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First Deputy PM honors officers behind historic drug bust



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

First Deputy Prime Minister, decision on those stripped of citizenship a positive step

THE appointment of those whose citizenship was revoked at Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) on a five-year contract is a step in the right direction. It is part of the efforts of the country to address the social and economic challenges being faced by those who lost their citizenship for various reasons.

Employing those whose citizenship was revoked is far better than bringing in foreign workers who are unfamiliar with the social traditions and geography of the country.

Those whose citizenship was revoked and the stateless residents (Bedouns) are more deserving of these vacant positions, as they have been residing in Kuwait their whole life, and they know no other homeland. They are better equipped to serve Kuwait than others.

It is high time to resolve the issues this segment of people has been facing, especially since many of them have professional experience and academic qualifications. Their social stability will remarkably reduce the security and economic problems.

I previously stated that employing Bedouns after training them at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) and vocational institutes will help rectify the demographic imbalance and contribute to lowering crime rates.

The widespread unemployment and scarcity of jobs are pushing some of those

affected into illegal activities to earn a living and cover their families' expenses.

According to official reports, the crime rate among Bedouns has reached 50 percent. Although most of these crimes are misdemeanors, they indicate a sense of desperation in finding a legitimate source of income.

If jobs are provided to them, they will experience social stability, thus, significantly reducing the security and financial burdens of the state.

Extending the successful initiative of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef in employing non-Kuwaitis at KFF to other government institutions is a progressive reform strategy.

These individuals spend most of their income in Kuwait. If they undergo technical training, they could help fill the gaps in many sectors, ultimately benefiting the country.

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@Ahmedaljarallah

Ahmed aljarallah

ahmed@aljarallah.com



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Ministry of Interior photo
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah during the honoring ceremony of personnel behind the historic drug seizure.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef calls for full probe

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah honored the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) personnel who thwarted the largest drug operation of its kind in

the history of Kuwait – the manufacture and distribution of the psychoactive substance, Lyrica.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior revealed that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef granted an incentive to the honorees in recognition of their security efforts and the efficiency and vigilance they demonstrated, which led to the discovery

of the intricacies of the case and arrest of those involved.

According to Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, the full support of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is an incentive for the ministry personnel in their fight against criminals.

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NO LICENSE? EXPECT A SHUTDOWN

Kuwait casts wide net on businesses

Municipality leaves no commercial stone unturned

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Director of the Engineering Licensing Department at the Kuwait Municipality branch in Hawally Governorate Eng. Khaled Buarki confirmed that the commercial inspection campaign is not limited to a certain sec-

tor or activity, as it covers all licensed commercial activities, which require municipal and technical approvals.

In an interview with Al-Akhbar TV, Buarki revealed that the department is in charge of monitoring building permits, overseeing shop licenses, and ensuring technical approval for commercial activities.

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Cancer monitoring steps up

Kuwait tightens controls on narcotics, cosmetic surgery

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi has issued a series of decrees tightening controls on narcotic and psychotropic substances, overhauling cosmetic surgery rules, and creating new departments to speed up medical shipments and strengthen cancer surveillance.

A new decree permits cultivation of narcotic plants only under a Health Ministry license, strictly for medical or scientific research and only for specified entities, Al-Seyassah reported. It sets procedures

for licensing, documentation, seed and plant preservation, movement tracking, site security and continuous monitoring, and requires periodic reports and coordinated handling of crop loss or damage.

A second order regulates possession and dispensing of psychotropic substances on international aircraft and ships, specifying allowed quantities for first-aid and emergencies, defining custody responsibilities,

Continued on Page 4



Ministry of Defense photo
Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah receives UK Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed.

Kuwait DM, UK envoy review military ties

Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah discussed with UK Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed matters of mutual interest, particularly military affairs.

The Ministry of Defense said in a press statement Monday that Sheikh Abdullah and Amba-

sador Rasheed, discussed ways to strengthen military cooperation between Kuwait and the United Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by the British Defense Attache and Commander of the British Military Mission. (KUNA)

Courts back in 'full swing' as new judicial year opens

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The courts resume full operation Tuesday, signaling the end of the judicial recess and start of the new judicial year.

It is expected that the new judicial year will be the beginning of a more advanced phase in the justice system due to the implementation of the new Judicial Organization Law.

Lawyers pointed out that the new judicial year serves as a litmus test for the legislative amendments, emphasizing that the success of any legislative development depends on its impact on the speed of case processing

and streamlining procedures.

Attorney Inam Haidar affirmed that the resumption of the full operation of the courts is an important start of the new judicial year that holds many challenges and aspirations. She praised the efforts exerted by Minister of Justice Nasser Al-Sumait in developing the justice system.

Haidar indicated that the new Judicial Organization Law is a milestone in the development of the Kuwaiti judiciary, since its provisions are aimed at keeping pace with developments and raising the efficiency of the judicial system.

She added that the next phase requires continuous development of services provided to litigants and lawyers, particularly in the electronic sphere, in order to save time and effort and facilitate access to judicial services.

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Kuwait slams Iranian attacks on UAE, Jordan

Trump threatens Iran with heavy blow

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (Agencies): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday voiced Kuwait's strong condemnation of two separate Iranian attacks – a drone strike on the United Arab Emirates and a missile barrage on Jordan – describing them as blatant violations of sovereignty and threats to regional security and stability. Kuwait denounced what it called a

"heinous" Iranian drone attack on the UAE, saying it violated Emirati sovereignty and endangered the safety of citizens, residents and visitors, the ministry said in a statement.

It reaffirmed Kuwait's full solidarity with the UAE and its support for all measures the Emirati authorities take to safeguard their sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.



Motorcyclists pass a billboard depicting U.S. President Donald Trump inside a catering container alongside a magician and the words "No tricks! Blink, you're gone," in downtown Tehran, Iran, Monday, Aug. 31, 2026. (AP)

The UAE had earlier strongly condemned the Iranian drone attack, which it said was intercepted by air-defence systems over its territorial waters, calling it a serious escalation and a breach of international law and the UN Charter.

Emirati officials stressed that the country would not tolerate any threat to its security and sovereignty, and that it retains its full right under international law to respond in order to protect its people, territory and national interests. The UAE called for an immediate halt to such attacks and full compliance with a cessation of hostilities, holding Iran fully responsible for the incident and its consequences.

In a separate statement, the Foreign Ministry expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of Iranian missile attacks on Jordan early Monday, saying they too constituted a blatant violation of Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a threat to regional security and stability.

The ministry reiterated Kuwait's full solidarity with Jordan and its support for Jordanian measures aimed at safeguarding sovereignty and protecting the kingdom's security and territorial integrity.

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4 'Defense partnership growing'



8 Boursa Kuwait leads the discussion on building a sustainable & active market for ETFs



9 NBK redefines banking engagement through an exceptional digital presence



Fajr	04:04	Asr	15:22
Sunrise ..	05:25	Maghrib ..	18:11
Zohr	11:48	Isha	19:32

Amir congratulates Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan on Independence and National Days

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to the King of Malaysia Sultan Ibrahim, on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness wished the King long-lasting health and Malaysia and its friendly people further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to the King of Malaysia Sultan Ibrahim, on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness wished the King long-lasting health and Malaysia further progress and prosperity.

PM congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to the King of Malaysia Sultan Ibrahim, on his country's Independence Day.



HH the Amir



HH Crown Prince



HH the PM

KYRGYZSTAN

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president well-being, and his country and people progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of congratulations to President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov on his country's national day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president well-being, and the people of Kyrgyzstan further progress and prosperity.

PM congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable of congratulations to President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov on the country's National Day.

Kuwait Amir receives letter from Yemen council head



Crown Prince Diwan photo

The message from Chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council, Rashad Mohammad Al-Alimi, was delivered to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah by Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Afrah Al-Zouba.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday a written letter from the Chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council, Rashad Mohammad Al-Alimi, regarding ways to strengthen the Kuwaiti-Yemeni bilateral relations across various fields.

The message was delivered to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah by Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Afrah Al-Zouba.

The meeting was attended by the Head of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and senior officials.



PM Diwan photo

HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the letter from UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi.

New tech in fish breeding to enhance food security

KISR opens first advanced marine hatchery



KISR Director General Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan is briefed on the new marine hatchery.



KUNA photos

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) announced Monday the opening of Kuwait's first advanced marine hatchery at the Salmiya Marine Research Station to boost food security and development.

KISR Director General Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan said in a press statement that the hatchery transitions the institute's accumulated fish farming expertise into an integrated system supporting production, technology transfer and investor partner-

ships.

He added that KISR's decades of research and technical experience have led to developing breeding techniques for economically vital marine fish, improving larvae and fingerling production, and adapting them to local environmental conditions.

The new facility features the latest technologies, forming a comprehensive system covering broodstock care, egg and live food production, incubation and fingerling production, alongside quarantine facilities and seawater recycling systems, Al-Humaidan explained.

He noted the project's critical role in supporting food security and reducing re-

liance on imported fingerlings, especially since local sources meet only about 30 percent of Kuwait's fish needs, with the rest imported.

The hatchery paves the way for a broader private sector role by transferring technical knowledge and providing new investment opportunities in aquaculture to turn scientific knowledge into economic value, he pointed out.

Al-Humaidan expressed appreciation to KISR's researchers, technicians and engineers for completing the project, also praising the cooperation of the executing company, represented by its CEO Engineer Mubarak Al-Wuqayan.

MEWRE eyes 4 substations for Wafra Agricultural area

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy will install four main high-voltage substations to develop the Wafra Agricultural Area and provide the necessary feeders and accessories for the power plants.

The ministry launched the tendering process for the substation project through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT).

CAPT decided to postpone approval pending receipt of a letter from the ministry outlining the discussed amendments. This will give more time for the announcement of the tender, setting the deadline for submitting and closing bids, preparation of a technical recommendation, and awarding the contract to the bidder that meets the technical requirements.

The project aims to prevent power outage in Wafra Agricultural Area through the provision of energy needed for expanding the high-voltage electrical network.

Meanwhile, the ministry will soon complete the tender process for the maintenance of street lighting equipment in the Capital Governorate, at a cost of KD1.349 million.

The Distribution Networks Sector in the ministry will implement the project, which includes periodic maintenance of the main and secondary street lighting equipment, fault detection and repair, handling traffic accidents and installation of light poles in dark areas.

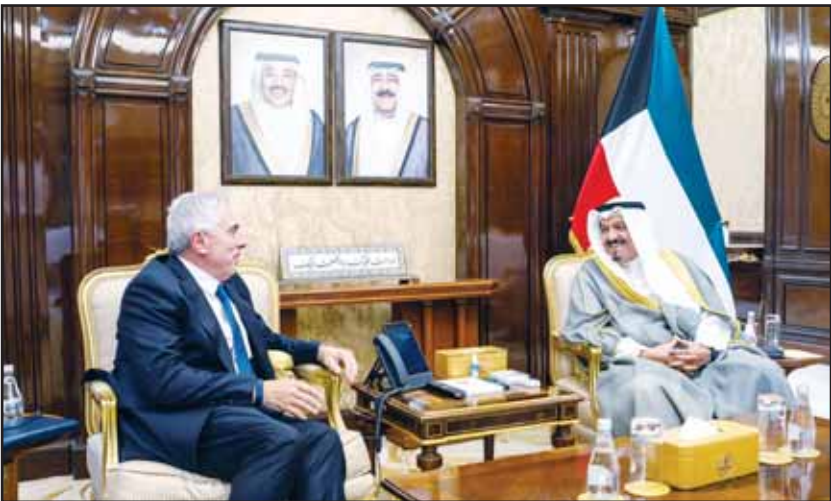
PM receives invitation to Abu Dhabi Sustainability Summit

KUWAIT CITY , Aug 31, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Monday UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi, who delivered an invitation from UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum to attend the

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week Summit.

The Prime Minister also received Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Ghadi Al-Khoury.

The meetings were attended by the Acting Director of the Prime Minister's Diwan, Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.



PM Diwan photo

HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah welcomes the Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Ghadi Al-Khoury.

Other Voices

Facebook's largest fine in history ... and gripe water

By Ahmad alsarraf

What unethical practices did Meta, the company that owns Facebook and Instagram, employ that forced it to settle with the US government and pay a fine exceeding \$18 billion, which is the largest fine in history?

Meta, the company that owns Facebook and Instagram, was accused of deliberately engaging in unethical practices that led children to become addicted to its platforms, despite the company's awareness of the potential risks and harms.

The company illegally collected vast amounts of data about children's behavior through deceptive methods, resulting in psychological harm and raising concerns comparable to those associated with child sexual exploitation.

The company pledged to make changes to its platforms, including setting daily usage limits and prohibiting nighttime use. These measures aim to curb excessive and harmful use among young children and those with limited understanding, who may react quickly without fully realizing the dangers posed by messages and advertisements on these platforms.

The company also pledged to stop sending notifications and alerts at night and while children are at school, encouraging them to take breaks from social media. Meta will limit the use of features that psychologists associate with negative social comparisons, such as beauty filters, deceptive filters, and like counts, all of which can contribute to prolonged screen time.

This swift settlement was reached to prevent the company, valued at more than \$1.47 trillion, from being negatively associated with social media and to avoid costly legal battles with state governments.

This massive settlement comes amid a broader wave of lawsuits against the

company concerning child safety. Meta previously lost a case in Los Angeles related to accusations that its platforms were designed to be addictive.

It is no surprise, then, that the company's quarterly revenue exceeded \$61 billion, representing a 28 percent increase year over year.

Meta's acceptance of the settlement could prompt other social media companies, such as Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube, to reach similar settlements and make changes to their products.

A number of parents of teenagers have filed lawsuits against social media platforms, accusing them of harming their children's mental well-being and driving them towards addiction.

Courts in several U.S. states are hearing cases brought by school districts accusing these companies of creating a public nuisance because of the costs schools have incurred as a result of students' social media addiction.

Meta has faced significant difficulties in several lawsuits, losing its first case involving a personal injury claim in March. In another case, a judge ordered Meta to pay nearly \$1 billion in fines for violating consumer protection laws.

It is ironic that all of this is happening and that billions of dollars are being spent by companies that, if they were to disappear from the world today, we would lose little and perhaps find that life would be better.

It was no surprise that the stock market reacted positively to the settlement, having anticipated a harsh trial and potentially hundreds of billions of dollars in compensation. Similar cases and legal actions are also underway in the European Union.

In our countries, parents used to give their children "gripe water" to calm them when they kept crying. Later, the use of gripe water was discontinued after it was discovered that it contained alcohol.

Today, when a child cries, the family gives them a mobile phone to keep them quiet. This is where addiction begins, and this is how young minds can begin to suffer.



email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw



KUNA photo

Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi receives the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez.

Minister hails Turkish envoy for bolstering Kuwait, Turkiye ties

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi received on Monday Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez on the occasion of the conclusion of her diplomatic tenure in the country.

In a press statement issued by the Ministry of Health, Minister Al-Awadhi expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Sonmez for the efforts she

made during her tenure, praising her contributions to strengthening and consolidating cooperation between Kuwait and Turkiye in the health sector.

He wished her continued success and prosperity in her future assignments.

Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Health Services Dr. Hisham Klander attended the meeting.

Amend sports laws to up Kuwait int'l image

“SPORTS are not merely a hobby but a social and national identity that begins at home, in schools, and within the community. This is why many countries are working to develop sports into a productive industry and an important part of society,” columnist Sheikh Eng. **Fahad Dawood Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“In several countries, including Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Spain, the football league is divided into five or six tiers. Football begins at the amateur level and progresses toward professionalism, with each stage having its own objectives and regulations. The Head of the Kuwait Football Association, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef, is making commendable efforts to elevate the game. However, the Kuwaiti football league is still divided into only two tiers - the Premier League and Kuwaiti Division One.



Al-Sabah

“Nevertheless, football, and sports in general, could be further developed to match systems in other countries by introducing a four-tier league structure and implementing a professional sports system. Kuwait has many talented young people striving for excellence. In previous articles, I discussed the privatization of sports and sports clubs and how it can contribute to financial self-sufficiency through a professional sports system, as is the case in other countries.

“Amending the laws and regulations governing sports across all fields is necessary to enhance Kuwait’s standing on the global stage. Sports identity is an integral part of national identity. Therefore, ensuring that sports have a strong presence within the social environment has become essential.

“Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef stated, “Sports are not merely physical competition, but they are a fundamental pillar that reflects the culture of societies and shapes the national identity of youth.” Sports are an integral part of the development process that Kuwait is pursuing. All relevant parties must work diligently to realize Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef’s profound vision, which extends beyond the playing field to encompass important social and cultural dimensions.”

Also:

“In 2003, the Americans overthrew Saddam Hussein’s regime and dismantled the Ba’ath Party, dissolving the army and other security institutions. This created a vast security vacuum that placed Iraq in a perilous situation,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“There were no effective institutions capable of maintaining order, allowing armed groups, militias, and sectarian factions to become increasingly active, each pursuing its own interests. Citizens could no longer rely on the state to guarantee their rights; instead, they sought protection through political parties or sectarian affiliations.

“This is where the danger began. When the state weakens, forces capable of providing security, services, or protection rise to prominence. As armed groups proliferate, the state’s ability to control weapons diminishes, while corruption begins to permeate its institutions. When obtaining a job, contract, or public service becomes contingent on political or sectarian loyalty, citizens’ trust in the state erodes even further.

“When security deteriorated, the ISIS terrorist organization became active in Iraq. However, armed factions resisted it in cooperation with American forces. Iraq has gone through a series of phases that have weakened the foundations of the state, including the fall of the regime, the weakening of institutions, the emergence of a security vacuum, the rise of local armed forces, the proliferation of weapons, widespread corruption, and foreign intervention.

“As a result, reforming the state has become increasingly difficult, while those who possess weapons have been able to protect themselves.” The new Prime Minister, Ali Zaidi, decided to confront corruption and ensure that weapons remain under state control rather than in the hands of armed factions, ahead of the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq on September 30. Not all factions agreed to surrender their weapons. Some accepted, while others refused. Armed factions possess significant leverage both within and outside state institutions.

“What will happen after the Americans leave Iraq? Will a civil war erupt, and will neighboring countries be affected? Iran will certainly intervene and mobilize its allied factions. Iran is working to strengthen the position of its allies in Iraq, which remains one of its most important spheres of regional influence, particularly after the decline of some of its proxies in the region.”

□ □ □

“Ideas, theories, and ideologies that are not based on sound intellectual foundations and fail to respond to societal transformations and the demands of the times are often closely tied to their founders. They derive much of their strength from the founder’s presence, steadfast character, and leadership abilities,” former Bahraini Minister of Labor and Social Development **Abdulnabi Al-Shua’la** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“When the founder passes away, the appeal of some ideologies begins to fade, exposing their contradictions and weaknesses. History is replete with such

examples. Perhaps the fate of Leninist communist ideology after the death of its founders is one of the most prominent examples. It seems that the theory of “Guardianship of the Jurist” (Velayat-e Faqih), in its “absolute” form, will be no exception to this rule.

“Khomeini re-engineered its original version and presented it publicly in 1970 through a series of lectures he delivered in Najaf, which were later compiled into the book “Islamic Government”. Based on this principle, Khomeini established a new political system in Iran following the fall of the Shah’s regime in 1979. The concept of the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist (Velayat-e Faqih) was not entirely Khomeini’s invention. Some Shiite scholars had previously developed a limited understanding of the concept, primarily concerning the care of minors, endowments, and certain public interests. However, Khomeini expanded the theory into a comprehensive form of political authority that evolved within the Iranian system into “absolute guardianship,” granting the jurist powers that supersede those of elected constitutional institutions.

“The success of the Iranian Revolution gave the theory exceptional prominence. Then came the Iran-Iraq War, which compelled Iranians, regardless of their political leanings, to rally behind their leadership in defense of their homeland. The revolution found fertile ground in the despotism of the Shah’s regime, the disillusionment following the 1967 defeat, and the escalating tensions between the Western and Soviet blocs. However, from its inception, the theory faced strong opposition from Shiite scholars and religious authorities, both within and outside Iran, particularly in Najaf.

“The objection was not to the role of the jurist in guiding society, but rather to the transformation of religious authority into absolute political power, concentrating supreme authority in the hands of one person over the state, the army, security, judiciary, and foreign policy. The doctrine of the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist (Velayat-e Faqih), in its practical Iranian form, transformed Shi’ism from a matter of doctrine and jurisprudence into a transnational political project based on the politicization and militarization of sectarian identity under the banner of “exporting the revolution.”

“From this project emerged armed groups operating parallel to national state institutions, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, some factions of the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq, and the Houthis in Yemen. After Khomeini’s death in 1989, Ali Khamenei assumed leadership of the regime. Although his religious and jurisprudential credentials were contested, he compensated for this by building a cohesive security, military, and economic network, placing the Revolutionary Guard at the heart of the system.

“Under Ali Khamenei, Iran’s proxy policies expanded, consolidating Iranian influence in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen. But this expansion contained the seeds of its own decline. It drained Iran’s resources, heightened concerns among Arab states, and tied the interests



Shua’ala

of Arab Shiites to a regional project that did not necessarily serve their national interests. The military repercussions that followed the “Al-Aqsa Flood,” the fall of the Syrian regime, and the decline of Hezbollah’s influence have led to a shrinking of the geopolitical space that Tehran had long claimed to control.

“The assassination of Ali Khamenei on February 28, along with several members of his family and senior Iranian leaders, created a dangerous vacuum at the heart of the regime. Days later, the Assembly of Experts announced the selection of his son, Mojtaba Khamenei, as the new Supreme Leader, amid indications that the Revolutionary Guard had exerted pressure to expedite the succession and prevent the regime from collapsing.

“However, the selection of his son to succeed his father revealed a stark contradiction in a system founded on the overthrow of the monarchy and the rejection of hereditary succession. Furthermore, Mojtaba Khamenei lacks the religious authority, leadership experience, and popular appeal that Khomeini possessed, as well as the influence his father accumulated over decades. Since his appointment, Mojtaba Khamenei has not appeared in public, although official messages and directives have been issued in his name. Regardless of the reasons for his absence, his situation has paved the way for the Revolutionary Guard to become the most influential force in running the state and shaping its decisions.

“Thus, the situation encapsulates the crisis of the theory - an invisible Supreme Leader, religious institutions providing formal legitimacy, and a military force controlling the levers of power. In this way, the system of Velayat-e Faqih (Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist) has transitioned from rule by the jurist through the Revolutionary Guard to rule by the Revolutionary Guard in the name of the jurist. The theory of absolute Velayat-e Faqih has entered a phase of decline, although its final collapse may neither be imminent nor easy.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

KNG health clubs for officers physical fitness

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Undersecretary of the Kuwait National Guard Lieutenant General Hamad Al-Barjas inaugurated health clubs designated for non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel at the General Presidency, Al-Sumoud, and Al-Tahrir

camp, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Lieutenant General Al-Barjas emphasized that the opening of these health clubs reflects the National Guard leadership’s commitment to the health and physical well-being of its personnel across all ranks by providing a

comprehensive environment for health and fitness.

He noted that physical fitness is a fundamental pillar in developing capable military personnel who can meet the demands of their duties and fulfill their responsibilities.

Fire erupts in multiple cars parked in dirt lot

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Fire broke out in several vehicles in a dirt lot in Farwaniya early Monday morning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) revealed that firefighters from the Farwaniya Fire Station rushed to the location and extinguished the fire. No injuries were reported.

Meanwhile, the General Traffic Department in the Ministry of Interior achieved remarkable results in combating noise pollution caused by vehicles through intensified monitoring and strict enforcement of regulations and penalties for violating vehicles and garages that install devices causing such noise, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These measures have had a positive impact on roads and residential areas, as the noise pollution caused by vehicles has decreased.

According to a security source, the department did not record violations related to noise pollution in its recent campaign, which is part of its ongoing traffic campaigns in all governorates.



A fireman extinguishes fire which erupted in multiple cars.

KFF photo

88 kg meat, other foodstuffs destroyed in PAFN campaign

Municipality raids detect 26 violations

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), represented by the Farwaniya Inspection Department, conducted an inspection campaign targeting several food establishments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The campaign resulted in the destruction of 88 kilograms of meat of unknown origin and the issuance of 10 violation reports. The violations included handling adulterated food, inadequate accommodation for workers within the establishment, and failure to comply with general hygiene standards during operations.

□ □ □

Food company shut: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), represented by the Capital Inspection Department, in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Capital Security Directorate, shut down a food establishment for committing several serious violations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The violations included handling spoiled and substandard food, thawing frozen meat and selling it as fresh, and failing to comply with requirements related to general hygiene, licenses, and employees’ health certificates.

The operation resulted in the issuance of 10 violation reports, the closure of the establishment, and the destruction of 134.116 kilograms of non-compliant food products.

□ □ □

26 violations detected: Kuwait Municipality announced that its inspection teams from the Farwaniya Municipality’s Audit and Municipal Services Monitoring Department detected 26 violations of the Shops and Advertisements Regulations during the “License Your Business... Your Steps Are Right” campaign, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The municipality’s Public Relations Department explained that the campaign aimed to inspect shops’ activities and health licenses, as well as advertising permits, take regulatory action against violators, and ensure compliance with the regulations and systems governing shops and advertisements across all sectors.

The campaign included inspections of 65 shops and resulted in the issuance of 26 reports on violations of the Shops and Advertisements Regulations.

Kuwaiti summoned in row over ‘misbaha’ auction

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: An investigator at Salhiya Police Station ordered the summoning of a citizen who sells appliances and equipment through public auctions on charges of breach of trust, following a complaint filed by a man in his forties, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the complaint, the man follows social media pages specializing in auctions and contacted the administrator of one

such page, which is operated by a citizen. He informed the administrator that he had a misbaha (Islamic rosary) he wanted to sell for no less than KD 300.

The complainant explained that he sent a representative to hand over the misbaha but waited for more than a month without seeing it listed in the auction. He then contacted the page administrator, who assured him that the matter

would be finalized.

After waiting another month, the complainant contacted the administrator again and requested the return of the misbaha. He was surprised when the administrator told him that “the misbaha isn’t worth two dinars” and then blocked him by phone.

The case was referred for the necessary legal procedures.



Map shows the intended closure of road.

‘Route 207’ to remain shut for 25 days maintenance

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The General Traffic Department announced the complete closure of Mohammad Bin Hamada Al-Ajmi Road (Route 207) for traffic coming from King Fahad Bin Abdulaziz Road (Route 40), starting from the intersection with Route 5 and Route 101 toward the roundabout at Al-Ghous Road (Street 303), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The closure began on Monday, August 31, and will remain in effect for 25 days to carry out necessary road maintenance.

Erratic behavior leads to arrest of Kuwaiti citizen

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: A Kuwaiti citizen was arrested in Sabah Al-Salem after security personnel responded to a report of a person behaving erratically, reports Al-Anba daily.

Security personnel found the citizen, born in 1989, in an abnormal state and emitting a foul odor. He was arrested and taken to the police station for legal procedures, and a case was registered regarding the incident.

A security source said the detained citizen will be referred to the forensic laboratory to determine whether he was under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

□ □ □

Ban on trucks: The General Traffic Department announced a ban on trucks on all roads during specified time periods from September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2027, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

From September 1, 2026, to June 14, 2027, the ban will be in effect from 6:30 am to 9:00 am and from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

From June 15, 2027, to August 31, 2027, the ban will apply only from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

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‘Defense partnership growing’

Turkish Embassy marks 104th ‘versary of ‘Victory Day’



Turkiye envoy Tuba Nur Sönmez



Guest of Honor, Commander of Kuwaiti Air Force Major General Fahad Fallah Fahiman, joins Ambassador Sonmez in cutting the cake.



Ambassadors and diplomats, prominent guests pose for a picture with the outgoing Turkish ambassador.



Photos by Samer Shqair

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sönmez said the relationship between the two countries is witnessing continuous development, indicating that the defense and security cooperation is now one of the vital elements of the relationship.

Speaking at the event that the Turkish Embassy organized Monday to celebrate the 104th Turkish Victory Day, Sönmez affirmed that relations between the two countries continue to strengthen under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, based on mutual trust, interests and respect.

She stressed that the security of Kuwait and that of Turkiye

are intertwined, and that both sides have started to reap the fruits of the government cooperation agreement in the field of defense procurement.

She explained that the government cooperation agreement in defense procurement, which was concluded during the visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled to Turkiye two years ago, laid an important foundation for developing such cooperation. She added that Kuwait’s acquisition of the Bayraktar TB2 drones is an example of defense cooperation, anticipating further development in defense industries, military dialogue, training, exercises and security cooperation.

She emphasized that regional and international challenges underscore the importance of strengthening security and stability among friendly nations.

She affirmed that Turkiye is committed to sharing its defense capabilities and expertise with its partners, based on the conviction that security is no longer solely military, but also encompasses food, energy and water. She asserted that military power is not an end in itself, but rather a tool to maintain peace and

stability. She also confirmed the development of the Turkish Armed Forces and defense industries due to modernization and investment in advanced technologies, particularly unmanned aerial systems. She then expressed her condolences to the families of the military and civilian personnel who lost their lives in Kuwait as a result of the Iranian attacks, while praising the sacrifice of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

She stated that her mission in Kuwait is nearing its end, after more than four years. She revealed that the new Turkish ambassador will arrive in Kuwait on Sept 15, expressing her pride in the progress achieved in the Kuwaiti-Turkish relations.

She recalled the full support of Kuwait during the devastating earthquake in Turkiye, stressing that the assistance provided by the Kuwaiti community will not be forgotten.

She praised the Kuwaiti society, the hospitality and generosity she experienced during her years of service here, and the vibrant and active Kuwaiti media. Moreover, the guest of honor, Commander of Kuwaiti Air Force Major General Fahad Fallah Fahiman, joined Ambassador Sonmez in cutting the cake.

Citizenship docus of 7 persons ‘revoked’

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Higher Committee for Kuwaiti Citizenship Investigation issued a decision to revoke the citizenship certificates of seven individuals, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Decision No. 87/2016/2026, published in the official gazette “Kuwait Al-Yaum” on Sunday, stipulates the revocation of their citizenship certificates based on Article 11 of Amiri Decree No. 15/1959 concerning the Kuwaiti Nationality Law and its amendments.



KUNA photo

Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar in talks with his Syrian counterpart Abdulsalam Heikal.

Kuwait, Syria eye boost in info tech and telecom

RIYADH, Aug 31, (KUNA): Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar discussed on Monday with his Syrian counterpart Abdulsalam Heikal ways to enhance joint cooperation.

The talks came during Minister Al-Omar’s reception of the Syrian minister at the Malham Exhibition and Conference Center in Riyadh, ahead of their participation in the opening ceremony of LEAP 2026 Conference and Exhibition.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the latest developments in the fields of communications and information technology and stressed the importance of opening new avenues for cooperation between the two countries through the exchange of experiences and expertise.



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives Yemeni Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Minister Dr. Afrah Abdulaziz Al-Zouba on her official visit to Kuwait.

Kuwait, Yemen FMs discuss ties, regional developments

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met Monday with Yemeni Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Minister Dr. Afrah Abdulaziz Al-Zouba on her official visit to Kuwait.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the meeting discussed the fraternal relations between the two countries and peoples and ways to strengthen and develop them across various fields in a manner serving their mutual interests.

The two sides also discussed several topics of common interest and reviewed the latest regional developments and efforts to address them in a way that contributes to enhancing security and stability in the region.

Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah hosted a luncheon in honour of Dr. Al-Zouba and her accompanying delegation.

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait tightens

restricting administration to licensed practitioners or first-aid staff, and setting rules for storage, dispensing, documentation and handling loss or breakage.

A third decree limits production and manufacture of medicines containing narcotic or psychotropic substances to licensed pharmaceutical factories, and regulates registration, storage, dispensing, inventory, tracking, reporting and inspections.

Customs Follow-up and Coordination Department

Dr. Al-Awadhi also established the “Customs Follow-up and Coordination Department” under the Health Ministry’s Undersecretary to expedite clearance of medical shipments and supplies through enhanced coordination with the General Administration of Customs and other regulators, and to maintain related databases and statistics.

Cosmetic surgery overhaul

In a separate decision, the minister amended regulations governing cosmetic surgeries and procedures in government and private sectors, specifying authorized medical specialties, required physician qualifications and experience, and the scope of procedures each specialty may perform.

The order regulates laser use by nursing staff, requiring licensing, accredited training and specialist physician supervision, with pre-session examination, proper device settings and documented assessment and informed consent. It adopts updated procedure lists for plastic surgery, dermatology, ophthalmology, ENT, general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and vascular surgery, with additional fellowship-level requirements for certain advanced procedures.

Psychological assessment based on an

accredited psychiatric report is now required before cosmetic surgery for patients showing psychological symptoms or disorders. The decision also sets mechanisms for managing complications, including follow-up, treatment, documentation and reporting responsibilities in both sectors.

Cancer registry department

Another decision established an Epidemiology and Cancer Registry Department at the Kuwait Cancer Control Center to build a comprehensive national cancer database. The ministry said the move will improve monitoring, data quality and analysis of cancer incidence, mortality and survival, support prevention and treatment planning, and enable cooperation with the WHO and international cancer registry bodies, subject to ethical approvals and ministry regulations.

Trump threatens

Elsewhere, US President Donald Trump said Monday that the United States would respond with a “strong strike” to an Iranian attack on US forces in Jordan overnight.

In an interview with Fox News, Trump said: “We’re going to hit them hard.”

Trump said US air defenses intercepted all Iranian missiles except one, which was allowed to pass because it was not expected to hit any significant target.

He also said Iran wanted to hold talks but questioned whether Tehran could be trusted to reach an agreement while US sanctions remain in place.

Meanwhile, US Central Command (CENTCOM) denied an Iranian Revolutionary Guard claim that a large oil tanker struck two mines while transiting the southern route of the Strait of Hormuz and was completely immobilised.

Continued from Page 1

First Deputy

I had earlier proposed solutions to the Bedoun issue, such as granting them passports without conditions, enabling them to travel freely and look for employment in other countries that could give them citizenship. These solutions also apply to the chronic problem that has long caused Kuwait a headache due to the international reports.

Frankly speaking, the percentage of bachelor residents in Kuwait has reached 65 percent, which is a huge demographic imbalance, and majority of the violations are attributed to them.

Replacing expatriates with Bedouns under long-term contracts could be one of the long-awaited solutions to the demographic imbalance issue.

Despite the fact that reform cannot be achieved overnight, several problems will be solved once it begins.

Expatriate remittances last year reached around KD5.1 billion. Would it not have been better if these funds were spent domestically?

If other ministries and government institutions follow the steps of the First Deputy Prime Minister, it will be a source of social stability. If the government decides to provide limited subsidy to the private sector when it employs Bedouns, it will be like hitting many birds with one stone. It is now time to solve this problem that has been going on since the 1970s.

Kuwait casts

He clarified that all licensed commercial activities are under the scope of the campaign like restaurants, electrical appliance stores and other types of businesses.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry covers a large number of commercial activities, while the criterion for an activity to be included in the campaign is the existence of a commercial license that requires municipal and technical approvals.

He emphasized that informing business owners about the nature of the requirements, violations and penalties makes them more aware and cautious, thus, helping them avoid committing violations and paying fines.

In a related development, the Municipality uncovered three main violations related to commercial licenses during the campaign. First is opening or operating a business without a license. The fine for this violation ranges from KD4,000 to KD5,000, in addition to the issuance of a closure order.

The second violation is adding an unlicensed area or altering the business premises without municipal approval. The fine ranges from KD1,000 to KD5,000, in addition to the issuance

of a closure order.

The third violation is adding or engaging in an unlicensed activity without the approval of the Municipality. The fine ranges from KD500 to KD1,000, in addition to the issuance of a closure order.

The campaign includes awareness messages through the platforms of the Municipality to inform business owners about the types of violations and penalties, and to explain the importance of obtaining the necessary approvals before starting a business or making any modifications in the business place.

Courts back

Attorney Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan lauded the efforts of Al-Sumait over the past period, asserting that the issuance of the new Judicial Organization Law is a vital legislative step, which confirms the need to modernize the judicial system to keep pace with the developments the country is witnessing.

Al-Qattan stated that the new law reorganizes several aspects of judicial work, which means the next phase should focus on the implementation of its provisions to achieve the objectives for which it was issued.

He considers the resumption of the operation of the courts after the judicial recess a litmus test for many issues, most importantly the speed of case resolution and development of work mechanisms at the courts.

He stressed that digital transformation is essential to the modern justice system, hence, the need for continuous development of electronic services, which should be integrated into various government entities.

Attorney Ali Matar Al-Wawan stated that the start of the new judicial year is an important opportunity to assess the achievements in the past period, indicating that the issuance of the new Judicial Organization Law puts the judicial system at a new stage, which requires the concerted efforts of all the relevant parties.

Al-Wawan commended the efforts of Al-Sumait in developing judicial work, asserting that the Justice Ministry previously focused on addressing a number of issues related to court performance and the quality of judicial services.

He said the lawyers look forward to the new judicial year witnessing faster case resolution, streamlined procedures and expansion of electronic services, which will be beneficial for the litigants.

He asserted that the new Judicial Organization Law is an opportunity to develop many work mechanisms and raise performance efficiency.

He stressed the importance of developing the work environment by appointing qualified personnel and mak-

ing wider use of technology.

He added that the next stage requires continuous cooperation between the Ministry of Justice, Supreme Judicial Council, and Kuwaiti Lawyers Association in order to immediately achieve justice and ensure the good quality of verdicts.

First Deputy PM

During the awarding ceremony, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef affirmed that the country is proud of the achievements of the anti-narcotics officers. He said "the whole nation is proud of you, especially His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. You have contributed to protecting the youths from the dangers of these poisons."

He emphasized that the success in seizing such an unprecedented quantity of drugs does not mean the end of the case. He instructed the officers to continue pursuing all leads and uncovering anyone proven to be involved in importing, manufacturing or distributing these substances. He stressed that "this seizure is not the end of the road, and all aspects of the case must be revealed."

He added "there will be no favoritism or cover ups for anyone. Nothing is above Kuwait... The law will be applied to everyone, and the security services will continue to pursue anyone who attempts to tamper with the security of society or target its youths with narcotics and psychotropic substances."

He confirmed that the main defendant in the case admitted that he refrained from distributing the seized drugs for fear of the penalties stipulated in the new Anti-Narcotics Law and the vigilance of the security forces.

He asserted that the unwavering support of His Highness the Amir serves as a pillar of strength for all the Interior Ministry personnel, across all ranks, and motivates them to continue their work and remain steadfast in confronting drug dealers and smugglers.

He added that Kuwait deserves much from its citizens, and that what it has given them far exceeds any effort they can make in serving it. He expressed his gratitude to the anti-narcotics officers for their tireless efforts and urged them to continue their dedication and achieve further accomplishments to protect the nation and maintain its security and stability.

The honorees included DCGD Director General Brigadier General Mohammad Qabazard, his assistant, Brigadier General Hamad Al-Yousef

Al-Sabah, Director of the Local Control Department Colonel Hisham Al-Ibrahim, and a number of officers, non-commissioned officers and personnel who participated in the security operation.

During the operation, the anti-narcotics officers confiscated five tons of raw Lyrica powder and about four million capsules ready for distribution,

in addition to a fully equipped factory for processing and manufacturing the capsules. The estimated market value of the seized items is around KD150 million.

The operation resulted in the arrest of five suspects -- three Kuwaitis, a Jordanian and an Egyptian, all of whom were found to be involved in managing the factory and preparing

the substance for distribution.

The recognition of the abovementioned personnel is in line with the commitment of the ministry to appreciate the efforts of outstanding staff and motivate them, thereby, enhancing their readiness level and reinforcing their commitment to perform their national duty efficiently.



JOINT OPERATIONS

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)



Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company) announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials. Kuwaiti and Saudi merchants, registered with either company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders should submit their bids electronically through "SMART BY GEP" <https://smart.gep.com>.

For first-time registration please contact TLQX@Chevron.com - BHSJ@Chevron.com for support and guidance.

A non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender fees must be deposited and bidder must attach proof of payment copy as follows:

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		IN SAUDI RIYAL	

The start date for the following Tenders will be on **Sunday, 30 AUG 2026** and closing date will be on **Monday, 5 OCT 2026 @ 09:00 A.M.**

S. NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS CLOSING DATE	FEES (KD)	CLOSING DATE
1	060226	Oil in Water Analyzer, 1 Line Item, Net Oil in Water, Approved MFR, PD-1100SWD-27&28	25	5 / 10 / 2026
2	060197	Insert Sleeves, 2 Line Items, 24"&36", Tuboscope/Reli-Sleeve, Wafra, PMP Tank	15	5 / 10 / 2026
3	060199	Flowmeter, 1 Line Item, Electromagnetic, E&H/KROHNE/Yokogawa, Wafra, PD-1100SWD-27&28	5	5 / 10 / 2026



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‘Your next president is going to say, What a great job I did’

Trump still teases 3rd presidential run but talking more about life after '28

WASHINGTON, Aug 31, (AP): US President Donald Trump has frequently suggested he wants to seek a third term, posting about mounting another campaign, donning 2028 caps and discussing ways to make it happen - even as he's acknowledged the Constitution prohibits it.

But lately, Trump has begun showing signs that even he doesn't really believe another run will happen.

During recent speeches, the Republican president has begun describing life after the White House when his term ends in January 2029, predicting he'll be at home and agonizing as his successor claims credit for his accomplishments.

"Your next president is going to say, 'What a great job I did,'" Trump told an event on Long Island, New York, this month. "He'll be sitting around, watching television. A real stiff. Unless you vote Republican, of course."

A sitting president talking about becoming a former one is always politically fraught. But with midterm elections now just nine weeks away, Trump is approaching the point of

his presidency where there will be more and more reminders that his power will soon wane.

Being willing to say he's contemplating a White House without him marks a notable shift for Trump. Going back to his first term and from virtually the moment he won a second, he's left the door open to staying put for more than eight years.

"He is all over the place," said Brian Kalt, a Michigan State University constitutional law professor. "And what that does is, it allows him to point to his own words to support any number of mutually exclusive things."

Trump can say, "'Oh yeah, I made it clear that I wasn't gonna run,'" Kalt said. "Or, if he decides that he will, he could say, 'Well, you know, I never said I wouldn't.'"

The White House dismissed suggestions that Trump's thoughts are increasingly turning to the clock running out on his presidency - and the legacy he'll leave behind. Spokesperson Olivia Wales said he "is fighting every day" to deliver on promises to reduce violent crime, crack



US President Donald Trump arrives to speak at the David Mack Center for Training and Intelligence on Aug 14 in Garden City, NY. (AP)

down on the US-Mexico border and lower prescription drug prices.

"The only legacy President Trump is concerned with is making America greater than ever before," Wales said.

Still, hinting at how he'll be remembered is something Trump is

suddenly talking about a lot.

During a recent Pennsylvania rally, he said, "Whoever the next president is, he's going to be talking about what a brilliant president he is. And I'll be home. And I'll be saying, 'That son of a gun,' because we did the job."

A week later in Georgia, Trump was predicting that once his presidency was over, "I'll be sitting home."

"I may be crying," the president added, arguing that Democrats could retake the Senate and scrap filibuster rules, making it easier to move their key legislation.

Then, in Michigan, Trump injected some doubt into whether he was ready to hand over the Oval Office and move back to Florida.

"In two and a half years, you may have a different president - may," he said, emphasizing the "may."

"I'll be sitting home. I'll be reading the papers. I'll be watching television," Trump said, before swiping at his predecessor, President Joe Biden. "And I'll be having some guy - like last time, a real idiot - stand up and say, 'We are doing record business.'"

But even as he's begun to suggest he'll be leaving the presidency, Trump has also continued to tease a 2028 reelection run.

Addressing the rescheduled White House Correspondents' Association dinner last month, Trump joked,

"Just like my presidency, the second time is always better" and that "the third time will be better yet. I'm only kidding." He later wore a 2028 campaign cap to finish the speech.

The Constitution's 22nd Amendment says no one can be elected president more than twice. It was ratified in 1951, six years after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died, months into his fourth term. Until Roosevelt, no other president had defied the tradition of stepping down after two terms that George Washington started.

Still, Trump had only been back in the White House for a couple of months when he told NBC News, "There are methods which you could" use to seek a third term.

He acknowledged that one method was to be the running mate to Vice President JD Vance in 2028 - then have Vance step aside if the pair won.

"There are others, too," Trump said then, alluding to more options. He later told Time Magazine, "There are some loopholes," while also saying he didn't believe in using them.



Bright Angel Creek near the Phantom Ranger Station in the Grand Canyon, Arizona, is seen after flash flooding from storms on Aug 29. (AP)

Upcoming election could produce Germany's 1st far-right state gov

MOESER, Germany, Aug 31, (AP): An election in eastern Germany on Sunday could produce the first far-right state governor in the country's post-World War II history as Chancellor Friedrich Merz and his unpopular national government struggle to dispel what he calls "widespread moroseness."

Several polls show a large lead for the anti-migration Alternative for Germany, or AfD, ahead of the election to the state legislature in Saxony-Anhalt. Taking control of a state government would be the biggest prize in the party's 13-year history, a political shock to Germany and at least a symbolic blow to Merz.

"If AfD wins the election and forms the government, that would be kind of breaking a taboo in Germany," said Wolfgang Merkel, a political science professor with the WBZ Berlin Social Science Center. Modern Germany so far has been "an exception" in Europe in having no radical right-wing party governing at the national, state or big-city level, he added.

Merz's center-right Christian Democratic Union has led Saxony-Anhalt, a region west of Berlin that's among the country's less prosperous and is



Ulrich Sigmund, the top candidate for the 'Alternative for Germany' (AfD) party in the state elections in Saxony-Anhalt, speaks to supporters at a campaign barbecue hosted by the party in Moeser, Germany on Aug 13. (AP)

home to 2.1 million of Germany's 83.5 million people, since 2002. But it faces strong headwinds.

In last year's national election, AfD achieved the best postwar show-

ing by a far-right party, with 20.8% of the vote. It became Germany's biggest opposition party.

It was stronger in the ex-communist east, including Saxony-Anhalt. And with Merz's government struggling to convince voters it can turn around a stubbornly slow economy, it has gained in national polls as it harnesses discontent with issues beyond its signature theme of curbing migration.

In Saxony-Anhalt, AfD is seeking an absolute majority in the state legislature. That would overcome the so-called "firewall" of mainstream parties' refusal to work with AfD, whose regional branch is one of several classified by the domestic intelligence agency as a proven right-wing extremist group. AfD vehemently rejects accusations of extremism.

"This is a historic opportunity that we have here in Saxony-Anhalt," its candidate for governor, Ulrich Siegmund, told The Associated Press at a campaign event in the small town of Moeser, where supporters lined up to meet the charismatic 35-year-old over beer and sausages. "We will write history here."

America

Grand Canyon flash flood kills 1: One person died and about 15 people are missing or unaccounted for after a major flash flood at the Grand Canyon forced evacuations, pushed large boulders into the Colorado River and knocked out the sole water pipeline that serves tourists and residents, the National Park Service said Sunday.

The body of a 46-year-old man was recovered Sunday evening near Crystal Rapids along the Colorado River, the park service said without providing additional details. Officials from an Arizona coroner's office were on scene.

The flooding Saturday in Bright Angel Creek, which flows into the river, led to more than 60 people being airlifted from the depths of the canyon. The park service asked anyone with details about hikers or campers still unaccounted for to get in touch. The Arizona Department of Public Safety was helping with additional evacuations Sunday.

The limited potable water supply because of the damaged pipeline means tourists won't be able to stay overnight at lodges and hotels within the park, starting Monday. Year-round residents are being asked to conserve water. (AP)

□ □ □

Karina strengthens into Category 4: Hurricane Karina strengthened Monday into a powerful Category 4 storm in the Pacific Ocean but isn't threatening land, forecasters said.

The storm has intensified quickly since becoming

a hurricane Sunday and has been fueled by warm waters far offshore, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

Karina was about 1,020 miles (1,642 kilometers) west-southwest of the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula of Mexico and had maximum sustained winds of 145 mph (233 kph), the center said. It was moving west.

There were no coastal watches or warnings in effect, but waves were expected to affect Mexico and likely Southern California. Additional strengthening was possible on Monday, followed by fluctuations in intensity. (AP)

□ □ □

Climber rescued in Sierra Nevada: Volunteers carried out a more than 15-hour operation to rescue a man who got off route in the Sierra Nevada and was stranded on a small ledge, the Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team said.

A four-person team carried out the rescue last weekend near Mammoth Lakes, California, in a precarious gully. The challenge came in having no time to spare with thousands of feet of vertical exposure below, said team spokesperson Mitchell Quiring.

The stranded climber had only one foot fully on the 6-inch (15-centimeter) ledge and was shaking out his legs and switching them to avoid tiring, said Quiring, who was part of the rescue team.

"Any fall would almost certainly be fatal," the team wrote on its Facebook page.

Quiring said he credits the climber, Rob Martin, with having the strength and will to live. (AP)



This photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service shows a site of a residential building damaged by a Russian guided bomb in the city center of Sloviansk, Donetsk region, Ukraine on Aug 31. (AP)

Russia's jet-powered drones bring empty Kyiv supermarket shelves, rattle Ukrainians

KYIV, Ukraine, Aug 31, (AP): Russian forces relentlessly battered Kyiv and cities in the region around the Ukrainian capital for a fifth straight day Monday, leaving some supermarket shelves bare after repeated strikes on warehouses as Ukraine reels from attacks with jet-powered drones.

Russia has intensified its aerial attacks in recent months, more than four years after it invaded its neighbor. Almost constant air raid alerts in the Kyiv region in recent days have severely disrupted daily routines. Two major attacks in July killed almost 50 civilians, and a strike on Saturday killed at least 38 people.

Classes were due to resume at Ukrainian schools on Tuesday, but it was unclear whether parents would send their children. Schools have air raid shelters, and classes can also be held online. But about 1 million textbooks have been destroyed in Russian attacks on publishing houses, potentially delaying deliveries for the start of the school year, Ukraine's Education Ministry said earlier this month.

"Right now, Russia's tactic is to wear down Ukraine and Ukrainians - first and foremost, our people," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on social media late Sunday.

Ukraine has also tried to make Russian civilians feel the burden

of war by hammering major online retailers and oil facilities. The attacks have brought shortages for ordinary Russians, though its strikes have not been as deadly for civilians.

A pall of black smoke drifted over Kyiv on Monday morning. In Brovary and Boryspil, cities in the Kyiv region, the aerial attacks struck several warehouses and four people were wounded, said Tymur Tkachenko, head of the regional military administration.

Zelenskyy conceded on social media that Ukraine is struggling to counter fast-flying jet-propelled drones that Russia is increasingly deploying.

Between Thursday and Sunday, Russia fired almost 1,500 drones at Ukraine, and around 800 of them were jet-powered, Zelenskyy said.

Combat aircraft are currently trying to stop the jet-powered versions while Ukraine looks to develop more effective technology.

"Four companies have developed the relevant interceptor drones, and one company has the most successful technology," Zelenskyy said. He didn't elaborate.

Repeated Russian strikes on food distribution centers and retail hubs have disrupted Ukrainian logistics, leaving some supermarket shelves bare and fueling public concern about shortages.

Those fears prompted Zelenskyy

adviser Serhii Beskrestnov to say on social media Monday that Ukraine will not go hungry.

He urged the public not to give in to rumors, disinformation or panic, saying producers and retailers are currently restructuring supply chains.

He added that European countries would be ready to fill any food supply shortfall, if necessary.

At the same time, Russia has kept up its attacks on Ukraine's power grid, seeking to leave civilians cold and without running water in the approaching winter.

Russian forces launched what officials said was a massive overnight drone attack on Ukraine's northern Chernihiv region, which borders Russia, where an energy facility was damaged, according to Viacheslav Chaus, head of the regional military administration. He did not provide details of the damage.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Sunday it is preparing "massive strikes" on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Russia overnight shot down 239 Ukrainian drones over 14 Russian regions, occupied Crimea and the waters of the Black Sea, the Defense Ministry in Moscow said Monday.

A Ukrainian missile attack Sunday evening on the Russian border city of Belgorod killed three people, acting regional Gov. Alexander Shuvayev said.

Europe

2 sailors missing after trawler sinks: Two sailors were missing Sunday after a French-registered fishing trawler sank southwest of the British port of Plymouth, French authorities said.

The Maranello contacted another trawler, the Stradale, on Saturday to report a problem with its fishing gear. The Stradale managed to recover three of the five crew members before the Maranello sank, the French naval prefecture for the Atlantic said.

Two sailors remained missing despite a major search-and-rescue operation.

The two vessels were located approximately 26 nautical miles southwest of Plymouth, in an area under British responsibility. The Falmouth Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre took charge of the rescue operation in coordination with French counterparts.

A helicopter evacuated one of the three sailors recovered by the Stradale, who was injured, and transported him to Truro Hospital for treatment. The other two sailors were taken to Plymouth for medical attention.

The search, coordinated by MRCC Falmouth, is pressing on, the maritime prefecture said.

The French Navy's Falcon 50, along with two British lifeboats and two British aircraft, has been deployed in the search. (AP)

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Ferry disaster survivors describe terror: Survivors of a ferry disaster off the coast of northern Cyprus that killed eight people described on Monday the moments of terror as they scrambled to escape the sinking vessel.



In this frame grab from video, rescued passengers wearing life jackets are evacuated by boat after a passenger vessel capsized off the coast of Girne, in the Turkish-occupied northern part of Cyprus on Aug 30. (AP)

The passengers spoke as rescue teams searched for 18 people missing since the ship carrying 267 passengers and crew capsized after leaving Kyrenia, a port in breakaway northern Cyprus, for Tasucu in Turkey on Sunday afternoon.

Serkan Kunduraci, who escaped the sinking ferry by hauling himself through a broken window, said he saw children and others drowning in the sea some 7.5 kilometers (4 nautical miles) off the Cypriot coast.

"I saw some who didn't know how to swim die in the sea," he told the DHA news agency. "There were those who, in a panic, didn't grab life jackets. Some jumped (into the sea) immediately out of fear. There was an old man, we couldn't get him. We tried to pull him up, but we couldn't. He drowned too.

"We saw and witnessed a family's children, boys and girls, very young children, drowning." (AP)

Singapore diplomat, Myanmar activist and Bangladeshi aid giver win Magsaysay awards

MANILA, Philippines, Aug 31, (AP): A Singaporean lawyer and diplomat who led an international conference that adopted the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a Myanmar activist whose group documents human rights atrocities and a former Bangladeshi teacher who has helped provide aid to her country's poorest were named Monday as the winners of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

Regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize and named after a popular Philippine president, who died in a 1957 plane crash, the awards honor "greatness of spirit" through selfless service to people across Asia.

The winners of the award, first given in 1958, will be recognized at the Metropolitan Theatre in Manila on Nov. 15 with a medallion, inscribed certificate and an undisclosed cash prize.

Singaporean lawyer and diplomat Tommy Koh, 88, was recognized for promoting international dialogue and the rule of law. He is best known for presiding over a U.N. conference of more than 150 countries, which adopted the UN Convention on the



Singapore's Ambassador at Large Tommy Koh gestures during a luncheon in Singapore on Sept 18, 2006, on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank annual meetings. (AP)

Law of the Sea in 1982.

"Of enormous significance to maritime countries, this "constitution for the oceans" defined territorial waters and the economic rights of countries to their coastal waters and provides mechanisms for settling disputes,"

the awards body said.

The UN convention was the main basis for a 2016 ruling by an arbitration panel in The Hague that invalidated China's expansive claims in the South China Sea. Beijing, however, refused to participate in the arbitration that was initiated by the

Philippines in 2013 and rejected and continues to defy the decision.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have been locked in tense territorial standoffs in the disputed waters for decades.

Bo Kyi, the 61-year-old winner from Myanmar, has twice been arrested in the past and spent seven years in prison for a life spent in defense of democracy and resistance against widespread human rights violations by Myanmar's military.

He has demanded the release of all political prisoners in his country, including former leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and helped raise funds to support the detainees and their families, the awards body said.

In March 2000, Bo Kyi and fellow former political prisoners organized the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which has "devoted itself to documenting political imprisonment, supporting detainees and their families and ensuring the continued visibility of the junta's political prisoners in Myanmar and around the world," the awards body said.

Asia

Japan to beef up defense with drones: Japan plans to use drones, artificial intelligence and new methods of warfare as it adapts its defense strategies to suit changing times, according to details of an 8.9 trillion yen (\$55.6 billion) budget request for the coming fiscal year disclosed by the Defense Ministry on Monday.



Takaichi

The preliminary total is only a small increase from the 8.8 trillion yen (\$55 billion) defense budget requested for this fiscal year. It will be much higher eventually, but further details will come later this year after Prime Minister **Sanae Takaichi's** government approves the new security and defense strategy aimed at strengthening Japan's counterstrike capability.

Under its five-year defense strategy set in 2022, Japan has doubled its defense spending to about 2% of its gross domestic product to build up its Self-Defense Forces' offensive role to counter China's growing assertiveness. Beijing has criticized Japan's defense buildup as "new militarism." (AP)

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Indonesia's Mount Sinabung erupts: Mount Sinabung on Indonesia erupted Monday, spewing a column of black ash and smoke 3,500 meters (11,482 feet) from the top of the mountain into the sky over Sumatra island.

There were no immediate reports of casualties, evacuations or disruptions to flights in the region. But residents, visitors and tourists were advised to refrain from activities in nearby villages in Karo district in North Sumatra province and areas within 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) of the summit.

Roads, vehicles and buildings in several villages in Karo affected by the eruption were covered in gray ash. Local authorities distributed masks to residents to protect themselves.

Officials raised the volcano alert level to "Watch," the second-highest level for volcanic activity, which expanded the safe zone around the 2,600-meter (8,530-foot) mountain. (AP)

'Organization successfully explored a new path for regional cooperation'

Leaders of China, Russia and India gather in Kyrgyzstan for SCO Summit

BISHKEK, Aug 31, (AP): The leaders of China, Russia and India are among the heads of state gathering in Kyrgyzstan this week for the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a group billed as a counterweight to US global influence.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are scheduled to attend the events in Bishkek, the capital of the Central Asian nation.

Multiple one-on-one meetings are scheduled on the sidelines, including one between Putin and Xi on Monday, as well as talks between the Russian leader and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday, the day of the official SCO sessions.

Russia, now 4½ years into its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and Iran, six months into a war with the United States and Israel, see the summit

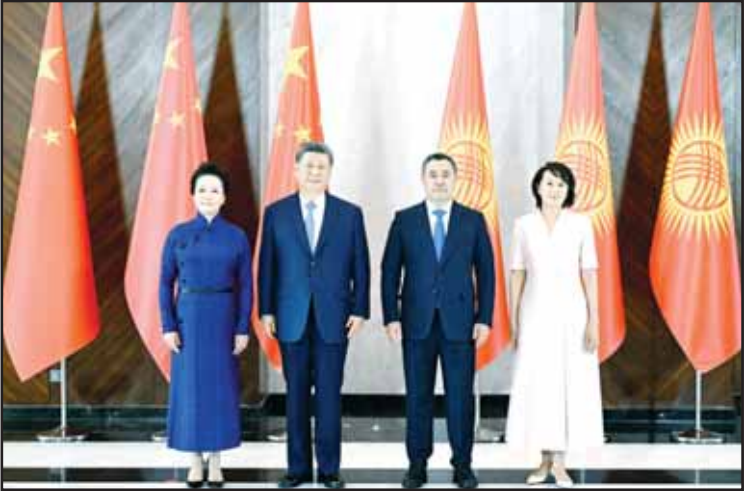
as an important platform to strengthen their relations with non-Western partners.

The SCO was founded in 2001 by China, Russia and four Central Asian states as a security forum. Over the past quarter-century, it has grown in size and influence, although its goals and programs remain vague and its brand recognition low.

It now includes 10 nations: Russia, China, India, Iran, Pakistan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Many other countries have the status of "dialogue partners."

Along with Russia, China has presented the SCO as an alternative to Western-aligned organizations like the G7, and in recent years has wanted to expand the scope and influence of the organization, pledging development and financial assistance.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said last week that the organization has successfully "explored a



In this photo provided by Kyrgyzstan's Presidential Press Office, Chinese President Xi Jinping with his wife Peng Liyuan and Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov with his wife Aigul Zhaparova pose for a photo at the Yntymak Ordo state residence in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on Aug 31. (AP)

new path for regional cooperation." Beijing has consistently promoted the idea of an alternative world order with Russia's support.

For many SCO members, the summit will be an opportunity to show that they maintain strong ties on the global stage despite souring relations with the West.

The organization is not a unified political or military bloc, however, and analysts note that its members have significant disagreements and their own distinct interests.

For countries such as India, however, experts say the summit is likely to be more about optics and strategic signaling than substantive outcomes.

The forum is heavily influenced by China and includes Pakistan as a member - both of which are rivals for India.

Dinakar Peri, a fellow in security studies at Carnegie India, said the SCO gives India a seat at the table in a region increasingly shaped by competition among the larger powers, allowing it to protect its interests, track shifting geopolitical currents and project itself as a reliable

stakeholder.

"While it may not entirely shape the agenda, it gives New Delhi a first-hand view of the region and allows it to hedge its position with others," Peri said.

Turkey, which holds partner status within the SCO, also seeks to use the platform to strengthen its position in the region.

It views SCO membership as part of a balanced foreign policy that seeks to maintain its traditional ties with the West as a part of NATO, while strengthening its influence in Eurasia.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who brought his country into the SCO as a "dialogue partner" in 2012, has repeatedly stated that he wants Turkey to become a permanent member. While Turkey has close trade ties with the European Union under a 1995 trade deal, its EU membership bid has stalled for more than 25 years.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, workers set up a mobile communication base station at a mudslide-hit area in Gyirong County, southwestern China's Tibet Autonomous Region on Aug 30. (AP)

Hundreds of workers feared stuck in hydropower tunnels as Nepal, China flood deaths cross 900

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Aug 31, (AP): Rescuers rushed Monday to reach workers believed to be trapped in tunnels at hydropower sites buried in mud after catastrophic flooding in Nepal and China, as the death toll continued to rise and increasingly desperate families search for their loved ones.

The combined deaths in Nepal and China surpassed 900, with more than 4,700 people missing, and a private-sector association representing power companies said at least 900 workers have been unaccounted for from 12 hydropower projects damaged by the floods in Nepal's Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts.

Mohan Kumar Dangi, president of the Independent Power Producers' Association, Nepal, or IPPAN, said there's an estimation of at least 500 of the 900 missing workers trapped in the tunnels, although authorities have provided varying numbers and said several foreign teams were assisting Nepali rescuers.

At least one expert said the tunnels offered enough space for people to take refuge and that some workers could have access to oxygen. But others warned that the chances of

finding survivors were diminishing.

Dangi said some workers had managed to make contact and call for help when the disaster struck last Wednesday, and some others who managed to flee reported to authorities and relatives that many of their colleagues were still in the tunnels. But he said that, six days after the disaster, fears grew that some might have suffocated.

"We are working in search and rescue of the stranded people from hills, settlements and river areas," said Brig. Gen. Raja Ram Basnet, Nepal's army spokesman.

Nepal's disaster agency said Monday that 903 deaths had been counted in that country, with 4,247 people, including 592 foreigners, missing. As of Sunday, Chinese authorities reported 16 deaths and 546 missing, and Chinese state media said 261 of the missing were foreigners, including over a hundred Nepalis.

Workers shoveling mud from a flood-ravaged power station in Dhadhing, Nepal, told The Associated Press that the station is a key node for providing power to over 20,000 people in the region. The workers cleaning the power station said they hope that it is

not rebuilt near the river.

Rescue efforts are focused on people trapped in the gigantic tunnels built for controlling the water-flow to produce hydropower, across multiple sites.

"The tunnels are built to access hydropower infrastructure and to divert water - an essential step to generate energy. These tunnels are big enough to drive trucks through," said Jakob Steiner, a geoscientist at the University of Graz in Austria, who is currently based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. "There is enough place for people to take refuge safely inside and from what we understand they have managed to get oxygen to some of those stuck inside and are trying to rescue them now. It's a race for time though as people need food and water."

In the Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project, in the hard-hit Rasuwa district, at least 576 were missing, Dangi said, adding that around 300 of them were believed to be trapped inside the project's tunnel. Rescuers have been trying to find survivors for days, working through the rain.

At the Trishuli-3 Hydropower Project, crews were working to de-

scend about 15 meters (50 feet) into the tunnel in an effort to reach those believed trapped inside, according to Basnet, the army spokesperson.

On the Chinese side, rescue and recovery efforts included rebuilding the road leading to Gyirong Port at the border between China and Nepal.

Trucks carried giant rocks as workers tried to repave a portion of the road, state broadcaster CCTV showed Monday, next to rapidly rushing waters, which have been made more powerful by rains in the past couple of days. The road is now under some 2 to 3 meters (6.6 to 9.8 feet) of water, hampering rescuers' ability to reach the border. The repaving effort was just a little over a kilometer (.62 miles) from the border, CCTV said.

Although some rescue teams have managed to reach the border, that represented only a portion of the force.

Chinese state media coverage has focused largely on the official response, highlighting the deployment of firefighters, the People's Liberation Army as well as the instructions from top leaders. Little is known about victims on the Chinese side.

AU condemns attacks on UN peacekeepers in South Sudan

ADDIS ABABA, Aug 31, (Xinhua): The African Union (AU) has condemned armed attacks carried out on Monday on a United Nations (UN) convoy in South Sudan's Jonglei State.

In a press statement issued Friday, the AU said AU Commission Chairperson Mahmoud Ali Youssouf "strongly condemns the fatal attack carried out by unidentified assailants against a joint patrol of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan in Jonglei State, South Sudan."

The chairperson paid tribute to the two Ethiopian peacekeepers who lost their lives during the attack, which also left seven others injured.

He called on the authorities in South Sudan to immediately investigate and prosecute the perpetrators.

"The AU Commission chairperson extends his sincere condolences to the government of Ethiopia as well as to the families, colleagues, and friends of the peacekeepers who were killed or injured in this heinous attack," the statement added.

The chairperson reaffirmed the commitment of the AU to continue supporting the government and people of South Sudan in their efforts to achieve a credible democratic transition and sustainable peace.

The UN mission said it has deployed a Quick Reaction Force to secure the area and support emergency response operations.



In this June 18, 2017 file photo, peacekeepers from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) provide security during a visit of UNCHR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi to the UN Protection of Civilians camp in Bentiu, South Sudan. (AP)

Soldiers kill key dissident leader during operation: Colombia prez

BOGOTA, Colombia, Aug 31, (AP): A key leader of the dissident factions of the defunct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia who operated in a volatile area in the country's southwest region was killed Sunday during a military operation, said President Abelardo de la Esparilla.

The president said the death of a man known as "Felipe" or "Arcadio" was a "crushing blow" to the dissident faction led by a man who goes by "Iván Mordisco."

De La Esparilla posted a video on X presumably showing a person in a body bag near a weapon and ammunition seized by authorities during the operation.

"We are closing the net on Mordisco and his networks," warned the president, who announced that offensive operations against illegal armed groups would continue. "Any criminal who doesn't surrender will end up in a body bag."

He said "Felipe" was responsible for multiple attacks on police stations in Valle del Cauca, using explosives



Colombia's President Abelardo De la Esparilla announces a joint effort with Bogota's Mayor Carlos Fernando Galan to strengthen security in the Colombian capital through increased police presence, intelligence, technology, and urban capabilities in Bogota on Aug 25. (AP)

dropped from drones. He commanded a unit within the Jaime Martínez faction, part of the dissident groups

of the defunct FARC that refused to join the government's 2016 peace negotiations.

KPC announces LPG's new prices

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced on Monday the new prices for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), specifically propane and butane, for the month of Sep-

tember.

In a statement to KUNA, KPC said that one metric ton of propane will be sold for USD 625 during September, while one metric ton of butane will be sold for USD 660.

Business

Webinar focuses on liquidity & market efficiency

Boursa Kuwait leads the discussion on building a sustainable & active market for ETFs

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: As part of its ongoing efforts to develop the Kuwaiti capital market, diversify its products and enhance its trading efficiency, Boursa Kuwait hosted a webinar entitled “Building an ETF Ecosystem: From Regulatory Framework to Market Growth,” in collaboration with CFA Society Kuwait on Monday, 24 August 2026.

The webinar comes at a new phase in the development journey of exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in Kuwait, where efforts have shifted from completing the regulatory framework and operational infrastructure to exploring the requirements for market growth and sustainability.

Witnessing the participation of more than 120 representatives from asset management firms, financial brokerage companies, investment institutions and regulatory authorities, the webinar addressed the practical requirements for building an active and efficient ETF market and showcased international best practices and experiences in this field.

From the fundamentals to an integrated ETF ecosystem

The webinar was led by Mr. Anthony Sassine, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of OCÉANE Invest, who delivered a presentation covering the integrated ecosystem of ETFs and the roles of its key participants, including regulatory authorities, exchanges, fund managers, authorized participants, market makers, custodians and brokers.

Mr. Sassine also explored the global evolution of ETFs and highlighted key trends in the sector, as well as the mechanics of these funds through creation and redemption processes in primary and secondary markets as well as their role in supporting pricing efficiency and the convergence of unit trading prices with net asset value.

ETF liquidity and trading quality

The session also delved into the key factors affecting ETF liquidity, emphasizing that trading volume alone does not necessarily reflect quality. Metrics such as the bid-ask spread and market depth provide more precise indicators of execution ease and pricing efficiency, while effective market making also supports trading continuity and narrow bid-ask spreads.

Mr. Sassine emphasized that market efficiency depends on the integration of roles among various participants in the ETF ecosystem, ensuring easy access to products and efficient trade execution, as well as providing effective distribution channels for investors.

Future opportunities for the ETF market

The webinar explored the prospects for de-



Naser Al-Sanousi

veloping ETFs, including Sharia-compliant, active and mutually listed funds. It also examined opportunities to develop products targeting specific sectors or asset classes, aiming to expand investment options and support greater market diversification within the applicable regulatory framework.

It also highlighted the importance of selecting appropriate benchmark indices and ensuring tracking efficiency, as well as managing the deviation between fund performance and the benchmark index, known as a “Tracking Error,” as an important element in assessing product quality and attractiveness to investors, alongside liquidity, pricing efficiency, and cost.

The session concluded with a direct question-and-answer session that enabled attendees to interact with the speaker and benefit from his practical expertise.

“Financial literacy and investment education represent an essential part of Boursa Kuwait’s approach to market development. As the range of available investment instruments evolves, the importance of empowering market participants to understand product characteristics, pricing mechanisms, and trading processes increases, supporting more conscious and efficient investment decisions,” said Mr. Naser Meshari Al-Sanousi, Senior Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Boursa Kuwait.

“The success of ETFs is not measured solely by the number of listings, but by their ability to support sustainable activity, provide a trading environment characterized by



Sara Abdul Samad

liquidity and efficiency and broaden the investor base,” he added.

“Boursa Kuwait continues to work with various stakeholders in the market apparatus to transition from product readiness to building a market capable of growth and sustainability, keeping pace with international best practices.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Anthony Sassine praised the Kuwaiti capital market, saying, “Kuwait possesses the necessary elements to build an active ETF market, particularly following the establishment of appropriate regulatory frameworks for these instruments.”

“The next phase involves strengthening the foundations for market activity, including developing market-making capabilities, expanding distribution channels, and raising investor awareness, thereby enhancing trading efficiency and enabling investors to enter and exit the market with ease and at fair prices,” he added.

A partnership combining local expertise with international standards

This webinar is a continuation of the ongoing partnership between Boursa Kuwait and the CFA Society, reflecting both parties’ commitment to advancing professional knowledge in the Kuwaiti capital market by combining local expertise with international best practices and professional standards.

“Boursa Kuwait is proud of its partnership with the CFA Society and its Kuwait chapter, which brings together our local market expertise with the international pro-



Anthony Sassine

fessional standards represented by the society. Through this webinar, we were keen to provide participants with specialized international expertise and discuss practical aspects of developing an ETF ecosystem capable of growth, thereby enhancing the readiness of the Kuwaiti market and keeping pace with global developments in the asset management industry,” said Al-Sanousi.

The partnership between Boursa Kuwait and the CFA Society Kuwait dates back to 2018, when both parties signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at providing specialized educational content on investment fundamentals on Boursa Kuwait’s online education platform, Boursa Academy, alongside cooperation in organizing training programs, workshops and awareness initiatives.

“We value the cooperation of Boursa Kuwait in this educational initiative that contributes to enhancing market participants’ knowledge of ETFs and their mechanisms, which aligns with the Society’s mission of disseminating financial knowledge and advancing professional practices, supporting the development of the Kuwaiti capital market and strengthening higher levels of efficiency and maturity,” said President of CFA Society Kuwait Mrs. Sara Abdul Samad, EMBA, CFA.

CFA Society Kuwait is comprised of investment professionals including portfolio managers, securities analysts, investment advisers and other financial practitioners, and has served CFA charterholders and CFA Program candidates in Kuwait since 2008.

Readiness of the Kuwaiti capital market

Boursa Kuwait, in cooperation with the capital market apparatus and under the leadership of the Capital Markets Authority, developed a comprehensive regulatory and operational framework that covers the lifecycle of ETFs from listing to daily trading. The bourse also established a dedicated trading board for these funds that aligns with their nature, providing an organized and transparent trading environment.

The listing framework for domestic and international funds regulates listing-related requirements and continuous disclosure obligations, supporting transparency, trading efficiency and investor protection. Key requirements include identifying a clear benchmark index that the fund tracks, appointing a market maker to support trading continuity as well as periodic disclosure of fund holdings and net asset value in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.

With these elements in place, the priority shifts to promoting actual activity in these instruments through activating the role of authorized participants, deepening distribution channels and enhancing investor participation. These elements collectively form the foundation for building a market capable of supporting product growth and sustaining its long-term activity.

Aligning efforts with market development and Kuwait Vision 2035

ETFs form part of Boursa Kuwait’s broader efforts to develop a more diversified and efficient capital market. Together with the introduction of new products and services, including fixed-income instruments, they support the continued development of a multi-asset market that responds to the needs of local and international investors and aligns with international best practices.

These efforts also reinforce Boursa Kuwait’s role in advancing the Kuwaiti capital market in collaboration with market participants, while enhancing its attractiveness and competitiveness.

They are aligned with the broader objectives of Kuwait Vision 2035 to develop the financial sector, strengthen the role of the private sector and support a more diversified and competitive economy.

These efforts also align with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to quality education, economic growth, innovation and infrastructure and partnerships, promoting investment knowledge, developing market infrastructure and supporting professional partnerships.

Main 50 edges down

Boursa slips 0.16% as general index closes at 8,897.4

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Monday’s session lower, with the broad market index slipping 0.16 percent on turnover of KD 120.6 million.

The general index fell 14.60 points to end at 8,897.40, as 391 million shares changed hands in 26,124 cash transactions worth KD 120.6 million (about USD 390.1 million).

The main market index edged down 1.07 points, or 0.01 percent, to 9,230.47. Trading activity on the main market totalled 185.8 million shares across 13,592 transactions, valued at KD 35.3 million (around

USD 114.2 million).

The premier market index declined 18.23 points, or 0.20 percent, to 9,288.30. A total of 205.2 million shares were traded in 12,532 transactions, worth KD 85.3 million (approximately USD 276 million).

The Main 50 Index, tracking the largest listed companies, dropped 2.74 points, or 0.02 percent, to 10,998.34. Turnover in the Main 50 stood at 125.4 million shares in 8,444 transactions, valued at KD 25.2 million (about USD 81.5 million).

Global Investment Summit kicks off Tuesday in Paris

PARIS, Aug 31, (KUNA): The Global Investment Summit 2026 kicks off tomorrow in Paris at the Palais des Congres.

Held from September 1 to 2, the event brings together over 2,000 participants, more than 80 international speakers and experts, and over 15 exhibitors.

It also features 40 bilateral meetings connecting investors, business leaders, decision-makers, and representatives of economic institutions from around the world.

Over the course of two days, the summit gathers an elite group of international figures, experts, and specialists from the investment, economic, technology, energy, tourism, health, and cultural sectors.

They will share insights on the transformations shaping the global economy, explore new investment opportunities, and foster cross-border partnerships among markets, institutions, and capital sources.

Prominent figures participating in the summit include Princess Nouf Moatasesm Al-Saud, Director of Decision Support and International Partnerships at the Tourism Development Fund; Vitori Bakoli-Dalipi, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Kosovo; Ana Palacio, former Spanish Foreign Minister and Visiting Professor at Georgetown University; and Marco Raghu, Advisor to the Italian Foreign Minister on Economic Diplomacy and Development and Special Envoy for International Water Policies.

The list of participants also includes Mario Centeno, former President of the Eurogroup, former Finance Minister of Portugal, and former Governor of the Bank of Portugal; Adrien Pinelli, Managing Director and Head of Middle East Investor Relations and Global Public Affairs at Eurazeo; Ivan de Lastours, Venture Capital Partner at Bpifrance; Matthew Drinkwater, Head of the Innovation Agency at the London College of Fashion; as well as Dr. Huda Al-Firdous, CEO of the Health and Education sectors at Sarat Investments Group; and Dr. Sarah Abdulaziz Al-Faisal, a strategic advisor specializing in strategy, diplomacy, and international engagement.

The summit’s agenda covers a wide range of economic and investment topics shaping the future of global capital.

These include technology, artificial intelligence, energy, tourism, real estate, advanced industries, healthcare, and the cultural and creative economy, as well as climate and sustainability, reflecting the growing influence of these sec-

tors on financing decisions, investor trends, and global markets.

The program features several key panel discussions, notably: “The New Geography of Destination-Oriented Capital”; “Beyond the Event: The Economic, Social, and Environmental Legacy of Major Sporting Events”; “The Cultural and Creative Economy: Where Heritage Meets Investment”; “Advanced Technologies and Financing Challenges: Who Funds Re-industrialization”; “Health Sovereignty: Local Manufacturing, Biotechnology, and Digital Health”; and “Artificial Intelligence and the New Model for Financing Therapeutic Development.”

Additionally, the summit addresses topics such as “The Trillion-Dollar Race for AI Computing Power”; “Water: The Hidden Infrastructure of the AI Era”; “The Next Sovereignty Race: Quantum Computing”; “Maintaining the Appeal of Climate Investment: Energy Transition and the Nuclear Renaissance”; “Climate, Sustainability, and the Green Investment Agenda”; and “Climate and New Environmental Diplomacy,” alongside a session on financing creative technologies in Europe and what angel investors are seeking.

The summit will witness the launch of several initiatives and the signing of various agreements and partnerships. These efforts aim to transition from investment dialogues to practical implementation and to expand cooperation among participating investors, companies, and institutions across key priority sectors.

The summit aims to direct 25 pct of investments toward modern technologies and to adopt Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards in 55 pct of the targeted projects.

This approach fosters the development of more efficient, sustainable projects capable of delivering long-term economic impact.

Data from the summit indicates projected European investment inflows of USD 28.59 billion into GCC countries, alongside the development of 15 joint ventures and the establishment of 8 strategic partnerships during the first year.

These developments will open new avenues for investment in clean energy, infrastructure, and sustainability-related technologies.

The summit seeks to broaden dialogue between capital and promising economic sectors, connect investors with scalable projects and opportunities, and facilitate direct engagement among government entities, the private sector, investment institutions, and international companies.

Shareholders back KD 10.6 mln capital increase

KASCO approves 241% capital hike to KD 15 mln via bonus issue



Chairman of the Kuwait Aviation Services Co. Abdulaziz Al-Shebeeb, during the extraordinary general assembly.



A scene from the extraordinary general assembly meeting of Kuwait Aviation Services Co.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): The Chairman of the Kuwait Aviation Services Co. (KASCO) Abdulaziz Al-Shebeeb said on Sunday the board of directors increased the company’s authorized, issued, and paid-up capital by approximately KD 10.6 million (USD about 34.3 million).

The total capital will rise from KD 4.4 million (about USD 14.2 million) to KD 15 million (about USD 48.5 million), an increase of 241 percent, Al-Shebeeb told KUNA in a statement after a regular General Assembly meeting of the company.

This rise came within the framework of the company’s strategy to enhance its financial position and back its future plans for expansion and development, he stated.

The step also will enable the company to continue to develop and progress its projects and services, he noted.

He stated that the increase will be implemented through the issuance of approximately 106.04 million bonus shares, with a nominal value of 100 fils per share, to be deducted from the retained earnings balance as of December 31, 2025.

The bonus shares will be allocated to shareholders registered in the company’s records as of the date of the General Assembly meeting, he elaborated.

Therefore, the number of the company’s shares will rise from 44 million to 150.04 million, he said.

The General Assembly approved amendments to Article Five of the Memorandum of Association and Article Four of the company’s Articles of Association, in line with the development of KASCO’s business and its future strategic direction, along with others, he said.

Tech sector reaches new heights

Saudi digital economy surges to \$139.2 bln under Vision 2030

RIYADH, Aug 31, (KUNA): The Saudi digital economy has surged to 522 billion Saudi riyals (USD 139.2 billion), with a cumulative growth exceeding 75 percent since the “Saudi Vision 2030” was launched, said Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdullah Al-Sawaha.

Speaking at a news conference, organized by the Ministry of Information to mark the “Leap 2026” on Sunday, the minister added that the

digital economic contributions edged up to 16 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

He noted that the communication and information technology market exceeded 199 billion riyals (USD 52.07 billion), making the kingdom the region’s largest digital economy and communications and technology market.

The number of tech jobs and tech talent rose from roughly 150,000 at the baseline to more than 410,000 in 2026, together with the growth

of the entrepreneurship ecosystem and the hike in the number of tech unicorns to nine, making up around half of the region’s billion companies, he added.

The unlimited support and empowerment from Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and Crown Prince and Prime Prince Mohammad bin Salman have contributed to building a Saudi success story in tech and digital economy, the Saudi minister remarked.

Surpassing 2.5 million social media followers

NBK redefines banking engagement through an exceptional digital presence

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues to strengthen its leadership in the digital landscape through an innovative communications strategy that has transformed social media into a dynamic platform for meaningful engagement, financial education and stronger connections with diverse segments of society.

While trust in the banking sector was traditionally built through face-to-face interactions at branches, it is now increasingly shaped through screens and digital platforms. NBK has successfully embraced this shift by transforming its social media channels into platforms for meaningful dialogue and continuous engagement with customers and the wider public.

Today, the Bank commands a strong digital community of more than 2.5 million followers across its social media platforms, while generating over 3.9 million engagements with its digital content, reflecting the success of its efforts to build an influential digital presence that remains closely connected to its audience.

With an average response time of under five minutes, NBK delivers a distinguished experience across its digital channels, enhancing the overall customer journey and reinforcing its commitment to prompt and effective communication.

Across leading social media platforms, including Instagram, TikTok, X, LinkedIn, Facebook and YouTube, NBK delivers diverse content through innovative storytelling approaches tailored to the nature of each platform and its audience.

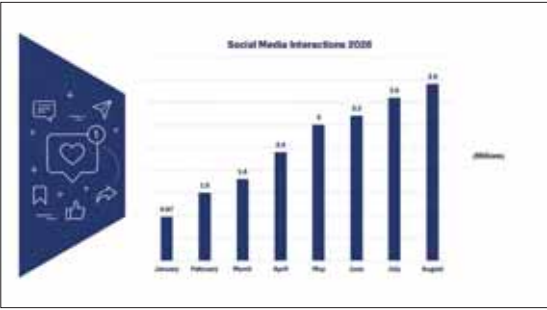
The Bank places particular emphasis on engaging younger generations through contemporary digital content that simplifies financial concepts and makes them more accessible and relatable, helping to strengthen financial awareness and support sound financial deci-



Abdulmohsen Al-Rushaid

Al-Rushaid: The Bank builds bridges of trust in the digital world with 2.5 million followers and 3.9 million engagements

- Innovative content and meaningful conversations reaching diverse audience segments
- An integrated digital strategy that has brought NBK closer to its audience across multiple platforms
- NBK transforms engagement and financial education into an integrated community experience
- Less than 5 minutes: Setting new standards for response times across digital platforms



sion-making.

On this occasion, Abdulmohsen Al-Rushaid, SVP - Head of Digital Communications at National Bank of Kuwait, said: “For us, social media extends far beyond content delivery; it is a strategic channel for direct engagement and for building enduring relationships with our customers and diverse segments of society. We believe that a meaningful digital presence is defined not simply by the size of our audience, but by our ability to deliver relevant, value-driven content, listen closely to our communities and create an interactive experience that deepens trust and advances financial literacy.”

“We are committed to leveraging digital platforms to engage younger generations through language, formats and tools that reflect their interests, while continuing to simplify financial concepts and make them more accessible and relevant to everyday life. Social media also serves as an extension of the Bank’s role in supporting community and national initiatives and strengthening meaningful engagement with the public,” Al-Rushaid added.

NBK also leverages its social media platforms to support marketing campaigns, community initiatives and corporate social responsibility programs, while actively participating in national occasions and key moments that matter to Kuwaiti society. These efforts deepen the Bank’s connection with its audience and reinforce its role as an active partner in the community.

This integrated digital approach has earned NBK prestigious international recognition, with Global Finance naming the Bank “Best in Social Media Marketing & Services in Kuwait” in recognition of its efforts to deliver innovative and engaging digital experiences that meet audience expectations and further strengthen its leadership in the digital space.

US plans new bank sanctions

Bessent warns of more Iran financial pressure

ASHEVILLE, Aug 31, (AP): President Donald Trump’s administration plans to impose sanctions on another bank this week as it intensifies efforts to economically isolate Iran, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told The Associated Press on Sunday.

“This is going to be financial violence if we have to,” Bessent said in the interview. “We are showing people that we know who you are, you know who you are, and this has got to stop.”

Bessent spoke with the AP ahead of Group of 20 meetings in Asheville, North Carolina, where he will huddle individually with his counterparts from the world’s major and developing economies to encourage cooperation against Iran.

He said he plans to focus on encouraging economic growth in his meetings, which are taking place as he faces scrutiny for an unusual bond buyback program and his approach to \$40 trillion in U.S. debt, and he defended the Treasury’s decision to exclude certain reporters from covering the event.

Bessent did not name the bank that would face sanctions this week. His comments come after the Trump administration signaled that it would shift from military strikes to economic pressure during a war that recently reached the six-month mark, promising what it called an “economic D-Day” against a country that has already weathered decades of punishing sanctions.

However, hostilities between the U.S. and Iran flared on Sunday. U.S. forces struck Iranian rocket launchers on the Strait of Hormuz in their first military action in a month, breaking a lull in fighting. Iran vowed to retaliate for what it called a deadly attack.

In addition, the administration has mostly relied on warnings rather than new sanctions against Iran’s trading partners. There’s also the question of how Trump will handle China, which is Iran’s biggest trading partner and leading buyer of its oil.

Bessent told the AP he would speak to his Chinese counterparts at the G20 meeting and “all options are on the table” in terms of sanctioning Beijing for its continued purchases.

But he rejected the idea that the administration was reluctant to confront China, calling it “a completely false narrative that the media picked up on.” He insisted that China and the U.S. agree on the need to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

Treasury’s first official action in this campaign of economic pressure was a proposed rulemaking on Friday, which would, if finalized, sever the Emirati branches of Banque Misr, Egypt’s second-largest bank, from access to the U.S. financial system.

In stopping short of imposing sanctions on the Egyptian bank, the Republican administration appeared to be signaling its reluctance to penalize major trading partners that do business with

Iran, including China and India.

The Treasury barred certain reporters from The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg News from covering the G20 meetings.

The Times said it was “not just another disturbing effort by the administration to undermine independent journalism, but a blatant attempt to evade public scrutiny.”

Treasury officials have not explained their decision.

Bessent defended the exclusion by telling the AP that “it has nothing to do with point of view.”

Bessent said he wanted to focus on growth at the summit with his counterparts.

“The world has this mountain of debt, and we do have to grow our way out of it because you know there are many countries that have very large budget deficits, but they also have zero growth,” he said.

Bessent surprised financial markets earlier this month with an unusual intervention into the bond market that sparked criticism that the administration has not done enough to address fiscal issues.

The move - which occurred on the same day the U.S. debt topped \$40 trillion - was seen as a way to try to put a cap on rising bond yields, which have pushed up borrowing costs for consumers.

Some of the sharpest criticism came from Stan Druckenmiller, CEO of Duquesne Family Office LLC - a former boss of Bessent’s in the 1990s - who wrote in The Wall Street Journal that the Treasury Department was on “the wrong side of that trade” and needed to do more to address the deficit.

Asked about the criticism, Bessent acknowledged that “we’ve been in touch” and said: “Stan’s a great money manager. He changes his mind a lot.”

“He’s twice called for the U.S. to default on its debt - once in the 1990s, and once in 2011 - so he likes extreme measures. I don’t think we’re at the point where we need extreme measures yet,” Bessent said.

Druckenmiller in a 2011 interview said a technical default on the debt “would be horrible” but not “the end of the world” if it led to measures that reined in spending on U.S. government programs.

Bessent told the AP that he was working with Russ Vought, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, on a fiscal package to bring down the debt and deficit that would be revealed in coming weeks.

He also argued that long-term U.S. bond yields were down in August “for all the noise” and said that rising yields were “a global phenomenon.”

Bessent blamed tariff refunds for the deficit hike. The government was forced to refund some tariffs paid by businesses after the U.S. Supreme Court said Trump had overstepped his authority with sweeping tariffs on imports from most countries.

US seeks allies’ support on Iran

Bessent seeks G20 support for growth agenda

ASHEVILLE, Aug 31, (AP): Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent wants to rally the world’s largest economies this week at a time when the United States has disrupted the international order with aggressive tariffs on major allies and an unpopular war on Iran is keeping gas prices high for consumers.

As Bessent hosts meetings of the Group of 20 finance ministers in Asheville, North Carolina, on Monday and Tuesday, he intends to put the focus on a range of issues intended to draw uncontroversial support, from economic growth to addressing mounting debt.

However, the event comes shortly after hostilities renewed between the U.S. and Iran, and as trade friction with Canada spiked following a breakdown in negotiations that led to escalating tariffs.

Daniel Fried, a former assistant secretary of state for European affairs in the George W. Bush administration, said the U.S. may “find it difficult to rally its usual friends and allies” under the circumstances.

If Bessent and other administration officials want international support, he said, they will need to “take greater care in consulting with allies and partners than the U.S. has shown in recent months.”

Bessent wants other countries to help the U.S. isolate Iran in order to force its capitulation during a war that recently crossed its six-month mark. Although the U.S. struck Iran again on Sunday, the administration has previously signaled its intention to focus on economic pressure rather than military action to achieve its goals.

Bessent told The Associated Press on Sunday that the Treasury plans to impose sanctions on another bank. He also said the administration is prepared to exact “financial violence if we have to.”

So far, President Donald Trump has not followed through on threats of an “economic D-Day” for Iran, instead largely relying on warnings to Iran’s trading partners. A particular challenge is China, which is the largest buyer of Iranian oil.

Bessent told the AP that “all options are on the table” in terms of sanctioning Beijing for its con-

tinued purchases.

But he rejected the idea that the administration was reluctant to confront China, calling it “a completely false narrative that the media picked up on.” He insisted that China and the U.S. agree on the need to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

The G20 meetings are taking place in Asheville, which was devastated by Hurricane Helene in September 2024. The natural disaster killed more than 250 people and caused nearly \$80 billion in damage from Florida to the Carolinas.

Bessent cites Asheville’s rebuilding as a symbolic backdrop for discussions about economic growth.

“We want the rest of the world to come along with our growth agenda, whether it’s deregulation, the energy independence, and we want to discuss global imbalances, banking regulations, some sovereign debt restructuring for developing countries,” Bessent told the AP.

He added that “the world has this mountain of debt, and we do have to grow our way out of it.”

Ex-White House staffer ordered to repay \$107,500

White House aide banned from trading over insider bets

WASHINGTON, Aug 31, (AP): A former White House teleprompter operator accused of using inside knowledge to make bets on the prediction market Kalshi has been ordered to turn over more than \$100,000 in profits and pay a \$65,000 fine as part of a settlement with federal authorities.

The settlement with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, announced Friday, also dealt Gabriel Perez a three-year trading ban. Perez was placed on unpaid leave from his job at the White House after reports emerged that he used his posi-

tion to make bets on what President Donald Trump would say in speeches.

The White House did not immediately comment on the settlement. A White House official said in July that Perez was no longer in his position but did not say if he had been fired or resigned.

The commission found that Perez made \$107,500 on prediction markets by betting on words and phrases that would appear in Trump’s speeches between December 2025 and February 2026.

“In his position, Perez had access to presidential

speeches prior to those speeches being delivered and Perez misappropriated that information - in breach of his duty of trust and confidence,” according to a release from the commission.

Perez was ordered to repay his profits in full, along with the \$65,000 civil penalty, which the commission said was a reduction because of his “exemplary cooperation.”

As details emerged July 16, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said it was “unfortunate” and “a disgrace.”

The Conversation

Why US-Canada trade war could change how American farmers grow their crops for years

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



By Jayash Paudel
University of Oklahoma

U.S. President Donald Trump’s trade war with Canada is getting personal for American farmers.

After trade talks between the two longtime allies fell apart in mid-August 2026, Trump imposed 50% tariffs on a wide range of Canadian imports worth roughly US\$20 billion (CAD\$27 billion). Canada responded on Aug. 25, 2026, by announcing its own plan to put retaliatory tariffs of 15% to 50% on the same value of U.S. goods, effective Sept. 8.

Canada’s list includes dairy products and agricultural equipment, and there is an unspoken threat that it could expand to a crucial component in fertilizer that U.S. farmers rely on.

I have studied agriculture and water quality for more than a decade, including whether trade rules change how farmers manage their land.

In my assessment, the enduring effect of this trade war on U.S. agriculture, if it continues to escalate, won’t be a single bad season. Across thousands of farms, farmers may have to reduce their fertilizer use as prices - already high from supply disruptions because of the war in Iran - rise. It may have little visible consequence at first, but the lasting impact could emerge later in smaller future harvests if this trade war continues.

Canada’s tariffs aren’t directly aimed at farmers, but farms will feel the cost if they go into effect.

A tariff is a tax on imported goods paid by the importer, effectively raising the cost of those goods. When China responded to U.S. tariffs during the first Trump administration in 2018, its retaliatory tariffs hit U.S. soybeans and automobiles, directly affecting the American

agricultural sector. Research shows U.S. agricultural exports to China fell by \$7 billion to \$10 billion a year, as Chinese buyers shifted to Brazilian suppliers.

Canada’s tariff list for Sept. 8 appears to match U.S. tariffs dollar for dollar. I believe agriculture is caught in the broader fallout, not directly targeted.

However, the effect will still reach farms.

Canada is one of the largest markets for American food, importing about \$28 billion in U.S. agricultural products in 2025. Both U.S. and Canada are also deeply integrated in agricultural trade and farm equipment markets. Farm equipment is assembled from parts that cross the border. Live cattle and processed foods also move both ways.

Tariffs can raise costs along that chain. Canadian officials, recognizing that, included several billion dollars in aid for their farmers in announcing the tariff plan.

An analysis of the tariffs Trump ordered in 2025 on countries around the world shows how fast agricultural trade flows reorganize under this sort of pressure. When North American trade barriers go up, U.S. imports of fruits and vegetables from Canada and Mexico typically drop, with buyers turning to Australia and Argentina instead. The result is often higher consumer prices for key agriculture products in the United States.

Canada is also a major source of potash, a fertilizer ingredient that U.S. farmers depend on.

If pushed too far, Canada could levy export tariffs on potash and, potentially, even on oil, natural gas and electricity, raising the price for U.S. buyers. The widespread impact that such a move would have on U.S. consumer prices may give Canada leverage going forward.

Crops require three main nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Potassium comes almost entirely from potash. American mines produce less than 1% of the global potash supply, and the U.S. imports more than 80% of

its potassium from the Elk Point Basin in Saskatchewan, Canada. These are geology-based U.S. constraints in agriculture.

Notably, potash was not included in the U.S. tariff list. Taxing such a key agricultural input would have raised costs for American growers.

American farmers are already squeezed on fertilizer costs.

When the U.S. and Israeli war with Iran shut down shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, it cut off a large source of nitrogen fertilizer, raising fertilizer and fuel prices. A Farm Bureau survey in April 2026 found 70% of farmers said they couldn’t afford all the fertilizer they needed during spring planting.

Nitrogen washes out of soil and must be re-applied every year. Potassium and phosphorus, on the other hand, build up as a reserve. This means that a farmer facing high prices can skip an application and briefly live off that reserve. This is consistent with advice from agricultural extension researchers who compare this coping strategy to a fuel gauge: You can make a trip or two without refilling, but not the third.

Potash was the one major nutrient that the Iran shock didn’t directly affect. However, if Canada raises the price of potash, that could have similar effects.

When fertilizer prices spike, farmers tend to cut phosphorus and potassium first and nitrogen last. But restoring potassium in soil takes time, with several pounds of fertilizer for every pound of soil-test potassium recovered, spread over years. So, even a one-year restriction on potash access can have an impact.

Economic research shows that trade policy uncertainty affects agricultural decisions even before tariffs take effect. A farmer who cannot predict next year’s costs may delay the purchase and hope that prices will ease.

Fertilizer is often bought months ahead of planting, so hesitating in the fall can mean less goes on the ground in the spring. Uncertainty alone can reduce what gets applied before any tariff exists. (AP)

Agreement supports 4th ‘Omniya Your School’ initiative

Warba Bank, Omniya sign strategic partnership to support recycling and environmental sustainability

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Warba Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Omniya, an environmental management and recycling organization, to strengthen cooperation on environmental initiatives, promote plastic recycling, and encourage sustainable practices across Kuwait.

The partnership forms part of Warba Bank’s corporate social responsibility and environmental sustainability efforts, focusing on practical initiatives that support the circular economy and resource preservation.

Key Areas of Collaboration:

- **Plastic Recycling Support:** Warba Bank will support Omniya’s environmental programs, focusing on plastic waste collection and recycling to reduce waste sent to landfills and support circular economy practices.
- **School Engagement Program:** Warba Bank will support the fourth edition of the “Omniya Your School” initiative for the 2026–2027 academic year, engaging students in



Warba Bank Senior Director of Public Relations and Corporate Communications Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, and Omniya CEO Sanaa Al-Ghemlas.

practical recycling activities and environmental education.

■ **Impact Measurement:** Tracking plastic collection volumes and recycling outcomes to assess environmental impact, including estimated emissions reductions and improvements in resource efficiency.

Executive Commentary:

Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Senior Director of Public Relations and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, stated:

“This partnership with Omniya reflects Warba Bank’s commitment to supporting national environmental initiatives. By backing plastic recycling and waste management pro-

grams, we aim to encourage responsible environmental behavior across the community and contribute to national sustainability objectives.”

Sanaa Al-Ghemlas, Chief Executive Officer of Omniya, commented:

“The fourth edition of ‘Omniya Your School’ for the 2026–2027 academic year aims to instill sustainable habits in students from an early age. Our collaboration with Warba Bank strengthens our efforts to engage youth in environmental stewardship and measure the impact of our joint efforts through plastic waste collection, recycling outcomes, and estimated emissions reductions.”

About Warba Bank:

Warba Bank is a leading Islamic bank in Kuwait with a strong focus on Sharia-compliant digital banking. With one of the largest shareholder bases in the country, the bank delivers innovative financial products and services, reinforcing its position as a digital-focused financial institution.

Strong exports lift China manufacturing

China’s August PMI beats forecasts, aided by export orders

HONG KONG, Aug 31, (AP): China’s factory activity improved marginally in August as export demand remained robust, though overall manufacturing still was in a contraction.

China’s official manufacturing purchasing managers’ index, or PMI, recovered slightly to 49.8 in August from 49.2 in July, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

The report Monday was better than what economists had expected.

PMI readings, based on monthly surveys of companies, are measured on a scale of 0 to 100. A reading above 50 indicates an expansion, while below 50 reflects a contraction.

“Manufacturing activity rebounded thanks to strong export demand,” Nguyen Hoang Nam, a China economist at Capital Economics, wrote in a research note Monday.

Several PMI sub-indices returned to expansion in August. The sub-index on production advanced to 50.4, from 49.9 in July. The new orders sub-index recovered to 50.6 from 48.5, while new export orders improved to 50.1 from 49.6.



Containers are loaded and unloaded in trucks at terminal in Qingdao in eastern China’s Shandong province on Aug. 28, 2026. (Chinatopix via AP)

Huo Lihui, a chief statistician with the National Bureau of Statistics, said in a statement that the August PMI data reflected an improvement in China’s overall economy.

Chinese exports jumped almost 24% in July from the year before, and more than 18% in the first seven months of this year, supported by strong demand for high-tech exports like semiconductors thanks to the boom in artificial intelligence. Robust demand for electric vehicles, in part fueled by higher energy costs

due to the Iran war, are another key factor behind strong growth in exports.

China has also been exporting more to regions including Europe and Southeast Asia as U.S. tariffs dent China-U.S. trade following President Donald Trump’s return to the White House last year.

“Demand for green technologies was already accelerating last year and has continued to strengthen, providing an important additional boost to Chinese exports so far this year,” said Max Zenglein, a senior economist for the Asia Pacific at The Conference Board.

Trade issues will likely be discussed during Trump’s expected meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, which is set for late September.

Despite the boom in trade, sluggish domestic demand partly due to a protracted slump in the property sector has weighed on the Chinese economy.

The economy grew at a 4.3% annual pace in the April-June quarter, its slowest growth rate in more than three years.

Shein set for \$1.7 bln Hong Kong debut as China IPO market surges

China IPO boom gathers pace on AI, robotics frenzy

HONG KONG, Aug 31, (AP): Chinese markets are booming with new public stock offerings, energized by the craze for artificial intelligence and other advanced technology and a growing preference to list shares in Hong Kong and Shanghai.

In the latest big stock listing, shares in China-founded e-commerce and fast fashion giant Shein are due to debut Tuesday in Hong Kong in a blockbuster initial public offering raising \$1.7 billion, in one of the city’s biggest new share sales this year.

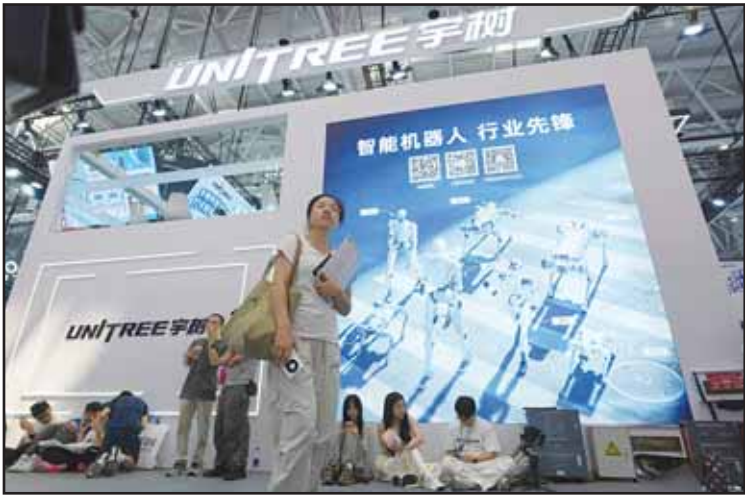
In July, CXMT, China’s largest memory chipmaker, raised more than \$8.6 billion in Shanghai in the second-largest IPO for its Nasdaq-style STAR market, mainland China’s second-largest IPO. Its shares jumped 466% on the first day of trading.

Unitree, one of China’s leading humanoid robot makers, also made its listing debut in Shanghai in August. Shares rose 460% on the first day of trading.

“The current IPO boom is powered by investor appetite for AI and robotics,” said Ruiying Zhao, a senior research analyst at S&P Global Market Intelligence. Trading in Shanghai’s stock market, for one, is heavily driven by retail investors.

CXMT’s IPO in Shanghai “placed China in a strategically significant position in tech manufacturing related to AI,” said Perris Lee, head of APAC equity capital markets for ION Analytics. “It’s also a testament to China’s tech self-sufficiency ambitions.”

Founded in China in 2016, the company’s revenue surged more than 700% year-on-year to 50.8 bil-



Attendees to the World Robot Conference hang out near the Unitree booth in Beijing, on Aug. 20, 2026. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

lion yuan (about \$7.5 billion) in the first three months of 2026 on a spike in demand for computer chips needed for AI.

IPO proceeds in Hong Kong and Shanghai so far this year have already surpassed the funding raised last year, according to the financial data platform LSEG.

It says IPOs and secondary listing activities on the Hong Kong and Shanghai exchanges raised a total of over \$54 billion from so far in 2026, surpassing last year’s total of more than \$46 billion.

Combined Hong Kong and Shanghai proceeds so far this year accounted for roughly 21% globally, ranking them only behind only the Nasdaq’s roughly 55% global share, LSEG said. There, the mega \$75 billion

IPO by SpaceX in June made the U.S. exchange the world’s biggest IPO market this year.

Since China limits foreign purchases on mainland exchanges, many Chinese companies do parallel listings in Hong Kong to help raise international capital.

Stricter U.S. and Chinese regulatory scrutiny in recent years of big Chinese companies listing in U.S. markets, especially those in strategically important sectors like advanced technologies, has led some Chinese companies to stick closer to home.

Listing overseas typically takes more time compared with doing IPOs in China, said Howie Farn, a capital markets partner at the law firm Freshfields.

In Hong Kong, recent public stock

listings of Apple-supplier Luxshare Precision Industry, and Zhongji InnoLight, which makes optical transceivers used in data centers, were among this year’s largest deals and were also a reflection of investor demand for advanced technologies.

More companies are looking to hold their IPOs in Hong Kong or Shanghai, like robotics firms AGIBOT and Deep Robotics.

Shein also explored the possibility of listings in the U.S. and London before opting for Hong Kong.

After massive oversubscriptions and huge gains in their share debuts, some companies have seen their market value shrink.

Chinese robot maker Unitree’s share price had fallen more than 40% as of Friday from its peak share price on the day of its trading debut.

“The critical question remains: is the AI sentiment enough?” said Zhao from S&P, as the similar question that raised worries among investors in the U.S. also now also applies to China. “For a durable market cycle, investors will demand sustainable revenue, visible profit margins, and realistic valuations.

The global AI frenzy also has also drawn attention away from companies like Shein. “The AI investment mix is absorbing much of the risk appetite that would have otherwise flowed to a company like Shein,” said Jacob Cooke, CEO of WPIC Marketing + Technologies.

Shein’s IPO puts the company’s value at around \$27 billion, a fraction of its peak valuation a few years ago, though that is partly due to U.S. and EU moves to restrict de minimus tax-exemptions for imports of small packages.

Nissan and Honda agree to work together on software for cars

TOKYO, Aug 31, (AP): Japanese automakers Nissan and Honda entered a deal to jointly develop computer parts and software for vehicles set to enter the market in fiscal 2029, both sides said Monday.

Under the deal, Nissan, based in the port city of Yokohama, and Tokyo-based Honda will share standardized parts in “core ECUs,” or electronic control units, as well as software.

Nissan and Honda started talks in 2024 to work together in developing electric vehicles and auto intelligence technology.

Nissan makes Leaf electric cars and Infiniti luxury models, while Honda makes the Accord sedan, Civic compact and Odyssey minivan.

Monday’s agreement did not specifically mention EVs, or any model names, and was focused on so-called software-defined vehicles, which could include EVs. These vehicles have functions and features that can be updated and controlled by software, rather than the mechanics of hardware.

The global competition in the auto industry is increasingly intensifying as it moves into various technologies, such as automated driving and zero emissions. Each vehicle is starting to be more like a computer packed with electronic parts and software rather than the old image of the gas-guzzling engines.

Sharing components and collaborating on research will help cut costs and speed up development, as well as add efficiency in economy of scale once the vehicles go into production.

European makers Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Stellantis are working together in software development so they can share the same operating system.

Both Nissan and Honda are overshadowed by Toyota Motor Corp., the top Japanese automaker, and working together could be a plus in competing against Toyota.

However, Toyota has been mentioned in the past as engaging in the software talks with Nissan and Honda, although it was not part of Monday’s announcement.

Toyota is working on software with other companies like Subaru, which is part of the Toyota group, and U.S. autonomous driving technology company Waymo.

As part of their strategic partnership, Nissan and Honda will continue to explore other opportunities for collaboration across a range of areas, including zero-emissions and decreasing traffic fatalities.

The Conversation

ICE detention revives rural prison economy

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

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By Ella Siegrist
Washington University in St. Louis

In January 2026, during Operation Country Roads, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and state and local law enforcement detained roughly 600 immigrants across West Virginia.

Many of those arrested were held in the state’s already overpopulated jail system, which until this spring was part of a national network of immigrant detention centers.

Within this market, ICE ships detainees around the country, paying hundreds of facilities a per-day rate for housing them. Many of these facilities are in rural communities where federal funding cuts have hollowed out social services, from healthcare to food stamps, leaving them desperate for economic relief.

Federal immigration detention in local facilities hearkens back to earlier eras of expanding American incarceration. As a sociologist of law and punishment, I’ve explored how rural places have long built and expanded prisons to tap into federal funds during times of economic precarity.

Rural incarceration isn’t new. More than a century before ICE was established, West Virginia was holding out-of-state federal prisoners to collect revenue - a history I reconstructed using the West Virginia Penitentiary’s administrative records.

As modern prisons proliferated across the nation, major cities exported prisoners to state prisons in less populated areas. West Virginia was one of a few states - alongside Maryland and Texas - to receive these excess urban prisoners.

Beginning in 1876 and lasting until around 1908, federal and District of Columbia prisoners sent to West Virginia drove an expansion of the state’s prison system. During this time, the state’s prison population grew more than sevenfold, booming from about 160 in 1876 to more than 1,200 in 1908. Controlling for population growth, the incarceration rate tripled.

West Virginia was paid for housing each federal prisoner, and the state’s prison administration was desperate for this revenue. Reports that I reviewed from the penitentiary’s wardens and supervisory board show that by 1908 revenue from the federal government was US\$77,000 over a two-year period, or the equivalent of \$2.8 million in today’s dollars.

Beginning in 1908, after federal prisons opened in Atlanta, Georgia, and Leavenworth, Kansas, most federal prisoners were sent to these new federal prisons, and cells began to empty at the West Virginia state penitentiary.

The national incarceration rate - which includes both jails, for short-term detention, and prisons, for sentences of more than a year - has more or less crept downward since 2010. But that decline is not even across place or institution; it has been concentrated in cities and liberal-leaning states that have implemented expansive criminal justice reforms and diversion courts.

Meanwhile, jail stays are booming, especially in rural and suburban places. Lengthy pretrial periods and resource shortages account for much of that growth. So does the rental of jail beds to outside entities, including state departments of correction and

federal immigration authorities.

Rural communities have often vied for prisons, just as they lobbied for federal prisoners in the 1800s. These rural areas seek new prisons for the infusion of money and jobs into the local economy. According to sociologist John Eason, these facilities often function as a “state-sponsored public works program for disadvantaged rural communities,” creating “perverse economic incentives for prison proliferation.”

Today, as criminal justice reforms drive down prison admissions in some areas, immigration detention is filling prison and jail cells that would otherwise be empty. The number of people detained by ICE increased by 58% - or more than 25,000 people - between 2025 and 2026, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, which advocates to end mass incarceration. Expanded immigration detention, the group’s March 2026 report says, “accounts for virtually all of the growth in mass incarceration” since its last report.

Indiana offers an example of this shift: Its Miami Correctional Facility in rural Bunker Hill had 1,000 beds it could not properly staff with a limited budget. The state now rents those beds to ICE for \$291 per detainee per day.

In the rural town of Baldwin, Michigan, in one of the state’s poorest counties, a closed prison has reopened as an ICE facility. A state legislator told The Washington Post in August 2025 that the facility was on track to become the area’s biggest employer and taxpayer.

Similarly, in August 2026 officials announced that a long-closed private prison in rural Minnesota will soon reopen as an ICE detention center. As sentencing decreased across the state, the prison in Swift County, which was once one of the area’s largest employers, closed in 2010 for lack of demand. But its reopening presents an economic opportunity: Minnesota state Sen. Torrey Westrom pointed to some 450 new jobs that the facility will bring to the area.

Following the decline of prisoner importation in the early 20th century, West Virginia ceased to receive direct federal payments for housing prisoners. But a similar practice, one fueled by immigrant detention, has returned to the Mountain State.

As immigration enforcement ramped up under the second Trump administration, West Virginia, like many states - including Ohio and Florida - opened its facilities to ICE, which paid the state \$90 per day per detainee.

Beginning in early 2026, federal judges ordered the release of immigrants held in the state’s jails, finding due process violations. In late March, the regional jail system temporarily suspended accepting new immigrant detainees.

Nonetheless, West Virginia has continued to collaborate with federal immigration enforcement for financial gain. The state hosts a recently expanded Customs and Border Protection training center and will continue participating in the federal 287(g) program, through which local law enforcement agencies are paid to collaborate with the federal government on immigration enforcement.

In the past, rural states and counties have built out their carceral systems with profit from imported prisoners. Immigration detention is reviving that model. So long as states see immigration detention as a potential revenue stream, it appears that tradition will continue. (AP)

Workers’ strike disrupts flights at Kenya airport

NAIROBI, Aug 31, (AP): A workers’ strike has slowed down air traffic at Kenya’s main airport in Nairobi, leaving many travelers stranded after their flights were delayed or canceled.

Kenya Airports Authority said in a statement Monday that “some flights are experiencing delays and cancellations,” advising travelers to check with their carriers before going to the airport.

Hellen Moraa, who was heading to the Netherlands via Dubai for business, said at the airport that the delays could cost her financially. “It is unfair,” she said.

Members of the Kenya Aviation Workers Union, or KAWU, are protesting alleged unfair staff hiring practices, poor compensation and proposed changes to the management of Jomo Kenyatta International

Airport.

The union says concerns over workers’ job security and terms of employment remain unresolved. Its leader, Moss Ndiema, said union officials met government representatives on Sunday in an attempt to resolve the dispute but that the talks ended without an agreement.

The union accuses Kenya Airports Authority of failing to adequately support workers. It opposes plans to use volunteers as airport staff, saying the move could undermine the role of trained airport workers.

Kenya Airways and its subsidiary Jambojet reported extended flight delays.

A similar strike in February stranded passengers at the airport, a major transport hub for regional and international travel.

Arab classics serenade Kuwait



A performance during a recital titled “Arab Stars Who Sang in Love with Kuwait,” held at the Drama Hall of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center.

18th Summer Cultural Festival concludes with musical tribute

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): The 18th Summer Cultural Festival, organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NC-CAL), concluded on Sunday with a recital titled “Arab Stars Who Sang in Love with Kuwait,” held at the Drama Hall of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center.

The evening celebrated a part of Kuwait’s artistic heritage, featuring songs that have expressed love for Kuwait and reflected its place in the hearts of Arab artists and the Kuwaiti public for generations.

The program included performances of famous songs by some of the greatest Arab singers, including Umm Kulthum, Farid Al-Atrash, Abdel Halim Hafez, Fairuz, Najat Al-Saghira, and others.

The songs were performed by singers Abdulaziz Al-Misbah and



Left: Abdulaziz Al-Misbah performs with the orchestra. Right: Maestro Dr. Mohammed Al-Baajian.



KUNA photos

Saud Al-Fayez, with the orchestra led by Maestro Dr. Mohammed Al-Baajian. The performance was met with enthusiastic applause from the audience.

The musical evening highlighted the cultural and artistic ties that have connected Kuwait with its sister Arab nations for decades, contributing to stronger communication and greater cultural and artistic exchange through music and song.

The event marked the conclusion of the 18th Summer Cultural Festival, which began on August 5 and featured a diverse program of cultural and artistic activities.

The festival included events and activities for various age groups, reflecting NCCAL’s commitment to promoting culture and the arts while providing opportunities for creativity and community engagement.

Grogu returns as streaming gets spooky

The “Mandalorian & Grogu” and a new album from Ellie Goulding are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

Also among the streaming offerings worth your time this week, as selected by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists: “Scary Movie,” the new season of “Chad Powers” and a reality series from influencer Alix Earle.

“Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu” failed to make a major impact at the summer box office, but it gets a second shot on streaming Wednesday on Disney+. Jon Favreau’s film follows Din Djarin (Pedro Pascal) and his young apprentice, Grogu, on a high-stakes mission. In his review, AP’s Mark Kennedy called it an “overlong and overviolent chapter, which relies on too many computer effects and exposes the limits of puppetry.”

The Wayans return in “Scary Movie” (Thursday on Paramount+), the sixth entry in the long-running horror spoof franchise. The latest one, a hit in theaters in June, marks the Wayans’ return to the franchise after their departure over creative differences following 2001’s “Scary Movie 2.” In his review, Kennedy called it “a pastiche of loosely tied skits that riff off current and past horror movies as well as topical events like ICE raids and the Drake and Kendrick Lamar beef.”

“The Runner,” an action thriller starring Gal Gadot, debuts Wednesday on Prime Video. In the film, directed by Kevin Macdonald, Gadot plays a lawyer traveling on foot through London to kill a client and save her kidnapped son.

- AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Think you know Ellie Goulding’s sound? Think again. The English pop performer’s sixth studio album, “I Know Too Much,” releases Friday, and its three lead singles paint a dynamic picture. First is “Black Prada Dress.” It’s anthemic synth-pop, like she is known for, but with a strong heartbreak message. (“I Know Too Much” is her first album since the end of her marriage to art dealer Caspar Jopling.) Then there’s the swaying acoustic ballad “4 Seasons” and the clubby, electronic “Ravers.” It is something for every flavor.

For most, Natalie Imbruglia is best - and perhaps only - known for her 1997 hit single “Torn.” But she’s been releasing music consistently in the years since. On Friday, the Australian-British singer-songwriter will release her seventh studio album, “Algorithm.” Don’t let the tech-forward title dissuade you from pressing play: The dreamy guitar pop of a track like “Upside Down” is deceptively earworm-y. It’s one

for the Carly Rae Jepsen fan.

- AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

Guy Ritchie’s “The Gentlemen” returns for Season 2 on Netflix on Thursday. It stars Theo James as Eddie, who inherited his father’s estate only to find he was running an underground cannabis business and had ties to the mob. The episodes pick up a year after the events of Season 1. Hugh Bonneville and Michele Morrone also join the cast.

Glen Powell’s “Chad Powers” Season 2 also drops Thursday, with all six episodes releasing on Hulu. Powell plays Russ Holliday, a disgraced college football player who wears prosthetics to pass as an athlete named Chad Powers so he can continue to play the sport. In the new season Powers is having a hard time maintaining his cover as more people learn the truth of who he is.

Influencer and podcast host Alix Earle has a new reality series called “Earle Meets World,” featuring Earle, her sister and content creator Ashton, and their blended family. (Earle’s stepmom is Ashley Dupré, known for her connection to the 2008 Eliot Spitzer scandal.) The series premieres Friday on Netflix.

- AP Writer Alicia Rancilio

Coen, the protagonist of Bandai Namco’s “The Blood of Dawnwalker,” has it tough: He’s a lowly peasant in violent, plague-ridden 14th-century Europe, and the local warlords are vampires. After Coen gets bitten by the boss, he turns into a hybrid human-by-day, bloodsucker-by-night. Can he retain his humanity and save his family, or should he embrace the eternal darkness? This is the debut release from Polish studio Rebel Wolves, which includes some of the designers who worked on the 2015 landmark “The Witcher 3.” If you’ve been craving a role-playing game with plenty of gore, you can sink your teeth in Thursday on PlayStation 5, Xbox X/S and PC.

Capcom’s “Onimusha: Way of the Sword” takes us to a different historical hellhole: a version of feudal-era Japan that has been “twisted by malevolent clouds of Malice.” The hero this time is samurai Miyamoto Musashi, and his job is to slay the demonic Genma that have overrun the land. Fortunately he is equipped with a gauntlet that absorbs the souls of his enemies, restoring his health or giving him supernatural powers. The Onimusha series dates back a few decades, but this is the first new chapter since 2006. Unsheathe your blade Friday on PlayStation 5, Xbox X/S, Switch 2 and PC.

- Lou Kesten (AP)

Film

‘Spider-Man’ stays No. 1 for fifth weekend as ‘Coyote’ runs second

NEW YORK, Aug 31, (AP): Three years after Warner Bros. abruptly canned “Coyote vs. Acme,” the Looney Tunes feature film that was given a new lease on life by Ketchup Entertainment debuted with an estimated \$15.5 million in ticket sales over the weekend.

For the fifth weekend in a row, “Spider-Man: Brand New Day” topped the North American box office. It grossed \$22.2 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday, bringing its worldwide total to \$2.33 billion and making it the fourth highest-grossing film of all time.

“Coyote vs. Acme,” which had been relegated to the dust heap, fared best of the newcomers, debuting in second place.

The Ridley Scott action drama “The Dog Stars,” starring Jacob Elordi, flopped. The film, about a pilot and German Shepherd who survive a global pandemic, opened in fifth place with \$8 million for 20th Century Studios. It added \$11.3 million overseas, a poor result for a film that cost between \$70 million and \$100 million to make.

“Coyote vs. Acme,” however, scored a decent, hard-earned opening. In 2023, Warner Bros. canceled any release of the completed film, preferring to take a tax write off on a movie originally produced for its streaming service, HBO Max. Warner also shelved “Batgirl” and “Scoob! Holiday Haunt,” both of which remain unreleased.

“Coyote vs. Acme,” based on an



This image released by Ketchup Entertainment shows the character Wile E. Coyote, voiced by Eric Bauza, in a scene from “Coyote vs Acme.” (AP)

Ian Frazier “Shouts and Murmurs” New Yorker column, is about Wile E. Coyote suing the Acme Corporation for its faulty products. It stars Will Forte, John Cena, Lana Condor and Eric Bauza.

The film, a hybrid of live-action and animation directed by Dave Green, cost \$70 million to make. But despite good test screening scores, Warner Bros. opted to ax the completed film. After an outcry, the studio put the film up for sale. Early last year, Ketchup Entertainment acquired worldwide distribution rights for about \$50 million.

For the makers of the film, just getting released was a victory.

“Coyote vs. Acme” is finally, gloriously, in theaters now,” Green said on social media Friday. “Which means one thing. WE WON.”

Reviews and audience scores were also good. Moviegoers gave it an “A” CinemaScore. Critics were just as enthusiastic. On Rotten Tomatoes, it rated 95% fresh.

While the result might have counted as a disappointment for some \$70 million movies, the opening weekend for “Coyote

vs. Acme” was the best ever for Ketchup. The indie distributor’s previous high was 2024’s “The Day the Earth Blew Up” (a \$3.1 million opening), another Warner-made Looney Tunes castoff.

“The box office numbers are fair, but the reception is excellent and the release should set up good ancillary business for kids’ viewing, where the film should recoup its investment,” said David A. Gross, who publishes the box office newsletter FranchiseRe.

“The Odyssey,” in its seventh weekend, slid to third place with \$14.3 million. It remains unusually strong overseas, where the Christopher Nolan movie grossed \$48.6 million over the weekend. Altogether, the Universal Pictures release has collected \$1.55 billion in global sales.

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

1. “Spider-Man: Brand New Day,” \$22.2 million.
2. “Coyote vs. Acme,” \$15.5 million.
3. “The Odyssey,” \$14.3 million.
4. “Insidious: Out of the Furry,” \$10.1 million.
5. “The Dog Stars,” \$8 million.
6. “Buddy,” \$5.4 million.
7. “The End of Oak Street,” \$5 million.
8. “PAW Patrol: The Dino Movie,” \$4.9 million.
9. “Mutiny,” \$2.8 million.
10. “Tony,” \$2.2 million.

Food

Colorful mix of cooked & fresh ingredients replaces the usual seafood

Mexican ceviche gets a wedding-inspired makeover

NEW YORK, Aug 31, (AP): Fresh ceviche is a staple of Mexican cuisine, but my husband and I were introduced to the concept of roasted ceviche at our wedding.

The side dish, adapted here from my cookbook “Plantas,” is made of a combination of cooked and fresh ingredients contributing to a sweet, spicy and tangy side dish that couldn’t be easier to make. The addition of pan-friend hominy adds a nutty heartiness that is unexpected and so delicious!

We got married in Mérida, Mexico, in 2022 and had the honor of having our wedding weekend catered by an incredible Oaxacan chef. Chef Sara made piña hominy ceviche tostadas for our tornaboda, a get-together held the day after the wedding in Mexican culture. This unique take on ceviche quite literally revived my very exhausted body. The brightness and satisfying variety in textures and flavors brought me back to life after a long day of dancing and eating.

This is my rendition of the ceviche my husband and I both fell in love with as very tired but exceptionally happy newlyweds the day after our wedding!



This image released by Voracious shows a recipe for habanero roasted ceviche from the cookbook “Plantas” by Alexa Soto. (AP)

- Serves 8 to 10**

 - 2 tablespoons neutral oil, such as avocado oil, divided
 - 1 cup canned hominy, drained and rinsed
 - 1 cup fresh or frozen white corn kernels
 - Sea salt
 - 2 small Mexican zucchinis or 1 regular green zucchini, diced small
- ½ small red onion, finely diced
 - 1 large mango, peeled, pitted, and diced small
 - ¼ bunch cilantro, chopped

Marinade:

 - ¾ cup fresh lime juice (from about 6 limes)
 - 2 oranges, peeled and white pith removed
 - 2 garlic cloves, peeled

- ½ to 1 habanero pepper, stemmed
 - ¼ bunch cilantro
- To Serve:**
- 10 tostadas or 1 (10- to 12-ounce) bag tortilla chips
 - 2 avocados, halved, pitted, peeled and sliced
- Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add the hominy and corn and cook for 4 to 5 minutes, until tender, then season lightly with salt. Transfer to a large mixing bowl.
 - Heat the remaining 1 tablespoon oil in the same pan over medium heat. Add the zucchini and cook for 5 to 6 minutes, until golden. Lightly salt the zucchini and cook for 5 to 6 minutes, until golden. Then add to the bowl with the hominy and corn. Add the onion, mango, and cilantro to the bowl and stir to combine. Season with salt to taste.
 - Combine all the marinade ingredients in a blender and blend on high for 1 minute, or until smooth. Pour the marinade over the ingredients in the bowl and mix to combine. Taste and add more salt to your liking.
 - Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Serve on tostadas with sliced avocado, or with chips for dipping.

Clooney, Pattinson, Cruz & Bardem headline the 83rd edition

Hollywood stars descend on Venice Film Festival



Liam Gallagher, left, and Noel Gallagher of Oasis perform on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025, in East Rutherford, N.J. (AP)

VENICE, Italy, Aug 31, (AP): Some of Hollywood’s biggest stars are heading to Venice, Italy, for the 83rd edition of the Venice Film Festival, which kicks off on Wednesday.

Here’s a rundown of everything you need to know about the festival, the Oscar buzz and who’s going.

It’s one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world, second only to Cannes, and technically the oldest. Venice is also a reliably starry affair, gathering some of the best films in international cinema, and it often factors into the Oscars race.

The film festival was established in 1932, then a non-competitive event, by the La Biennale di Venezia, hosting films like “Grand Hotel” and “It Happened One Night.” By 1935, it decided to make it an annual event. Suspicions that the festival was succumbing to fascist influences actually led to the establishment of the Cannes Film Festival as an alternative after the 1938 edition.

The Golden Lion award as we know it today wouldn’t be introduced until 1949. “Rashômon” won in 1951, and other winners throughout history include “Belle de jour”

in 1967, “Au revoir les enfants” in 1987, “Brokeback Mountain” in 2005, “Somewhere” in 2010, “Poor Things” in 2023 and, last year, “Father Mother Sister Brother.”

The festival kicks off on Wednesday and runs through Sept. 12, when the awards will be announced. The opening night film is Danny Boyle’s “Ink,” an adaptation of the acclaimed stage play about the early years of Rupert Murdoch - played by Guy Pearce - and his acquisition of the daily newspaper The Sun. Jack O’Connell and Claire Foy also star.

George Clooney is back to being a near-annual fixture. This time he’ll be at the festival to pick up a lifetime achievement award. He’s also a producer on “Furies.” Other stars expected include Noel and Liam Gallagher of Oasis, Rooney and Kate Mara, Robert Pattinson, Penélope Cruz, Javier Bardem, Pamela Anderson, Sam Rockwell, John Malkovich, Louis Garrel, Cho Yeo-jeong and Ellen Burstyn, who is also getting a lifetime achievement award.

As far as awards are concerned, perhaps the most anticipated is Martin McDonagh’s dark comedy “Wild

Horse Nine,” starring Rockwell and Malkovich as a pair of CIA agents before the 1973 Chilean coup. McDonagh’s previous films “The Banshees of Inisherin” and “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri” premiered at Venice and went on to receive best picture nominations. There is also excitement about Pattinson playing “To Catch a Predator” host Chris Hansen in “Primetime,” Cruz and Bardem co-starring in Florian Zeller’s psychological drama “Bunker,” the Mara sisters playing twins in Werner Herzog’s “Bucking Fastard” and Lee Chang-dong’s first film in eight years, “Possible Love.”

In the documentary category, Alex Gibney is bringing “Musk,” his nearly four-hour investigation into the world’s richest man, and Julia Loktev continues her sprawling portrait of independent Russian journalists in “My Undesirable Friends: Part II - Exile.” “Oasis: Don’t Look Back in Anger” also follows the Gallagher brothers during their 2025 reunion tour.

Ilya Khrzhanovsky’s film “DAU,” inspired by the lives of the Soviet physicists working on the atomic bomb, has been at the center of some

heated discourse. Ukraine’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and the Embassy of Ukraine in Italy questioned its inclusion in the festival, where it’s playing in competition, calling it a “project linked to the Russian state and its networks of influence.”

Festival director Alberto Barbera defended its selection, writing in a statement that it “is not a Russian film. It is not pro-Putin propaganda. It is a film that denounces totalitarian regimes and their intrusion into citizens’ lives to restrict their freedom.”

Khrzhanovsky also wrote a lengthy rebuttal on Facebook, writing that the movie “should not be prematurely judged on the basis of false associations, distorted chronology, or assumptions that contradict the documented history of the project. I have been and remain opposed to Russia’s war against Ukraine and to the political system that made this war possible.”

Earlier this year, geopolitical tensions spilled over into the Venice Biennale contemporary art exhibition after the jury quit in protest over the participation of Russia and Israel.

Generations keep tradition alive

Century of spins: Tilt-A-Whirl celebrates 100 years at Minnesota State Fair

FALCON HEIGHTS, Minn., Aug 31, (AP): With screams and giggles, whipping ponytails and white-knuckle grips, Minnesota fairgoers are taking delight in the magic of the Tilt-A-Whirl ride as it turns 100 years old.

The iconic ride and its brightly colored cars debuted at the Minnesota State Fair in 1926, and it has been a mainstay at fairs across the country ever since. Riders who stumbled off the ride on Thursday spoke with The Associated Press about the ride, which is a favorite for many.

Valerie Nelson, a Minnesota native who returned to her home state to visit the fair, said she first rode the Tilt-A-Whirl as a child in the 1970s.

“It’s my favorite ride forever and ever,” she said. “Whenever I see it, I try to get on. I love the spin when it

pushes you back into the chair.”

“It’s the only ride I’ll go on,” said Sherri Gray, of Stillwater, Minnesota, who joined Nelson on the ride.

Samuel Mishek, 7, of Minneapolis, also said the Tilt-A-Whirl is his favorite fair ride, and he rode it twice in a row Thursday - screaming while riding alone in a car as it twirled and jerked. “I like when there’s little bumps because you can get ready and you know when it’s going to turn really fast,” he said.

The Tilt-A-Whirl has been a tradition at fairs around the country since 1926. Herbert Sellner, an inventor for a manufacturing company in Faribault, Minnesota, created it after attempting to make a water ride with spinning boats - which failed and was destroyed in a storm. After that, his brother Martin Sellner suggested



Samuel Mishek, 7, screams while riding the Tilt-A-Whirl, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026, at the Minnesota State Fair in Falcon Heights, Minn. (AP)

he make a land-bound version, according to Rice County Historical Society curator Jenna Nelson. Nelson, who has sifted through the



Tourists visit the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang City, northwest China's Gansu Province, on May 2, 2026. (Xinhua)

‘I love the Chinese language’

Northwest China’s Silk Road heritage gains global reach

LANZHOU, Aug 31, (Xinhua): Alejandro Delgado, Deputy Army Attache of the Peruvian Embassy in China, beamed at a cultural event in Beijing on Thursday as he displayed a bookmark featuring the Chinese calligraphy characters “Jixiang,” a phrase that means “good fortune.”

“I love the Chinese language,” Delgado said.

He was among more than 200 guests from 42 countries and international organizations at the special promotion event on the Hexi Corridor. Stretching over a thousand kilometers, the Hexi Corridor served as a key artery on the ancient Silk Road more than 2,000 years ago, connecting China to Central Asia, West Asia and Europe, thereby facilitating the exchange of diverse civilizations.

Five cities along the Hexi Corridor, namely Wuwei, Jinchang, Zhangye, Jiuquan and Jiayuguan in northwest China’s Gansu Province, promoted their cultural, tourism and industrial resources at the event. The event also showcased intangible cultural heritage items, cultural and creative products, and local specialties.

“This kind of activity is great for promotion. It helps people see China’s diverse products and understand the country from within,” Delgado said.

The roadshow has previously traveled to Shanghai and other cities. This year, representatives from the corridor cities converged on Beijing to showcase their history, culture, landscapes and development opportunities to a broader global audience.

“It makes me want to learn more about the province,” said Lebanese ambassador to China Milad Raad, who has never visited Gansu.

“Both personally and in my country, we really have an interest in promoting culture. I’m truly impressed by the cultural environment here in China,” he added.

Manuel Carvalho, Portuguese ambassador to China, has never been to Gansu either, but he has long known about Dunhuang, home to the Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back to the 4th century.

In April, he took part in the “Global Linking of Dunhuang Culture” event, which linked Dunhuang and Lanzhou in Gansu, Beijing, and Portugal’s Aveiro in a hybrid online-offline format. Since 2022, the series has traveled to countries including Armenia, Russia, Germany, Japan and the United States.

“The thing that interested me first was the Mogao Caves,” Carvalho said. “But

then I saw so much more, from the landscapes to the cities, from the fields to the mountains, and the many facets of Chinese culture. You are sharing with the world the beauty that you have.”

As outlined in China’s latest Five-Year Plan (2026-2030), which calls for expanding high-level opening-up, cities along the Hexi Corridor are now taking the initiative to go global, strengthening their ties with the world through trade, economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

Jiuquan, at the western end of the Hexi Corridor, enjoys abundant sunlight and sharp day-night temperature swings, making it a major seed production base serving overseas markets.

At a seed company’s research center in Jiuquan, staff are cultivating new varieties of fruits and vegetables using molecular breeding techniques. “We have developed hundreds of new vegetable varieties, which are sold both on the domestic market and abroad,” said Ta Wenshan, head of the company.

Data from Lanzhou Customs showed that Gansu exported 2,500.2 tonnes of seeds in the first half of this year, up 23.5 percent year on year, with a total export value of 300 million yuan (about 44.24 million U.S. dollars). The products were sold to 160 countries and regions worldwide.

Greater openness is also bringing more two-way exchanges. In 2025, Gansu recorded 393,900 inbound tourist visits, a 60.8 percent year-on-year increase.

As more overseas tourists arrive, Gansu is standardizing multilingual signs at scenic spots to improve the travel experience. “We welcome more international visitors to Gansu and the Hexi Corridor to discover Silk Road history and the desert scenery, strengthening people-to-people ties through cultural exchanges,” said Lyu Xinglai, an official with the Gansu provincial department of culture and tourism.

“The promotion event serves as an important bridge, connecting Gansu with the world and creating reliable platforms for international exchanges and cooperation,” Bulgarian ambassador to China Andrey Tehov said.

He added that Bulgaria looks forward to deepening practical cooperation with Gansu in areas such as new energy, modern agriculture, trade and investment, and cultural tourism, sectors where the Hexi Corridor is now showing new development potential.

FDA OK’s landmark pancreatic cancer drug that’s shown to improve survival

WASHINGTON, Aug 31, (AP): The Food and Drug Administration approved a groundbreaking new drug for advanced pancreatic cancer, offering U.S. patients a more effective treatment against one of the deadliest types of cancer.

FDA officials gave expedited approval to the first-of-a-kind pill, called daraxonrasib, which blocks a mutated protein that fuels tumor growth in more than 90% of pancreatic cancer cases. It’s an approach that previously eluded drugmakers for decades.

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

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

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

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

Pancreatic cancer is among the



This photo provided by Revolution Medicines on Aug 26, 2026 shows packaging for the new pancreatic cancer drug, daraxonrasib, under the brand name Rasonque. (AP)

most deadly forms in large part because it is hard to detect before it starts spreading to other organs. The American Cancer Society estimates about 67,000 new cases will be diagnosed in the United States this year and more than 52,000 people will die from the disease. The five-year overall survival rate is 13%.

The drug garnered public attention earlier this year when former Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Nebraska, described on CBS’ “60 Minutes” how he has had less pain while taking it. A surge in public interest led the FDA to allow “expanded access,” before the drug’s official approval, for patients who met certain criteria.

FDA regulators noted on Wednesday that they approved the drug more than six months ahead of their target date.

“It is our fundamental duty to deliver more cures and meaningful treatments to patients as quickly as possible,” the FDA’s acting commissioner, Kyle Diamantas, said in a statement.

Unlike with other cancers that have benefited from a variety of chemotherapy alternatives, pancreatic cancer has been harder to tackle.

The new drug targets mutations in the RAS gene family that normally regulates cell growth. What are known as KRAS mutations are especially critical in fueling pancreatic cancer. But a structure that made it hard for drugs to stick to the mutated proteins meant this cancer driver was long considered “undruggable.”

Doctors who treat pancreatic cancer hope the drug may usher in more new options for other forms of cancer, with scores of experimental drugs in development.

“I think this has opened doors for many other companies,” said Dr. Pashtoon Kasi of City of Hope Orange County, a California-based cancer center. “Downstream I think there are going to be a lot more trials looking at this approach in other tumor types.”

Revolution Medicines’ drug uses what’s essentially a molecular glue to bind with multiple KRAS subtypes. The Redwood City, California-based drugmaker is studying its technology for several other forms of cancer, including lung cancer.



This image provided by SpaceX on Aug 27, 2026, shows Starship loaded onto a semisubmersible ship to begin the several-month journey back to Starbase. (AP)

SpaceX recovers Starship from Indian Ocean

SpaceX has pulled off its biggest salvage operation yet, recovering its most recently launched Starship from the Indian Ocean.

Elon Musk’s company is now in the process of shipping Starship back to its home base in Texas, a trip expected to take several months. SpaceX shared pictures of the recovery effort near Christmas Island late this week.

Starship - the biggest and most powerful rocket in the world - blasted off July 24 from Starbase, Texas.

It was the 13th test flight of a full-up Starship, but unlike all the others, it survived the hourlong space-skimming flight and remained floating and intact.

“Congratulations to the entire SpaceX Recovery team for battling through challenging conditions to give our engineers access to a wealth of data to continue rapidly developing Starship,” the company said via X.

Starship is how Musk intends to get people and equipment to Mars,

where he hopes to build a city. First up, though, is the moon.

NASA is counting on Starship as well as Jeff Bezos’ Blue Moon lander to return astronauts to the lunar surface as early as 2028.

US President Donald Trump endorsed both destinations during a visit to NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston on Friday. He presented the Congressional Space Medal of Honor to each of the four Artemis II astronauts who flew around the moon in April. (AP)

For every 100,000 live births, about 530 women die: UN

Africa’s male midwives rare but increasing in fight against pregnancy deaths

MOHALE’S HOEK, Lesotho, Aug 31, (AP): On a cold morning, Ntlhane Sehloho grabbed his backpack containing medical equipment and embarked on a three-hour journey, navigating the curving gravel roads leading to a clinic nestled in a valley of mountainous Lesotho.

Sehloho has an almost unheard-of role in this part of the world: male midwife. His arrival at the Mpharane Health Center in the southern African kingdom is met with a sigh of relief from several women, some of them pregnant. Others carry crying babies on their backs.

Midwifery has been traditionally viewed as women’s work in Lesotho, but a growing number of men are joining the profession as the country tries to bring down its high rate of deaths around childbirth. For every 100,000 live births, about 530 women die, the United Nations says. That’s far above the global average of about 200.

Lesotho, like many African nations, is a society with largely conservative views. The idea of a man who isn’t a doctor dealing with a woman so intimately still can make many hesitant, if not uncomfortable.

World Health Organization figures estimate that men make up less than 1% of all midwives around the world. Organizations like the WHO and UNICEF have called for more people, male and female, to become midwives and address shortages in childbirth responders.

Sehloho is one of about 300 male midwives in Lesotho and has been doing the work for two decades. The exact number of male midwives is not available as the government does not keep the data according to gender.

Talkative and ready with a joke, he seeks to put women at ease from the first of their prenatal visits.

He had good grades in school and wanted to become a nurse to help address the difficulties he had witnessed for pregnant women in his rural community.

“Our village was far away from the health facility, so most women who would be pregnant, some were delivering at home. We were still young, we were not supposed to see that, as some were dying,” he said. He didn’t understand how far they had to travel for care.



Male midwife Sehloho Ntlhane consults with expectant mother Bonolo Tebello during a prenatal appointment at Mpharane Health Centre in Mo-hale’s Hoek district, Lesotho on July 10. (AP)

Health authorities later encouraged him and other male nurses to train as midwives to help address deaths around childbirth in a country with poorly staffed rural health posts and a population of just over 2 million people.

Now, after efforts to bring care closer to rural communities, UNICEF data show that 92% of births in Lesotho are now attended by a trained health care provider.

“I think the system and the community is starting to slowly accept that gender

should not matter when it comes to this issue of delivery,” said Dr. Llang Maama, acting director of health services at Lesotho’s Ministry of Health.

There are still a small number of cases where the mother says she isn’t comfortable with a male midwife, she said. “But the system allows them to register their discomfort and get treated by a woman.” In the urgency of childbirth, however, there isn’t always time to choose.

Sehloho acknowledged that it is a matter of gaining women’s trust. He tries to put them at ease by explaining how he has delivered babies for years and how he grew up in similar rural circumstances.

“We are a very cultural and traditional African society,” he said.

There are usually mixed reactions to male midwives, said Blandina Motaung, a representative of the United National Population Fund, which works extensively with midwives in Lesotho.

The positive remarks include praise for how the men appear to be more gentle and less strict when working with pregnant women. During consultations, Sehloho checked women’s blood pressure and measured their progress, asking from time to time whether they were comfortable.

Most female midwives have given birth themselves, “but for the men, because they have not been through the process, they become more vigilant and more attentive to the nitty gritty, and that in itself improves the quality of care that they provide,” Motaung said.

One of the clinic’s patients, Mpolokeng Mafereka, 21, said she was more comfortable being treated by a woman, but sometimes a male midwife is the one available.

“I’m used to being treated by women,” she said.

But another patient, 21-year-old Bonolo Tebello, said she has never had a problem being treated by a male midwife.

“I’m happy to be treated by a male because they still provide the same level of care,” she said.

“Even when one arrives late for a check-up, they just treat you like any other person who arrived on time,” she added.



Traffic moves along Interstate 76 ahead of the Memorial Day holiday weekend in Philadelphia, May 22, 2025. (AP)

WH relied on flawed logic to justify scrapping vehicle emission rules: study

WASHINGTON, Aug 31, (AP): The Trump administration relied on flawed logic to justify scrapping vehicle emissions standards this year, making errors in how it accounted for fuel savings, the price of technology and mileage, according to a new study by a group of economists.

Correcting those errors would negate the economic benefits that the administration said would come from eliminating greenhouse gas emission standards for cars and trucks, according to the paper published Thursday in the journal Science.

The Trump administration got rid of the emissions standards earlier this year when it revoked what’s known as the endangerment finding, which had long served as the legal underpinning for federal regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. The White House touted the move as a prudent deregulatory action that would produce massive savings for consumers, mostly from reduced costs for new vehicles. An Environmental Protection Agency analysis estimated that rescinding the greenhouse gas standards would save Americans \$600 to \$790 billion in the coming decades.

The administration is currently facing legal action over its repeal of the finding.

But the group of a dozen researchers who examined the EPA’s cost-benefit analysis said that correcting the administration’s errors would “overturn” its justification. The authors - who were from universities including Yale, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Pennsylvania - found that eliminating the standards will actually cost Americans hundreds of bil-

lions of dollars.

“This is deeper than just a discussion as to whether an administration should value greenhouse gas emissions reductions or not,” said Antonio Bento, one of the analysis authors, and a professor of public policy and economics at the University of Southern California. Even setting aside the environmental debate, “the economic case for the rollback of the standards still falls apart.”

The Trump administration’s cost-benefit analysis supporting its rollback of the vehicle rules said savings would come from consumer choice, vehicle affordability and industry flexibility.

But the researchers say correcting several errors in the analysis - related to how consumers value savings at the gas pump, the price of technology and mileage - would actually decrease that estimated benefit by \$1.5 trillion, meaning that eliminating the rules will actually cost the country \$670 billion.

The authors of the study say that the EPA analysis credits car buyers with receiving only \$0.23 out of every \$1 of fuel savings, which they argue wrongly leaves out billions of dollars in benefits from vehicle emissions standards.

Describing other costly errors in the government analysis, the authors also say the EPA - under both the Trump and Biden administrations - made faulty assumptions about how long it takes for fuel savings to offset upfront costs of purchasing vehicles.

The study authors faulted how the EPA accounted for how efficiency improvements affect vehicle cost, as well as how gas prices influence driver behavior.

Dementia care navigators help Latino Coloradans get the support they need

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

By Hillary Lum
University of Colorado – Anschutz

Latino Americans are 1.5 times more likely to develop Alzheimer’s disease than white Americans, according to the Alzheimer’s Association.

In Colorado, nearly a quarter of the overall population identifies as Hispanic or Latino. As Coloradans age, more individuals and families in these communities will be affected by dementia.

Today approximately 11,000 of the 91,000 Coloradans ages 65 years and older who live with Alzheimer’s disease are Latino. Many face barriers to timely diagnoses, medical treatments and coordination of care.

Nearly 9 in 10 Latinos say it is important for dementia care providers to understand their cultural backgrounds, according to an Alzheimer’s Association 2021 report. Two years later, another study found that dementia care often misses or overlooks unique perspectives and needs of Latinos. The study described the importance of reducing stigma about cognitive decline, helping people care for their brains to decrease dementia risk and acknowledging the impacts dementia has on families and households.

As a geriatrician, palliative care physician and researcher in dementia care and caregiving, my work focuses on improving dementia care across cultural backgrounds, including in Latino communities.

I am also the founding medical director of the University of Colorado Medicine GUIDE Program. GUIDE stands for Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience and is a new Medicare program that provides a trained dementia care navigator to individuals affected by dementia.

In 2024, my research team convened eight Latino caregivers as research advisers to help improve studies in dementia palliative care.

This is an example of community-engaged research, the practice of including in the research process the perspectives of the individuals and communities that research aims to help. Individuals who are part of such studies often describe it this way: “nothing about us without us.”

Palliative care for dementia is designed to help patients understand how the illness progresses and what decisions they need to make. It also focuses on how to improve the patients’ quality of life and support caregivers at each stage of the disease.

We asked the caregivers who joined meetings to provide input on how we might conduct a hospital-based palliative care study so that it would better address the cultural needs of older Latinos with advanced dementia.

The advisers described to us the challenges they faced navigating the healthcare system, especially related to a lack of interpreters or services in their preferred language or dialect.

Their insights emphasized the need for tailored, culturally responsive dementia care. Findings from this study are helping our team implement the GUIDE program in Colorado.

Launched in 2024 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the GUIDE model provides care and support for Medicare beneficiaries living with dementia as well as their caregivers.

There are currently 292 GUIDE programs across the U.S., including four based in Colorado. The Colorado programs serve areas that include the cities of Grand Junction, Durango, Pueblo and Denver.

The program aims to address the overwhelming stress and concern people living with dementia and their caregivers have due to progression of the disease.

Dementia limits a person’s ability to live and function independently. It affects people’s ability to make decisions on issues such as money and safe driving. Dementia can also cause behavioral symptoms such as confusion, apathy, personality changes, anxiety and depression.

The GUIDE model connects eligible Medicare parts A and B beneficiaries who have dementia, and a caregiver if one is involved, with a trained dementia care navigator at no additional cost.

That navigator works to understand their needs and challenges, and then provides tailored recommendations. These recommendations often include resources for dementia education, advice on how to coordinate care across healthcare systems and information about community resources.

The GUIDE program also provides a comprehensive assessment and care plan from a dementia specialist, including a medication review. If eligible, patients and caregivers can also receive respite care, such as in-home care, adult daycare or facility-based care.

In the first two years of our team’s GUIDE program at the University of Colorado, we have enrolled 200 patients who have a dementia diagnosis and their caregivers. We are tracking how the program is working, including their perspectives on quality of care and levels of caregiver strain.

Public health agencies, community organizations and GUIDE programs are working together to help the tens of thousands of Coloradans with dementia and their families find services and support.

One outcome is the Colorado dementia GUIDE model map, which helps families and caregivers find a GUIDE program.

GUIDE programs in Colorado are also working to incorporate the specific needs of Latino communities. Insights from Latino caregivers encouraged us to hire bilingual dementia care navigators and include Spanish-language dementia resources. In 2024, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment launched the Talk About Dementia campaign, which included education and resources for caregiver support in English and Spanish.

Colorado’s GUIDE programs are contributing to the national effort to study how dementia care navigation can best help patients and families living with dementia. (AP)

Valkyries move closer to Lynx with win

Reese breaks double-double record as Dream upsets WNBA-leading Lynx

COLLEGE PARK, Ga., Aug. 31, (AP) — Angel Reese broke a WNBA record with her 29th double-double this season, Allisha Gray made six 3-pointers and finished with 23 points and 11 rebounds, and the Atlanta Dream beat the league-leading Minnesota Lynx 89-81 in their last game before the FIBA World Cup break.

Reese, who has already set records this year for rebounds in a season and a game, had 15 points and 11 rebounds to surpass Alyssa Thomas' record of 28 double-doubles, set in 2023.

Minnesota (31-9), which had its eight-game road win streak snapped, has a 2 1/2-game lead over second-place Golden State. Atlanta (26-14) moved into a tie with Indiana for fourth.

Jordin Canada added 16 points and 10 assists for the Dream, and Rhyne Howard scored 12 of her 16 points in the fourth quarter.

DeWanna Bonner, who signed with Atlanta after her contract with Phoenix was bought out Monday, made her Atlanta debut and finished with seven points in 17 minutes.

Rookie Olivia Miles led the Lynx with 21 points while Kayla McBride and Napheesa Collier each added 17. Courtney Williams returned from a one-game absence due to sprained

right foot and scored 11.

Wings 97, Sun 71

In Arlington, Arike Ogunbowale scored 18 points, Jessica Shepard had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and the Dallas Wings beat the Connecticut Sun in the final game before the FIBA World Cup break.

The Wings (24-16) have won four in a row and have their most wins in a season since 2007, when the franchise also won 24 games as the Detroit Shock. The Shock won a franchise-record 25 games in 2003 on their way to the first of three WNBA championships.

Dallas moved into a three-way tie with New York and Washington for sixth in the WNBA standings, two games back of Indiana and Atlanta.

Shepard had her 22nd double-double this season, second most in the WNBA - after Angel Reese with 29 - to extend the franchise record. Paige Bueckers added 15 points and six assists and Maddy Siegrist scored 11 for Dallas.

Aaliyah Edwards scored 21 of her career-best tying 26 points in the first half for the Sun (10-30). Charlisse Leger-Walker hit five 3-pointers and finished with 17 points.

Saniya Rivers made a driving layup that gave the Sun their first lead about 4 1/2 minutes into the game at



Dallas Wings forward Jessica Shepard (32) drives to the basket as Connecticut Sun's Aaliyah Edwards (8) defends in the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

11-10, but Bueckers scored inside 11 seconds later to put Dallas back in front for good.

Connecticut, which trailed by 13 at halftime, made 4 of 17 (23.5%) from the field, 1 of 6 from behind the arc, and hit 3 of 6 from the free-throw line as it was outscored 23-12 in the third quarter.

Valkyries 86, Fire 69

In Portland, Tiffany Hayes scored 18 points, Kayla Thornton added 17

and the Golden State Valkyries beat the Portland Fire in their final game before the FIBA World Cup break.

The Valkyries (29-11) pulled within two games of WNBA-leading Minnesota. Golden State has four games remaining and its opponents (Portland twice, Seattle and Los Angeles) have a winning percentage of .325 (39-81).

The Lynx, who won the season series 2-1 and hold the playoff tie-

breaker, play New York and Connecticut before back-to-back games against Indiana and Caitlin Clark - those teams are a combined 60-59 (.504) - to close the season.

Kaitlyn Chen had 15 points for Golden State. Veronica Burton and Kaila Charles each scored 11.

Chen hit a 3-pointer that capped a 13-0 run and gave Golden State a 15-4 lead a little more than five minutes into the game, and the Valkyries led by as many as 19 points in the first quarter.

Jordan Harrison hit a 3-pointer that capped a 12-3 run and trimmed the Fire's deficit to 30-21 with six minutes to go in the first half. Kayla Thornton answered 14 seconds later with a short jumper that sparked a string of 15 consecutive Valkyries points as Portland went scoreless for the next five-plus minutes.

Emily Engstler and Megan DiLeo scored 12 points apiece for the Fire (16-24) and Bridget Carleton added 11.

All-Star Gabby Williams, Janelle Salaün and Cecelia Zandalasini did not play for the Valkyries, while Portland's Carla Leite - who leads the team in scoring (15.9 per game) and assists (6.3) - and Frieda Buhner missed the game in preparation for the World Cup.

Sparks 90, Storm 74

In Los Angeles, Nneka Ogumike had 23 points and 12 rebounds, Rae Burrell scored 22 points, and the Los Angeles Sparks beat the Seattle Storm in their final game before the FIBA World Cup break.

LA scored the first 13 points in an opening 18-2 run and Dearica Hamby's layup with 5:45 left in the first half capped an 11-0 spurt that gave the Sparks a 39-20 lead. Seattle shot 32% (12 of 38) from the field and 2 of 11 (18%) from behind the arc before going into halftime trailing by 19. The Storm were just as bad from 3-point range in the second half, finishing 4 of 22.

Cameron Brink had 11 points on 3-of-15 shooting for the Sparks (15-25).

Flau'jae Johnson scored 11 of her 19 points in the fourth quarter and Dominique Malonga had 17 points, on 8-of-21 shooting, and 15 rebounds for the Storm (8-32). Zia Cooke made 6 of 17 from the field for 14 points.

Seattle is 1-18 against Western Conference teams this season, its only win coming at LA, 82-64, on July 6.

The Storm's Jordan Horston fell awkwardly midway through the third quarter, limped to the locker room and did not return.

Star equals Bourdais' record

Palou secures fourth straight IndyCar crown at Milwaukee



Alex Palou (10) of Spain stands during the National Anthem before the IndyCar Freedom 250 Grand Prix auto race in Washington. (AP)

WEST ALLIS, Wis., Aug. 31, (AP) — Alex Palou won his record-tying fourth consecutive IndyCar season championship with a 10th-place finish Sunday night in the resumption of a rain-delayed race at the Milwaukee Mile.

The 29-year-old from Barcelona, Spain, added to yet another dominating year for himself and Chip Ganassi Racing. He has 607 points going into next weekend's IndyCar season finale at Laguna Seca in California, 100 points more than Christian Lundgaard in second.

Palou set the stage for his championship-winning result by finishing fifth in Sunday's regularly scheduled race.

"It was a very tough and long day for everyone," Palou said, "but it was cool. ... I think we did over 400 laps today and we're not used to that. We're used to doing only one race and that just didn't make it easy at all."

Palou's four consecutive championships match the record set by Sebastien Bourdais from 2004-07. He also is the youngest driver in series history with five titles. He trails A.J. Foyt (seven) and Scott Dixon (six).

It's also a record-setting 18th title won by a Ganassi driver, one more than Team Penske.

In 17 races this season, Palou has six wins, 12 top-five finishes and 14 top-10 results.

"It's tough to compare. Honestly, it's very tough," Palou said of his five season championships. "I feel like every single one (is) super special. This one, I feel like every year I'm able to enjoy more and more because I have the experience from the previous one and I don't know if it's going to happen again or not. So

I keep on enjoying every single one more. So I would say this has been the most special so far."

IndyCar completed 90 of the scheduled 250 laps at the 1.015-mile oval on Saturday before the race was postponed because of rain and wet track conditions.

Palou was coming off a 2025 season in which he won eight races, including his first and only Indy 500 title.

Most impressive has been his consistency. Over the past two seasons, he hasn't had back-to-back finishes outside the top 10 in 33 races. He was 20th in the Freedom 250 Grand Prix in Washington, D.C. last weekend, only the third time in two years he ended up 20th or worse.

The championship caps a year that began with London's High Court ordering Palou to pay McLaren Racing more than \$12 million in a breach of contract suit the team filed when the Spaniard backed out of two different deals with the racing team.

Palou has instead stuck with Ganassi, the team he joined in 2021 after spending his rookie IndyCar season with Dale Coyte Racing. In May, Palou signed a multiyear contract extension with Ganassi to continue their relationship beyond the previous deal that ran through the end of 2027.

"I mean they gave me the opportunity since 2021 to drive for them and to drive for a championship-winning team," Palou said, "and since then it's been just an incredible ride with everybody on the team, the sponsors. They keep on giving me all the tools necessary to fight for wins and championships and so on, so I owe everything to them."

Scheffler bags second FedExCup title with Tour Championship win

Dean wins British Masters

ATLANTA, Aug. 31, (AP) — Scottie Scheffler ended any conversation about who had the best season on Sunday when he made up a three-shot deficit with a 4-under 66 to win the Tour Championship, claim a second FedEx Cup title and move past Tiger Woods for most PGA Tour career earnings.

Scheffler signaled his rally with a 5-iron to 2 inches of the cup on the 211-yard second hole. He caught Viktor Hovland with a 25-foot birdie on the fourth hole, pulled ahead for the first time on the 13th and held on to win at East Lake.

Scheffler won for the third time this year - twice in the last three weeks during the PGA Tour's postseason - to match Chris Gotterup, Matt Fitzpatrick and U.S. Open champion Wyndham Clark for most titles. He won his first FedEx Cup two years ago.

Players vote on the Jack Nicklaus Award for PGA Tour player of the year. Scheffler has won the last four years - another would tie him with Woods for most consecutive awards.

Taking over the top spot in career earnings was inevitable. The \$40 million purse at the Tour Championship now counts as official money. Scheffler won \$10 million, pushing his career total to \$130,390,661.

Ruoning Yin won the FM Championship on Sunday at the TPC Boston for her sixth career LPGA Tour victory, outlasting Hyo Joo Kim.

Yin ran in a 25-foot birdie putt



Scottie Scheffler holds the trophy after winning the PGA Tour Championship golf tournament in Atlanta. (AP)

on the par-5 12th for a share of the lead with playing partner Kim. The 23-year-old Chinese player parred the next five in breezy conditions and birdied the par-5 18th for a 2-under 70 and a two-stroke victory.

Kim shot 71. She dropped back with a three-putt bogey on the par-3 16th, missing a 9-foot par try. The South Korean player - a two-time winner this season - missed a 7-foot birdie attempt

on the par-3 17th.

Sei Young Kim chipped in for birdie on the par-3 11th to take a one-stroke lead in the final group, then dropped four shots on the next three holes with a double bogey and two bogeys. She shot 73 to tie for fourth.

Yin won twice in 2023 and three times in 2024, with a span of 672 days since her last win in the 2024 Maybank Championship.

Joe Dean captured his first European tour title on Sunday with a 9-under 63 to make up a seven-shot deficit and win the British Masters.

The 32-year-old Englishman birdied four of his last six holes at The Belfry to finish at 14-under 274 for a three-shot victory. Nacho Elvira (69), Jakob Skov Olesen (71), Niklas Norgaard (71) and 54-hole leader Daniel Hiller (73) shared second.

'Bradley will remain in the hearts of Parisians'

Liverpool completes \$166 million signing of Barcola from PSG

LIVERPOOL, Aug. 31, (AP) — Liverpool finalized the most expensive transfer of the summer window by signing Bradley Barcola from Paris Saint-Germain on Monday in a deal worth 123 million pounds (\$166 million).

Liverpool secured its main target of the summer after a monthslong pursuit of a speedy 23-year-old France international who is coming off winning back-to-back Champions League titles with PSG but mainly as an impact substitute, backing up Désiré Doué.



Bradley Barcola

Now Barcola will expect to be a key part of an expensively assembled Liverpool attack that also includes striker Alexander Isak and Florian Wirtz, who were signed last summer for 125 million pounds (\$170 million) and 116 million pounds (\$156 million), respectively.

"It took a long time," Barcola said in a Liverpool statement after signing what the club described as a long-term contract, "but I'm really happy today to be able to play for Liverpool and all I want is to be on the pitch and be able to play."

Barcola is primarily a left winger so isn't a like-for-like replacement for Liverpool great Mohamed Salah, who played on the right for nine years before leaving for Trabzonspor to end a trophy-laden spell at Anfield.

The deal will see Liverpool paying 106 million pounds (\$143 million) for Barcola, who was part of the France team which lost in the semifinals to Spain at the World Cup this summer, and up to an additional 17 million pounds (\$23 million) in potential add-ons. Barcola joined PSG for 45 million euros (\$38.5 million) from Lyon in 2023.

The fee sets a record for a player leaving the French league.

PSG said Barcola helped to "write one of the most beautiful pages in the history of Paris Saint-Germain."

"Through his talent and the emotions he offered to the fans, Bradley will remain in the hearts of Parisians," PSG said.

Revolution ends Crew win streak

Farrington's stoppage time goal rallies Dallas to draw

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 31, (AP) — Logan Farrington scored in the seventh minute of second-half stoppage time to rally FC Dallas to a 3-3 draw with St. Louis City on Sunday night.

St. Louis City (9-6-7) extended its club-record unbeaten streak to 12 under first-year coach Yoann Damet, but missed a chance to move ahead of fifth-place Dallas (9-6-7) in the Western Conference.

Farrington used assists from Petar Musa and Nolan Norris to score the equalizer.

Simon Becher scored unassisted in the 3rd minute to give St. Louis City an early lead. Four of his six goals this season have come in the last four matches.

Dallas pulled even on defender Shaq Moore's first goal of the season - unassisted in the 18th minute. Four of Moore's five career goals have come in his two seasons with the club.

Daniel Edelman was in the right place to knock in a shot by Becher that ricocheted off keeper Jonathan Sirois in the 43rd minute and St. Louis City took a 2-1 lead into halftime. It was the third goal for Edelman in his first year with the club after scoring three goals in

four seasons and 96 appearances with the New York Red Bulls.

Carlo Holse used assists from Conrad Wallem and Jeong Sang-bin to score his first goal in his fourth MLS appearance for a 3-1 advantage in the 64th minute. It was the fourth assist for Wallem and the third for Sang-bin.

Defender Sebastian Ibeagha scored for the first time this season to get Dallas within a goal in the 81st minute. Joaquín Valiente collected his team-high ninth assist.

Roman Bürki finished with three saves for St. Louis City.

Sirois stopped four shots for Dallas in the finale of a nine-match road trip that saw the club go 4-2-3.

St. Louis City hasn't lost since a 2-0 setback at Austin FC to begin May.

Meanwhile, Carles Gil had a goal and two assists, Matt Polster and Dor Turgeman each scored a first-half goal, and the New England Revolution beat Columbus 3-1 on Sunday to end the Crew's three-game win streak.

Turgeman scored in the 41st minute to give the

Revolution (11-7-4) a 2-1 lead. Gil slipped a pass from near the penalty arc toward the right end line and Turgeman, on the first touch, blasted a rising side-netter inside the back post.

The Crew (5-12-5), who are last in the Eastern Conference with 20 points this season, had their four-game unbeaten streak snapped.

New England outshot the Crew 21-7, 11-1 on target.

Brais Méndez opened the scoring in the eighth minute. Mohamed Farsi, on the right side, pushed a pass to Méndez for a first-touch shot inside the back post from near the right corner of the 6-yard box.

Mamadou Fofana played a header, off a corner kick by Gil, from the back post to Polster who turned and fired a low shot into the net from the center of the area to make it 1-1 in the 32nd.

Peyton Miller, on the left side of the area, pushed a short pass back to Gil near the edge of the box, whose chipped in a first-touch shot that bent inside the back post to cap the scoring in the 79th minute. The 18-year-old Miller has an assist in three consecutive games.

Patrick Schulte had eight saves for Columbus.

Announcement

Commencement of Restructuring Proceedings by the Bankruptcy Judge and Call for Creditors to Submit Claims

Pursuant to Article (105) of the Bankruptcy Law, the Restructuring Trustee, Mr. Ahmed Rumaith Al-Azemi, hereby announces the decision issued by the Bankruptcy Judge in Case No. 4 / 2026 (Restructuring), in which the Judge ruled:

"To accept the application and open restructuring proceedings for NewCable Electrical Installations Company (Single Person Company – S.P.C.), and to appoint a Restructuring Trustee"

Accordingly, the Restructuring Trustee calls upon all creditors of the company to submit their claims along with all supporting documents within thirty (30) days from the date of this announcement.

Submission Details:

Claims and supporting documents must be delivered to the Treasurer at the following address:

Address: Salmiya – Block 11 – Maidan Hawally – Abdullah Al-Faraj Street – Plot 36

Phone Number: 99142227

Email: ahmedrumid@kwaaa.org

‘The passion for motorsport in Paraguay is incredible’

Pena and Ben Sulayem celebrate the start of a new era of rallying in Encarnación

DUBAI, Aug 31: The President of Paraguay, H.E. Santiago Peña, joined FIA President H.E. Mohammed Ben Sulayem and hundreds of thousands of passionate fans at FIA WRC Rally del Paraguay this weekend, celebrating the rapid growth of motorsport in the country and an exciting new chapter for rallying worldwide.

The two Presidents met during the rally weekend to discuss the continued development of motorsport in Paraguay and across the Americas, from creating opportunities for young people at grassroots level to bringing more world-class competition to the region.

Together, they watched the iconic ‘Paso de los Teros’, a replica of the legendary Group B Audi Quattro S1, which has been built in Paraguay, take on SS17 Encarnación. The moment held particular significance for President Ben Sulayem, a 14-time FIA Middle East Rally Champion, who competed in an Audi Quattro during his own rallying career at the 1987 Qatar Rally.

They also met local karters during their visit, seeing first-hand the enthusiasm for motorsport among the next generation and highlighting the importance of creating accessible pathways into competition.

Rally del Paraguay continues to strengthen its place on the international motorsport stage, with 300,000 fans experiencing the excitement of this round of the FIA



FIA President H.E. Mohammed Ben Sulayem with President of Paraguay, H.E. Santiago Peña.

World Rally Championship on the country’s distinctive red gravel roads—a huge 42.8% increase on fan numbers compared to its inaugural year in 2025.

The weekend also came at a pivotal moment for the future of rallying following the FIA’s landmark new long-term commercial rights agreement for the FIA World Rally Championship and FIA European Rally Championship.

Following FIA approval, Cosmobilis and Park Square Capital have acquired WRC Promoter GmbH in the ‘deal of the century’, bringing record new investment into rallying and putting fans at the heart of the sport’s next chapter. The partnership will focus on growing the Championships’ global audiences, strengthening storytelling and content, and bringing fans closer to the action.

Central to the agreement is a new FIA Growth Fund, designed to support the development of rallying worldwide, from the highest levels of international competition through to entry-level grassroots participation.

FIA President H.E. Mohammed Ben Sulayem said: “The passion for motorsport in Paraguay is incredible. President Peña shares that passion and understands the opportunities our sport can create for young people, communities and the country.

“It was particularly special to watch the Audi Quattro take to the stage here. It is a car that means a great deal to me from my own rallying career, and seeing it on these roads, surrounded by so many passionate fans, was a fantastic moment.

“But the future of our sport is just as important as its history. Meeting the young drivers here and seeing their enthusiasm shows why we must continue creating opportunities and increasing accessibility.

“Our landmark new promoter agreement for the Championship will help us do exactly that. We are bringing significant new investment into rallying, putting fans at the centre of its future and, through the new FIA Growth Fund, supporting the sport at all levels.”

H.E. President Santiago Peña said: “President Ben Sulayem’s presence at the Rally del Paraguay for a second consecutive year is a powerful recognition of Paraguay’s growing



FIA President Ben Sulayem and President Peña with rally marshals at the FIA WRC Rally del Paraguay.

role on the world motorsport stage. It reflects the FIA’s confidence in Paraguay as a reliable partner for the future, and in the passion of our people for motorsport – particularly rally.

“The Rally del Paraguay has already been recognized as the Best

Rally in the World, and we are determined to uphold that distinction. Its challenging roads, exceptional landscapes and passionate fans make it a truly unmissable event on the WRC calendar.”

President Peña has been a strong supporter of bringing the FIA World

Rally Championship to Paraguay and developing the country’s wider motorsport ambitions. Paraguay also hosted the 2025 FIA American Congress in Asunción, uniting FIA Member Clubs from across the Americas to collaborate on the future of motorsport and mobility.

Djokovic knocked out in US Open opening round for the first time

Pegula, Medvedev, Kostyuk among winners

NEW YORK, Aug 31, (AP): The U.S. Open’s Sunday start gives some players a chance to get a nice head start. For Novak Djokovic, it turned into a stunning head start back to the airport.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion was knocked out in the first round of the U.S. Open for the first time, beaten by Mariano Navone of Argentina 7-6 (5), 5-7, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Djokovic was 19-0 in the U.S. Open first round and hadn’t lost his opening match in any major since the 2006 Australian Open.

“It’s a good record, another one. But yeah, I’m not really thinking about it,” Djokovic said. “Of course, I’ve been very proud of all the achievements in the past, but now is now.”

And now the No. 4 seed and four-time champion in Flushing Meadows looks every bit of his 39 years, vomiting and battling leg problems during a match that lasted more than 4 1/2 hours.

“Now I have to recover,” Navone said. “It’s almost 12 o’clock.”

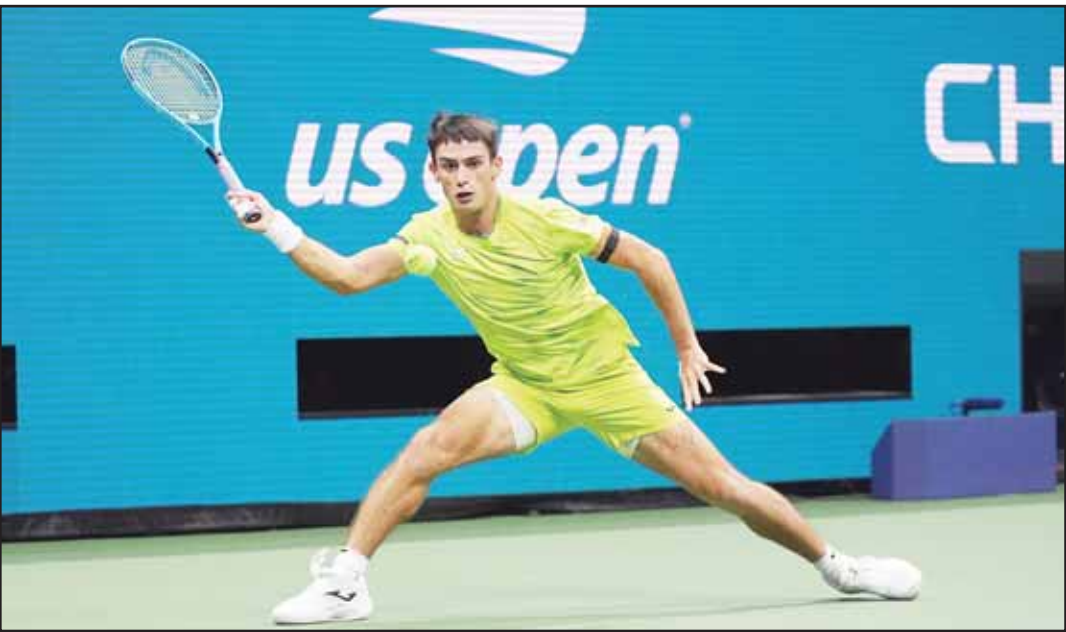
It made for a lengthy first day of play, with Venus Williams and fellow wild card Sofia Kenin not getting on the court until past midnight - after their match was set to move to another stadium but the players decided to wait and keep it in the main venue. Kenin beat the 46-year-old Williams 6-2, 7-6 (6).

Nearly 12 hours earlier, third-seeded Jessica Pegula again experienced the benefits of the Sunday start that began last year.

“It is a little bit weird, but I did kind of enjoy that I could breathe for the next couple of days and everyone else is still freaking out about whether they’re going to win their first round,” she said.

Djokovic later experienced the downside.

“We were just talking about it, and I said, it’s so nice to play on Sunday when you win. But if you lose it’s not nice, because you feel like the



Mariano Navone, of Argentina, returns the ball to Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

tournament didn’t even start and you’re out of it,” No. 11 seed Marta Kostyuk said.

Pegula and Kostyuk both won easily and now get the benefit of any extra day of rest before returning for the second round, where Pegula will play Kenin.

Pegula leads the women’s tour with 46 wins this season. She has two titles and has reached three other finals. Pegula can become No. 1 in the rankings if she wins her first major title and No. 2 Elena Rybakina loses before the semifinals.

The No. 11-seeded Kostyuk beat Storm Hunter 6-4, 6-1 for a strong start to the year’s final major after reaching the semifinals at the French Open and Wimbledon.

Some of the biggest headlines don’t begin until Monday. Two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka plays her opening match against Camila Osorio, before Carlos Alcaraz, who won his second U.S. Open title last year, plays his first singles match since April after recovering from a right wrist injury.

Past U.S. Open champions Naomi Osaka, Iga Swiatek, Sloane Stephens and Stan Wawrinka are also on the Monday schedule, along with Wimbledon women’s champion Linda Noskova and men’s contenders such as Ben Shelton, Arthur Fils, Felix Auger-Aliassime and Frances Tiafoe.

Daniil Medvedev, the 2021 U.S. Open champion, shook off his miserable preparation for the tournament by beating Hugo Gaston 6-4, 6-2, 6-4. The No. 7 seed was just 1-3 in the North American hard-court swing, usually a time he thrives.

“Last couple of weeks was not easy,” Medvedev said. “But I’m happy that today I managed to produce high-level tennis.”

Other winners Sunday included No. 9 Elina Svitolina, No. 19 Jasmine Paolini and No. 31 Leylah Fernandez, the 2021 U.S. Open runner-up. No. 27 seed Barbora Krejickova, a two-time Grand Slam singles champion, lost 7-6 (4), 6-2 to Kamilla Rakhimova.

American Tommy Paul, the No. 20 seed, bounced back from losing

a first-set tiebreak to Coleman Wong to win 6-7 (3), 6-1, 6-3, 6-3.

Wong a year ago became the first man from Hong Kong to win an Open-era Grand Slam men’s singles match on the way to reaching the round of 32.

Seven matches couldn’t be completed because of rain - and one was delayed even though it was being played in the other stadium with a retractable roof. There was a mechanical issue with one of the sensors at Louis Armstrong Stadium, and even after the roof finally closed, the court had to be dried before No. 15 seed Alexander Bublik beat J.J. Wolf.

Marić Cilic, the 2014 U.S. Open champion, and 2022 runner-up Casper Ruud both withdrew with injuries.

Though the main draws didn’t begin until Sunday, action at the U.S. Open has already been going on for nearly a week. Large crowds gathered for the mixed doubles tournament, an exhibition headlined by Roger Federer’s return to Flushing Meadows and the singles qualifying tournaments, with admission to the grounds free.

Al-Sulaibikhat set for Doha training camp

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Al-Sulaibikhat’s first handball team will travel to Doha for an overseas training camp from September 18 to October 1 as part of preparations for the conclusion of the 2025-26 season and the start of the 2026-27 campaign.

The team is scheduled to play around four friendly matches against leading Qatari league clubs during the camp. The games will provide valuable preparation for the players while allowing the technical staff to assess their physical and tactical readiness ahead of the upcoming commitments.

Club board member Ibrahim Dashti will head the delegation, which includes first-team manager Hussein Siawan, administrator Dawoud Dashti, head coach Hussein Habib, assistant coaches Naseer Hassan and Nabil Taleb, and goalkeeper coach Ahmed Radwan.

The 20-player squad features French professional Nicolas Clair and Brazilians Pigi and Jovan, alongside Ahmed Al-Farhan, Hussein Karam, Nael Al-Abdullah, Bandar Al-Dhafiri, Jarrah Al-Saleh, Mahmoud Ali, Ibrahim Dhaif, Othman Dhaif, Fahad Abdulhadi, Nasser Al-Faraj, Ahmed Al-Qattan, Abdullah Hamad, Abdulaziz Al-Najjar, Hussein Charkhi, Faisal Al-Anzi, Hassan Ayman and Abdullah Jamal.



Players fighting for the ball.

Abdulaziz Dhaif will not join the delegation because of his commitments with the Kuwait national senior team, while Obeid Al-Shammari will miss the camp due to work-related commitments.

The coaching and administrative staff is looking to make the most of the Doha camp by intensifying training and arranging competitive friendlies. The objective is to build greater team cohesion, raise fitness levels and ensure the squad is fully prepared for the challenges ahead.

Spain PM insists the 2030 World Cup final must be played on Spanish soil

MADRID, Aug 31: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has thrown his support behind Spain hosting the 2030 World Cup final, saying his government will do everything in its power to ensure the tournament’s showpiece match is played on Spanish soil.

Sánchez rejected the prospect of the final being moved to Morocco and said Spain deserved the opportunity to host the biggest game of the tournament.

Speaking to Spanish radio network Cadena SER, Sánchez said his government would work to guarantee that the final takes place in Spain when asked about reports that FIFA President Gianni Infantino could push for Morocco to host the match.

“The time has come for Spain to win the World Cup at home,” Sánchez said, pointing to the national team’s recent success as part of Spain’s case to stage the final.

Spain won its first World Cup in 2010 in South Africa before claiming a second title at the tournament hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada this year. Sánchez believes the team’s achievements strengthen Spain’s argument for hosting the 2030 final.

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NEWS

Benzema agrees to terminate contract after 6 months

Al-Hilal and Al-Ahli set for Roshn League showdown

RIYADH, Aug 31: Kingdom Arena will host a highly anticipated clash between Al-Hilal and Al-Ahli today in the third round of the 2026-27 Saudi Roshn League.

Al-Hilal enters the encounter with nine points from three matches and will be eager to end their recent winless run against Al-Ahli. The two sides have met five times recently, with Al-Ahli winning twice and three matches ending in draws.

The Blues have made an impressive start to the campaign, particularly in attack, while Al-Ahli will be looking to bounce back after dropping points in its previous outing against Al-Khlood.

Al-Hilal has also strengthened its attacking options with the signing of England striker Ollie Watkins from Aston Villa on a three-year deal. Watkins missed Villa’s 4-0 defeat to Brighton in its Premier League opener and was also absent from their UEFA Super Cup defeat by Paris Saint-Germain.

Watkins joined Aston Villa from Brentford in 2020 and went on to make 278 appearances in all competitions, scoring 108 goals.

Meanwhile, Al-Hilal captain Salem Al-

Dawsari has returned to the club’s headquarters to continue his rehabilitation after missing around six weeks with a hamstring injury.

Al-Dawsari recently underwent surgery on his hamstring tendons and has been working through an individual rehabilitation program. The club posted a video showing the winger back at its facilities as he entered a new stage of his recovery.

The Saudi international is expected to re-



Al-Hilal unveils England striker Ollie Watkins.

turn after the upcoming international break, provided his rehabilitation progresses without complications. He would then gradually regain match fitness before being reintegrated into the first-team squad.

Former Ballon d’Or winner Karim Benzema is leaving Al-Hilal just six months after joining from rival Al-Ittihad.

The Saudi club said in a statement on Monday that they have agreed to mutually terminate their contract.

It’s unclear whether the 38-year-old Benzema will join another club or retire.

The announcement of Benzema’s departure came after England striker Ollie Watkins joined the list of high-profile departures from Aston Villa on Sunday to sign with Al-Hilal for a reported 51 million pounds (\$69 million).

Benzema moved to Saudi Arabia in June 2023 when he left Real Madrid after 14 years and 648 games in which he scored 354 goals.

Benzema won a club record 25 titles with Madrid, including five Champions League trophies. He has 97 caps and 37 goals with France.



England players appeal successfully for the wicket of Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan on day four of the second cricket test match between England and Pakistan in London. England thrashed Pakistan by 194 runs at Lord's to seal a cricket series win with a test to spare. (AP)

Sports

Jahra stuns Arabi as Nasr continues winning run

Kazma, Salmiya eye first wins of season

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The second round of the Zain Premier League concludes Tuesday with two matches, as Kazma take on Al-Sahel at Al-Sadaqa Wa Al-Salam Stadium at 6:40 p.m., followed by Al-Tadamon's meeting with Salmiya at 8:55 p.m.

Kazma will be aiming to make it two wins from two after opening its campaign with a 3-1 victory over Al-Tadamon. Al-Sahel will also be seeking back-to-back victories after edging Al-Sulai-bikhat 1-0 in the opening match.

In the later fixture, both Salmiya and Al-Tadamon will be chasing their first points of the season. Salmiya went down 2-1 to Al-Nasr in the opening round, while Al-Tadamon suffered a 3-1 defeat to Kazma.

Al-Jahra produced a late comeback to defeat Al-Arabi 2-1 at Thamer Stadium for its first victory of the season.

Al-Arabi took the lead through Palestinian forward Zaid Qambar in the 29th minute, but Al-Jahra responded after the break. Cameroonian striker Chirest Aflana equalized in the 65th minute before Abdullah Al-Dahes completed the comeback with a dramatic winner in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

The victory lifted Al-Jahra after its 3-2 defeat to Al-Shabab in the opening round, while Al-Arabi suffered its first loss following a 1-1 draw with Kuwait Club.

Al-Jahra coach Ahmed Abdulkarim praised his players for their character and described the victory as coming at "an important and appropriate time."

He said the introduction of several foreign players and substitutes after halftime helped raise the team's performance and allowed them to exploit weaknesses in Al-Arabi's play.

Abdulkarim admitted that Al-Arabi had been the better side for much of the first half, controlling possession and dictating the tempo. He said he urged his players to remain calm and increase their concentration as the match progressed.

Al-Nasr climbed temporarily to the top of the standings after defeating Al-Fahaheel 2-1 at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium.

The result gave Al-Nasr six points from two matches, while Al-Fahaheel suffered its second straight defeat and remain without a point.

Algerian Aymen Lakjaa put Al-Nasr ahead from the penalty spot in the sixth minute, while Tunisian Hazem Al-Haj Hassan doubled the advantage two minutes into the second half.

Brazilian Vitor Da Silva pulled one back for Al-Fahaheel in the 69th minute, but Al-Nasr held firm to secure their second consecutive victory and move temporarily into first place.



Al-Jahra's Chamba clears the ball ahead of Arabi Youssef Maj during the Zain Premier League match.

Boca makes move for Kuwait handball player Al-Jumaiah

By Khaled Al-Enzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

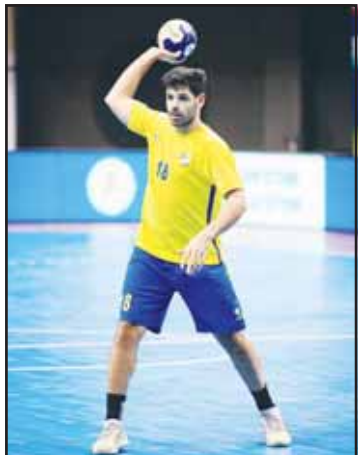
KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: Argentine giant Boca Juniors has expressed interest in signing Kuwaiti handball player Salem Al-Jumaiah, with the Kuwait Handball Federation receiving an official transfer request from the Argentine Handball Federation through the International Handball Federation (IHF) platform.

The Kuwait federation has asked Al-Jumaiah's club, Al-Sahel, to indicate whether it approves or rejects the proposed transfer. Should the club turn down the request, the player will remain committed to his existing contract with Al-Sahel.

According to the federation's correspondence, failure to take action on the transfer request will result in its automatic approval through the IHF platform 10 days after September 4.

A move to Boca Juniors would mark a significant new chapter in Al-Jumaiah's career, allowing the Kuwaiti player to gain professional experience abroad and compete in the Argentine league.

The interest also highlights the



Salem Al-Jumaiah

growing attention being attracted by Kuwaiti handball players, whose recent performances have prompted clubs outside the country to explore opportunities to recruit local talent.

Al-Jumaiah currently represents Al-Sahel and previously played for Al-Shabab. He operates as a center back and left back and was also part of Al-Ahmadi's squad at the 2015 Arab Handball Clubs Championship.

Kuwait suffers heavy loss to Japan in U-20 Cup qualifiers

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Aug 31: Kuwait began its AFC U-20 Asian Cup qualifying campaign with a 4-0 defeat to Japan in Group G at the National Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Japan dominated from the start and broke the deadlock in the 15th minute when Shota Fujio headed home Tokumo Kawai's corner.

The Japanese side continued to control the game and doubled its lead 10 minutes before halftime. Kento Hamasaki converted from the penalty spot after Hiroto Asada was brought down by Zain Al-Abdeen Maarafi.

Japan added a third in the 40th minute through Captain Homare Tokuda, who rose to head Katsuma

Fuse's cross into the net.

Tokuda completed his brace just before halftime with a fine individual effort, beating several defenders before finding the net from the edge of the penalty area.

Kuwait coach Vrdoljak Mladen made several changes at halftime in an attempt to revive his side, but Japan remained in control and comfortably secured all three points.

Kuwait will look to bounce back when it faces Yemen in its second Group G match on Thursday. In the other group fixture, host Cambodia will meet Japan.

The eight group winners will qualify for the AFC U-20 Asian Cup finals, along with the seven best runners-up.



Japanese defenders put Kuwaiti attacker under pressure.

Thank you for all the love these past 20 years

Messi says he's retiring from playing for Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Aug 31, (AP): Lionel Messi announced his retirement from international soccer on Monday after two decades representing Argentina.

"It was a decision that hurt - and still hurts deeply - but I understand that the time has come," the 39-year-old Messi said on his Instagram account.

"I always gave it my all - not just in these last few years when we won everything, but before that too; I always fought and left everything on the field for this jersey, to bring you joy and make you feel proud to be Argentine through football."

Messi played in a record-tying six World Cups, won it in 2022 in Qatar and led Argentina to this year's final, losing to Spain in extra time in New Jersey.

He explained he wrote his retirement letter on June 21 - two days after the World Cup final - but waited to publish it because his father was facing health issues that eventually claimed his life.

Jorge Messi died on Aug. 8 in his native Rosario.

Messi will continue to play for Inter Miami. Over the weekend he scored four times in a 7-1 win over CF Montreal.

He made his Argentina debut in 2006 but his journey was fraught with frustration until he finally lifted the World Cup in 2022.

"Thank you for all the love these past 20 years," he said. "I'm going to miss hearing you all from the inside so much. Now I'm going to be one of you, cheering and supporting you

from the outside (through thick and thin, even more so)."

In the letter, the Inter Miami captain did not say how long he intends to continue playing.

"I leave with the peace of mind and pride of having given you - along with my teammates - moments we once only dreamed of. Experiencing this with you was incredible. I love you all," he added.

Messi's stellar recent success with

Argentina nearly didn't happen.

A decade ago, before the World Cup triumph and Copa América titles in 2021 and 2024, he retired from the national team. The decision followed Argentina's defeat in the 2016 Copa América final to Chile on penalty kicks, one of which he missed.

But Messi shook off the notion of not being able to win the big match. He continued starring for Barcelona,

then Paris Saint-Germain, then Inter Miami.

He's the two-time defending Most Valuable Player in Major League Soccer, the star of the league reigning champion, someone who still creates goals in the biggest moments.

"He is pure history," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said during the recent World Cup. "History. A legend."



In this file photo, Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates at the end of the World Cup quarterfinal soccer match against the Netherlands in Lusail, Qatar. (AP)