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517 MEDICINES, PHARMA PRODUCTS NOW COVERED BY PRICE CUTS

Kuwait slashes cost of staying well

2,760 products later, Kuwait leads GCC in medicine affordability

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi issued a ministerial decree on reducing the prices of 517 medications and pharmaceutical products.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Health disclosed that through this decree, the total number of medications and pharmaceutical products covered by pricing decisions and price reductions over the past three years reached 2,760 — the lowest in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

The ministry stated that the new list includes a wide range of therapeutic categories, including cancer medications, modern drugs for lowering cholesterol levels, treatments for epilepsy, allergies and pain, antibiotics, antifungals

and quit smoking aids.

It affirmed that the new prices are based on technical reviews and periodic price studies, comparing them with reference markets and internationally and regionally approved standards to ensure competitiveness and fair pricing.

It indicated that this step is in line with the ongoing review of drug pricing policies, and that it is working hard to balance the provision of high-quality and effective medicines with ensuring fair and appropriate prices for patients.



Kuwait's Defence Minister, Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and his Pakistani counterpart, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, during the signing of a joint defense and military cooperation agreement in Islamabad, in the presence of senior officials from both sides.



Ministry of Defense photos

Kuwait, Pakistan seal joint defense cooperation agreement

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and his Pakistani counterpart Khawaja Muhammad Asif, signed a joint defense and military cooperation agreement in Islamabad, in the presence of Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Lieu. Gen. Khaled Al-Shuraiaan, and Ambassador in Islamabad

Nassar Al-Mutairi.

This was announced in a press statement issued by the Ministry of Defense on Thursday, during the Kuwaiti Defense Minister's official visit to Pakistan, where he was accorded a formal military reception.

The statement indicated that the meeting reviewed Kuwaiti-Pakistani relations and discussed prospects

for close cooperation in the military and defense fields. They also discussed latest regional and international developments, issues of common interest, and efforts to address them in a way that contributes to supporting security and stability in the region and strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries.

It explained that the agreement signing represents

a significant milestone in the military and defense co-operation between the two countries, as it provides a framework to enhance operational coordination, exchange expertise, and raise the level of readiness and integration between the armed forces, serving common interests and contributing to regional security and stability.



Photo by Samer Shqair

Pedestrians raise their umbrellas against Kuwait's intense Thursday afternoon heat, as high humidity adds another layer of discomfort to the scorching weather.

Kuwait to sizzle this weekend as mercury soars toward 50°C

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): The Meteorological Department said Thursday that weather across the country during the weekend would be extremely hot during the day and hot to warm at night, with relatively high humidity over coastal areas and low- to mid-level clouds.

Acting Director of the department Dhirar Al-Ali told KUNA that weather

maps and numerical models indicate that Kuwait would be affected by an extension of the seasonal Indian low-pressure system, accompanied by an extremely hot and relatively humid air mass. Winds would be light to moderate northwesterly, becoming variable and light at intervals.

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51 areas get a fiber boost

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy installed underground fiber optic cables connecting the main substations and power plants to monitoring and control centers in 51 residential areas in the six governorates from January to August.

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday voiced the State of Kuwait's solidarity with **Nepal**, expressing sympathy and condolences to the families' victims of flash floods and heavy rain that swept through the friendly country, resulting in scores of casualties and property damage.

A ministry statement also wished speedy recovery for the injured. (KUNA)

— See Also Page 7

5-year clock starts on judiciary Kuwaitization

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Decree-Law No. 80/2026, issuing the Law Regulating the Judiciary, was published on Thursday in the supplement to the official gazette, "Kuwait Al-Youm." The decree is accompanied by the Law Regulating the Judiciary, which sets out provisions governing the judiciary, the Public Prosecution, and the affairs of judges and members of the Public Prosecution, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decree includes transitional provisions concerning judicial and Public Prosecution ranks and positions, the mechanism for appointing

a number of senior judicial officials, and a timeframe for the gradual Kuwaitization of the judiciary and Public Prosecution within a maximum period of five years from the date the decree takes effect.

The decree stipulates that Kuwaiti judges and members of the Public Prosecution appointed before its enactment shall remain in their positions until the end of their service.

It also stipulates that existing judicial offices, departments, and bodies will continue to perform their current functions until they are reorganized in accordance with the provisions of

the attached Law.

The following are the articles of the Decree-Law as published in the official gazette:

Article 1: The provisions of the attached Law Regulating the Judiciary shall be implemented.

Article 2: As of the date this Decree-Law takes effect, those holding the rank of Deputy Judge at the Court of Cassation and the Court of Appeals shall be transferred to the rank of Senior Counselor until the end of their service.

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Archbishop Eugene Nugent poses for a group photo with dignitaries, ambassadors and representatives of various embassies, members of the business community, Christian church leaders, friends and members of the Catholic faithful.

Archbishop Nugent bids farewell to Kuwait

'My glory was, I had such friends'

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager – Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: On the completion of his tenure in Kuwait, His Grace Archbishop Eugene M. Nugent, Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See to Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar, hosted a farewell reception on August 26 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel as he prepares to take up his new assignment as Apostolic Nuncio to the Czech Republic.

The reception, attended by chief guest Najeeb Abdulrahman Al-Bader, Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs, was also attended by dignitaries, ambassadors and representatives of various embassies, members of the business community, Christian church leaders, priests, nuns, friends and members of the Catholic faithful. In a deeply moving and reflective farewell speech, Archbishop Nugent expressed his gratitude for his years of service and shared memories of his diplomatic and pastoral mission in Kuwait and



Photos by Samer Shqair

Archbishop Nugent cuts the cake during the event, joined by guests.

across the Gulf.

The Archbishop recalled the major events that marked his tenure, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, Pope Francis's historic visit to Bahrain, the Vatican Secretary of State's visit to Kuwait in January, and, more recently, the

conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran. These events, he said, served as reminders of how fragile peace can be, even in a country that has demonstrated remarkable resilience.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:01 Asr 15:23
Sunrise .. 05:23 Maghrib .. 18:16
Zohr 11:49 Isha 19:38



HH the Amir



HH the Crown Prince



HH the Premier

Amir congratulates Moldova Pres. on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu, on her country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished Sandu good health and more development and prosperity for Moldova and its people.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable

of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu, on her country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished Sandu good health and more development and prosperity for Moldova and its people.

PM congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Moldova, Maia Sandu, on her country's Independence Day.



Min. Al-Huwailah, Jahra Gov. open 1st co-op in Al-Mutla'a

Multiple services pledged for area residents

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthlal Al-Huwailah confirmed that the opening of the first central market at Mutlaa Cooperative Society in N8 District signals the beginning of the opening of various facilities to better serve those residing in Mutlaa City.

Al-Huwailah stated that several government institutions are coordinating their efforts to complete the facilities in the city and other new areas, under the guidance and with close follow up of the political leadership to expedite the provision of the needs of residents and improve the services offered to them.

She revealed that the Ministry of Social Affairs will provide the Mutlaa residents with a number of services, such as family care and social development centers, cooperative societies, development halls and wedding halls.

She also affirmed that the ministry is proceeding with the phased implementation of Kuwaitization plans until full Kuwaitization is achieved.

On the other hand, Governor of Jahra Hamad Al-Habashi said all the concerned entities are focusing on Mutlaa City now due to its large size and population density.

He discussed the needs of the city with Al-Huwailah, explaining that it needs four or five cooperative societies considering its size. He indicated that the Jahra Governorate, in cooperation with the concerned government agencies and participating bodies in the Governorate Council and its committees, is working on proposals to develop services in Mutlaa and Saad Al-Abdullah cities.



KUNA photos Top and above: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthlal Al-Huwailah, Governor of Jahra Hamad Al-Habashi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs and Cooperative Affairs Dr. Sayed Issa during the opening of the cooperative branch in Al-Mutla'a.

He said the next phase will witness the provision of more activities and facilities that meet the needs of the residents.

Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs and Cooperative Affairs Dr. Sayed Issa stated that the opening of the first central market in N8 District is the start of providing cooperative and commercial services for the residents in the city.

Markets

He added that other markets and cooperative society branches will open as soon as construction and equipping work is completed and the licenses are obtained.

He revealed that Nov 22, 2026 has been set as the date for the opening of a similar central market in N11 District, after which the opening of markets, cooperative branches and other facilities will follow in various districts in Mutlaa.

He reaffirmed that the next phase is for the opening of more facilities commensurate to the size of the city in order to fully cover the needs of its residents.



Social Affairs and Union of Cooperative Societies, which took effect in August 2025.

He also clarified that price variations in cooperatives could be due to the purchasing power of each cooperative society, offers from suppliers and promotions.

He urged the residents and shareholders to familiarize themselves with the jurisdictions of government agencies operating within the cooperative sector to make sure that complaints are directed to the appropriate authority and addressed promptly.

He said the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is in charge of pricing and price monitoring, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) oversees product safety and suitability for consumption, the Municipality and Ministry of Commerce and Industry are in charge of licensing, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) handles labor issues and implementation of the Civil Service Labor Law, and the Ministry of Social Affairs focuses on financial and administrative oversight of cooperative societies and ensuring their compliance with the Cooperative Law and other regulations.

He pointed out that dissolving or dismissing the boards of directors of cooperative societies happens only after confirming serious financial and administrative violations. He said addressing the consequences of these violations requires comprehensive financial, administrative and commercial procedures that cannot be completed within a short period.

He added that the reports submitted by the relevant departments proved the correction of most violations, and the implementation of the recommendations of the audit and investigation committees.

He said some cooperative societies previously suffered due to illegal appointments that served electoral interests, which burdened their budgets with staffing costs disproportionate to their actual needs.

Other Voices

Persians of the Gulf and the Italians of New York

By Ahmad alsarraf

Symbolic ethnicity is a healthy and enriching social and cultural phenomenon in countries like the United States, which embrace dual identities.

We see its manifestations clearly in television interviews with celebrities, as well as in films and television series, when guests speak about their Italian, Irish, Greek, or Mexican heritage, even when their families were among the earliest immigrants to America.

These individuals speak openly and sometimes proudly about their heritage while expressing a strong sense of American identity and a readiness to stand with their country in any conflict that might arise between the United States and the country from which their parents or grandparents originated.

This acknowledgment of one's origins is not as evident in our countries, where many people try to change or modify their accents, and sometimes even their religious affiliations and names, in an attempt to distance themselves from what they consider shameful and to conform to the majority.

This "cultural or psychological" attachment to former homelands, even after several generations, is a common experience among many immigrants to the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia from Britain, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Greece, and South American countries. Living in close-knit communities helped preserve these identities, even after immigrants became fully integrated into their new societies.

The loyalty and devotion these individuals developed towards their



alsarraf

new homelands did not arise by chance. Rather, they stemmed from the opportunities for employment and better living conditions they found there, which generally afforded them equal rights and responsibilities, even when they belonged to a different race, religion, or culture than the majority, with some exceptions.

A few days ago, I was surprised by a statement from a former official who said that if it were not for the American military bases in Kuwait, we would be speaking Persian today.

The statement was met with widespread condemnation, as reflected in the volume of negative comments it received. I do not know what prompted him to make such a statement, which was marked by a degree of foolishness and perhaps even ill intent, especially since it contradicts reality.

For nearly three centuries, Kuwait has found itself in close proximity to Iran. Over the centuries, tens or even hundreds of thousands of Iranians migrated to Kuwait, and Persian was the language spoken by the majority of them. Yet they quickly adopted Arabic and, over time, largely lost the language of their ancestors, unlike what happened elsewhere in the region.

Kuwait's security relationship with neighboring Iran between 1979 and 1990 was never ideal, but there was never any real possibility of Kuwait becoming an Iranian lake. We must also not forget the inhumane and immoral Iranian aggression that Kuwait has endured in recent months.

It is worth noting that in April 1925, the Shah of Iran, Reza Pahlavi, deceived Sheikh Khaz'al, the ruler of Ahwaz, kidnapped him, and annexed Ahwaz to Iran. Despite this, the people of that region, even after more than a century of Iranian rule, continue to speak Arabic.

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Sheikh Jaber Jarrah



Ed Miliband

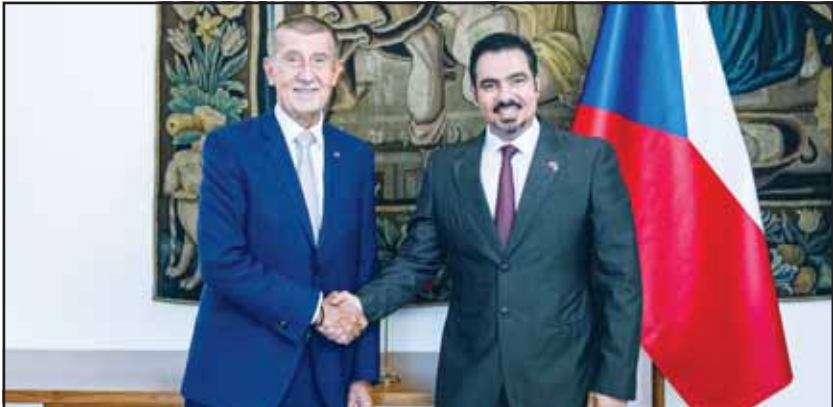
Kuwait, UK hold talks on latest regional developments, bonds

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah discussed latest regional developments, as well as "historic" relations with UK counterpart Ed Miliband on Thursday.

According to a ministry statement, Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah congratulated

Miliband over the phone on assuming his post, wishing him the best in performing his duties.

The call also discussed latest diplomatic efforts to uphold regional safety and security and ensuring free and safe navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Czech Republic Talal Al-Shatti and Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis shake hands after the meeting.

Kuwait, Czech Republic seek boost in trade and investment

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Czech Republic Talal Al-Shatti and Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis discussed opportunities to expand bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, and investment sectors, reflecting both friendly nations' aspirations.

The discussion took place during a meeting between Ambassador Al-Shatti and Prime Minister Babis, who also addressed several regional and interna-

tional issues of mutual interest, Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Prague said in a statement received by KUNA on Wednesday.

Ambassador Al-Shatti was quoted by the statement as saying that the coming phase of Kuwaiti-Czech relations would witness increased coordination and cooperation, contributing to the consolidation of the bilateral partnership and the exploration of new avenues for cooperation.

Clinics readied before schools start

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Sabah inspected the Al-Ruqai School Health Center on Thursday, during which he assessed the preparations and equipment for the new academic year to guarantee the readiness of health services for students before the start of classes.

In a press statement, Sheikh Dr. Salman Al-Sabah stressed that school health services are a crucial component of the student healthcare and preventative care system, promoting healthy behaviors, prevention and early detection of health problems.

He stressed the importance of fully equipping school clinics and ensuring their readiness before the start of the academic year, enabling them to fulfill their role in providing healthcare and preventative services to students from the first day.

He issued a directive that procedures for receiving students and their parents must be streamlined and that transactions should be expedited, while underscoring the importance of early preparation and ensuring all necessary equipment are in place to better serve the students.

He also confirmed the continuation of field monitoring and coordination with other concerned authorities to finalize preparations as per the plan.

Hospital staff caught selling counterfeit revenue stamps

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: The Criminal Security Affairs Sector, represented by the Arab and International Criminal Police Department (Interpol), apprehended an Egyptian resident working as a security guard at a government hospital and a Kuwaiti woman working at the same hospital for selling and using counterfeit official stamps, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry of Interior explained in a press release that investigations led to the arrest of the first suspect, who was found in possession of several counterfeit stamps. During interrogation, the suspect led authorities to the second suspect, who was subsequently arrested and found in possession of similar counterfeit stamps. Investigations revealed that she had processed transactions using

counterfeit stamps in exchange for money.

The suspect confessed to exploiting her official position for financial gain by processing transactions using counterfeit government stamps, setting aside the original stamps, and reusing them in new transactions. She also admitted to replacing the stamps on stored documents with counterfeit ones and reusing the originals again.

LOCAL

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Where there is a will there is a way ... think positively

"IT is said that an eagle lived in the mountains and built its nest high in the branches of a tree. The nest contained four eggs. One day, a violent earthquake struck, causing one of the eggs to fall from the eagle's nest," columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The egg rolled down the mountain until it landed in a hen's nest. The hens decided to protect and care for the unfamiliar egg, and an old hen volunteered to keep it warm until it hatched. After several days, the egg hatched, and a beautiful eagle chick emerged. But the young eagle was raised as a hen and grew up believing that it was one.

"One day, while playing in the hen house, the young eagle looked up and saw a group of eagles soaring high in the sky. It wished that it could fly as high as they did. But the hens laughed and mocked it, telling it, 'You are only a hen. You will never be able to fly as high as the eagles.' The eagle eventually stopped dreaming of soaring through the sky, and despair took hold of it. It lived its entire life like a chicken and died without ever realizing that it was an eagle.

"Some people possess a powerful will capable of moving mountains. An American citizen entered the business world in 1831 but lost his business the following year. He then entered politics but failed, so he returned to business, only to suffer another setback. He went back into politics, hoping to become a member of the U.S. Congress, but was unsuccessful. Despite these failures, he eventually became President of the United States. His name was Abraham Lincoln.

"Former Indian President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was born into a poor Indian family and could not afford a formal education. Yet he worked hard to continue his studies and went on to become a philosopher, scientist, and eventually the President of India.

"Germany had been preparing since 2001 for the challenge of defeating Brazil in the 2014 FIFA World Cup, spending thirteen years strengthening and developing its team. Its efforts culminated in a stunning 7-1 victory over Brazil.

"Do not succumb to negative circumstances. If you are an eagle who dreams of soaring high in the sky of success, pursue your dreams and pay no attention to those who try to discourage you. By the will of God Almighty, you possess the ability to achieve your goals. Be strong-willed, because a determined will can move mountains.

"A group of Arabs in the desert was able to defeat the Roman army despite lacking significant military power. They went on to establish a great civilization in Andalusia. This is the power of faith, determination, and a strong will."

Also:

"I recently wrote about a viral video showing a pothole on one of the highways, and within hours, the Ministry of Public Works responded through its official account. We appreciate this swift response and thank the ministry," columnist **Bassam Fahad Thunayyan Al-Ghanim** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The ministry stated in its response that the video was old. However, on the "X" platform, users claim that the clip is recent and was filmed on August 21. I hope the ministry will review this information and correct it if necessary. An official government response should not only be quick but also accurate, as people consider it a reliable source of information.

"However, the Ministry of Public Works' rapid response raises a larger and more pressing question - If a pothole on a road warrants a government response within hours, who will answer the 509 families and approximately 5,000 citizens in East Taima who have been waiting for weeks to learn the fate of their homes by September 1?

"These families have received notices of termination and cancellation of their leases, along with eviction notices, and the deadline is now only a few days away. We are not asking the government to resolve a complex legal and housing issue within hours, but people have the right, at the very least, to receive an answer. Is the eviction order still in effect, or is it under review? Has the eviction been postponed until alternative housing is provided? What alternatives are available?

"Sometimes, the hardest thing for

a person to endure is not the decision itself, but the uncertainty of waiting. There are fathers, mothers, and elderly people who do not know whether they should look for rental homes, start packing their belongings, or remain in their current homes and wait. If the state takes these homes from their current residents, to whom will they give them? If these homes are to remain rental or usufruct properties, the current residents should have the first right to them. They have lived there for years, paid rent, spent money on repairs and furnishings, and built their lives there, with their families, children, and grandchildren settled in these homes.

"If the government wants to reassess the value of these homes, we have proposed a clear initiative - Allow the current beneficiaries to acquire ownership at a fair value and through a mechanism that safeguards the rights of the state and protects public funds. If ownership requires legislation or further study, then the current lease or usufruct arrangement should continue until that study is completed.

"If all else fails, then the eviction should be postponed for a sufficient and fair period, while consideration should be given to compensating those who spent tens of thousands preparing and furnishing homes they received incomplete. Solutions exist. What is required is choosing the fairest and least costly option for both the state and the citizen.

"We have a recent experience whose painful social consequences we must not repeat, as happened in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. We support the enforcement of the law and the removal of buildings that violate regulations or pose a risk of collapse, once their danger has been established. However, it is crucial to distinguish between the property owner and the tenant who pays rent and bears no responsibility for the violations.

"When large numbers of residents are asked to vacate their homes within a short period, especially during the height of summer and intense heat, without sufficient alternative housing, it is only natural for another crisis to emerge. Families will be searching for apartments at the same time, which will drive up rents and reduce the available supply. Some people may be left without a place to go.

"The suffering of some of those affected by the evictions has reached the point where temporary housing solutions are needed. If it is proven that the government was forced to use schools as shelters to house those evicted from Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, that alone is a message that must be examined carefully. A decision made without providing a prior alternative may simply shift the



Al-Ghanim

problem from one place to another, leaving the government to bear the humanitarian and social consequences.

"If there is no urgent security or construction necessity, why carry out the evictions during the hottest months of the year? Why not give people, at the very least, until mid-November, when the weather cools down and the relocation process becomes less difficult for elderly people and children? Why evict families from their homes before we know where they will go?

"We do not want these scenes to be repeated with the 509 Kuwaiti families in East Taima. We do not want September 1 to arrive with the teams tasked with enforcing the decision facing fathers, mothers, and elderly people who are deeply attached to the homes they have lived in for years. Neither the government, nor the citizens, nor society wants this scenario.

"The eviction should be temporarily suspended, residents' representatives should be met with, the case should be reviewed from a legal perspective, and options such as transferring ownership or continuing the lease and usufruct arrangements should be considered. A decision can then be made after ensuring that it is fair, lawful, and mindful of its social impact. The Ministry of Public Works responded to a pothole issue within hours. However, in East Taima, some 5,000 citizens are not waiting for an answer about a pothole in the road, but they are waiting for answers about their homes, the future of their families, and the fate of their stability in the coming days. Answer them and reassure them before September 1."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



KUNA photo
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor and Acting Hawally Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah honors KUNA's first journalist and presenter with disabilities Fatma Al-Salman.

Gov. lauds KUNA journalist, presenter with disabilities

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor and Acting Hawally Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah on Wednesday praised KUNA's first journalist and presenter with disabilities Fatma Al-Salman for her excellence and outstanding media presence.

Speaking after honoring her at the governorate's headquarters, Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem said Al-Salman represents a distinguished model of determination and strong will, overcoming challenges while continuing her professional journey in the media field.

He added that Al-Salman is an inspiring example for people with disabilities in Kuwait, demonstrating professional abilities, confidence and competence in overcoming challenges and moving forward successfully in the media sector.

He also praised her efforts despite the challenges, saying the recognition reflects Kuwait's political leadership's support for national talents, empowerment of people with disabilities, and highlighting their abilities across various fields and sectors.

Renting cars tied to paying traffic rule violations fines

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Car rental offices and companies have begun refusing to finalize rental contracts for individuals with outstanding traffic violations, reports Al-Anba daily quoting informed sources.

They explained that the measure follows the General Traffic Department's linking of the "block" system for individuals with outstanding traffic violations to the traffic violation inquiry system used by car rental offices and companies. This prevents the rental process from being completed until the individual settles the outstanding fines.

Once the fines are paid and the "block" is removed, the vehicle rental process can be completed and the vehicle handed over to the customer.

The procedure is part of the efforts of the Ministry of Interior, represented by the General Traffic Department, to enhance mechanisms for collecting outstanding traffic fines and reduce their accumulation by expanding electronic connectivity between violation systems and relevant authorities and sectors.

Probe launched as Indian dies in fall from 'Hawally building'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: An Indian expatriate died after falling from the top of a residential building in Hawally, reports Al-Anba daily.

The Public Prosecution tasked the Criminal Investigation Department with conducting the necessary investigations to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident and whether there was any criminal suspicion involved in the death.

The Ministry of Interior's operations room had received a report about a person falling from a building.

The building's security guard explained that the deceased was a resident who lived with others in a shared apartment. He heard a loud thud and, when he went outside to check, found the expatriate lying dead on the ground.

A case has been registered, and detectives are continuing their investigations to prepare a detailed report.

MoJ regulates 'contracts' for revoked nationality persons

Pay cut warned if visit to Admin Affairs Dept shunned

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: The Ministry of Justice issued a measure for regulating the procedures for signing and renewing contracts for employees whose citizenship has been revoked, based on directives from the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Cabinet, and regulations governing the continued entitlement of certain categories of employees to their prescribed financial and employment benefits, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The measure covers four categories of employees whose citizenship has been revoked - female employees covered by Article 8 of the Kuwaiti Nationality Law, those covered by Article 5 concerning individuals who provided distinguished service, those covered by Article 5 and its amendments from the 1965 census, as well as individuals who acquired citizenship through dependency, and the children of Kuwaiti women covered by Article 5,

Paragraph 2.

The ministry set the contract term for female employees in the Article 8 category at two years, with renewal procedures to be completed at least one month before the contract expires.

The contracts for the remaining categories are for one year, renewable annually, and must be renewed one month before the contract expires.

The ministry required employees covered by this mechanism to visit the Administrative Affairs Department to complete the contracting or renewal procedures within the specified timeframes.

It confirmed that failure to comply with the required procedures may result in the application of prescribed administrative and financial measures, including the precautionary suspension of salary payments until the procedures are completed.

Regarding employees whose citizenship has been revoked, the ministry called on those who have not completed the contracting procedures to visit the Administrative Affairs Department's End-of-Service Section at the Ministries Complex within one month of the issuance of this mechanism.

Those affected by similar decrees or deci-

sions issued in the future must visit the ministry within one month of their issuance.

The ministry organized procedures for changing an employee's job title, educational qualification, or work location. Employees must visit the Administrative Affairs Department within one month of the decision's issuance to sign a new contract reflecting their updated employment details.

The measure also includes procedures for extending social security coverage to employees whose citizenship was revoked from GCC countries and who have regained their original citizenship, in accordance with Public Institution for Social Security Circular No. 5/2025.

The Ministry of Justice confirmed that compliance with this measure is a condition for the continued disbursement of financial entitlements and that the measure is effective from the date of its issuance.

The ministry indicated that contracts with the children of Kuwaiti women will be concluded as soon as the contract template is received from the relevant authorities, adding that they will continue to work in accordance with the Cabinet's circular on the matter.



Diagram show the closure.

Mirqab road fully closed for repairs until Aug 30

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: The General Traffic Department announced the full closure of Omar Bin Al-Khattab Street in Mirqab, including its entrance and exit onto Al-Sour Street, due to roadworks, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The department also announced the closure of the entrance and exit from Al-Sour Street onto Abdullah Al-Mubarak Street from Wednesday until Sunday, August 30.

KD500 stolen from Asian's account in purchase fraud

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Jahra Security Command referred a fraud case to the Cybercrime Investigation Department in an effort to identify and apprehend an unknown individual who stole KD 500 from an Arab expatriate's bank account, reports Al-Anba daily.

The expatriate reported that he visited a website and purchased goods worth KD 20. He was then asked to complete the purchase by entering his bank account details. He complied but received a message stating that the payment had been declined.

However, he was later surprised to discover that KD 500 had been withdrawn from his account in five separate transactions. He provided authorities with details of the website he had visited, from which his bank balance was stolen.

A security source urged all citizens and residents to avoid making purchases through untrusted websites.

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Asian drug peddler held: Farwaniya security officers arrested an Asian expatriate on suspicion of drug trafficking in Farwaniya, reports Al-Anba daily.

The suspect was arrested in possession of three bags containing crystal meth and narcotic pills.

Upon seeing the officers, the suspect attempted to flee but was apprehended. He was identified as an Asian national and found to be carrying the drugs.

Special Buffet

LARGEST SPREAD IN TOWN

Child Buffet	Adult Buffet
KD 3.450	KD 5.950
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LOCAL

EPA eyes sustainable youth role to protect environment

26 students benefit as 'Blue Pioneer' summer camp ends

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: The Environment Public Authority (EPA), in cooperation with the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), on Wednesday concluded the second edition of its summer environmental camp titled, "Blue Pioneer."

The camp, held from Aug 16-26, hosted 26 students to raise their awareness on marine environmental issues and develop their scientific and practical skills in protecting the environment.

The camp is part of the partnership between EPA and ROPME, which launched the first edition in the summer of 2025. EPA organized the second edition through its own staff and with the support of ROPME.

The program included 32 hours of training, lectures, practical activities and field visits for the participants to learn about the marine environment, the challenges it faces, and ways to protect it.

In a speech delivered on behalf of acting Director General of EPA Nouf Behbehani, Director of the Air Quality Department at EPA Sharif Al-



Nouf Behbehani



Marwa Abel

Khayat affirmed that EPA is keen on offering an experience that combines learning and application, ensuring that sustainability becomes a practice for the students, not just information they receive, through the rational use of resources and activating the role of individuals in protecting the environment.

He urged the participants to translate their newly acquired knowledge into daily practices that will positively impact their families, schools and communities.

He commended the partnership with ROPME and the supporting entities like the Coast Guard, Scientific Center, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), Ministry of Education, Aqua Marine and City Group-City Bus.

On the other hand, Marwa Abel, Head of the

Capacity Building Unit at ROPME, affirmed that the "Blue Pioneer" program aligns with the third strategic objective of the organization for the years 2026 to 2030. She said it is linked with the "Blue Communication" and "Blue Education" programs, which aim to deepen the youths' understanding of the marine environment through education, experience and scientific activities.

She explained that "Blue Education" operates through a school-based approach, which integrates marine concepts into the educational process, and an extracurricular approach through camps, field visits and practical activities.

She added that the "Blue Pioneer" program is under the second track, indicating that Kuwait was the first member state to hold the camp in the summer of 2025 under the supervision of ROPME.

She said the program allowed the students to gain practical experience with coral reefs, methods of cultivating and restoring them, examining marine life samples, pollution and oil spots, as well as marine maps, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and the role of the Coast Guard in protecting the marine environment.

The event included an honoring ceremony for the participating students, along with the trainers, supervisors, organizers, and supporting governmental and private entities that contributed to the success of the program.



Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) participates as a speaker in the panel discussion.

Nazaha backs tech use in battle against corruption

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) participated as a speaker in a panel discussion on employing technology in the fight against corruption, organized by the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) on Thursday, 27 August 2026, on the sidelines of its Seventh Plenary Meeting held at the Vienna International Centre in Austria.

In his intervention, Mr. DhariBuyabes, Head of International Organizations and Conferences, presented the technological tools developed internally at Nazaha, in addition to the electronic submission of corruption report service available through the government's "Sahel" application, which ensures confidentiality and privacy for the whistleblower while enabling them to follow up on the status of their report and submit additional documents at any time, with all necessary protections provided under the law.

The presentation covered the steps for submitting and following up on a report, highlighting some of the conditions that must be met, such as the reported crime being a corruption offense under Nazaha's establishment law and the availability of documents demonstrating the seriousness of the report. The presentation concluded with a set of recommen-

dations, most notably enhancing public awareness of the importance of reporting corruption and informing the public of the reporting requirements.

The session also reviewed the results of the consultations conducted by the GlobE Network with member authorities on the "Technology Transfer Initiative," an initiative aimed at enhancing the exchange of technical solutions and tools among anti-corruption authorities in member states. Nazaha's participation in this session came in light of its earlier chairing of the joint meeting of Thematic Working Groups 2 (TWG2) and 3 (TWG3), held on 19 May 2026, which formed the discussion basis for this initiative. The session concluded with the Plenary's adoption of the Network's Technology Transfer Initiative.

The GlobE Network was established in 2021 under the umbrella of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to serve as a platform for enhancing cooperation in combating cross-border corruption crimes, with a membership of 252 anti-corruption entities from 137 countries. Nazaha is participating in its Seventh Meeting during the period from 25 to 28 August 2026, which aims to launch several practical tools to enhance cooperation in combating corruption, alongside organizing several sessions and workshops on various technical aspects in this field.

KD139m allocated for construction material subsidy

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The State Budget Report for the current fiscal year revealed that KD139.925 million is allocated for subsidizing construction materials, categorized under Subsidies Item.

This item includes ongoing, non-reciprocal payments made by government entities to enterprises based on their production activity levels or the quantity or value of goods or services they produce, sell, export or import.

The subsidy is one of the government's tools to support citizens benefiting from the housing welfare system by bearing a portion of the costs of building and renovating houses.

The Supply Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry manages the subsidized construction materials system by overseeing the work of the departments responsible for issuing ration cards and construction material disbursement orders, as well as monitoring the subsidy budget, commodity inventory, and the general emergency plan.

The department specified the conditions that applicants for subsidized building materials should meet as follows: must be Kuwaiti citizens obtaining a loan from Kuwait Credit Bank for the construction, renovation, purchase or demolition and reconstruction of houses. Applications must be submitted through the Sahel application.

It is worth noting that Minister of Commerce and Industry Osama Boodai recently issued a ministerial decree to revise the regulations for granting subsidized and discounted building materials.

Green buildings planned for customer service – MEWRE

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is preparing for floating six tenders for the construction, completion and maintenance of a green building for customer service in each governorate.

The ministry recently submitted the tender for the construction of a green building in Farwaniya Governorate to the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) for approval. However, CAPT postponed its decision, pending an updated approval from the Ministry of Finance.

The ministry included these six tenders in its plan for the current fiscal year, which will be offered to qualified companies in accordance with the applicable regulations and laws.

It is worth noting that the buildings are environmentally friendly and will follow all building code standards, thereby, ensuring electricity and water conservation. The buildings will meet the necessary requirements to provide a suitable working environment for both employees and customers.

Moreover, the Media and Awareness Team for Energy Conservation at the

ministry conducted an awareness lecture for the employees of Alshaya Group.

Assistant Undersecretary for Monitoring, Control and Supervision Centers Eng. Fatima Hayat and Alshaya Group representative Hamoud Alshaya attended the lecture.

The lecture is in line with the efforts of the ministry to raise public awareness about the importance of rationalizing electricity and water consumption, and promoting sustainability in line with the national energy and water conservation campaign, 'Wafer'.

The lecture highlighted important daily behaviors that contribute to rationalizing electricity and water consumption, as well as the need for optimal resource utilization.

It reviewed several practices that can be implemented in workplaces and various facilities to improve consumption efficiency and reduce waste.

The 'Wafer' team also presented the objectives of the national campaign and the efforts of the ministry to raise public awareness on the importance of saving electricity and water through awareness programs and initiatives, and by building partnerships with different public and private entities.

News in Brief

2,627 truck violations recorded on 7th Ring Road and Highway

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Under the supervision and guidance of the Head of Operations and Traffic Affairs Brigadier General Ahmed Fahad Al-Azmi, and under the leadership of the Director General of the General Traffic Department Brigadier General Rashid Hamoud Al-Hajri, the General Traffic Department's Highways Department conducted an intensive traffic enforcement campaign targeting trucks on the Seventh Ring Road and King Fahad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Road, reports Al-Anba daily.

The campaign, conducted this week, resulted in the detection of 2,627 traffic violations.

The General Traffic Department explained that 1,386 violations involved trucks failing to stay in the right lane, violating overtaking regulations, and disregarding lane markings. The campaign also recorded 1,241 violations related to truck safety and roadworthiness requirements, including missing rear bumpers, the absence of reflective tape, uncovered loads, and missing spare tires.

Abducted, assaulted, robbed?: The Ministry of Interior, represented by the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh Criminal Investigation Department, is investigating a report filed by an Egyptian expatriate who claimed that he was kidnapped, assaulted, and robbed of KD 840 by 12 unknown individuals in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, reports Al-Anba daily.

The expatriate filed a report at the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police station, stat-

ing that 12 people he did not know took him to Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, assaulted him, stole the money, and then fled.

A felony case was registered, and the Public Prosecution ordered the necessary investigations to identify the suspects and determine the circumstances of the incident.

A security source stated that detectives are working to verify the report, noting that the investigation may reveal a prior relationship between the complainant and one of the suspects.

□ □ □

Protect kids from power shock: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), in an awareness publication titled "Protecting Children from Electricity," urged parents to take several preventive measures to protect children from the dangers of electric shock at home, reports Al-Anba daily.

KFF emphasized the importance of covering electrical outlets and keeping wires and electrical appliances out of children's reach.

It also called on parents to educate children about the dangers of electricity and raise their awareness of the importance of staying away from outlets and wires and not tampering with electrical appliances.

KFF stressed the importance of constantly supervising children, emphasizing that following safety procedures and maintaining continuous supervision can help reduce household accidents and protect children from electrical hazards.



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Canada deepens ties after break with Trump

Carney to address European Parliament

TORONTO, Aug. 27, (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will address the European Parliament next month, a high-profile visit that underscores Canada’s push to deepen ties with Europe after a sharp break with US President Donald Trump as their trade war escalates.

A statement from Carney’s office Wednesday said the prime minister will also attend the European Union’s annual State of the Union address.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is scheduled to deliver her annual State of the Union address Sept. 16, with Carney attending as a guest of honor before addressing lawmakers the following day. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola said in a social media post that the visit would be “an opportunity to deepen EU-Canada ties and strengthen our bond.”

The visit comes days after US-Canada trade talks collapsed and Trump imposed new 50% tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods, prompting Ottawa to announce retaliatory tariffs.

Europe has become central to Canada’s strategy for reducing its dependence on the United States. The prime

minister has argued that middle powers should work together rather than “compete for favor” with larger powers and has made at least 12 trips to Europe since taking office in March 2025.

His government has also deepened ties with Europe through a security and defense pact and Canada’s entry this year as the first non-European country in the EU’s Security Action for Europe initiative.

Carney has set a goal of doubling Canada’s non-US exports over the next decade as he seeks to reduce the country’s economic dependence on the United States.

A former governor of both the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, Carney also has longstanding ties to Europe.

Also:

TORONTO: As Canada moves to reduce its dependence on American military suppliers, the push is on display inside a Toronto garment factory.

Hunched over sewing machines, two workers rapidly stitch together pieces of camouflage-patterned fabric and Velcro strips. In the next room, workers snip stray threads as they inspect

the finished product: helmet covers for the Canadian military.

The factory is assembling uniforms for Wuxly, a luxury parka maker that is among a flurry of Canadian companies branching into defense contracting. As Canadian military spending surges, others are developing remote sensors for the country’s vast Arctic region, making drones to resupply soldiers, and building autonomous robots.

The boom in the defense sector reflects Canadian Prime Minister **Mark Carney’s** vow to strengthen the country’s economic self-sufficiency amid fraying relations with **Washington**, including a fresh escalation this week with new rounds of tariffs.

Canadian startups and established companies, alongside firms in Europe, are set to benefit from tens of billions of dollars in extra defense funding, driven partly by pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump to contribute more to NATO. Canada’s investment remains small compared with the Pentagon’s budget, but its strategy aims to boost domestic defense capabilities, and not just U.S. contractors.



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, (center), speaks at the Davie shipyard in Levis, Quebec on Aug. 24. Joël Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement, (left), Quebec Premier Christine Frechette, and Quebec Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy and Minister Responsible for Maritime Strategy Bernard Drainville look on.

Our country is heading in the wrong direction: Alsobrooks

GOP faces midterm verdict as Iran war drags on months longer than Trump promised

BETHLEHEM, Pa., Aug. 27, (AP): Mike Gibbons sat out the presidential election two years ago, frustrated that Democrat Kamala Harris did not take a stronger stand against Israel’s war in Gaza and unable to bring himself to cast a vote for Republican Donald Trump.

That is not his plan this year.

The 33-year-old restaurant server in this eastern Pennsylvania town that once housed one of the world’s largest steelmakers is eager to vote for any Democrat he can in November. As the war with Iran that Trump initially said would last weeks surpasses six months on Friday, Gibbons is feeling the fallout every time he fills his tank at nearly \$1 per gallon more than last year.

“The price of gas affects the price of everything and the price of everything’s up and my pay hasn’t gone up,” he said. “I’m doing blue no matter who this time.”

The Iran war has reshaped the rapidly approaching midterm elections, undermining Trump’s campaign pledge to steer clear of foreign conflicts and challenging Republicans who would rather focus on their tax cuts as they cling to narrow majori-

ties in Congress.

While the president’s supporters are undeterred, the war’s unpopularity and economic ripple effects could tilt the scales in tightly contested US House districts like the one in Bethlehem, where Republican Rep. Ryan Mackenzie is one of this year’s most vulnerable incumbents.

Midterm elections are always difficult for the party in power in Washington. But interviews with voters around the country show how a war that Trump expected to end with a swift victory could undermine the final years of his presidency.

About two-thirds of US adults say the war with Iran has not been worth fighting, according to a July poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That includes the vast majority of Democrats and independents, as well as more than one-third of Republicans.

Although Trump has long criticized Iran’s leadership, he did little to prepare Americans or allies for such a lengthy conflict. Republican President George W. Bush, for instance, spent more than a year making a case for launching a war in Iraq through speeches and attempts



People march while taking part in a protest against the US-Israeli war with Iran, and against conflict in Lebanon on April 8, in New York. (AP)

to build an international coalition. Trump did none of that.

Trump has refused to acknowledge the war’s cost, saying this month he would “never apologize” for higher prices stemming from it and insisting he did “the right thing” to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. His administration an-

nounced new sanctions this week in an attempt to further isolate Tehran.

In Congress, Republicans have shifted from initially cheerleading Trump’s moves in Iran to expressing concern about the toll of the war. But the party has largely unified to block measures that would curb Trump’s war powers and leaders have shown

no interest in cutting off money for the war, preferring to portray Democrats as extremists who cannot be trusted to govern.

Democrats who were blamed just two years ago for presiding over high prices see an opportunity to turn the issue back on their opponents. As part of his comeback US Senate bid in Ohio, Sherrod Brown released an ad this week filmed at a gas station as he said “the cost of gas is out of control and we’re the ones paying for it.”

Speaking to a group of older adults recently in a Republican-dominated swath of western Maryland, Democratic US Sen. Angela Alsobrooks blamed higher prices on the war. Heading into November, she encouraged fellow Democrats to stay focused on the war’s impact and what it says about Trump’s leadership.

“We ought to be saying what is obvious, which is our country is heading in the wrong direction,” she said in an interview.

That resonates with voters such as Brandon Bane, a fast-food worker in Bakersfield, California, where Republican Rep. David Valadao is also in a competitive congressional race. Bane, who described himself as a

political independent, said he often has to balance paying rent and groceries, noting high gas prices have only added to the challenge.

“It hasn’t been worth it at all,” he said of the war, adding that he plans to vote for Valadao’s challenger, Democrat Randy Villegas.

Melissa Wegman, a Democratic retiree who is also from Bakersfield, said she was shocked when the pump recently whirled to \$128 to fill the tank on her SUV.

“I have to manage a budget,” she said.

But there is a risk, too, that the war does not provide Democrats with the political boost they are expecting.

While there is plenty of frustration about prices, there are also voters willing to make adjustments without blaming Republicans. Many remain aligned with Trump and are not interested in seeing Democrats return to power.

North Carolina is a top pickup opportunity for Democrats hoping to flip a U.S. Senate seat. But at the State Farmers Market in Raleigh, North Carolina, Lucienda Lowe of Sugarloaf Orchards said her faith in Trump is solid.



Smoke rises over the city center after a Russian attack on Kyiv, Ukraine on Aug. 27. (AP)

Russia launches ‘massive’ overnight strike on nine Ukrainian cities

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug. 27, (AP): Russia bombarded cities across Ukraine with missiles and drones in an onslaught that began after nightfall Wednesday and continued into daylight hours Thursday, when explosions echoed around the capital Kyiv through the morning.

Ukraine is desperately short of US-made Patriot air defense missiles that can counter Russia’s ballistic missiles, and Moscow’s fast-flying jet-powered drones have brought another challenge in the fifth year since the Russian army’s invasion.

Ukrainian officials say Russia builds up missile stocks and launches major attacks every few days, hoping to exhaust Ukrainian defenses through the sheer weight of numbers. In response, Ukraine has hit high-profile targets on Russian soil as the countries inflict mutual destruction.

The Russian Defense Ministry said its forces carried out a “massive” overnight strike on targets in nine Ukrainian cities. It described the targets as military-related, including industrial facilities, oil refineries, logistics hubs and port infrastructure.

Civilian areas including apartment blocks suffered damage. The barrage killed a 78-year-old woman in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, with at least nine people reported wounded elsewhere, Ukrainian officials said.

“Russia continues to invest in missiles and in expanding its war, and that means more countermeasures

are needed,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on social media, noting promises earlier this week by European countries to provide more air defense help.

“It is important that these (measures) are also supplemented by additional ballistic missile defense packages” through European purchases of weapons from the United States, he said.

Zelenskyy was due to visit neighboring Moldova on Thursday to mark its national day commemorating its 1991 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union. Ukraine announced its independence the same year.

Russia’s neighbors in Eastern Europe are concerned its invasion of Ukraine could trigger a wider conflict, and drones flying into its airspace have fueled jitters.

Moldova’s Ministry of Defense said Thursday that five drones breached its airspace overnight, but it didn’t specify who fired them.

Ukraine’s air force said defenses shot down or suppressed seven Russian ballistic missiles, though it didn’t say how they achieved that.

Four districts of Kyiv were hit during the night, damaging residential blocks, a school building and a medical facility, though no casualties were reported, city police said.

Russian forces struck industrial facilities as well as energy infrastructure in Ukraine’s central Poltava region, said Vitalii Diakivnych, head of the Poltava regional military admin-

istration.

The southern Odesa region also came under a massive Russian attack lasting more than seven hours, according to Oleh Kiper, head of the Odesa regional military administration.

The barrage damaged a 16-story residential building and two educational facilities as well as a grain elevator, he said. Odesa is a key port for Ukraine’s vital exports of grain and other agricultural products.

Ukraine has also fired hundreds of long-range drones almost nightly at targets in Russia.

Also:

OSLO, Norway: A pro-Russian hacker group on Wednesday claimed responsibility for a cyberattack that has affected multiple Norwegian government digital services over the past three days.

The cyberattack has been ongoing since Monday, said **Are Kvistad**, a spokesperson for the Norwegian Digitalization Agency (Digdir), the state body in charge of making Norway’s public services more digital and user-friendly, told The Associated Press.

“It’s the biggest attack against Digdir solutions that we have ever experienced,” Kvistad said.

The denial-of-service attacks meant that hackers pushed massive traffic toward the agency in order to block services, including one that enables citizens to use one login across multiple public services.

King Charles to visit Caribbean nations

LONDON, Aug. 27, (AP): King Charles III and Queen Camilla will visit three countries in and around the Caribbean when he travels to the region for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, which begins Nov. 1 in St. John’s, the capital of Antigua and Barbuda.

Charles’ autumn tour will begin Oct. 27 in the Bahamas, one of the 14 countries other than the United Kingdom where he is head of state.

He will then travel to Guyana for a state visit marking 60 years of bilateral relations between Britain and the nation on South America’s northern coast. Guyana, a former British colony, became a self-governing dominion in 1966 and a fully independent republic in 1970.

Charles is the symbolic head of the Commonwealth, an association of 56 independent countries, many of which have historic ties to Britain. Its members include major economic powers such as nations



Britain’s King Charles and Queen Camilla arrive for the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony in Glasgow, Scotland, July 23. (AP)

Australia, Canada and India, as well as small island nations like Tuvalu in the South Pacific and the three Caribbean nations the king will visit later this year.

The Commonwealth heads of government meet every two years to discuss shared challenges, strengthen cooperation and look for ways to promote development.

Europe

Car rams pedestrians in France, 2 dead: A driver deliberately rammed their car into a group of people in northern France, killing two people and injuring nine others, authorities said.

The incident late Wednesday night in Caen isn’t being treated by officials as a terrorist attack. Caen Mayor **Aristide Olivier** told local radio ICI Normandie that it seemed to be the result of “a fight that turned bad.”

The top regional official, Calvados Prefect David Clavière, initially said overnight that one person was killed. His office on Thursday revised the death toll upward to two and said nine other people were injured.

The suspected driver has been arrested, according to Clavière, who said the man was born in Russia. A police investigation is underway.

“A car deliberately drove into pedestrians who were in the street opposite the train station,” Clavière said. (AP)



Olivier

‘Norway king’s health deteriorated’: Norwegian King Harald was in “very serious condition” as his health deteriorated, palace officials said Thursday, prompting the queen and Crown Prince Haakon to cancel their engagements.

The 89-year-old monarch, who has hemolytic anemia and has been on sick leave for several weeks, was admitted to the National Hospital in Oslo earlier this month. His condition had previously stabilized following a bacterial blood infection but the royal palace on Thursday said it had worsened.

Haakon, his son, has been serving as regent during the king’s time in the hospital.

Harald, who has been monarch since 1991, has

been in and out of the hospital several times in recent years. (AP)

French FM receives OPCW chief: French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Noël Barrot, received on Wednesday Sabrina Dallahor, Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

A statement by the foreign ministry said, the French minister “reaffirmed France’s full political, financial and technical support for the OPCW for the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, in a context marked by evolving threats.”

The statement added, the “minister recalled France’s commitment to continuing efforts in Syria, under the leadership of the OPCW, aimed at quickly establishing the full extent of the chemical weapons program developed by the Al-Assad regime, and to ensure the safe and verifiable destruction of any remaining elements of this program”.

The statement noted, “he also welcomed Syria’s request for membership in the International Partnership against Impunity for the Use of Chemical Weapons (PICIA), chaired by France, and recalled our commitment to the need to continue the work of establishing the facts and identification of those responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria”.

The statement noted, “France reaffirmed its support for Ukraine and the actions taken to strengthen Ukrainian capacities for detection, protection and response to the chemical risk it faces on the front”.

The statement said, the “minister recalled the need for Russia to answer for its violations of the Convention, of which the poisoning of Alexei Navalny with a toxin, epibatidine, constitutes another blatant example”.

The statement added, “France will continue to support the action of the OPCW in order to preserve the international standard prohibiting the use of chemical weapons, to fight against impunity and to prevent any resurgence of these weapons”. (KUNA)

Dozens of bridges destroyed, roads damaged, complicating search efforts

Catastrophic floods kill 353 in Nepal and Tibet, with more than 1,300 missing

DEVIGHAT, Nepal, Aug 27, (AP): Rescue teams searched on Thursday for hundreds of missing people along the Nepal-China border, where a catastrophic and deadly torrent of water and mud several stories high swept through communities a day earlier following a glacier collapse.

Videos of the disaster showed people running before the floodwaters swallowed them up and washed out buildings and bridges. At least 353 people were killed, police said, and more than 1,300 are missing, including scores of foreigners and pilgrims. Hundreds others have been displaced across the Himalayan region.

The steep slopes and the lush valleys below the Himalayan mountain range - home to many of the world's highest peaks and remaining glaciers - are especially vulnerable to flooding and landslides. Melting glaciers have become more common because of human-caused climate change.

Images showed what appeared to be the second floors of buildings in Nepal's hard-hit Nuwakot district

slathered in mud after the torrent rushed by. Debris hung from tree branches and wires, vehicles were buried and some stunned survivors were caked in mud.

Nirajan Paudyal, a journalist based in Nepal's capital of Kathmandu, worried for his parents and other relatives who live in the small village of Soley in the district.

"There is no update till now. I fear there won't be any update," Paudyal said.

The disaster has left at least 270 dead and 826 people missing in Nepal, and three dead and 558 missing in Tibet, an autonomous region of China, authorities said.

Nepalese officials said that dozens of bridges were destroyed and nearly 40 kilometers (25 miles) of roads were damaged, complicating search efforts.

The Nepalese army has rescued more than 100 people from flood-affected areas through helicopter operations, army spokesperson Brig. Gen. Raja Ram Basnet said. Army teams also evacuated people trapped inside facilities linked to the Trishuli hydropower project, he added.



Rescuers carry a victim of flash flooding to safety along the Trishuli River in Nepal's Nuwakot district on Aug 26. (AP)

Dozens of injured people have been transported to Kathmandu for advanced medical care.

Rescuers found bodies hundreds of kilometers (miles) in Chitwan district downstream from the hardest-hit areas.

Bishal Kumar Bhandari, chairman of the Nepal Red Cross So-

ciety, said they have shifted their focus from rescue to large-scale relief operations in the flood-hit districts. He said that around 1,200 people were displaced from at least three villages.

In Tibet, a mudslide that struck near the land border crossing of Gyirong Port on Wednesday left mud in

the surrounding areas that was more than 1½ meters (5 feet) deep on average, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported. Roads leading to the crossing were all damaged, while secondary collapses or landslides might occur as rain continued in the area, it added.

Chinese authorities deployed a large military transport aircraft to send a team to the region, and the country's premier, Li Qiang, arrived in Gyirong on Thursday to direct rescue efforts.

Chinese authorities also warned that a barrier lake, which formed at the confluence of the Tsogyal and the Purupqiangzangbu rivers, is overflowing and may burst.

The United Nations' humanitarian chief, Tom Fletcher, announced Thursday on X that he has ordered the release of \$2 million from the U.N.'s Central Emergency Response Fund to help with medical care, shelter and water. He called the floods "horrific."

Many are still waiting to hear if their loved ones are alive.

Shova Shrestha, 33, has spent more than a day waiting for news

of her husband, Rajan Shrestha. She said his phone rang when she first called after the floods, but later became unreachable. Since then, she has watched every helicopter that landed in Bidur, the capital of Nuwakot district, hoping he might be among the survivors.

"I keep looking at each helicopter, hoping he will step out of it," Shova said.

Among the missing are 517 foreigners, according to Nepal's Tourism Board.

They include 178 people from India, more than 60 from the U.S. and others from 30 other countries, ranging from Ukraine and the U.K. to South Africa and Japan, the board said.

Many of the missing may have been on a pilgrimage to Mount Kailash in Tibet, a sacred site for Hindus, Buddhists and others.

Seventy-seven people from one pilgrimage group were caught in the floods at the immigration office at the border, according to a post on X from Indian spiritual guru and the head of the Isha Foundation, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.



A vehicle is left in a street flooded due to a heavy rain in Himi, Toyama prefecture, Japan on Aug 27. (AP)

Heavy rain and flooding in Japan strand people, vehicles

Torrential rain struck Japan's north-central prefectures of Ishikawa and Toyama on Thursday, triggering flooding and landslides, closing roads and stranding people in flooded homes and vehicles.

The Japan Meteorological Agency issued the Level 5 heavy rain warning for parts of the Ishikawa and Toyama prefectures, urging residents in the affected areas to take precau-

tionary measures against possible flooding and landslides.

The rain subsided later Thursday and the agency downgraded the heavy rain warning to medium, but cautioned residents that more rain and landslides are possible through Friday morning.

The agency predicted up to 20 centimeters (7.8 inches) of rain in the Kaga and Noto areas through Friday

morning. The two prefectures advised more than 380,000 people to take shelter on safer grounds.

Footage on NHK public television showed several stranded residents in Himi city in the Toyama prefecture being rescued on a rubber boat by relief workers who waded through knee-high waters. A number of vehicles that had stalled in flooded roads were abandoned. (AP)

Another former Malaysia PM faces criminal charges after leaving office

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Aug 27, (AP): Malaysian former prime minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob was charged Thursday with failing to declare his assets, making him the nation's third leader to face criminal charges after leaving office.

Ismail, 66, pleaded not guilty to a charge under the anti-graft law that alleged he failed to provide a complete declaration of assets following a notice from the anti-corruption agency in January 2025. The charge sheet lists large amounts of cash in Malaysian and foreign currencies, as well as gold and silver.

If convicted, Ismail faces up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to 100,000 ringgit (\$24,810).

Ismail, the country's ninth leader, unexpectedly became prime minister without a general election after emerging as a consensus figure during a turbulent political period. He was the shortest-serving leader, leading for only 15 months from August 2021 to November 2022.

After leaving office, Ismail has been questioned multiple times by anti-graft officials for possible misconduct involving millions of dollars



Malaysia's former prime minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob, (center), arrives at courthouse for a corruption case in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Aug 27. (AP)

spent on government publicity during his tenure. The anti-graft agency has also seized gold bars and some \$40 million in cash from properties linked to him.

Defense lawyer Amer Hamzah Arshad said Ismail has been released

on bail. Ismail will seek to clear his name as the charges were "baseless and unfounded," the lawyer told reporters. The case will next be heard on Sept 29 for prosecutors to provide further details to the defense, he added.

Sanctioned int'l court prez asks Japan to help de-escalate tensions with US

TOKYO, Aug 27, (AP): The president of the International Criminal Court said Wednesday there is no reason she has to face US sanctions, adding that she is asking Japan's government to work with Washington to avoid further escalating tensions.

Last week Tomoko Akane, a Japanese national, became the latest court member to be hit with sanctions that freeze any assets they have in US jurisdictions. The sanctions also prevent the court officials and their families from entering the United States and block their access to even basic financial services.

Washington accuses the court of overstepping its mandate and has slapped sanctions on about a dozen court staff in retaliation for investigations into Israeli officials in Gaza and U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan.

Trump's administration has now sanctioned nine out of the ICC's 18 judges, both of its deputy prosecutors, its former chief prosecutor and one other prosecution office staffer.

"I insist that there is no reason I have to be sanctioned," Akane told a news conference she joined by video



Judge Tomoko Akane walks before delivering the verdict in the Al Hassan case at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands on Nov 20, 2024. (AP)

from The Hague. She said the sanctions, which she had expected, have not intimidated her and will not affect her judicial work. "ICC will never be defeated. Justice will and should prevail."

Akane said despite "unreasonable inconvenience and threat" to her as an individual, such as her credit cards being suspended, she is determined

to protect ICC, its judges and staff and to continue ICC operations.

Akane urged Japan, a US ally that has consistently placed the rule of law as a key pillar of its diplomacy, to convince Washington not to further escalate the situation. She called on Japan to approach other ICC members not to succumb to US pressure and withdraw.

US issues security alert in Mexican border city

MEXICO CITY, Aug 27, (AP): The US government issued a travel alert for Americans planning to visit Mexicali in northern Mexico and temporarily suspended consular activities in the border city due to a "potential threat," without providing details.

The notice, released Monday night, said that because of information about "a threat," consular activities and travel to the capital of Baja California state, across the border from the US city of Calexico, California, were suspended.

The US did not provide details about the threat or whom it was directed at and only urged its citizens to avoid government buildings, seek shelter in the event of an incident and remain aware of their surroundings.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Tuesday that "there was an alert about the possibility of a criminal group" and added that the report was based on information from US agencies.

"There is no further information about what this alert could involve, but simply to remain alert and maintain surveillance in Mexicali," Sheinbaum said at her regular morning news conference.



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum speaks during her daily morning press conference at the National Palace in Mexico City on Nov 28, 2025. (AP)

Pakistani investigators visit hospital nursery and families seek answers

ISLAMABAD, Aug 27, (AP): Investigators appointed by Pakistan's prime minister were making a visit Thursday to the hospital nursery where a fast-moving fire killed 14 newborns, as grieving families and the public sought answers about the cause of the blaze and the safety measures at the major government facility.

The fire early Wednesday was confined to the third-floor nursery and did not affect the rest of the facility. Hospital officials said the fire spread so quickly the two doctors, two nurses and other staff present were able to rescue only one baby among the 15 in the nursery.

The scene at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad was somber Thursday as doctors, staff, patients and relatives mourned the newborns. Access was restricted to the third-floor area where the fire occurred.

Witnesses, including relatives of other patients, said they saw the family of the only baby to survive the fire leave the hospital with him after the blaze broke out.



Investigators visit the hospital nursery where a fast-moving fire killed 14 newborns, in Islamabad, Pakistan on Aug 27. (AP)

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appointed the investigating committee, led by retired federal secretary Shahid Khan. They are expected to take statements from hospital staff, witnesses and families. The committee is expected to make urgent recommendations to Sharif within 48 hours and deliver a comprehensive report

within five days.

Hospital and district officials initially said an exploding air-conditioning unit caused the fire. In its preliminary report, however, the hospital said a blast involving a nebulizer sparked the blaze, which spread within minutes because of the high concentration of oxygen in the nursery.

Africa

'Expand arms embargo on all of Sudan': The United States has called for a UN arms embargo for Darfur to include the whole of Sudan.

This came in a speech delivered by the Senior Advisor to the President of the United States on Arab and Middle Eastern Affairs **Massad Boulos** during a UN Security Council periodical meeting on the situation in Sudan.

Warning that external financial and military support is fueling the conflict and risks drawing neighbouring States further into the war, he urged the Security Council to strengthen the Sudan sanctions regime.

Washington, D.C., he said, has proposed expanding the arms embargo across all of Sudan, explicitly covering unmanned aerial vehicles and related technology, increasing the number of experts on the 1591 panel - which assists the Committee monitoring implementation of the sanctions regime established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) - and strengthening cooperation with other sanctions panels in the region, he said.

Meanwhile, Sudan's representative in the session Ambassador Al-Harith Idriss Al-Harith Mohammad



Boulos

said, "the government of Sudan is committed to its obligations during the war to protect its citizens as much as possible." (AP)

□ □ □

Rwanda's ex-colonel dies in prison: Tom Byabagamba, a former commander of President Paul Kagame's elite presidential guard who later was convicted of inciting insurrection, has died in prison after spending a dozen years behind bars, his brother said. He was 59.

Byabagamba, who held the rank of colonel before he was stripped of it, was the brother of former presidential adviser and now-exiled dissident David Himbara, who announced Byabagamba's death Tuesday in a statement on X.

"It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of our beloved brother, Colonel Tom Byabagamba, who passed away while in prison in Rwanda," Himbara said. He did not give a cause of death.

There was no immediate comment from authorities in Rwanda, where the subject of Byabagamba is taboo. He was commander of the presidential guard until he apparently had a falling out with the president and was removed from his post in 2010, with no reason given.

Rwandan authorities detained Byabagamba in August 2014 along with another officer, Brig. Frank Rusagara. In 2016, the Military High Court sentenced them to several years in prison over charges including inciting insurrection and tarnishing the government's image. Rusagara died in prison last year. (AP)

Kuwait oil price down to \$81.76 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil dropped by USD 5.67 to reach USD 81.76 per barrel during Wednesday’s trading, compared with USD 87.43 pb on Tuesday, according to Kuwait Petroleum

Corporation (KPC) Thursday. Globally, Brent crude went down by USD 2.30 to reach USD 86.28 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate dropped by USD 2.08 to reach USD 80.28 pb.

Digital push targets growth in insurance sector

Kuwait insurance FDI falls to 2.76%

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector remarkably declined last year, reaching 2.76 percent with a total value of KD 54,351,767, according to the latest statistics from Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA).

Meanwhile, reliable sources revealed tremendous efforts are being exerted to develop these investments and open new horizons for the entry of international capital. They pointed out that such government-led initiatives aim to revitalize and expand FDI in the insurance sector.

Sources confirmed that the government is focusing on enhancing FDI inflows, including in the insurance sector, by taking many vital

steps, such as updating legislation and reviewing laws regulating the insurance sector to simplify procedures for foreign investors, while promoting digital transformation.

Sources indicated that companies are obligated to develop their technological infrastructure to provide innovative insurance services. They said product diversification creates investment opportunities in new insurance fields, especially since this sector provides the necessary coverage for huge construction and industrial projects, thereby, giving foreign investors the reassurance and confidence to inject their capital into the local market.

Sources added that the entry of international insurance companies into the Kuwaiti market raises the efficiency of the local financial market, as well as the transparency

and governance levels, while easing the transfer of advanced actuarial knowledge and expertise to national talent -- a requirement of the modern business environment.

Sources pointed out that insurance is important for commercial, industrial and service sectors to remain operational during crises and exceptional circumstances without burdening the state budget with compensation costs, in addition to its role in boosting non-oil GDP.

Sources indicated that the insurance sector is one of the successful and profitable service and financial activities, and it is not affected by the depletion of natural resources.

The sources enumerated various types of insurance as follows:

1. Health insurance provides extensive healthcare coverage for individuals, families and employees.

2. Property insurance covers industrial and commercial buildings against fire damage, disasters and emergencies.

3. Engineering and construction insurance covers major construction projects, state infrastructure, and transportation and engineering installation risks.

4. Marine, aviation and land insurance protects the means of transportation, shipping and goods for domestic and international trade.

5. Takaful (Islamic insurance) is a cooperative Islamic insurance system that covers individuals and companies in accordance with the Islamic Sharia Law.

6. Mandatory and professional insurance includes compulsory car insurance and professional liability insurance for the medical, engineering and legal sectors.

Iran faces fresh economic strain as US tightens pressure

BEIRUT, Aug 27, (AP): Iran’s economy, already strained by high inflation, years of Western sanctions and a war that has sharply reduced oil revenue, is poised for more instability as the Trump administration tries to coerce other countries into ending all financial dealings with the Islamic Republic.

A decision by the United Arab Emirates to suspend trade relations with Iran last week kick-started the White House’s latest attempt to isolate Tehran into submission. Iran entered the war with its foreign commerce concentrated among a relatively small group of countries, leaving it with fewer places to turn now.

The success of the U.S. strategy will largely hinge on China, the main buyer of Iranian oil and its top trading partner. Russia, a fellow target of sweeping U.S.-led sanctions, has a military conflict and economic crisis of its own and probably can’t offer longtime ally Iran much hard financial support.

Regional partners like Turkey, Pakistan and Iraq maintain important relationships with both Iran and the U.S., giving them reason to avoid exposure to the secondary sanctions that Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said awaited nations that did not cut economic ties with Iran.

“Those who stand with the United States will reap the rewards of our partnership,” Bessent said Monday while outlining the plan he called “Operation Economic Outcast.” “Those who tether themselves to the Iranian regime should expect to share in the isolation.”

Despite Western sanctions, Iran in 2024 exchanged \$125 billion worth of goods globally, according to Trade Data Monitor, a private firm. Iran is not a member of the World Trade Organization.

The bulk of its declared international trade, though, was with a handful of partners. The UAE, China and Turkey supplied nearly three-quarters

of Iran’s merchandise imports. Four countries - China, Iraq, the UAE and Turkey - accounted for more than two-thirds of its non-oil exports.

On the supply side, the UAE held outsized importance. It was Iran’s biggest source of imported items and a gateway to financial channels that helped Iranian businesses make and receive international payments. Both roles kept Iran connected to the global economy.

As a re-export hub, the UAE processed shipments from foreign suppliers reluctant to deal directly with Iranian customers.

“From Iran’s perspective, the UAE can be replaced, but the Iranians are openly saying it’s not going to happen overnight,” said Alex Vatanka, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington.

Beijing has economic interests in the Persian Gulf beyond Iran, and so far has avoided getting drawn into the conflict the U.S. and Israel initiated. China buys the overwhelming majority of Iran’s crude through opaque trading networks that bypass sanctions.

Its manufacturing clout and stranglehold on critical mineral supplies nonetheless give Beijing more room than Iran’s other partners to resist U.S. pressure, said David Lubin, a senior research fellow at Chatham House. Aggressive action against major Chinese banks and businesses could revive trade tensions as Chinese leader Xi Jinping prepares to meet with President Donald Trump in Washington next month.

“I don’t see China playing ball by any means,” Lubin said.

China is both Iran’s largest reported export market and a supplier of essential parts and products, according to WTO and U.N. data.

During the Obama administration, Beijing did agree to reduce energy imports from Iran, said Atlantic Council fellow Daniel Fried, a former U.S. ambassador to Poland.

“We will want the Chinese to go a lot farther than they have gone in the past,” Fried said. “But it’s a lot harder now.”

China has experience helping an ally survive sanctions: it has long been North Korea’s economic lifeline and main diplomatic backer. Experts say China has avoided fully enforcing U.N. sanctions on North Korea and sent clandestine aid to help its impoverished neighbor stay afloat.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, who has been his country’s lead negotiator over the past six months, was in Iraq the day of the UAE’s trade suspension. A purpose of his visit, he said, was “speeding up efforts to expand joint cooperation among all countries in the region, without foreign interference.”

The U.S. dollar’s preeminence in international trade and finance, however, means none of Iran’s trading partners would antagonize Washington lightly, Vatanka said. “We’re still at a point where if the U.S. wants to hurt you, it will matter,” he said.

Underscoring potential consequences, Turkey settled a yearslong U.S. dispute in July over the role of a state-owned bank in helping Iran evade sanctions through an oil-for-gold scheme. Trump also moved to lift sanctions on its fellow NATO member stemming from Turkey’s purchase of a sophisticated Russian missile system.

“I really don’t think Turkey would like to become the next country helping Iran to evade sanctions right now,” said Riccardo Gasco, an analyst at the IstanPol think tank in Istanbul.

Iran is a vital import source for Iraq and retains influence there through allied political factions and armed groups. Baghdad has sought closer economic and security ties with Washington. Since it invaded Iraq in 2003, the U.S. has significant control over the nation’s foreign currency reserves because they are housed in the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

Trade surges 35.6%

UAE-Lebanon Business Forum boosts trade ties

BEIRUT, Aug 27, (KUNA): Non-oil trade between the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon hit USD 4.2 billion in 2025, reflecting a 35.6 percent annual growth rate, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani Al-Zeyoudi announced Wednesday.

Speaking at the launch of the Lebanese-Emirati Business Forum in Beirut, Al-Zeyoudi highlighted the forum as a vital platform for creating strategic economic partnerships, driving innovation, and attracting private-sector investment across key areas including logistics, agriculture, food security, healthcare, and tourism.

Representing Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam, Tarek Mitri stated that restoring state sovereignty, extending authority, and advancing reconstruction are central priori-

ties for economic recovery, adding that the visit of the high-level UAE delegation signals renewed confidence in Lebanon.

For his part, Head of the Lebanese Economic Bodies Mohammad Choucair emphasized that recent bilateral talks between Lebanese President General Joseph Aoun and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan laid the foundation for establishing joint business councils and lifting travel bans.

The forum concluded with the signing of five Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), establishing a joint Lebanese-Emirati Business Council and launching cooperative agreements in food security, agricultural technology, and bilateral trade development.

Dubai International Airport traffic falls 31% in first half

DUBAI, Aug 27, (AP): Dubai International Airport, one of the world’s busiest hubs, said Wednesday it saw a sharp drop in passengers during the second quarter as the Iran war disrupted air travel and prompted many travelers to choose routes that avoided the Middle East.

The airport recorded 13 million passengers during the second quarter, following 31.5 million passengers in the first half. That was a 31.3% drop over passenger traffic in the first half of 2025, the airport said.

Air traffic in the United Arab Emirates and elsewhere in the Gulf region was disrupted by shutdowns and restrictions after the United States and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28. The Dubai airport itself suffered minor damage in attacks from Iran.

Aircraft movements totaled 150,600 in the first half, down 32.1% year on year, with only 62,500 in the second quarter, the airport said.

CEO Paul Griffiths noted, however, there has been a steady increase in passenger volume each month in the second quarter, and said the momentum is expected to continue.

“The events of the disruption, which lasted two months, that had an impact on traffic,” Griffiths told The Associated Press. “However, the trajectory now is universally positive.”

He said the airport was waiting for overseas airlines, particularly from Europe, to restart operations.

“I’m very confident we’ll be back to full operation in a very short space of time,” he said.

Shares jump 4%

Nvidia growth accelerates on AI infrastructure boom

NEW YORK, Aug 27, (AP): Nvidia’s latest quarterly results once again blew past Wall Street’s expectations as revenue for the computer chip company’s high-end artificial intelligence chips soared, the latest sign that AI infrastructure spending remains strong.

The company reported on Wednesday net income of \$59.69 billion, or \$2.46 per share, for the May-July period. That compares to net income of \$26.42 billion, or \$1.08 per share, in the same quarter last year.

Excluding certain items, earnings were \$2.22 per share, well above the \$2.09 per share consensus forecast by Wall Street analysts, according to FactSet.

Revenue more than doubled from a year earlier to \$96.22 billion, surpassing analysts’ average forecast of \$92.27 billion.

“AI has reached its inflection point. It’s doing useful work. Its tokens are productive and profitable. Now, compute is revenue,” said CEO Jensen Huang in a statement.

The Santa Clara, California, company’s results have regularly cleared the bar set by analysts in the past three years, often by a wide margin, since Nvidia’s high-end chips emerged as AI’s best building blocks.

Along with higher profit and revenue, however, Nvidia’s operating expenses surged 55% to \$8.41 billion.

For the current quarter, Nvidia forecast revenue of about \$108 billion. Analysts are forecasting \$104.86 billion.

If Nvidia hits its revenue target for the August-October period, it will translate into a roughly 89% increase from last year - an indication that Nvidia’s phenomenal growth rate is still accelerating. The company said it’s not assuming any data center compute revenue from China in its outlook.

Nvidia expects to grow its revenue in its fiscal year ending January 2028 by about 70%, citing surging demand for its AI-powering chips. In fact, the company’s growth outlook would be closer to double, based on its customers’ own forecasts, if it weren’t for challenges in sourcing enough supplies to meet the chip production demand, noted CFO Colette Kress in a call with Wall Street analysts.

Huang also emphasized the sup-

ply limitations the company is grappling with.

“Our entire supply chain is challenged,” he told analysts. “At this point we have supply for 70%. ... Our demand is much higher than that.”

Nvidia’s data center segment, which includes its AI data centers and factories business, as well as chip demand from hyperscalers - operators of huge cloud-computing data centers such as Amazon, Meta and Google - reported revenue of \$89 billion, up more than twofold from a year earlier.

Capital spending by the top five hyperscalers is expected to reach nearly \$800 billion this year and \$1.3 trillion in 2027, Kress noted.

On Wednesday, Nvidia and Amazon Web Services announced a plan to deploy 2 million additional Nvidia graphic processing units, and will incorporate Nvidia chips to power its fleet of warehouse robots.

Kress also said the company expects that its computer processing unit revenue will more than double in fiscal 2028, “positioning us as one of the world’s leading server CPU suppliers.”

Nvidia’s shares rose 4.1% in after-hours trading following the earnings call. The stock ended the regular trading session 1.6% lower and is up 12.4% so far this year.

The company’s edge computing segment, which includes chips bringing AI-powered features to computers, game consoles and robotics, among others, posted revenue of \$7.2 billion, up 27% from the same period last year.

Despite the stellar results and still-rosy outlook, many investors worry about a jarring come-down after a three-year boom that has seen Nvidia’s market value soar from \$400 billion at the end of 2022 to roughly \$5.2 trillion now.

While AI has powered stock market gains and U.S. economic growth in recent years, there’s been growing skepticism about whether AI will justify the trillions of dollars that are being spent to develop the technology.

The AI industry is also increasingly facing pushback amid objections to the expansion in data centers and fears that the speed with which AI is being adopted could lead to widespread job losses for many Americans.

Over 40 bilateral meetings aim to unlock cross-border investment deals

Global Investment Summit 2026 convenes in Paris with 80+ speakers, 2,000 attendees

PARIS, Aug 27, (KUNA): The 2026 Global Investment Summit will host more than 80 international speakers and experts, alongside over 2,000 participants and 40 bilateral meetings, will feature in a program comprising a series of panel discussions and specialized sessions across the main stage, and the “Agora” stage.

The summit will bring together investors, business leaders, officials, experts, and representatives from major global companies and institutions at the Palais des Congrès in Paris, France, on September 1 and 2.

Across its two stages, the summit presents a two-day program bringing together experts from

the economic, investment, and technology sectors.

The dialogue addresses the transformations shaping global capital flows and markets, as well as the future of investment in technology, energy, tourism, healthcare, the creative economy, and sustainability, alongside emerging sectors that are redefining the global investment landscape.

The main stage hosts a lineup of international economic and investment figures that reflect the diversity of sectors and expertise brought together by the summit-spanning economics, finance, and venture capital to artificial intelligence, biotechnology, energy, tourism, hospitality, and creative industries. Meanwhile, the Agora stage offers a

dedicated space for insights into investment, technology, and entrepreneurship.

This provides participants with a direct platform to exchange insights, build relationships, and explore avenues for collaboration and investment across global markets.

Through its programs on the Main Stage and the Agora Stage, the summit aims to transform diverse international expertise into a comprehensive investment dialogue. It seeks to foster connections among investors, institutions, corporations, and decision-makers, thereby supporting the formation of new partnerships and opening broader pathways for cross-border investment opportunities.

Best way to invest money you may need for long-term care

I’ve written about how to decide how much to set aside for long-term-care expenses for people who have decided to forgo insurance. But where and how should those funds be invested?

You don’t have to maintain a separate account for your long-term-care fund, but you do need to let your loved ones know of its existence.

The question is, which account makes the most sense, from a tax perspective, as a receptacle for out-of-pocket long-term-care costs?

A health savings account might look like the obvious choice. Withdrawals from an HSA to cover qualified healthcare expenses are tax-free, and most long-term-care expenses would qualify. There are a couple of drawbacks, however. One is that annual contribution limits-in 2026, they’re set at \$4,400 for people with single coverage and \$8,600 for those with family plans-might impede the ability of people over age 50 to build up a significant bulwark in the HSA between now and retirement. (Once you’re covered by Medicare, you can’t be covered by a high-deductible health plan; additional HSA contributions are also off limits.) It’s still well worth investing in an HSA if you have access to one, but you might not be able to gain critical mass for long-term-care expenses.

My other reservation is that the tax benefits of HSAs are almost too good for long-term-care expenses. That’s because long-term-care costs are deductible to the extent that they, combined with other healthcare outlays, exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income in a given year. That means that you could be taking tax-free

withdrawals from the HSA in the same year that you had those very high deductions, so you’re not taking full advantage of the HSA’s tax benefits. Finally, any unused funds in that long-term-care bucket could pass to your heirs. The problem is that, if HSAs are inherited by someone other than your spouse, the tax benefits effectively cease upon your death.

To help take advantage of high deductions associated with long-term care, you’d ideally pull your long-term-care expenses from an account that itself is highly taxed. That points toward a traditional IRA. Most older adults have the bulk of their retirement savings in IRAs to begin with. Withdrawals from a traditional IRA or other traditional tax-deferred account are indeed taxable, to the extent that they consist of pretax contributions and investment earnings (in other words, the bulk of most tax-deferred accounts). But individuals incurring heavy long-term-care costs often easily exceed the threshold for deductibility of healthcare expenses. (In 2026, healthcare expenses that exceed 7.5% of adjusted gross income are deductible.) That means that the deduction can offset the taxes due on the IRA withdrawal.

Most long-term-care costs are incurred later in life, when required minimum distributions (which apply to traditional tax-deferred accounts for people over age 73) are in effect. In other words, the money has to come out of the account and be taxed at this life stage anyway, and the medical-expense deduction helps to ease the tax burden.

In terms of how to invest the long-term-care funds, one thing’s for sure: Cash isn’t going to cut it, especially if you haven’t yet retired or just

Business

Oil remains elevated amid Strait of Hormuz closure and sanctions

By KAMCO Invest

Crude oil prices remained elevated over the USD 85/b level led by the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz as well as talks of tougher sanctions on Iran and its trading partners by the US government. On the closure of the trade route, some oil CEOs highlighted that although physical crude in the region remains affordable, but the elevated shipping cost of around USD 20 Mn add the premium for the buyers. This also means that refined products are not exiting the region, resulting in bearish pressure on crude and at the same time bullish trend for products markets. The market has remained tight instead of experiencing a late summer pull back in prices mainly led by severe geopolitical risk premiums stemming from the ongoing US-Iran conflict. The persistent physical transit bottlenecks that has affected both the key routes, i.e. the Strait of Hormuz as well as the Red Sea, and the stalling of US-Iran peace talks have prevented any meaningful deescalation in prices and have outweighed bearish inventory developments as well as downgraded demand forecasts from both the IEA as well as the OPEC in their respective monthly reports.

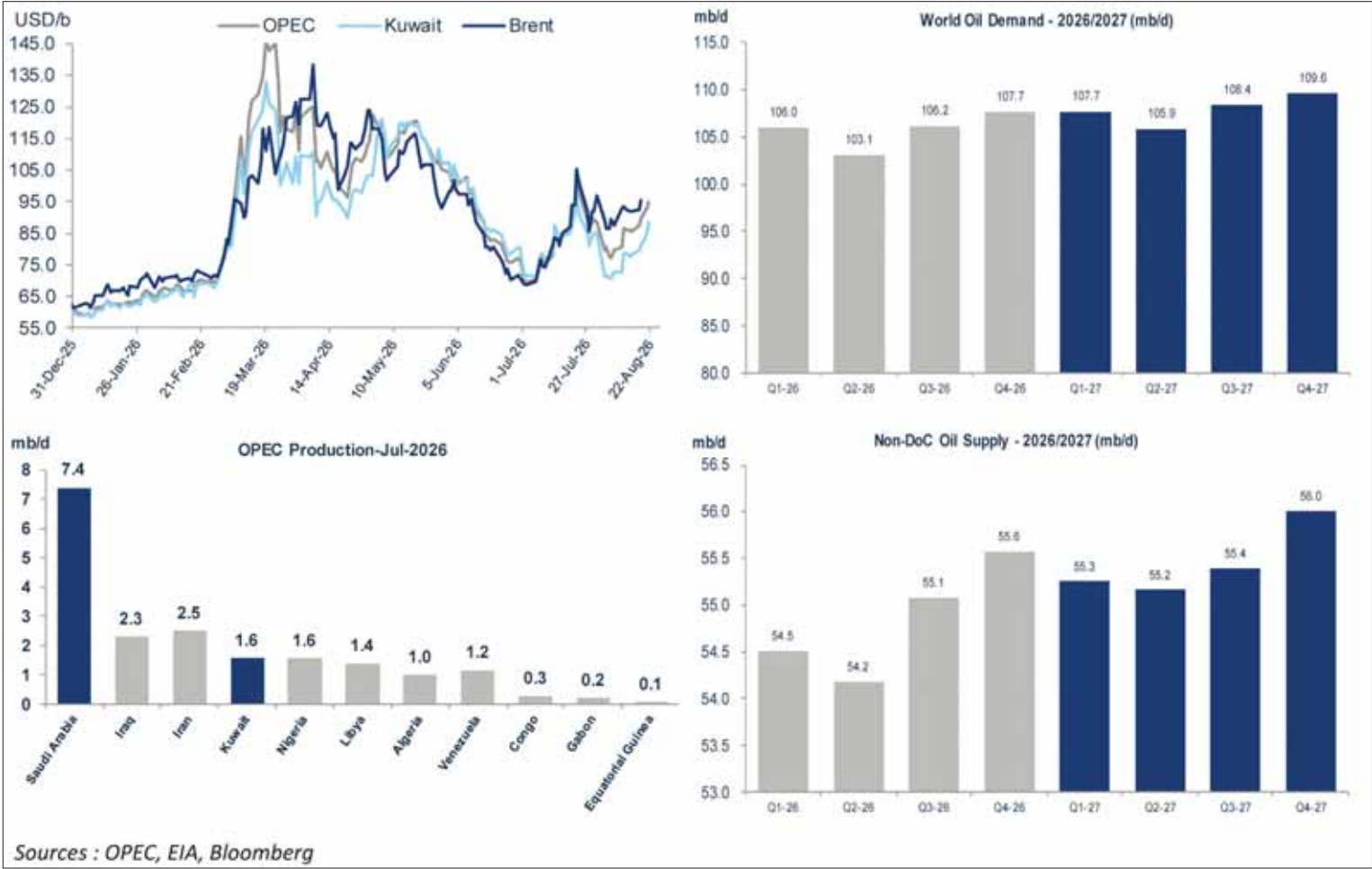
The U.S. government recently announced a new package of sanctions targeting 60 entities linked to Iran meant to limit Iranian oil exports although the impact on prices were very limited. Concurrently, reports showed that the U.S. military has successfully escorted over 660 million barrels of oil through the Strait of Hormuz since May-2026, proving the critical chokepoint remains partially operational. While this escorted flow mitigates the risk of a total supply cut-off, shipping activity remains below normal and analysts estimate that if just 50% to 60% of pre-war transit volumes are restored, it could revive oversupply expectations and pull Brent prices back toward the USD 70/b level.

On the demand side, the IEA once again lowered its oil demand expectations for 2026 in its latest monthly report. The agency now expects world oil demand to decline by 1.6 mb/d this year, a downward revision of around 510 tb/d vs. is previous forecast. The IEA said that the closure of the trade routes and the elevated prices are weighing on consumption. OPEC also lowered its demand growth forecast for the year to 580 tb/d in a fourth consecutive downward revision. On the products side, global demand continues to outpace available refined products creating a notable tightness in specific fuel categories. US distillate inventories reached 105.6 million barrels recently, which is 13% below the five-year average. This has kept diesel supplies notably tighter than crude itself, elevating crack spreads and incentivizing refiners to secure immediate crude deliveries.

On the supply side, crude oil production witnessed a sharp increase of 1.2 mb/d during July-2026 with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq accounting for almost the entire increase while Nigeria curbed output. The US also registered three straight weeks of marginal output increase.

Oil Prices

Crude oil prices have remained elevated since the start of the month trading around the USD 90/b level. The month started with a strong rally in prices during the first half but prices retreated slightly during the second half. The gains were led by fresh tanker attacks in the Strait of Hormuz amid continued exchange of sharper rhetoric between the US and Iran. The rally was reinforced by attacks on UAE tankers and on Saudi refinery pushing brent to around USD 95.4/b. The market has shifted into a steep backwardation, signaling immediate physical supplies are tight and buyers are willing to pay a premium for prompt delivery. This also indicates that traders are prioritizing near-term scarcity over long term oversupply.



Sources : OPEC, EIA, Bloomberg

Brent Crude Oil Price Forecast

Firm	As Of	Q3-26	Q4-26	Q1-27	Q2-27
JYSKE BANK AS	24/Aug/26	85.0	80.0	70.0	65.0
Julius Baer Group Ltd	24/Aug/26	83.0	75.0	67.5	62.5
Morgan Stanley	21/Aug/26	90.0	100.0	95.0	90.0
Citigroup Inc	20/Aug/26	80.0	70.0		
Fitch Solutions	20/Aug/26	82.5	75.0		
Bank of America Merrill Lynch	19/Aug/26	79.0	73.0	72.0	67.0
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	11/Aug/26	92.0	90.0	85.0	85.0
ABN AMRO Bank NV	10/Aug/26	82.0	83.0	78.0	75.0
Deutsche Bank AG	10/Aug/26	80.0	75.0	70.0	70.0
Goldman Sachs Group Inc	10/Aug/26	88.0	80.0	78.0	76.0
Rabobank	10/Aug/26	84.0	80.0	80.0	76.0
JPMorgan Chase & Co	7/Aug/26	86.0	80.0	71.0	67.0
Kshitij Consultancy Services Pvt Ltd	7/Aug/26	82.0	87.0	111.0	107.0
Commerzbank AG	6/Aug/26	85.0	75.0	75.0	70.0
BloombergNEF	31/Jul/26	81.5	72.2	66.5	66.2
Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	27/Jul/26	88.0	78.0	70.0	67.0
UBS Group	23/Jul/26	85.0	85.0	80.0	80.0
Standard Chartered	21/Jul/26	85.0	80.5	78.0	79.0
BNP Paribas SA	15/Jul/26	72.0	78.0	78.0	79.0
Panmure Gordon & Co PLC	15/Jul/26	80.0	72.5	70.0	70.0
ING Groep NV	14/Jul/26	80.0	74.0	72.0	68.0
HSBC Holdings PLC	8/Jul/26	75.0	70.0	65.0	65.0
United States Department of Energy	7/Jul/26	74.0	70.0	67.6	65.7
Australian Government	2/Jul/26	86.0	79.0	77.0	76.5
Macquarie Group Ltd	24/Jun/26	67.0	69.0	64.0	
Market Risk Advisory Co Ltd	23/Jun/26	78.0	76.7	76.0	75.3
Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg	19/Jun/26	75.0	70.0	70.0	65.0
Natixis SA	22/May/26	96.0	86.7	84.0	86.0
walletinvestor.com/commodity-forecast	15/May/26	105.7	104.3	103.0	101.6
Tradingeconomics.com	13/May/26	108.7	112.6	116.7	
BMI, a Fitch Solutions company	30/Apr/26	75.0	71.0		
Oxford Institute for Energy Studies	23/Apr/26	95.0	86.0	82.0	82.0
MPS Capital Services Banca per le Imprese SpA	3/Apr/26	80.0	75.0	70.0	

Median	82.3	77.3	75.5	75.0
Mean	83.6	79.6	78.1	75.4
High	108.7	112.6	116.7	107.0
Low	67.0	69.0	64.0	62.5
Current Fwd	90.9	86.1	81.8	79.4
Difference (Median - Current)	-8.7	-8.7	-6.3	-4.4

Source: Bloomberg

Nevertheless, oil prices pared some gains over the last three days falling by around 8% over the last three trading session this week. The latest announcement of tougher economic sanctions on Iran by the US had minimal impact on crude oil prices as it spared US trade allies while mediators continued their efforts to end the conflict. Crude oil extended declines after reports showed that Iran and Oman discussed an interim framework aimed at resuming shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and establish a temporary joint maritime corridor till the time a permanent solution is reached.

In terms of monthly price trend, average crude oil prices in July-2026 once again showed a decline. Average spot Brent crude oil price dropped for the third consecutive month and reached USD 83.4/b during July-2026 registering a decline of 2.1%. On the other hand, average OPEC reference basket price witnessed a slightly bigger decline of 7.5% to reach average of USD 83.0/b during July-2026 from USD 85.2/b in June-2026. Kuwait export grade crude prices witnessed the sharpest decline as compared to the three crude grades with a fall of 11.1% to reach an average of USD 82.0/b during

July-2026. In terms of consensus estimates, there was broad-based increase in expectations for the next three quarters reflecting the increase in prices over the last few weeks. Brent crude consensus prices stood at USD 83.6/b for Q3-2026 vs. an estimate of USD 80/b last month.

World Oil Demand

OPEC once again lowered its forecast for global oil demand this year, marking the fourth consecutive monthly downward revision. The agency now expects demand to grow by 0.58 mb/d in 2026 vs. the previous forecast of a growth of 0.78 mb/d, taking total world demand to an average of 105.7 mb/d. Oil demand in the OECD is projected to ease by about 40 tb/d during the year while the non-OECD is expected to account for all of the growth at around 0.6 mb/d. For 2027, the agency expects oil demand to grow by 2.16 mb/d, an upward revision from a growth of 1.94 mb/d forecasted last month, with the non-OECD contributing 1.8 mb/d and the OECD 0.3 mb/d. On the other hand, forecasts from the IEA show a considerably sharper deterioration, with the agency now expecting global oil demand to decline by 1.6 mb/d during 2026, some

510 tb/d more than its estimate in the previous month's report, as the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz and elevated fuel prices continue to weigh on consumption. The forecast for 2H-2026 alone has been reduced by roughly 550 tb/d, with quarterly contractions now expected to ease from 4.9 mb/d in Q2-2026 to 2.8 mb/d in Q3-2026 before flipping to growth of 580 tb/d in the final quarter.

This compares with the July-2026 assessment of a 4.8 mb/d contraction in Q2-2026, a smaller 1.7 mb/d decline in Q3-2026 and a rise of 1.2 mb/d in Q4-2026. For 2027, the IEA expects demand to grow by 2.4 mb/d, up from 2.0 mb/d last month. The divergence between the two agencies for 2026 has therefore widened to more than 2 mb/d.

Crude oil imports in China continued to decline in June-2026, falling by 669 tb/d m-o-m to average 7.1 mb/d as refiners kept run rates limited amid high feedstock costs, taking imports around 41% below year-earlier levels. However, in July-2026, oil demand showed an increase for the first time in five months driven by a increase in product imports, especially related to the deliveries of cargoes that were struck in the Strait of Hor-

muz. For Q2-2026 as a whole, imports averaged 8.1 mb/d, a 32% drop from Q1-2026, with monthly volumes falling below 8.0 mb/d in May and June for the first time since 2016. Crude oil imports by India also declined in June-2026, falling by 514 tb/d m-o-m to average 4.8 mb/d.

World Oil Supply

World oil supply continued to recover during July-2026, although at a slower pace and from a much lower base than the market had anticipated a month earlier. Data from the IEA showed that global oil supply increased by 2.4 mb/d during July-2026 to reach 101.5 mb/d, but remained 6.3 mb/d below year-ago levels with 8.3 mb/d of Gulf output still shut in. Gulf production rose by a further 2.5 mb/d during the month to 23.9 mb/d, still 8.3 mb/d below pre-war levels, while regional exports including routes bypassing the Strait of Hormuz fell sharply by 2.1 mb/d to 15 mb/d after the passageway was effectively closed again in early July and oil infrastructure and tankers came under attack. Loadings peaked at 20 mb/d at the start of July before dropping to around 12 mb/d later in the month. Accordingly, the agency has again lowered its supply

estimates, cutting projected Q3-2026 supply by 1.7 mb/d and now expecting world oil supply to decline by 4.3 mb/d during 2026 to an average of 102 mb/d, with growth of 1.4 mb/d from the Americas only partly offsetting losses in the Middle East and Russia. This compares with a forecast decline of 3.7 mb/d to 102.6 mb/d last month. For 2027, the IEA now forecasts a rebound of 8.3 mb/d to 110.3 mb/d, up from the 7.5 mb/d growth projected in July.

Meanwhile, the OPEC kept its forecast for non-DoC liquids production for 2026 unchanged in its latest monthly report at a growth of 0.64 mb/d to average 54.8 mb/d, with Brazil, the US, Canada and Argentina remaining the key drivers of growth this year. At the country level, however, there were upward revisions to supply estimates for the Americas and Latin America that was offset by a downward revision to supplies from the Middle East. For 2027, forecasts were also kept unchanged at 0.62 mb/d to average 55.5 mb/d, with Qatar, Canada, Brazil and Argentina expected to lead. Beneath the unchanged headline, however, the composition shifted, with the Americas revised up by around 0.1 mb/d and the Middle East revised down by 0.2 mb/d, while Qatar alone is expected to subtract 0.59 mb/d y-o-y during 2026 owing to the disruption to regional shipping.

OPEC Oil Production & Spare Capacity

OPEC crude oil production continued to show recovery in July-2026 despite the news of restrictions on the supply of crude oil through the Strait of Hormuz. Average OPEC output increased by 1.16 mb/d during the month and stood at 19.44 mb/d, according to data from Bloomberg, after a majority of producers in the Gulf reported higher output. Within the OPEC, Iraq witnessed the steepest increase of 460 tb/d with output averaging at 2.3 mb/d during July-2026. Saudi and Kuwait also increased production by 390 tb/d and 360 tb/d, respectively. On the other hand, Nigeria witnessed the most notable decline of 110 tb/d with production reaching 1.56 mb/d during July-2026 due to disruption at the offshore Erha and Akpo fields while production at other fields were broadly stable. Iran, Venezuela and Gabon also reported marginal decline in production while the rest of the OPEC producers registered marginal increases.

OPEC secondary sources showed OPEC output increasing by sharply bigger pace of 1.66 mb/d during July-2026 (excluding output from the UAE). OPEC data also showed Iraq seeing the fastest rate of production recovery in the group by 665 tb/d to reach an average output of 2.62 mb/d followed by Saudi Arabia that showed an increase of 590 tb/d to reach an average output of 7.35 mb/d. Kuwait also increased production by 393 tb/d to reach 1.85 mb/d during the month. On the other hand, OPEC secondary sources showed marginal decline in output in Nigeria, UAE, Gabon and Congo.

Meanwhile, the broader DoC showed a slightly smaller increase in output as a majority of the non-OPEC DoC producers showed a decline in output. The latter should an output decline of 235 tb/d during July-2026 reaching a monthly average of 14.02 mb/d. The biggest decline was seen in Kazakhstan with an output fall of 223 tb/d while the rest of the countries showed only marginal changes. Reports showed that Kazakhstan's oil output more than halved to around 1 mb/d at the close of last month following closure of its main exporting terminal in Russia's Black Sea due to drone attacks. The Caspian Pipeline Consortium pipeline loading operations that accounts for more than 80% of the oil exports from the country resumed after being closed for a week.

Oil production in Libya increased during July-2026 despite disruption at its El Feel and Wafa oilfields. The country was once again under drone attacks in August-2026.

Jackson Hole speech could shape Warsh’s Fed era

New Fed chair Warsh under pressure to clarify views on inflation, interest rates

WASHINGTON, Aug 27, (AP): New Federal Reserve chair Kevin Warsh has brought sharp change in how the central bank communicates by saying much less than his predecessors about the economy and inflation.

But so far, many economists and Wall Street investors haven’t been thrilled with that approach.

On Friday, Warsh has a high-stakes opportunity to address those concerns and underscore his inflation-fighting bona fides when he gives his speech in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, during the Fed’s annual economic symposium.

What many economists and Wall Street analysts are hoping for is a clear signal on how he thinks the Fed should handle the stubbornly elevated inflation that has caused pervasive gloom among many consumers. At his last press conference, he sowed confusion by ducking repeated questions on whether the Fed would hike its benchmark interest rate if inflation stays high.

Warsh has said he doesn’t want to provide what analysts call “forward guidance” about whether the Fed will hike or cut rates or stay on hold at upcoming meetings. He argues that it limits the Fed’s flexibility by committing it to a specific policy. He also thinks financial markets have become too dependent on such guidance.

Yet some economists argue that he could say more about his views on Fed policy without tipping his hand about future moves.

“What he needs to do is to clarify the conceptual framework he’ll bring to directing monetary policy,” David Wilcox, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said. “He’s refused to provide even that amount of illumination.”

Whether Warsh will deliver that clarification Friday is an open question. Last month, he said he wanted his speech to focus on the “big questions” such as AI and productivity, demographic changes, and the global economy’s response to shocks from the Iran war.

How Warsh and the Fed will handle elevated prices is not just an issue for Wall Street. Even as inflation has cooled after spiking in May and June from higher gas prices, it remains above the central bank’s 2% target. Surveys show most Americans still see the affordability of necessities such as gas, groceries, and housing as a top economic issue heading into the midterm elections.

Notably, interest rates rose when Warsh last spoke publicly at a press conference July 29, pushing up mortgage borrowing costs after the Fed decided to keep its benchmark rate unchanged.

“Warsh effectively lost markets when he was speaking,” said Gennadiy Goldberg, head of U.S. rates strategy at TD Securities. “He kept talking more about bringing inflation down,” yet when reporters asked what he would do to achieve that, “he didn’t really have an answer.”

Trump says US doesn’t need Canada, economy says otherwise

TORONTO, Aug 27, (AP): U.S. President Donald Trump says his country does not need Canada. But every day, roughly 4 million barrels of Canadian crude oil flow south, helping fuel American cars, trucks and airplanes and supply U.S. industry.

And oil is only the beginning. Canada also supplies aluminum, potash to U.S. farms and parts for an auto industry built on both sides of the border.

“WE DON’T NEED CANADA, THEY NEED US!” Trump posted this week, repeating his long-running claim.

Yet Trump has imposed a 50% tariff on Canadian aluminum while acknowledging this week that the United States badly needs the metal.

“This country desperately needs aluminum,” Trump said. “We don’t have it. We get it all from Canada for the most part, and we need it badly.”

The contradiction underscores how deeply the two economies remain intertwined - and how much could be at stake if Trump’s trade war reaches more of the energy, materials and supply chains that the U.S. still relies on Canada to provide.

Canada is the second-largest U.S. trading partner after Mexico, and energy is at the heart of that relationship.

The two countries exchanged about \$872 billion in goods and services last year. Canadian crude imports equal nearly 20% of total U.S. petroleum consumption, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, part of the Department of Energy.

Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University, said Trump’s claim that the U.S. doesn’t need Canada is “absolutely false,” citing U.S. reliance on Canadian oil and natural gas and deeply integrated industries such as autos.

Much of Canada’s crude flows to Midwest refineries built to process its heavy oil into gasoline, diesel and jet fuel.

Energy also explains much of the U.S. trade deficit with Canada, which Trump frequently cites as evidence of an unfair relationship.

The White House this week portrayed the relationship in starkly negative terms, saying Canada had taken roughly \$50 billion a year from the U.S. over the past decade. Much of that gap reflects U.S. purchases of Canadian energy, which helps power the U.S. economy. And Canada’s heavy crude typically trades at a discount to U.S. benchmark oil, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Energy more than accounted for last year’s \$48.3 billion goods deficit. Without energy, the U.S. would have run a trade surplus.

After trade talks collapsed last Friday, the U.S. imposed 50% tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of Canadian goods. The measures cover only about 5% of Canadian exports to the U.S. and exclude energy.

For now, using oil as a weapon in trade negotiations remains a remote possibility. Alberta Premier Danielle Smith strongly rejected using oil as leverage, saying she could not think of “a more disastrous policy decision” than cutting off or taxing Alberta crude exports to the U.S. because it could devastate Canada’s economy.



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Kevin Warsh speaks during a news conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington, Wednesday, July 29, 2026. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

Warsh did tell reporters that “any central banker ... is more inclined” to raise rates “when he or she sees underlying inflation moving higher,” which some economists said was in the ballpark of the broader outlook they were looking for.

But Warsh hasn’t said whether he in fact thinks “underlying inflation” is worsening, or how exactly he is measuring that. When asked what gauge he would use to determine if inflation is at the 2% target, he cited the Fed’s current preferred measure - the personal consumption expenditures price index - but he then suggested that could change next year, after the task forces he has appointed to look at things like data sources and inflation make recommendations.

And when asked whether he would support higher rates to combat stubborn inflation, he said they “could well be part of that solution,” but then added, “I wouldn’t say it’s in isolation.” Some Fed watchers took that to mean he would consider other measures, such as reducing the Fed’s vast holdings of Treasury bonds. Dumping those bonds could push up longer-term borrowing costs, but over a longer time frame.

Questions swirling around Warsh have also been intensified by President Donald Trump’s continued calls for lower interest rates. While Trump has continued to defend Warsh, whom he appointed and who took office May 22, the president has criticized other Fed officials for supporting higher rates.

Trump has also renewed his efforts to remove Fed governor Lisa Cook, who was appointed by former President Joe Biden. Replacing Cook

would enable Trump appoint a majority of the seven-member board. Trump tried to fire her last year but was temporarily blocked by the Supreme Court.

“Politics are adding to the Fed’s credibility problems,” Diane Swonk, chief economist at KPMG, wrote in a recent commentary. “That is why his speech ... later this month matters so much. It is an opportunity for Warsh to demonstrate his and the Fed’s independence from political interference.”

Providing a cleaner read on how he would lead the Fed wouldn’t take much, economists said - just a clearer statement of how the Fed might react if inflation stays high.

“None of this is radical stuff,” said Wilcox, who is also director of research at Bloomberg Economics. “The problem is he hasn’t said any of it. And people are beginning to be unnerved that he won’t utter some seemingly simple thoughts.”

If Warsh does assuage some of these concerns, longer-term interest rates could decline slightly. Those rates have steadily risen in recent weeks because of a range of factors, including burgeoning U.S. government deficits and outside borrowing by tech firms building AI infrastructure.

The rate on the 30-year Treasury bond reached the highest level in 19 years last week, prompting an unusual effort by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to buy back bonds and push the yields lower.

When Warsh speaks Friday, “I think just yields not rising would be a victory,” said Derek Tang, an economist at Monetary Policy Analytics, a consulting firm.



The oil tanker Palanca Rio passes by Cape Elizabeth, Maine, on April 2, 2025, after a two-day voyage from St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty, File)

But former Alberta Premier Jason Kenney said Canada should not rule out export taxes on oil, fuel or potash if Trump escalates further.

Such retaliation “would affect Republicans who drive F-150s and lay fertilizer on their farm fields,” Kenney said.

“They should be mindful that if they really want to escalate, it will not end well for the American economy two months before midterm elections,” he said.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford cited Canadian commodities as leverage, accusing Trump of “putting out fake news” about the U.S. not needing Canada. He called potash used by U.S. farmers “one of the most powerful tools we have” and said Washington would have to turn to suppliers such as Russia if Canada redirected shipments.

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe rejected that approach, saying his province “cannot and will not support” export tariffs on resources. He said Saskatchewan is on track to supply about half the world’s potash and warned that taxing exports could cost Canadian jobs, raise fertilizer prices and push U.S. buyers toward suppliers such as Belarus.

“This would be a tremendously flawed policy on behalf of Canadians,” Moe said.

Moe has backed a more targeted retaliation, saying Saskatchewan - one of only two provinces that had not removed existing U.S. alcohol from store shelves - will impose a 50% reciprocal charge on U.S. alcohol, starting on Sept. 8.

Kenney stopped short of advocating an export tax on oil, and Béland said such a move would probably be “a very divisive issue politically in provinces like Alberta and Saskatchewan.”

That underscores the limits of Canada’s leverage: measures aimed at hurting U.S. industries could also hurt Canadian producers and strain political unity at home.

Canada has long been the dominant foreign source of aluminum for the U.S. Smelting the

metal requires enormous amounts of electricity, giving hydro-rich Canada a major advantage.

Prime Minister Mark Carney told a New York business audience in May that Canadian aluminum exports to the U.S. are “the energy equivalent of 10 Hoover dams.”

American farmers are even more dependent on Canada for potash, a fertilizer essential to crops such as corn and soybeans. More than 80% of U.S. potash imports come from Canada.

Even Trump’s ambassador has disputed the idea that the U.S. needs nothing from its neighbor.

“America has a tremendous amount of things where we have a need,” Ambassador Pete Hoekstra said in June. Pointing to Canadian fertilizer supplies, he added: “We need potash.”

Then there are cars.

Canada and the U.S. have built an integrated auto industry in which parts can cross the border up to six times before final assembly, according to the Canadian government.

Trump said Monday that his administration would impose 50% tariffs on Canadian cars, trucks and auto parts starting Jan. 1, 2027 - after the November midterm elections.

That means a tariff aimed at Canada can land in Michigan or Ohio. Tax Canadian aluminum and an American automaker may pay more for metal. Tax Canadian parts and the cost of assembling an American vehicle can rise.

Artificial intelligence is driving a surge in electricity demand. Canada supplied 85% of U.S. electricity imports in 2023, according to the Canada Energy Regulator, and Carney says the country needs to double the capacity of its electricity grid by 2050 through major hydroelectric and nuclear projects.

Carney said Canada could help the U.S. “meet exploding demand to power AI.”

Cook’s Fed future hangs in balance

Cook says Trump has no legal basis to remove her

WASHINGTON, Aug 27, (AP): Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook said the Trump administration has no legal basis to remove her from the central bank’s governing board in a letter late Wednesday responding to renewed threats from the White House.

Trump first sought to fire Cook a year ago over allegations that she committed mortgage fraud, which she denies. The charge has not been proven or considered in court. The Supreme Court ruled that Cook could remain in her position while the case is litigated. The justices also said Trump could try to fire her again if he provided proper notice and a chance to contest it.

A White House aide earlier this month had given Cook until Wednesday to respond.

“For the second time in a year, we have explained why there is no legal basis for President Trump to remove Governor Cook for cause,” her attorneys, Abbe Lowell and Norman Eisen, said in a statement. “An inadvertent error is not fraud, as the

President and a third of his cabinet should know because they reportedly did the same thing. These attacks on Governor Cook are not about real estate paperwork; they are an attempt by President Trump to force the Federal Reserve to bend to his will.”

Officials in the Trump administration have accused Cook of declaring two homes as “primary residences” in mortgage applications. Primary residences can sometimes receive lower mortgage rates or down payments than second homes.

Cook on Wednesday said she had referred to one of those two homes in some documents as a “vacation home” and had not sought to deceive lenders. She said any errors were unintentional and did not rise to a level that justified her firing.

If Trump is able to remove Cook, he could name a replacement and his appointees would gain a majority on the Fed’s board. Trump has long attacked the Fed for not cutting its benchmark interest rate quickly enough.

Unemployment drops to 203,000

Jobless claims dip as US labor market holds firm

WASHINGTON, Aug 27, (AP): The number of people filing for U.S. unemployment benefits fell last week, remaining at historic lows as layoffs are rare and most Americans enjoy job security.

Jobless claims slipped to 203,000 last week from a revised 207,000 the week before, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The four-week average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week ups and downs, ticked up slightly to 205,500.

Claims for jobless benefits are a proxy for layoffs, and economists watch them because they can provide early clues of where the job market is headed. For the past year, claims have mostly been at a historically low range of around 200,000 to 230,000 a week.

The U.S. economy and job market have proved resilient in the face of high gasoline prices caused by the fighting with Iran. The U.S. unemployment rate is low at 4.1%. That is partly because President Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown and the ongoing retirement of baby boomers mean that fewer people are competing for jobs: More than 1.3 million people have dropped out of the U.S. labor force over the past year.

Companies, scarred by the surprise worker shortages that followed the end of COVID-19 lockdowns, are reluctant to let go of staff. But they aren’t hiring much either. So times are tough for Americans seeking to break into the job market and those who lost their jobs and are looking for new work. Economists describe a “no hire, no fire” job market.

So far this year, employers - companies, nonprofits and government agencies - have added an average 61,000 jobs a month. That is an improvement on the 9,700 they averaged last year - the weakest hiring outside a recession since 2002 - when the lingering effects of high interest rates and Trump’s erratic trade policies discouraged companies from hiring.

When the Labor Department puts out the August jobs report next week, it’s expected to show that employers added another 65,000 jobs, according to a survey of forecasters by the data firm FactSet.

Hiring this year remains well below the 166,000 monthly jobs created, on average, in 2023 and 2024, let alone the 491,000 a month recorded during the 2021-2022 hiring boom that followed pandemic lockdowns.

Fact check: Canada can’t plunge US into darkness

OTTAWA, Aug 27, (AP): Social media users are claiming that Canada could plunge the U.S. into darkness if the trade war between the once-friendly neighbors escalates further.

Speculation spread after Ontario Premier Doug Ford said in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday that “everything is on the table” if the dispute worsens, including cutting off electricity from his province. Canada imposed about \$20 billion worth of retaliatory tariffs on American goods on Tuesday, with no action taken to limit electricity.

Regardless, experts say that U.S. residents will not suddenly find themselves without power if Canadian officials follow through with any form of Ford’s threat.

Here’s a closer look at the facts. CLAIM: Canada can shut off electricity in the U.S. and cause massive blackouts.

THE FACTS: This is misleading. Canada, which provides electricity to some states, could stop the supply, according to experts, but it could not cause massive blackouts with the flick of a switch. The U.S. has enough other sources of electricity to make up for the gap, and economic impacts are more likely than a lack of power.

“We would see it in the market, we would see it in the prices, but we would not be bereft of electricity,” said Barbara Kates-Garnick, a professor of practice in energy policy at Tufts University’s Fletcher School.

Canada exported \$3.3 billion worth of electricity to the U.S. in 2025, according to the Canada Energy Regulator, a government agency. It imported \$1.4 billion worth of electricity from its southern neighbor the same year. That’s 32.7 terawatt hours and 22.1 terawatt hours, respectively. The U.S. generated 4.43 thousand terawatt hours of electricity in 2025, according to the Energy Information Administration.

The U.S. imports electricity from Canada in part because it is cheaper than generating more supply domestically. If Canada stopped electricity exports to the U.S., generation would instead rely on sources that could be more expensive, thereby driving up electricity costs. However, a sufficient amount could still be produced to power the country.

“They’re mostly a supplier, they do not control the actual availability of energy in our homes,” Saleh ElHattab, founder and CEO of the energy management company Gravity, said of Canada. “It’s a market that has tons of suppliers. People who just have more expensive sources of energy will get bids that they usually don’t get access to.”

In an unlikely scenario, massive blackouts could occur if there is extreme weather that leads to far more electricity usage than anticipated. But regular people wouldn’t immediately lose power.

Jonathan Steirer, interim director of Case Western Reserve University’s Great Lakes Energy Institute, explained that what’s more plausible is that high-usage customers such as data centers or universities would receive curtailment orders requiring them to take themselves off the power grid and use alternate electricity sources such as backup generators. Many such entities already opt into demand response programs to receive incentives for voluntarily decreasing electrical consumption at peak times.

If such actions were not enough, rolling blackouts could be ordered. Still, if the situation were properly managed, customers would be notified before they lose power.

“On a business-as-usual day, if they were to just turn off the metaphorical switch, most of the impacts would be economic,” Steirer said.

Coyote vs. Acme
loses zany edge

This image released by Ketchup Entertainment shows Will Forte, left, with the character Wile E. Coyote, voiced by Eric Bauza, in a scene from "Coyote vs Acme." (AP)

Live-action Looney Tunes hybrid stumbles on logic

Some Hollywood decisions defy logic. Like, who looked at the world of Looney Tunes, those unhinged cartoons of our youth, and thought: Let's add a bunch of personal injury lawyers.

Such is the premise of the clunky, too-earnest, live-action-toon-hybrid "Coyote vs. Acme," a film initially mothballed by the studio only to later be featured in theaters.

It began as a 1990 New Yorker parody that imagined Wile E. Coyote suing the Acme Corporation over their defective gadgets. The film then spent almost three decades in development hell, finally getting made in 2022 for about \$70 million but getting shelved by Warner Bros., which decided it was better as a tax write-off.

The setting is Albuquerque, New Mexico, where humans and cartoons live side-by-side, like "Who Framed Roger Rabbit." The likes of Tweety, the Tasmanian Devil and Porky Pig all populate real sidewalks, cars and courtrooms. Why Albuquerque? It's never explained, but Bugs Bunny once famously said: "I knew I should've taken that left turn at Albuquerque."

The plot joins Will Forte, a small-time personal injury attorney reachable at 1-800-0-LAWYER, and his new client, the mute coyote, who is bleary-eyed and fuming that he has cabinets full of failed Acme products used in his never-ending hunt for his white whale, the Road Runner.

"Have you ever pulled the ripcord of your parachute and only a bunch of silverware comes out? It's not your fault," Forte's character says in a TV commercial.

The lawyer wants to settle with Acme - as he usually does - for just a few hundred bucks, but his client wants to take down the world's biggest corporation. (Its slogan: "We're a company of family values that values its family of companies.")

There's a vast evil conspiracy at the heart of Acme - led by Foghorn Leghorn, I say, I say - which is fiercely protected by its combative chief legal counsel, played without much subtlety by John Cena.

"These companies think they can do whatever they want and get away with all of it because they do. We're sick of it and it stops now," says the emboldened Forte.

The coyote's fight comes to represent a larger struggle against corporate greed, which seemed to shadow the movie's underdog path as it went up against its own Goliath - Warner Bros. itself.

But not too long into this mess, you'll start to sym-



This image released by Ketchup Entertainment shows Lana Condor, left, and Will Forte, right, with the character Wile E. Coyote, voiced by Eric Bauza, in a scene from "Coyote vs Acme." (AP)



This image released by Ketchup Entertainment shows Luis Guzmán in a scene from "Coyote vs Acme." (AP)

pathize with Warner Bros. They aren't a ruthless corporation censoring a C-suite satire: They were protecting us from a poorly executed movie that misuses our

cartoon favorites.

There are echoes of "Chinatown," "A Few Good Men" and "Erin Brockovich," but all slightly under-

cut because Wile E. Coyote at his heart is a homicidal maniac, plotting to lure the Road Runner to court to murder and make a stew out of him. "You're kind of a psychopath, aren't you?" his lawyer asks him.

The action then inexplicably moves to Washington, D.C., where Acme tries to kill the coyote before he testifies in front of Congress, which includes Elmer Fudd as a senator. That's right, an assassination attempt - aided by no less than Tweety, using some sort of rocket-propelled grenade launcher - in our nation's capital. That's despicable!

Forte and the coyote have some harsh words, and then the filmmakers up the pressure by making the law firm teeter on insolvency. There's a chase scene involving rocket skates, a motorbike and a refrigerated truck, and there's a final character test in the form of a massive potential payoff that our human hero must navigate.

What's up, doc? No, really, we need a script doc.

Director Dave Green integrates the toons and humans well, but the story stumbles on using the Looney Tunes' deep roster. Bugs Bunny appears, at last, only at the hour mark - a criminal delay for such a fan favorite - and doesn't stick around. And Daffy Duck lends high-energy zaniness - all too short - as an inmate at St. Looneys ("for the exceptionally looney"). Instead we get more than two hours of a lethal, silent Coyote.

Samy Burch's screenplay veers from underdog-versus-corporate power to zany detective story to end with a moral about never giving up in the face of failure, trying to remake the deeply troubled Wile E. Coyote into someone noble.

"No matter what happens, he picks himself up and tries again and again and again and again," says Forte. "He wakes up every morning with purpose and with hope and I think everyone should be inspired by that."

Really? By the menacing guy on the jet-propelled pogo stick and endless faulty products? This is a film only personal injury attorneys could love.

"Coyote vs. Acme," a Ketchup Entertainment release that's in theaters Friday, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association for "cartoon violence and some language." Running time: 101 minutes. One star out of four. (AP)

Obituary

Curry, cult film star and Tony-nominated performer, dies at 80

NEW YORK, Aug. 27, (AP) — Tim Curry, a character actor who created a gallery of delicious, very loony villains for stage and screen, including Dr. Frank-N-Furter in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and the smug concierge in "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York," has died. He was 80.

Curry, who suffered a stroke in 2012 that put him in a wheelchair, died Tuesday night at his home in Los Angeles, according to his longtime manager and friend Marcia Hurwitz. No cause was disclosed.

Known for his arch humor, a puttylike face and gift with voices, Curry earned three Tony nominations - for "Spamalot," "My Favorite Year" and "Amadeus" - and a Primetime Emmy nod in 1994.

"I like playing the more curious corners of the human mind and human behavior, partly because they're a tad more interesting," Curry told The Associated Press in 1993.

Curry burst onto the scene as the Transylvanian Frank-N-Furter in the sci-fi, cross-dressing rock musical "The Rocky Horror Show," which premiered in 1973 at the Royal Court Theatre in London. He went with it to Broadway and then starred in the 1975 cult-classic movie alongside Barry Bostwick, Meat Loaf and Susan Sarandon.

The show was ahead of its time

in terms of its representation of LG-BTQ+ characters and has entered the pop culture lexicon for its many iconic and memorable scenes, including the song "The Time Warp," which has been covered by hand-fuls of artists, and the often-quoted phrase, "Dammit, Janet!" The show was twice revived on Broadway, most recently in 2026 with Luke Evans playing Frank-N-Furter.

"He was a force, a bright fierce flame, an exquisite charm and that rich vocal tone," Evans wrote on Instagram. "I hope, wherever you are, you'd approve of one more Frank having the time of his life in those heels."

Curry's Frank-N-Furter had a posh British accent, but that almost wasn't the case. He said he tried German and American accents but pivoted after he heard a British woman on a bus talking with her friend.

"I met a woman on a bus who said, 'Do you have a house in town or a house in the country?' and I thought, 'That's the voice!'" he told LA Magazine in 2015.

For many years after the film's premiere, the British-born actor declined to discuss it. He didn't participate in activities promoting the film, which morphed into an interactive event at midnight shows. But he later warmed again to the project and

embraced it at public events. Asked by LA Magazine how he viewed "Rocky Horror," he responded: "With a sort of bemused tolerance. It's neither a blessing nor a curse. I was lucky to get it."

Curry's Broadway career included starring in Tom Stoppard's "Travesties" in 1975-76, playing Mozart opposite Ian McKellen's Antonio Salieri in Peter Shaffer's "Amadeus" and King Arthur in the 2005 production of "Spamalot." The New York Times said his "stalwart, plummy-

voiced Arthur wears a smile as inflexible as armor." He also played Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol," at the Theater at Madison Square Garden in 2001.

His screen credits included starring as the child-killing monster in the 1990 miniseries version of Stephen King's horror novel "It," as a medical officer in "The Hunt for Red October" in 1990 and the double-dealing Cardinal Richelieu in 1993's "The Three Musketeers" with Kiefer Sutherland, Charlie Sheen and Chris

O'Donnell.

"Tim Curry was someone I cared deeply about, he was someone I loved working with and I am so lucky to have these memories," Sutherland said in a statement.

In his 2025 memoir, "Vagabond," Curry warned readers that while there were scraps of his nature in his characters, he was none of them. "The distinctions between who I really am and who I've pretended to be as an actor have proven to be a source of great disappointment to some audiences. It has not caused me much personal distress beyond the periodic necessity to deter stalkers," he wrote.

Born in Cheshire, England, Curry was the son of a Navy chaplain and a school secretary. He was 12 when his father died and his mother subsequently went to work. Young Tim learned to cook his own breakfast, resulting in a lifelong passion for cooking, and sharpened his humor muscles.

"My father was a Methodist chaplain in the Navy, and we moved pretty much every 18 months," he said. "So I had to make my mark in new schools and new playgrounds pretty quickly. And a sense of humor is the best way to do that. I was always a kind of mimic, one of those awful, relentless children, I should think."

Acting did not occur to him until his middle teens, when he attended a school for the sons of Methodist ministers.

"I was lucky that it was a liberal kind of school; many of them in England are rather Dickensian," he recalled to the AP. "There was a lot of theater, and I sang, too; I had been singing in church from the age of 7. I had enormous opportunities to express myself in that way. I just got hooked, really."

His training continued in 1965 when he entered the University of Birmingham, at that time one of three English universities with a drama department. "I took an academic course, which I largely ignored, I'm afraid, and just acted all the time," he said.

He then went down to London and talked his way into his first job, "Hair," in the West End. Curry went on to the more formalized theater of the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Court Theatre, where he was enlisted for "The Rocky Horror Show."

He went on to futilely try to stop Macaulay Culkin's Kevin McCallister from taking advantage of New York's swanky Plaza Hotel in "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York." Curry also was Wadsworth, the unhinged butler with a secret past, in the quotable "Clue."



Tim Curry attends the Museum of the Moving Image salute to Alec Baldwin in New York on Feb. 28, 2011. (AP)

Experts call deal milestone, but warn Instagram won’t be safe for children

Meta settlement targets child safety with new age & time controls

OAKLAND, Calif., Aug 27, (AP): Kids under 18 will soon see a host of changes to their Instagram and Facebook experiences thanks to a historic \$18 billion settlement Meta Platforms reached Wednesday with 48 U.S. states.

Besides the money, which will be paid out over a decade, Meta has agreed to strengthen its age estimates to keep kids under 13 off its platforms and teens in age-appropriate accounts, enact a hard limit of two hours a day for users under 18, block kids from the apps from midnight to 6 a.m., and hide “like” counts, among other changes.

While acknowledging the changes go further than Meta has ever gone when it comes to child safety, critics and children’s advocates cautioned it will not solve its myriad problems overnight.

Arturo Béjar, a former Meta engineering director, said the settlement is a “significant milestone,” but parents should not see Instagram as suddenly safe for children.

“The agreement has a big problem in that it allows Meta to define harm,” Béjar said in an interview Wednesday. “It’s one thing to say, ‘Yeah, you only get like two hours of alcohol or two hours of cigarettes a day,’ but it’s still as bad for you because of what’s getting delivered.”

Béjar, the first witness to testify during the federal trial cut short by the settlement, would like to see Meta address the effect of content

recommendations to teens, which he says can prove addictive. While teens might put their phone down when they hit the two-hour limit, they can be distressed about it because the way the platform is designed leaves them craving more.

Meta said people over 18 also can adopt versions of the new controls individually, such as daily time-limit reminders, but there will not be an option for them to opt into the overall settings for what teens experience on the platform.

To protect kids, first Meta has to know who they are. While the company has already been using artificial intelligence to determine if kids are lying about their age - either to sign up if they are under 13, which is not allowed, or to use adult accounts when they are 13 to 17 - it did not always work.

Under the proposed settlement, Meta agreed to strengthen its technology to check kids’ ages, using its own as well as third-party tools, with regular outside audits on how well it is working. The agreement also includes specific goals around false positive rates - that is, minors who are identified as over 18. And if a user is identified as under 13 and kicked off the platforms, Meta will check the ages of their friends, too.

“The age assurance section is reasonably good because it has measurement, has independent testing, has goals,” Béjar said. “Because I think Meta should be measured on



Nicklas Akers, California Senior Assistant Attorney General, left, and Deputy Attorney General Megan O'Neill exit court after tech giant Meta reached a settlement to end a landmark trial over teen social media addiction in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026. (AP)

effectiveness, not effort.”

Meta requires users to be at least 13 years old to create an account, in line with federal child privacy law.

In his testimony last week, Béjar said Meta took a “don’t ask, don’t tell” approach on kids under 13 on its platforms.

“Meta has one of the most sophisticated infrastructures in the world to detect fake accounts,” he said. But despite that, he added, there were “no goals, no metrics” to detect and check kids’ ages who were suspected to be under 13.

gorithms decide what to show kids scrolling through their feeds, will be opt-in.

Josh Golin, executive director of online safety nonprofit Fairplay, said the deal appeared to be too focused on offering tools to parents rather than restricting harmful features altogether.

“We are disappointed that the settlement does not turn off by default recommendation algorithms that connect kids to predators and send young people down dangerous rabbit holes,” Golin said.

Questions around default settings came up at the trial earlier this week when a lawyer for the states suing Meta pressed Adam Mosseri, the head of Instagram, on the low adoption rate among teens for the “take a break” feature, which prompts users to step away if they have been scrolling a while.

Very few teens used the feature when Instagram first introduced it, but since launching separate teen accounts in 2024, Meta has made it the default setting for teenage users. Still, if a teen didn’t want to take a break, they could simply swipe away the notification.

Some researchers have found that many past protections Meta has rolled out are ineffective or don’t work as advertised.

“It is a little premature, unfortunately, to tell if exactly all the changes we want to see are going to happen,” said Yaël Eisenstat, direc-

tor of policy and impact for the Cybersafety Research Center, which recently audited dozens of safety tools offered by both Meta and other social media companies and said most fell short.

Still, Eisenstat said, Wednesday’s settlement is monumental in showing that alternative approaches are possible.

For years, Meta “decided to go against the advice of some of their own internal employees and continue to ignore the fact that these design features were unsafe in search of profit,” said Eisenstat, who also previously worked at Meta, then Facebook, before leaving the company in 2019. The measures outlined Wednesday at the very least show that there are technically-feasible options that can make the platform safer, she said - something whistleblowers and others have already “been saying very loudly.”

Like others, Eisenstat stressed that there was a lot of work left to be done - and that it will require a combination of technical solutions, market forces and government regulation.

“There’s no singular silver bullet for fixing all of this,” she said. “I’m just glad that at least we are catching up a little bit now.”

The settlement, which also includes the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, must still be approved by a judge.

Obituary

Artist turns childhood hallucinations into global art

Kusama, Japan’s polka-dot art pioneer, dies at 97

TOKYO, Aug 27, (AP): Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, who splashed her signature polka dots on paintings, sculptures and museum installations around the world, has died, her studio said Thursday. She was 97.

Kusama died Aug. 14 at a hospital in Tokyo, Yayoi Kusama Studio said, without specifying the cause of death.

“She continued to paint until her final days, never setting aside her brush, and continued exploration of forever love and eternal soul,” the studio’s statement said. “We will carry forward Kusama’s wishes and, through art, continue to bring hope and strength for the future to people around the world.”

Kusama, one of Japan’s most respected contemporary artists, was widely exhibited around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and the Museum Ludwig in Germany.

Repetitive motifs were her trademark, in various shapes, resembling netting, swirls or worms, but most often dots, dancing proudly on her canvases, or as sparkling balls or dots of light in her installations, in all their vibrant psychedelic glory.

“Polka dots are fabulous,” Kusama said in a 2012 interview with The Associated Press, appearing in her signature orange bob wig and polka dot attire.

“I want to create a thousand paintings, maybe two thousand paintings, as many as I can draw,” she said in her childlike but matter-of-fact tone. “I will keep painting until I die.”

Kusama insisted she drew the way she saw the world -- covered with spots, part of the hallucinations she said she had from childhood. She was in and out of psychiatric institution for decades, although her



Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama waves in front of the windows of Vuitton's flagship store for the unveiling of a new collaborative collection by Kusama and Vuitton creative designer Marc Jacobs in New York, on July 10, 2012. (AP)

sickness did not hold her back as she was one of the first Japanese women to go to New York to pursue her art, in 1957.

Although soft-spoken and shy in her mannerisms, she was always unabashedly bold in the assertion of her dotty vision, not only in sticking to the style for decades but also in making it accessible to the masses.

In her later years, as the times caught up with her art, she enjoyed fame. She signed on with fashion brands like Louis Vuitton as well as other licensed products like teacups, T-shirts and key chains with her illustrations, including replicas of her likeness that were used in show windows and other marketing.

In 2008, Christie’s auctioned her work for \$5.8 million. In 2016, she won the most prestigious award Japan gives its artists, the Order of Culture.

Upon receiving the award, she told reporters she was more determined than ever to pursue her art, stressing that the sincerity and devotion she had demonstrated in her personal life were crucial parts of her artistic legacy.

“I feel there is little left in my life, but I am now still fighting to the death for my art,” she said. “I am giving all I have so that many people will continue to be interested in my art, even after I am dead.”

Kusama was called pop, avant-garde, feminist, just to name some of the categories thrown at her, most of which Kusama brushed off as not quite representative of her art.

She was born in a middle-class family but felt misunderstood, as her parents wanted her to simply get married. They wanted to buy her kimono, not paints and brushes. She knew she had to get away. She chose America.

When she arrived in New York, the fad was “action painting,” characterized by dribbles, swooshes and smears, not dots. She suffered years of poverty and obscurity. But she kept painting dots.

She put circles of paper on people’s bodies, and once a horse, in “happening” anti-war performances in the late 1960s, which got some people arrested for obscenity but helped get media attention for her art. While in New York, she befriended artists like Andy Warhol, Georgia O’Keeffe and Joseph Cornell, who praised her innovative style.

Over the years, Kusama made quirky but stunningly celebratory works like “Macaroni Girl,” a female figure plastered with macaroni, which expresses the fear of food; “The Visionary Flowers,” giant sculptures of twisting tulips, and “Mirrored Corridor,” a room with mirrors that delivers an illusion of a field of phallic protrusions speckled with dots.

Kusama, who has also made films and published several novels, said she wasn’t sure where she got her ideas. She just picked up her brush and started drawing. The process was so mysterious sometimes she surprised herself, she told AP.

“I think, ‘Oh, I drew that? I was thinking that,’” she said.

But she appeared happy to have her art be the focus of media attention and praise, reading one of her poems to a reporter or tackling her artworks with gusto for photos.

But she was also a charmingly disarming mix of vulnerability and defiance - at one moment, declaring herself “an artistic revolutionary,” and then the next, mumbling: “I am so afraid, all the time, of everything.”

Book publication follows weeks of intense scrutiny

Memoir of former Cambridge professor Arday published posthumously in Britain

LONDON, Aug 27, (AP): Britons who saw Professor Jason Arday’s life and death dissected by weeks of headlines covering allegations about his academic qualifications and personal accomplishments can now read his version of the story.

Simon & Schuster will on Thursday publish Arday’s memoir “Great and Unfortunate Things,” which tells the story of how an autistic boy who was non-verbal as a child and illiterate until his late teens grew up to be the youngest Black professor in the history of Cambridge University.

The book’s release comes less than two weeks after Arday, 41, was found dead at his apartment in London following relentless media coverage about allegations that his academic work was bolstered by plagiarism and that he exaggerated his athletic and fundraising achievements. The memoir was published earlier this month in the U.S.

Simon & Schuster said it decided to publish the book in accordance with his family’s wishes. The publisher said it would have no further comment about the book at this time.

“To the very end, Jason was clear that he wanted his memoir to be published, and it is only right that we honor his wishes,” the family said in a statement released by Simon & Schuster.

“There has been so much that has been written and said about our beloved brother, son, father, partner and uncle, mostly by people who don’t know the truth of what he experienced, and we experienced as a family, or what an extraordinary



Former Cambridge Professor Jason Arday's memoir, "Great and Unfortunate Things" is on display at a book shop in London, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026. (AP)

person he was.”

Arday’s death on Aug. 14 has sparked recriminations over who was responsible.

Cambridge has been criticized for elevating Arday too quickly in a rush to promote diversity, despite red flags about his qualifications. The news media has been targeted for driving the professor to despair with a barrage of coverage that his supporters say was out of proportion to what a white scholar charged with similar mistakes would have faced.

Scrutiny of the memoir increased following the controversy, with British newspapers noting that

some of the running and fundraising accomplishments he previously touted had been left out of the book. For example, an advance copy of the book doesn’t mention his claim that he once ran 600 miles in six days to raise money for charity.

In an interview with the Times of London that was published July 31, Arday acknowledged that he had made mistakes, which he attributed to his autism and a lack of oversight early in his career. But he rejected accusations that he was “a liar and a fantasist and an academic fraud,” saying they were motivated by “racism and ableism.”

Arday, a sociologist, first rose to prominence when Cambridge announced his appointment in 2023, saying he was a “respected scholar” whose work focused on increasing the number of people from minority ethnic backgrounds who pursued higher education.

Questions about his academic qualifications began attracting public attention in mid-July after British newspapers picked up plagiarism allegations published by a white researcher who has been critical of “diversity, equity and inclusion programs.”

Cambridge initially stood by Arday, saying the plagiarism allegations had been investigated and determined to be unfounded. But on Aug. 5, the university announced that it had opened an investigation into Arday’s appointment after receiving “new information” about his qualifications and honorary appointments.

Technology

How to keep kids from laptop & tablet use during homework

NEW YORK, Aug 27, (AP): Tablets and computers have become crucial school supplies for many students. But the same devices children use to read text, write essays, solve math problems or research history projects can also offer distractions in the form of games, social media and web browsing.

It can be a challenge for parents to figure out how to help children stay focused when using these devices. That can be especially complicated with school-managed devices, where parents may have limited control over settings and restrictions.

Helpful options can include using built-in tools and settings on devices, creating routines and introducing time-management techniques.

Here are some tips for parents to help children stay on task.

The strategies parents choose may depend on whether their children are working on their own devices or ones issued and managed by schools.

Parents have more control over personal tablets or computers, and are able to restrict pop-up notifications from programs, block websites or remove apps entirely. But school-issued devices often come with preloaded software and apps, and schools might manage those devices’ settings.

Parents can talk with school administrators about what controls and restrictions are already in place and what options may be available to families concerned about screen time. Parents can also ask whether assignments or homework can be completed on paper. But reducing students’ use of technology entirely can also involve tradeoffs, particularly when some tools offer individualized instruction or help students develop technology skills increasingly expected in the workforce.

In some cases, schools are giving parents additional tools to monitor and manage devices outside of school hours. Battle Ground Public Schools in Washington, for example, introduced overnight login restrictions last year for elementary and middle school students on school-issued Chromebooks, while also allowing exemptions for some families. The restrictions were put in place as a result of parent concerns about device usage late at night and possible interruptions to sleep.

Students can be distracted by notifications that pop up from apps, messages and other services. One simple way to quiet those interruptions is to put up a digital Do Not Disturb sign.

Apple devices, including MacBooks, have focus modes that let users silence some or all notifications, calls and texts. Do Not Disturb is one of the preset modes, and users can also set up their own. On Android devices, a standalone Do Not Disturb feature does the same thing while a separate focus mode, available through Digital Wellbeing in settings, can pause selected apps and gray out their icons so they are harder to open.

Parents can also use built-in controls on Apple and Android devices to regulate screen time, either on their own phone or on a child’s linked device. Depending on the device and how it is set up, parents can restrict access to categories of apps, such as games or entertainment, or set a daily time limit for an individual app.

Google users can use Family Link to manage settings and screen-time limits on a child’s Android device or Chromebook. Apple users can manage these controls for a child’s iPhone, iPad or Mac through Family Sharing.

Keep in mind that screen-time limits aren’t foolproof. Depending on the device and settings, children may be able to request additional time or override some restrictions.

If a setting is unavailable, parents may need to check the school’s device policy or ask the school or district’s technology department what controls are available.

There’s also a decidedly low-tech solution to a distracting app: Delete it. If a particular app is consistently pulling a child away from schoolwork, removing it from the device eliminates the temptation to open it in the first place.

Device settings can remove some distractions, but experts say parents should also help children learn how to manage their own attention and technology use.

“Everybody has individual rhythms of attention,” said Gloria Mark, professor emerita at the University of California, Irvine, and author of “Attention Span.”

Experts recommend paying attention to when students are most alert, and scheduling work that requires the most concentration during those periods.

Those rhythms can vary throughout the day and depend partly on whether someone naturally functions better earlier or later in the day. A quiet or dedicated workspace can also help, as can avoiding multiple devices at once, such as texting while reading or switching to another screen during homework.



Children work on a digital program at Coby Preschool in Yoshikawa, suburban Tokyo, July 12, 2018. (AP)

Most new cases in Ituri still come from outside monitored contacts

Congo’s Ebola outbreak records one of its highest weekly death tolls yet

Congo, Aug 27, (AP): More than 300 people died of Ebola in eastern Congo in the past week, one of the highest weekly tolls yet, government data showed, as health workers struggle to catch up with an outbreak that is spreading at unprecedented speed.

Ministry of Health data showed that as of Saturday, the outbreak had recorded 5,514 cases and 2,642 deaths, including 317 deaths reported in the previous seven days. But Congolese experts have said the outbreak that started weeks before it was confirmed could be three times the known size.

This is the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak in history, with many people dying outside treatment centers. It has recorded seven times more deaths at this stage than the 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak that is the deadliest in history with over 11,000 in all.

Most new cases in Ituri province, the current epicenter, still come from outside monitored contacts.

Nearly half of people infected have died - 47.9% - but the government data shows much higher rates in hard-to-reach areas such as North Kivu province, which has a fatality rate of 68.6%.

A key challenge has been the lack of approved vaccines or treatments for the rare Bundibugyo virus responsible for the outbreak.

On Friday, Congo received more than 16,000 doses of the Ervebo vaccine that was effective in past Ebola outbreaks caused by a different, more common type. The World Health Organization says it also will be used in clinical trials for a Bundibugyo virus vaccine.

WHO says it’s not known whether Ervebo can protect against the Bundibugyo virus, although early laboratory and animal data suggest it may offer some protection.

Officials have not said when the vaccine will be rolled out to frontline workers. In Ituri, locals expressed optimism that it will help slow the outbreak.

“I am very pleased that these vaccines have finally arrived,” said Héritier Ramazani, a resident. “We are fed up with recording new cases of Ebola every day.”

The outbreak is unfolding in some of the most challenging conditions imaginable, with rebel threats and intense population movements.

Medical teams in Ituri and other affected provinces also face work stoppages by responders who haven’t been paid, anger from long-



In this photo released by UNICEF, officials inspect doses of Ebola (Zaire) vaccines upon arrival at Ndjili International Airport in Kinshasa, Congo on Aug 21. (AP)

traumatized communities, bad roads and misinformation claiming that Ebola isn’t real.

Experts believe the virus was spreading in the mining town of Mongbwalu as early as February, months before authorities declared the outbreak on May 15.

Pancreatic cancer: The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday

that previously eluded drugmakers for decades.

The daily pills will be sold by Revolution Medicines under the brand name Rasonque. A one-month supply would cost approximately \$39,800, the company announced.

Patients taking the drug nearly doubled their survival time, with fewer severe side effects, in a study that randomly assigned them to receive the experimental treatment or more chemotherapy. The company-funded study enrolled 500 patients whose metastatic, or spreading, cancer had quit responding to prior treatment.

Patients getting the new treatment lived for a median of 13.2 months compared with 6.7 months for chemotherapy recipients. Side effects included skin rash, mouth sores, diarrhea and other digestive issues.

“This is one of the most anticipated approvals I can think of,” said Dr. Andrew Covelev of the Fred Hutch Cancer Center. “This medicine is not a cure but a significant improvement.”

Pancreatic cancer is among the most deadly forms in large part because it is hard to detect before it starts spreading to other organs. The American Cancer Society estimates about 67,000 new cases will be diagnosed in the United States this year

Early trial of ‘common cold’ vaccine candidate shows encouraging signs

LONDON, Aug 27, (Xinhua): A vaccine candidate designed to protect against rhinoviruses, which cause the great majority of common colds and exacerbate chronic respiratory illnesses, has shown encouraging early results in a Phase 1 clinical trial, Imperial College London said Wednesday.

Initial findings suggested that the candidate, known as APL-10456, was well tolerated in healthy volunteers and that a single dose generated immune responses against all three major rhinovirus species.

The vaccine was developed through a collaboration between Imperial and biopharmaceutical company Apollo Therapeutics, building on years of research led by **Sebastian Johnston**, a professor of respiratory medicine and allergy at Imperial’s National Heart and Lung Institute.

Since 2017, Imperial researchers and Apollo have evaluated and refined different vaccine approaches. More than 20 preclinical studies conducted with contract research organization VirTus Respiratory Research Ltd helped identify the candidate and produced evidence supporting its progression to human testing.



Johnston

Enrollment and dosing have been completed in the randomized, placebo-controlled Phase 1 trial involving 144 healthy participants, according to the university.

The first stage assessed the safety, tolerability and immune response of APL-10456 in healthy participants and evaluated three single-dose levels in adults aged between 18 and 54. The second stage is evaluating a two-dose regimen in adults aged 55 and above, with further data expected in the fourth quarter of 2026.

There are around 180 rhinovirus strains across three species -- A, B and C -- making them a difficult target for vaccine development. Although most infections cause a mild common cold, the viruses are a major cause of flare-ups in people with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD. No targeted antiviral treatment or vaccine for rhinovirus infection has yet been approved.

“It is very encouraging to see this progress into clinical results, which follow years of research and development,” Johnston said.

However, further clinical research is needed to determine whether APL-10456 can prevent rhinovirus infections or reduce illness in people with asthma, COPD and other respiratory conditions. A study involving COPD patients is anticipated to begin in the first half of 2027.

Heat makes emergency rooms busier, study shows which illness, injuries rise during hot spells

WASHINGTON, Aug 27, (AP): When the temperature heats up, so do emergency rooms, according to a massive study of Chicago hospital and urgent care records, which found increased accidental gunshot wounds, kidney complaints, skin problems, varicose veins and even mental health issues related to marijuana use.

Northwestern University medical school researchers pored through records of 916,404 visits to hospital emergency rooms and urgent care centers in Chicago from 2011 to 2023 to see if they could spot trends in illnesses and injuries when the temperature hits 92.6 degrees (33.7 degrees Celsius) or higher. They found when it gets hot, more than a dozen broad categories of injuries and illness become more frequent, including some that most people don’t associate with heat, according to the study in Wednesday’s Science Advances.

While the study looked only at Chicago, outside experts said it highlights underestimated health problems and rising costs that infect much of the warming world.

“The sound of the city is the sound of ambulances,” said study senior author Dr. Abel Kho, an internal medicine professor at Northwestern. “Hot days are just like, something’s going to happen.”

“When there’s heat, there’s a much higher likelihood of people having external injuries, as well as complications of certain conditions, specifically those related to kidney disorders or things like exacerbations of drug effects, like cannabinoids,” said Kho, a former emergency room physician.

Some problems doubled, tripled or, in the case of accidental gunshot wounds, jumped more than 30-fold compared to days under 92 degrees, the study said. Unspecified injuries from assault showed an even bigger increase, the data showed.

This study “helps confirm that we’ve been underestimating health risks from heat exposures,” said Dr. Jonathan Patz, chair of health and environment at the University of Wisconsin, who wasn’t part of the research.

“It also is a reminder that the price of climate change is increased illness, strain on our health care system and health care costs,” said Dr. Courtney Howard, a Canadian

emergency room physician, chair of the Global Climate and Health Alliance and president-elect of the Canadian Medical Association. She was not part of the study.

Northwestern researchers looked through all the records to see what became more frequent, instead of just focusing on known heat-related problems.

“Heat-related illness is undercounted when studies only search for explicit heat codes like heat stroke,” said Dr. Nicholas Cozzi, president-elect of the Illinois College of Emergency Physicians. He wasn’t part of the study.

Researchers found an association between high temperatures and individual medical problems, but that’s not the same as a cause-and-effect, Kho said. The data had more Black people and women represented than the general population, but University of Washington climate and health scientist Kris Ebi said that’s another positive part of the study because those groups are often underrepresented in medical studies.

“We know that heat waves are becoming more frequent, more intense,

and lasting longer,” said study co-author Daniel Horton, a Northwestern climate scientist. “So a study like this indicates that those heat waves have real effects on people, not only on the likelihood of mortality, but of morbidity as well. So all the other things, the bad things that happen on the way up to dying, may also increase.”

Cozzi said that the study has an important message for the public: “Don’t wait for heat stroke symptoms to take heat seriously. If you have a chronic condition - kidney disease, MS, venous issues - treat extreme heat days as a trigger for extra caution, not just an outdoor-activity problem.”

Many of the diseases that saw an uptick in heat had to do with kidneys and the renal system. The skin issues are known by doctors but not often seen in non-medical literature, Kho said.

With the marijuana mental health issues, Kho said doctors have long known that when a body is “under physiologic stress, some medications will have greater effects.” That’s why, he said, when it gets hot “maybe people need to be a little more careful if they’re going to be using certain things.”



Dr. Abhishek Pranayami examines a patient suffering from a heat-related illness amid high temperatures at a district government hospital in Banda, northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, June 19. (AP)

Drought exposing the cost

Hungary drains waters for generations



People walk on sandbanks exposed by record-low water levels in the Danube River after drought and extreme heat near Nagymaros, Hungary, on Aug 18. (AP)

GÁRDONY, Hungary, Aug 27, (AP): A fisherman disembarked from his boat in a small harbor on Lake Velence in Hungary, trudging up the dock plank that had become extremely steep as the water receded to record lows.

Árpád Selmecsi said navigating even a small fishing boat on Hungary’s third-largest lake is becoming increasingly difficult as the water level has ebbed to around 20 centimeters (8 inches), well below the 150 centimeters (5 feet) optimal for August. Swimming beaches across the lake, once popular with tourists, have been closed.

Lake Velence’s decline is part of a broader water crisis confronting Hungary as increasingly prolonged droughts and climate change-driven heat waves have pummeled Europe.

“I’ve lived on Lake Velence since I was a child, and I’ve never seen the water so low,” said Selmecsi, 58. “It’s terrible. My heart aches every single moment.”

This summer, wildfires scorched the continent from the United Kingdom to Greece, while in Hungary, drought has damaged crop yields, led to drinking water shortages and threatened to shut down the country’s only nuclear power plant.

Yet the lack of rainfall linked to human-driven climate change is only part of Hungary’s water problem. Experts say the country’s long-standing practice of channeling water away from its landscape and draining natural wetlands has left it especially vulnerable as droughts become more frequent and severe.

Around 99% of Hungary’s lands are currently under severe or extreme drought conditions, according to the national meteorological service, and desertification, a process where vegetation recedes because of high heat and low rainfall, threatens much of the Great Hungarian Plain.

Yet more than a quarter of Hungary consists of low-lying land that naturally retains precipitation, and in past centuries its many rivers and streams made it rich in freshwater resources. However, a 2023 study published in the journal Nature estimated Hungary’s historical wetland loss at more than 80%.

Zsuzsanna Ujj, a biodiversity policy specialist and project coordinator with environmental group Friends of the Earth Hungary, said the country “has not been a good steward of its waters in the last 200 years.”

A major contributor is Hungary’s network of more than 40,000 kilometers (25,000 miles) of drainage canals - a length that exceeds the circumference of the Earth - which drain accumulated precipitation from fields, wetlands and the soil to make room for agriculture and other enterprises.

The priority on draining land rather than allowing natural flooding cycles to occur has contributed to a consistent drop in the water table and the drying out of wetlands and topsoil. With less water available to evaporate, the air dries out, further reducing the chances of localized precipitation.

Muchova and Mensik win US Open mixed doubles

None of the teams featuring doubles specialists survived to final four

NEW YORK, Aug 27, (AP): Jakub Mensik texted Karolina Muchova on the eve of the U.S. Open mixed doubles tournament so they could coordinate their outfits. Looking good on the court is important, he figured.

Now they look like a million bucks.

Muchova and Mensik won the title in their first time playing together, beating Belinda Bencic and Flavio Cobolli 6-3, 1-6 (10-6).

The Czech duo, wearing the same pink tops and maroon bottoms they settled on Monday, pulled out match tiebreakers in both matches on the second night of the two-day event, fueled by Mensik’s powerful serve combined with some good hands near the net. He put away the final with an ace to earn \$1 million for him and Muchova to share.

“I think at the end, really the matching outfit made the difference for us,” Muchova said.

They were a point from losing in the semifinals, erasing two match points and running off the final four to edge Mirra Andreeva and Andrey Rublev 5-4 (6), 3-5 (11-9).

Quite a performance, considering Mensik said he had never played in a mixed doubles event.

“My first mixed doubles, 100% win rate,” he said.

Bencic and Cobolli rallied to end the run of spouses Elina Svitolina and Gael Monfils in the first semifinal with a 4-5 (7), 4-1 (10-5) victory.

They appeared headed toward a matchup with Andreeva and Rublev, who were smiling and pumping their fists after opening the lead in the match tiebreaker. Muchova flung her racket to the court in disgust after



Belinda Bencic, left, of Switzerland, and Flavio Cobolli, of Italy, pose with the runner-up trophy next to Jakub Mensik, and Karolina Muchova, right, both of the Czech Republic, after they won the mixed doubles final match at the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

missing a volley that gave the Russians a 7-5 lead.

But the Wimbledon women’s runner-up never lost belief, thanks in part to her hard-serving partner, who will turn 21 next week.

When Mensik first asked Muchova to play, she told him to improve his ranking. When the U.S. Open mixed doubles tournament was revamped last year, the ability to directly qualify was based on the combined

singles rankings of the two players.

Mensik then did his part by reaching the semifinals of the French Open.

“I put a little pressure on him, but in a fun way. It worked,” Muchova said. “I’m happy we managed and we got in, that we are here now.”

The final was the only match of the tournament that resembled a regular match, with standard sets to six games and a tiebreaker at 6-all.

Through the first three rounds, sets were to four games, with a tiebreaker at 4-all.

Bencic and Cobolli knocked Serena Williams and Carlos Alcaraz out of the tournament Tuesday in the quarterfinals.

Then they dropped a set for the first time in the tournament in the semis, but began to dominate mid-way through the second set, winning the final 11 points to force the match

tiebreaker. But they couldn’t win their second one in the final.

“This year is already the second final. I never expected in my life to play a Grand Slam,” said Cobolli, this year’s French Open runner-up. “This is mixed but still something that you never forget.”

It was the second year of the new format in mixed doubles, with the event shortened and moved to the week before the singles main draw

begins, with the U.S. Tennis Association hoping that would get top singles players to compete.

Plenty of top names did compete but much of the star power, including Williams and Alcaraz, went out early. Aryna Sabalenka and Novak Djokovic lost their opening match, as did Alex Eala and Felix Auger-Aliassime, and Jessica Pegula and Taylor Fritz.

That could explain a good number of empty seats in Ashe, particularly after both semifinals went the distance and pushed the start of the final back toward nearly 11 p.m. EDT.

None of the teams featuring doubles specialists survived to the final four, leaving an opening for some players still seeking Grand Slam glory such as Rublev, who has fallen 10 times in major quarterfinals.

Svitolina and Monfils, who have both reached the U.S. Open singles semifinals, accepted a wild card to team up for the first time. Married since 2021, they were trying to win a championship in the final appearance in a Grand Slam tournament for Monfils, who will turn 40 on Sept. 1, before he retires.

They pulled out a back-and-forth tiebreaker in the first set in which they blew a 4-0 lead, then erased two set points. They went ahead 8-7 when Bencic tried to hit a cross-court backhand but nailed Cobolli, who had strayed into the middle. Cobolli then double-faulted to lose the set.

Bencic and Cobolli recovered, but then had a poor start to the final after a long break between matches. The Czechs pounced quickly, then finished well late.

Their biggest challenge may have been the outfit selection. Mensik apparently wasn’t familiar with the word maroon. Now he knows and loves it.

“My favorite color right now is pink and maroon, that’s for sure,” he said.

Valkyries cruise past Sun

Storm snaps losing streak with victory over Tempo

SEATTLE, Aug 27, (AP): Flau’jae Johnson scored 20 points, Dominique Malonga added 18 and the Seattle Storm beat the short-handed Toronto Tempo 90-78.

Jade Melbourne had 16 points and seven assists for Seattle (8-31), which had lost 14 of its last 15 games. Awa Fam and Zia Cooke each scored 10 points.

Toronto was without its top three scorers in Marina Mabrey (adductor), Brittney Sykes (foot) and Nyara Sabally (calf).

Rookie Kiki Rice scored a season-high 24 points for Toronto (11-27). Isabelle Harrison had 17 points and 14 rebounds.

Seattle closed the third quarter on an 11-4 run to take a 64-61 lead and opened the fourth with a 9-2 spurt for a 10-point advantage.

Valkyries 89, Sun 64

In Uncasville, Conn., Janelle Salaun hit four 3-pointers and scored 15 points, Veronica Burton had 12 points and seven assists, and the Golden State Valkyries routed the Connecticut Sun.

Golden State closed the first half on a 14-0 run to help build a 55-27 lead. Connecticut went the final 3:51 without a point and went into the break 9 of 33 from the field.

Juste Jocyte gave the Valkyries their largest lead of the game at 87-52



Kaila Charles

early in the fourth quarter.

Kaila Charles had 14 points and Kaitlyn Chen added 10 for Golden State (27-11), which set a franchise record with 54 points off the bench. Fourteen Golden State players were in the game and 11 recorded at least two points.

Rookie Charlissee Leger-Walker led Connecticut (10-28) with a season-high 17 points, and Nell Angloma added 11. The Sun finished 22 of 71 (31%) from the field.

New Madrid F1 circuit ready after F3 testing

MADRID, Aug 27, (AP): The new Madring circuit debuting this season in Formula One has been deemed ready for its inaugural race after successfully hosting tests with the lower-tiered F3 cars this week.

Organizers said Madring “is ready for the Spanish Grand Prix” on Sept. 13 following two days of running that included several red flags for drivers going off track at the new hybrid circuit.

One driver said it is “the most adrenaline-fueled circuit of the entire season,” while another compared sections of the new track to the circuits on the streets of Monaco and Macau.

A total of 30 drivers and 10 teams raced Monday and Tuesday at the brand-new 5.4-kilometer (3.3-mile) track set around exhibition halls near Madrid’s main airport. The track features a mix of existing roads in the Spanish capital and purpose-built sections.

Organizers said they were able to test “both the track’s performance and the various sporting, technical, medical, safety and coordination operations.” They said “the track and the sporting, technical and safety operations have functioned under real conditions.”

There were nearly 20 stoppages in the sessions because cars went off track and for other reasons.

According to organizers, drivers

said they liked what they experienced in the new circuit.

“I feel very comfortable in Macau and Monaco, so I really like this circuit because some sections remind me of them,” said Théophile Naël, who drives for team Van Amersfoort Racing. “When you are flat out, you can feel the g-forces. Inside the car, it is incredible.”

The banked corner “La Monumental” is expected to be the highlight of the new track.

Spanish driver Bruno del Pino described the track as “the most adrenaline-fueled of the entire season.”

“The adrenaline is at 100% on every lap,” he said, adding that the circuit “fills you with energy and gets your heart racing. We are really looking forward to racing here officially.”

Madring signed a contract with F1 through 2035. This year’s Spanish GP will mark F1’s return to the Madrid region after it raced at the Jarama circuit in 1981. The Jerez de la Frontera track in southern Spain hosted races from 1986-90, and in 1994 and 1997.

Organizers said Wednesday that Spanish soccer powerhouse Real Madrid is being added as a “local event organizer.”

The club’s headquarters and training center are both located in Valdebebas, the area where the track was built.

Next up is Arsenal in Premier League

Aston Villa in turmoil after big-name departures

LONDON, Aug 27, (AP): It was only three months ago that Aston Villa was celebrating a first major piece of silverware in 30 years and a return to the Champions League.

It was only two weeks ago that Villa was pushing the mighty Paris Saint-Germain all the way in the UEFA Super Cup.

All of a sudden, though, there is an air of despondency around the club at the end of a summer when the spine of the team has been ripped out, leaving manager Unai Emery facing a major rebuild.

Villa, which was hammered 4-0 by Brighton last weekend in their Premier League opener, will head into its home match against defending champion Arsenal on Monday without arguably its five star players from last season: goalkeeper Emi Martinez, center back Ezri Konsa, midfielders Youri Tielemans and Morgan Rogers, and striker Ollie Watkins.

Martinez, the World Cup-winning goalkeeper from Argentina, has been nowhere near the first team as he seeks a move away, possibly to Chelsea; Konsa, the England international, has joined Arsenal; Rogers and Tielemans have moved to Chelsea and Manchester United, respectively; and Watkins is reportedly off to Saudi Arabia, having yet to feature so far this season. Throw in left back Lucas Digne leaving to join PSG and it’s quite the list of departures.



Coventry City's Taiwo Awoniyi fights for the ball with Arsenal's Cristhian Mosquera, right, during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Coventry City in London. (AP)

“We’re used to change,” Villa captain John McGinn told the Stick to Football podcast, “and we’ll try and integrate new players and improve on last year.

“I’m not naive enough to think that’s not going to be more difficult now.”

Villa went through problems this time last year, opening the Premier League season with a five-match winless streak that saw questions asked about Emery’s ability to get Villa firing again.

They came through it - but back then they had Watkins and Rogers to

get the team out of trouble.

Now?

Villa is reportedly close to signing Nicolas Jackson from Chelsea as a replacement for Watkins, but he isn’t as reliable a striker. Johan Manzambi was signed from Freiburg off the back of a starring role for Switzerland at the World Cup, but he is only 20, new to the Premier League, and currently out injured.

Emery is clearly in a tough spot - and the last team he’d want visiting at this time is Arsenal, which beat Manchester City 3-0 in the Community Shield and started its Premier

League title defense by beating Coventry by the same score.

“This problem (losing players during the summer) we had every season and every season we overcame it,” said Emery. “It’s something we have to accept and always we reacted, especially the players.

“This is something hard for us every year but we are calm.”

Alongside Villa, Manchester United and Tottenham also will look to bounce back from bruising opening-round defeats.

Coming off a 2-0 loss at Hull, United hosts another promoted team in Ipswich.

Tottenham is at home to Newcastle, a week after getting thrashed 3-0 by Brentford.

Man City starts the second round with a trip to Crystal Palace on Friday. Liverpool is at home to Nottingham Forest as new manager Andoni Iraola seeks a first win in charge after a 2-2 draw at Newcastle on Sunday.

Man City could give a debut to 18-year-old midfielder Ayyoub Bouaddi, who was signed from French team Lille in a \$117 million deal on Wednesday. City manager Enzo Maresca started Marc Guehi - a center back - in central midfield in the opening 2-1 win over Bournemouth, given the shortage of options in that position after releasing Bernardo Silva and selling Rodri and Tijjani Reijnders. Nico Gonzalez also left for Newcastle this week.

Vozinha stars in Colo-Colo’s winning Copa Chile debut

SANTIAGO, Chile, Aug 27, (AP): Goalkeeper Vozinha - who starred during Cape Verde’s World Cup debut - finally made his first appearance for Chilean powerhouses Colo-Colo on Wednesday in a Copa Chile soccer match against Unión Española.

The 40-year-old veteran, whose real name is Josimar Evora Dias, arrived in South America on Aug. 2 after Colo-Colo announced his signing on July 24. Paperwork issues and personal matters had delayed his arrival three times, raising concerns among fans and team officials.

Upon landing, Vozinha immediately joined training with the domestic league leaders, who currently hold a 13-point cushion over rivals Universidad de Chile.

Since his arrival, the Cape Verdean goalkeeper has been part of the squad for three matches - including last Sunday’s “Superclásico” against Universidad de Chile at the National Stadium - though he remained on the bench for that fixture.

And his debut went swimmingly: Colo-Colo secured the top spot in Group E after a 3-0 rout of the “Hispanos,” who were eliminated from the



Colo Colo goalkeeper Vozinha, from Cape Verde, warms up for a Chilean soccer league match between Colo Colo and Universidad de Chile in Santiago, Chile. (AP)

competition. Despite a few early jitters, Vozinha settled in well between the posts and demonstrated reliability when called upon, denying the visitors a consolation goal and keeping a clean sheet in his first match.

Vozinhafaces stiff competition for the starting role. With regular goalkeeper Fernando De Paul out injured, 19-year-old academy product Gabriel Mourreira has firmly established himself as the team’s starter, earning praise for his standout performance in the “Superclásico.”

Coach Fernando Ortiz made it clear that Vozinha won’t be handed the starting job, emphasizing that he will have to earn the starting spot on merit.

Vozinha arrived in Chile after wrapping up his stint with Chaves in Portugal’s second division and delivering a standout performance at the World Cup - a tournament where he became a key figure thanks to saves that helped his team hold their own against powerhouses like Uruguay and eventual champions Spain in an unbeaten group stage. Cape Verde lost to Lionel Messi’s Argentina in the round of 32.

Marmoush joins big-spending Tottenham on loan

LONDON, Aug 27, (AP): Another signing for Tottenham, another departure at Manchester City.

Egypt forward Omar Marmoush was sent to Tottenham on a season-long loan from City on Thursday, with the deal including an obligation to make the move permanent next summer - reportedly for 50 million pounds (\$68 million).

While Tottenham has been one of the most active buying teams in Europe in this transfer window with an outlay of more than \$400 million, City has raised around \$400 million in sales and now has left its backup striker to Erling Haaland leave.

Marmoush joined City from Eintracht Frankfurt

in January 2025 for a reported 70 million euros (\$73 million) but was never a regular under Pep Guardiola, who left as manager at the end of last season. Enzo Maresca, Guardiola’s replacement, said last week Marmoush hadn’t asked for a transfer but could not be guaranteed much playing time.

That’s despite City having trimmed its squad majorly this summer, with Rodri, Tijjani Reijnders, Nico Gonzalez, Bernardo Silva and John Stones among those to have left along with Brazil winger Savio - formerly known as Savinho - who joined Tottenham this week in a deal worth

85 million pounds (\$115 million).

Other signings by Spurs include Italy midfielder Sandro Tonali from Newcastle for a reported club-record fee of 100 million pounds (\$133 million), midfielder Mateus Fernandes from West Ham for 85 million pounds (then \$113 million), and defenders Jan Paul van Hecke, Marcos Senesi and Andrew Robertson.

Meanwhile, Chelsea sold Liam Delap to Nottingham Forest on Thursday in a deal worth a reported 50 million pounds (\$68 million) for a striker who scored two goals in all competitions last season.

Barca signs Croatia goalkeeper Livakovic from Fenerbahce

Atletico rejects Barcelona talks for Alvarez as Laporta accuses Madrid club of lying

MADRID, Aug 27, (Agencies): Atletico Madrid has ruled out negotiations with Barcelona over the potential transfer of Argentine striker Julian Alvarez, escalating tensions between the two Spanish giants.

The Madrid club said its board had unanimously backed the decision not to negotiate with Barcelona for the 26-year-old forward.

Atletico stressed that it remain open to normal transfer-market negotiations, provided they are conducted with “ethics, professionalism and mutual respect.” However, the club maintained that Barcelona had failed to meet those standards and therefore would not discuss Alvarez’s transfer with them.

The club also expressed confidence that Alvarez would understand the decision and remain committed to helping Atletico achieve its objectives, as he has done since joining the club.

Alvarez moved to Atletico from Manchester City in the summer of 2024. His future has since become the subject of speculation, with Barcelona reportedly interested in bringing him to Camp Nou.

The Argentine international has missed Atletico’s training sessions over the past two days as the team prepares to visit Sevilla in La Liga tomorrow.

Sevilla has won its opening two league matches, while Atletico has four points after beating Malaga 2-0 and drawing 2-2 with Villarreal.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta, meanwhile, hit back at Atletico by accusing the club of lying over the transfer negotiations and insisting that Alvarez wants to join Hansi Flick’s team.

Laporta said he had personally contacted Atletico chief executive Angel Gil Marin to express Barcelona’s interest in Alvarez at Flick’s request, before speaking with Miguel Angel Gil to reaffirm the club’s desire to sign the striker.

According to Laporta, Atletico initially told him it had no intention of selling Alvarez because lack of replacement. Barcelona, he said, agreed to wait until a replacement was found, only to later discover that Atletico was negotiating with other clubs over the player.

Meanwhile, Barcelona has signed Croatia goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic from Turkish club Fenerbahce. Barcelona said Thursday that the 31-year-old Livakovic signed a contract until 2030.

Livakovic is set to play a reserve role in a squad that already has Joan García - the team’s regular starter - and veteran Wojciech Szczesny.

Barcelona earlier this month sent Germany goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen to Ajax on a loan.

Financial details of the Livakovic transfer were not immediately available.

Livakovic started at NK Zagreb in the Croatian first division before joining Dinamo Zagreb for the 2016-17 season. After seven season he signed with Fenerbahce, where he stayed two years before joining Spanish club Girona on a loan.

Livakovic returned to Dinamo Zagreb this year, also on loan, after being criticized by Girona coach Michel for not prioritizing the club. Michel said the reserve goalkeeper refused to play in a match and wanted to leave the club. He said the goalkeeper was only worried about the World Cup.

Livakovic has been a regular in the Croatia squad since 2017, having played in the last three World Cups and the last two European Championships.

Sri Lanka ‘salvages’ draw as India seals series win



Indian team members pose with winner’s trophy at the end of the second cricket test match between Sri Lanka and India in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)

Dinusha smashes fighting hundred

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Aug 27, (AP): Sonal Dinusha’s fighting hundred and rearguard revival with the tailenders helped Sri Lanka snatch a draw in the second test but India won the two-match series 1-0.

It was Dinusha’s second century of the match after scoring 103 in the first innings.

Batting first after winning the toss, India scored a massive 503-9 declared, with Devdutt Padikkal putting up 117 for his second century of the series and Druv Jurel adding 115.

The Indian bowlers then bundled Sri Lanka out for 290 in the first innings and enforced the follow-on with with a 213-run lead. Sri Lanka declared its second innings at 429-9, leading by 216 runs with only 17 overs remaining for the day, after which stumps were drawn.

Dinusha remained unbeaten on 133 and became only the third player ever to score twin

test centuries following on after India’s Vijay Hazare and Zimbabwe’s Andy Flower.

“We did everything we could, they played brilliantly, their batters played really well, had a lot of skill,” India captain Shubman Gill said. “A bit of luck went their way, I don’t think we could have done anything different.”

Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva said it was a positive that youngsters like Dinusha and Pasindu Sooriyabandara are playing well as the team has several veterans that who missed the series due to injuries.

“Its all about find the talents for the future of Sri Lanka cricket,” de Silva said. “That’s a good headache the guys who have been playing continuously have, to come back and knock on the door again.”

Regular top order batters Kusal Mendis, Pathum Nissanka missed the series while Dinesh Chandimal was injured during the first test in Galle.

Sri Lanka resumed its second innings Thursday with a narrow lead, four wickets in hand and needing to bat for time in the hopes of salvaging a draw.

Dinusha did just that batting with the tail, with No. 8 Keshara Nuwantha scoring 46 off 150 deliveries and No. 10 Lahiru Kumara adding 12 off 90 deliveries.

Dinusha batted exactly seven hours and faced 264 deliveries, hitting two sixes and eight boundaries.

He was named player of the match while Padikkal was named player of the series for scoring 167 in Galle and 117 in Colombo.

Left-arm spinners Ravindra Jadeja (3-94) and Manav Suthar (3-121) shared bowling honours for India.

On Day 4, Sri Lanka reached 229-6 to lead by only 16 runs when rain brought an early close to play. Pasindu Sooriyabandara and Kamindu Mendis scored half-centuries.

Al-Houli takes charge as Qadsia volleyball technical director

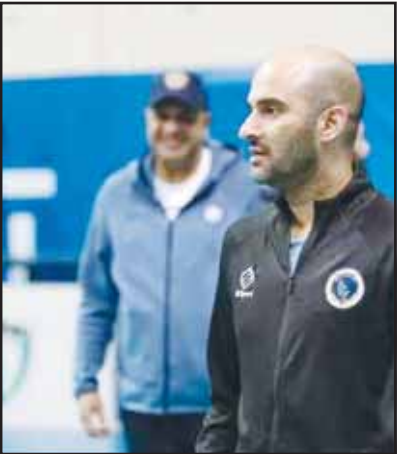
By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 27: Al-Qadsia has appointed Kuwaiti coach Ahmed Al-Houli as technical director of the club’s volleyball sector for the 2026-27 season, as part of a broader plan to strengthen the sport’s structure and oversee all age-group teams.

Al-Houli’s extensive experience in Kuwaiti volleyball and his familiarity with local players and coaches were key factors behind his appointment. He will supervise the technical operations of the volleyball department ahead of the new campaign.

The club’s volleyball department is also finalizing preparations for the season. Al-Qadsia previously appointed Humber Alejandro as head coach of the first team, with Mohammed Al-Damkhi taking charge as volleyball director and Diego joining the coaching staff as assistant coach.

The first-team squad has also been reinforced with the signing of Beninese professional Daouda Yakubu, while local



Ahmed Al-Houli

players Yousef Mandeel and Abdullah Al-Assaf have joined the squad.

The moves highlight Al-Qadsia’s ambition to establish a comprehensive volleyball program, combining investment in the first team with greater attention to youth development and the creation of a strong pipeline of talent for the future.

Al-Nassr aims to maintain perfect start

RIYADH, Aug 27: Al-Nassr will look to preserve its perfect start to the 2026-27 Saudi Roshn League season when it hosts Al-Taawoun at Al-Awwal Park today in the fourth round.

The defending champion has collected maximum points from its opening three matches, defeating Al-Fateh, Al-Riyadh and Al-Ettifaq as it targets back-to-back league titles.

Al-Nassr showed its fighting spirit in their latest outing, coming from two goals down to beat Al-Ettifaq 3-2 in Dammam despite being reduced to 10 men after its goalkeeper was sent off in the first half.

Al-Taawoun, in contrast, is still searching for their first win of the campaign.

They have recorded two draws and one defeat from their opening three games.

Elsewhere, Al-Hilal visit Al-Khaleej at Prince Mohammed bins Fahd Stadium. The Riyadh side has won both of its league matches so far, beating Al-Faisaly and Al-Fayha to move onto six points, with a postponed fixture against Al-Ahli still to be played.

Al-Hilal is also determined to reclaim the Saudi league crown after going without the title in the past two seasons.

Today’s other fixtures see Al-Fayha face Abha and Al-Riyadh take on Neom, while Saturday’s matches feature Al-Khulood against Al-Ahli, Al-Fateh versus Al-Ittihad and Al-Ettifaq against Al-Diriyah.



A file photo of Al-Nassr and Al-Taawoun players in action.

‘Wrestler’s departure an individual decision’

Egyptian Olympic Committee suspends wrestling delegation chief Al-Attar after wrestler leaves team

The Egyptian Olympic Committee has suspended Ibrahim Al-Attar, head of the national wrestling delegation, and referred him to its Ethics Committee following the departure of a second Egyptian wrestler, Mohamed Mostafa Ali Al-Shami, during a stopover at Rome Airport.

The incident came just a day after Ziad Hagag became the first Egyptian wrestler to leave the delegation, in an earlier incident in Slovenia. Al-Shami’s departure therefore marks the second such case involving the Egyptian wrestling team.

The wrestling team had traveled from Tarranto to Rome with all members present before stopping in the Italian capital to continue the journey to Cairo.

The delegation chief was reportedly responsible

for keeping the passports of team members during the trip, but this procedure was not followed. The coaching staff subsequently noticed



Egyptian wrestler Mohamed Mostafa Ali Al-Shami

that Al-Shami was missing during the transit period.

The wrestler’s coach searched for him and attempted to catch up with him but was unsuccessful, forcing the coach to miss the return flight. Al-Shami did not return to the delegation.

The committee considers the wrestler’s departure an individual decision, while the circumstances surrounding supervision and the delegation’s administrative procedures remain under investigation.

The referral of Al-Attar to the Ethics Committee does not represent a final determination of responsibility. Further inquiries and hearings will be conducted before any final decisions are made in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Pogacar continues to dominate, wins another Spanish Vuelta stage

CASTELLO, Spain, Aug 27, (AP): Tadej Pogacar continued his impressive run at the Spanish Vuelta on Thursday, winning the sixth stage after going off track and nearly crashing on a quick descent.

The defending Tour de France champion, seeking a career hat trick of Grand Tour titles, was able to slow down just enough to stay on his bike and return to the road to eventually outlast Enric Mas and secure his third stage victory.

The Slovenian from UAE

Team Emirates increased his overall lead to 3 minutes, 34 seconds, with Mas of Movistar Team in second place and Primož Roglic dropping to third, more than four minutes behind Pogacar.

Pogacar had already put on a dominant performance to win Tuesday’s fourth stage, and he also won the opening stage.

He is trying to become the ninth male rider to win all three Grand Tours races.

Pogacar won the Tour de France for a third straight time and a record-tying fifth overall

in July, and he claimed the Giro d’Italia win in 2024. He had not raced in the Vuelta since making his Grand Tour debut at the event in 2019, when he won three stages.

Pogacar is the first rider with three wins in the first six stages since Oscar Freire in 2007.

He dropped the rest of the riders with less than 25 kilometers (15 kilometers) to go but was caught by Mas before the final summit. The duo worked together through the end and Pogacar eventually prevailed at the finish

line.

Thursday’s sixth-stage featured a mid-mountain route that included a dirt road on the final climb. A quick descent into the finish line in Castellón challenged riders and nearly proved costly to Pogacar as he lost control of his bike and couldn’t stay on the road on a sharp turn.

Friday’s seventh stage is a 149.8-kilometer (93-mile) mountain route.

The Vuelta finishes in the southern Spanish city of Granada on Sept. 13.

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Everton's Thierno Barry, left, misses a chance at goal under pressure from Preston North End's Jordan Storey during the Carabao Cup second round match in Preston, England, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026. (AP)

Sports

Blues enter match with confidence

Kuwait takes on South Korea with World Championship spot at stake

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

AMMAN, Aug 27: Kuwait faces a decisive showdown against South Korea at 2 p.m. Friday in the quarter-finals of the 11th Asian Junior Handball Championship in Jordan, with a place at the 2027 World Championship at stake.

The quarter-final represents a major milestone for Kuwait, as victory would secure a semi-final berth and guarantee qualification for the 2027 World Championship. With so much riding on the result, the encounter is expected to be a fiercely contested battle.

Kuwait advanced to the knockout stage after finishing third in Group B following a demanding preliminary campaign. The team will now meet South Korea, who finished second in Group A.

The Korean side presents a formidable challenge, but Kuwait enters the match with confidence after showing promise in the group stage. The players will look to build on those performances and deliver their best display when it matters most.

Defensive discipline, quick transitions and clinical finishing are expected to be key to Kuwait's chances. The coaching staff will also demand concentration and composure throughout the match, particularly during crucial stages.

For Kuwait, the stakes could hardly be higher. A win would not only put the team in the Asian Championship semi-finals but also secure its ticket to the 2027 World Championship.

The Kuwaiti handball faithful will hope the young team can rise to the occasion, overcome the Korean challenge and keep its World Championship dream alive.

UAE makes strong start

Kuwait launches Asian qualifiers campaign with impressive victory

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

DUBAI, Aug 27: Kuwait opened its campaign in the first window of the Asian qualifiers for the FIBA Asia Cup with an emphatic 88-61 victory over Oman at Shabab Al Ahli Club Hall in Dubai.

The tournament, hosted by the UAE, runs through August 31, with Kuwait making its first official appearance under the new Greek coach Vassilios Bratsiakos.

The Blues controlled the contest from the opening minutes, producing a confident display and maintaining its advantage throughout to underline its ambitions of advancing to the next stage of the qualifiers.

Kuwait faced the UAE late yesterday in its second game before taking on Nepal at 4 p.m. today. The UAE, meanwhile, meets Bahrain at 7 p.m.

The UAE also made a strong start, defeating Nepal 110-64 in the opening round.

The upcoming fixtures are crucial for Kuwait, with three teams from



Players congratulate each other after opening victory.

each group advancing to the second qualifying window, scheduled for November.

Kuwait player Abdulaziz Al-Humaidi praised the team's performance against Oman, saying the Blue imposed its style from the start and successfully maintained its lead until the final whistle.

Best of the Rest

Musiala back in Bayern team training: Jamal Musiala is still working toward a comeback after a change to his medication for a neurological issue, Bayern Munich coach Vincent Komany said Thursday.

Musiala hasn't played since collapsing in successive preparation games this month and will not take part in Friday's Bundesliga opener against Stuttgart. But he was to be a full participant in team training on Thursday, Kompany said.

"That means he's getting used to the increase in medication, that's he's reacting well to it," Kompany said.

"He will be in the squad again sometime and he'll play normally again, but of course we'll take that decision hand in hand with all the (medical) experts and so on," he added. "But he's doing well."

The 23-year-old Musiala first collapsed in a friendly against Leipzig on Aug. 15, then again three days later against Heidenheim. He subsequently said he was diagnosed with "absence seizures caused by a neurological dysfunction" but there was "no absolute health risk" and that he intended to keep playing as before.

Kompany and Bayern board member for sport Max Eberl said on Aug. 21 that the club had been aware of Musiala's condition for at least the previous season and that a change in the player's medication had triggered the on-field incidents. (AP)



Players erupt in celebration from the bench.

Mbappé hat-trick fires Real to victory

Sávio scores on debut with Tottenham

MADRID, Aug 27, (AP): Kylian Mbappé's first goals of the season came via a hat trick in Real Madrid's 4-1 victory over Real Sociedad in the Spanish league, while newcomer Sávio helped big-spending Tottenham rout Charlton 5-1 in the English League Cup.

Vinicius Júnior also scored for Madrid in the team's first home game in José Mourinho's second stint in charge.

In Champions League qualifying, Norway's Viking, Turkey's Fenerbahce, Greece's AEK Athens and Slovakia's Slovan Bratislava secured their spots in the competition's league phase.

There was an altercation involving Fenerbahce players after the team's win at Lyon.

Mbappé scored once in the first half and twice in the second to lead Madrid to its win over Sociedad in Mourinho's return to the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Jude Bellingham had two assists, including on Vinicius' first goal of the season in the second half.

There were some jeers by the Bernabeu crowd at halftime, when the score was 1-1.

"A few boos won't hurt anyone, they actually make you grow," Mourinho said.

Madrid had opened its Spanish league campaign with a win at Espanyol.

Sociedad had lost its league opener at Real Betis.

Newly signed Sávio, who used to be called Savinho, needed just over 10 minutes to help Tottenham secure its first win of the campaign.

Sávio scored the team's fourth goal in the rout of Charlton in the second round of the League Cup. The Brazilian had entered the match in the 71st to make his debut. He



Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe in action between Real Sociedad's Yangel Herrera, left, and Takefusa Kubo during the La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Real Sociedad in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

also gave the assist for the team's fifth goal.

Tottenham, rivaling Chelsea as the heaviest spenders in European soccer this transfer window, took its summer spending to more than \$400 million by signing Sávio from Manchester City in a deal worth 85 million pounds (\$115 million).

Tottenham had begun its season with a 3-0 loss at Brentford in the Premier League.

Mikey Moore, Dominic Solanke, Kevin Danso and Ben Davies also scored on Wednesday for Tottenham, which is in its first full season under coach Roberto De Zerbi.

In other League Cup results,

Newcastle defeated West Bromwich Albion 3-2 with a pair of goals by Harvey Barnes, while Everton won 4-0 at Preston North End with a hat trick by Thierno Barry. Bradford City got past Burnley 4-2 in a penalty shootout after a 0-0 draw in regulation.

The final four spots available for the league phase of the Champions League were determined, with Viking set to make its debut in the competition's proper after eliminating Dinamo Zagreb. Viking won 3-1 to advance 5-3 on aggregate.

AEK Athens beat Levski Sofia 4-0 at home after a scoreless draw in the first leg. Slovan Bratislava needed

extra time to defeat Celje 2-1 on the road and advance 3-2 on aggregate. AEK Athens hadn't qualified since 2018-19.

Fenerbahce went beyond the qualifying stage for the first time since 2008-09 with a 3-2 global score after a 2-1 win at Lyon.

The post-match altercation began after a Fenerbahce player appeared to provoke Lyon fans in the stands. A person wearing Lyon gear on the field apparently got upset and went after the Fenerbahce players, igniting a brawl near the entrance to the tunnels.

Sabah, Bodø/Glimt and LASK had advanced.

UEFA prepares criminal complaint in courts against Swiss over World Cup sell-off

Saudi soccer body says it supports FIFA president Gianni Infantino 'at this time'

MONACO, Aug 27, (AP): One month into a crisis for FIFA provoked by his failed World Cup sell-off plan, Gianni Infantino finally got some public backing from a key nation Thursday - 2034 World Cup host Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) posted a statement on social media saying that "at this time" it supports Infantino's efforts to restore global unity in soccer.

Infantino has built close soccer and political ties to Saudi Arabia and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in his 10-year presidency, and helped steer the 2034 World Cup toward the kingdom. They both attended a Saudi-backed video gaming event in Paris on Sunday.

Still, Saudi soccer was notably quiet in the past month as the Asian Football Confederation joined Europe's UEFA and North America's CONCACAF in criticizing Infantino for "deception" and "breach of trust" by secretly negotiating with private investors to sell a 20% stake in a planned FIFA commercial subsidiary.

"At this time, SAFF supports the continued efforts of FIFA President Gianni Infantino and FIFA's leadership to restore unity across the football family and continue growing the game for the benefit of all," the federation said.

It also urged FIFA leaders to hold "direct face-to-face dialogue ... with all concerns addressed openly."

Infantino has not called a meeting of his 37-member FIFA Council, which includes Saudi official Yasser Al Masehal, and instead met with most of his FIFA management team in Rabat, Morocco, three weeks ago. A FIFA statement then admitted errors while endorsing the president's position.

SAFF said it "welcomes the acknowledgement of mistakes, the apology, the decision not to proceed" with the \$20 billion project.

"These were important first steps," the Saudi federation said about the FIFA climb-down this month. "However, the continuing divisions within the game

demonstrates the need for broader and more direct dialogue."

Meanwhile, UEFA is preparing a criminal complaint against Infantino in Swiss courts for possible financial mismanagement over his failed plan to sell future World Cup profits to private investors.

UEFA said Thursday it filed documents in a Manhattan court requesting discovery of potential evidence from the New York investment fund, Thrive



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

Capital Management, founded by Joshua Kushner.

UEFA also filed a request in a southern Florida district for authorization of discovery "in a foreign proceeding" against FIFA itself, which has offices in the Miami suburb of Coral Gables.

Thrive and Kushner were to be the anchor investors intending to pay FIFA \$4.2 billion for a 20% stake in a subsidiary that would run the soccer body's commercial events, including the World Cup.

"UEFA and its counsel are contemplating a Swiss criminal proceeding against Infantino and possibly other FIFA officials for criminal mismanagement under Article 158 of the Swiss Criminal Code," UEFA's lawyers state in a 56-page document seen by The Associated Press.

The document suggests the \$4.2 billion figure could be a "fraudulently off-market price promoted by Infantino for his own benefit."

Infantino dropped the sell-off plan on Aug. 1 after a furious backlash by global soccer leaders, including UEFA.

UEFA first threatened to take legal action on Aug. 3 when it warned FIFA against destroying or hiding any "relevant materials" related to the plan.

"Infantino claimed that the plan would 'unleash the commercial potential and opportunity that FIFA has,'" UEFA lawyers told the courts. "In truth, it was a vehicle for Infantino and that small circle to acquire a permanent stake in and otherwise profit from FIFA's most valuable assets to the detriment of FIFA, its members, and other parties within the football family."

"Under the terms Infantino announced, those investors stood to acquire a permanent financial interest in FIFA's commercial arm for \$4.2 billion, implying an absurdly low enterprise value of only approximately \$20 billion, a figure that was neither the product of an open, competitive auction, nor tested by any independent valuer."

Spokespeople for FIFA and Thrive have been approached for comment.