

**Kuwait Amir,
Crown Prince,
Prime Minister
condole Nepal over
flood victims**

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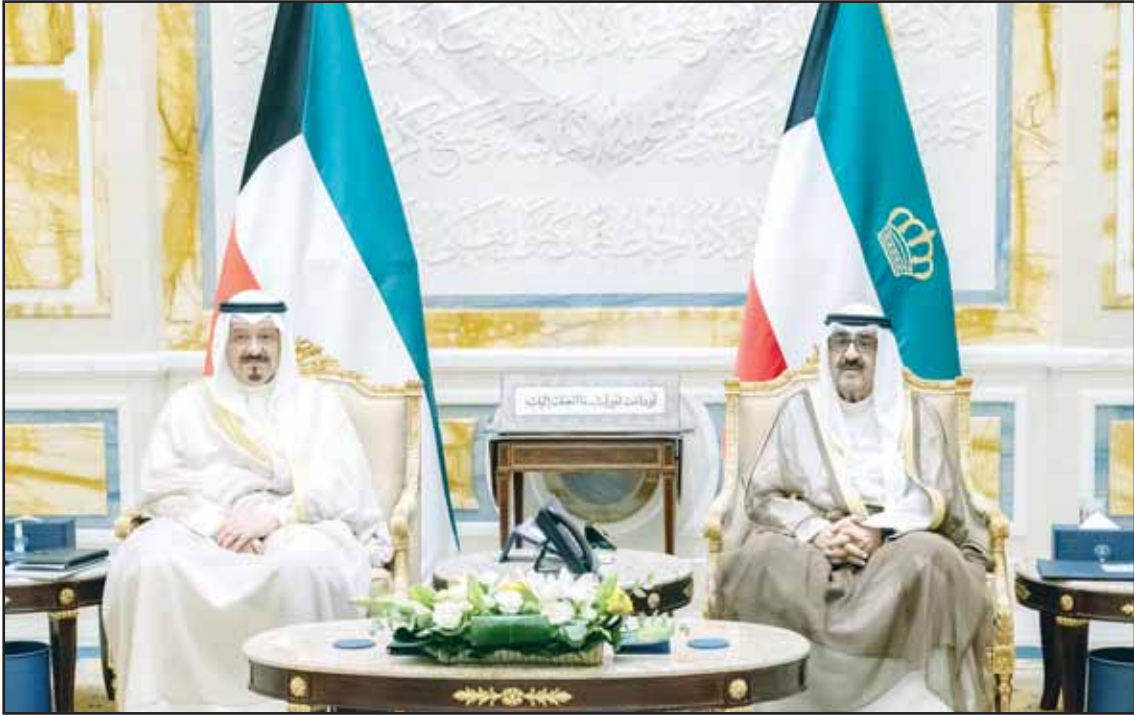
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Amiri Diwan photos

Left: His Highness the Amir receives His Highness the Crown Prince. Right: His Highness the Amir receives His Highness the Prime Minister.

Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, Premier, ministers

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday His Highness the Prime

Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Kuwait Municipality, please show us how to best utilize setbacks in front of houses

COUNTRIES strive to ensure that urban planning aligns with the nature of society and reflects the national identity. Urban planning takes into account the climate and natural environment of the country. Therefore, the design of residential areas, streets and roads must mitigate the high temperature and suit the desert climate of some countries. The measures include expanding vegetation cover and planting more trees.

Several institutions are involved in this matter, such as the cooperative societies, Kuwait Municipality, governorates, ministries and Cabinet.

For decades, Kuwait has been hearing calls to expand vegetation cover and plant trees along the streets to lessen the impact of wind and dust storms.

There are huge and undeveloped areas in front of some houses, which are known as 'setbacks' in Kuwait. If homeowners utilize these spaces for planting and maintaining plants, it will be beneficial for

the environment.

Recently, instead of helping the citizens beautify the residential areas, the government issued a series of decisions preventing the citizens from utilizing the unused spaces in front of or adjacent to their homes under the pretext of preventing encroachment on state properties, thus, exacerbating the hardship of the people.

The concerned institutions like the cooperative societies, Kuwait Municipality, Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), Ministry of Public Works and Cabinet can utilize these spaces for environmental benefit.

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Kuwait emerges Gulf's prosperity front-runner

Economic freedom powers new ranking

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Kuwait ranked 50th out of 161 countries in the Legatum Prosperity Index 2026, and it is on top of the Arab and Gulf states.

This index is not just about measuring the gross domestic product (GDP) or wealth, as it is a broader assessment of the concept of prosperity. It indicates balance between development, freedom and society—the three areas around which the Legatum Institute restructured the index in its latest edition.

The 2026 edition is based on more than 130 indicators and 615,877 data

points drawn from 35 sources, covering 161 countries and 11 years of data.

The countries included represent about 98 percent of the world population. This is the first edition since the 2023 index, following a pause for methodology updates.

The most significant feature of the 2026 index is the introduction of a new mathematical methodology called 'P-averaging'. This methodology aims to prevent countries from compensating for severe weaknesses in one key area with exceptionally high performance in another. Therefore, a country's wealth alone is insufficient to compensate for significant deficiencies in freedom or social cohesion. According to the index, genuine prosperity requires simultaneous development, freedom and a strong social fabric.

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Cameras strengthen safety

New eyes on care homes

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah announced on Sunday that the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, has begun installing surveillance cameras in social care homes in Sulaibikhat and South Sabahiya.

She explained that the step comes as part of PADA's commitment to protecting residents, continuously monitoring their conditions, strengthening oversight, and enhancing safety standards in care homes. The cameras will be installed in all sections, helping to detect any issues that may pose a risk to residents and ensure that they are addressed promptly.

Promotion fast-tracked

Judicial climb gets shorter under new Kuwait decree

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Decree-Law No. 136/2026 was issued, replacing the table attached to Decree No. 126/2018 concerning the minimum periods required for judges and members of the Public Prosecution to remain in their respective ranks.

The decree was published in the Sunday edition of the official gazette, "Kuwait Al-Yaum."

Article 1 of the decree stipulates the replacement of the table of minimum service periods required for judges and public prosecutors, attached to the new decree, with the table attached to Decree No. 126/2018, without prejudice to the salaries, allowances, and bonuses allocated for each grade.

The attached table specifies a minimum service period of three years for the following: Advisor at the Court of Appeals, Attorney General, Deputy Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance (Head of Prosecution A), First-Grade Judge (Head of Prosecution B), Second-Grade Judge (Deputy Prosecutor A), and Third-Grade Judge (Deputy Prosecutor B).

The table specifies a minimum service period of four years for Deputy Prosecutor C.

The decree takes effect from the



Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait

date of its publication in the official gazette.

Meanwhile, Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait stated that the issuance of the decree on reducing the minimum service periods required for judges and public prosecutors is one of the first executive steps accompanying the enforcement of the Judicial Organization Law.

In a press statement on Sunday, Al-Sumait pointed out that the implementation of the law marks a new phase, shifting efforts from legislation to execution. He emphasized that the success of reform is not measured

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Kuwait property market gets fee-fueled jolt

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Economist Nasser Al-Mutairi says the implementation of progressive fees on undeveloped plots and the enforcement of Law No. 126/2023 since the beginning of March have successfully broken the stagnation in the real estate market and reduced the monopolistic control over private residential plots.

In a press statement, Al-Mutairi stressed that the market has begun to reap the benefits of this important legislation through a range of immediate and structural outcomes that have contributed to enhancing fairness and expanding the supply of

real estate available to citizens.

Al-Mutairi summarized the most prominent positive results achieved in the real estate market following the implementation of the law, foremost among them the significant decline in the practice of monopolizing residential plots.

He explained that the law reduced the area of freehold ownership permitted for citizens from 5,000 square meters to just 1,500 square meters. This strict limitation prompted major landowners to relinquish excess land to avoid paying exorbitant progressive fees. The implementation of the law led to a significant increase in the supply of residential land, a decline in speculation, and the transfer of

hundreds of undeveloped plots from unproductive speculation and stagnation to direct sale.

Prices have stabilized and shown relative improvement due to the increased options available to serious buyers. The implementation of the law has also gradually helped eliminate fictitious transactions and artificial speculation, which had unjustifiably inflated market values.

The implementation of the law has stimulated construction and revitalized urban development, boosting the contracting and building materials sectors and stimulating the broader economic cycle associated with construction.

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Deputy FM receives outgoing Turkish envoy

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan received Sunday Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye Tuba Nur Sonmez on the end of her tenure in Kuwait. (KUNA)



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo

Deputy Foreign Minister receives Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye.

'Put QR up front'

PAM scans in on attendance

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) called on employers to display the electronic attendance system (QR code) in a prominent location at the entrance of their institutions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PAM explained that this will allow PAM inspectors to review the system and verify attendance and departure data during inspection visits. Compliance with these requirements contributes to regulating the work environment and facilitating inspection procedures.

Gold logs first
8 weekly loss
in a month, down
3% to \$4,454



9
Investors prosper
& consumers pay
as the Iran war
exact an uneven
economic toll 6
months on



Kuwait Amir, Crown Prince, Prime Minister condole Nepal over flood victims

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Nepal's President Ram Chandra Paudel expressing his deepest sympathies for the victims of the floods that struck northern Nepal, resulting in numerous deaths, injuries, and missing persons.

His Highness prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured and the safe return

of the missing, and that officials in the country would be able to contain and overcome the effects of this natural disaster.

Crown Prince condoles

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad



HH the Amir



HH Crown Prince

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Prime Minister condoles

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Kuwait okays jobs for expat officers in Kuwait Fire Force

First Deputy PM ratifies decree on rules, regulations

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, issued Ministerial Decree No. 7/2026 concerning the regulations and provisions governing the appointment of non-Kuwaiti firefighting non-commissioned officers to the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decree was published in Sunday's edition of the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Yaum."

The decree stipulates the following:

Article 1: Non-Kuwaiti non-commissioned officers whose Kuwaiti citizenship has been revoked by decree, in accordance with Clause 4 of Article 13 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 concerning the Kuwaiti Nationality Law and its amendments, may be accepted for appointment to the KFF.

The appointment of KFF personnel shall be based on contracts concluded with them after they have fulfilled the required security conditions and procedures.

The KFF Chief shall issue a decision approving their appointment. Training courses and professional qualifications previ-



Sheikh Fahad Yousef

ously obtained from KFF's Education and Training Institute shall be taken into consideration for evaluation and job placement

purposes, in accordance with the regulations established by the KFF Chief.

Article 2: The appointment of the categories specified in Article 1 of this decision shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 13/2020 referred to above, the relevant regulations, and the terms of the contract attached to this decision.

Article 3: Those accepted for appointment shall undertake to work for KFF for a period of five years, renewable thereafter, or for such period as KFF deems appropriate.

Article 4: Appointees covered by the provisions of this decision shall be subject to all applicable laws, regulations, decisions, orders, and instructions of KFF throughout their service. They shall be required to perform the duties specified in their appointment contracts and may be transferred or assigned to other duties by order of KFF Chief or his designee.

Article 5: The provisions of Law No. 13/2020, together with its implementing regulations and decisions, shall apply to the candidates.

Article 6: The KFF Chief shall implement this decision.

Anti-encroachment drive on state land intensified

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Kuwait Municipality continues its field campaign to remove encroachments on state properties, which was launched more than one month ago titled, "Kuwait is more beautiful without encroachments," reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The concerned teams carried out the campaign in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, particularly in Al-Qurain, as part of the plan targeting violations and encroachments outside property boundaries.

Member of the Central Operations Team at the Office of the Kuwait Municipality Director General Eng. Mohammad Al-Jalawi disclosed in an interview on a television news channel that the municipal teams are removing violations and encroachments on state properties. He affirmed that the extent of encroachments has decreased remarkably since the launching of the campaign.

Al-Jalawi pointed out that cooperation between the municipal teams and property owners has been ongoing since the first day of the campaign, confirming that most violations were removed voluntarily by the violators -- a positive response to the campaign.

He affirmed that the Municipality is coordinating with other concerned entities, such as the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Interior.

He added that the Municipality teams work daily to maintain the good appearance of the governorates and guarantee public safety. He said the violations do not only affect aesthetics, as they could be danger-



Al-Jalawi

ous if they obstruct visibility and pedestrian movement or endanger the road users.

The field tour to remove encroachments in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate was conducted about two weeks after the extensive meeting chaired by Director General of the Municipality Eng. Manal Al-Asfour to follow up the work of Municipality branches in the governorates within the encroachment removal plan. The aim is to unify the procedures, overcome obstacles that the field teams are facing, and strengthen coordination among relevant authorities.

During the meeting, a unified action roadmap was laid down, including fixed requirements for removing encroachments on state properties like the removal of structures built on large areas within the landscaping boundaries, whether they are made of lightweight materials or other materials.

The regulations stipulate adherence to the boundaries of landscaping areas, as well as the seven-meter setback for metal fencing in yards and sidewalks on highways and ring roads.

All passageways between plots must be open according to the legal distances stipulated in the regulations of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR).

All encroachments near power transformers must be removed, in addition to maintaining four-meter distance from transformers and seven-meter distance from huge and high-voltage main power plants in all directions.

Certain traffic safety regulations were also established, taking into account the visibility angles, while prohibiting planting on sidewalks and pedestrian walkways.

The regulations also mandate strict compliance with the specified setbacks from the sidewalk -- two meters for internal streets and three meters for main streets.

27 Kuwaiti firms take part: PAHW

22 consortia qualify for next phase of 3 housing projects

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced that 22 consortia comprising 41 Kuwaiti and international companies have been qualified to participate in the next phase of the tendering process for three housing projects under the "Real Estate Developer" project, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The acting Deputy Director General for Investment and Private Sector Projects, Eng. Ahmad Al-Ansari, stated in a press release that the measure comes in implementation of the Cabinet's directives to accelerate procedures for implementing housing projects and strengthen partnerships with the private sector.

He explained that the qualified con-

sortia met the required technical and financial criteria in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 118/2023, as amended, concerning the regulation of public-private partnerships in the implementation of housing projects.

The qualification results included six consortia for the Al-Mutlaa City project (M-3), eight consortia for the East Saad Al-Abdullah City project (ESA-1), and eight consortia for the West Saad Al-Abdullah City and Jaber Al-Ahmad City service corridor project



Al-Ansari

(WSA-1 + J-1).

The qualified consortia include 27 Kuwaiti companies and 14 international companies.

Al-Ansari emphasized that qualifying the consortia to participate in the next phase of the three projects reflects PAHW's commitment to applying the highest standards of transparency, efficiency, and competitiveness throughout all stages of the tendering and implementation processes.

He noted that this phase represents a key milestone in completing the project tendering process and paves the way for the next stages in accordance with the approved technical and financial criteria.

CAPT extends deadline for PAFN HQ bids to Sept 27

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) extended the deadline for submitting bids for the tender to study, design and supervise the construction of the headquarters of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) from Aug 30 to Sept 27.

This is one of the construction projects being implemented by the ministry, which included the study, design and supervision tender in its contracts plan for the current fiscal year.

Upon the completion of this tender, another tender will be floated for the construction of the building.

The project consists of a building for the

employees at the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Inspection Department, a theater, a library, a building for sports fields and activities, a mosque, sample cold storage facilities, a mobile vehicle inspection area, and aboveground and underground parking for 1,750 vehicles.

Meanwhile, CAPT decided in its meeting last Tuesday to extend the technical study period by 15 days for the two tenders for removing sand from highways in the northern and southern areas, at the request of the ministry.

This project aims to maintain the efficiency of the highway network, raise the level of traffic safety, and protect properties and lives from the accumulation of sand on highways.

Meanwhile, for the third time, the Cen-

tral Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) returned the contract for the 'Paperless Government' project to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for review, pre-audit procedures, auditing and presentation of its opinion on the contract.

Previously, SAB returned the project documents to CAIT twice -- on June 25 and Aug 11 -- to address certain comments.

Meanwhile, CAIT obtained approval from CAPT to award the project contract to the bidder that met the technical requirements, at a total cost of KD9.992 million and implementation term of three years.

CAIT is now waiting for the approval of SAB to proceed with the contract and begin implementing the project, which aims to fully digitize government operations and services.



Photo by Samer Shqair
An unidentified individual tries to beat the heat with a thin veil over the head on way home.

Mercury hovering around 50C, heat & dust to spike

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): Acting Director of the Meteorological Department Dhirar Al-Ali said Sunday that Kuwait is experiencing extremely hot and relatively humid weather along coastal areas, with a chance of light rain at night.

Al-Ali told KUNA that temperatures reached a high of 50 degrees Celsius today.

He said relative humidity is expected to decline on Monday, while extremely hot weather will continue with moderate northwesterly winds and a maximum temperature of 47 degrees Celsius.

Al-Ali forecast extremely hot conditions in the coming days, accompanied by strengthening northwesterly winds that may raise dust over some exposed areas.

Tuesday is expected to be hot with a chance of dust, while Wednesday and Thursday will be hot with notably stronger dust-raising winds and maximum temperatures ranging between 44 and 45 degrees Celsius.

He urged citizens and residents to avoid direct exposure to sunlight during peak hours, drink plenty of water and exercise caution due to expected dust toward midweek.

Kuwait partakes as Arab Economic, Social Council's 118th ministerial session kicks off

CAIRO, Aug 30, (KUNA): The preparatory meetings for the 118th ministerial session of the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League kicked off Sunday with the participation of Kuwait to discuss a number of social and development issues and Arab cooperation.

In his opening remarks, Chairman of the Social Committee and representative of Saudi Arabia, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance for International Relations Naif Al-Enezi said social development constitutes a key pillar for achieving comprehensive and sustainable development, stressing that investing in people is the most important investment for building societies and enhancing their ability to confront challenges.

The State of Kuwait is represented at the meeting by Director of the Arab and Gulf Economic Cooperation Department at the Ministry of Finance Anwar Al-Munawer.

Al-Enezi said Saudi Arabia has witnessed broad development and social momentum in recent years under the Kingdom's Vision 2030, which has contributed to improving quality of life, enhancing social protection and increasing the participation of various segments of society in development.

He added that 2025 witnessed Iraq hosting the 34th Arab Summit, in addition to the fifth Arab Development Summit, which issued a number of important decisions in the social field that contribute to advancing joint Arab action.

Al-Enezi affirmed that the current session of the Social Committee aims to advance joint Arab action in social fields, expressing hope that the meetings would produce outcomes that enhance Arab cooperation and support the aspirations of Arab peoples for a more prosperous and stable future.

For her part, Arab League Supervisor of the Social Affairs Sector, Minister Plenipotentiary Enas Al-Farjani, said the committee is discussing international Arab cooperation, as well as Arab-Chinese cooperation in the fields of health, the Arab-Chinese Friendship Conference, the Arab-Chinese Cities Forum and the 12th session of the Conference on Dialogue between Arab and Chinese Civilizations.

Al-Farjani noted that the meeting would also discuss Arab-Indian cooperation in education and scientific research, the Arab-Indian Culture Festival, Arab-European and Arab-Russian cooperation files, in addition to an Arab strategy to support labor inspection bodies and rehabilitate labor markets during

the recovery and reconstruction phase in Syria.

She reviewed two proposals submitted by Saudi Arabia, the first concerning an Arab initiative to develop an Arab framework for skills and the second concerning the preparation of a guiding Arab framework to enhance the economic empowerment of beneficiaries of social protection programs.

Al-Farjani pointed out that the committee's agenda also includes a proposal submitted by the State of Palestine concerning the provision of urgent cash assistance and support tools for displaced persons with disabilities in the governorates of Tulkarm and Jenin.

She expressed hope that appropriate recommendations would be issued on the topics under discussion, paving the way for their submission to the senior officials' meeting and subsequently to the ministerial meeting of the Economic and Social Council for approval.

The Social Committee's meetings are being held as part of preparations for the 118th regular session of the Arab Economic and Social Council and to discuss ways of enhancing joint Arab action in social and development fields and supporting member states' efforts to address common challenges.

Kuwait, Uzbekistan eye multi-pronged ties boost

Ambassador congrats President, people marking 35th Independence Day

MOSCOW, Aug 30, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan Turki Khaled Al-Mikrad on Sunday praised the depth of the historic relations between Kuwait and Uzbekistan, which date back to the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1994.

He affirmed the two countries’ keenness to continue developing cooperation across various fields and to strengthen coordination and consultations on regional and international issues of common interest, in a manner that serves the interests of the two friendly countries.

The ambassador made the remarks to KUNA on his participation in a reception held to mark the 35th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The event was attended by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, along with several ministers, senior officials, and heads and members of diplomatic missions accredited to the capital, Tashkent.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Al-Mikrad was awarded a commemorative medal by presidential decree from President Mirziyoyev, marking the 35th anniversary of Uzbekistan’s independence.

On the occasion, Ambassador Al-Mikrad and all members of Kuwait Embassy in Tashkent extended their highest congratulations and best wishes to the leadership, government, and people of the friendly Republic of Uzbekistan, wishing the country continued progress and prosperity.

He further affirmed that Kuwaiti-Uzbek relations are witnessing continued development across various fields, contributing to broadening the prospects for joint cooperation between the two countries. He also underscored their commitment to maintaining coordination and consultations on regional and international issues of common interest.



Kuwait’s Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan Turki Khaled Al-Mikrad and the Kuwait Embassy staff join the celebrations.



Right: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev talking to his countrymen on the occasion.

Amiri Hospital Urology Unit recognized globally

Municipality redistributes 67 stalls in Women’s Market

By Inaas Awadh and Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Kuwait Municipality announced the redistribution of 67 stalls at the Women’s Market in Mubarakiya Markets, which will be operated according to the terms and conditions stipulated in the Public Markets Bylaw issued through Ministerial Resolution No. 118/2023.

In an announcement published in the official gazette, ‘Kuwait Al-Youm’, the Municipality invited eligible female citizens to submit their applications, along with the supporting documents, to the Food and Markets Control Department at the Audit and Municipal Services Follow-up Section in the Capital Governorate Municipality branch in Shuwaikh. Applications will be accepted during official working

hours on Sept 20-24.

The Municipality clarified that the stalls will be allocated through the public lottery that will be held at 9:00 am on Oct 12 in Al-Rai Markets Municipality Center.

Urology Unit accredited: The Urology Unit at the Amiri Hospital obtained international accreditation as the ‘Center of Excellence’ in urological surgery from the American Surgical Rating Foundation.

The Ministry of Health pointed out that this accreditation is an international recognition of the competence and excellence of the unit, and confirms its compliance with the standards and requirements adopted by the foundation in the areas of healthcare quality, patient safety and efficiency of surgical practices.

Amiri Hospital Director Dr. Areej Al-Kandari affirmed that this accreditation is the result of the integrated efforts exerted by the medical, nursing, technical and administrative staff at the hospital, and a manifestation of the continuous commitment to improve health services and performance.

She pointed out that obtaining international accreditations serves as an incentive to continue the development process and maintain the highest levels of quality and safety in healthcare.

On the other hand, Head of the Urology Unit Dr. Abdul Latif Al-Turki attributed the accreditation to the continuous work to implement evidence-based medical practices, develop treatment protocols and pathways, monitor quality indicators and clinical outcomes, and focusing on continuous education and training.

Campaign to continue till Sept 3

542 public schools sprayed for pest control treatment

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Ministry of Health confirmed the completion of pest control and treatment works in 542 government schools from Aug 9-20, using approved preventative methods as per the field plans and schedules, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the ministry indicated that the campaign will continue until Sept 3 to guarantee the readiness of schools for the new academic year, targeting 900 schools.

The campaign includes insect and rodent control and the promotion of envi-

ronmental sanitation, contributing to a healthy and safe school environment.

Dr. Fatima Al-Draiweesh, Head of the Medical Insect and Rodent Control Department at the ministry, confirmed that the campaign is part of a comprehensive environmental sanitation concept to address factors leading to pest breeding and spread, as well as promoting prevention.

She emphasized that environmental sanitation is a shared responsibility, hence, the need for the integrated efforts of government institutions, community and individuals.

Other Voices

Ridley’s discovery and Kuwaiti demographics

By Ahmad alsarraf

According to science, human beings have existed on Earth for approximately 200,000 to 300,000 years. For most of that period, people made their living by gathering and hunting, with little radical change in the way they lived.

This fact drew the attention of British scientist Matthew Ridley and prompted him to explore a few perplexing questions:

Why did humans live such simple lives for tens of thousands of years, only for the pace of progress to suddenly accelerate dramatically? Was it due to a sudden increase in their intellectual abilities, the accumulation of experience, their mastery of communication, or something else entirely?

Ridley, an aristocratic English biologist born in 1958, was also a businessman, a journalist who wrote about science, the environment, and economics, and a hereditary member of the House of Lords.

In 2010, he published his famous book, The Rational Optimist, built around a simple premise that would change the way we view the history of civilization and the secret behind humanity’s sudden progress.

For most of the time modern humans have existed, they possessed essentially the same brain we have today - the same size, the same neural structure, and the same capacity for thought, planning, and communication.

Yet for thousands of generations, progress remained remarkably slow. For hundreds of thousands of years, humans continued to use the same tools and materials. Then, things began to change. New innovations emerged, knowledge accumulated, and civilization experienced an extraordinary explosion of progress.

What happened? Ridley argues that humans began trading with people outside their own communities. This may seem like a simplistic explanation for something as vast and complex as human civilization, but he believes that this is where the real story began.

When one person exchanges something they possess with another, it is not only the commodity that changes hands; knowledge is exchanged as well. The maker of stone tools learned something

from the maker of spears. Coastal communities passed their knowledge and expertise to people living inland. An idea that originated in one place merged with an idea that emerged somewhere else.

From this fusion came something that neither party could have created alone. Ridley describes this as the “marriage of ideas.”

Just as genes produce new combinations when they mix, ideas do the same when they encounter and interact with other ideas.

An idea confined to a single mind has its limits, no matter how brilliant that mind may be. But when an idea enters a network of hundreds or thousands of minds, its possibilities begin to multiply.

One of the most interesting examples Ridley discusses is the story of Tasmania. Around 10,000 years ago, rising sea levels isolated the island from the rest of Australia. As a result, its people fell behind other Australians.

The problem, therefore, was not with the minds of the Tasmanians, but with the size of the network through which knowledge was shared among them.

Herein lies the most important point - knowledge is never passed down completely from one generation to the next. When someone learns a skill from another person, some details are inevitably lost. This may not be a problem in a large society, but if a technology or skill is lost in an isolated village, it may disappear forever. With each passing generation, ignorance can accumulate.

Therefore, intelligence is not confined to what resides within the individual brain; a significant part of it exists within the network that connects people. What a highly intelligent person produces when completely isolated from their surroundings can be far less than what a person of average intelligence can achieve when surrounded by a network rich in diverse ideas and experiences.

This is precisely what we need in our country - the cross-fertilization of ideas with new elements. Limiting ourselves to a narrow sphere will only lead to stagnation and, ultimately, decline.

The ethnic, cultural, racial, and linguistic diversity that Kuwait has embraced for centuries is precisely what has made it unique and distinctive. It is through diversity that we distinguish ourselves, and it is through diversity that we make progress.

□ □ □

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



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Quebec governing party names US president its ‘real adversary’

Ontario answers Trump’s ‘Lake America’ with ‘Lake Ontario’ sign

TORONTO, Aug 30, (AP): Ontario Premier Doug Ford answered President Donald Trump’s “Lake America” decree Saturday with a billboard-sized message on the Canadian shoreline - “Lake Ontario. Now and Always” - as Canadian leaders met the move with ridicule rather than outrage.

Wearing a Team Canada soccer jersey, Ford unveiled the sign near Grimsby, Ontario, and posed for photographs. The 24-by-12-foot (7.3-by-3.6 meter) sign stands on 6-foot (1.8-meter) legs, putting its top about 18 feet (5.5 meters) above the ground - roughly two stories high. The message is repeated in French.

The display followed Trump’s executive order directing U.S. federal agencies to call Lake Ontario “Lake America.” After months of tariffs, threats to make Canada the 51st U.S. state and personal attacks on its leaders, the reaction in Canada has mixed defiance with mockery.

Ford said Trump was trying to rename the lake because Ontario and Canada were “standing up for ourselves” and argued the name would outlast the president.

“Long after President Trump is gone, it will still be called Lake Ontario,” Ford said in a video posted on social media.

Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew compared Trump to an aging rock band trying to revive an old hit.

“You know when, like, a rock band is really over the hill and you see them like in a casino playing some song from like 50 years ago, I think that’s the part of Donald Trump’s presidency we’re at now - like he thought he had a real hit, a real golden oldie, with the Gulf of Mexico,” Kinew said, referring to Trump’s executive order renaming the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America. “And he’s trying to bring back that, and he’s trying to play the hits for his base. But I think everybody here thinks it’s a little sad and it’s not his best work.”

The mockery was not limited to politicians. Canadian historian Robert Bothwell was even more scathing.

“The greatest country on earth takes this moron seriously?” Bothwell said.

But Bothwell said the dispute was more serious than the jokes, arguing Trump’s broader aim was “to subordinate Canada and at best make it a colony, at worst absorb it into the United States.”

Nelson Wiseman, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, said Trump “would like Canada to act like a vassal state, but it refuses to do so. That irritates him.”

The dispute comes as relations between the longtime allies worsen over trade. Negotiations collapsed last week, both governments accused the other of making late demands, and Canada announced retaliatory tariffs set to take effect next month.

Trump’s order also came amid an escalating war of words with Ford. In an interview with The Associated Press earlier this week, Ford said Ronald Reagan would be “throwing up” over Trump’s tariff policies and “disgusted with President Trump.”

Trump fired back by dismissing Ford’s comments as “bluster,” calling him Prime Minister Mark Carney’s “flunky” and mocking him as the “less charismatic, intelligent, and overall unimpressive brother” of the late Toronto Mayor Rob Ford.

Trump continued promoting the new name Saturday, reposting a meme showing Canada geese with Trump-like blond hair firing rifles as they “protected” Lake America.

Trump has repeatedly used maps

to make political points. A “Gulf of America” map was displayed for a time beside the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office, and Trump has posted images depicting Canada as part of the United States or as the 51st state.

Also:

QUEBEC CITY: Quebec’s governing party launched its election campaign by naming an unusual adversary: US President **Donald Trump**.

“My opponent is named Donald Trump,” Coalition Avenir Québec Leader **Christine Fréchette** said as campaigning began for the Oct 5 vote to choose Quebec’s National Assembly, the provincial legislature. “He’s the real adversary.”

Trump’s trade war with Canada has become an issue in provincial politics, particularly in Quebec, where US tariffs are hitting major industries and his repeated talk of making **Canada** the 51st state has complicated a decades-old debate over whether the predominantly French-speaking province should leave Canada.

Fréchette said her government is best positioned to protect Quebec businesses and workers from the economic uncertainty coming from the **United States**.



A picture of the newly unveiled sign for Lake Ontario at Fifty Point Conservation Area in Grimsby, Ontario, Canada, on Aug 29. (AP)

‘Hyper focus on the issue setting the stage for legal challenges’

Non-citizen voting claims animate US President Trump’s attacks on midterms

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (AP): The drumbeat by President Donald Trump and his allies about the perceived threats of voting by people who are not US citizens is getting louder as the November election approaches.

He is pushing to have the US Postal Service send mail ballots only to voters verified as US citizens. The Census Bureau promoted a dubious report about thousands of non-citizens voting in 2020, an election that the Republican lost to Democrat Joe Biden. Trump’s Department of Homeland Security is claiming without providing evidence that 250,000 non-citizens might be on the rolls in just four states.

This week, the Republican candidate for governor in Maine confirmed an audio recording in which he said he plans to ask Trump’s border czar to send US marshals and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to polling places in the state to ensure that only legal voters are casting ballots.

Evidence of non-citizens voting is continuing to “pile up,” White House spokesperson Lauren Bis said when asked about the census report.

In fact, voting by non-citizens is extremely rare and is punishable as a felony that carries the potential for deportation. Even so, opponents say the hyperfocus on the issue by Trump and his allies is setting the stage for legal challenges to outcomes he may not like during the midterms in which control of Congress is on the line.

“Throw out these deceitful, deceptive claims as an excuse for disruptions,” said Alexandra Chandler, director of impact programs, free and fair elections at the nonpartisan Democracy Project. “You can deny the results later.”

The census report, which the president cited in a Truth Social post, said it found in a “beginning analysis” that 24,000 non-citizens voted illegally in 2020. It cited data from a commercially available voter file, which was checked against federal



US President Donald Trump speaks during an event to present the Congressional Space Medal of Honor to Artemis II crew members on Aug 28, at Johnson Space Center in Houston. (AP)

records.

Experts say the methodology might have created false positives. For example, if a person’s name was linked to the wrong address or some-

one’s citizenship status had not been updated in a particular database.

Details that typically would be included in such a report about error rates were missing, said Justin Levitt, a Loyola Marymount University law professor. Nevertheless, election experts say it could help generate distrust among certain voters during this year’s general election.

“This is an empty manila folder that the administration will wave around when it says the elections were fraudulent, non-citizens voted,” Levitt said.

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin’s July letter to California, Nevada, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, alleging that as many as nearly 250,000 non-citizens were registered in those states, was met with skepticism and requests for more information.

“I have serious doubts about the reliability of your data and accuracy of your claims, since my office has not shared our statewide voter registration list with DHS or any other federal agency or official,” California’s secretary of state, Democrat Shirley Weber, said in response.

In New Jersey, Mullin’s department indicated as many as 35,000

non-citizens were registered. Shortly after the letter, the Democratic-controlled state disclosed that about 6,600 non-citizens were improperly registered through its motor vehicle system in 2023 and 2024.

Democratic Gov Mikie Sherrill said those people answered “no” when asked whether they were citizens, but were registered anyway. The governor said her administration found that “fewer than 400” of them had voted and that it has begun replacing the vendor involved in the improper registrations.

Pennsylvania’s secretary of the commonwealth, Republican Al Schmidt, said in a letter this week that DHS officials acknowledged during a recent meeting they did not have high confidence that the 14,576 people referenced in the initial letter were in fact non-citizens improperly registered to vote. He said federal officials said they would provide a methodology and that Pennsylvania officials were awaiting that information.



A general view shows the area of Schachen horse racing track following a shooting during a rave event in Aarau, Switzerland on Aug 30. Inset: Police officers secure the area around the Schachen horse racing track. (AP)

Switzerland rave shooting kills 1, injures 5

A shooting at a rave in the northern Swiss canton of Aargau left one person dead and five wounded early Sunday, local police and media reported. Police said they are still looking for a suspect.

“The search for the unknown perpetrator is ongoing,” police wrote on X. “Possible motives and the exact circumstances of the crime remain unclear.”

Cantonal police wrote on X that a 22-year-old woman died of injuries at the scene. Four men and one

woman, between 24 and 27 years old, were taken to the hospital with injuries ranging from minor to severe.

All of the victims are residents of Switzerland, police said. They did not release their names in line with Swiss privacy rules. (AP)

Icelandic voters reject proposal to restart negotiations to join EU

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, Aug 30, (AP): Iceland’s voters rejected a proposal to restart negotiations on joining the European Union more than a decade after previous talks ended, the national broadcaster reported Sunday.

The vote will put the long-debated issue to rest more than a decade after a euroskeptic government ended EU talks.

Opponents defeated the measure by a margin of 52.8% to 47.2%, RUV reported. The capital of Reykjavik was the only area in the island nation of 400,000 people where a majority supported the referendum.

The vote Saturday was held in the shadow of US President Donald Trump’s repeated threats to control nearby Greenland, which drove some voters to favor the idea of European solidarity. Although Iceland is a NATO member, supporters said they would have greater protection from their neighbors if Trump ever made similar threats toward the volcanic



A supporter waves a European Union flag during an election-night gathering for the yes in Reykjavik, Iceland on Aug 30. (AP)

island.

Iceland’s left-leaning coalition government, elected in 2024, moved up the EU referendum it had planned for next year after Trump mistakenly named Iceland four times while

speaking about his designs on Greenland.

Prime Minister Kristrún Frostadóttir, who campaigned in support of the measure, said she hoped the result would not divide the nation.

US defense review presses NATO allies to prove they’re taking lead in Europe

BRUSSELS, Aug 30, (AP): The Pentagon pressed US allies at NATO to prove they are stepping up their defense of Europe as Washington shifts its attention to security challenges closer to home and in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US has begun cutting the forces it has stationed in Europe - around 80,000 are still deployed - and the Pentagon has launched a review to establish how deep further cuts should be.

A strong US presence is key to NATO’s ability to deter adversaries in Europe, such as Russia.

The cuts will depend on how effectively European allies and Canada respond to a U.S.-demand to overhaul NATO. It would see them take over the conventional defense of Europe. The US would provide backup, including with nuclear weapons, only if needed.

After a briefing at NATO headquarters in Brussels, US Under Secretary of Defense Elbridge Colby praised Germany and Poland, as well as Scandinavian countries, for their



From left: US Ambassador to NATO Matthew Whitaker, US Undersecretary of Defense Elbridge Colby and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte walk together after addressing the media at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Aug 27. (AP)

efforts.

But he told reporters: “We hope to see more from countries like the United Kingdom.”

Colby said Washington’s aim is

to bring “NATO to a more realistic, fit-for-purpose, fit for time, more balanced structure. And so that’s the spirit we’re going to continue pursuing our Europe posture review in.”

Europe

Ferry capsizes off northern Cyprus: A ferry carrying more than 260 passengers capsized off the coast of northern Cyprus on Sunday, Turkish media reported.

The catamaran-style ferry was traveling from the port of Kyrenia, also known as Girne, in the breakaway north of ethnically divided Cyprus, to the Turkish port of Tasucu in Mersin province.

There are no reports of casualties so far.

The ferry started taking in water a few kilometers (miles) off the coast, the Turkish state-run TRT news channel reported.

Northern Cyprus Transportation Minister **Erhan Arikli** told TRT that the ship had overturned and that rescue crews were already on the scene. (AP)

British woman killed in Germany stabbing: A man suspected of fatally stabbing a 31-year-old British woman with a knife early Sunday morning in the southern German town of Rosenheim was detained,



Arikli

authorities said.

The woman, who was attacked at the Rosenheim train station, was taken to a nearby hospital where she died due to serious injuries, Rosenheim police said.

Federal police officers, called to the scene, detained the suspect right after the stabbing.

Police identified him as a 27-year-old German man from the nearby county of Fürstentfeldbruck.

They did not release the names of the victim or the suspect in line with German privacy rules and said they were still investigating the circumstances and motive behind the crime. (AP)

Russia gas, chemical plant fire kills 15: A fire broke out at the Amur Gas Chemical Complex in Russia’s Far East earlier this week, killing 15, the plant’s management said.

Video shared on social media showed crowds of workers fleeing for safety when the fire began at the complex on Tuesday.

All of those killed were employees at the plant, the Amur Gas Chemical Complex wrote in a statement. It said that one Russian citizen and 14 foreigners were among the dead, but did not provide further details. It previously announced on Wednesday that it had recovered the bodies of one Russian and six Chinese citizens. (AP)

Police scandal over missing person cases deepens public distrust

S.Korea President Lee nominates new cabinet and presidential office officials

SEOUL, Aug 30, (Agencies): South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday nominated new candidates for six government posts, including deputy prime minister for economic affairs and defense minister, the presidential office Blue House said.

Kang Hoon-sik, presidential chief of staff, told a press conference that Lee nominated Lee Hyoung-il, first vice minister of the Ministry of Finance and Economy, as deputy prime minister for economic affairs and finance minister.

Lee also nominated Kang Shin-chul as defense minister; Kim Seung-won as justice minister; Hong Jee-sun as minister of land, infrastructure and transport; Lee So-young as minister of SMEs and start-ups; and Yong Hye-in as minister of gender equality and family.

The president also named Lee Hai-min as senior secretary to the president for AI and future planning, and Lee Won-ju, as presidential aide for the newly created mega projects. The two appointments are aimed at helping South Korea become one of

the world's top three AI powers and promoting the use of AI among the public, according to Kang.

Under South Korean law, ministerial nominees are subject to parliamentary confirmation hearings, but can ultimately be appointed regardless of whether the National Assembly approves their nominations. Incumbent ministers remain in office until their successors are appointed.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: Three people were found dead and two others were injured on Friday as a fire, triggered by an expansion, broke out at a paint materials factory in South Korea, according to Yonhap news agency.

The blaze started at about 11:44 a.m. local time (0244 GMT) at the factory, which produces paint raw materials and other fatty acids, in Cheonan, some 85 km south of Seoul.

One body, who was discovered near the scene and transferred to a nearby hospital, was later identified as a cafeteria worker in his or her



Police officers examine the scene at a palm tree farm where the body of missing woman, Jang Mi-ran, was found on Jeju Island, South Korea on Aug. 24. (AP)

70s.

Following a search operation for two missing foreign workers, two additional bodies were recovered on the stairwells of the sixth and eighth floors. The police were working to identify the two bodies.

The fire authorities issued a “level 1” response phase, deploying all available personnel and equipment from a local fire station to contain the flames.

As toxic smoke began to spread, the municipal government issued an

emergency disaster alert, urging residents to prioritize their safety and advising drivers to take alternative routes around the area.

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SEOUL, South Korea: A South Korean police officer's alleged falsification of documents in two missing person cases has exposed gaps in police oversight and fueled public distrust of police.

Those two missing people - and two others - were found dead on South Korea's most popular resort island, Jeju in the past several days, sparking a media frenzy. The scandal also comes as the country prepares for a restructuring of its criminal justice system that will give police greater authority because prosecutors will be stripped of their investigative powers.

Responding to the public concerns, President Lee Jae Myung instructed his prime minister at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday to explore ways to reform police.

In one case, the officer - who has only been identified by his family

name, Bu - closed the missing person report on a 37-year-old woman who disappeared more than three months ago without confirming her safety. Bu allegedly lied to the woman's boyfriend, telling him at the time that he had reached her by phone, but that she asked for her location to not be disclosed.

The body of the woman, Jang Miran, was found at a palm tree farm on Jeju Island on Monday.

After belatedly learning of Bu's falsification, her family earlier this month posted her photos online and appealed for information about her whereabouts, prompting extensive media coverage of her case.

Police said the officer also closed another missing person report involving a 60-year-old man last month with a similarly false statement. The man's body was found on Saturday, also on Jeju.

Police arrested Bu on Monday and announced they were investigating all the 298 missing person reports handled by him since last year and are trying to understand why Bu falsely handled the two cases.

Cambodia eliminates online scam compounds after yr-long crackdown

PHNOM PENH, Aug 30, (Agencies): Cambodia has eliminated large-scale online scam compounds following a rigorous, year-long nationwide crackdown, according to a press release from the Secretariat of the Ad-Hoc Commission for Combating Online Scams (CCOS) issued on Friday.

Senior Minister Chhay Sinarith, head of the CCOS, revealed that specialized law enforcement forces inspected 793 suspected locations between July 2025 and Aug 20, 2026. These operations led to direct crackdowns on 624 sites and the detention of nearly 30,000 suspects.

Additionally, authorities targeted 27 casinos, permanently revoking the licenses of 18 establishments and suspending nine others.

Sinarith emphasized that online scam compounds have been “entirely eradicated” through strict legal actions against criminal networks and complicit officials.

He shared these updates on Thursday afternoon during a briefing with approximately 50 representatives from foreign diplomatic missions and international organizations in Cambodia.



Thai soldiers inspect a work station at the scam compound in O'Smach, Cambodia on April 7. (AP)

Detailing the legal measures taken, Sinarith said that Cambodian authorities rescued and deported 58,266 foreign nationals, including 7,282 women. Out of these, 22,045 individuals across 38 nationalities were found to be directly involved in online scam operations.

Alongside mass deportations, law enforcement initiated strict judicial proceedings against key targets, forwarding 408 cases to the courts,

he said, adding that following these procedures, 3,477 suspects from 29 nationalities were placed in pre-trial detention. Authorities are actively pursuing 855 additional suspects under court-issued arrest warrants.

He said the crackdown also targeted internal corruption. The Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) acted on four specific cases, arresting 15 high-ranking officials and law enforcement officers, including a deputy court prosecutor, a deputy director general of immigration, a deputy commissioner of Phnom Penh Municipal Police, and a former director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“Although large-scale sites have been completely cleared, criminal groups have altered their tactics to decentralized, small-scale activities, hiding in guesthouses, condominiums, rental houses, vehicles, and coffee shops,” he said.

He added that Cambodian law enforcement is maintaining its relentless investigation and crackdown operations without exception.

Sinarith said that Cambodia will host the International Conference on Combating Online Scams on Sept. 23-24.



The US Navy aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln sails past Singapore as seen from Batam, Indonesia on Aug 30. (AP)

USS Abraham Lincoln sails past Singapore on way home from ME

The US aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln sailed past Singapore early on Sunday as it headed home after a grueling deployment in the Middle East. It's expected to stop in Thailand for a port visit.

Associated Press journalists on the Indonesian island of Batam, across the Singapore Strait, spotted

the massive vessel as it transited waters near Singapore just after 1 a.m. local time.

The Lincoln, one of the US Navy's largest warships, was supporting the U.S. war against Iran. Its deployment included a record-setting uninterrupted time at sea of more than 250 days. Concerns have

grown about the Lincoln's lengthy deployment following reports of deteriorating mental health among the crew and shortages of supplies including food and hygiene products.

Thai officials have said the Lincoln will stop in Thailand for rest and recovery before returning to its US base. (AP)

Violent Haitian gang releases women, kids after kidnapping and deadly attack

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Aug 30, (AP): Six children and seven women were released by a gang in Haiti that had kidnapped more than 50 people after launching a deadly attack on a community near the capital, Port-au-Prince, nearly a week ago, according to UNICEF.

The United Nations children's agency said late Friday that among those released are three children under the age of 2, a 7-year-old and two teenage girls.

“This release offers a rare moment of hope amid the violence threatening children in Haiti,” said Yannig Dussart, UNICEF's deputy representative in Haiti. “The Kenscoff abduction was not an isolated incident but another stark reminder of the scale and frequency of attacks on children across the country.”

UNICEF said it worked with community leaders to help secure the release of the women and children. It wasn't immediately clear if they needed medical treatment, and whether there are more women and children being held.

While individual kidnappings in Haiti are commonplace, mass abductions are more unusual. The outcomes vary: Some people are released without a ransom, while others are killed despite multiple ransoms being paid.

Gangs killed at least 47 people during the attack late Sunday on Kenscoff, a once-peaceful farming community nestled in the hills above Haiti's capital.



Women cry at the site where their relatives were killed in a gang attack in the Kenscoff neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Aug 24. (AP)

A gang leader known as Izo 2 had threatened to execute all the hostages if police killed any gang members in their push to secure Kenscoff. Izo 2 leads an armed group in that area on behalf of and in coordination with other gang leaders including Izo, considered one of Haiti's most powerful gang leaders.

The recent attack sparked an outcry Friday at an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council for swift deployment of the new U.N.-backed gang-fighting force and action to rein in the lawless bands.

Diplomats at the meeting called by the United States, Panama and Co-

lombia expressed horror at the brutal attack.

Luis Ruiz Massieu, the U.N. special envoy to Haiti, said the attack has generated “a new wave of public indignation across all sectors of Haiti's society, as well as international partners.”

Ruiz Massieu welcomed the decision by Haiti's authorities to bring together the national police, armed forces and the gang suppression force to assess developments and coordinate plans. It was agreed that the gang suppression force would strengthen its presence in Port-au-Prince and that Haitian forces would reinforce their deployment in Kenscoff.

8 officials suspended after Pakistan hospital fire probe



Women leave the Mother and Child Health ward at a hospital, in Islamabad, Pakistan on Aug 27. (AP)

ISLAMABAD, Aug 30, (AP): Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday ordered the suspension of eight officials and directed that criminal proceedings be initiated against those found responsible for a fire that killed 14 newborns at an Islamabad hospital, his office said.

Sharif issued the orders after an investigative committee headed by retired senior civil servant Shahid Khan presented its interim report on Wednesday's fire at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, or PIMS, his office said in a statement.

The fire was confined to a third-floor nursery but officials said it spread so quickly that staff were able to rescue only one baby from among the 15 being cared for there.

The inquiry found that the nursery had no fire alarm or sprinkler system and that the hospital lacked detailed procedures and training for responding to fires and other emergencies, the statement said.

Communities grapple with devastation

Nepal warns of more possible floods

DHADING, Nepal, Aug 30, (AP): Authorities in Nepal are warning of possible fresh flooding on Sunday and urged residents in flood-affected districts to remain on high alert after water levels rose in the Bhotekoshi River.

Flood warning notices were sent to people's phones throughout Sunday morning as rescue crews worked to clear a major highway connecting Kathmandu to one of the areas worst hit by Wednesday's catastrophic floods.

In the town of Galchhi, a group of residents sought higher ground on a nearby bridge and watched as the river roared by. People pointed to enormous rocks washed downriver during the earlier floods, as others standing on a suspension bridge over the water were warned off with whistles.

Along the river, entire homes, vehicles and farm tractors could be seen jutting from the thick gray-brown sediment that enveloped entire villages in the worst-hit flood areas. Rice terraces along the riverside had experienced landslides, dropping parts of their field into the river.



An electrical equipment at a power plant is partially buried in slush brought in by the Trishuli river in flash floods, in Dhading District, Nepal on Aug 30. (AP)

The combined toll in Nepal and Tibet rose to 750 dead and over 3,000 people missing after the latest updates on Sunday. Nepal's disaster agency said the death toll had climbed to 734 with 2,498 people missing, while Chinese authorities reported 16 deaths and 546 missing, including over a hundred Nepal

people from over a dozen countries.

The latest warnings came after Chinese authorities informed their Nepalese counterparts of increased water flow upstream, Dharam Raj Uprety, chief executive of Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, told the Associated Press.

Africa

Guinea-Bissau votes: Guinea-Bissau is voting Sunday in a referendum to decide on granting new presidential powers ahead of December's general election, which will return the West African nation to democracy after its latest coup.

A military government seized power in November of last year following a disputed election in which former President **Umaro Sissoco Embaló** and opposition candidate Fernando Dias both claimed victory.

If passed, the new constitution by the self-styled National Transitional Council will grant more powers to the president and reduce parliamentary representation, among other issues.

The authorities argue that a parliament trimmed from 102 to 65 seats would allow for easier and more robust debates, while new presidential powers would underline the higher authority of the president over the prime minister, which they claim is a source of political instability in the country. Opposition groups



Embaló

reject the claim.

“In a community, there is only one leader. No community or village can have two leaders. We revised the constitution to avoid constant conflict between the president of the republic and the prime minister. (AP)

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Zimbabwe minibus taxi crash kills 27: A collision between a minibus taxi carrying church members and a haulage truck killed 27 people Friday in Zimbabwe, a police spokesperson said, in the latest road disaster to hit the southern African country.

Paul Nyathi, the police spokesperson, said on Saturday that members of a popular indigenous African Christian denomination, known for wearing white robes, were traveling for a conference when the minibus taxi collided head-on with the truck Friday night. The truck was trying to overtake another vehicle when it crashed with the minibus taxi on a major highway near Chivhu town, 132 kilometers (82 miles) south of the capital, Harare, Nyathi said in a statement.

State-run broadcaster ZBC News, citing a provincial government minister, said 23 people died at the scene, while others succumbed to their injuries after being admitted to a local hospital. (AP)

All major indices rise in Kuwait market rally

Boursa Kuwait advances amid active trading

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Sunday’s trading session firmly in positive territory, with all major indices advancing amid active turnover across the bourse.

The all-share general index gained 17.63 points, or 0.20%, to settle at 8,912.00. Total activity amounted to 336.5 million shares changing hands in 23,703 cash transactions, with a combined value of KD 85.9 million (approximately USD 278.1 million).

The Main Market Index outperformed, climbing 86.87 points, or 0.95%, to 9,231.54. Trading on the main market totaled 6.1 million shares execut-



Boursa Kuwait

ed through 15,630 deals, worth KD 44.3 million (about USD 143.4 million).

The Premier Market Index edged higher by 3.80 points, or 0.04%, closing at 9,306.53. Turnover in this segment reached 110.3 million shares across 8,073 transactions, valued at KD 41.5 million (roughly USD 134.3 million).

Gains were led by the main 50 index, which advanced 134.88 Points, or 1.24%. To finish at 11,001.08. The blue-chip gauge saw 136.5 Million shares traded in 8,997 cash deals, with a total value of kd 28.2 Million (approximately usd 91.3 Mil-lion).

Hawkish Fed tone lifts dollar & yields, presses gold lower

Gold logs first weekly loss in a month, down 3% to \$4,454

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): Gold prices ended last week sharply lower, snapping a three-week streak of gains and closing Friday at \$4,454 per ounce, down over 3% on the week, according to a Sunday report by Kuwait’s Dar Al-Sabaik Company.

The decline followed a pivot in market expectations for US monetary policy after Federal Reserve Chairman Kevin Warsh struck a more hawkish tone on inflation. Warsh said core inflation had not eased enough in recent months and that the Fed still had work to do before it could be confident inflation was sustainably returning to its 2% target. His remarks boosted bets on a potential US interest-rate hike in September.

Those expectations quickly fed through to the dollar and US Treasury yields, weighing on gold as a non-yielding asset. Two-year Treasury yields rose after Warsh’s speech, while the 10-year yield approached 4.7%. At the same time, the dollar index climbed against major currencies, making dollar-denominated gold more expensive for buyers using other currencies.

Despite the pullback, Dar Al-Sabaik said gold retains medium- and long-term support from concerns over US public finances and rising debt levels, alongside geopolitical risks and steady investment demand for precious metals. Fears about US debt and broader financial stability remain constructive for gold over the longer term.

On the technical front, the report noted that gold fell below its 200-day moving average near \$4,526, signaling a deeper correction phase after the prior uptrend. The \$4,450 level is seen as the key focus this week: holding above it could allow a rebound toward \$4,500, then \$4,520–\$4,526. A break and close below \$4,450, however, could open the door to a decline toward \$4,380, while a move back above \$4,550 would suggest the correction is over and buyers are returning. Momentum indicators are now in oversold territory, which could set up a technical rebound if yields ease or the dollar weakens.

Market attention this week turns to US labor-market data, especially the August non-farm payrolls report on Friday, along with unemploy-

ment claims and activity gauges for industry and services. These figures will be critical in shaping expectations for the Fed’s September policy meeting, particularly after the recent increase in rate-hike bets. Weaker data, especially a rise in unemployment, could reduce the likelihood of a hike and give gold room to recover from current levels.

Geopolitically, developments in the Middle East — including around Iran and the Strait of Hormuz — are expected to continue influencing demand for safe-haven assets. Oil prices will also remain under close watch due to their direct impact on inflation expectations and, by extension, US monetary policy.

Locally, gold prices in Kuwait remain closely tied to global bullion prices, the dollar, and shifting US rate expectations. According to Dar Al-Sabaik, the price of a gram of 24-karat gold stood at about KD 44.315 (roughly \$144), while 22-karat gold was around KD 40.620 (about \$132). The price of a kilogram of silver reached approximately KD 716 (around \$2,333).

Paris Summit to emphasize AI, green investment & deep tech

PARIS, Aug 30, (KUNA): The Global Investment Summit 2026, scheduled to take place at the Palais des Congres in Paris on September 1 and 2, offers a diverse program of panel discussions and specialized talks across the Main Stage and the Agora Stage.

Featuring investors, business leaders, and international experts, the summit explores the shifts reshaping capital flows and the future of global economic and technological sectors.

Over the course of two days, the program covers a wide range of topics, including the global economy, artificial intelligence, energy, climate, health, venture capital, deep tech, and the cultural and creative economy, as well as tourism, hospitality, and sports reflecting the diversity of sectors brought together on this single platform for dialogue, investment, and partnership building.

On the first day, the Main Stage opens with a key economic session titled “Multipolar Finance: Where Is Wealth Headed Tomorrow”, addressing shifts in capital flows and wealth trends across global markets.

This is followed by sessions on “AI Sovereignty: Building Infrastructure for Strategic Independence” and “Europe Leading Technology Deployment: AI at Scale in the Real Economy.”

The Main Stage program continues with a session on “What Asset Tokenization Offers Europe and the Gulf Region,” followed by “Placing Humans at the Heart of Europe’s Digital Future,” and a series of sessions covering “Climate and New Environmental Diplomacy,” “Climate, Sustainability, and the Green Investment Agenda,” and “Maintaining the Appeal of Climate Investment: Energy Transition and the Nuclear Renaissance.”

Also, on the first day, the Agora

Stage dedicates a space to a range of specialized technical and investment topics, beginning with the session “The Next Sovereignty Race: Quantum Computing,” followed by “Water: The Hidden Infrastructure of the AI Era,” and “The Venture Capital Corridor: France, the Gulf, and Founders Seeking Cross-Border Funding.”

The Agora program also features a presentation titled “Human Value, Trusted Leadership in an Automated World,” alongside a session on “Financing Creative Technologies in Europe: What Do Angel Investors Look For” bridging the gap between technological shifts and the needs for funding, leadership, and early-stage capital.

Day two on the main stage opens with “The New Geography of Destination-Focused Capital,” followed by “Beyond the Event: The Economic, Social, and Environmental Legacy of Major Sporting Events,” “The Cultural and Creative Economy: Where Heritage Meets Investment,” and “The New Economics of the Luxury Sector.”

The program continues with “Advanced Technologies and Funding Challenges: Who Finances Re-industrialization”, followed by “AI and the New Model for Financing Therapeutic Development” and “Health Sovereignty: Local Manufacturing, Biotechnology, and Digital Health,” before concluding with the session “The Trillion-Dollar Race for AI Computing Power.”

On the second day, the Agora Stage continues its exploration of emerging sectors with a session titled “Innovations in Entertainment, Sports, Hospitality, and Wellness,” followed by “Investing in People to Protect Natural Capital: Integrating Human and Social Capital into Sustainable Natural Resource Investments.”

Inflation concerns persist across major economies, keeping tightening risks alive

By National Bank of Kuwait

Global Markets remained focused on inflation and central bank policy this week, with the Jackson Hole Symposium serving as the key driver of sentiment. Across major economies, stubborn inflation and resilient growth reinforced expectations that interest rates may need to remain elevated for longer, even as policymakers debate the timing of further tightening. In the United States, Federal Reserve officials maintained a hawkish tone after July inflation data showed limited progress toward the Fed’s 2% target. Headline PCE inflation held at 3.7%, while core inflation remained at 3.3%, keeping the possibility of additional rate hikes firmly on the table. Fed Chair Kevin Warsh emphasized that the central bank may need to take further action if inflation does not return to target at an acceptable pace. At the same time, labour market conditions remained healthy, with jobless claims falling and unemployment holding near historically low levels, underscoring the economy’s resilience. The U.S. dollar remained supported by expectations that the Fed could tighten policy further before year-end. Markets continue to price a high likelihood of rates remaining unchanged in September, but inflation data and recent Fed commentary have strengthened expectations of a potential hike later this year. Canada’s economy delivered a strong upside surprise, expanding at an annualized rate of 3.3% in the second quarter. Growth was driven by robust exports, stronger consumer spending, and a rebound in business investment, suggesting the economy is adapting to ongoing trade tensions and external uncertainties. The stronger growth outlook provides support for the Canadian dollar and reduces pressure on the Bank of Canada to consider policy easing. In Europe, economic sentiment improved as business and consumer confidence reached its highest level since January. The eurozone economy continues to demonstrate resilience despite elevated energy prices and geopolitical uncertainties. However, inflation remains a concern, particularly following stronger-than-expected price data from France and Spain, increasing expectations that the European Central Bank could raise rates again in September. The United Kingdom continues to face fiscal challenges after July borrowing exceeded the level seen a year earlier. Although borrowing remains lower on a yeartodate basis, concerns about future government spending plans and elevated global borrowing costs have kept pressure on U.K. finances. Sterling weakened slightly as markets pushed back expectations for further Bank of England tightening. In Asia, Tokyo inflation accelerated for a third consecutive month, strengthening expectations that the Bank of Japan could raise interest rates in September. Broader price pressures, a weaker yen, and elevated energy costs are supporting the case for further policy normalization, although the yen remains under pressure due to the wide interest rate gap with other major economies. Commodity markets were mixed. Gold remained supported by fiscal concerns, geopolitical risks, and uncertainty over the future path of U.S. interest rates. Meanwhile, oil prices eased slightly as crude exports through the Arabian Gulf continued to recover, though ongoing tensions in the Middle East kept energy markets sensitive to supply risks.

United States & Canada

Persistent Inflation Keeps Rate Hike Debate Alive at Jackson Hole Symposium

Federal Reserve officials expressed continued concern about persistent inflation during the Kansas City Fed’s annual Jackson Hole symposium, emphasizing that price pressures remain above the central bank’s 2% target despite current monetary policy settings. Kansas City Fed President Jeffrey Schmid described inflation as stubborn and suggested that the current policy rate of 3.50%-3.75% does not appear restrictive enough to curb demand or effectively reduce inflation. While he indicated openness to further rate increases, he stressed the need for additional economic data before the Fed’s September meeting. Similarly, Cleveland Fed President Beth Hammack reiterated her support for taking action against inflation, arguing that monetary policy is currently doing little to slow the economy and warning that prolonged above-target inflation could undermine the Fed’s credibility and entrench inflationary expectations. She forecast inflation ending

Previous Week Levels					This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1671	1.1577	1.1687	1.1584	1.1450	1.1650	1.1625
GBP	1.3613	1.3524	1.3656	1.3534	1.3400	1.3600	1.3537
JPY	158.89	158.59	160.20	160.04	159.20	161.50	158.98
CHF	0.8010	0.7994	0.8098	0.8092	0.8020	0.8200	0.8013

the year around 3% and declining only modestly next year. Chicago Fed President Austan Goolsbee also highlighted inflation as his primary short-term concern, cautioning that renewed price increases, fuelled by factors such as higher energy costs and tariff-related uncertainty, could become difficult to contain. Nevertheless, he noted that recent inflation trends have not been overly alarming and suggested that interest rates could eventually be lowered if there is clear evidence that inflation is moving back toward the Fed’s target. Boston Fed President Susan Collins described the latest inflation data as mixed but maintained her expectation of gradual disinflation under what she views as a slightly restrictive policy stance. These remarks came after data showed the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index remained at 3.7% annually in July, reinforcing debate among economists over whether further rate hikes may be necessary. Fed officials have increasingly signalled openness to additional tightening if inflation remains persistent, while Goolsbee also warned that political interference in central bank decision-making could jeopardize efforts to maintain price stability.

Persistent Price Pressures Complicate Fed’s Interest Rate Outlook

The Federal Reserve’s preferred inflation measure indicated that price pressures remained persistent in July, highlighting ongoing divisions among policymakers over whether interest rates should be increased further as they convene at the annual Jackson Hole economic symposium. Core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation, which excludes food and energy prices, held steady at 3.3% year-over-year, matching June’s level and market expectations. On a monthly basis, core prices rose 0.2%, a modest increase that suggests inflation is progressing toward the Fed’s 2% target, although not quickly enough to resolve concerns among more hawkish policymakers. Some officials, including New York Fed President John Williams, have indicated that monthly inflation readings of 0.2% or lower are consistent with a gradual return to target without the need for additional rate hikes. However, Federal Reserve officials remain cautious. Boston Fed President Susan Collins noted that while she supported keeping rates unchanged at the previous meeting, further evidence of declining inflation will be necessary to justify maintaining the current policy stance. Otherwise, she believes a rate increase may soon be warranted to ensure inflation returns to target within a reasonable timeframe. The inflation report arrives just ahead of Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh’s first Jackson Hole address. Policymakers are also closely monitoring external risks, including elevated energy prices linked to ongoing Middle East tensions and renewed trade disputes between the United States and Canada, both of which could sustain inflationary pressures or push prices higher in the coming months.

U.S. Unemployment Claims Decline, Signalling Continued Labor Market Strength

Initial jobless claims declined for a second consecutive week, falling by 4,000 to 203,000, below market expectations and remaining near the lower end of this year’s range, indicating that layoffs remain limited despite softer hiring activity. The number of individuals continuing to receive unemployment benefits also fell to a one-month low of 1.778 million, suggesting the labour market remains relatively balanced. Although employment unexpectedly declined in July, the unemployment rate edged lower to 4.1%, which remains historically low. Economists noted that private sector job creation continues at a moderate but sustainable pace, sufficient to maintain labour market stability as employers largely replace

departing workers and add jobs in line with labour force growth.

Persistent Inflation Could Prompt Further Fed Tightening

Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh signaled that the central bank may need to take further action if inflation does not return to its 2% target at a satisfactory pace. Speaking at the Jackson Hole symposium, Warsh stressed that the Fed must remain confident that underlying inflation is moving lower, noting that recent progress has been limited and that inflation, as measured by the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index, remained elevated at 3.7% in July. While he stopped short of endorsing an immediate rate hike or providing guidance on future policy decisions, his remarks suggested that additional tightening could be necessary if price pressures persist. Warsh also emphasized that interest rates remain the Fed’s primary policy tool and noted that current financial conditions do not appear particularly restrictive, with credit and lending markets showing few signs of constraint. Although he said inflation expectations remain anchored, he warned that they must be closely monitored to preserve the Fed’s credibility and commitment to price stability. His comments ahead of the September policy meeting reinforced the central bank’s focus on inflation while highlighting the resilience of the U.S. economy and the possibility of further policy action if inflation remains stubbornly high.

The Greenback was last seen trading at 99.702. Strong Consumer Spending and Exports Drive Canada’s Q2 Economic Recovery

Canada’s economy rebounded strongly in the second quarter, expanding at an annualized rate of 3.3% after a modest 0.3% increase in the first quarter, according to Statistics Canada. The upward revision to first-quarter growth means the country avoided a technical recession, as the economy returned to solid growth driven by a combination of stronger exports and improving domestic demand. Consumer spending reached its strongest pace in three quarters, while business investment recorded its first expansion in 18 months, supported by increased spending on residential and non-residential construction, machinery, and equipment. The data suggest that households and businesses are gradually adapting to the challenges posed by prolonged trade tensions and U.S. tariffs. Exports were a key contributor to growth, rising 3.6% in the quarter, their largest increase in more than three years. Final domestic demand also rebounded, growing 1% after a slight contraction in the previous quarter, highlighting improving economic momentum. The stronger-than-expected performance exceeded the Bank of Canada’s forecast and provides a firmer foundation for the economy as it faces a renewed tariff dispute with the United States.

The USD/CAD was last seen trading at 1.3901.

United Kingdom

UK Borrowing Rises in July, Highlighting Ongoing Fiscal Challenges

The U.K. government’s budget deficit widened to £1.8 billion in July, £700 million higher than a year earlier, as increased public spending more than offset record income tax revenues. While self-assessed income tax receipts reached a record £17.1 billion for the month, higher expenditure, particularly on social benefits, drove borrowing higher. Nevertheless, borrowing in the first four months of the fiscal year totalled £56.7 billion, £6 billion lower than the same period last year, indicating some progress in reducing the deficit despite remaining above official forecasts. The government remains committed to lowering its budget deficit, but economists expect it to remain above 4% of GDP this year. Investor concerns over potential spending increases

under Prime Minister Andy Burnham, coupled with global pressures such as the U.S.-Iran conflict, rising U.S. debt issuance, and increased borrowing to fund artificial intelligence investments, have kept U.K. borrowing costs elevated. Although public debt eased slightly to 94.1% of GDP in July, reducing debt and borrowing costs remains a significant challenge amid domestic fiscal demands and global market uncertainties.

The GBP/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.3534.

Europe

Business and Consumer Confidence Strengthen Across the Eurozone

Business and consumer confidence in the eurozone improved in August, reflecting greater optimism about the region’s economic outlook despite ongoing uncertainty related to the conflict in Iran and elevated energy prices. The European Commission’s Economic Sentiment Indicator rose to 98.4 from 97.1 in July, reaching its highest level since January and exceeding expectations. The improvement suggests that concerns over higher energy costs and their impact on spending and investment have eased, while the eurozone economy continues to show resilience, supported by stronger domestic demand and increased confidence. Policymakers at the European Central Bank (ECB) have also noted that risks to growth appear less severe as businesses and households adapt to current conditions. The survey provided some encouraging signs on inflation, with retailers and manufacturers lowering their expectations for future selling prices, indicating that higher energy costs have not yet broadly filtered through the economy. However, inflation remains above the ECB’s 2% target, and recent data from France and Spain point to renewed price pressures. While services-sector price expectations increased slightly, consumers became less concerned about inflation over the next year, which could support a recovery in household spending. Overall, the data suggest the eurozone economy remains relatively robust, even as the ECB continues to balance growth prospects against persistent inflation risks.

The EUR/USD currency pair last seen trading at 1.1584.

Asia Pacific

Japan Inflation Gains Momentum as Markets Price in September BOJ Move

Tokyo’s core inflation accelerated for a third consecutive month in August, strengthening expectations that the Bank of Japan (BOJ) could raise interest rates at its September policy meeting. Core consumer prices in the capital, a key indicator of nationwide inflation trends, increased 1.8% year-over-year, slightly exceeding market forecasts and moving closer to the BOJ’s 2% target. Inflation was driven largely by continued increases in food prices, while a broader measure that excludes both fresh food and fuel rose 2.0%, indicating that underlying price pressures are becoming more widespread. The data follows recent comments from BOJ Deputy Governor Ryozyo Himino, who highlighted rising inflation risks and emphasized the need to carefully assess the timing of further policy tightening. Growing inflationary pressures are being fueled by elevated energy costs linked to the Middle East conflict, a weaker yen, and strong demand associated with artificial intelligence-related investment. Economists increasingly expect the BOJ to raise its policy rate to 1.25% as soon as September, following its decision to lift rates to a 31-year high of 1% in June. BOJ officials have signaled concern that inflation could remain above target as cost increases spread throughout the economy. However, some businesses, particularly smaller firms, continue to struggle to pass higher costs on to consumers, highlighting uneven pricing power across the economy. As markets await further signals from BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda and the upcoming policy meeting, investors remain focused on whether accelerating inflation will prompt a faster pace of monetary policy normalization.

The USD/JPY currency pair last seen trading at 160.04

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30685



Fed Chair Kevin Warsh arrives at the annual Jackson Hole Economic Policy Symposium on Friday, Aug. 28, 2026, in Moran, Wyo. (AP Photo/Amber Baesler)

Jobless claims fall to 203,000

Inflation stays high as Warsh flags rate hikes

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

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

An inflation measure closely watched by the Federal Reserve stayed elevated last month in the latest sign that many Americans are still struggling with higher costs.

The Commerce Department’s Wednesday report showed that prices rose 3.7% in July compared with a year earlier, the same as June. Inflation has worsened since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in late February, when it stood at 2.9%. It’s noticeably above the Fed’s target of 2%.

Wednesday’s figures are from the personal consumption expenditures price index, a separate gauge from the more widely followed consumer price index, which was reported earlier this month. The PCE index is running hotter than the CPI, partly because it puts much less weight on rental costs, which have been cooling steadily in recent months.

Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh said Friday that inflation is still too high and suggested the central bank may have to raise interest rates in the coming months to bring it down, a clearer signal than he had sent previously about his economic outlook.

In his first high-profile speech at the Fed’s annual conference at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Warsh acknowledged that recent U.S. data show inflation has cooled a bit, but “they do not tell me that underlying trends have meaningfully improved.”

“We must be confident that underlying inflation is moving to our objective, clearly and at sufficient speed,” Warsh said. “Otherwise, we have work to do.”

The Fed next meets September 15-16, and Warsh’s remarks don’t necessarily signal the central bank will raise rates then. But his speech indicated that rates may not be high enough to bring inflation down to the Fed’s 2% target.

Americans’ confidence in the economy declined again this month as the ongoing conflict in Iran continued to push U.S. gasoline prices above \$4 per gallon.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index dipped to 89.4 in August from 90.2 in July. That was the lowest level in seven months but was essentially within the same lukewarm range it has been in since the beginning of the year. In late 2024 and early 2025, readings were consistently above 100.

Respondents’ views of their present situation improved, but their short-term outlook soured.

Americans remain frustrated with the economy after five years of elevated inflation, potentially posing a risk to President Donald Trump and Republicans in the midterm elections, which are less than 70 days away.

The U.S. economy grew at a sluggish 1.5% pace from April

through June. But consumer spending stayed strong.

Growth in gross domestic product - the nation’s output of a goods and services - decelerated from a 2.1% pace from January through March, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. The second-quarter growth number was unchanged from the department’s first estimate.

The reason for the lackluster growth was imports. They are subtracted from growth because GDP is only supposed to count domestic production. Imports rose at a 12.5% annual pace from April through June, partly due to a surge in shipments of computer chips and other products that support artificial intelligence investment, and sliced 1.64 percentage points off second-quarter growth.

Mortgage rates ticked higher this week, nudging the average long-term U.S. home loan rate closer to its recent high for the year.

The benchmark 30-year fixed rate mortgage rate edged up to 6.66% from 6.65% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. One year ago, the average rate was 6.56%.

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

The average rate is now back to where it was four weeks ago and is just shy of 6.69%, the high for the year it reached earlier this month.

Borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, often sought by borrowers refinancing a home loan, also rose this week. That average rate increased to 5.98% from 5.95% last week. A year ago, it was at 5.69%.

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. stock market is held relatively steady Friday, and expectations built in the bond market for the Federal Reserve to hike interest rates soon to get the nation’s high inflation under control.

The S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nasdaq composite all rose.

The bond market had more of a reaction following Kevin Warsh’s first time speaking as chairman of the Fed at an annual economic symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The mountain setting has been the backdrop for major Fed policy announcements in the past, and the pressure was on Warsh. (AP)

Oil shock hits Main Street as Wall Street powers to new highs

Investors prosper & consumers pay as the Iran war exacts an uneven economic toll 6 months on

NEW YORK, Aug 30, (AP): As the U.S. and Israel relentlessly bombed Iran in the opening days of war, the most dramatic predictions of the conflict’s toll were unsparing: surging oil prices, worldwide recession and economic catastrophe.

But six months into the conflict, the direst predictions haven’t come true even if no corner of the world’s economy has been untouched.

“So far, the global economy has pulled off the financial equivalent of a ‘Mission Impossible’ scene,” said Michael Ashley Schulman, an investment strategist with Cerity Partners.

Here’s a look at how the global economy has weathered the war, and who have been the winners and losers:

Stock markets hate uncertainty, and the decision by the U.S. and Israel to attack Iran on Feb. 28 delivered heaps of it. Columns of smoke rose from Tehran, frantic Iranians clogged roadways trying to escape, and mounting deaths, including of children, made headlines. It was enough for any investor to feel squeamish.

Oil prices surged and Wall Street began a retreat that would begin five consecutive losing weeks. The Dow and Nasdaq entered corrections. The S&P 500 had its worst month since 2022.

But a major turnaround has unfolded since the market bottomed in late March. The Dow has gained nearly 19%, the S&P is up almost 22% and the Nasdaq has surged 27%. If those gains survive the waning months of 2026, all three indexes would post their fourth consecutive year of gains.

The International Monetary Fund, in a July report, said the economy was “being shaped by two major forces, pushing in opposite directions.” The war has strained growth, but enthusiasm over artificial intelligence has offset the drag.

Main Street may be paying more for fuel, food and travel. But Wall Street, so far, is shrugging it off.

The war’s most obvious economic consequence has been its impact on oil. With tanker movement through the Strait of Hormuz slowed to a crawl, the price of Brent crude climbed from a prewar close of about \$72 a barrel to as high as nearly \$120. Although prices have eased, they are still up about 20% from before the war.

Oil’s price affects everything from crayons to cosmetics, but it hits anyone on the move especially hard.

Jet fuel is expected to cost, on average, 70% more than in 2025, according to the International Air Transport Association. Airlines, in turn, have raised ticket costs, hiked baggage fees and slapped on fuel surcharges while slashing flights or backing off from plans for added routes. Lufthansa Group, for one, cut 20,000 short-haul flights. Spirit Airlines, though troubled for years, evaporated.

“The likelihood that fuel surcharges are going to be rolled back and airfares are going to be brought down is very low over the next few months,” said Brett House, a Columbia University economist.

“There is less choice for consumers and less competition between airlines, and therefore, less pressure to rein in fare increases.”

With tankers at a standstill and fuel prices climbing, the war strengthened a clean-power sales pitch.

Sales of electric vehicles hit records in some parts of the world. In Singapore, year-over-year growth of EVs reached 110%. In New Zealand, the figure hit 180%. And in Colombia, EVs notched a 300% increase.

Worldwide, EVs are projected to account for



A man is filling up his car at a gas station in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026. (AP Photo/Vahid Salemi)

29% of total vehicle sales in 2026, according to an International Energy Agency outlook, up from 25% last year. That growth is even more impressive considering the world’s two biggest economies, the United States and China, saw declining demand for EVs.

Countries that were particularly reliant on Persian Gulf oil have been spurred to action. In Southeast Asia, leaders have rolled out more use of renewable energy and researched deploying nuclear power. In Africa, countries have looked to expand domestic refining and accelerated the installation of solar panels.

Scott Lehmann, a supply chain expert at Sphera, an operational intelligence firm, counts 26 countries and regions that have announced clean energy and electrification measures in response to the war.

“The crisis is forcing investment faster than any policy framework would have,” he said.

For the privileged, the costs brought by war may barely be a blip. For the poorest, it’s a different story.

With the Gulf not just a leader in global oil production, but also of fertilizer, the war has dealt a blow to farmers. Just as many were making decisions about their crops, fertilizer prices soared, peaking in April at 44% higher than before the war, according to the World Bank’s price index.

In response, some farmers trimmed their fertilizer use, potentially imperiling next year’s harvests.

“If you’re reducing your fertilizer usage right now, it’s in a way borrowing against next year’s soil health,” said Arif Gasilov, a natural resources expert with the Gasilov Group consultancy.

The United Nations World Food Programme has warned that tens of millions could be pushed into hunger. In testimony this week, its acting executive director, Carl Skau, said the “suffocation of fertilizer exports” had hit Asia and Africa hard. Higher transportation costs hindered the WFP’s own humanitarian efforts, too.

“An oil tanker anchored in the Strait of Hormuz can mean one less meal a day for a child in Sudan,” Skau said. “When oil prices go up, so does

the price of flour, rice and vegetables.”

The war has already cost the U.S. tens of billions of dollars and caused thousands in Iranian casualties. It has shaved an estimated hundreds of billions of dollars from projected global output.

But the family of the man at the center of it all, President Donald Trump, has been among the beneficiaries.

Military contractor Powerus, about to be taken public by Eric and Donald Trump Jr., won an Air Force contract worth as much as \$90 million to supply interceptors to shoot down Iranian drones. Similarly, the private equity firm 1789 Capital Management, which Don Jr. joined days after his father’s reelection, owns stakes in several other military contractors profiting from the war. One of them, Anduril, won U.S. approval for up to \$2 billion in sales of drone interceptors to Kuwait. A second, Elon Musk’s SpaceX, is providing satellite service to guide U.S. drones against Iran. And a third - rocket maker Firehawk Defense - won Pentagon contracts for propellants and warheads to replenish dwindling U.S. supplies.

A spokeswoman for 1789 Capital, Alexa Henning, said Don Jr. wasn’t involved in the decision to put money in those companies, so there is no “nefarious connection.”

The president himself has done well, too.

His investment portfolio run by outside managers has scooped up shares of U.S. military suppliers helped by the war, including Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and Northrop Grumman. Democrats released a report this week saying Trump’s holdings in oil and gas stocks have soared by as much as \$15.5 million.

A White House spokeswoman, Anna Kelly, insisted “there are no conflicts of interest” and that “President Trump only acts in the best interests of the American public.”

Even as Trump’s personal finances have benefited, his political fortunes are another question. The conflict has been unpopular and could weigh on voters as midterm elections near.

What we know about Trump’s deal giving US access to vast oil reserves in Venezuela

WASHINGTON, Aug 30, (AP): Besides a social media post from President Donald Trump, the White House has said little about what he is calling “THE BIGGEST OIL DEAL IN WORLD HISTORY” in Venezuela.

Trump said the agreement announced Friday night would give the United States a stake in Venezuela’s vast oil reserves, a step toward his goal of extracting energy from the country after American forces captured then-President Nicolás Maduro in a middle-of-the-night raid in January and brought him to New York to face federal drug trafficking charges.

Venezuela’s acting president, Delcy Rodríguez, described the deal as a step toward economic recovery that will modernize the country’s oil industry. She said Saturday that the oil reserves would “cease to be an inert, cold statistic and will instead become concrete solutions. Housing is one of them.”

She spoke while touring reconstruction efforts following the deadly twin earthquakes that hit in late June, noting that thousands of families were left homeless.

“What we are doing is for the development of the country, but above all, to serve the Venezuelan people, to provide them with more jobs, better wages, and access to public services such as water, electricity, hospitals, schools and adequate food,” she said.

But the answers to many questions, including how soon the reserves could be drilled and who will pay to make it happen, were not immediately clear. No text of any agreement has been released.

A look at what is known and unknown:

The U.S. government and an unnamed private operator in Venezuela formed a new company that was given the rights to untapped oil fields for 100 years.

A statement from Rodríguez said the deal involves the development of 17 fields with a proven potential of 65 billion barrels. It said the agreement could draw \$100 billion in investment into Venezuela’s oil industry and yield over \$209 billion in taxes for Caracas.

Trump said the agreement was negotiated by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Rodríguez.

The deal gives the United States 55% effective output of the new private company, including an ownership stake and rights to buy oil at cost. American purchases of the oil will go toward the U.S. strategic oil reserves along with the military, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The company would be the second largest corporate holder of proven reserves after Saudi Aramco, according to the official.

Probably not any time soon.

Trump says the deal will help lower gas prices



A pedestrian walks past a mural featuring oil wells in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Aug 29, 2026, a day after President Donald Trump announced a deal giving the United States a stake in Venezuela’s oil reserves. (AP Photo/Pedro Matthey)

for Americans. That is an important objective for the Republican president as the Iran war slows the shipping of Persian Gulf oil and keeps prices elevated months before November elections in the United States.

But experts have repeatedly warned that Venezuela’s dilapidated oil infrastructure will take years and billions of dollars to repair. A substantial boost in production is not expected to happen quickly.

The deal could be “helpful in the long run, but it’s not going to do anything to change the price of gasoline at the retail station for Labor Day weekend,” said Amy Myers Jaffe, director of the Energy, Climate Justice and Sustainability Lab at New York University.

Neither side made clear who would pay for infrastructure investments and at what cost.

The average price of gas in the U.S. stood at about \$4.08 a gallon on Saturday, according to AAA. The average price was \$3.20 at the same time last year.

Kevin Book, managing director at ClearView Energy Partners, said the oil industry is awaiting clarity on the deal’s details. Venezuela has room to increase its oil production, he said - in the past it produced more than 2.5 million barrels a day above current levels - but investments of this scale don’t happen quickly.

“It’s going to take time - many years - to deploy that much capital and produce the kind of in-

cremental results that history suggests possible,” Book said.

Some in Venezuela considered it a betrayal of what their government has stated repeatedly for decades: Venezuelan resources are for Venezuela, and leaders would not allow the U.S. government access to those resources.

At a market in eastern Caracas on Saturday, Douglas Borjas said he was upset about the announcement.

“I think they’re doing it to cling to power,” he said of Venezuela’s leaders. “It’s like, ‘I’m giving you a vast amount of petroleum as long as you leave me alone here in power.’”

He added: “The Venezuelan people deserve better. Venezuela has resources that can be exploited, but for the benefit of the people, not for the benefit of the corrupt elite.”

Harvard University professor Ricardo Hausmann, a former Venezuelan planning minister, called it a “shameful deal.”

“Venezuelans will not respect this illegitimate deal and no major US oil company will take it seriously because they know it will not last,” Hausmann said on social media, adding that Rodríguez “has no legitimacy or constitutional power to commit Venezuela to any such deal.”

It is unclear whether Congress will play a role in the arrangement, but lawmakers from both parties were quick to weigh in.

What's On

SPOTLIGHT



Got a birthday or event?
Share your story and snapshots with Arab Times!
Email your write-up and photos to
arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com
We'll feature it on our What's On page!

Tournament highlights camaraderie, team spirit

ALSAYER Group hosts employee padel tournament



ALSAYER Group champions well-being through their 2026 padel tournament.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: As part of its commitment to employee well-being and fostering engagement within the workplace, ALSAYER Group organized a padel tournament on August 15, 2026, at 33 Kuwait.

The event saw the participation of nine teams in an evening characterized by friendly competition and sportsmanship. Employees also attended to cheer on and support the players. The tournament was one of the Group's employee initiatives, providing an opportunity for employees from various departments to connect outside of work and strengthen relationships through sports.

Recognizing the importance of employee

well-being and its impact on creating a positive work environment, ALSAYER Group continues to organize impactful initiatives that encourage collaboration, healthy lifestyles, and enhanced social interaction. The Padel Tournament embodies the Group's belief that building strong communities begins from within, by providing an environment where employees can connect, interact, and support one another.

As stated by Eng. Nehad Al Haj Ali, Group Manager of the Corporate Excellence Department, "Executive Board Member and Chairman of the ALSAYER Sustainability Committee, "with enthusiastic participation from all competing teams, the event showcased the energy,

camaraderie, and team spirit that define ALSAYER Group's culture. Employees, friends, and colleagues gathered to support the players, creating an exciting and engaging atmosphere throughout the tournament."

By organizing initiatives such as the ALSAYER Group Padel Tournament, the Group continues to invest in the well-being of its people, demonstrating its commitment to fostering a connected, inclusive, and healthy work environment where employees can thrive both professionally and personally, which will certainly be reflected in the quality of performance and service that will contribute to enhancing customer satisfaction.

Showcasing Pakistani culture & community spirit

HCM, IDAK conduct dental awareness & screening camp at NECK

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: The Health Care Mission (HCM) of the St. George Universal Syrian Orthodox Reesh Church (SGUS-ORC), Kuwait, in association with the Community Welfare Committee (CWC) of the Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK), organized a Dental Awareness and Consultation Camp at the National Evangelical Church of Kuwait (NECK), on 28th August 2026. The program, which was sponsored by Mango Hypermarket, focused on dental awareness among children while also providing dental consultation and screening for both children and adults.

The program commenced with a prayer led by the Vicar, Rev. Fr. Bibbin George Thomas, followed by an engaging mime performance by Dr. Sharon J. Thomas, representing the IDAK Cultural Committee. This mime highlighted the importance of developing healthy oral hygiene habits from childhood through a simple and relatable presentation.

This was followed by an interactive dental awareness program conducted by Dr. Valentina Fernandes, a CWC member of IDAK. She emphasized that prevention plays a vital role in maintaining good oral health and encouraged children to develop proper oral hygiene habits. The session focused on the harmful effects of frequent consumption of sugary snacks, the importance of maintaining good oral hygiene, and the correct techniques for brushing teeth effectively.

An interactive quiz based on the dental awareness messages followed, with the children participating enthusiastically. The quiz reinforced the key messages and encouraged the children to incorporate what they had learned into their everyday lives.

After the awareness program, dental screening and consultation were



Photos during the event.

conducted for the children under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Shibu George, Co-Chair of the Community Welfare Committee of IDAK. The screening team comprised Dr. Jemy Mathew, Dr. Suja Mary John, Dr. E.T. Roy, Dr. Rajesh Kurian, Dr. Roshila M. Mathew, Dr. Mathew George, and Dr. Anju Samuel. Dr. E. T. Roy and Dr. Rajesh Kurian also provided dental consultations for adults.

IDAK Vice President Dr. Aju

Wilson and IDAK General Secretary Dr. Dilip George actively participated in the camp and extended their support for the program.

The camp was coordinated through the active involvement of Dr. Joshin Susan Thomas, Secretary of the Health Care Mission and Chair of the Community Welfare Committee of IDAK, along with the support of the HCM volunteers and the IDAK dental team. Dr. E. T. Roy served as the Convenor of the camp, and Mrs.

Neena Mathew served as the Co-Convenor.

The program was held with the presence and support of Vicar Rev. Fr. Bibbin George Thomas, Church Secretary Mr. Renjith Kuruvilla, and Church Trustee Mr. Bechu Mathen.

Through increased awareness, education, and timely dental consultations, the initiative successfully underscored the critical importance of early intervention in promoting lifelong oral health.

Showcasing Pakistani culture & community spirit

Pakistan Women's Forum celebrates 80th Independence Day



Photos during the event.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Pakistan Women's Forum (PWF) celebrated Pakistan's 80 Independence Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit at Masala Delight Restaurant.

The program was graced by Mrs. Hamza Tauqeer, wife of the Cultural Welfare Attaché at the Embassy of Pakistan to Kuwait, Ms. Sadia Sultan, Trade and Commerce Officer at the

Embassy, and PWF Honorary Advisory Mrs. Sabeeha Obaid.

PWF President Mrs. Fareeha Mazhar and General Secretary Mrs. Shazia Arshad welcomed the guests. The celebration included a cake-cutting ceremony, Pakistan-themed quiz, and patriotic songs by singer Nabila. Small gifts were presented to the quiz winners and

guests.

The event was also attended by several foreign ladies, who highly appreciated PWF's efforts in promoting Pakistani culture and community spirit in Kuwait.

The celebration concluded with dinner and a vote of thanks by Mrs. Fareeha Mazhar President PWF to all guests and participants.

Trust hinges on delivery, not just data, in uncertain times

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

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By Matthew Facciani
Yale University

Earlier this summer, the four of us spent three days in a room with a dozen others whose jobs sound nothing like ours, or like each other's: a cosmologist, an emergency management scholar, a genetic counselor, a hydrologist, a neuropsychologist, a health risk communication scholar, a cognitive neuroscientist, a theater director, an investigative journalist and a meteorologist. We're also from four different disciplines: a sociologist, a human rights scholar, an Indigenous community health scholar and a microbial geneticist.

We had convened through CIFAR, a research organization that gathers interdisciplinary groups to work on hard questions, for a workshop on a challenge that none of our fields can solve alone: how to grapple with, and communicate about, uncertainty in research.

To start, we each brought an object that captured our own struggle with representing uncertainty clearly. One of us brought a handheld weather monitor. Another brought a blank flip chart. A third brought a gachapon, the prize from a Japanese capsule-toy vending machine, which you buy without knowing which toy you'll get. After the show-and-tell exercise, it was obvious we were all circling the same problem.

The instinct for many researchers is to treat uncertainty as a failing, something to paper over before anyone notices. Our conversation suggested the opposite: that uncertainty is everywhere in every field, and it is worth naming out loud rather than hiding. It is not the absence of knowledge or a lack of results - it is a generative space where curiosity, learning and new understanding are possible.

Most of us also agreed that our struggle to articulate uncertainty makes it harder to share our work clearly with the public, and that glossing over it can damage public trust when people later discover the doubt we left out.

Uncertainty is not a problem to be solved. Navigating uncertainty is the job, and it never fully goes away.

What do researchers mean by uncertainty? Broadly: Everything we don't yet know about the thing we are trying to describe, and how much that missing knowledge could change the answer.

It could mean that there is a range of possible outcomes - for example, that it might rain or it might not. Weather forecasters collapse a hugely complex atmosphere into a two-dimensional map, knowing that two skilled people will draw different predictions from the same input.

It could mean that information is incomplete or still evolving, like whether an active wildfire will affect a particular community. A wildfire scientist argued that calling fires simply "unpredictable" risks abdicating responsibility. They cannot say exactly when or where a given fire will start, how fast it will move, or what it will destroy, but they can say with near-certainty that fires will happen somewhere. Treating the whole thing as unknowable can become an excuse not to plan.

Uncertainty could also mean that we have modeled something in the lab but don't know how well that will translate out in the world. Or it could mean that we are not sure how people will respond to information, such as a wildfire evacuation order.

Reducing uncertainty can help to some extent, but local authorities also need to build mitigation strategies under the assumption that a fire is coming.

As another example, genetic counselors communicate uncertainty with families facing a potential diagnosis. They translate what they know about a health risk at a population level into information that individuals can use to make personal decisions they will have to live with.

Even the most quantitative fields run on judgment. A statistician reminded us that the line between a "significant" and a "nonsignificant" result, which conventionally is dictated using a statistical metric called a p-value at a threshold of 0.05, is as much a social convention as a mathematical one.

A cosmologist described the 2014 BICEP2 episode, when a team announced that it had glimpsed the universe's first instant, only for the signal to turn out to be consistent with dust in our own galaxy. Physics demands extraordinary confidence before calling something a discovery, but even that assumes you are measuring the right thing in the first place.

An investigative journalist put it most plainly: "Beyond a reasonable doubt" is not the same as absolute

certainty. A wrongful conviction can happen when a jury or judge forgets the difference.

Most people never encounter academic research directly. They encounter it secondhand: through a news story, a news release, a social media post or a conversation with someone they trust. If researchers do not communicate uncertainty clearly, each handoff becomes another opportunity for misunderstanding.

Qualitative research from March 2026 found that many scientists across disciplines view communicating uncertainty as a form of translation. They see the practice as trying to faithfully convey complex evidence while adapting it to audiences who often expect simple, definitive answers.

Researchers also described a pressure to sound more certain than the evidence warrants. Journalists and editors want a clean, quotable finding, and in a polarized environment, readers can pick up on any admission of doubt and use it as evidence that the whole field is unreliable.

How uncertainty is received depends less on the data than on the delivery and on what the audience already believes. People rarely evaluate findings directly; they absorb them secondhand and lean on identity and trusted messengers. In practice, that means you take your cues from people you see as being on your side or like you - a family doctor, a faith leader, a neighbor, a favorite podcaster - more than from the study itself.

People with different life experiences, perspectives on health and well-being, and histories with government, authorities and researchers interpret information differently and trust different sources. Those who have experienced discrimination in the healthcare system are less likely to trust medical practitioners and less likely to seek their care. People who understand their health conditions within a cultural or spiritual context may eschew pharmaceutical solutions, or may use them in conjunction with other forms of treatment.

Imagine two people reading the same headline about a rare side effect from a new vaccine. One has always had a doctor who explained things patiently, and reads it as reassuring evidence that the system catches problems. The other has been dismissed or mistreated in a clinic before, and reads the same sentence as confirmation that they were not told the whole story the first time. The number is identical. The conclusion is not.

The reassuring finding, across the research represented in the room at the CIFAR workshop, is that candidness about uncertainty generally maintains or builds trust rather than erodes it.

Researchers who are sincere, relatable and genuinely care are effective messengers for communicating uncertain or evolving information. What erodes trust is vagueness, backtracking and the sense that someone is managing you rather than leveling with you.

However, manufacturing uncertainty when the research is sound can serve to reinforce power structures or political narratives. The clearest example is the tobacco industry, which spent decades funding research and publicity designed not to prove cigarettes were safe, but simply to keep the question looking open. That strategy of producing scientific uncertainty delayed regulation for a generation, and the same playbook was later borrowed by other industries, including on climate change.

If there was a consensus in the workshop room, it was less a formula than a set of guardrails. These came out of scholars talking to each other across disciplines, but they double as a checklist of questions to ask when you're reading about a new study or public health recommendation, or watching a weather forecast.

First, is the report clear about what the available evidence tells you, and the boundaries of what it doesn't? Does it separate the data from the policy options?

Second, does the report set expectations and disclose that the information may change over time, and say how and why it might do so?

Third, is it specific? Plain estimates land better than vague verbal hedging. Hedging can sound like "this could be somewhat higher or lower."

Fourth, is it transparent about who is speaking and any bias related to the tools, the researchers, the institutions or the funding structure?

Uncertainty is not the enemy of good research or public trust. It is the open question that invites the next one - the space where curiosity lives. In an information environment crowded with confident, unreliable voices, researchers' willingness to say "here is what we don't know, and here is how we'll find out" may be the most trustworthy thing that researchers can offer. (AP)



Angela Mrad

Between mythology and tragedy, Angela Mrad opens the gates to CELESTIA

In her latest interview, filmmaker and writer Dr. Angela Mrad reveals the creative vision behind her cinematic project, CELESTIA – UNMASKING SOLARA, emphasizing that the work goes beyond telling a conventional film story. Her ambition is to construct an entire mythology—one with its own universe, characters, symbols, mysteries, and destiny.

Mrad explains that CELESTIA was born first as a vision. Her intention was to create a world that transcends the boundaries of a traditional film, where every character, symbol, and element of Solara carries its own history and meaning, leaving space for the universe to continue evolving.

Speaking about her relationship with cinema, Mrad summarizes her creative philosophy through a series of striking statements:

“I don’t ask what’s next in cinema. I create what comes next.”

She adds:

“I don’t follow the cinematic world. I build worlds of my own.”

On her creative process, she states:

“I create what exists first only in my vision.”

And when describing her approach to directing:

“I don’t direct what the camera sees. I direct what the audience feels.”

She further defines her cinematic ambition:

“I don’t ask where cinema is going. I decide where I want to take it.”

Between Mythology and Tragedy

For Mrad, the strength of CELESTIA lies precisely in its fusion of mythology and tragedy.

Mythology, in her vision, creates the universe, its symbols, its characters, and its destinies. Tragedy gives those figures their human dimension through love, conflict, loss, choices, and their confrontation with fate.

Mrad explains that tragedy does not necessarily depend on bloodshed or death, but rather on the transformation imposed upon characters by what happens to them. Her vision draws upon classical conceptions of

“
I don’t ask
what’s next in
cinema. I
create what
comes next.”

– Angela Mrad

tragedy, including those of Racine and Aristotle, leading to the idea of catharsis—the experience through which the audience does not merely observe the characters’ suffering, but emotionally passes through it.

She describes the world of CELESTIA as dark, enclosed, and emotionally charged, where the atmosphere itself becomes almost a physical sensation. Yet the journey through darkness ultimately leads toward emotional transformation—a process she identifies as the essence of catharsis.

A Love That Challenges Fate

At the heart of this mythology stands Celestia Thorne, a character Mrad wrote and envisioned before bringing her to the screen, alongside Jax Vesper – “The Shadow,” a figure embodying power, mystery, and the darkness that ultimately disrupts Celestia’s destiny.

Mrad reveals that the relationship between the two characters is built around an intense, profound, and almost impossible love—a love that is born where it should never exist.

They are two people seemingly opposed by everything, yet drawn together by something more powerful than themselves. Between them exists the desire to love, but also the fear of losing one another, betrayal, wounds from the past, and one devastating question: What remains of love when the heart and destiny choose different paths?

For Mrad, this is not simply a love story between two people. It is a force capable of transforming their entire world.

She captures the essence of their relationship in one defining thought: “Sometimes, the greatest love is not the one that ends with two people being together. It is the one that, even when it cannot be lived, remains eternal in the hearts of those who carried it.”

Through this vision, Angela Mrad presents CELESTIA – UNMASKING SOLARA as a journey that reaches beyond the screen: a mythology to discover, a tragedy to feel, and an emotional experience designed not merely to make the audience see a world, but to feel it.

Hathaway joins the cast

Tom Cruise returns to track for ‘Days of Thunder’ sequel

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., Aug. 30, (AP): Tom Cruise stood up from his chair in front of 40 race-car drivers, jumped over a row of potted plants and directly onto a stage.

It was his first of many stunts to come at Daytona International Speedway.

The 64-year-old Cruise announced Saturday he will reprise his role as NASCAR driver Cole Trickle in a follow-up to “Days of Thunder.” He waved the green flag on it hours before the Cup Series’ regular-season finale at Daytona and then showed up for the pre-race drivers’ meeting.

“It’s not just about racing,” Cruise told the packed room that included NASCAR executives, fans, corporate sponsors and military personnel. “It’s about the community and the people here. There’s something very special about racers and the whole community. It’s a culture, and I was very proud to be able to reflect that in the first ‘Days of Thunder,’ and I am honored to share it with the world. ...

“That’s basically what we’re going to really go for with this one. Give the audience that opportunity to understand what it is as a team, as a community, what it is for NASCAR, and the speed, the excitement and all that danger and stuff.”

Anne Hathaway will co-star as a team owner and engineer in the film scheduled to be released by Paramount Pictures on June 2, 2028.

Cruise will serve as a producer alongside Jerry Bruckheimer and Tommy Harper. Jonathan Levine is set to direct the script written by Will Staples. Bruckheimer, Harper and Staples joined Cruise at the drivers’ meeting.

Cruise posed for pictures with anyone who asked and shook hands with military members before getting whisked away in a black SUV. He was expected to spend some time during the



Actor Tom Cruise and movie producer Jerry Bruckheimer attend a drivers meeting before a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026, in Daytona Beach, Fla. (AP)

race on pit road - about as close to the action as possible without being behind the wheel.

The Hollywood Reporter reported in November 2024 that Cruise had talked to Paramount about a follow-up to his 1990 NASCAR racing film. The original was a critically panned summer blockbuster that was largely lampooned throughout the NASCAR industry for its exaggeration and over-indulgence.

It has since become a cult favorite in NASCAR circles and is still quoted by race fans to this day.

“Rubbin’, son, is racin’” - the immortal line from crew chief Harry Hogge, played by Robert Duvall - still lives on today.

Riding high from his “Top Gun” fame and having grown up racing cars on the “back streets of Kentucky,” Cruise had an idea for a movie based on fast cars and the characters who raced them. And so began the making of “Days of Thunder.”

Cole Trickle was loosely based on the late NASCAR driver Tim Richmond. Four-time Cup Series champion Jeff Gordon, now vice chairman at Hendrick Motorsports, openly lobbied for Cruise to bring a “Days of Thunder” sequel to life.

Gordon and Cruise have become friends over the years - Cruise showed up at a 2015 NASCAR banquet to honor the retiring Gordon - which could boost the prospect of Gordon and Hendrick Motorsports’ involvement in a sequel.

The movie introduced NASCAR to a wider audience that had very limited exposure to stock-car racing before that summer. There had been racing movies before - think “Thunder Road,” “The Last American Hero,” “Grand Prix,” “Stroker Ace,” or even “Smokey and the Bandit” - but none that had depicted NASCAR in such a mainstream style.

NASCAR has seen more swings and misses than checkered flags when it comes to its portrayal on the big or small screen since “Days of Thunder.” For every “Talladega Nights,” there are 10 more bombs such as comedian Kevin James’ ill-fated Netflix’s comedy series, “The Crew.”

Cruise is a safe bet to deliver a hit - and to handle many of his own stunts. He did when in the original and still recalled a memorable one at Daytona.

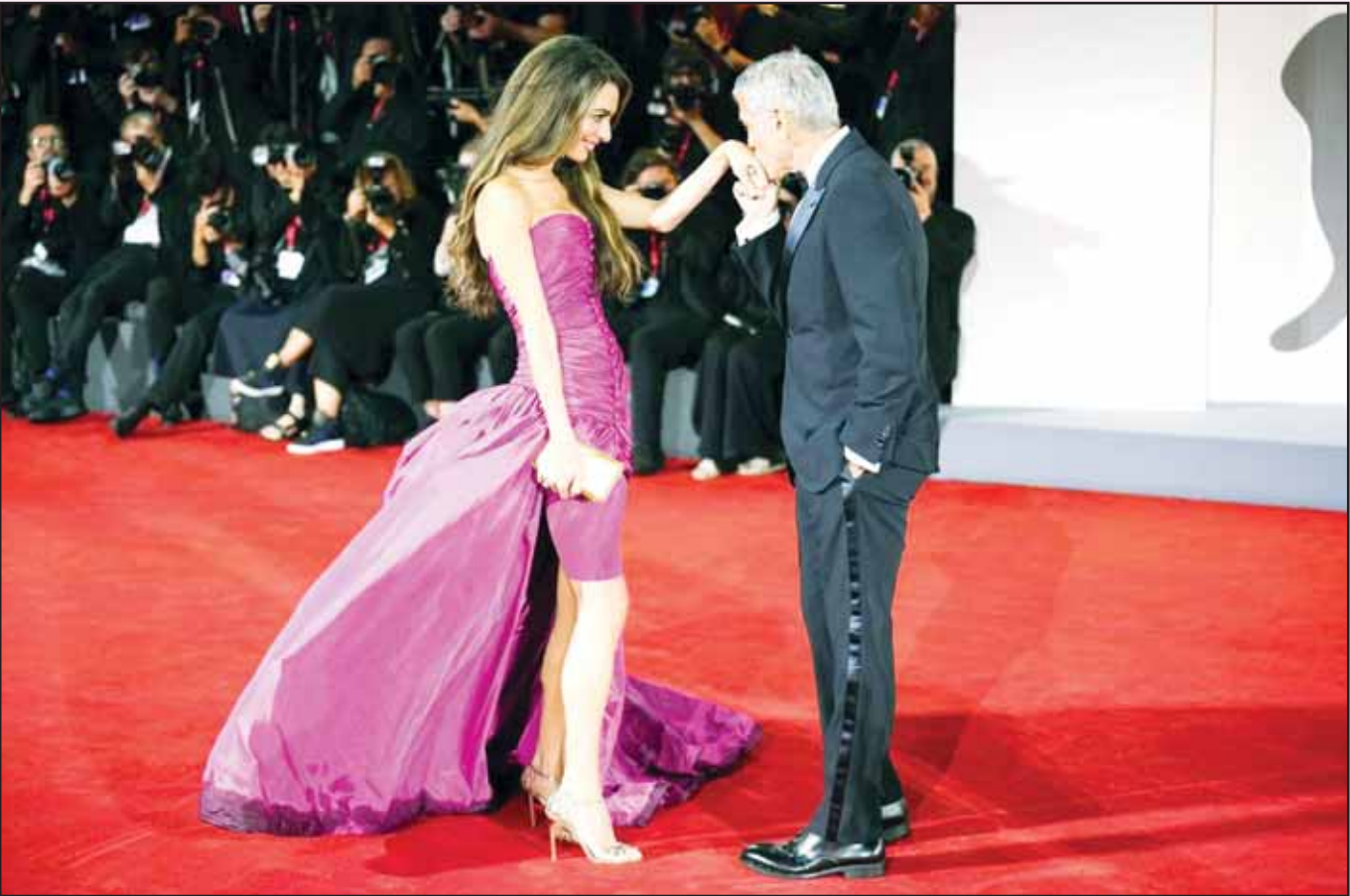
“Last time I was at this track, actually, I was on the backstraight and I was shooting with two very heavy cameras traveling - I don’t know, 180 miles an hour - and suddenly the hood was off of the car,” Cruise said. “The sun is setting and I’m trying to get all my lines out before we lost the light.

“And, suddenly, the whole car was in flames. It turned from a barbecue to a bonfire on the backstraight. Couldn’t even get the crew to come in and help me just because radio (communications) didn’t work in the backstraight. I hear that’s still possible, correct? You guys didn’t fix that. Well, that’s good.”

Film

Stars descend on Lido as films tackle power, war & media

Venice Film Festival sets fall stage with stars, documentaries and Oscar buzz



George Clooney kisses the hand of his wife Amal during the 82nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Aug. 28, 2025. (AP)

VENICE, Aug. 30, (AP): August can be a dreary month for Hollywood glamour, but the Venice Film Festival is on the horizon to kick off the busy fall film festival season in style.

There will be plenty of stars gracing the red carpets when the 83rd edition of the festival kicks off Wednesday on the Lido: Noel and Liam Gallagher, Robert Pattinson, Rooney Mara, George Clooney and Penélope Cruz are among those expected to attend. Some of the films may even become Oscar nominees.

But the mood feels a little different this year. There will always be a spotlight for the Hollywood contingent and the awards hopefuls posing on boats and docks in designer duds. Yet, in a lineup featuring Pattinson as “To Catch a Predator” host Chris Hansen, Dakota Johnson as Marilyn Monroe, Guy Pearce as Rupert Murdoch and Clooney as, well, himself (he’s getting a lifetime achievement award, as is Ellen Burstyn), it’s possible that much of the attention will be on a man who (probably) won’t be there: Elon Musk.

Alex Gibney’s nearly four-hour documentary about the world’s richest man has been in the works for almost four years. The Oscar-winner wasn’t sure about taking it on at first, but a good friend convinced him it would be a worthy portrait of 21st-century power - and this was before the 2024 presidential campaign and DOGE.

When the documentary was announced, Musk called it a “hit piece” on social media. Gibney replied, “How would you know?”

In fact, Gibney told The Associated Press he started off as a kind of admirer - as well as a Tesla owner - and sincerely wanted to talk to Musk for the film.

“Ultimately, he didn’t want to talk to me,” Gibney said. “But then you start, you know, digging into the facts and you follow them where they lead. And where they led, for

me, was to a place that upended the myth, I would say, of Elon Musk as a kind of modern Leonardo da Vinci ... I think that the news in this film is that Musk isn’t an inventor. He’s a confidence man.”

The filmmakers talked to hundreds of people on and off the record to compile a sweeping picture of the Tesla and SpaceX CEO who, Gibney said, is not dissimilar to the guys at Enron or Elizabeth Holmes. He was most surprised by how many people seemed to be afraid to be on camera talking about Musk - even his admirers wanted permission first.

“I thought, wow, for such a big and powerful person, that seems awfully weak,” Gibney said.

But while it’s a “dark and dangerous topic,” Gibney said, the film is also a “fun ride.”

The same could be said of “My Undesirable Friends: Part II - Exile,” in which Julia Loktev continues her sprawling portrait of independent Russian journalists after the invasion of Ukraine.

“You see this group of young, very young journalists who’ve just fled their country, like, on a few hours’ notice. They had the choice of, you know, stop reporting the truth about the war, which didn’t seem like a choice at all, or go to prison, or leave the country so they can keep telling the truth,” Loktev said. “It was a question of how long do you keep following? Because this takes place over four years. And over that time, exile becomes, of course, indefinite.”

Similar to the first film, Part II runs nearly six hours. But, she said, “I hear it goes by easy.”

The conflict in Gaza will also take center stage in the documentary “NAZA,” a late addition to the competition, from two of the filmmakers behind the Oscar-winning “No Other Land.”

Unlike last year, no large-scale protests

are planned, but the group Venice4Palestine did call on the festival to “suspend all agreements with entities and institutions linked to the Israeli government.” It also asked that the Palestinian flag be flown throughout.

Part of the intrigue of Venice is how it might play into the Oscar race - it’s usually good for a best picture nominee or two.

Martin McDonagh’s “Wild Horse Nine,” starring John Malkovich and Sam Rockwell as 1970s CIA agents, seems like a promising candidate after his last two films debuted at Venice and went on to nominations. “The Father” filmmaker Florian Zeller returns with “Bunker,” a psychological thriller with Cruz and Javier Bardem. Danny Boyle looks at a turning point in tabloid media in “Ink.” And there’s much curiosity around Lance Oppenheim’s “Primetime,” for Pattinson’s performance and for its examination of reality television culture in the early 2000s.

Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda is also debuting “Look Back,” about two small-town girls who aspire to be manga artists. And Korean auteur Lee Chang-dong examines themes of labor and freedom through two married couples in “Possible Love.”

This is also a year in which big Hollywood hasn’t needed the sheen of the international film festival. Cannes was bereft of a big blockbuster, and the industry went on to have one of its highest-earning summers ever. The reigning best picture winner, “One Battle After Another,” skipped festivals entirely.

Venice might have more Hollywood films than Cannes did, but following several years in which fates might have been prematurely decided for both would-be contenders, like “After the Hunt” and “The Smashing Machine,” and blockbusters like “Joker: Folie à Deux,” it too seems a bit more muted - at least on paper.

Music

Music stars unite for women’s well-being

Rodrigo turns music into women’s power

CALIFORNIA, Aug. 29, (AP): Evoking the same do-it-yourself pop-rock feminism of her ’90s musical influences, Olivia Rodrigo raised \$20 million for women’s well-being with a benefit show that activated her young audience.

Daisy Chain Fields united a women-led lineup boasting queer pop star Chappell Roan, breakout rapper Doechii and riot grrrl pioneers Bikini Kill behind issues of women’s health, workplace protections and legal rights. Ahead of Saturday’s festival in Irvine, California, Rodrigo announced the show had already raised enough to make a \$10 million donation to 10 nonprofit partners including Planned Parenthood, National Women’s Law Center and Black Mamas Matter Alliance.

Philanthropist Melinda French Gates pledged another \$10 million through her Pivotal Ventures in a surprise appearance at the start of Rodrigo’s set, calling her “a force” and praising her for “showing a new generation how much their voices matter.”

Speaking Friday alongside the beneficiaries, Rodrigo said the festival’s artists and activists give her hope despite the “regression of women’s rights” today.

“That’s actually why I fell in love with the name ‘Daisy Chain,’” she said Friday. “It served as a reminder of how individual parts can come together to create something strong and unbreakable.”

Rodrigo, 23, has made a name channeling the rage and dissatisfaction of modern romance into chart-topping songs that are equal parts Taylor Swift and Alanis Morissette. Few superstars are better suited, then, to bridge the gap between Gen Z and nonprofits, which have struggled to build relationships with younger donors who tend to prefer informal ways of giving.

The connection is not lost on Daisy Chain Fields attendees.

“People don’t join together and mobilize unless they feel connected to the group that is mo-



Olivia Rodrigo performs at the Daisy Chain Fields Music Festival on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2026, at Great Park in Irvine, Calif. (AP)

bilizing,” said Grace Slevin, 24. “What’s better than music?”

All-star benefit concerts have long been popular for driving millions of dollars toward everything from refugee aid and famine relief to pandemic response and natural disasters. But it’s been decades since a young artist with Rodrigo’s following brought her peers together for gender justice.

That focus comes as President Donald Trump attempts to overhaul family planning grants that reproductive health clinics use to provide birth

control and treat sexually transmitted infections. His administration paused \$27.5 million last year for such organizations, including some Planned Parenthood affiliates, before officials agreed to restore the money.

For Slevin, an Orange County, California, resident who does anti-sex-trafficking advocacy, Daisy Chain Fields embodies the sentiment of “be who you needed when you were younger.” She loves that attendees are welcome to learn about the beneficiaries’ work in addition to donating.

Daisy Chain Fields invited nonprofit partners to engage with fans in its “philanthropy village.” Festivalgoers can collect pins from each booth as they learn about health services from Planned Parenthood’s local partners or pay tribute to caregivers through the National Domestic Workers Alliance.

Younger generations expect that authenticity, Slevin said, something beyond what she called a “pseudo-sort-of-progressiveness.”

“They can see just how deeply intertwined the music is with the cause,” she said. “It’s not just, like, a second thought.”

Rodrigo took inspiration from Lilith Fair, the all-women festival that raised \$10 million for charity from 1997 to 1999. Sarah McLachlan, who founded the show to dispel the music industry’s notion they couldn’t book women consecutively, is listed as a special guest of Daisy Chain Fields.

Planned Parenthood National Director of Arts and Entertainment Caren Spruch recalled working on Lilith Fair. Concert outreach has long been an important tool to reach people “where they are,” she said.

That culture-shifting work grows more important during times like this, she acknowledged, when abortion clinics are closing in restrictive states and anti-abortion groups are pushing the courts to limit access to the drugs used in the most common method of abortion.

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Ministry of Commerce & Industry
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REMEDY

Owners of the affected vehicles will be contacted by Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L. and will be asked to schedule an appointment to inspect and update the software. The repair will be carried out at no cost to the customer.

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Facility equipped with advanced technologies, staffed with specialized professionals

Kuwait Sports Medicine Center rehabilitates athletes for return to competition

By Hamad Al-Shammari

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30, (KUNA): The Sports Medicine Center of the Public Authority for Sports provides comprehensive rehabilitation services to athletes recovering from physical and muscular injuries, helping them return to competition.

The center is equipped with advanced technologies and staffed with specialized professionals, offering athletes the medical and rehabilitation services required for full recovery.

Athletes must be registered with a sports federation under the Kuwait Olympic Committee, whether Kuwaiti or professional, to enroll in the center's comprehensive rehabilitation program.

Sports Medicine Center Director Waleed Al-Enezi told KUNA that the facility is among the oldest specialized centers in the Middle East, having opened in 1981.

He said the center initially focused on restoring injured athletes' physical condition before gradually expanding its services and facilities into a comprehensive sports medical center.

In 1992, the center was transferred to the Public Authority for Youth and Sports, with its services continuing to expand to meet athletes' rehabilitation needs.

Al-Enezi said the center's services go beyond injury rehabilitation to prevention, eye and dental examinations and physiological assessments covering athletes' vital functions and overall health.

He urged athletes, particularly young beginners, to undergo preventive medical examinations before starting sports, enabling clubs, coaches and parents to understand their physical condition and prevent future complications.

Acting Head of the Physical Therapy Department Salem Al-Mutairi told KUNA that the de-



Sports Medicine Center Director Waleed Al-Enezi



Acting Head of the Physical Therapy Department Salem Al-Mutairi



Physical therapist Jasem Mousa



Medical examination rooms equipped with the latest technology for electrotherapy.



An athlete during his rehabilitation process at the Sports Medicine Center.



The iron hall contains devices to strengthen the physical aspect and a walking track.

partment offers several services to support athletes' rehabilitation, including a fully equipped gym to improve physical fitness after injuries and surgery.

The department also provides electrotherapy to reduce pain caused by physical injuries or muscle weakness. Each athlete undergoes a comprehensive assessment before

treatment to identify the underlying problem and develop an appropriate rehabilitation plan.

Al-Mutairi said all cases treated at the center have received optimal care, enabling athletes to return to sports in their normal condition, or at an even better level than before.

Physical therapist Jasem Mousa

told KUNA that the department works as a team to restore athletes' previous activity levels, while he personally focuses on strengthening their mental resilience after injury.

He said many athletes experience fear and a loss of confidence following injuries, adding that understanding their daily routines, diet and life-

style helps provide more effective guidance and accelerate recovery.

Mousa stressed the importance of following physical therapists' instructions and adhering to the rehabilitation plan, noting that the center provides half of the treatment, while the athlete bears responsibility for the other half to complete the recovery process.

The center includes a gym, electrotherapy and oxygen therapy rooms, advanced medical examination rooms, nutrition and radiology departments, a blood-testing laboratory, and physiological, ophthalmology, dental and health-awareness sections.



Congo's Health Minister Roger Kamba administers an Ebola vaccine to a health care worker in Kisangani, Congo on Aug 27. (AP)

Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo spreads to 2 new health zones with a total of 60 areas now affected

BUNIA, Congo, Aug 30, (AP): The fastest-growing Ebola outbreak in history has spread to two new health zones in eastern Congo, with a total of 60 now affected, according to the latest government figures published on Friday.

The two new zones affected are Biena and Manguredjipa in Congo's North Kivu province, where the case fatality rate is much higher than the overall rate of 48%, due in part to delayed response efforts, according to Congo's Ministry of Health data.

It said the outbreak has recorded 5,794 confirmed cases, including 2,786 deaths, as it is spreading at an unprecedented speed, faster than efforts to track and slow it.

The outbreak is spreading under extremely difficult conditions, fueled by insecurity, displacement, a health workers' strike and intense population movements. The World Health Organization has said that it remains out of control and is on track to surpass the 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak, the deadliest on record, which killed more than 11,000 people, primarily in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Aid group Doctors Without Borders said on Friday it had opened a new treatment center in Beni North Kivu to enable a faster response in what it said was one of the hardest-hit areas.

While the large majority of cases are concentrated in northeastern Ituri province, North Kivu has an Ebola fatality rate of close to 69%, one of the highest in the country, according to the latest government figures.

The new center "enables the rapid treatment of patients, strengthens contact tracing and supports the health authorities in their efforts to contain the spread of the virus," Doctors Without Borders said in a statement.

Congo on Thursday began vaccinating people against Ebola as health authorities work to slow the fastest-growing outbreak of the disease in history.

Health workers and other front-line workers in the Ebola response are being prioritized to receive the Ervebo vaccine that was effective in past Ebola outbreaks caused by a different, more common type. Clinical trials are going on to find a licensed vaccine for the current outbreak.

"We have decided to use the Ervebo vaccine to protect first those who are on the front line," Health Minister Roger Kamba said at the launch of the vaccination campaign in Kisangani, the capital of Tshopo, which is one of the six provinces affected by Ebola in the east.

As of Tuesday, the country had recorded 5,713 confirmed cases, including 2,744 deaths, according to government figures. It is concentrated in Ituri province and is known to be the deadliest of all past 17 Ebola outbreaks in the country.

The outbreak is spreading under extremely difficult conditions, fueled by insecurity, displacement, a health workers' strike and intense population movements. The World Health Organization has said it remains out of control and is on track to surpass the 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola outbreak, the deadliest on record, which killed more than 11,000 people, primarily in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

More than 50,000 doses of the Ervebo vaccine have been received, according to Congo's state news agency.

The World Health Organization said last week that 70,000 doses of Ervebo had been approved for use in Congo.

About 50,000 doses are intended for frontline and health workers, while 20,000 doses will be used in a clinical trial to study whether the vaccine protects against Bundibugyo virus, which is causing the current outbreak and has no licensed vaccine nor treatment.

The vaccine is being used under a compassionate-use program, which allows a medical product to be used in a serious disease situation even though it has not been specifically approved for that particular use.

Health authorities said Ervebo could offer some protection against the Bundibugyo virus because the two viruses are related. But whether the vaccine can actually prevent illness in people infected with Bundibugyo Ebola is still being studied.

Placide Mbala Kingebezi, Africa CDC's director for research, clinical trials and innovation, said data will be collected during the vaccination campaign to measure how well the vaccine works.

Europe's summer drought threatens fish in rivers, lakes and farms

NOVI SAD, Serbia, Aug 30, (AP): Small boats stand idle on cracked ground in a shriveled side channel of the Danube River in northern Serbia, where the water has receded into a couple of shrinking ponds under pressure from extreme drought and heat. Fish circle in the shallow waters.

"This is all we have, these two little ponds that are full of juvenile fish," fisherman Dusan Jovanovic said. He said the fish are in danger because there is too little water and its temperature is over 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit).

"If they start to die, they will all die at once," Jovanovic said.

Persistent drought and scorching heat this summer have ravaged ecosystems and businesses across the region, from a lake in Slovenia and the side channel of the Danube in Serbia, to fish farms in Bosnia, the Czech Republic, Romania and Hungary.

The fish industry has been hit especially hard, with damage estimated in the millions of euros (dollars). This is adding to the already high toll caused by problems with energy and water supplies, devastated crops, losses in river traffic and trade.

Finding themselves unprepared for this year's crisis, countries and businesses are now pondering ways to minimize the effects of future extreme weather events that scientists have tied to human-induced climate change.

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



A boat sits on dry ground as water levels have dropped on the Danube River in Petrovaradin, Serbia on Aug 25. (AP)

Among the most affected are Hungary's roughly 27,000 hectares (67,000 acres) of fish ponds. The country's Agriculture and Food Economy Ministry said last week that "persistent heat and water shortages" had led to 1,588 hectares (3,924 acres) of those ponds drying out, causing the deaths of nearly 280 metric tons of fish at 20 farms.

The estimated revenue loss from the damage was 1.3 billion forints (\$4.2 million), the ministry said. Producers say replacing lost fish could

take years. Sometimes, operators were forced to drain one pond and divert its water to save fish in another, the Hungarian Aquaculture and Fisheries Inter-branch Organization said in early August.

For fish farmers in Romania, especially those cultivating carp, this year's blistering heatwave follows severe droughts in 2023 and 2024, the effects of which are still being felt, says Catalin Platon, president of ROMFISH National Association of Fish Producers.



NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, encapsulated in a protective payload fairing atop a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, is seen at sunrise on Aug 29, 2026, at Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. (AP)

NASA's newest space telescope launches on a quest to explore the hidden universe

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Aug 30, (AP): NASA's newest crown jewel blasted off Sunday to hunt for planets around other stars, explore secret dark energy and survey the cosmos like never before.

SpaceX launched the \$4.3 billion Roman Space Telescope shortly after daybreak aboard a triple-the-fire-power Falcon Heavy rocket from Kennedy Space Center. Roman blazed toward an observation point 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) away that's home to the Webb Space Telescope, one of NASA's other big-ticket eyes in the sky.

The bus-sized telescope - named

after the late Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief astronomer - will take more than three months to reach its destination. Once there, it will cast the widest gaze yet on the hidden parts of the universe from space, uncovering the unimaginable with unsurpassed speed.

"It's going to find thousands of supernovae, tens of thousands of planets, billions of galaxies and tens of billions of stars," said NASA science mission director Nicky Fox. "It's going to be able to do things that we've never been able to do before with its massive field of view."

Several minutes after the thunder-

ous launch, the rocket's two reusable side boosters descended tail-first in a thrilling scene, producing sharp sonic booms as they landed back at Cape Canaveral. Soon afterward, the telescope separated successfully from the rocket's upper stage, drawing applause from ground controllers.

Fox was in tears watching the action unfold. "It's such a good day!" she said.

Roman's field of view is more than 100 times wider than that of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, still churning out celestial glamour shots after 36 years in orbit.

Swiss Maestro celebrates career, family & tennis legacy

Federer inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame in emotional ceremony

NEWPORT, R.I., Aug 30, (AP): Roger Federer was brought to tears numerous times during his induction speech at the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

As sunset crept in at Newport’s grass horseshoe court at the entrance of the Hall, the 45-year-old Federer, dressed in a tan suit, strolled up to the stage for his speech, kissed and hugged his wife, Mirka, who had just introduced him, and realized what a challenge it was going to be.

“Oh man,” were the first words from the first man ever to win 20 Grand Slam singles titles. “This is very high level and a tough act to follow.”

He joked: “I don’t know if you have been practicing secretly” before praising his wife’s presentation of the 272nd Hall of Famer.

Federer was inducted along with

Mary Carillo, a broadcaster and former player, who was presented by Hall of Famer Billie Jean King.

Federer, called the “Swiss Maestro” during the Hall’s first red-carpet show, which began on center court about 90 minutes before the start of the induction ceremony, told the crowd that he “was a little stressed to be honest.”

During his nearly 30-minute speech, Federer, who showed fluid movement and a quick approach to the net with a solid one-hand backhand that earned him a record 237 consecutive weeks as the world’s No. 1 player in the ATP rankings, choked up a handful of times.

It began to get tough for him about halfway through, when he talked about his childhood hero, Stefan Edberg, when he said these are “happy tears.”



Roger Federer flashes a thumbs-up during his induction ceremony at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I. (AP)

Then he was brought to tears again when he spoke about his longtime coach Severin Luthi, before he wanted to thank Mirka for helping him on his journey.

“Now the Mirka part,” he said, pausing before breaking into tears. “Oh gosh, this such a mess.”

He tried to joke, but the tears took over like a quick return at the net.

“I need tissues and sunglasses, everything to protect me right now,” he told the crowd, fighting back more tears.

But, like rallying in winning one of his five consecutive U.S. Open titles from 2004-08 or reaching 10 straight Slam finals, which he won eight, Federer closed by thanking the ball boys and encouraged players to keep taking the game new levels.

Federer, who celebrated his 45th

birthday three weeks ago, won eight Wimbledon titles and is only one of eight men with a career Grand Slam. He captured six Australian Opens and one French Open, in 2009.

“I’m thrilled to have made the journey here,” he said. “It’s amazing to see yourself in a place like this. To immerse yourself in the history of the sport means a lot to me.”

Carillo, inducted as a contributor, is a member of the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

King said: “She has earned her spot in sports journalism and she has earned her spot in Newport.”

Carillo, 69, was touched standing in front of a handful of Hall of Famers.

“To walk through these gates here in the company of you people, that was beyond my dreams,” she said.



Addisu Gobena of Ethiopia reacts as he crosses the finish line at the Sydney Opera House to win the Sydney Marathon, in Sydney. (AP)

Romanchuk shatters mark

Gobena’s Sydney surge ends in record-breaking triumph

SYDNEY, Aug 30, (AP): Ethiopia’s Addisu Gobena surged to a record-breaking victory in the men’s race at the Sydney Marathon on Sunday.

In perfect conditions, Gobena won the hotly contested men’s race in two hours four minutes and 42 seconds more than a minute and a half quicker than the previous record on the hilly harborside course which attracted 40,000 competitors from around the world.

The 21-year-old Ethiopian, who was a javelin thrower until 2023, broke away with compatriot Chimdessa Debele Gudeta from the lead pack of six runners inside the final two kilometers and then surged ahead on the downhill finish to the Sydney Opera House to win by four seconds.

Gobena, who finished second behind Hailemariam Kiros last year, celebrated by punching the air after crossing the finish line.

“I am very happy. Last year I came second, I learnt from my mistake, and I went back home and I worked on my mistake to perform and break the record today,” said Gobena through an interpreter.

Lesotho’s Tebello Ramakongoana was third in 2:04:57.

The top seven finishers, including Kiros, were all inside Kiros’ record time of 2:06:06 set in last year’s race.

It was the Sydney Marathon’s second year as a major, a list of elite events that includes New York, London, Berlin, Boston, Tokyo and Chicago.

Peres Jepchirchir of Kenya broke the women’s field early and raced away to win by more than three minutes as she claimed her fourth marathon major.

Jepchirchir crossed the line in a time of 2:18:31, nine seconds behind Dutch multi-distance star Sidan Hassan’s mark set in last year’s event.

The Kenyan has now added the

Sydney title to her wins in Boston, New York and London.

Compatriot Irene Cheptai was second in 2:22:11, with Shure Demise Ware of Ethiopia another 22 seconds behind in third.

The event was hit by an embarrassing medal mix-up, with a design error resulting in Munich’s Allianz Arena being etched onto medals instead of Sydney’s Allianz Stadium.

Organizers acknowledged the mistake, which incorrectly depicted a landmark in Germany on medals intended to feature a Sydney landmark.

Daniel Romanchuk of the United States smashed the course record in taking his first Sydney Marathon men’s title, as the wheelchair events took place in tandem with the runners.

The 28-year-old, who won bronze at the Tokyo Paralympics in 2020, was never threatened as he bested the field early in the race and crossed the line in 1:26:50, more than 30 seconds better than the previous mark.

“I wasn’t sure what to expect throughout ... I decided to put in a test surge and see what response I got, and I just decided I made a little bit of space, I’ll see if I can hold it, and I was able to hold it,” Romanchuk said.

Britain’s David Weir was second at 1:31:33, with Luo Zingchuan of China two seconds further back in third.

Switzerland’s Manuela Schar won the women’s event also in a record time of 1:42:04.

Eden Rainbow-Cooper of Britain was second over five minutes behind Schar, with Tatyana McFadden of the United States in third.

“I haven’t had the best start to the season. I’m getting older, and it’s getting harder, and this is really surprising, and I’m really emotional,” Schar said about her margin of victory.

Mercury crushes Tempo

Han Xu leads Liberty past Sky

NEW YORK, Aug 30, (AP): Han Xu scored a career-high 19 points and the New York Liberty bounced back from a blowout loss to defeat the Chicago Sky 85-66.

The Liberty, held to its season-low point total in a 79-60 loss to Golden State on Friday, turned it around against Chicago, making 11 3-pointers and 20 of 22 free throws.

Breanna Stewart had 13 points and nine rebounds for New York (24-16). Leonie Fiebich, Rebekah Gardner and Jonquel Jones added 11 points each.

Natasha Cloud scored 14 points and Sydney Taylor had 13 for Chicago (15-25).

Han scored seven points in the final period to pass her career high of 17 set Aug. 1 in a 94-92 victory over Phoenix. The 6-foot-11 center from China is averaging 6.1 points per game after returning to the WNBA this season. She last played in the league in 2023.

She made 6 of 8 shots, including 2 of 3 3-pointers, and went 5-for-5 at the free-throw line.

Mercury 101, Tempo 69

In Phoenix, Noemie Brochart and Shay Ciezki scored 15 points each to lead six Phoenix players in double

digits and the Mercury beat the Toronto Tempo.

It was Phoenix’s second-highest win margin this season following 99-66 season-opener win over Las Vegas.

Sami Whitcomb scored 14 points, reserves Marta Suarez and Maddy Westbeld scored 13 and 12 respectively, and Lexi Held 11 for the Mercury (14-26) who ended its four-game losing streak.

Alyssa Thomas distributed 12 assists, the 11th game this season in which she’s dealt 10 or more assists.

Isabelle Harrison scored 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Kiki Rice scored 14 and Laura Juskaite 10 for the Tempo, who was coming off a 93-73 loss to Las Vegas on Friday night.

The Tempo (11-29) remains without leading scorer Marina Mabrey (20.8 points per game) who is still recovering from an adductor injury and has missed the last six games.

Phoenix built a 21-8 lead and never trailed. The Mercury led 27-17 after the first quarter and expanded the lead to 58-35 at the break. A 30-point third quarter made it 88-49 at the end of three.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Aug 30, (AP): Desperate South Africa gave New Zealand its first defeat of the year by 33-26 and evened their four-test series at 1-1 at Cape Town Stadium.

The world champion Springboks were determined to respond after they were stunned in the first test in Johannesburg and they were over the whitewash in just the second minute. They scored all three of their tries in the first half to build a pressure-inducing 24-14 lead by halftime.

Returning skipper Siya Kolisi said they paid last week for not taking their chances: “This week we did, and we also brought the fire.”

Goalkicker Cheslin Kolbe converted the tries plus four penalties to keep his side in control on the scoreboard. Kolbe was named the player of the match. He has made all 11 of his shots at the posts in the series.

New Zealand scored more tries - four - but struggled against the rush defense, in the breakdowns and lineouts.

The scrum was the decisive battleground in the first test in Johannesburg and Springboks coach Rassie Erasmus tried to fix that by swapping his entire front rows at the last minute. Hooker Deon Fourie didn’t have to wait to become the oldest Springbok test player a month before his 40th birthday.

But New Zealand’s scrum generally held firm.

It was the lineouts where the All Blacks malfunctioned at critical moments. Three attacking throw-ins by the All Blacks were spoiled by Eben Etzebeth, who made one steal. South Africa’s first two tries were plated by lineout mauls.

“South Africa were good tonight,



South Africa's Damian Willemse, center, is being tackled by New Zealand's Luke Jacobson, right, and his teammate George Bower during a second Test rugby match between South Africa and New Zealand, in Cape Town, South Africa. (AP)

really physical. They stopped a lot of our momentum,” New Zealand coach Dave Rennie told broadcaster SuperSport. “We’re confident we can bounce back.”

The teams return to Johannesburg for the third test next Saturday at 87,000-seat Soccer City.

The All Blacks came into the match perfect under new coach Rennie after wins in four tests and four matches against South African franchises, but they were set back in Cape Town after just 102 seconds.

South Africa mauled a lineout for 15 meters into the New Zealand 22 and Fourie, Jasper Wiese and Kolisi crashed up and center Jesse Kriel crashed over beside the posts.

From a midfield lineout, quick hands by New Zealand released winger Will Jordan, who slipped tackles by Kriel and Damian de Allende and put scrumhalf Cam Roigard in.

An offside penalty was slotted by Kolbe, who also converted a try by de Allende that began from another 15-meter lineout maul, and South Africa led 17-7.

New Zealand skipper Ardie Savea broke off the back of a lineout that led to fullback Damian McKenzie angling untouched into the right corner and the gap was back to three again after 30 minutes.

Kolbe made up for a shanked line kick when he chased a Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu chip and forced a

five-meter scrum in the 36th.

Erasmus immediately replaced Fourie and loosehead prop Gerhard Steenekamp with Malcolm Marx, the 2025 world player of the year, and Ox Nché, playing his 50th test. Quick pick-and-goes saw Kolisi bust through to help his side lead 24-14 into halftime.

After the break, New Zealand gave away penalties, including two turn-overs by Marx, and Kolbe kicked South Africa 30-14 ahead with 30 minutes to go.

It took New Zealand nearly 20 minutes to reply when winger Leroy Carter darted in. Savea’s 33rd test try and Love’s extras gave New Zealand a sniff, boosted by a yellow card to South Africa lock Lood de Jager.

Wallace makes the cut

Preece wins at Daytona as playoff field set

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla., Aug 30, (AP): Known for two violent wrecks at Daytona International Speedway, Ryan Preece experienced a much different ride at NASCAR’s hometown track Saturday night: a trip to victory lane.

Preece won the Cup Series regular-season finale at Daytona in overtime to secure the final playoff spot for Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing.

Preece, who ferociously flipped cars at Daytona in 2023 and again in 2025, moved to the front during a green-white-checkered finish when leader Zane Smith got bumped, started spinning and slammed into other cars on the last lap. Preece took the checkered flag under caution and edged Shane van Gisbergen for the 16th and final berth in the postseason finale.

“This is redemption,” said Preece, whose victory landed two RFK cars into the 16-driver Chase for the championship. Chris Buescher is the other.

“I’m just speechless right now,” Preece said. “Those guys, that 60 (car), we’re fighters. When you put our back against the wall, we swing hard. ... Last year, there were a lot of keyboard warriors saying I was nothing. Well, we just kicked their butts tonight.”

Preece expressed confidence all week, but he found himself needing a victory late to pass Shane van Gisbergen for the last playoff spot. Van Gisbergen finished 27th after pitting during the final caution and taking four tires.

“Shame we’re not in it,” said van



Ryan Preece celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. (AP)

Gisbergen, who won twice during the regular season but missed the playoffs under NASCAR’s new format that puts more emphasis on season-long results than victories.

Bubba Wallace and Austin Cindric locked up the other two available spots. Wallace, Cindric, van Gisbergen, Preece and Brad Keselowski started the night vying for the final three spots in the 10-race Chase.

Wallace, who was nearly a lock to make the 16-driver field when the green flag dropped, claimed his spot with a seventh-place finish in the opening stage. Cindric avoided trouble all night, finished sixth and advanced without much fanfare.

Daniel Suarez finished second in the race, followed by Michael McDowell, Tyler Reddick and Ricky

Stenhouse Jr.

Van Gisbergen won Stage 1 and created more of a cushion on Preece, who was caught up in a three-car crash as he neared the finish line. Preece raced his way back to the front in Stage 2 and picked up much-needed points with a second-place finish behind Ryan Blaney.

But it came down to the final lap. Preece needed to win to get in - and he pulled it off in dramatic fashion.

“I’m a racer. I know what it takes to build speed,” Preece said. “So every man and woman at RFK, thank you for giving me a rocket ship so I could go to the moon tonight.”

Tom Cruise is getting back behind the wheel for a follow-up to “Days of Thunder.” The 64-year-old Cruise announced Saturday at

Daytona he will reprise his role as NASCAR driver Cole Trickle.

He said he wants to show audiences “the speed, the excitement and all that danger and stuff.”

Anne Hathaway will co-star as a team owner and engineer in the film scheduled to be released by Paramount Pictures on June 2, 2028.

Seventeen Cup Series champion Jimmie Johnson will drive a familiar-looking No. 48 in his final Cup Series start. Johnson unveiled his paint scheme for his Toyota in the 2027 Daytona 500 by driving a ceremonial lap around the track before Saturday’s race. The gray-and-blue scheme melds the three main sponsors during Johnson’s record-setting racing career: Lowe’s, Ally and Carvana.

Johnson’s final start will come in the 69th running of the Daytona 500, scheduled for Feb. 21, 2027. Hendrick Motorsports loaned Johnson the No. 48 for his last ride.

“Seeing this car for the first time brings back a lifetime of memories,” Johnson said.

Riley Herbst was scratched from the race because of “lingering effects” from a crash last weekend. Harrison Burton replaced Herbst in the No. 35 Toyota and finished 12th.

Herbst was involved in a crash at New Hampshire Motor Speedway last Sunday, with his car backing into the outside barrier before being struck again.

The 10-race Chase for the championship begins at Darlington Raceway next Sunday.



Japanese star Yasuhiro key to Borgan's ambitions.

Club chairman Anwar Al-Otaibi to lead delegation

Borgan begins Bosnia camp ahead of Club World Cup

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Borgan's first-team handball squad will leave Kuwait at 6:30 p.m. today for Bosnia, where they will hold a training camp until September 20 as part of their preparations for the Handball Club World Cup in Cairo from September 25 to October 1.

The Asian champion is scheduled to play four friendly matches during the camp, with head coach Yaqoub Al-Mousawi looking to sharpen the team's technical and physical readi-

ness and ensure the players reach peak form before their historic appearance on the world stage.

Borgan will return to Kuwait on September 20 before traveling to Cairo on September 23 to complete its final preparations ahead of the tournament.

Club chairman Anwar Al-Otaibi will lead the delegation, which includes vice chairman Mohammed Nasser, handball director Abdulaziz Najeeb, head coach Al-Mousawi, fitness coach Saud Al-Sammak, assistant coach Nasser

Bukhadra and performance analyst Faisal Al-Nassar, in addition to the coaching staff, players and foreign professionals Angel Hernandez and Yasuhiro.

The Club World Cup draw placed Borgan in Group B alongside German powerhouse Füchse Berlin, Egyptian hosts Al Ahly and the winner of the preliminary-round clash between Hungarian side Veszprém and Australia's Sydney.

Group A features Spanish giant Barcelona, Morocco's Montada Derb Sultan, Brazil's Pinheiros and

the winner of the preliminary-round meeting between Egyptian club Zamalek and Los Angeles of the United States.

Borgan heads into the tournament after making club history by winning the Asian Handball Clubs Championship for the first time, earning its place among the world's leading handball teams.

The club has also moved aggressively to strengthen its squad ahead of a demanding season. Borgan have completed six domestic signings, bringing in Abdullah Al-

Attiah from Al-Qadsia and five players from Al-Salmiya — Hussein Salman, Bandar Al-Shammari, Mohammed Al-Bahr, Hassan Rajab and Yousef Rajab.

The new arrivals will add depth to a squad that already includes Japanese professional Yasuhiro and Angel Hernandez. The reinforcements reflect the club's strategy of building a competitive team capable of handling a crowded domestic and international schedule while maintaining the core of the side that delivered its historic Asian triumph.

Messi hits 4 as Miami romps over Montreal



Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi drives forward past CF Montreal midfielder Matthew Longstaff (8) during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Miami. (AP)

Nashville continues best start in MLS history

MIAMI, Aug 30, (AP): Lionel Messi scored three times in the second half to finish off his first four-goal effort in MLS play while adding an assist, and Inter Miami scored six unanswered goals in a 7-1 romp over CF Montreal on Saturday night.

Messi snapped a 1-1 tie in the 40th minute when he found the net for the 15th time, scoring off a free kick.

The reigning Golden Boot Award winner and league MVP scored for a 3-1 lead in the 52nd minute. His 17th and 18th goals of the season came in the 83rd and sixth minute of stoppage time with the final one also coming off a free kick. Messi began the day two behind Petar Musa of FC Dallas in the goals race.

Carlos Casimiro scored with a header off a corner kick by Telasco Segovia in the 20th minute to give Inter Miami a 1-0 lead. It was the first goal for the 34-year-old midfielder in his sixth league appearance and a career-best ninth assist for Segovia in his second MLS season.

Montreal tied it in the 37th minute on a goal by Fabian Herbers - his first of the campaign.

Luis Suárez scored his 11th goal with an assist from Messi - his 10th - for a 4-1 lead in the 80th minute and 18-year-old rookie Alexander Shaw made it 6-1 in the 89th with his first goal in three appearances and 37 minutes of play.



Vancouver Whitecaps' Oliver Larraz (8) gets past Sporting Kansas City's Jacob Bartlett to head the ball during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Kansas City, Kan. (AP)

Sam Surridge scored his 13th goal this season and added an assist, Hany Mukhtar also had a goal and an assist, and Nashville SC beat FC Cincinnati 4-0 for its fourth consecutive win.

Nashville (16-2-4) leads all of MLS with 52 points, the most in MLS history through the first 22 games of a season, and has one loss in its last 16 games dating to a 1-0 defeat at Chicago on April 4.

Bryan Acosta and Ahmed Qasem each added a goal for Nashville. Brian Schwake had six saves and his 10 shutouts this season are tied with Jonathan Bond and Yohei Takaoka for second most (Hugo Lloris, 11) in MLS.

Surridge opened the scoring

with a header in the 43rd minute. Cristian Espinoza played a cross, off a ball-ahead from Andy Najar, from near the right end line to Surridge, who went up high for the finish at the back post.

Oleksandr Svatok scored his second goal of the season in the fourth minute of stoppage time to help Austin FC beat the Portland Timbers 2-1.

Facundo Torres also scored a goal and Brad Stuver had four saves for Austin (6-10-6), which is unbeaten in three straight following a three-game losing streak.

Amahl Pellegrino added some insurance with a short-handed goal in the second half, Anders Dreyer had two assists and San Diego FC went on to beat the Los Angeles Galaxy 3-1.

Rookie Elias Achouri staked San Diego (8-8-6) to a 1-0 lead in the 11th minute with his second goal in four matches and it stood through halftime. Dreyer and Onni Valakari had assists.

Defender Reggie Cannon scored early in the second half and keeper Adam Beaudry wasn't tested for his first clean sheet in his third career start as the Colorado Rapids kept Real Salt Lake reeling with a 1-0 victory.

Cannon used his head to score off a corner kick from Youssef Maziz in the 58th minute for the winner. It was the second goal this season for Cannon and his fifth in 114 career matches. Maziz has two assists in his first four league appearances.

Thomas Müller had a goal and an assist, Brian White and Rayan Elloumi each added a goal and the

Vancouver Whitecaps beat Sporting Kansas City 3-0.

The Whitecaps (13-4-4) lead the Western Conference with 43 points and are tied with Eastern Conference-leading Nashville (52 points) for the best goal differential (plus-30) in all of MLS.

Idan Tokloanti and Liel Abada each scored a goal, Kristijan Kahlina had three saves, and Charlotte FC beat Atlanta United 2-0.

Allan Saint-Maximin, a designated player and former French youth international who signed with Charlotte on July 13, finished with two assists.

Cavan Sullivan scored in the second half to become the first 16-year-old in MLS history with goal contributions in four straight matches, and the Philadelphia Union beat the New York Red Bulls 3-1 to extend their unbeaten streak to seven.

Dejan Joveljić scored a goal in each half of his debut with Seattle, but Maren Haile-Selassie and Robert Lewandowski answered for Chicago as the Sounders and Fire played to a 2-2 draw.

Seattle grabbed the lead when Joveljić scored in the 12th minute, using assists from rookie Sebastian Gomez - his first - and defender Kalani Kossa-Rienzi - his second. It was the ninth goal of the season for Joveljić, who arrived this week after a \$6 million cash-for-player trade with Sporting Kansas City.

Nicolás Fernández scored his 14th goal this season and Matt Freese had five saves for New York City FC in a 1-1 tie with Toronto FC.

Egypt's medal tally reaches 36 at Mediterranean Games

TARANTO, Italy, Aug 30: Egypt added three more medals on Saturday to take its overall tally to 36 at the Mediterranean Games in Taranto, Italy.

The latest haul included a silver medal in table tennis and two bronze medals in judo.

Omar Assar and after suffering a narrow 3-2 defeat to Turkey's Yeginler and Harac in the final.

The Egyptian duo reached the final after beating Greece 3-2 in the round of 16, Slovenia 3-2 in the quarterfinals and

France 3-1 in the semifinals.

In judo, Safa Soliman won bronze in the women's over-78kg category after defeating Tunisia's Souar Al-Dhouadi 12-0 in the third-place match.

Hady Hussein also claimed bronze in the men's over-100kg division, beating Croatia's Mikita Svirid by ippon in the bronze-medal bout.

The three medals lifted Egypt's total to 36, including 11 gold, 12 silver and 13 bronze.



Hana Goda returns the shot during the mixed doubles final against Turkey.

Al Reziza elected new president of Saudi Arabia Football Federation

RIYADH, Aug 30: Bader Al Reziza has been elected president of the Saudi Arabia Football Federation for the 2026-2030 term after the federation's General Assembly approved his electoral slate yesterday.

The election was held during an extraordinary General Assembly meeting following the resignation of Yasser Al-Mishehal as federation president.

Al Rezizawill head the new board, with Louay Mishabi appointed vice president. The seven board members are Lamia Bahaian, Fahad Al-Mansour, Salman Al-Sudairi, Thamer Al-Saadoun, Omar Al-Juraisi, Nicolas Coeud and Gerard Roudy.

Al Reziza was the sole candidate to meet all the eligibility requirements. The Saudi federation's Elections Committee had previously disqualified the other candidates from the electoral process.



Newly-elected president of the Saudi Arabia Football Federation, Bader Al Reziza.

Best of the Rest

Hrgovic defeats Itauma: Filip Hrgovic absorbed blow after blow before stopping Moses Itauma in the ninth round to hand the 21-year-old British boxer his first loss and take the vacant IBF heavyweight world title.

Itauma's corner threw in the towel as he was being pummeled against the ropes, making the 34-year-old Hrgovic the first Croatian heavyweight champion.

Itauma had never needed to go past the sixth round in his first 14 professional bouts and tired visibly after taking command of the early rounds, with Hrgovic absorbing a barrage of hits even after being knocked down in the second round. (AP)

Dutch football federation withdraws support for Infantino

AMSTERDAM, Aug 30, (AP): The Dutch football federation became the latest nation to call for new leadership at FIFA on Sunday.

In a statement, the federation said it "no longer has confidence" in FIFA President Gianni Infantino. It offered to host an international summit to discuss the future of FIFA.

"We believe FIFA needs new leadership from 2027 onwards. But a new president alone is not enough. The way FIFA is governed must change as well," it said.

"We see too much power concentrated around the FIFA president and insufficient separation between the president and the FIFA administration," the federation said. "The process surrounding the now-withdrawn FIFA Forward Enterprise proposal was a turning point for us. Withdrawing the proposal was necessary, but it does not restore the trust that has been lost."

The federation said it shared "this position and our vision for the future of FIFA" in a letter to UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin.

UEFA, the European soccer confederation, is spearheading the backlash against Infantino over his failed World Cup sell-off plan that created a deep rift in the sport.

Many of its other member federations have withdrawn their support

for the FIFA leader, who is up for re-election in March 2027. Some have called for his resignation.

Infantino has not given any indication he plans to step down.

The Dutch federation said there is a need for a "new FIFA," not just a new president.

"For us, this discussion must be about more than Gianni Infantino. The key question is: what kind of FIFA does football need?" the federation said. "Our ambition is clear: a strong and credible FIFA that belongs to football, serves its members and develops the game around the world."

It said "this should not be a European plan for the rest of the world. We want to develop this new direction together with FIFA's 211 Member Associations and the confederations from all parts of the world."

The Dutch federation said it sees three priorities: improved governance with a better balance of power, putting soccer's social power at the heart of FIFA and investing more in soccer worldwide.

The federation said it wants to host the international summit, saying "the 2027 presidential election should not only be about who leads FIFA. First, we need to determine what kind of FIFA we want. Then we can identify the leadership needed to deliver that change."

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NEWS



Winner Joe Dean of England celebrates with the trophy on day four of the British Masters at The Belfry Hotel & Resort, Sutton Coldfield, England. (AP)

Sports

‘We have a group of players capable of turning our ambitions into reality’

Kuwait handball team steps up Asian Games preparations in Slovenia



Kuwaiti player is well defended by the Saudis during the Asian Championship preliminary round.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Kuwait’s senior national handball team is intensifying its preparations at a training camp in Slovenia ahead of the Asian Games in Japan, which begin on September 18.

Head coach Aron Kristjanssen is working to raise the squad’s physical and technical levels through an increasingly demanding training program, to have the players in peak condition when the competition begins.

The coaching staff is also using a series of friendly matches to assess the players, evaluate their response to tactical instructions and determine the final squad and lineup for the Asian Games.

The national team is scheduled to return to Kuwait on September 3 and will continue training locally before flying to Japan on September 9. The team will hold a nine-day camp there before beginning its Asian Games campaign.

Kuwait has been drawn in Group B with Bahrain, Iran, Kazakhstan and South Korea. The Blue will open against Iran on September 19, before facing South Korea on September 21 and Kazakhstan on September 22. They will conclude the preliminary round against Bahrain on September 23.

National teams’ director Faisal Sawan said the players have shown encouraging form during the camp and expressed confidence in the squad’s ability to deliver a strong performance in Japan.

“We have a group of players capable of turning our ambitions into reality. We hope they can guide us through the group stage and compete for a place among the top three teams,” Sawan said.

The 11th Asian Youth Handball Championship in Jordan concludes today with the final round of placement matches and the tournament final.

Kuwait’s youth team will take on Saudi Arabia at 2 p.m. at Princess Sumaya Hall in Amman in the fifth-place playoff. Both teams missed out on the top-four spots that secure qualification for the World Championship.

Kuwait previously defeated Saudi Arabia 30-28 in the preliminary round.

Jordan will meet Uzbekistan in the seventh-place playoff, while Syria secured ninth place after defeating India 49-24, leaving India at the bottom of the standings.

The semifinals saw Qatar defeat South Korea, while Bahrain overcame Iran. Qatar and Bahrain will contest the Asian title, with South Korea and Iran meeting for the bronze medal.

Kuwait opens U-20 Asian Cup qualifiers against Japan

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

PHNOM PENH, Aug 30: Kuwait’s U-20 national team begins its AFC U-20 Asian Cup qualifying campaign against Japan in Cambodia.

The group also features hosts Cambodia and Yemen, with the Blues aiming to make a strong start in their bid to return to the Asian Cup finals after a lengthy absence.

A total of 31 teams are competing in the group stage, divided into eight groups. The eight group winners and seven best runners-up will qualify for next year’s AFC U-20 Asian Cup finals alongside hosts China.

The six lowest-ranked teams among the fourth-placed sides will instead drop into the second-tier development stage. The 11 teams in that stage will be divided into three groups, with the top two from each group advancing to the final qualifying stage of the following qualification cycle.

Speaking at press conference, Kuwait U-20 coach Vjerko Mlinic acknowledged the difficulty of the group, saying all four teams would face strong competition.

“We will give everything we have to achieve the best possible results and qualify,” the Croatian coach said. He also expressed hope that Kuwait can produce a strong campaign and end their long wait to return to the Asian Cup finals.

Kuwait will face Yemen in their second Group G match the day after tomorrow before wrapping up the group stage against Cambodia next Friday.

The Blues stepped up their preparations with a training camp in the Netherlands last July before returning to Kuwait. They traveled to Thailand in mid-August and played several friendly matches to fine-tune their squad ahead of the qualifiers.

Players intensify training for the opener.



Players intensify training for the opener.

Madrid stays unbeaten as Chelsea wins 7-goal thriller against Brighton



Malaga’s Chupete, left, challenges Real Madrid’s Dean Huijsen during the La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Malaga in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Freiburg routs Werder

MADRID, Aug 30, (AP): Jude Bellingham starred as Real Madrid made it three wins from three under José Mourinho on Sunday while the team’s former coach Xabi Alonso, now at Chelsea, also enjoyed another victory.

Bellingham scored one goal and created another, and Kylian Mbappé and substitute Arda Güler also scored, as Madrid eased to a 4-0 home win over promoted Malaga, back in La Liga after eight years.

Chelsea emerged with a 4-3 win over Brighton in the Premier League.

Bellingham, who scored Madrid’s first goal of the season, got the first again Sunday after surging past a couple of Malaga defenders and shooting past goalkeeper Alfonso Herrero from a narrow angle. Some fans in the stadium responded by singing the Beatles hit “Hey Jude.”

He forced the ball over again shortly afterward, heading the rebound from an attempt by Mbappé. Malaga defender Carlos Puga’s desperate attempt to clear struck Herrero’s back to go in.

Mbappé effectively sealed the result inside the first half hour when he scored with a volley to Trent Alexander-Arnold’s cross.

Alexander-Arnold made his first start at right back after watching new signing Denzel Dumfries take his place in the opening two games.

Bellingham struck the post and again went close in the second half, before Güler competed the scoring thanks to unselfish play from Vinicius Júnior.

Alonso watched as his Chelsea team prevailed 4-3 over Brighton in a wild English league game earlier.

Cole Palmer starred for Chelsea, but Alonso will have concerns about the team’s defense - and an injury to key midfielder Moises Caicedo.

Argentina’s Emi Martínez played in goal for Chelsea, which announced his transfer from Aston Villa just hours before.

Freiburg routed Werder Bremen 4-1 in the early match.

Defending champion Bayern Munich opened the league with a 5-1 rout of Stuttgart on Friday.

Gent dealt Belgian Pro League champion Club Brugge its first defeat of the season, 2-1 thanks to a late goal from Ibrahima Cissé, who was sent off in stoppage time for striking an opponent with his elbow.

Brugge’s Portuguese winger Carlos Forbs was sent off earlier - before Cissé’s 85th-minute headed winner - as both Flanders rivals finished with 10 men.

Sporting Charleroi leads with four wins from four games.

Atletico Madrid put its off-the-field problems behind it to win 3-1 at Sevilla.

In Germany, Elversberg got its first ever season in the Bundesliga off to a great start with a 3-2 win over 2024 champion Bayer Leverkusen.

Elsewhere, there were further losses for big-spend-

ing Tottenham in the Premier League and Fiorentina in Serie A.

Julián Álvarez was not even on the bench as Atletico Madrid strolled to victory in Seville.

Atletico insisted on Thursday that Álvarez will not be sold to Barcelona. But the Argentina star didn’t train with his teammates for most of the week.

He was also left out of Atletico’s squad for the Spanish league opener and was booed by the team’s fans in its match Sunday, when he came on as a substitute.

In the forward’s absence, Alex Baena scored twice and Ademola Lookman the other as Atletico raced into a 3-0 halftime lead.

It was Sevilla’s first loss of the season.

American forward Cole Campbell scored in his first league match for Elversberg, which came close to giving up a three-goal lead.

Elversberg, a town with 13,000 inhabitants in the southwest German state of Saarland, was hosting its first Bundesliga match and got off to a great start with goals from Lukas Petkov and Campbell, with less than nine minutes on the clock.

David Mokwa extended the hosts’ advantage right at the start of the second half but Patrik Schick cut the deficit with a backheeled goal in the 77th and Christian Kofane scored at the start of stoppage time to set up a nervy finale.

Elversberg, which was playing at fourth-tier level until 2022, finished runner-up in Germany’s second division last season to earn promotion to the Bundesliga for the first time.

Kuwait seeks strong finish against Bahrain in FIBA Asian Cup qualifiers

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

DUBAI, Aug 30: Kuwait faces Bahrain at 7 p.m. today in the final round of the first window of the FIBA Asian Cup qualifiers at Shabab Al Ahli Club Hall in Dubai. Oman will meet Nepal at 4 p.m. in the other Group B match.

The Blues head into the game on five points from two wins and one loss. Kuwait defeated Oman and Nepal but fell to the UAE, and will now look to finish the first window on a high against Bahrain, who have also recorded two victories and sit on four points.

Kuwait, the UAE and Bahrain have already secured their places in the second window of the qualifiers, scheduled for November.

New Kuwait coach Vassilios Bratsiakos is targeting an improved performance against Bahrain, one of the group’s strongest sides. The Blue have benefited from two days of rest, giving the squad additional time to recover ahead of the decisive encounter.



Kuwaiti players combine to block a shot.

After the win over Nepal in the previous round, Bratsiakos said injuries had ruled out several influential players. The Greek coach is hopeful of having a full-strength squad available today as Kuwait aims to produce a strong performance and secure another positive result.

Al-Sulaibikhat eyes first win

Qadsia aims to maintain league momentum against Kuwait Club

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Kuwait Club and Qadsia meet at Mohamed Al-Hamad Stadium at 8:55 p.m. Monday in a highly anticipated second-round clash of the Zain Premier League. Earlier, Al-Sulaibikhat will host Al-Shabab at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at 6:40 p.m.

The meeting between the defending champion Kuwait Club and Qadsia is an early test for both sides, which enter the match with different objectives and circumstances.

Kuwait Club was held to a dramatic 3-3 draw by Al-Arabi in the opening round, conceding three goals before scoring a stoppage-time equalizer. The result came shortly after the club dismissed Portuguese coach Alexandre Santos and appointed Syrian Firas Al-Khatib to lead the team.

Al-Khatib will be looking for a much-improved defensive display against Qadsia, with the defending champion unable to afford another lapse at the back. A victory would restore confidence and help the team move on from dropping two points in the opener.

Qadsia, meanwhile, is chasing a second straight victory under experienced coach Mohammed Ibrahim. It began its campaign with a 2-1 comeback win over Al-Fahaheel and will be eager to maintain its momentum against a Kuwait Club side that has proved difficult to overcome in recent seasons.

Ibrahim can draw confidence from the performances of both his local players and foreign signings in the opening round as Qadsia continue its bid for a league title that has eluded them for a decade.

Al-Sulaibikhat will be aiming to claim its first Premier League victory of the season when it faces Al-Shabab.

The newly promoted side suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat to Al-Sahel in the opening round and will be determined to respond on home turf.

Al-Shabab, meanwhile, arrive with confidence after beating Al-Jahra 3-2 in its opening match. It will look to build on that performance and make it two wins from two.