation, the officials said. Most of those with asylum cases currently pending would be recategorized but

would lose their status as business or tourism travelers, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the revocations are not final yet.

Since President Donald Trump took office for his second term last year, his administration has steadily ramped up restrictions on visa applicants - demanding more information about their social media histories, requiring the posting of expensive bonds for the processing of visas, and outright banning the issuance of visas to citizens of certain countries.

In a social media post on Monday, Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau called out people who he said try to use tourist and business visas to get into the United States and then apply for asylum.

"People in the US and all over the world are fed up with bogus asylum claims," Landau wrote on X. "Asylum isn't supposed to be a loophole to circumvent immigration law." Landau cited the case of a Colombian citizen who came to the US in 2015 on a tourist visa and then applied for asylum.

Decision a 'painful setback': New York Attorney General James

Supreme Court sides with WH on mail voting restrictions ahead of midterms

WASHINGTON, Aug 25, (AP): The Supreme Court opened a path for possible implementation of US President Donald Trump's executive order restricting mail-in voting, though it remains unclear how much can be put in place before the fast-approaching midterm elections.

The decision leaves room for additional court challenges that could further slow Trump's order, and other similar cases have already been filed. The US Postal Service laid out how it would implement the order last week, but time is running short to impose major changes. North Carolina is sending out ballots Sept. 4 overseas and to military voters, and other states will quickly follow suit in just a few weeks.

The Supreme Court's conservative majority didn't decide the legality of Trump's order, instead ruling that states who sued did not have the legal right to challenge it.

While the emergency order is not final, it does have the potential to create chaos around voting across the country, with Trump often questioning the

integrity of elections and the nation's highest court again the possible arbiter of a political controversy.

"The Court's disposition of this application does not mean that any measure taken by the Government to implement the Order will necessarily be lawful. On that score, time will tell," the majority wrote in an unsigned order.

The three liberal-leaning justices publicly dissented, with Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson writing that the rule "lets another shoe drop in the Kafkaesque nightmare that our precedents have been steadily creating for certain plaintiffs who seek to bring election-related challenges."

New York Attorney General Letitia James foreshadowed more legal fights ahead, calling the decision a "painful setback" but vowing it would "not be the final word."

The court's order opens a path for the administration to begin action to restrict mail voting, but it also could lead to further litigation that could freeze the federal government again.

"This is just the first inning of a



An election worker places a vote-by-mail ballot into a secure bin at the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections Office during the Florida primary election in Doral, Fla., on Aug 18. (AP)

very fast nine-inning game," said Derek Muller, a law professor at Notre Dame University.

Mail balloting has long been a favorite target for Trump, who has claimed that it breeds fraud despite

strong evidence to the contrary and his own use of the voting method.

Trump's executive order, signed in March, calls on his administration to create lists of eligible voters and orders the U.S. Postal Service to

deliver mail ballots only to people on those lists. New requirements released Friday would forbid the Postal Service from sending mail ballots from any state that does not comply with Trump's order.

A Postal Service spokesperson did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. The White House did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Democratic officials in 23 states and the District of Columbia sued to block the order. They argued that the Constitution gives states and Congress the power to run elections, and Trump's changes could lead to chaos and partisan abuse.

"The consequences of allowing such transformative changes to take effect so close to this fall's elections would be extreme," attorneys for the states wrote. Dozens of state and local election officials weighed in, asking the justices to leave the order frozen while election preparations are already underway.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Mon-

day the order was aimed at making it "harder for Americans to vote" in the pivotal elections for control of Congress, and vowed that Democrats would "fight every attempt to hijack mail-in voting and rig the rules before voters have their say this November."

A judge in Massachusetts blocked the plan for the midterm elections in those states. An appeals court upheld her decision. She later granted a second order blocking it nationwide in a separate case, another remaining stumbling block for the Trump administration, which Monday night asked her to void or suspend it in light of the Supreme Court ruling.

The Justice Department appealed to the Supreme Court on procedural grounds in late July, arguing that the states sued too soon. They also pointed to another ruling out of Washington, where a judge allowed Trump's order to proceed. An appeals court backed that decision, while still leaving room for future court action if the changes are implemented.

Tornado tears through French village, 39 injured

PARIS, Aug 25, (AP): A tornado ravaged a small village in southern France, leaving dozens injured, local authorities said Tuesday.

Rescue teams were continuing their search after the tornado left the village of Pomas in ruins.

Marie-Hélène Bouissac, the deputy head of the local government office, confirmed a total of 39 people were injured, including two in critical condition.

No missing persons have been reported so far. Some 300 homes were damaged and emergency accommodation centers have been opened to relocate residents. The Aude prefecture said 1,400 households were still without electricity on Tuesday morning.

The tornado wreaked havoc in the village of 1,000 inhabitants, reducing homes to rubble and destroying numerous cars.

The region was under a thunderstorm alert at the time and wind gusts exceeding 100 kilometers per hour (62 miles per hour) were recorded at a nearby meteorological station. The third stage of the Vuelta a Espana bike race, which was held in southern France on Monday, was halted because of hail.

According to Meteo France, the national weather agency, a few dozen tornadoes occur each year in mainland France, most of them of low intensity.



A tornado damaged about 300 homes and injured dozens of people in southern France on Aug 24. (AP)

Denmark PM blasts unsolicited beauty advice from plastic surgeon on IG

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Aug 25, (AP): Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen is fed up with getting unsolicited beauty advice.

The 48-year-old wrote Monday on Instagram that she had just returned back home from a trip to Ukraine, where she was exposed to air raid sirens in the ongoing war, only to find a message by a plastic surgeon offering her to "fix that little spot on your nose."

"I've lost count of how many messages I've received over the years about my appearance," Frederiksen wrote. "Especially that I have ugly teeth and thin hair. That I have an ugly 'wart' on my nose and well-meaning advice to get some Botox."

The prime minister of the Nordic country posted a screen shot of the plastic surgeon's offer on Instagram but without identifying him.

She also posted her response: "Oh no, I'm happy with my body - I really don't need a male plastic surgeon to have an opinion about it!"

Frederiksen, a Social Democrat and Denmark's second female prime minister, is now in her third term, making her one of Europe's longest-serving and most experienced leaders. She has led the European Union and NATO member country since mid-2019.



Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen speaks to members of her Social Democratic Party in the Danish Parliament in Copenhagen, Denmark, after the General Election on March 24. (AP)

She has pledged to maintain a firm stance against US President Donald Trump's ambitions for Greenland, the kingdom's semiautonomous territory, and continue supporting Ukraine against Russia's war of aggression.

On Instagram, Frederiksen stressed that she does not interfere with other people's looks and that "I'm perfectly fine with my body - as it is when you're a woman approaching 50."

She added that "if you're going to write to me (and you're more than welcome to), I hope you'll use your time to talk about something more meaningful. Not my nose."

The prime minister also said that those unsolicited beauty tips and suggestions made her feel "indignant" and that "today, I'm sending an extra loving thought to all of you who have to put up with the 'perfect imperfections' we all walk around with every day."

UK to help Ukraine make long-range missiles by sharing classified tech info

LONDON, Aug 25, (AP): British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said Monday that the UK will help Ukraine make its own long-range missiles by sharing classified technical information for British components.

Burnham, who was in Kyiv alongside other international leaders for Ukraine's Independence Day, said defense firm MBDA will release details on UK-made parts for the SCALP missile to Ukraine to help the country assemble the weapons.

However, experts say that won't result in operational missiles soon - or address Ukraine's most pressing needs in its war against Russia's full-scale invasion.

Here's what to know about the missiles and how significant the announcement is for Ukraine:

The SCALP missile is the French-produced version of the UK's Storm Shadow, an air-launched, high-precision missile with a range of more than 250 kilometers (155 miles). Both use shared French and British technology.

Measuring 5.1 meters (16.7 feet), the missile is hard to detect and is designed to hit fixed or stationary targets such as hardened bunkers and key infrastructure, according to MBDA. The defense firm says the missile uses an advanced navigation system and is exceptionally accurate.

Storm Shadow and SCALP missiles are in service with the British, French and Italian air forces, as well as other export countries. They have been used in conflicts in Iraq, Libya and Syria.

Ukraine is already in talks with France, which recently agreed to help set up assembly lines for the missiles in Ukraine so that Kyiv can produce its own version of the weapons. It is not known how far advanced the plans are, or when such missiles may become operational.

"Any impact ... will in part depend on how quickly Ukrainian-assembled SCALP cruise missiles can be introduced into service," said Douglas Barrie, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Arun Dawson, a researcher at the Freeman Air and Space Institute at King's College London, said the news won't help Ukraine through this winter and likely won't start having an effect until next year, at the earliest.

"What Ukraine needs is protection from Russian ballistic missile attacks," he said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday that his



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Britain's Prime Minister Andy Burnham shake hands after signing a partnership deal on AI following a bilateral meeting at Horodetskyi House in Kyiv on Aug 24. (AP)

country is receiving substantially fewer Patriot defense systems, even as Russian ballistic attacks are increasing. The shortfall is particularly serious because the United States and European partners are struggling to expand production.

What a SCALP missile can do, Dawson said, is equip Ukraine with deep strike offensive ability. "You can use it to take out the Russian sites from which they are launching these ballistic missiles," he said.

Matthew Savill, director of military sciences at London's Royal United Services Institute, noted that Ukrainian development of its own ballistic and cruise missiles will complement the mass firepower it can launch using drones, which are relatively slow and not that stealthy.

A weapon like a SCALP missile "has a sophisticated warhead and strikes the target at a velocity that means it can penetrate hardened structures and destroy buried targets in a way a slower drone without such a warhead is unable to do, at present," Savill said.

The British announcement on Monday drew fire from Russia. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov accused the UK of "fanning the flame" of the war on Kyiv's side - a claim Burnham swiftly dismissed.

"Who started the fire?" Burnham asked reporters Monday.

Britain became the first country to supply longer-range strike weapons to Ukraine in 2023 when it donated a number of Storm Shadow missiles to Kyiv. The missiles gave Ukraine capacity to strike targets in Russia well behind the front lines, as well as in Russian-occupied Crimea.

The UK is also helping Ukraine develop low-cost strike weapons in other ways.

Also:

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree allowing the government to temporarily take control of critical infrastructure if private owners fail to protect it from Ukrainian drone attacks or rebuild it after strikes, apparently the latest indication that Moscow is feeling the strain of war.

Russia is facing economic and political pressure due to months of escalating, deep and increasingly accurate Ukrainian strikes. Kyiv has used domestically developed long-range drones to target vital oil facilities, triggering fuel shortages that Putin publicly admitted, and major commercial hubs, embarrassing the Russian leadership.

Ukraine has also reeled from relentless Russian aerial attacks that have smashed its power grid ahead of winter and heavily damaged homes, as Russia's invasion stretches into its fifth year.

Armed men ambush patrol in South Sudan and kill 2 UN peacekeepers

US urges new UN sanctions to spur rivals in Sudan to negotiate end to war

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 25, (AP): The United States is urging beefed-up UN sanctions against the warring parties in Sudan to build pressure on them to negotiate an end to the fighting that has killed at least 59,000 people, displaced some 13 million and pushed many parts of the African nation into famine.

President Donald Trump’s senior adviser for Arab and African affairs, Massad Boulos, told the UN Security Council on Monday that financial, military and political support given to either the government forces or the rival paramilitary group, Rapid Support Forces, remains a driver of the conflict, now in its fourth year.

Boulos did not name any countries providing that support. Egypt has been a vocal supporter of Sudan’s military, while the United Arab Emirates is accused by UN experts and human rights groups of providing arms to the RSF, which it has repeatedly denied.

He said the Security Council has the tools to curtail the provision of “a tremendous and increasing amount of military support to both warring parties” from “numerous external actors.”

UN-backed human rights investigators two years ago called for the expansion of an arms embargo on Sudan’s long-restive western Darfur region - scene of mass atrocities between 2003 and 2005 - to cover the entire country.

Boulos said a proposed US resolution before the UN Security Council would expand the arms embargo throughout Sudan. It also would apply “to all parties operating in the territory” and reaffirm that drones and related technologies are part of the arms embargo.

Experts say Sudan’s army and the RSF are competing to obtain new drone models. Rights groups have said the use of unmanned aircraft has become increasingly common in the northeast African nation’s war.

The US draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, deplors “the continuous influx of external military assistance, weapons, and ammunition to the warring parties, which is prolonging the conflict and undermining mediation efforts,”



Fighters of armed defectors from the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) celebrate, as they are believed to be surrendering to the Sudanese army, in the west of Omdurman, just outside Khartoum, Sudan on Aug 19. (AP)

including launching drones and unmanned aerial systems from third countries.

The proposed resolution demands that all countries “cease any direct or indirect support to the warring parties, be it logistical, financial or military, which enables conflict to continue.”

The conflict exploded from a power struggle that emerged following Sudan’s transition to democracy

after an uprising forced the military ouster of longtime autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

Tensions boiled over three years later between Sudan’s military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, who chairs the ruling sovereign council, and RSF commander Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who was Burhan’s deputy.

Burhan said Monday that new sanctions would not deter his troops from carrying on with their war until all RSF-controlled areas are captured, according to the army-controlled SUNA news agency.

UN political chief Rosemary DiCarlo told the Security Council that despite numerous diplomatic efforts to get government and paramilitary leaders to start negotiations and end hostilities, “the parties remain locked in a zero-sum military logic.”

“Greater international attention and action are urgently needed for them to change that calculus,” she said.

Also:
JUBA, South Sudan: Armed men ambushed a patrol traveling to a remote area of South Sudan on Monday, killing two U.N. peacekeepers, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan said. Though violence is rampant in the African country, attacks against peacekeepers are rare.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Seven others were wounded - three peacekeepers, two members of the South Sudanese police and two civilian staffers, the mission known as UNMISS said in a statement. The two peacekeepers killed and three injured were from Ethiopia, U.N. spokesperson **Stéphane Dujarric** said.

The mission said it had deployed a “Quick Reaction Force” to secure the area and support the emergency response after the attack. The patrol was going to the area of **Pajut** in the state of **Jonglei** when it came under attack.

“Such deadly violence targeting UNMISS personnel who are serving to support peace in South Sudan is unacceptable,” **Anita Kiki Gbeho**, the head of UNMISS, said in the statement.

Africa

S.Africa police arrest 4 in boxer's killing: Four suspects in the killing of former world champion boxer **Zolani Tete** were arrested, South African police said Monday.

Tete was in his car outside his home last week when men wearing balaclavas opened fire, police said. A woman who was in the vehicle was injured and has since been hospitalized.



Tete

Tete held the World Boxing Federation flyweight title from 2007 to 2008 and the World Boxing Organization bantamweight title in 2017 and 2019. (AP)

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Eastern Libya executes 10: Authorities in eastern Libya said they executed 10 people after their conviction by military courts on terrorism-related charges.

The executions, announced Sunday, triggered condemnations by rights groups in the North African country that is divided between rival administrations, each backed by a set of militias and foreign governments.

The office of the military prosecutor in eastern Libya said the 10 people were executed by firing squad after yearslong trials. The office is overseen by the self-styled Libyan National Army, which is commanded by powerful Gen. Khalifa Hifter and controls the eastern and southern parts of Libya.

The people were convicted of charges ranging from joint terrorist groups to assassinations of military personnel and civilians, the office said in a statement.

The statement didn’t provide further details about the charges, and when or where the executions took place, but said they were executed after “all legal procedures” were concluded. (AP)

BOGOTA, Colombia, Aug 25, (AP): Colombian President Abelardo de la Escriella has promised to deport thousands of migrants who are in the country without residence permits, mainly Venezuelans, as he attempts to make significant changes to the nation’s immigration policies that he says will reduce crime.

De la Escriella, who was sworn into office three weeks ago, said that he would order the country’s national immigration service to conduct raids with Colombian police as early as this week. He announced the new policy in a video released on Sunday night in his X account where he spoke of multiple measures to reduce crime and confront criminal groups.

The ultra conservative leader, who is closely aligned with the US President Donald Trump, said that law enforcement will first target migrants who are “committing crimes” and then, those who are living in the country without regular status.

“I will not accept any illegal immigrants, wherever they come from,” de la Escriella said in the video. “They will have to leave and be deported. It is a political decision I am taking responsibility for.”

Most migrants living in Colombia come from neighboring Venezuela, a



Colombia's President Abelardo de la Escriella salutes after taking the oath of office in Cali, Colombia on Aug 7. (AP)

nation that lost about a fifth of its population over the past decade as Venezuelans fled a repressive regime that oversaw years of economic turmoil, and a 75% contraction in the nation’s GDP.

Around 2.8 million Venezuelans were living in Colombia as of August, according to the United Nations, making it the largest Venezuelan diaspora. In July, Colombia’s national

immigration service said that it had granted temporary residence permits to about 2.3 million Venezuelans under a scheme rolled out in 2021 by then President Ivan Duque during the peak of Venezuela’s immigration crisis.

De la Escriella’s effort to deport migrants who have no regular status marks a major shift for Colombia, which had long worked to protect in-

coming Venezuelans and grant them a pathway towards permanent residency.

Ana Karina García, director of Juntos Se Puede, an organization that helps Venezuelan migrants in Colombia, said that the Colombian government stopped handing out new temporary residency permits three years ago. She said that de la Escriella’s incoming administration should expand pathways to legal residency, instead of punishing people who cannot obtain residency permits.

“We understand that the president wants to protect Colombians,” she said. “But there is no need to protect them from migrants. It has been proven that foreigners do not commit crimes at greater rates” than the local population.

Arles Pereda, the president of an association that represents Venezuelans in Bogotá, said the announcement worried him, because new groups of Venezuelans displaced by the twin earthquakes that rocked the country in June have been arriving in Colombia to seek opportunities.

“The doors seem to be closing,” Pereda said. “Not just in Colombia, but also in Chile, Peru and Ecuador,” where conservative leaders have also made it harder for Venezuelan migrants to get residency permits.

Gang coalition unleashes violent new attack on farming community in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Aug 25, (AP): A powerful gang coalition attacked a once peaceful farming community nestled in the hills above Haiti’s capital, killing multiple people, an official told The Associated Press on Monday.

Kenscoff Mayor Jean Massillon said armed men raided the community late Sunday, setting fire to homes and killing residents.

“It is still impossible to establish a definitive death toll due to access difficulties and communication problems,” he said.

Wails filled the air in Kenscoff as survivors found the bodies of friends and family strewn on the streets early Monday.

“They killed my son!” one woman kept yelling as people nearby tried to comfort her.

One man flung himself on the side of the road, head on his right arm as he cried on the ground. Nearby, people picked up the bodies of those killed, some wrapped in blood-spattered sheets.

Robert Jean recalled how he heard shooting before dawn and tried to rouse people from their sleep to escape being killed. He said he was frantically looking for his brother, who was killed: “I was calling to see if everyone was safe. I could not find my brother.”

Another Kenscoff resident blamed the government for the killings.

“If only we had a good police force that would have placed an armored truck here, what happened here would have been prevented,” said Verti Enold-Saint as he lifted a sheet over the body of his brother-in-law.

Farmer Mathurin Pierre, 41, told AP that he lost 14 loved ones and that an unknown number remain missing.

Massillon blamed the attack on members of Viv Ansanm, which the U.S. government designated as a foreign terrorist organization last year.

“They sowed chaos,” Massillon said.

He said gang members targeted a church and homes including those owned by Dr. Jean “Bill” Pape. He is a renowned doctor who runs a non-governmental organization in Haiti that helps patients including those with HIV and tuberculosis.

Haiti’s Office of Citizen Protection issued a statement decrying the massacre, saying dozens of people, including “numerous” young Haitians,



Residents try to flip over a car to block a street as they protest for police intervention after deadly gang attacks in the Kenscoff neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Aug 24. (AP)

were killed.

Vladimir Paraison, director of Haiti’s National Police, visited the area and defended police officers as journalists pressed for answers.

“The police never lowered their arms,” he said. “Look at how many police officers are here; the response is in front of you.”

Jean Fritz Patterson Dorval, head of Port-au-Prince’s prosecutor’s office, also came under pressure. He said there are eight armored vehicles in Kenscoff, adding that “there are technical responses that only the mayor and the police can answer.”

No further details about the attack were available. A spokesperson for the U.N.-backed gang suppression force did not return a message seeking comment.

Haiti’s government issued a statement condemning what it called a heinous criminal attack. “Reinforcements are being deployed,” it said. “Kenscoff will not be abandoned.”

It said that security forces were ordered to pursue those responsible. “The population must remain confident,” the government said, adding that it would not back down.

Gangs control an estimated 70% of Port-au-Prince, the capital, with Viv Ansanm repeatedly targeting nearby Kenscoff.

Gang violence has displaced a record 1.5 million people across Haiti,

where more than 3,100 people were reported killed from January to June and another 1,189 injured, according to U.N. statistics.

The attack comes less than a week after the U.S. government deported more than 160 people to the troubled Caribbean country for the first time since the Trump administration won a legal battle to end Temporary Protected Status for some 350,000 Haitians.

Haiti’s government has said some of the deportees included TPS holders. The US Department of Homeland Security said Monday in a statement to the AP that those deported Friday included several gang members with criminal records ranging from assault to drug trafficking.

Haiti is scheduled to hold general elections for the first time in more than a decade on Dec. 13, and it has been registering voters in Port-au-Prince and beyond. Experts have warned it’s currently too dangerous to hold elections.

Albert Ramdin, secretary general of the Organization of American States, said during a trip to Haiti that the country needs help fighting gangs and seizing back territory as it prepares to hold general elections for the first time in more than a decade.

Ramdin spoke as he concluded a trip to the troubled Caribbean country, where he met with the prime minister and other officials.

Lat/Am

Peru convicts 4 men of murder-for-hire: A Peruvian court on Monday evening convicted four men of murder-for-hire and sentenced them to between 15 and 35 years in prison for the 2023 killing of Indigenous rainforest defender **Quinto Inuma Alvarado**, in a closely watched case seen as a test of accountability for violence against Indigenous and environmental defenders in the Amazon.

Genix Saboya Saboya and Limber Ríos Ruiz were each sentenced to 35 years in prison. Segundo Juan Villalobos Guevara, a timber operator whom prosecutors accused of ordering Inuma’s killing, was sentenced to 28 years and four months. Jerly Saboya Saboya, who was convicted as an accomplice, was sentenced to 15 years.

Inuma, a 50-year-old Kichwa leader, was shot and killed on Nov. 29, 2023, as he traveled by boat back to his community, Santa Rosillo de Yanayacu, in Peru’s northern Amazonian region of San Martin. He was returning from a national meeting of environmental and land defenders. A woman traveling with him was also shot and wounded.



Alvarado

The ruling came nearly 1,000 days after Inuma’s killing. Tom Younger, Peru program coordinator at the Forest Peoples Programme, called the sentences a “decisive step towards justice” and said they showed that impunity for killings of Indigenous defenders “is not inevitable.” (AP)

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US strikes vessel in Pacific, 2 dead: After a pause of more than two months, the US military announced Monday that it once again carried out a strike on a vessel in the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing two people accused of trafficking drugs.

It brings the overall death toll to 223 people killed in 67 strikes during the nearly yearlong US campaign of bombing alleged drug boats off Latin America’s Caribbean coast and in the eastern Pacific Ocean. US Southern Command says the campaign has resulted in the destruction of 64 speedboats, three “low-profile” ships and a semisubmersible craft.

The command said on social media early Monday that forces “executed a lethal kinetic strike on a low-profile vessel operating along established narco-trafficking routes in the Eastern Pacific.” The military said the strike occurred Sunday, and it marked the first since powerful back-to-back June 24 earthquakes in Venezuela killed thousands of people. (AP)

Indonesians brave smoke to pray for rain as nation battles wildfires

PALEMBANG, Indonesia, Aug 25, (AP): Authorities in Indonesia’s South Sumatra province turned to spiritual measures on Tuesday as huge blazes in central and western regions scorched wide areas of forests and peatland, creating a choking haze that blanketed some cities in the world’s most populous Muslim-majority country.

The prayer gathering in one of the regions hardest hit by this year’s wildfire season comes as the province faces prolonged dry weather that has heightened the risk of forest and peatland fires.

The latest satellite data from the Environment Ministry showed West Kalimantan recorded the highest number of hot spots with 3,120, followed by Central Kalimantan on 2,314 and South Sumatra at 1,500. Forestry Ministry data showed that nearly 940 square kilometers (363 square miles) were burned in July alone, including over 20 square kilometers (8 square miles) in South Sumatra province.

About 3,000 residents gathered in Palembang, the capital of South Sumatra province, to take part in a special Islamic prayer for rain, known as “salat istisqa.” They



Indonesian Muslims attend a prayer requesting for rain following wildfires that burn through peatlands in several regions in Sumatra and Kalimantan Island, in Palembang, South Sumatra, Indonesia on Aug 25. (AP)

prayed shoulder to shoulder in the courtyard of the governor’s office as thick smoke shrouded roads, buildings and public facilities, reducing visibility and forcing motorists to drive with their headlights on during the day.

“We have done everything we can and worked closely with all relevant parties,” Gov. Herman Deru said be-

fore the prayer. “As people of faith, we are also praying to God to send rain so that life can return to normal.”

He also said the public prayer would complement ongoing fire-fighting and drought-mitigation measures and serve as a moment for residents to unite in confronting the environmental challenges facing the province.

Kuwait oil price down to \$92.65 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Tuesday Kuwait crude oil price declined by USD 1.06 yesterday from USD 93.71 per barrel in Friday trading. Similarly, Brent futures price went down by USD 2.22 to USD 92.17 pb and West Texas Intermediate by USD 2.02 to USD 85.01 pb.

Kuwait, Oman highlight sustainability

Arab Social Responsibility Network joins Brazil-Arab Economic Forum

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: A delegation from the Regional Network for Social Responsibility participated in the Brazil-Arab States Economic Forum, held in São Paulo, Brazil, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This is part of the regional role that the network plays in promoting social responsibility, building development partnerships, and linking sustainability to economic and investment pathways.

Ambassador for Community Partnership and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Awazem Charitable Foundation Hamad Zaid Saud Al-Bsais from Kuwait and Dr. Hamed Al-Balushi from the Sultanate of Oman represented the network at the forum.

The participation of the network in this international economic platform is an extension of its efforts to promote Arab-international dialogue, disseminate institutional practices based on governance and sustainability principles, and highlight the importance of social responsibility in building balanced economic partnerships.



Ambassador for Community Partnership and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Awazem Charitable Foundation Hamad Zaid Saud Al-Bsais from Kuwait and Dr. Hamed Al-Balushi from the Sultanate of Oman.

This participation also reflects the active Gulf and Arab presence at the forum, and underscores the role of Kuwait and Oman in supporting

economic and developmental cooperation that serves common interests and enhances investment opportunities and sustainable development.

Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. releases 2025 Sustainability Report

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW) today released its 2025 Sustainability Report, marking the company's third consecutive year of sustainability reporting and reaffirming its commitment to responsible business practices, transparency, and long-term value creation. The report highlights AAW's sustainability efforts and progress across four key focus areas: Business & Market Presence, People and Social Impact, Responsible Governance, and Environmental Footprint, showcasing initiatives that support organizational performance and strengthen the company's positive impact. Prepared in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards 2021, the report reflects AAW's commitment to enhancing disclosure practices and embedding sustainability principles across its business.

AAW Chairman and CEO, Mr. Faisal Ali Al Mutawa, said: "As we move forward, we will continue strengthening our sustainability practices while maintaining our focus on operational excellence and responsible growth. By integrating sustainability into how we manage our people, our resources, and our relationships, we aim to create long-term value for our stakeholders and contribute positively to the communities we serve."

As part of its efforts to promote sustainability in the workplace, AAW continued to foster a culture of quality and operational excellence, achieving a 94% compliance rate with food safety standards and brand requirements while maintaining internationally recognized quality standards, including ISO 9001:2015 certification. These efforts were reflected in the customer ex-



perience, with the company achieving a Customer Satisfaction Index (CSAT) score of 4.21 out of 5, in addition to a customer service satisfaction rate exceeding 76%.

In the area of community impact, AAW continued to invest in developing its human resources, delivering 5,069.89 training hours during 2025, an 85% increase compared to the previous reporting period. The percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews also increased by 15%, while employee turnover declined by 25%, reflecting the company's efforts to provide a supportive and stable work environment. AAW also invested KD 1.7 million in community initiatives and programs supporting a range of social, educational, and humanitarian causes across Kuwait, reflecting its commitment to creating a positive and sustainable impact on society.

The company continued to strengthen its corporate governance practices, with women representing 44.44% of

its Board of Directors. The company also recorded no material compliance violations or customer data breaches, reflecting the strength of its governance framework and its commitment to responsible business practices, while reinforcing information security and stakeholder trust.

As part of its efforts to enhance environmental sustainability, the company recorded reductions across several major emission sources, including 28.69% in vehicle fuel consumption emissions, 18.76% in facility fuel consumption emissions, and 16.37% in business travel emissions, reflecting its ongoing efforts to reduce its environmental impact. Recycling initiatives also contributed to avoiding 146.42 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e) emissions, reinforcing the company's commitment to improving resource efficiency and advancing sustainable practices.

The 2025 Sustainability Report can be viewed and downloaded at aaw.com/sustainability.

Business

With selective growth opportunities

Markaz expects GCC real estate markets to remain stable in H2

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Kuwait Financial Centre 'Markaz' has released its latest Real Estate Outlook: H2 2026 report, offering a comprehensive analysis of real estate market performance across Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

The latest outlook examines how real estate markets across Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE performed during H1 2026 and assesses the key trends expected to shape market activity through the remainder of the year. It finds that while geopolitical tensions, elevated construction costs, and tighter financing conditions have moderated market momentum across the GCC, real estate markets remain fundamentally resilient.

Markaz expects GCC real estate markets to remain in a stable phase during H2 2026, supported by resilient macroeconomic fundamentals despite softer momentum compared with H1 2026. Continued policymaking, infrastructure investment, population growth, and economic diversification are expected to drive long-term demand, while office and industrial and logistics assets are expected to emerge as the strongest-performing sectors across the region.

Kuwait: Stability Supported by Government Reforms

Kuwait's real estate market remained stable during H1 2026 despite softer investment activity, with total real estate sales declining 5.9% year-on-year while transactions increased 1.7%, reflecting resilient underlying demand.

Residential transactions also rose 7.5% year-on-year, supported in part by government housing initiatives and an expanding housing pipeline of more than 140,000 planned housing units, while investment real estate continued to benefit from its role as an inflation hedge amid regional uncertainty.

Looking ahead, Markaz expects Kuwait's real estate market to maintain its stability during H2 2026, reflected in its Macro Index score of 3.0 out of 5.0. Housing reforms, vacant land regulations, and investor residency initiatives are expected to strengthen long-

term market fundamentals, while commercial and logistics sectors continue to benefit from strategic infrastructure projects. Commercial real estate sales increased 34.4% year-on-year, indicating continued demand across the segment.

Saudi Arabia: Steady Growth Backed by Structural Demand

Saudi Arabia's real estate market continues to present attractive opportunities across key asset classes, supported by Vision 2030 initiatives, foreign ownership reforms, and continued demand generated by the Regional Headquarters (RHQ) Program. Riyadh's Grade A office market continues to outperform, with occupancy remaining around 98% and prime office rents increasing 5.5% year-on-year, supported by more than 700 RHQ relocations, surpassing the Kingdom's Vision 2030 target.

Industrial and logistics assets also continue to demonstrate strong momentum, with industrial rents increasing by 9.9% in Dammam and 5.3% in Jeddah across key hubs. The sector continues to benefit from trade-route reconfiguration and sustained non-oil economic activity, while retail fundamentals remain healthy, with super-regional retail rents in Jeddah increasing 13.0% year-on-year as experience-led destinations continue to attract consumer demand.

Based on these trends and a Markaz Macro Index score of 3.3 out of 5.0, Saudi Arabia's real estate market is expected to remain in a stable phase during H2 2026 with selective growth opportunities across key asset classes. The residential market is undergoing an affordability reset while rental demand remains resilient.

Vision 2030 initiatives, foreign ownership reforms and continued RHQ demand are expected to continue supporting office and logistics assets, with Grade A offices, logistics facilities, affordable housing and tourism-linked developments expected to remain among the strongest-performing segments.

UAE: Strong Fundamentals Support a More Measured Growth Phase

The UAE real estate market re-

mains strong despite moderating activity following recent regional geopolitical tensions. The market is transitioning towards a more measured pace of growth following a prolonged period of expansion. While Dubai's residential market is cooling, Abu Dhabi continues to record healthy demand, with residential transaction values, for example, reaching approximately AED 44 billion during Q1 2026.

Office and industrial and logistics assets remain the market's strongest-performing segments, with Dubai's prime office rents increasing 17.2% year-on-year, alongside Grade A and Grade B rent growth of 19.0% and 23.4%, respectively. Abu Dhabi office occupancy reached 98%, and industrial rental growth reached 18.2% across the emirate's key industrial hubs, reflecting sustained occupier demand and continued investment in strategic industries.

Looking ahead, based on a Markaz Macro Index score of 3.4 out of 5.0, the UAE real estate market is expected to remain consistent during H2 2026 despite moderating activity. Policy reforms supporting wider foreign ownership and industrial development continue to enhance the UAE's long-term investment attractiveness.

As GCC real estate markets transition from a period of rapid expansion towards more sustainable growth, investors are expected to increasingly favor high-quality office assets, logistics facilities and residential markets supported by structural demand rather than broad-based market appreciation. Despite near-term geopolitical and macroeconomic challenges, strong economic fundamentals, government reforms across Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE continue to strengthen market resilience and enhance long-term investment attractiveness.

Through its latest Real Estate Outlook report, Markaz reinforces its position as a leading provider of regional investment research and market intelligence, providing investors with research-driven insights into the evolving dynamics shaping GCC real estate markets.

US dollar steady at KD 0.306, euro dips 0.42%

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): The US dollar held steady against the Kuwaiti dinar on Tuesday at KD 0.306, while the euro slipped 0.42% to KD 0.357 from the previous session.

In its daily bulletin, the Central Bank of Kuwait reported that the British pound was unchanged at

KD 0.418. The Swiss franc declined 0.42% to KD 0.381, and the Japanese yen remained flat at KD 0.002.

The central bank noted that the published rates are daily averages and do not represent actual buying and selling prices in the market.

Trump admin says era of 'negotiable' US enforcement is over

US launches 'economic onslaught' against Iran

WASHINGTON, Aug 25, (KUNA): The US is launching an economic onslaught against Iran's financial connections around the globe, said US Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent on Monday.

"Around the globe, our objective is to sever every economic lifeline that sustains this tyrannical regime until Tehran stands alone," he added in a news conference.

"Iran's fanatics devote themselves to death to America and seek nuclear weapons to do just that. America is no longer managing the Iranian threat. We are ending it."

He pointed out that "Iran now faces a very clear choice, with only two paths before them: complete global isolation and subsistence economy, or a path back to normalcy with an opportunity to rejoin the global economy."

"Today, we are launching Operation Economic Outcast to foreclose every other option available to the Iranian regime.

Treasury has mapped every node, every facilitator, and every network that Iran has used to smuggle oil and evade sanctions.

"Beginning today, the actions of Treasury and other agencies will tighten the noose and block every potential source of revenue that funds the IRGC and the evil Iranian regime. We are enforcing a zero-leakage approach."

There will be no minimal breathing space for the regime to rebuild its capacity to inflict terror against America and the world, he added.

The final refuge of this regime is a mistaken conclusion of nations that still finance the Iranian threat in the hopes of evading it.

It is no longer acceptable to oper-



The Iranian newspaper Hamshahri is displayed at a newsstand with headline in Farsi: "Iran's economic doctrine became militarized," and an image of the country's Supreme National Security Council secretary Mohsen Rezaei in downtown Tehran, Iran, Monday, Aug. 24, 2026. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

ate in the gray spaces of this conflict, countries cannot claim they are blind to enabling this activity, he stated.

Iran's enablers purchase, transport its petroleum. They facilitate the flow of its finances through exchange houses and free trade zones. They welcome Iran's flights and maintain registries on its behalf. They turn a blind eye to seaborne fuel transfers and overland transits. They condone illicit use of their banks, all the while concealing the extent of their complicity.

He went to say that the "president is making phone calls to world leaders with specific requests to cease their interaction with the regime. We are already seeing results."

Over the weekend, comments from Iranian leadership clearly acknowledged the effect of this campaign,

and nations that facilitate any international interactions with the regime should quickly heed our message.

"Those who stand with the United States will reap the rewards of our partnership. Those who tether themselves to the Iranian regime should expect to share in the isolation of a withering regime."

Teams from Treasury, State, and the U.S. military are now meeting with their global counterparts to tell them that the United States expects action.

Every country has a defined timeline to shut down activities we have identified. If they do not take action, we will do so unilaterally through Treasury authorities.

These measures broaden secondary sanctions risk for anyone foolish enough to continue conducting

business with this regime, and will accelerate the speed with which we pursue them.

"As I speak, Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control is also sanctioning over 60 entities, individuals, and vessels around the world that enable the Iranian regime to procure illicit nuclear and missile technology, conduct cyber operations, and generate oil revenue."

For decades, this regime has drawn strength from a calculus that regards Iranian retaliation as certain, and American enforcement as negotiable, he said.

Under President Trump, that era is over. To the ordinary soldier supporting this regime, as more and more of your paychecks stop or supposedly just delayed, ask whether your commanders are leading your country to triumph or to ruin, and recall that the Berlin Wall fell when ordinary soldiers decided not to shoot at their own people. And to those who enable Tehran, do not discount the cost of testing Washington's resolve.

"We want to make clear to here today that no one is above the reach of U.S. sanctions, that if they facilitate transactions and are part of the ecosystem that turns Iranian oil into money, into repression, they will be targeted."

"We find that the best way to engage with countries is through quiet diplomacy, and we are level setting with every country to tell them our expectations."

"We know who they are; they know who they are. So when the hammer of U.S. Treasury actions falls upon them, they will have no one to blame but Themselves. So, Richard from CBS. Thank you. You said the president is calling," he concluded.

Toyota recognized as the Most Influential Automotive Brand

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L. has announced that Toyota is recognized as the Most Influential Automotive Brand in Kuwait for 2026 by Ipsos, a global leader in market research. The award was presented as part of Ipsos' inaugural "Most Influential Brands (MIB) in Kuwait 2026" study.

The MIB study, conducted by Ipsos in January 2026, surveyed 1,489 adults aged 18 and above residing in Kuwait through computer-aided personal interviews, with results weighted to census data to ensure the sample was representative of Kuwait's population. The study evaluated 98 national and global brands across 15 categories, measuring brand influence across six core dimensions: Trustworthiness, Leading Edge, Corporate Citizenship, Engagement, Utility, and Empathy.

Within the automotive sector, Toyota was identified as the leading brand, reflecting strong consumer perceptions of trust, reliability, and long-standing

presence in the Kuwaiti market. Across the overall study, trustworthiness and leading edge emerged as the strongest drivers of brand influence in Kuwait, followed by engagement and corporate citizenship — underscoring the importance Kuwaiti consumers place on brands that are dependable, innovative, and responsive to their needs.

According to Bader Faisal Al-Sayer, Senior Marketing Manager for Toyota at ALSAYER "This recognition from Ipsos is a testament to the trust the people of Kuwait continue to place in Toyota and a source of great pride for our entire team. For decades, ALSAYER has worked to bring Toyota's promise of quality, reliability, and innovation to every customer we serve."

ALSAYER Group will continue to build on this recognition by deepening its commitment to customer trust, product innovation, and community engagement across Kuwait, in line with Toyota's global vision of mobility for all.



Through KFHOnline, website, e-branches, call center, and social media

KFH offers round-the-clock e-services during the holiday

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues to provide around-the-clock banking services throughout the holiday via its mobile application, digital platforms, and strategically located self-service branches. Customers can seamlessly complete transactions and access support anytime through online channels and social media powered by advanced financial technology.

KFHOnline app features a sleek, modern design with smart banking services. KFH continues to enhance its digital offerings via the app, reaffirming its dedication to digital transformation and excellence in delivering advanced financial solutions that meet customer needs. This commitment further underscores the Bank’s successful execution of its digital transformation strategy.

KFHOnline app offers over 200 digital banking services. Key features include instantly applying for virtual prepaid cards, managing card usage limits for primary and supplementary credit cards, viewing Oasis Club membership details and miles, and making local or international transfers. Users can open additional accounts in Kuwaiti Dinars or foreign currencies without visiting a branch, view card details and PINs, activate new cards, temporarily block cards, and open gold accounts to buy, sell, or gift gold. The app also enables customers to set up deposits, add beneficiaries, check balances, request checkbooks, apply for financing, track financing obligations and installments, access investment plans, view total account and deposit summaries, manage children’s accounts, pay local telecom bills, and access numerous other features.

KFH’s hybrid branches offer a variety of services, giving customers the opportunity to access unlimited e-services through a range of digital channels. Customers can either interact directly with employees or use self-service devices and other modern technology.

KFH’s e-branches are a smart banking channel that transforms typical customer transactions into an innovative, automated experience. These branches provide highly efficient banking services, offering over 80% of what is available at traditional locations.

KFH e-branches include the XTM device, which allows direct video calls with service personnel, as well as ATMs and cash deposit machines. The cash deposit machines accept up to 200 notes per transaction.

Moreover, customers can perform a wide range of interactive banking transactions via e-branches located across Kuwait. These services include setting up Murabaha transactions; applying for credit and prepaid cards; updating personal data and phone numbers; activating bank cards; open-



ing various accounts (such as Savings, Al-Rabeh, Electron, Al-Hassad, and Gold accounts); opening term deposits; printing cheques and cards instantly; and dispensing 10-gram gold bars. Additionally, customers can buy and sell gold online, make cardless withdrawals using a QR code via the mobile app or using their Civil ID/phone number, and perform cardless cash deposits using a QR code or Civil ID, alongside many other fast, convenient, and secure banking and financing services.

Call Center

The Call Center continues to provide services around the clock, receiving customer calls, addressing their inquiries, and responding to them through a qualified and technically advanced staff. KFH also provides the automated telephone service, 1803333, which operates with the same efficiency and speed to facilitate transfers between accounts, answer inquiries about financial transactions, among other services.

Customers outside Kuwait can contact KFH’s call center from seven countries (USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Turkey and Spain) without additional fees.

To use this service customers can call from the following toll-free numbers: USA and Canada (18008188608), UK (08000148898), France (0805086620), Germany (08001817080), Spain (900905440), and Turkey (908507712154). Local tariff charges may be applied in Turkey by local Turkish telecoms companies when calling this number.

This service is free exclusively for mobiles and landlines users in the

mentioned countries only and doesn’t include the (Roaming Service).

Social media channels

KFH’s social media team remains dedicated to addressing customer inquiries and assisting them at all hours through the official social media accounts (@KFHGroup).

Money transfer and account opening

KFH successfully launched WAMD digital service, allowing customers to send and receive money instantly and for free using their mobile numbers, 24/7. Additionally, customers can request money through WAMD service by sharing or scanning a QR code from the KFHOnline app. This app also allows customers to transfer funds from their local Knet bank accounts directly to their credit and prepaid cards.

KFH also successfully launched the D-POS device for account opening, the first-of-its-kind in the market, allowing customers to open accounts at KFH immediately and anywhere.

Customers can now open accounts in major currencies through KFHOnline; previously, account opening was only available at branches. Additionally, KFH has integrated Western Union (WU) services into its app, enabling customers to make international transfers directly through the application. The Bank also offers instant transfers within the GCC countries through the AFAQ network on the mobile app.

Corporate services

KFH launched the first mobile application for corporate banking encompassing major services for business development, in addition to launching facial recognition technology based on biometric identity and other distinguished electronic services available through the corporate banking webpage.

KFH successfully introduced corporate cards, offering three different products that cater to the various local and global corporate needs. Key features include cash and cheque deposits, as well as cash withdrawals. The cards also provide access to Point of Sale (POS) terminals and online payment gateways, both in Kuwait and internationally.

In addition, KFH has introduced corporate credit cards, which are among the bank’s distinguished offerings for business owners. These cards are linked directly to the company’s account, allowing business owners to issue cards to employees for seamless expense management. They can be used to cover day-to-day business expenses, one-time travel costs, and more. The corporate credit card helps businesses better manage their cash flow while offering enhanced control over employee expenditures.

DoW, DLA secure REE supply

US invests \$750 mln in Brazil rare-earth project

WASHINGTON, Aug 25, (KUNA): The US Department of War’s (DoW) Economic Defense Unit (EDU), in partnership with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Policy (IBP) announced Monday a USD 750 million investment with US SIIE, LLC through the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) program.

These funds will be utilized to support an offtake agreement for mixed rare-earth carbonates (MREC) produced at Serra Verde’s Pela Ema Project in central Brazil, the Department said in a statement.

This strategic partnership will establish a secure supply chain for rare-earth elements (REE) critical for national defense and economic security, it added.

This USD 750 million is part of a broader USD 1.55 billion total investment structure mobilized by EDU, which includes a USD 300 million purchase commitment from the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and a USD 500 million commitment from a money-center bank.

“Securing resilient domestic and allied supply chains is a fundamental warfighting requirement,” said HON Mike Cadenazzi, Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Policy. “By partnering with Serra Verde, we are taking a decisive step to break our adversaries’ near-monopoly on rare-earth elements. This collaborative effort ensures that our defense industrial base has the guaranteed, long-term access to the critical materials needed to manufacture next-generation weapons systems and maintain our technological edge.”

This initiative aggressively addresses an over-dependence on Chi-

na for rare-earth elements. Once fully operational, this project will secure a massive supply of vital elements like Dysprosium, Terbium, Neodymium, and Praseodymium, effectively bypassing Chinese supply chain dominance and supporting emerging U.S. magnet manufacturing capabilities.

The deal follows a DFC financing agreement with Serra Verde for a USD 565 million loan to optimize and expand the Pela Ema Project.

These investments work in parallel with the Department of Commerce’s efforts to establish a non-Chinese mine-to-magnet value chain.

“This historic USD 1.55 billion investment is a major step towards securing one of the most vital supply chains for our warfighters and our economy,” said George K. Kollitides II, Director of the Economic Defense Unit.

“By ensuring reliable access to these critical rare-earth elements, we are protecting the production of everything from fighter jets and nuclear submarines to the energy infrastructure and commercial technology that power our modern world.”

Rare-earth elements are necessary to improve the thermal stability and magnetic strength of Neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) magnets, which are essential for manufacturing critical components for our warfighters.

These include advanced systems in nuclear submarines, fighter jets, satellites, guided missiles, combat vessels, and drones. Beyond defense, these high-purity materials are a vital raw material for energy infrastructure, transportation, aerospace, and electronics, making them a cornerstone of a modern, industrial economy.

FTC settles with Zillow, Redfin over rental ads antitrust case

NEW YORK, Aug 25, (AP): The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has reached a settlement with Zillow and Redfin to resolve the regulator’s claim that the companies made an illegal deal to suppress competition in online rental advertising.

The FTC said Monday that it filed a proposed order with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. It essentially requires Redfin to restart its standalone rental housing listings business, which the commission says will restore competition in the market for rental property listings. The settlement also resolves litigation brought by state attorneys general in Arizona, Connecticut, New York, Virginia and Washington.

“This settlement delivers better, quicker, more certain results for both renters and property management companies than we would have been able to achieve after prevailing at trial, including firm and enforceable commitments by Redfin to relaunch its rentals advertising business,” Daniel Guarnera, director of the FTC’s Bureau of Competition, said in a statement.

In its complaint filed almost a year ago, the FTC claimed that in exchange for \$100 million and other compensation from Zillow, Redfin had agreed to shut down its internet listings and exclusively repost Zillow’s apartment listings, transition its customers to Zillow and stay out of the apartment listings market for up to nine years.

The commission argued that the companies’ February 2025 pact violated federal antitrust laws and could reduce incentives for competition, leading to higher prices and fewer choices for multifamily rental advertising customers.

Zillow and Redfin said their agreement was not anticompetitive and benefited renters and property managers alike.

The FTC’s proposed order requires Redfin to restart its rental listings business and hire enough staff to maintain it within six months of the order being finalized, or face financial penalties. The FTC said Redfin fired hundreds of employees shortly after announcing its deal with Zillow.

And while Redfin will continue to syndicate Zillow’s listings, it will be free to seek out and advertise non-Zillow listings, according to the FTC.

In a statement Monday, Seattle-based Zillow said it “has consistently maintained the partnership with Redfin is pro-consumer and procompetitive, and we’re pleased to have found a resolution that enables its continuation.”

A spokesperson for Redfin, which was acquired by Detroit-based mortgage giant Rocket Companies last year, said Monday that the agreement “allows us to maintain our rental partnership with Zillow through at least 2030 while building and investing in a standalone rentals business of our own.”

Main market slips 0.05%

Boursa Kuwait general index edges up 0.02%

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Tuesday’s session with its general index up 1.49 points, or 0.02%, to 8,901.90. Turnover reached 393.3 million shares across 29,181 cash trades, totaling KD 106.8 million (about USD 345.9 million).

The main market index slipped 4.12 points, or 0.05%, to 9,101.33, on 233.9 million shares in 17,281 cash deals worth KD 44.7 million (USD 144.8 million). The premier market index advanced 2.76 points, or 0.03%, to 9,321.47, with 159.4 million shares traded in 11,900 cash transactions valued at KD 62 million (USD 200.8 million).

The Main 50 Index outperformed, gaining 65.47 points, or 0.61%, to 10,773.79. Activity in the blue-chip gauge totaled 132.9 million shares across 9,086 cash trades, worth KD 28.6 million (USD 92.6 million).



Boursa Kuwait

10-year Treasury yield eases to 4.69% from 4.74%

World shares mostly gain & oil prices slip as the US raises pressure on Iran

BANGKOK, Aug 25, (AP): Shares were mostly higher Tuesday in Europe and Asia after U.S. stocks drifted to a mixed finish ahead of potentially market-moving events later in the week.

Oil prices fell back after U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced fresh sanctions against Iran and warned that countries persisting in doing business with the Islamic Republic would face retaliation.

Germany’s DAX gained 0.5% to 26,240.76 and the CAC 40 in Paris added 0.3% to 8,480.52. Britain’s FTSE 100 edged 0.1% higher, to 10,869.93.

The future for the S&P 500 was up 0.3% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.2%.

During Asian trading, Tokyo’s Nikkei 225 gained 0.5% to 65,856.43. Shares in technology investor SoftBank Group climbed 2.3%.

The Kospi in South Korea reversed early losses, gaining 0.7% to 6,742.74 as traders resumed buying tech shares, snapping up bargains.

Hong Kong’s Hang Seng was nearly unchanged at 25,511.10, while the Shanghai Composite index picked up 0.2% to 3,889.44.

In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.7% to 9,164.60.

Taiwan’s Taiex jumped 0.9%, while the Sensex in India lost 0.2%.

On Monday, areas of the bond market that the U.S. Treasury Department has been trying to calm eased a bit, relieving pressure on stocks.

The S&P 500 slipped 0.3%, while the Dow industrials added 0.3%. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.8%.

Tech stocks led the decline. They’ve had big swings recently due to worries that the frenzy around artificial-intelligence technology has sent prices too high and huge demand for AI chips will falter if AI doesn’t yield enough profits.

Chip giant Nvidia, a tremendous winner of the AI boom, lost 2.9% on Monday. It will deliver its quarterly earnings report on Wednesday and that could dictate the next big move for AI-related stocks. Micron Technology lost 5.8% and Broadcom fell 2.6%.

In the bond market, the yield of the 10-year Treasury eased to 4.69% from 4.74% late Friday, returning to where it was last week before the U.S. Treasury Department announced a surprise move to increase the size of its planned buybacks of Treasuries.



A currency trader passes by a screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won, SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics Co. stock price at the foreign exchange dealing room of the Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

Longer-term Treasury yields climbed through the summer on worries about high inflation, huge government debts and other factors. High yields make it more expensive for everyone to borrow, not just the government, and already have pushed up mortgage rates and hurt the housing industry.

“The latest discussion about using Treasury General Account cash to help finance purchases of longer-dated bonds gave the market something to chew on Monday, and it initially liked the taste. Long yields fell, and the curve flattened,” Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

“But there is a difference between forcing the bond market to blink for an afternoon and solving the underlying problem,” he said.

The Federal Reserve’s new chairman, Kevin Warsh, is set to deliver a speech Friday at an annual economic symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyo-

ming, the backdrop for past policy announcements. Analysts say Warsh is likely to talk about inflation and how the Fed plans to deal with it.

Oil prices are a major factor behind higher costs and Brent crude, the international standard, has been trading above the \$72 per barrel level it was at before the war with Iran began in late February.

Early Tuesday, Brent crude fell 2% to \$88.74 per barrel. U.S. benchmark crude oil shed 2.2% to \$83.14 per barrel.

Last month, Brent zigzagged between \$72 and \$102 as hopes rose and fell that the United States and Iran could reach a deal that would allow oil tankers to freely exit the Persian Gulf again. The new U.S. sanctions announced Monday helped drag the value of Iran’s currency, the rial, to a record low against the U.S. dollar.

In other dealings, the U.S. dollar rose to 159.30 Japanese yen from 159.10 yen. The euro was trading at \$1.1670, up from \$1.1667.

20% additional instant discount & exceptional rewards

NBK launches exclusive ‘Back to School’ offer in collaboration with Xcite

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: As part of its continued commitment to providing customers with the best offers and benefits while addressing their needs across different seasons and occasions, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the launch of its exclusive “Back to School” offer in collaboration with Xcite. The offer gives customers an additional 20% instant discount when shopping through the Xcite App or dedicated website from August 27 to 29.

Eligible NBK Visa credit and pre-paid cardholders can enjoy instant discounts on a wide range of products for students and parents preparing for the new academic year, including laptops and accessories, computer monitors, Microsoft Office software, printers and related accessories and ink, external storage devices and flash drives, projectors, tablets and mobile phones.

A minimum purchase of KD 50 is required to qualify, with the discount capped at KD 20 per transaction. The offer is available to the first 350 customers each day throughout the campaign period.

In addition to the instant dis-



count, customers can enjoy exclusive rewards linked to their cards on eligible purchases. NBK KWT Visa Infinite credit cardholders receive 10% in NBK KWT Points, while eligible NBK-Kuwait Airways (Oasis Club) Visa cardholders can earn up to 3 Oasis Club Miles for every KD 1 spent. Meanwhile, NBK Avios Visa Signature prepaid cardholders earn 3 Avios for every KD 1 spent.

Al-Ballam: We remain committed to delivering exceptional offers that create real value for our customers throughout the year

On this occasion, Anwar Al-Ballam, AVP – Cards Services Management at NBK, said: “NBK remains committed to delivering exceptional offers and distinctive campaigns that add real value for customers while addressing their needs and aspirations across different seasons and occasions throughout the year. Our BacktoSchool offer, in collaboration with Xcite, reflects this commitment



by giving customers the opportunity to benefit from instant discounts and exclusive rewards when purchasing the essential supplies and technology devices their children need for

the new academic year.”

“The back-to-school period is an important season that sees increased demand for electronic devices and educational technologies, which

have become an integral part of modern learning. We therefore sought to provide a comprehensive offer that combines immediate savings with additional rewards, enabling our customers to maximize the value of their purchases and enjoy greater benefits when using NBK cards across Xcite’s digital channels,” he added.

Al-Ballam emphasized that the offer extends beyond instant discounts, enabling customers to benefit from an integrated rewards ecosystem available across a range of eligible NBK Visa credit and prepaid cards. This provides customers with greater value from their shopping experience and rewards tailored to different spending patterns.

NBK continues to strengthen its strategic partnerships with leading brands in the market to deliver exclusive and innovative offers that provide tangible benefits and greater value for customers’ spending. These efforts reflect the Bank’s ongoing commitment to enhancing the overall banking experience and rewarding customers for choosing NBK as their preferred banking partner.

Canada hits US with \$20 bln in retaliatory tariffs

TORONTO, Aug 25, (AP): Canada struck back at the United States on Tuesday with retaliatory tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of American goods, including steel, dairy products, appliances and farm equipment, as the trade war between the once-friendly neighbors escalated sharply.

The tension threatened one of the world’s largest trading relationships. The new tariffs extended well beyond industrial goods, hitting everyday purchases such as seafood, cheese, clothing, cosmetics and toilet paper, with some facing duties as high as 50%.



Minister of Finance and National Revenue Francois-Philippe Champagne speaks at a news conference on Canada’s response to U.S. tariffs, at a roofing company in Ottawa, on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026. (Justin Tang/The Canadian Press via AP)

“We did not choose this conflict, but when our economic integration is used as a weapon rather than the foundation for a win-win partnership, we need to stand up,” Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne said in French, calling the situation “an unprecedented challenge imposed on Canada.”

Industry Minister Mélanie Joly urged Canadians to buy Canadian products, saying doing so would help protect jobs and launch a “movement of resistance.”

Canada’s retaliation came after the Trump administration imposed 50% tariffs over the weekend on Canadian goods following the collapse of trade negotiations. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney accused Washington of trying to subordinate Canada and said U.S. demands during the failed talks showed that Americans wanted to “destroy our major industries.”

President Donald Trump intensified the confrontation Monday, telling Canadian leaders to “fall in line” or face consequences “far WORSE” than existing tariffs and threatening new 50% tariffs on Canadian vehicles, auto parts and steel.

Trump added another provocation Tuesday, saying the United States was giving “serious consideration” to renaming Lake Ontario “Lake America” in a feud with Ontario Premier Doug Ford. Such a change

would be reminiscent of the Republican president’s unilateral action last year by executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

In the hours before Canada’s announcement, Trump went on a social media tear against the country, accusing it of ripping off American farmers and driving American companies out of business.

“I deal with many countries, and Canada is easily the most difficult and unreasonable,” Trump wrote in one post. “They feel entitled, but they are not a State, and will be entitled no longer!”

The tariffs will take effect Sept. 8 at rates of 15%, 25% and 50%, with Canada matching the corresponding U.S. tariff rate on more than 700 products such as pulp and paper and electronics. The tariffs on many American products would double from 25% to 50%, with the largest share of the new measures affecting steel and aluminum.

Canadian officials said the goal is not to raise revenue but to protect Canadian companies and reduce

U.S. imports.

U.S. steel imports, for example, have already fallen 30% since Canada imposed a 25% tariff, and the new 50% rate is expected to cut them further, Canadian officials said.

Goods facing 50% tariffs include some steel and aluminum products, furniture and clothing. Appliances, dairy products including cheese, fish and seafood, and certain steel and aluminum derivatives will face 25% tariffs. Existing Canadian counter-tariffs on U.S. autos will remain in place.

Canada also announced a support package for workers and businesses affected by the dispute worth \$7.5 billion in Canadian dollars (\$5.4 billion in U.S. dollars).

Canadian officials acknowledged the counter tariffs will raise costs for some businesses and consumers but said they expect the overall economic effects to be moderate.

They said the government has provided more than \$30 billion Canadian dollars (US\$21.7 billion) in tariff-related support since the beginning of 2025 - far more than it

has collected in retaliatory duties - as it tries to cushion the blow from the trade fight.

Canada and the United States have deeply integrated supply chains across autos, energy, agriculture and manufacturing, making a prolonged trade fight potentially costly for businesses and workers on both sides of the border.

Businesses and consumers are caught in the middle, facing uncertainty about how much prices may increase.

Michael Howard II, owner of a furniture business in Warren, Michigan, outside Detroit, said the tariffs will hamper the “ability for us to put food on the table for our family” and affect “the ability for us to give back to our community.”

Howard and his wife started their business a decade ago. They make and sell everything from dining room tables to bookcases.

“To say that we don’t need Canada is just disingenuous,” he said. “It’s dishonest. And it’s just absolutely not truthful. We need our neighbor, but also they need us.”

On Monday, Carney said U.S. negotiators had raised the discoverability of French-language content on streaming platforms, along with French-language labeling rules, as trade irritants. He rejected the idea that those protections were negotiable, saying in French: “For the Americans, questions about the French language, Quebec culture, francophone culture and Canadian culture are irritants. Here in Quebec, here in Canada, they are rights.”

In a social media post early Tuesday, Trump wrote: “I would never interfere with Canadians speaking French! In fact, I have never even thought of doing such a stupid thing. This lie was made up by a weak and ineffective Prime Minister in an attempt to gain political support, which he has totally lost, from the people of Quebec. I love French Canadians!”

Trump’s Canada trade war puts GOP Senate seats at risk

PORTLAND, Aug 25, (AP): President Donald Trump’s trade war with Canada is escalating as the midterm elections approach, threatening Republican efforts to address voters’ economic concerns in a year when control of the U.S. Senate hinges on states along the border between the United States and its northern neighbor.

The dispute flared over the weekend after negotiations broke down, leading Trump to raise tariffs on \$20 billion in Canadian imports. Canada plans to announce tariffs of its own on Tuesday, and the spiraling conflict could lead to higher prices and scrambled supply chains for Americans already aggravated at the president’s management of the economy.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, one of Democrats’ top targets this year, warned that fallout from Trump’s approach would hurt U.S. businesses and consumers.

“Imposing new tariffs on Canada is a mistake,” Collins said while campaigning Monday, and she mentioned lobsters, blueberries, lumber and other Maine products that end up in Canadian markets.

The issue also puts pressure on Republicans in Michigan, Ohio and Alaska, states where Canada is an important trading partner. Many Democrats seem eager to capitalize on the matter as they try to regain the Senate majority, despite the party’s own history with protectionist sentiments.

“Trump is escalating a trade war with Canada for his own vanity,” Michigan’s Democratic nominee Abdul El-Sayed said on social media, adding that his Republican opponent, former Rep. Mike Rogers, is a “rubber stamp” for such policies. A third of the state’s exports go north of the border.

Marc Short, a top adviser to then-Vice President Mike Pence during the first Trump presidency, said the issue is a political trap for Republicans.

“It’s hard, obviously, because you don’t want to incur the wrath of the president,” he said. “But at the same time, I think if you’re representing agricultural states, especially, your voters are probably anxious to have somebody representing their interests in Washington right now.”

It’s possible that Trump will change course or delay his plans. But for now, the president is making no apologies for the economic turmoil.

“Canada has been ripping off the United States for years,” Trump blasted on his Truth Social platform Monday, adding that he will raise tariffs on all Canadian automobiles and auto parts and steel to 50% in 2027. He added, “WE DON’T NEED CANADA, THEY NEED US!”

Trump’s top trade official more calmly downplayed the dispute. “This is something where we don’t actually expect a huge impact,” U.S. Trade Representative Jamie-Son Greer told reporters outside the West Wing.

Vice President JD Vance visited Maine on Monday, where he praised “our very independent friend Susan Collins” and assured voters “we’re very mindful of the fact that Maine is a border state with Canada.” He said the administration is trying to make sure Maine “gets a fair deal.”

Collins did not appear with Vance on Monday or during his last trip to Maine. She campaigned on her own as she tries to hold off a challenge from Democratic nominee Troy Jackson, a former state legislative leader.

Jackson, a logger before going into politics, said tariffs are another example of how Collins does not do enough to stand up to the president.

“Troy spent most of his life working along the Canadian border, so he knows how important this relationship is to Maine’s economy,” Jackson spokesman Dan Gottlieb said.

Trump made no secret of his affection for tariffs during his comeback campaign, promising that higher taxes on imports would generate a windfall for the U.S. Treasury and boost domestic manufacturing. But concerns about inflation and affordability have not receded, including in states with key races this year.

Maine, Ohio, Michigan and Alaska boast industries including fisheries, auto parts, lumber and produce that export items across the northern border, while Canadian imports are sold by a range of U.S. retailers.

Iowa, which also has a competitive Senate race, does not border Canada or its waters, but also exports more goods to Canada than any other nation.

Majority Forward, a political action committee tied to Senate Democrats, already ran television advertisements against Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan of Alaska during last year’s partial government shutdown.

“The tariffs are hitting Alaska the hardest,” the ad said. “Call Dan Sullivan and tell him ... stop raising our costs.”

Former Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown is trying to return to Washington by unseating Republican Sen. Jon Husted. Brown has long been a union-friendly protectionist Democrat. But he’s argued against Trump’s approach, saying it’s one thing to get aggressive with an adversarial economic powerhouse like China but another to impose uneven, unpredictable tariffs on neighboring nations.

Husted signed a bipartisan letter earlier this year urging the administration to proceed carefully while renegotiating a trade agreement with Canada and Mexico. But he’s also embraced the White House’s economic policies, recently appearing with Vance at an Ohio steel plant to praise the administration’s economic agenda.

“Today is a new day, it truly is,” Husted said. “It’s a new day because of the ‘America First’ agenda.”

Brown has not yet criticized Husted on Canadian tariffs, concentrating instead on the senator’s support for data centers and Trump’s war with Iran. But Senate Majority PAC spokeswoman Lauren French said the Canada tariffs fight fits seamlessly into the broader case that Brown and other Democrats are making about Trump and his allies.

“It’s another proof point for the argument that this is a guy who continues to raise your costs for no reason at all,” she said.

Short said Trump’s first-term protectionism was easier to defend because it was more focused on China. In the second Trump presidency, Short said, “we’ve so alienated our normal trading partners that part of their retaliation has been not to buy agricultural products,” thus cutting off replacement markets for any lost trade with Beijing.

In Maine, Vance insisted Trump only wants to level the playing field with Canada.

“They don’t expect anybody to fight back,” Vance said. “We’re sick of that.”

He also criticized Canada as treating China more fairly than the U.S. in trade negotiations.

“It’s over,” Vance said. “We expect fairness in our trade policy.”

Collins shared a different goal. “I really want us to go back to the very friendly, economically beneficial relationship that we have with our Canadian neighbors,” she said.

Trump moves toward levying new tariff on China for flooding market with cheap goods

WASHINGTON, Aug 25, (AP): President Donald Trump is moving toward levying a new tariff on China that would penalize the world’s second-largest economy for flooding the global market with under-priced goods, according to three people familiar with the matter.

Two of the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations still being finalized, said Trump is considering setting the new tariff at 7.5%. It’s a level administration officials believe would not endanger the one-year trade truce between Washington and Beijing or a planned White House meeting between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping expected to take place in late September.



President Donald Trump listens during a back to school event in the Rose Garden of the White House, Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

The move, if finalized, appears to be a calibrated effort by the White House to work around a Supreme Court decision earlier this year that struck down Trump’s plan to implement a sweeping, high-tariff scheme not seen since the 1930s.

After that decision, the Trump administration announced in March it was launching formal investigations targeting excess industrial capacity and forced-labor regulations in China and other nations.

It isn’t clear if the U.S. administration is also nearing its decision in its probes of the other economies that it announced it was investigating for unfair trade practices, including the European Union, Singapore, Switzerland, Norway, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, South Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Mexico, Ja-

pan and India.

The White House and the U.S. Trade Representative’s office did not respond to requests for comment on the tariff deliberations, which Bloomberg News reported earlier Monday.

The Chinese embassy in Washington said in a statement that economic and trade issues should be resolved through bilateral talks rather than unilateral tariff actions, and rejected the idea that it has an issue with overcapacity.

The excess industrial capacity probe of China was initiated under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which allows the president to levy tariffs against nations that discriminate against U.S. companies or commerce.

The people familiar with the deliberations stressed that Trump could still change his mind on the new tariff on China.

It would come on top of tariffs of 10% to 12.5% announced last month for 60 economies around the globe that the Trump administration accused of failing to effectively enforce a ban on goods produced with forced labor.

Many countries, including China, protested that move, which took effect just as the clock ran out on temporary tariffs Trump had turned to after the Supreme Court in February struck down sweeping “reciprocal” tariffs he levied on nearly every U.S. trade partner.

China last month pushed back against claims of overcapacity, an-

tipicating that the U.S. would soon release results of its probe and impose new tariffs.

Massive capacity in a slew of Chinese industries, from autos to solar panels, cement and steel manufacturing, has drawn increased attention from Beijing’s trading partners in recent years.

Although China’s own leaders have prioritized rebalancing the economy, slowing domestic demand has prompted companies to expand into overseas markets. Surging exports pushed China’s trade surplus to a record of nearly \$1.2 trillion last year.

China has never sought a large trade surplus, the Ministry of Commerce said in a recently published report titled “China’s Position on the So-called Excess Capacity Issue.”

The deliberations come as the Treasury Department on Monday warned countries doing trade with Iran that new secondary sanctions are in the pipeline aimed at ostracizing nations that continue to do business with Tehran. China is Iran’s biggest trade partner.

Washington has promised the new sanctions would put even more pressure on an Iranian economy already battered by previous sanctions and a U.S. naval blockade as the U.S. and Israeli war against Iran nears the six-month mark.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent’s announcement Monday provided little detail and did not name which countries could face secondary sanctions.

From leopards to coral reefs, Oman widens nature's safe haven

Oman's 32 nature reserves span nearly 17,840 square kilometers, safeguarding diverse terrestrial, marine and wetland ecosystems and providing vital havens for wildlife and biodiversity.

MUSCAT, Aug 25, (KUNA): The Sultanate of Oman has 32 nature reserves covering approximately 17,839.6 square kilometers, or about 5.76 percent of its territory, forming a fundamental pillar of national efforts to conserve the environment and biological diversity.

Oman has continuously developed its network of nature reserves to support national initiatives and international biodiversity protection targets, creating an integrated system that protects terrestrial, marine and wetland ecosystems, alongside plant and animal species and their natural habitats.

Head of the Nature Reserves Management Section at the Environment Authority Zahra Al-Shuraiqi said reserves play a role extending beyond protection to supporting scientific research, environmental monitoring, sustainable resource use, environmental awareness and responsible ecotourism.

Al-Shuraiqi told Oman News Agency that the Environment Authority continues developing the reserves network by studying proposed sites, updating management plans, completing regulations, developing modern monitoring programs, strengthening biodiversity databases, expanding research and increasing local community participation.

She said the next phase focuses on improving field management efficiency, developing reserve infrastructure, promoting sustainable ecotourism and expanding cooperation with international organizations, contributing to strengthening Omans position as a regional model combining nature conservation with sustainable development.

Oman has achieved several notable accomplishments in nature conservation, including developing the legislative framework governing nature reserves, issuing regulations for several protected areas, strengthening environmental monitoring through modern technologies and expanding scientific studies and management plans.

Last year, Al Jabal Al Akhdar and Al-Sareen reserves were included in UNESCOs World Network of Biosphere Reserves, reflecting Omans environmental standing and success in applying balanced management combining biodiversity conservation with sustainable development.

Six new reserves were also announced during the past five years, most recently the establishment of a marine buffer zone around the Hallaniyat Islands, supporting protection of ecosystems, natural resources and species associated with these environments.

Al-Shuraiqi said habitat restoration programs, reintroduction of certain wildlife species and improvements to environmental monitoring have strengthened protection efforts for numerous threatened species, supporting

broader national initiatives aimed at preserving biodiversity and restoring natural ecological balance.

She explained that wildlife protection depends primarily on conserving natural habitats essential for feeding, breeding and movement, as protecting habitats simultaneously protects species and ensures the continued functioning, resilience and ecological services provided by diverse natural ecosystems.

The Environment Authority therefore implements integrated programs involving regular monitoring, camera traps and modern technologies, while developing national species databases, monitoring environmental threats and regulating activities within reserves to limit practices that could affect wildlife or habitats.

Special attention is given to nationally and internationally prioritized species, including the Arabian leopard, Arabian oryx, Arabian gazelle, Arabian tahr, marine turtles and birds of prey, in accordance with classifications adopted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Al-Shuraiqi said nature reserves face numerous challenges, including illegal hunting and increasing climate change impacts, which the Authority addresses through an approach balancing development requirements with protection of natural heritage and the long-term sustainability of environmental services.

This approach includes enforcing environmental legislation, conducting environmental impact assessments, updating reserve management plans, regulating activities, strengthening field supervision and coordinating with government agencies and local communities to ensure development proceeds without undermining natural ecosystems.

Climate change is among the most significant challenges facing ecosystems, with rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, affected water resources and increasing sea temperatures influencing wildlife distribution and contributing to the decline of certain natural habitats.

These changes also affect coral reefs, mangrove forests and ma-

rine turtle nesting areas, prompting the Environment Authority to integrate climate considerations into reserve management plans and strengthen long-term monitoring programs across sensitive ecosystems.

The Authority also works to restore degraded habitats, expand mangrove planting and employ modern technologies to monitor environmental changes, strengthening ecosystem resilience and their ability to adapt to expected future climate-related developments and increasingly challenging conditions.

Nature reserves represent a fundamental pillar for achieving sustainable development goals through protecting biodiversity and natural resources, preserving environmental services, supporting food and water security, and contributing to efforts aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change.

They also support scientific research and environmental education, strengthen international partnerships and help implement commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention and sustainable development goals, alongside the global target to protect 30 percent by 2030.

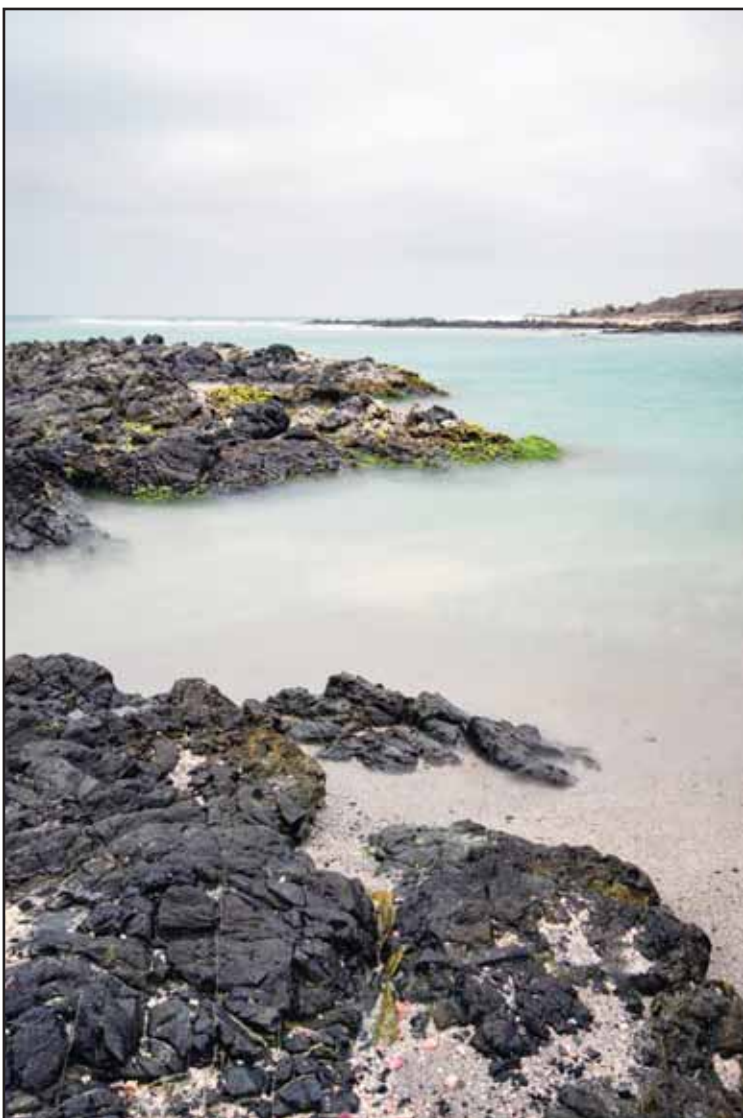
Al-Shuraiqi said reserves also provide opportunities to strengthen the green economy through ecotourism, creating employment opportunities for local communities in environmental guidance, tourism services, small and medium enterprises and traditional crafts, while encouraging community participation.

Oman has adopted an approach considering ecotourism a tool supporting conservation, with the Environment Authority establishing an integrated system regulating visits, determining usage zones and visitor routes, setting carrying capacities, issuing permits and protecting sensitive habitats.

Access to particularly sensitive habitats is restricted, especially during breeding and nesting seasons, while investment projects inside reserves are subject to strict environmental controls and specialized studies ensuring their compatibility with conservation objectives and sustainable development requirements.

The measures aim to achieve a balance between economic benefits and environmental protection, ensuring that ecotourism and other activities generate development opportunities without damaging ecosystems, biodiversity or the natural resources upon which surrounding communities depend.

Al-Shuraiqi concluded that nature reserves also play an important role in raising environmental awareness, preserving natural and cultural heritage and strengthening societys sense of responsibility, making local communities essential partners in successful reserve management and sustainability.



Scenic beaches



KUNA photos

Unique diversity in wildlife.

More room to roam

Workshop offers creative gateway to Kuwaiti weaving traditions and heritage

Sadu House blends Kuwaiti heritage with block printing art



Instructor Masira Al-Anzi presents block-printing techniques at Sadu House (Bait Al-Sadu).



Participants take part in a hands-on block-printing workshop at Sadu House (Bait Al-Sadu), led by Masira Al-Anzi and Heba Dhiab.



Left: Instructor demonstrates block-printing techniques at Sadu House (Bait Al-Sadu).



Right: Instructor Masira Al-Anzi teaches block-printing techniques at Sadu House (Bait Al-Sadu).



KUNA photos
Instructor demonstrates block-printing techniques at Sadu House (Bait Al-Sadu).

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25, (KUNA): The Sadu House (Bait Al-Sadu) hosted a specialized art workshop on block printing, presented by Masira Al-Anzi and Heba Dhiab. The workshop combined artistic creativity with the spirit of Kuwaiti heritage as part of the “Summer Cultural Festival 18,” organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. The workshop covered the fundamentals of block printing on fabrics and paper, introducing participants to the tools and techniques used in the process. Participants learned how to use ready-made or handmade blocks to transfer designs and motifs, transforming them into unique works of art bearing their personal touches. Instructor Masira Al-Anzi explained to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the workshop offered a practical artistic experience, allowing participants to decorate

fabrics using blocks and colors and transform ideas and patterns into unique works of art without requiring prior experience. Block printing is characterized by its simplicity and enjoyable nature, offering participants an opportunity to express their creativity. It is closely linked to the arts of weaving and decoration, giving participants the chance to experiment and discover their own artistic styles. Al-Anzi said holding the workshop at Sadu House gives the experience a distinctive heritage dimension, thanks to Sadu House’s pioneering role in preserving, documenting, and teaching Kuwaiti weaving heritage and introducing it to new generations. She emphasized the importance of continuing to hold art workshops that connect heritage with contemporary art and contribute to enhancing the community’s appreciation of handicrafts and local creativity.

Move follows controversy over AI version of Madonna’s ‘Like a Prayer’

Australia’s music industry bans AI-generated tracks from official charts

MELBOURNE, Australia, Aug 25, (AP): Australia’s recorded music industry will bar tracks wholly generated by artificial intelligence from official charts as burgeoning generative technologies threaten artists’ livelihoods, a representative said on Tuesday. The crackdown comes as a variation of Madonna’s pop hit “Like a Prayer” created by an Australian producer using AI-generated vocals and drums has spent 16 weeks in the Australian top 20, stoking debate about generative AI’s place in music. It peaked at number two on the Australian Record Industry Association’s top 20 Australian singles chart in May and remained in fourth place on Tuesday. Wholly AI-generated tracks will be banned from the ARIA charts from Monday next week, but some AI-assisted music will remain eligible, an ARIA statement said. Tracks can be eligible only if “humans wrote the song and performed the lead vocal and the primary instruments,” among other requirements, the statement said. AI-generated music would also be ineligible for the Australian industry’s prestigious ARIA awards. ARIA chief executive Annabelle Herd said: “These changes reflect our intent to remain dynamic and promote the human nature of artistry in what is - to say the least - a rapidly developing space.”



Madonna poses before the Saint Laurent Spring/Summer 2026 collection presented in Paris, on Sept. 29, 2025. (AP)

“The ARIA Charts will always remain a transparent measurement of the music Australia consumes, but a chart that rewards unlicensed AI output would undercut the very basis of the recorded music we exist to represent,” Herd added. Eligible music must also be produced using legal AI services. Music was appearing on streaming services that had apparently been developed with AI tools trained on artists’ music without authorization. The Australian rules are in step with new principles released in July by the London-based International Federation of the Phonographic Industry. The federation represents the recording industry worldwide. The international guidelines state that to qualify for official music charts, a track must be “substantially human made.” Sydney Conservatorium of Music composer and lecturer Alexis Weaver told Australian Broadcasting Corp. the debate around AI in music was “exceptionally fraught and very emotional for a lot of musicians and so everyone will have a different opinion.” Weaver applauded ARIA’s move as a “wonderful step forward” that sent a message ARIA wanted to “prioritize and value human creativity.” “It can be quite hard to avoid AI tools in the current landscape,” Weaver said. “There is a way to use it while you’re still steering the ship and making the main creative choices.”

Food

Bake tortillas before filling them with cool collard slaw & protein ranch

How buffalo chicken tacos get seriously crispy

LOS ANGELES, Aug 25, (AP): These Crispy Baked Buffalo Chicken Tacos from my cookbook “The Protein Meal Prep Plan” are stuffed with a collard slaw made with a protein-packed ranch dressing (yes ... protein ranch!) that, I have a feeling, will surprise you by how delicious it is. This protein ranch is so good, I make extra for topping salads, dipping veggies for snacks, and just about anything else I can think of. Double up! If you’ve never baked a crispy taco and then peeled it back open to stuff in a cool, crunchy slaw (this one is rich in calcium, fiber and vitamin K), then you’re in for a real treat. Pickled onions, along with the slaw, are a fabulous addition to these tacos, if you have them on hand. If you’re grain-free or dairy-free, opt for cassava flour-based tortillas, pick up a store-bought dairy-free ranch dressing, and replace the Monterey Jack cheese with a dairy-free shredded cheese. And if you have folks in the house who are sensitive to spicy foods, you can skip the Buffalo sauce for their portion, opting instead for a simple salt and pepper seasoning. Serves 4 to 6 Total Cook Time: 35 minutes PROTEIN RANCH DRESSING: 1 cup cottage cheese 2 tablespoons lemon juice (from about 1 lemon) 1 tablespoon dried dill ½ teaspoon garlic powder



Left: This image released by Voracious shows a recipe for chicken tacos from the cookbook “The Protein Meal Prep Plan” by Cassidy Joy Garcia. Right: This image released by Voracious shows the cookbook “The Protein Meal Prep Plan” by Cassidy Joy Garcia.

½ teaspoon sea salt BAKED TACOS: 3 cups shredded roasted chicken ¼ cup buffalo sauce 15 (6-inch) corn tortillas Olive oil or avocado oil spray 3 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese (12 ounces) 4 heaping cups chopped collard greens 1 cup protein ranch dressing 1. Combine all the protein ranch dressing ingredients in a blender or food processor. Blend on high until the mixture is smooth and evenly combined. Set aside. 2. Preheat the oven to 375°F. Line two rimmed baking sheets with parchment paper. 3. Mix the chicken with buffalo sauce until well coated.

4. Place the tortillas in a single layer on the lined baking sheets, spray the tops with oil, then flip them over. Place 1 heaping tablespoon shredded cheese on one half of each tortilla. Follow this with about 2 tablespoons of the buffalo chicken mixture. Finish with 1 more tablespoon cheese. Bake the open-faced tacos for 5 minutes, or until the cheese is melted. 5. Remove the tacos from the oven and press them closed (they should stay closed now that the cheese is melted). Flip them over and return them to the oven for 10 more minutes. Flip them over one more time and bake for a final 5 minutes. 6. While the tacos bake, toss the shredded collards with the protein

ranch dressing until evenly coated. 7. To serve, peel back one side of each crispy taco (careful, they’re hot!) and stuff a generous spoonful of the collard slaw inside. Cassidy Joy Garcia is the author of “The Protein Meal Prep Plan,” as well as “Cook Once Dinner Fix,” “Cook Once, Eat All Week” and “Fed and Fit.” Her food blog is “Fed and Fit.” She lives in San Antonio, Texas, with her husband and three children. Excerpted from “The Protein Meal Prep Plan” by Cassidy Joy Garcia. Copyright (copyright) 2026 by Cassidy Joy Garcia. Used with permission of Voracious, an imprint of Little, Brown and Company. New York, NY. All rights reserved.

UK urges TikTok to delete dangerous driving videos

LONDON, Aug 25, (AP): Britain’s government Monday urged TikTok and other social media companies to take down viral videos “celebrating” dangerous driving, after two police officers and five young men were killed in a crash when a car was driven down the wrong side of the road. Officers Matthew Blades and Tom Clough were killed Saturday when a Volkswagen was driven the wrong way along a road in northeastern England and hit their vehicle. Five people in the car - three boys who were 17 and 18 years old and two men, both 23 - were also pronounced dead at the scene. The collision took place as concerns grow over social media videos showing people driving dangerously on purpose, posted by the drivers themselves or others inside the vehicles at the time. British media reports suggest that one of the people who died in the Volkswagen on Saturday may have previously posted such a video. U.K. Defense Minister Luke Pollard said the government has told TikTok and similar platforms to “step up” and remove such “awful content.” “We’ve communicated to those social media platforms that have been hosting content that celebrates this type of dangerous behavior on our roads to take down that content,” he told the BBC. “It’s one of the reasons

they’ve argued against some of the regulations, saying they can police themselves,” Pollard added. “This is the perfect opportunity to demonstrate it. Remove the content that celebrates dangerous behavior on our roads.” Prime Minister Andy Burnham’s office said “the glorification of dangerous driving for clips and entertainment is utterly disgraceful.” It said the U.K. media regulator has the government’s full backing to take tough action against platforms that fail in their legal duties. TikTok did not comment but said its policies strictly prohibit content that could cause significant physical harm. Police said that the car in the fatal crash had a cloned number plate to avoid detection. They said 12 people were arrested Monday in connection with suspected criminal activity, including possessing a firearm, before the crash. Separately, four people, including a child, were seriously injured last week in County Kildare, Ireland after their car was struck by another vehicle going the wrong way down a highway. Five teenagers in the other car died in the crash. An Irish parliamentary committee invited TikTok to discuss how it deals with content that “glorifies illegal activity” following that crash, but the social media company declined to attend.

‘Ocean under immense pressure’

Earth simmering in hottest water temps on record, and that’s bad for fish and us

WASHINGTON, Aug 25, (AP): The world’s oceans simmered to their hottest temperatures on record over the weekend and are likely to warm even further in the next few months, putting stress on life in the water and on land too, the European climate service Copernicus announced Monday.

Spurred by a still growing but already supersized natural El Nino and human-caused climate change, the world’s ocean temperatures hit 21.1 degrees Celsius (70 degrees Fahrenheit) on Friday and Saturday, narrowly edging out the average daily record set in March 2024, said Samantha Burgess, strategic climate lead for Copernicus.

“This is yet another sign of our climate system under strain and the ocean under immense pressure,” Burgess said.

Jane Lubchenco, an oceanographer and former chief of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration called the record “very troubling.”

“An ocean this warm destabilizes weather patterns and threatens food security, economic prosperity and marine life,” Lubchenco said in an email. “A warmer ocean is not our friend.”

When the ocean warms it becomes more acidic and carries less oxygen which hurts food industries that rely on the seas, Burgess said. It also changes ocean currents and weather patterns, giving more juice to storms to make them rainier and make storm surge bigger, Burgess said.

“When we have a warmer ocean such as we’ve had in Europe this summer, it amplifies the impact of heat waves because you don’t get the cooler nighttime temperatures with the sea breeze coming off the ocean when the ocean is very warm,” Burgess said.

Normally, because most of the Southern Hemisphere is ocean, the world’s sea surface temperature peaks in March and April, as the southern summer draws to a close. But this year, the record was set in August, Burgess said. So the oceans will keep getting hotter until the current El Nino - a natural temporary warming of parts of the Pacific that then warps weather and raises temperatures globally - reaches its peak, which is expected sometime between November and January, she said.

El Nino is already as big as recent ones and is still growing with it expected to reach unprecedented levels at its peak. It’s responsible for a good chunk of the heat in the oceans, and long-term warming from the burning of coal, oil



Surfers pass under a wave alongside the Imperial Beach pier on March 11 in Imperial Beach, Calif. (AP)

and gas has warmed the waters by 0.8 degrees Celsius (1.4 degrees Fahrenheit), Burgess said.

“The thing that makes my heart sink is that this starts so early and it’s so out-of-normal that you know when it hits its peak, it’s going to be unprecedented,” said Boris Worm, a biology professor at Canada’s Dalhousie University. “The ocean is not supposed to do this.”

“It’s just that there is no normal anymore,” Worm said.

“It’s frightening,” said University of North Carolina marine ecologist John Bruno. “We’re not even in October yet. You know, usually the Caribbean peaks at like late September, early October. And I think next year in the South-

ern Ocean, the Great Barrier Reef, yeah I’m really worried about what’s going to happen in the southern hemisphere in February, March.”

The amount of heat sensitive coral alive today is about one-fifth of 1990s levels, Bruno said. But lately scientists have found that some species of coral - more the “weedy” kinds not the long-lived iconic kind like staghorn - are adapting to the hotter water and it’s not quite the wipe-out event once feared, he said.

Bruno and Worm warned of fisheries collapse and food shortages.

They both mentioned the largest fishery in the world, the Peruvian anchovy fishery. That usually collapses during El Nino and is especially likely with this heat, Worm said. And that alters the food web because larger fish, marine mammals and seabirds feed on them.

When the water gets hot, larger creatures can swim to cooler water, going halfway across an ocean, but “anchovies can’t leave so they just don’t reproduce or starve,” Worm said. And the seabirds and even humans who depend on them are affected.

With hotter water, “not everybody is hit equally, obviously, but the whole system collapses,” Worm said. “It’s like when you pull out the rug from underneath an economy. It’s, like, the whole thing collapses. Some sectors may do a little bit better, but overall, everybody suffers.”

Burgess said as the waters warm off Europe, people are seeing more jellyfish and, Bruno said, the same thing could be happening on the U.S. East Coast.

“Jellyfish are often opportunistic and they like warm waters,” Worm said. “So yes, I would expect them to do a little bit better.”

Another former NOAA chief, Rick Spinrad, said the ocean is the planet’s thermostat, so “as long as we depend on a healthy ocean for our safety, prosperity and wellbeing, these record-breaking sea surface temperatures portend even greater challenges for us all.”

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Unusual dragonfly swarms sweep across California after warm spring rains: experts

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 25, (AP): Californians are spotting swarms of dragonflies flitting around parks, chasing mosquitoes in ponds and hunting flies on farms, a phenomenon experts say was likely fueled by unusually warm spring rains.

Peter Veilleux, who owns a nursery in Oakland, said he started noticing the dragonflies - at one point spotting about 100 flying together - while walking his dog at a park near his house and around the city’s Lake Merritt.

“It’s been amazing to see them,” Veilleux said, adding that he started seeing big groups of dragonflies in July.

He was so awed by the sight that he posted about it on Facebook, asking if anyone else was seeing the formidable predators in such large numbers. Dozens of people commented about their own sightings in the San Francisco Bay Area and elsewhere in California.

It is common to see dragonflies during the summer months, when they emerge from freshwater as

flying insects. But this year’s large numbers are probably due to the warm monsoon storms that came through the state in late spring and early summer, said Kathy Biggs, a dragonfly expert and co-author of the book “Dragonflies of California.”

She said most are likely wandering gliders, a highly migratory dragonfly that can appear in large numbers when conditions line up. Dragonflies, which can fly at speeds of up to 35 mph (56 kph), use air pressure changes to help them fly great distances, Biggs said.

“We could say that they’re surfing the pressure system, the monsoon,” she added.

Joe Del Bosque said he noticed swarms of them earlier this month at his farm in Fresno County, flying 10 to 20 feet (3 to 6 meters) above him.

“We do have them every year, but we had more than normal,” he said.

Del Bosque said he was happy to see the flying hunters because they eat aphids, whiteflies and fruit flies that feed on his crops. The insects,

along with ladybugs working on the plants, are excellent pest control because they eat tiny insects on the plants and larger winged ones, like adult aphids and moths, he said.

“They are like little fighter jets,” Del Bosque said. “They zoom in for other insects and capture them in the air.”

Dragonflies spend most of their lives wingless and underwater. Their life cycle begins after female and male dragonflies mate and the female dragonfly lays tiny eggs in freshwater. After the eggs hatch, the young dragonflies, called nymphs, live underwater for at least six months and for up to five years for some species. They start hunting then and feed on mosquito larvae, tadpoles, and even other nymphs.

Once they emerge from the water, they shed their skin and transform into four-winged insects that can move their forewings and hindwings independently. This allows them to fly forward, backward, up and down, and hover perfectly in place.

But their life as flying animals

is short, lasting a few weeks or months. They spend it looking for new lakes, rivers and ponds, preying on tiny insects and attempting to repeat the cycle of life.

“They’re super agile, super strong flying insects with really good vision, really good eyes, and really strong flight muscles, and they are voracious predators that are out there feeding on mosquitoes non-stop,” said Chris Grinter, senior collection manager of entomology at the California Academy of Science in San Francisco.

Grinter said dragonflies are among the most effective predators in nature, with more than 90% of their hunts ending successfully.

“They can eat hundreds of mosquitoes a single day,” he said.

Dragonflies have awed humans for thousands of years. To Native Americans, a dragonfly is a symbol of purity and happiness. In Japan, they symbolize power, agility and victory. In some European folklore, they were considered to represent evil or bad luck.



A dragonfly rests on a plant at the Lake Merritt Dragonfly Habitat Garden in Oakland, Calif on Aug 21. (AP)

In Benin, malnutrition and misinformed views contribute to widespread stunting in children

N’DALI, Benin, Aug 25, (AP): Sabi Bera Zakari didn’t appear to care much how tall his children would grow. The farmer said he only sometimes wished they could gain more weight.

“For me, height is not a problem,” Zakari said. “It’s mainly their weight that sometimes worries me.”

Aboudou Salamatou, the farmer’s wife, seemed to disagree, as did development sociologist Boris Gloni, who shook his head as he listened. He believed two of the family’s young daughters suffered from stunted growth.

As a former representative of The Hunger Project, an international organization working to combat hunger across Benin, Gloni spent years trying to convince men like Zakari that stunting in children was a rampant issue that needed to be addressed by families first and foremost.

Despite the abundance of natural resources and widespread subsistence agriculture, stunting - impaired growth and lower than average height-for-age caused by malnutrition - affects over 30% of children younger than 5 in Benin, according to factsheets by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, a Geneva-based nonprofit that tracks stunting figures.

Children who are not achieving the average height for their age may otherwise seem healthy to their parents. But experts believe stunting is mostly irreversible in those afflicted during their first 1,000 days of life, with lasting effects on brain development and general health later in life.

Gloni, who now works as an agricultural adviser, said he knows people who wrongly believe that regularly giving children milk and eggs is bad because it risks making them so rapacious that they might want to steal more of that protein. In many homes, the goats tethered to poles and the chickens that scratched the dirt compounds are kept for commercial reasons, to be sold for cash when needed in an emergency.

“Our perception is wrong,” Gloni said. “People don’t have knowledge.”

Beninese authorities want to bring the prevalence of stunting to under 30% by 2030. To achieve that target, the government needs the help of volunteers such as Douro Wonk-



Fadima Zakari, (from left), Oumarou Zakari and Roukayatou Zakari, the children of farmer Sabi Bera Zakari pose for a photo outside their house in N’dali, northern Benin, on May 17. (AP)

ourou Idrissou, who moves from house to house with the color-coded tape that he uses to gauge wasting in children.

Idrissou, who described himself as a nutrition support member of his pastoral community in N’dali, a commune in the Borgou area of northern Benin, uses his tape to measure the circumferences of the children’s upper arms. While he doesn’t have the equipment to measure height, he said he feels “sad” when he sees children he knows should be taller than they are.

Idrissou said the children’s parents are to be blamed - though they are also in need of help. The diet of most families here is heavy on starchy foods, from yams to cassava. And many mothers who rise early to cultivate their gardens usually don’t return home until late afternoon, exposing their children to hunger and what he described as a general loss of appetite.

“If it is maize season, they are doing only maize,” he said. “We are saying, ‘No, you can’t do only maize.’ It is this knowledge that we are sharing with the women in the households.”

Stunting is more widespread in

the north of this west African nation, with its dry savannah landscape. The region faces sporadic drought conditions, forcing some to move in search of pasture for their cherished herds. In the worst of times, families feed on a soup of vegetables pulled from the bush.

Despite efforts to reduce stunting rates in northern Benin, the situation has more or less “stagnated,” said Rolland Essou, who helps look after northern Benin for The Hunger Project.

He said some statistics appeared to show stunting rates across Benin going up, not down, despite projects such as the World Bank-funded “1,000 Days” program to support children in their first two years of life.

Launched in 2024 and run by the National Agency for Food and Nutrition, the pilot program has helped provide micronutrient supplements for mothers and their babies and set up school canteens providing hot meals.

Still, stunting in Benin will remain a challenge for years to come because many families lack knowledge and have many mouths to feed, Essou said.

“When we look at the profile of the household suffering from malnutrition, we notice that the head of the household is very young,” he said. “Secondly, the head of the household is illiterate. Thirdly, it is a household with many children.”

Zakari, the farmer who isn’t worried about stunting, wasn’t sure how old his children were - and even had to look at an ID card to confirm his own age.

His neighbor Fati Aboubacar, a mother of five, said some in her community are too busy or poor to properly look after their children. Her own family could only afford to eat eggs once a week.

Razak Kotchoni, a project manager in Borgou with CASCADE Benin, a nongovernmental organization, said efforts to combat stunting in children need to start before children are born.

Social customs against the widespread consumption of eggs among children also apply to pregnant women, who are discouraged from drinking nutrient-rich cornmeal porridge because it is thought to instigate a ravenous appetite, he said.

“These standards are contributing factors to malnutrition,” he said.

Green roofs can help cool cities in the summer heat

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

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By Taylor Wishart
University of Tennessee

As summer temperatures soar across the United States and Europe, cities are being forced to confront the difficult reality that they’re getting dangerously hot.

Record-breaking heat waves strain power grids, send people to cooling shelters and can make the top floors of some apartment buildings unlivable.

One way to help cool buildings is to install green roofs - living rooftops covered by plants that can transform heat-absorbing rooftops into cooling solutions.

Green roofs have long been promoted as a method to help cities stay cool. Often cities offer developers incentives to install them. But just building a green roof isn’t enough.

My research with colleagues shows that what happens after a green roof is built is as important as the decision to install a green roof in the first place. We found that many green roofs fall into neglect and don’t survive beyond a few years, likely due to the cost of maintenance. When buildings’ operational budgets are cut, landscape elements - including green roofs - are often altered or maintenance is scaled back to save money.

Unlike a traditional roof made of asphalt, metal or tiles, a green roof is made up of layers, including insulation, water proofing and drainage, that allow plants to grow atop the building.

Depending on their design, these roofs can support everything from low-growing sedums to shrubs and trees. Rockefeller Center’s rooftop terrace gardens in New York City were designed in the 1930s to hold trees, grass, shrubs and seating areas to double as parklike respites far above the traffic. The roof of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco is fully covered by 2.5 acres of wildflowers, succulents and other native coastal flowers.

These roofs are more than just decorative landscaping.

Plants absorb sunlight that would otherwise heat up the building below. They also cool the surrounding air through a process called evapotranspiration, in which they release water vapor. Additionally, they can reduce the amount of energy needed for heating and cooling buildings by acting as insulation. Green roofs also capture rainfall and prevent it from reaching storm drains, reducing flood risks and improving water quality in the community.

Because of these benefits, organizations like the European Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have promoted green roofs in recent years as a way to reduce urban heat islands, make cities more resilient to extreme weather and improve biodiversity by supporting birds, butterflies and other insects.

Some cities even help pay for them by offering incentives, such as tax credits, stormwater fee reductions or sped-up permitting to encourage developers to install green roofs. Philadelphia, for example, offers businesses a tax credit that can cover up to 50% of green roof construction costs.

These programs recognize the public benefits that green roofs can give, but they tend to focus on getting the roofs built rather than on keeping them functioning long term.

Without maintenance, all the work and money invested by builders and the communities can quickly be lost.

Most green roof conversations focus on their design: How deep should the soil be? What plants should be used? How much can they cool a building? Less attention is given to what happens to the roof five, 10, or 20 years down the road.

To better understand the long-term fate of green roofs, we studied 46 green roofs across the southeastern United States. Rather than asking how well a newly installed roof performed, we asked whether it was still functioning and being kept up years after construction. The results surprised us.

Nearly half of the roofs were no longer functioning as intended. Nine had been abandoned, with vegetation loss and no maintenance. Twelve roofs had been removed completely. (AP)

Asian champion eyes strong start on home soil

Al Ahli begins Intercontinental Cup campaign against Auckland City

RIYADH, Aug 25: Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli will launch their 2026 FIFA Intercontinental Cup campaign today when it hosts New Zealand's Auckland City at King Abdullah Sports City.

The Asian champion will enter the first-round clash aiming to make a strong start on home soil and advance in the global competition.

Al Ahli secured the Asian title for a second successive season after defeating Japan's Kawasaki Frontale 2-0 in the final under German coach Matthias Jaissle.

Jaissle has since moved to Newcastle United; with Bosnian coach Marino Pusic taking charge. Pusic has enjoyed a perfect start to his tenure, guiding Al Ahli to three straight victories this season. They beat Al-Anwar in the King's Cup round of 32 before recording Saudi Pro League wins over Abha and Al-Diryah, 4-0 and 1-0 respectively.

Pusic will count on an attack led by England international Ivan Toney and Brazilian forward Galeno, while Portugal international Francisco Trincão is another key option after joining from Sporting Lisbon during the summer.

Al Ahli will look to use home advantage and strong support from their fans to gain early momentum in the tournament. Their defensive



A file photo of Al Ahli players celebrating after scoring a goal.

record should also provide confidence, with the team conceding just once in its first three matches of the season.

The fixture marks Al Ahli's second appearance in the FIFA Intercontinental Cup. The Saudi side will be determined to improve on last

year's campaign, when it was eliminated in the second round after suffering a 3-0 home defeat to Egyptian club Pyramids.

Reese sets rebounding records in Dream's victory over Sparks

Valkyries beat Lynx for first time

LOS ANGELES, Aug 25, (AP): Angel Reese broke the WNBA single-game rebounding record with 26 while also breaking the league's season record for rebounds as the Atlanta Dream beat the Los Angeles Sparks 78-71 on Monday night.

Reese surpassed Chamique Holdsclaw's record of 24 rebounds, set on May 23, 2003 for Washington.

The Dream star has 458 rebounds this season, seven more than A'ja Wilson's mark set in 2024.

Reese finished with 11 points. She secured her WNBA-leading 27th double-double of the season on a basket with 13.9 seconds left in the game.

The Dream have beaten the Sparks nine straight times.

Allisha Gray led Atlanta (25-13) with 20 points. Rhyne Howard added 18 points to eclipse 3,000 for her career. Gray set an Atlanta record for field goals in a season with 247.

Nneka Ogumike had 27 points and 16 rebounds for Los Angeles (13-25). Dearica Hamby and Cameron Brink each scored 15 points.

Valkyries 80, Lynx 66

In Minneapolis, Cecilia Zandassini scored eight of her 18 points in the fourth quarter, Gabby Williams added 15 points, and the Golden State Valkyries beat the Minnesota Lynx for the first time in franchise history, 80-66 on Monday night.



Golden State Valkyries guard Kaitlyn Chen, right, handles the ball as Minnesota Lynx forward Nia Coffey, left, defends during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Minneapolis. (AP)

Golden State (26-11) entered 0-9 against Minnesota in the regular season and playoffs since joining the WNBA in 2025.

Golden State led 63-57 early in the fourth quarter before going on a 14-1 run to make it 77-58. Zandassini made her first 3-pointer of the game with 4:39 left and she added another on Minnesota's next possession for a 16-point lead.

Veronica Burton had 14 points and nine assists, and Tiffany Hayes also scored 14 for Golden State. Janelle Salaun added 12 points off the bench.

Minnesota (31-8) was without starting guard Courtney Williams (right ankle injury) in a regular-season game for the first time since she joined the team in 2024, a streak of 122 games.

Natasha Howard led Minnesota with 13 points and Kayla McBride added 12. Napheesa Collier was held to nine points on 4-of-10 shooting. Olivia Miles moved past Ticha Penicheiro for the second-most assists by a rookie in WNBA history with 225.

The Lynx had won 15 of their last 16 games, including a 77-66 victory over the Valkyries last Wednesday.

Krishna and Suthar take 3 wickets each

India tightens grip on Sri Lanka in rain-hit Day 3

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Aug 25, (AP): Fast bowler Prasidh Krishna and spinner Manav Suthar took three wickets each to put India in control of the second cricket test Tuesday, holding Sri Lanka to 265 for eight at stumps on Day 3.

With India posting a formidable 503 for nine batting first, Sri Lanka must at least score another 39 runs with only two first innings wickets standing to avoid a follow-on.

No. 7 batter Sonal Dinusha remained unbeaten on 85, continuing his top form that fetched him 100 and 84 runs in the respective innings of the opening test in Galle. He had faced 137 deliveries and included two sixes and six boundaries.

Batting with him was tailender Lahiru Kumara on 8 when played ended early because of rain.

India's fast bowling coach Mome Morkel said that his team will aim to pick up the two remaining wickets early and enforce the follow-on given the uncertain weather in Colombo.

"With the weather around some times, the time it takes to take the covers on and off, we want to get as many overs as possible to the Sri Lankans. Hopefully we can get those wickets, be brave, put them in and bowl well."

Morkel said India's regular wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant is nursing an injury on the shoulder but that he expected him to be back in the field on the fourth day as his reading of match situations will be important to the team.

Druv Jurel kept wickets for India in Pant's absence.

Dinusha shared 57 runs for the eighth wicket with No. 9 batter Keshara Nuwantha who made 18 off 74 deliveries as they tried to stretch Sri Lanka's innings.

Sri Lanka went to lunch at 130 for four and with just seven runs added to the total after the break, lost captain Dhananjaya de Silva (8) who was caught at slip by KL Rahul off Suthar.

Pasindu Sooriyabandara, who scored his first test half-century, was out for 80 when he was bowled by spinner Ravindra Jadeja off the edge.

In the first test in Galle, Sooriyabandara was dismissed for a first-ball duck while batting as a concussion substitute for Dinesh Chandimal. But here he appeared composed despite the precarious start to Sri Lanka's innings, facing 133 deliveries and hitting nine boundaries.

Niroshan Dickwella departed without scoring leaving Sri Lanka 173 for seven, when Nuwantha joined Dinusha.

Nuwantha's resistance ended when he lost concentration and charged down to hit Suthar only to be caught by Saransh Jain.

Earlier Sooriyabandara shared a 87-run partnership off 126 deliveries with Kamindu Mendis (32) helping revive Sri Lanka's innings but that ended shortly before lunch when Mendis hit a ball from Krishna to Jadeja at midwicket.

Sooriyabandara told reporters that he was pleased with his effort but could have got a bigger score.



Sri Lanka's Sonal Dinusha plays a shot during day three of the second cricket test match between Sri Lanka and India in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)



India's Manav Suthar appeals unsuccessfully for the wicket of Sri Lanka's Lahiru Kumara during day three of the second cricket test match between Sri Lanka and India in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)

Kuwait Boxing Federation unveils 2026-'27 calendar

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Kuwait Boxing Federation has approved its competition calendar for the 2026-27 sports season, featuring 10 local tournaments across various age groups as part of efforts to provide boxers with a busy and competitive schedule.

The new season will begin with the first junior tournament, scheduled for September 26-30.

The federation said the competitions form part of its development program aimed at raising the technical standards of boxers at different age levels, identifying promising talent and enhancing their skills ahead of upcoming domestic and international events.

Kuwait Boxing Federation President Abdullah Khaled Al-Otaibi said the new season would be packed with competitions, with the federation committed to staging all age-group tournaments according to the approved schedule.

He said the federation's committees had been working throughout the summer break to ensure they were fully prepared for the new season. The preparations involve the technical, refereeing and a media committee, along with the federation's other administrative committees.

Al-Otaibi stressed that the board was determined to ensure the season was organized to a standard befitting the reputation of Kuwaiti boxing. He added that successful domestic



Kuwait Boxing Federation President Abdullah Khaled Al-Otaibi

competitions would contribute to improving athletes' performances and preparing national team boxers for upcoming international commitments.

He wished all members of the boxing community success during the new season and called for continued cooperation among all stakeholders to achieve the federation's objectives.

Al-Otaibi also thanked the clubs for their continued support and cooperation, describing them as key partners in the success of the federation's competitions.

Salmiya, Al-Shabab seek winning starts against Al-Nasr & Al-Jahra

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: Al-Shabab and Al-Jahra will meet in the opening round of the Zain Premier League today at 6:45 p.m., while Salmiya takes on Al-Nasr at Thamer Stadium at 9 p.m.

The opening fixture brings together two teams looking to put last season's struggles behind them. Al-Shabab and Al-Jahra finished ninth and 10th respectively and narrowly avoided relegation after the Kuwait Football Association expanded the Premier League to 12 teams.

Al-Shabab has undergone a major rebuild, turning to Brazilian coach Wagner Andrade and bringing in five Brazilian players — Marcos Lima, Matheus Toto, Marcos Martinelli, Giovanni Silva and Michel Angel — as part of a bid to improve on last season's performance.

Al-Jahra has taken a different approach, retaining national coach Ahmed Abdulkarim and largely maintaining stability within the squad. Their foreign contingent includes Cameroonians Chirst Afelana and Takamba Nassam, Brazilians Marcos Ramos and Rorima

Monte Lucenio, and Ghanaian Evans Mbofu.

Salmiya will aim to begin the season strongly under Bahraini coach Ali Ashour as they target a better campaign after finishing fifth last season.

The "Sky Blues" have reshaped their foreign contingent, signing Tresor Chibioabua of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uzbekistan's Shahzod Azmiddinov, Bahrain's Abdullah Yusuf and Gabon's David Sambissa. Syrian player Mahmoud Al-Aswad is the only foreign player retained from last season.

Al-Nasr has also made several changes, including a new coaching appointment and adjustments to its foreign and local squads. The club finished sixth last season and will be targeting a stronger campaign.

Coach Taheer Al-Adwani has returned to take charge after leading Al-Yarmouk last season.

Al-Nasr's new foreign signings are Tunisia's Hazem Haj, Mali's Moriba Diarra, Sudan's Abdulrahman Koko, Algeria's Aymen Lakjaa and Mauritania's Sidi Yacoub.



Players battling for the ball.

Government backs bid

Ethiopia officially bids to host Africa Cup of Nations

ADDIS ABABA, Aug 25: Ethiopia has officially submitted its bid to host the 2028 Africa Cup of Nations, potentially bringing the continent's premier football tournament back to the country for the first time in more than 50 years.

The Ethiopian Football Federation confirmed on X that it had submitted its hosting proposal to the Confederation of African Football (CAF), with the bid receiving backing from the federal government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

The federation said the proposal meets CAF's requirements and demonstrates Ethiopia's readiness to stage one of Africa's biggest sporting events.

Ethiopia, the second-most populous country in Africa with around 130 million people, is currently ranked 143rd out of 211 teams in the FIFA world rankings.

The national team last qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations in 2021, when the tournament was held in Cameroon. Ethiopia was eliminated in the group stage.

The country last hosted the con-



Africa Cup of Nations trophy.

tinental championship in 1976, when Morocco won the title.

Morocco staged the 2025 edition, while the 2027 tournament will be jointly hosted by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

From 2028, the Africa Cup of Nations will be held every four years rather than every two, bringing its schedule into line with other major FIFA competitions.

Meanwhile, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso have indicated their intention to submit a joint bid to host the 2032 edition, according to their respective football federations.

‘You carry the expectations of all Kuwait’: Ambassador Mukai urges athletes to shine

Japan Embassy hosts reception to back Kuwaiti athletes ahead of Asian Games



Mukai Kenichiro speaks at the reception.



Dr. Tariq Hamad Al-Jalahma addresses the audience.

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager – Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Embassy of Japan hosted a reception at the Ambassador’s residence to support Kuwaiti athletes ahead of the 20th Asian Games and the 5th Asian Para Games, both to be held in Aichi Prefecture, Japan – the Asian Games from September 19 to October 4, and the Para Games from October 18 to 24.

Held under the theme “Imagine One Asia - Imagine One Heart,” the



The Japanese ambassador with John C. Fernandes.

event took place at the residence of Japanese Ambassador Mukai Kenichiro, who welcomed the guests and praised Kuwaiti athletes for their achievements, expressing hope for another strong performance in the upcoming competitions.

Speaking at the reception, H.E. Mukai said the athletes had reached the Asian stage after years of hard training and overcoming numerous challenges, adding that their participation reflected the strong friendship between Japan and Kuwait through sports.

Mukai highlighted Kuwait’s three gold medals at the 2023 Asian Games, including the dramatic 110-metre hurdles final in which Kuwait’s Yaqub Al-Yuha and Japan’s Shuya Aoyama shared gold after recording identical times. He also praised shooter Abdullah Al-Rashidi and karate gold medalist Fahad Al-Azmi, saying their achievements symbolized the deep sporting ties between the two countries.

Urging the Kuwaiti delegation to give its best, he said: “When you



Officials pose with the athletes after the reception.



Left: The Japanese ambassador with the athletes. Right: The Japanese ambassador with Minister Tariq Al-Jalahma and Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser.



Photos by Samer Shqair

stand on the field, you carry the expectations and the cheers of all the people of Kuwait.”

Kuwait’s Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs, Dr. Tariq Hamad Al-Jalahma, expressed confidence in the abilities of the Kuwaiti

athletes, wishing them success and hoping they would achieve strong results in their respective competitions.

The reception was attended by more than 70 guests, including Kuwait Olympic Committee

President Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah, Kuwait Paralympic Committee President Mansour Al-Sarheed, and Honorary President of the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club SheikhhaSheikha Al-Abdullah Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah, along with gov-

ernment officials, sports federation representatives and Kuwaiti athletes.

The event aimed to promote Kuwait-Japan relations through sports and demonstrate support for Kuwaiti athletes ahead of the upcoming games.

Kuwait begins 2029 FIBA Asia Cup qualifying campaign against Oman



Players preparing for the opener.

Kuwait U-17 handball team takes on Saudi Arabia in the final group match



Kuwaiti player drives the ball as opponent defends.

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

AMMAN, Aug 25: Kuwait’s U-17 national handball team will wrap up its preliminary-round campaign at the 11th Asian Youth Handball Championship in Jordan today, Tuesday, when it faces Saudi Arabia at 2 p.m. in its final Group 2 fixture.

The Blues will aim to end the group stage on a positive note after opening the tournament with a victory over Syria before losing to Qatar and Iran in its next two matches.

Syria will face Iran in another Group 2 encounter, while South Korea meets Bahrain and Uzbekistan takes on hosts Jordan in other matches on the final day of the preliminary round.

The Saudi Arabia clash will give Kuwait’s technical and administrative staff an opportunity to address the weaknesses exposed in the team’s previous two games and makes the necessary adjustments ahead of the next phase of the competition.

Kuwait entered the championship following an intensive preparation program that included a European training camp in Slovenia and Croatia, where the team played several friendly matches.

The squad subsequently returned home for a training camp that featured two warm-up matches against Bahrain, which was also preparing for the Asian championship.

Arnold extends Iraq coaching deal through 2027 Asian Cup

BAGHDAD, Aug 25, (AP): N Graham Arnold has extended his contract as Iraq head coach through the 2027 Asian Cup, months after guiding the national team at its first World Cup in 40 years.

The 63-year-old former Australia coach said he renewed for six months despite being offered a four-year deal by the Iraq Football Association.

“I have renewed my contract for six months and this decision is in my best interest and in the best interest of the Iraq national team,” Arnold told a news conference in Baghdad on Monday.

Arnold was appointed in May 2025 and guided Iraq to the World Cup via a last-ditch intercontinental playoff - the country’s first appearance in four decades. Iraq overcame major logistical issues caused by conflict in the Middle East to become the 48th and final team to secure a spot at the 2026 World Cup.

The team lost all three group games against Norway, France and Senegal in June, but gained valuable experience playing the likes of Frenchman Kylian Mbappé and Norway’s Erling Haaland.

Iraq will face Australia, Singapore and Tajikistan in the Asian Cup group stage. The tournament, which Iraq won in 2007, is scheduled for January in Saudi Arabia. Preparation starts at the regional Gulf Cup in September.

“I returned early to watch and identify new players ahead of the Gulf Cup and Asian Cup and to build the team for the future,” Arnold said. “You will see new faces in the next phase.”

Best of the Rest

World Cup winners buy Estrela: Three World Cup winners are among an international consortium that has bought a majority stake in Portuguese top-flight club Estrela da Amadora.

Thomas Müller, Mats Hummels and Lucas Hernandez - as well as Yann Sommer - are part of the investment group that has bought a 90% stake in the club.

The group reportedly paid 40 million euros (\$47 million) to former owner and president Paulo Lopo, who bought Estrela for 72,000 euros (\$84,000) in 2020.

The deal was confirmed by Estrela on Tuesday. The consortium is led by ADvantage and LEAD, with the support of the KI Group.

Müller and Hummels were an integral part of Germany’s World Cup success in 2014, while Hernandez helped France win soccer’s top prize four years later.

Mou urges Vinicius to keep emotions in check

MADRID, Aug 25: Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho believes Vinicius Junior has been unfairly targeted but says the Brazilian forward must do more to control his emotions and reactions to provocation.

Mourinho, who has made a relatively calm start to his second spell in charge of Real Madrid, said Vinicius could improve his relationship with opposing fans following several confrontations with Espanyol supporters and players during the team’s La Liga opener last Saturday.

Speaking ahead of Real Madrid’s match against Real Sociedad today, Mourinho distinguished between incidents that occur on and off the pitch.

“When it comes to his reaction to fans and insults, and if they are not racist insults but the usual abuse from supporters, I think he can control that better,” Mourinho said. “I think he can improve his relationship with opposing fans.”

However, Mourinho said the responsibility for dealing with fouls and the frustration they cause rests with referees.

“When it comes to fouls and the accumulation of frustration he feels, that is the responsibility of the referees, or judges as



Jose Mourinho talks to Vinicius.

I like to call them, in terms of protecting the players and the game,” he added.

Mourinho acknowledged that managing Vinicius during matches can be difficult, but believes the forward can work on improving his relationship with opposition supporters.

The Portuguese coach faced criticism last year after criticizing Vinicius when the Brazilian accused an opponent of making a racist remark during a Champions League match against Benfica. Mourinho was coaching Benfica at the time and argued that Vinicius had provoked the opposing players with his goal celebration.

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NEWS



Dr. Jaber Al-Marri and Talal Al-Namash join in honoring the team.

Sports

Squad viewed as important part of the foundation for Kuwait’s future national teams

Kuwait Volleyball Association honors U-17 Volleyball Championship bronze-winning team



A group photo of the honorees with federation officials.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Kuwait Volleyball Association has honored the national U-17 team following its impressive third-place finish at the Arab U-17 Volleyball Championship in Bahrain. The Association held a ceremony at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Hall to celebrate the team’s bronze-medal achievement. Association President Dr. Jaber Al-Marri, Vice President Nasser Al-Anzi, Secretary-General Talal Al-Namash, Treasurer Talal Al-Adwani and board members Nayef Al-Filkawi and Ziad Al-Anzi attended the ceremony. The association’s board congratulated the players and technical and ad-

ministrative staff, praising their efforts throughout the tournament and their performances, which reflected the progress of Kuwaiti volleyball at the youth level. The recognition also highlighted the Association’s commitment to developing its national teams and motivating young players to continue improving. The U-17 squad is viewed as an important part of the foundation for Kuwait’s future national teams and their ambitions to compete at Gulf, Arab and Asian level. Al-Marri said the ceremony was held to recognize the efforts of the players and coaching staff while reaffirming the federation’s commitment to developing volleyball and strengthening Kuwait’s presence in regional and international competitions.

He revealed that the team spent a month at a training camp in Cairo under Tunisian coach Mohamed Al-Sheikh before heading to Bahrain for the championship. Kuwait secured the bronze medal after defeating Algeria 3-0 in the third-place match. Al-Marri praised the players for their performance, particularly given that the tournament marked their first international experience outside Kuwait. He noted that the team had entered the competition after a period without domestic matches due to the suspension of local competitions. Despite the lack of competitive action, Al-Marri said the players responded strongly and produced a notable performance to secure a place on the podium.

Competitions form part of integrated development program

Rising stars shine at Sheikh Saad Shooting Academy



Tournament winners honored at the closing ceremony.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 25: The Kuwait Shooting Sport Club has concluded the first championship of the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Olympic Shooting Academy for the 2026-27 sports season, held at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex with strong participation from young male and female shooters. The closing ceremony featured the presentation of trophies and medals to the top performers in the various events, as well as prizes and certificates for participants and winners. Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Secretary-General Obeid Al-Osaimi, Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Vice Chairman Sheikh Sabah Salman

Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, members of the technical and administrative teams and a large crowd of shooting fans attended the ceremony. Al-Osaimi said Kuwait has a wealth of talented and promising young shooters, noting the growing interest in the sport among Kuwaiti youth. He explained that the club seeks to identify promising talent through competitions before developing their skills and training them in Olympic shooting disciplines under the guidance of national team coaches. The objective is to prepare them for the club’s competition program in the upcoming season and future international commitments. Al-Osaimi said this year’s academy competi-

tions form part of an integrated development program, building on the strong results achieved by the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Olympic Shooting Academy over recent years. He noted that the academy has helped discover and develop numerous talented shooters, several of whom have gone on to represent Kuwait at national-team level. The secretary-general added that the academy continues the “Shooter 2000” project, launched in 1998 with the support of Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and under the direct supervision of Engineer Duaij Al-Otaibi, Honorary President of the Kuwait Shooting Sport Club.

Alonso makes winning start

Chelsea edges Fulham

LONDON, Aug 25, (AP): Chelsea record signing Morgan Rogers scored on his debut while beating Fulham 3-2 to give new coach Xabi Alonso a perfect start to the Premier League season.

Rogers signed from Aston Villa last month and scored four minutes before halftime when he slotted home a sweet cutback from Maxence Lacroix. Brazilian João Pedro gave Chelsea the lead after 32 seconds, only for Josh King to equalize midway through the first half. Cole Palmer, one of Chelsea’s outstanding performers on the night, made it 3-1 with 49 minutes gone when he fired home from a tight angle after running on to João Pedro’s pass. Fulham cut the deficit almost immediately - Gonzalo García heading down and into the net after Sanchez could only parry Timothy Castagne’s low shot - and it poured forward in search of a winner but it was not to be. Instead, Chelsea’s front three took the plaudits with a dazzling performance that coach Alonso called “a good first day.” “It is a great combination and great quality,” he said. “We know that if we reach them in a good position then they have this talent to create special things. Today I am happy that all three



Fulham’s Oscar Bobb, left, and Chelsea’s Levi Colwill battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Fulham and Chelsea in London. (AP) scored.” The fixture matched Alonso against his former Real Madrid and Spain teammate Álvaro Arbeloa, who was also making his first appearance in the Fulham dugout. “We deserved a little bit more but football is not about what you deserve, it’s about what you take,” a disappointed Arbeloa said, although he added he was pleased with his players’ attitude. “This is how we’re going to play no matter who is in front of us.” Both men managed Real Madrid for periods last season but moved to England after being relieved of their duties at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium and Alonso won out in an entertaining game at Craven Cottage.

FIFA players’ group challenges Infantino as pressure on president grows

GENEVA, Aug 25: A group of current and former footballers has stepped up its criticism of FIFA President Gianni Infantino, calling for change as pressure on the world governing body’s leadership continues to grow. Former Manchester United and

France defender Mikael Silvestre, a member of FIFA’s Players’ Voice Committee, published a statement on X titled “Enough is enough,” calling for a greater role for players and fans in the governance of football. The statement was backed by sev-

eral prominent current and former players, including England international Lucy Bronze, France’s 1998 World Cup winner Emmanuel Petit and former England goalkeeper David James. The intervention follows Infantino’s

controversial proposal to sell stakes in football competitions, including the World Cup, to private investors. The players said they shared the concerns of millions of football fans and accused FIFA’s current leadership of moving the sport away from

its core values. They also criticized the decision-making process at FIFA, saying major decisions had been taken without adequate consultation with players or consideration of supporters’ views. “Change is necessary,” the state-

ment said, arguing that the current leadership had become unable to distinguish between its own interests and what is best for football. It added that recent developments had made it impossible for players to remain silent.