



US force buildup accents Iran crisis



In this handout photo from the U.S. Navy, the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Bataan travels through Atlantic Ocean on July 20, 2023. Thousands of Marines backed by the United States' top fighter jets, warships and other aircraft are slowly building up in the Arabian Gulf. It's a sign that while America's wars in the region may be over, its conflict with Iran over its advancing nuclear program only continues to worsen with no solutions in sight. (AP)

Tehran said to take notice in peace-without-foreigners calls

DUBAI, Aug 1, (AP): Thousands of Marines backed by advanced U.S. fighter jets and warships are slowly building up a presence in the Arabian Gulf. It's a sign that while America's wars in the region may be finished, its conflict with Iran over its advancing nuclear program continues to worsen, with no solutions in sight.

The dispatch of the troop-and-aircraft-carrying USS Bataan to the Gulf, alongside stealth F-35 fighters and other warplanes, comes as America wants to focus on China and Russia.

MPs hold special session

Nod to poll commission

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1, (KUNA): The National Assembly approved during Tuesday's extraordinary session a bill for electing members of the elections supreme general commission, with 59 MPs voting in favor and three against out of the 62 present legislators.

A report issued by the joint committee stipulated establishment of the commission for overseeing and organizing the elections, in coordination with government and non-government entities, and that it would be part of the justice minister's jurisdictions.

The commission is tasked with preparing electoral lists, receiving and examining nominations, setting rules for electoral campaigns, funding and specifying time in the media for the campaigners.

It will supervise the elections and specify venues of electoral stations, examine adherence to electoral rules, transparency, neutrality and integrity.

The commission is empowered to present recommendations regarding problems that may take place during the electoral process,

receive complaints from voters, nominees and involved organizations and notify the public prosecution in suspected crime cases.

Moreover, it is in charge of declaring the final and detailed results of the elections, preparing the final report about the polls including proposals to overhaul the process. The report should be submitted to the parliament speaker, the minister of justice and the head of the supreme judicial council.

Furthermore, it sets regulations and issues permits for conducting public opinion polls.

Kuwait's state audit bureau has been tasked to assess the country's "financial position" for the fiscal year 2022-2023, chief lawmaker Ahmad Al-Sadoun said in parliament on Tuesday, adjourning the session to the following day.

Acting Finance Minister Saad Al-Barak explained the intricacies of Kuwait's "financial position", in an open session of parliament, allowing lawmakers to offer their viewpoints on the matter, which has been referred to state auditors for the final say, added the chief lawmaker.

But Washington is seeing once again that while it's easy to get into the Middle East militarily, it's difficult to ever get fully out - particularly as Iran now enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels after the collapse of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

There is no sign that diplomacy will revive the deal soon and Iran in recent weeks has resumed harassing and seizing ships trying to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Some 20% of the world's oil passes through the narrow waterway connecting the Arabian Gulf to the wider world.

For hard-liners in Tehran's theocracy, the move projects power to surrounding nations as part of a wave of assaults attributed to Iran since 2019. It also serves as a warning to the U.S. and its allies that the Islamic Republic has the means to retaliate, particularly as American sanctions result in the seizure of ships carrying Iranian crude oil. Worries over another seizure likely has left a ship allegedly carrying Iranian oil stranded off Texas as no company has yet to unload it.

For the U.S., keeping the Strait of Hormuz open to shipping remains a priority to ensure global energy prices don't spike, particularly as Russia's war on Ukraine pressures markets. Gulf Arab nations need the waterway to get their oil to market and worry about Iran's intentions in the wider region.

Those fears have cemented the longtime American presence in the Arabian Gulf. In the two decades that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, there were at times two different American aircraft carriers patrolling the Gulf to provide fighter jets for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and later for the battle against the Islamic State group.

But slowly, the Pentagon began to wind down the naval presence, leaving a gap of months that brought gasps from Gulf Arab states and commentators worried about Iran. The USS Nimitz sailed out of the Strait of Hormuz in November 2020 as the last American carrier in the Arabian Gulf. The last Marine expeditionary unit - an armada carrying Marines, aircraft and vehicles prepared for an amphibious assault - came through in November 2021.

Washington's worries have changed since then. Russia's war on Ukraine shifted some of the American focus back to Europe. China continues its push to control more of the South China Sea, and the U.S. Navy has responded with increased patrols.

In recent months, the U.S. military has again begun dialing up its Mideast presence. It conducted a Strait of Hormuz patrol with the top U.S., British and French naval commanders in the region on board. In late March, A-10 Thunderbolt II warplanes arrived at Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates. The Pentagon ordered F-16 fighters, as well as the destroyer USS Thomas Hudner, to the region. Stealth F-35A Lightning II fighter jets arrived last week.

Now, America will have part of a Marine expeditionary unit in the region for the first time in nearly two years. The deployment of thousands of Marines and sailors consists of both the USS Bataan and the USS Carter Hall, a landing ship.

Those vessels left Norfolk, Virginia, on July 10 on a mission the Pentagon described as being "in response to recent attempts by Iran to threaten the free flow of commerce in the Strait of Hormuz and its surrounding waters." The Bataan passed through the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea last week on its way to the Mideast.

While the U.S. military hasn't discussed precisely what it will be doing with the increased presence in the region, the movements have gotten Iran's attention. In recent days, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-abbadollahian called his counterparts in both Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to say that "we can have peace, stability and progress in the region without the presence of foreigners."

Iran's army chief, Gen. Abdolrahim Mousavi, said the U.S. deployment would bring only "insecurity and damage" to the region.

Opinion

Celebrating his ascension to the throne ... the king of difficult situations gives wisdom to his neighbors

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE Moroccan monarch King Mohammed VI surprises us every time, especially in his Speech from the Throne with huge steps for the development of his country.

He also extends a helping hand every time to our Arab brothers, especially Algeria, where everyone is undoubtedly aware of the role that Morocco played during the Algerian revolution, what it embraced, and what it endured in this regard.

Given that history can neither be erased with the stroke of a pen nor with frivolous practices, King Mohammed VI has worked, since his accession to power to succeed the late King Hassan II, to consolidate an advanced vision in relations with the neighboring country based on the effects of the "Green March" in 1975.

He also worked for the establishment of uncompromising legitimate rights in the Sahara region. He did not pay attention, as his late father did, to the political and security adolescence practiced by Algeria.

That is why in his final Speech from the Throne on the occasion of his accession to power, he emphasized that, "... Many people have been wondering about Moroccan-Algerian relations. They are stable, and we look forward to seeing them improve. In this regard, I would like to tell the leaders and people of our sister nation Algeria that no evil will ever be done to them, and no harm will ever come to them from Morocco. I want them to know that we attach special importance to the bonds of affection, friendship, exchange and interaction between our peoples."

Given that the words of the kings are the king of words, what he mentioned in the speech is the sure expression of the entire Moroccan people, in this regard, of the importance of opening the borders between the two neighboring countries, as it is not only beneficial to Morocco, but also to Algeria, because Rabat is the golden gate to the African continent. Hence, initiatives stem from it, and everyone witnesses how it has transformed in the past two decades into a regional and international beehive.

The king of courageous stances never deviated from the foundations on which the Arab Maghreb Union was built, which was launched from Algeria at the Zeralda Summit in 1988, and was enshrined in the declaration of the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union in 1989 in the city of Marrakech from five countries - Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania.

The objective of this union was to strengthen the bonds of the brotherhood that binds the member states and their peoples to each other, achieving the progress and well-being of their societies, defending their rights, and opening the borders between the five countries to grant complete freedom of movement for people, goods and capital among them.

Unfortunately, this union witnessed a lot of Algerian procrastination. Although it was expected that the late Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and his fantasy would be a source of concern, he responded to the call of the late King Hassan II and adhered to this union.

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FM joins virtual conference

Ties target in push-back in desecration of Quran



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah participates on Monday in a virtual extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers.

NewsWatch

SIDON, Lebanon: Thousands of mourners gathered in south Lebanon on Monday for the funeral of a Palestinian military general with the Fatah group, whose killing in a refugee camp in Lebanon fueled fierce sectarian street battles that have killed at least nine people.

Three days of clashes between Palestinian factions at the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp have pitted members of President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party against Islamist groups accused of gunning down the general, **Abu Ashraf al Armoushi**, on Sunday. (AP)



Members of the Palestinian Fatah Movement carry the body of Abu Ashraf al-Armoushi, the Palestinian National Security Commander in the Saida region, during his funeral procession at Rashidiyeh Palestinian refugee camp, southern Lebanon, Monday, July 31, 2023. (AP)

Day by Day

THE thief rests undisturbed, the politician gains wealth effortlessly, and the failed official sleeps without anxiety. This is why, one day, a madman was once asked: 'Why can't we put the right man in the right place?' The response was: 'Because as people, we cannot put garbage in the right place, so how can one expect a right man to be put in the place?'

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1, (Agencies): The Organization for Islamic Cooperation urged its member nations Monday to take action against countries that permit public burning or desecration of the Holy Quran, including the recalling of ambassadors.

The Saudi Arabia-based group made the call in a statement following an emergency online meeting of its foreign ministers to discuss recent incidents in which the Islamic holy book was burned or otherwise defaced at officially permitted protests in Sweden and Denmark.

The organization's 57 member countries should "consider taking any necessary decisions and actions that they deem appropriate in their relations" with Sweden, Denmark, and other countries that allow such incidents, including recalling their ambassadors, the statement said.

It encouraged civil society organizations in the member states to work with counterparts in countries where the Quran has been burned or desecrated to file local lawsuits "before taking their cases to international judicial bodies, where applicable."

It also called for more efforts to outreach to combat Islamophobia, praising Kuwait for commissioning the printing of 100,000 copies of the Quran translated into Swedish for distribution in Sweden.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah participated on Monday in a virtual extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers on the repeated incidents of desecration of copies of the holy book of Quran, the latest of which took place in the Kingdom of Sweden and Denmark.

The session took place in order to adopt procedures that guarantee to put an end to such reprehensible crimes, and to stop the recurrence of those acts that spread hatred, are inconsistent with all moral and human principles and values, and threaten global peace, security and harmony.

The foreign ministers meeting issued a number of pivotal and important decisions, including sending a delegation from the OIC and the Secretary-General office to the Commission of the European Union (EU) to convey a unified Islamic position on the crime of desecrating copies of the Holy Quran, under the pretext of freedom of expression.

The ministers also agreed to invite civil institutions and Islamic society institutions to resort to local courts in countries in which such crimes are carried out, to exhaust all litigation procedures, including file cases to international judicial bodies, and expedite the implementation of the "Action Plan to Combat Islamophobia" that was adopted by the foreign ministers of the Contact Group on Peace and Dialogue on the sidelines of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

In addition, the ministers approved to assign an OIC group in New York and Geneva to inform relevant entities of the United Nations regarding the ongoing violations against Islamic symbols, sanctities, and preserve the filing as official documents.



Photo shows one of Umm Qassem's sons Hussein (third from left) during the Iraqi invasion. Hussein, who was studying medicine in Ireland, decided to return home during the occupation and join ranks with the American forces in defending Kuwait. He succeeded in his endeavor and received military training in the US. He kept the matter secret for a long time and told his mother that he was in Ireland for studies. — See Page 2

Amir's role in liberation noted

Kuwait recalls invasion

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1, (KUNA): The Cabinet held its weekly session on Monday at Seif Palace, headed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

After the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Issa Ahmad Al-Kandari stated the following:

On the 33rd anniversary of the brutal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which will be on Wednesday, the State of Kuwait, its leadership and people recall with pain and bitterness the crime of treachery committed by the Iraqi regime army in dawn of August 2, 1990.

The Cabinet recalls with appreciation and reverence the prominent role-played by His Highness late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and their efforts to liberate Kuwait from occupation.

The Cabinet evokes the steadfastness of the Kuwaiti people and their heroic sacrifices in the face of treacherous aggression, which is a model of national unity.

The Council of Ministers also recalls the great sacrifices made by the righteous martyrs of Kuwait, who offered their pure blood as a sacrifice for Kuwait, asking the Almighty God to shower them with the abundance of His mercy and

to dwell them in His spacious gardens.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet renews its deep gratitude and appreciation to all those who contributed from the brotherly and friendly countries to the liberation of our dear homeland, praying to Allah Almighty to perpetuate the blessing of security and stability for us under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In a historically unforgotten epic, most world countries had stood united as a single group to stand by Kuwait's leadership, government and people against the heinous Iraqi invasion on August 2, 1990.

This black day would remain engraved in the minds and memories of the Kuwaiti people for good, including new generations that learn about all relevant painful details from their fathers and grandfathers.

On that day, Iraqi forces advanced into Kuwaiti territories in a dreadful aggression that ruthlessly targeted the occupation of the country, undermined its freedom and attempted to wipe out its legitimacy, using the most abhorrent methods of murdering, detaining and torturing civilians, striking at civilian and military locations, dispossessing and intimidating people.

Despite the painfulness of the Iraqi invasion, let alone its catastrophic ramifications and impacts

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:39	Asr	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:08	Maghrib ..	18:40
Zohr	11:54	Isha	20:06

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 15-50 km/h causing rising dust over open areas.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 08-40 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	49	37
Kuwait Airport	49	32

Abdaly	49	33
Jahra	50	35
Salmiyah	47	37
Ahmadi	44	39
Nuwaisib	47	33
Wafra	49	32

BIOMETRIC/FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT: <https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/>

594 students accepted in Abdullah Al-Salem University

MoE working to ensure well-prepared, problem-free start in Sept

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: As the new academic year approaches, the Ministry of Education (MoE) is actively gearing up for a smooth start in September, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Reliable sources have confirmed that the ministry is prioritizing collaboration between all sectors to ensure stability in their efforts and to continue providing necessary services and resources for the education sector in preparation for the 2023-2024 academic year.

One of the crucial aspects of this preparation is the formation of the Planning, Follow-up, Preparation, and Preparation Committee, headed by former Minister of Education, Dr. Hamad Al-Adwani.

This committee has dedicated 8 practices to procure school furniture, following a review of the Tender No. GS 12/2022-2023, which deals specifically with office furniture and is currently under examination by the regulatory authorities.

For the upcoming academic year 2023-2024, the Ministry of Education has set in motion the printing and supply of textbooks. A total of 90 practices have been assigned to this endeavor, with 88 practices already contracted for textbooks and an additional 2 practices for government printing presses.

In terms of test transfers, two practices have been put forward, and contracts are in the process of being finalized. Additionally, approximately 40 tenders and practices are underway for air condi-

tioning and comprehensive maintenance. These initiatives are either ongoing or currently undergoing the tendering process, with regulatory authorities closely reviewing them.

The Ministry has successfully completed the disbursement of payments from the schools' financial fund, ensuring that schools have received their allocated funds in a timely manner. This effort emphasizes the commitment to fulfill all obligations and requirements necessary for schools to start the new academic year without any hiccups.

In pursuit of a collaborative approach, the Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, Osama Al-Sultan, engaged in discussions with the President of the Teachers Association, Ahmed Al-Houli, and other members of the Board of Directors.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to address common issues within the education field, as well as to deliberate on proposals and concerns related to teachers and their readiness for the upcoming academic year.

Well-prepared

In conclusion, the Ministry of Education is diligently working on various fronts to ensure a well-prepared and problem-free start to the academic year 2023-2024. By fostering cooperation and making thoughtful arrangements, they aim to provide the best possible learning environment for students and educators alike.

Meanwhile, according to a member of the founding board of directors of Abdullah Al-Salem University Dr. Fawaz Al-Enezi, the university, as of Wednesday, July 28, accepted 594 male and female students in its ten majors. Admission will

continue until the closure of the joint registration system with Kuwait University, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Enezi explained that the number of students applying to the university who met the conditions and criteria was three times the number of those who were accepted, as their number reached about 1,780 male and female students.

Such a number of admitted students comes in light of the decision of the Council of Public Universities to allocate 600 seats in Abdullah Al-Salem University in accordance with the university's admission policy for Kuwaitis and children of Kuwaiti women. Also, 100 students from other categories will be accepted as is the case in Kuwait University.

The Council of Private Universities and the Minister of Education authorized an increase in the number of admissions.

He stressed that the new university seeks to be distinguished and one of the fourth generation universities.

Regarding the official announcement of the results, Dr. Al-Enezi indicated that the official result will be announced within 48 hours after the end of registration on the joint registration site between Abdullah Al-Salem University and Kuwait University and the sorting of applications, and an email will be sent to the accepted students to guide them in completing the registration procedures.

Regarding the seats, he explained that the available seats are 600 seats distributed among the various specializations according to the demand for these majors.



Dr. Al-Adwani



KUNA photo

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, is pictured with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American University of the Middle East, Mr. Fahd Ibrahim Al-Othman and Tareq Fahad Al-Othman.

HH Crown Prince receives AUM Chairman

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Tuesday the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American University of the Middle East (AUM), Fahad

Ibrahim Al-Othman and Tareq Fahad Al-Othman. His Highness the Crown Prince congratulated the AUM's Chief on the university's academic achievements, wishing him more success. (KUNA)

Kuwait tough on human peddlers

'Loopholes in hiring domestics exploited'



Umm Qasim with her two sons, Qasim and Hussein.



Hussein with his colleagues during the invasion.

Kuwaiti mother recalls darkest moments of her life ... invasion

By Hanan Al-Saeedi

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1, (KUNA): "They invaded our country in a pitch-black night... My heart was tormented and oozed blood due to the back-stabbing aggression and fears for my children's safety," Maliha Al-Ansari recalls her life's darkest moments.

Al-Ansari, Umm Qasem, recalled, in an interview with KUNA, the first moments of the Iraqi aggression that happened on August 2, 1990, when the Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait under the cover of darkness in a blatant aggression that contradicted all international conventions.

Umm Qasem has remained overwhelmed with deep sentiments of pain and bitterness particularly after the aggressors abducted her eldest son, Qasem, during the first day of the aggression.

Qasem, who was an engineer at an oil company, was taken prisoner after he left home before dawn to join his military unit. "Weeks later we learned that he had been taken prisoner and languishing in prisons of the Iraqi regime."

"The piece of my heart did not see sunlight throughout seven months of the flagrant aggression," she bitterly recalled.

The Kuwaiti mother deeply suffered from a hairy experience of hearing horrific stories about merciless killings of the prisoners by the Iraqi regime at the time. "I used to be overwhelmed with fear each night with deep sentiments of pain piercing my soul due to his absence."

Qasem was one of many young Kuwait-

is who were kidnapped by the aggressive Iraqi forces. Some of them had been freed, others remained missing or liquidated.

Al-Ansari's other son, Hussein, who was studying medicine in Ireland, decided to return home during the occupation and join ranks of the American forces for defending Kuwait. He had succeeded in his endeavor and receiving military training in the US. He kept the matter secret for a long time and told his mother that he was in Ireland for studies.

Her third son, Ali, followed his brother's path, joining the British forces for liberating Kuwait, "the homeland is the honor and dignity... we will redeem it with our blood," as he used to sincerely say.

"My children slipped my fingers and I felt at times that I may never see them again," Umm Qasem said.

Al-Ansari recalled horrific moments when her peers, other Kuwaiti mothers, received disfigured corpses of their sons from the occupiers. "I still hear their weeping and moaning after receiving remains of their pieces of heart in black bags."

Umm Qasem found solace when the Kuwaiti forces backed by the allies liberated the homeland. Intent on inflicting harm before their withdrawal, the aggression forces set ablaze hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells inflicting one the largest environmental catastrophes on record. "The skies turned pitch black with smoke billowing from the burning wells... however the gloom was tapered off with the relieving sense of restoring freedom," she said.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: Kuwait is exerting great and remarkable efforts to combat human trafficking in all its forms, and punish those who practice it with severe penalties of up to life imprisonment or imprisonment for up to 15 years, reports Al-Qabas daily.

On the occasion of the International Day to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which falls on July 30 each year, a group of government agencies and international organizations launched introductory activities on the efforts exerted by Kuwait to preserve human rights and combat trafficking in persons, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, and the Public Authority for Manpower, in addition to the International Organization for Migration and the National Office for Human Rights.

On this occasion, the Director of the General Department of Criminal Investigation Brigadier General Yousef Al-Seneen explained that the department was able to seize several cases in this regard, which ended with sentencing one of the accused to 15 years in prison while another received life sentence.

The department, from the time it started its monitoring of human trafficking cases, immediately rushed to apprehend a number of defendants who took it upon themselves to exploit the state of weakness and the need for some domestic workers. They were referred to the concerned authorities. Many such cases are still pending with the Public Prosecution and the judiciary.

Concerned

The concerned department receives complaints and inquiries related to incidents of trafficking in persons, through the hotline No. 25589696 round the clock.

Dealing with these cases is strictly confidential. All reports are examined and verified as soon as they are received. Information and inferences are collected about the perpetrators and referred to the concerned authorities.

Brigadier General Al-Seneen stated that the Ministry of Interior, on July 30 and 31, will participate in the campaign launched by the International Organization for Migration in partnership with the Permanent National Committee concerned with implementing the national strategy to prevent trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in the Capital Complex and the Ministries Complex, respectively.

Laws and decisions -

■ 2013: Legislative authorities issued a law for combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

■ 2014: Issuance of the organizational structure of the Ministry of Interior, which included the establishment of a special department for trafficking in persons.

Features of Kuwait's efforts in this regard -

■ Establishing various departments and divisions to shoulder the burden of combating human trafficking crimes

■ Issuing a legislative law to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

■ Establishing a department for human trafficking and integrating it into the activities of the Department for the Protection of Public Morals

■ Cooperation between the Government of Kuwait and the International Organization for Migration in the field of combating trafficking in persons

■ Training specialists on investigation methods, collecting evidence and identifying victims

Gulf nationals need to go for biometrics

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) now requires other Gulf nationals arriving in the country to undergo biometric fingerprinting as a first step to be allowed entry in case they did not do so before traveling, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a reliable source.

The source explained that the mandatory fingerprinting for expatriates depends on the number of flights arriving at the airport, indicating the concerned officials will assess the number of arrival flights to determine if they can complete the fingerprinting of passengers within a certain number of hours. He said the concerned passengers are asked to wait, and if there is a large number of arrivals, they are allowed to leave. He disclosed some airlines require expatriates and Gulf nationals to be fingerprinted, affirming all entry points are equipped with fingerprint devices and the procedure is completed within a minute for each person.

The source clarified that Kuwaitis coming from abroad are not obliged to undergo fingerprinting so far, urging everyone to book an appointment for this purpose, and benefit from the biometric centers in the governorates and in several malls.

The public is reminded that traveling outside the country does not require fingerprinting, but it is mandatory once they travel again.

Other Voices

The inappropriate tweets

By Ahmad alsarraf

The proverb says: The dealer of the brand, often, does not use it! Whoever sells drugs does not use them!

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The preacher Amr Khaled's tweets were described as inappropriate and criminal in some countries, for his participation in his son "Ali's" graduation ceremony at a prestigious London university, and for publishing various pictures of the ceremony, with his family, and he is the one who has previously, and may still be, inciting Muslim youth to jihad here and there.

In the name of religion, he uses his sermons, interviews, and website pages to recruit young people to join extremist organizations, and decorate them with "martyrdom" for the sake of belief and sect, instead of trying to push them to improve their living and intellectual standards, by enrolling in good universities, even if they are local, and good texts!

The pictures, which Amr Khaled was keen to send to all his followers, show that he and his family live in clear luxury, and that he has guaranteed and secured his future and the future of his children and grandchildren for life!

I have previously blamed this preacher and dozens of others, Saudis, Kuwaitis and Egyptians, including a former and later preacher whose nationality was revoked and returned to him, who owns homes and real estate in Sarajevo and Turkey, and described

them as offensive, because of the life of luxury and extravagance they lead, and their lack of hesitation in presenting it and talking about the blessing that they got, to the audience of their followers, whether through their websites or their television interviews.

They all ignored the response, so that their situation would not become a piece of cake in the mouths. Knowing that they do not benefit from good things from my pocket, but rather from the pockets of the gullible and half-educated followers, who are deceived by their fake and often fabricated stories, and who benefit from the indulgence of government media with them, and this is what some countries have stopped offering them, and we hope that this will happen in Kuwait as well.

These are advocates who do not have a religion or belief, but rather themselves. Most of them, and we will not say all of them, are people of dinars, riyals, pounds, toman, and other encrypted and paper currencies! Also, the majority of them are the creation of the systems of their countries, which made it easy for them to appear and the masses, and allocated for their appearance the peak hours of viewing in the official state channels, and made them stars crowding artists and actors to appear.

Thus, the blame does not fall, in the first place, on these preachers, but on the governments that sought to flatten the minds of the public, more than they are flat, in order to distract them with trivial matters and grave events, and to distance them from the realities of matters and everything that is hidden.

Thus, some preachers are not necessarily criminals, rather people's ignorance may have made them so!

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Candidates' CVs to go to CSC

MEW staff eye senior positions

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: The employees at the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy are waiting for the ministry to take vital decision to help fill the senior vacant positions, reports Al-Rai daily.

Informed sources within the ministry told the daily Minister Jassem Al-Ustad's office has collected the CVs of potential candidates for these leadership roles, adding that the next step is to submit them to the Civil Service Commission for review to ensure they meet the necessary criteria for the positions.

It is expected that Minister Al-Ustad will submit the names of candidates for the undersecretary and assistant undersecretary positions in various sectors of the ministry to the relevant authorities by the end of this week.

Once approved, most qualified individuals will be selected who fulfill all the required conditions in the best interests of the country's progress and development.

Additionally, the Minister has recently approved the promotion of 954 employees

across different sectors within the Ministry through selection for promotion grades. This achievement has been attributed to the efforts of the dedicated individuals involved in the process.

The Minister's approach reflects a keen focus on the importance of the human element as the driving force behind any development in the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy.

On a separate note, the ministry is taking proactive measures to address the expected surge in consumption rates due to the high temperatures, which are forecasted to reach record levels of 50 to 52 degrees Celsius. The level of alert will be raised to ensure appropriate measures are in place to handle the situation effectively.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr Jassim Al-Ustad has approved the list of employees eligible for promotion by selection, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Is this what our women deserve? Constitution upholds full equality'

"THIRTY-THREE years have passed since the Iraqi invasion of Saddam, yet the memory of the martyrs and prisoners still remains in our hearts. These brave souls sacrificed themselves, enduring a painful separation from their loved ones and relatives," columnist **Dr Ghadir Muhammad Asiri** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The invasion served as a national lesson for our country, reminding us of the unity displayed on August 2, 1990, when we faced the strength of the Kuwaiti people against the aggression.

"The heroic and united stance taken by individuals from all walks of life showcased their determination to confront the invasion, displaying spontaneity, sophistication, and altruism for the love of Kuwait.

"Amidst this tumultuous period, the role of Kuwaiti women in the heroic scene cannot be overlooked. Despite not receiving the appreciation, moral support, or political rights they deserved, they stood shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts.

"The attack and opposition they faced in the National Assembly did not deter them from participating in the defense of their homeland. The love for Kuwait transcended gender boundaries, and loyalty was not bound by superficial criteria, but rather by genuine love, sacrifice, and devotion to the nation.

"During those challenging times, Kuwaiti women actively joined the resistance, with many even giving their lives for their country. Others endured imprisonment and torture at the hands of the occupation soldiers.

"Yet, even after years of liberation, their struggle for equality, political rights, and recognition continues. It is disheartening to witness that, in 2023, instead of empowering women, society is still pressuring them through restrictive laws and regulations, hindering their progress and limiting their political participation.

"The growing trend of undermining women's abilities has become evident in recent times, with some deputies proposing laws that perpetuate the outdated notion of guardianship over women. Such proposals conflict with the principles of a modern civil state that values fairness, equality, and coexistence.

"Our constitution explicitly upholds full equality, and it is essential that our laws and decisions do not discriminate against women or subject them to guardianship in any form.

Women in Kuwait should have the same opportunities and freedom to pursue careers and shape their own futures, just like their male counterparts. It is time to break free from outdated perceptions and ensure equal rights for all citizens, regardless of gender, for the progress and prosperity of our beloved Kuwait."

Also:

"In pursuit of justice and equality for employees aspiring to fill supervisory positions, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi, the Minister of Health, has issued an administrative decision to establish a committee responsible for conducting personal interviews to select suitable candidates for various roles, such as head of health offices, health attaché, financial, and administrative positions in Kuwaiti embassies abroad," columnist **Khaled Al-Arafa** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The ministry's groundbreaking decision, as mentioned, aims to ensure impartiality and fairness in the selection process. The committee's tasks have been clearly defined, which include reviewing and evaluating applicants' qualifications based on their previous experience and conducting personal interviews with those who meet the specified criteria. The process adheres strictly to the regulations and guidelines set by the Civil Service Bureau and relevant ministerial decisions to uphold the highest degree of equality among candidates.

"Initially, the employees welcomed this decision, acknowledging that it would bring justice and equality to the selection process while providing each applicant with a fair chance. The selection committee's role, like any other committee responsible for filling supervisory positions, involves establishing application conditions, determining the application period, and conducting interviews to facilitate a well-informed selection process.

"However, some employees encountered an unexpected issue. Shortly after the committee's formation was announced, they attempted to inquire about the application process but were met with surprising news from a ministry official. The application window had already closed, and the interviews were scheduled for the same day, causing confusion and frustration among the applicants.

"In response to this urgent concern raised by the employees, we strongly urge the Minister of Health to investigate the matter promptly. Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi, who has consistently advocated for rejuvenating the workforce and empowering young talents for these positions, must verify the situation.

"The employees' statements suggest that the committee was formed without disclosing the names of its members, and the application process was not publicly announced.

"This raises suspicions that the positions might have been predetermined for specific individuals, rendering the committee's work seemingly biased.

"Questions naturally arise: When did the candidates have the opportunity to apply to the committee? How was a date for interviews set without any prior announcement to receive applications?

"We, therefore, request the Minister of Health to launch a thorough investigation into the nomination process and to suspend the committee's activities until it is confirmed that its procedures align with fair and transparent practices.

"It is essential to follow a health mechanism in announcing the candidacy conditions, setting a reasonable application period, and examining applications with complete transparency. By doing so, justice and fairness can be ensured in the selection of eligible candidates. Any potential nepotism or favoritism should be thoroughly addressed to maintain the integrity of the selection process."

"The 33rd anniversary of the ominous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait opens wounds that have not healed despite the passing of years, reminding us of a black page in contemporary history. It brings back to mind the months of occupation associated with loss, dispersal and deprivation of security and safety," columnist **Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"We will not forget the tragedies of the invasion of our country, the indescribable suffering of our people, the honorable stances of the people of Ku-

wait who were an example to other peoples around the world in terms of their solidarity, steadfastness and rallying around their wise leadership that waged confrontation in international forums and met their expectations.

"We remember the nation's martyrs — may God have mercy on all of them — who gave their lives as a price for the return of Kuwait to the Kuwaitis. We will not forget the role of other Gulf Cooperation Council countries, foremost of which is the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. All of them are our brothers and sisters who always stand with us and support us.

"I ask God to protect our one and only Gulf, as well as to perpetuate the security and safety blessings for us. Let us not forget the role of brotherly and friendly countries that opened their hearts for us before their doors, through which Kuwaitis felt love and brotherhood.

"On this day, there is also a moment of joy — when Kuwaitis rested from the invasion on the day of liberation. The liberation is another holiday celebrated every year, along with the national holiday combining joy and pride. We did not lose sight of our situation after the liberation of our country, normalizing life and bringing it back to what it was. We have been keen on rebuilding what the occupation had destroyed — another response to the invaders.

"We proudly recall our creativity in restoring life to its course, and our openness to the world to continue our moral and humanitarian roles toward the sons of Arab and Islamic nations and those suffering in the eastern and western parts of the Earth. We continue to devote the civilizational experience that our fathers and grandfathers laid foundations for, without ignoring the regional and international transformations that threaten to change the shape of the region and the world."

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"The steps taken by the government, in cooperation with the Parliamentary Coordination Committee, put breath back to normal and stirred anxiety in the hearts of haters and envious people. This came after the strong coordination between the executive and legislative authorities in the submission of draft laws that proved the good intentions of the executive authority and its credibility in approving priorities to address major loopholes in some laws," columnist **Dr Mubarak Al-Abdulhadi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"This successful beginning is just one of many upcoming steps. We hope such steps will continue without obstacles, especially since the coordinated efforts of the two authorities will be reflected on the Kuwaiti streets. Most of the people have expressed happiness and satisfaction over such steps.

"Eyes are waiting to witness the next step with optimism, after the harmony between the two authorities. We hope this harmony will bear fruits — public benefits that will end the suffering and stagnation witnessed over the past years of tragic events which are not hidden from anyone.

"The stability, work and achievement confirmed by the two authorities at the beginning of their cooperation are the most important aspects of any political action, which will stabilize the situation in the country.

"The two authorities must continue to work in silence, without competing for championships, so the results are tangible, realistic and satisfactory, without interpretation and intimidation, as was the case in previous assemblies."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



KUNA photo
Sheikh Ahmad Fahad during his meeting with Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed.

Defense Minister meets B'desh Chief of Staff

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah discussed on Tuesday with Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, ways to boost joint cooperation between the two countries.

A statement by Ministry of Defense

said Sheikh Ahmad received the General and his accompanying delegation during his official visit. The two sides highlighted bilateral relations.

The two officials also tackled ways of bolstering cooperation and joint action work, including discussions on recent developments. (KUNA)

'Response comes following a query'

Those who insult God, prophets 'can' be forgiven if they repent

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: The Fatwa and Sharia Research Sector at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has stated that individuals convicted of the crime of insulting God and the prophets may have their political rights restored based on the assessment of relevant authorities if they sincerely repent and retract their offense both in writing and orally, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

This response comes following a query from the Governmental Parliamentary Coordinating Committee regarding whether there are legal grounds for rehabilitating those convicted of insulting God and the prophets, as specified in Article 17 of the draft law for electing members of the

National Assembly, reports **Al-Jarida** daily. The National Assembly is scheduled to vote on this matter during the second deliberation tomorrow.

Upon reviewing the governmental request presented by the Minister of Awqaf's office to the Fatwa Committee, the Fatwa Sector clarified that if the offender willingly repents before the court, genuinely expresses remorse and regret for their actions, repents verbally and in writing, and commits not to repeat the offense in the future, then there is no objection to restoring their rights.

The extent of these rights will be determined by the competent authorities, and ultimately, God Almighty knows best.

Securitymen insulted

Young drug addict put behind bars

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: A 27-year-old citizen was detained at the Maidan Hawalli police station and was referred to Forensic Medicine Department for an analysis to prove that he was in an abnormal condition at the time of arrest and to identify the substance that put him in this situation, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The man was caught in the Hawalli area for reckless driving in the late hours of the night and upon his arrest, the two security men confirmed that the person was unable

to speak and was in a state of severe intoxication.

Accordingly the young man was asked for a driver's license and at this time he mocked and insulted the two securitymen by saying 'Yalla Yalla' in a loud voice, and he pushed the security men twice as they tried to control him.

This is in addition to resisting arrest. He was subsequently arrested and put behind bars and his vehicle has been impounded.

Nazaha refers top municipality officers to 'Public Prosecution'

Asian dies in accident; mystery of theft cases solved

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: The Public Authority for Anti-Corruption, also known as Nazaha, has taken decisive action against corruption within the municipality and referred former senior officials and supervisors to the Public Prosecution based on suspicions of facilitating the misappropriation of public funds, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This move is part of Nazaha's ongoing commitment to combat corruption and prevent its harmful impact. The authority has been diligently investigating and gathering evidence to ensure that those involved in corrupt practices are held accountable for their actions.

After a thorough examination, the individuals in question have been found to have committed two offenses: facilitating the appropriation of public funds and unintentional damage to public money. These crimes are in violation of specific provisions outlined in the Public Funds Protection Law No. 1 of 1993 and the Law No. 2 of 2016, which established the Public Authority for Anti-Corruption.

Nazaha emphasizes its dedication to continue conducting thorough examinations and investigations, actively seeking serious information that meets its criteria.

The authority acknowledges the essential role of whistleblowers in exposing corruption, and it assures them of the highest levels of protection and confidentiality as required by the law and executive regulations.

By taking these actions, Nazaha reaffirms its commitment to eradicating corruption and promoting transparency and accountability within the public sector.

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Expat arrested for thefts: The Criminal Investigation Department has closed the file of an Arab man who was involved in nearly 20 thefts and misdemeanors, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The daily added, the suspect was arrested in the Jahra region. During interrogation he not only confessed to the crimes but also led the detectives to part of the stolen items hidden in his residence in the Sulaiybiya area, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to a security source, due to the rise in theft cases in the Jahra Governorate, a specialized team from the General Department of Criminal Investigation was formed to investigate and identify the culprit.

After thorough research and surveillance, they identified the unemployed suspect, whose services had been terminated by the employer for an unknown reason.

Acting on information the investigators set up an ambush and caught him red-handed.

During the interrogation, the suspect admitted to being involved in nearly 20 thefts from the homes of citizens, expatriates, and bachelors within the Jahra Governorate and added most of the stolen property had been sold by him.

Subsequently, both the suspect and the recovered stolen items were handed over to the Public Prosecution.

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Man dies on duty: An Asian died while on duty when an iron pipe fell on his head from a crane while it was being taken from one place to another, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The incident happened at the Amghara scrap yard. A report received by the Operations Room of the Ministry of the Interior stated that an iron pipe fell on the head of an Asian worker in the Amghara scrap yard causing him serious injury which resulted in severe bleeding and death at the site.

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8 in police custody: Personnel from the Farwaniya Governorate Security Directorate, have recently arrested 8 people for carrying out acts contrary to public morals in exchange for money inside a private house, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The incident happened in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and all necessary legal measures are being taken against them. A security source added the arrested people face deportation.

Electronic declaration service for civil associations launched

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: In confirmation of the news titled "The Automatic Declaration of Non-Governmental Associations... in its Final Stages" published on May 25, the Director of Non-Governmental Associations Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs Iman Al-Enezi revealed the launch of the electronic declaration service for civil associations by the Social Development Sector of the ministry in coordination with the computer department in the planning and administrative development sector, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.



Al-Enezi

In a press statement issued recently, Al-Enezi said, "This step comes as a continuation of our policy aimed at expanding the use of automated systems, in a way that facilitates the associations and shortens a lot of time and effort spent in order to complete their transactions.

The aim of the service is to facilitate procedures for associations, achieve the principle of transparency and equal opportunities among all applicants, and apply the

rules of governance in the registration mechanism. It also ensures ease in submitting applications for declaration and publicity, and lives up to the approved and applicable procedures in this regard.

To take advantage of the service that was approved through the official website of the ministry and through the 'barcode' service, access is made to the list of electronic services including submitting a request to declare a civil association, registering, filling in the initial data, attaching some required documents, and then sending it to the concerned department, which will study the application, ensure all required papers and documents are fulfilled, and submit it for presentation at the Committee for Declaration, Evaluation, and Dissolution of Public Benefit Societies and Foundations. Their basic systems will be studied and reviewed, and then determined whether such a request is approved or not.

The association whose request for declaration has been approved will be addressed through the issuance of a username and password to enter the automated civil associations program. In this case, the association will have joined under the umbrella of the Ministry of Social Affairs. In the event of rejection, the applicant will be contacted electronically, with a statement containing the reasons for that."



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HH Crown Prince and HH Prime Minister send similar cables

HH Amir congratulates Benin and Switzerland on national days

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Tuesday sent a cable of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Benin Patrice Talon on his country's National Day.

Amir wished the president an everlasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity to his country and people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Patrice

Talon on his country's National Day.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Patrice Talon on his country's National Day.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad has

addressed a cable Tuesday to President of the Swiss Confederation Alain Berset, expressing congratulations on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Berset good health, the Swiss confederation and the friendly Swiss people full-scale progress and prosperity.

Entry fees eyed for smart bathrooms

Municipality dept completes study on 'development' of public toilets

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: The Project Development Department of Kuwait Municipality has completed a study on the development and operation of public toilets, reports Aljarida daily.

It stated that 90 percent of the toilets are abandoned and closed for maintenance. Access to them is difficult and considered inappropriate. They also do not conform to the regulations and requirements related to people with special needs.

The municipality had called for a review of the number of toilets in Kuwait and their locations, and after a field inspection, it was discovered that there are a total of 41 toilets.

It called for placing a number on them in Kuwait City as part of the practice of beautifying Kuwait City. It also recommended implementing a smart system in the public toilets and applying sustainability systems.

The study stressed the preservation of the four sites in the vicinity of Mubarakiya area, which is currently under operation, until the completion of studies related to the beautification of Kuwait City.

The municipality insisted on the removal of all toilets located in Al-Rai and Shuwaikh Industrial areas; with four in Al-Rai and two in Shuwaikh Industrial, due to the presence of alternative toilets available within the area. It also recommended demolition of all public toilets located on Salmi and Abdali roads in Jahra Governorate.

Provision

It affirmed the provision of public toilets on Salmi and Abdali roads through the development of fuel stations and the completion of the development of the highway rest stops project. It obligated the developers of the above two projects to implement a sufficient number of toilets to serve the roads.

Regarding the toilets located in residential areas, the municipality recommended coordinating with the Ministry of Social Affairs for the transfer of the allocation of sites and the affiliation of public toilets to cooperative societies. It also recommended the cancellation of the allocation decisions and the removal of toilets located in residential areas in the event that their transfer to cooperative societies is not approved.

It stressed the need to work on obliging the application of the Gulf Building Code

and the building law and regulations, especially the provisions related to obligating all buildings and facilities in all areas with all their commercial, investment, craft and other uses, to provide toilets that serve their users and visitors, given that the process of operating toilets is linked to both operation and maintenance work.

It also recommended activating the role of the construction department by issuing tenders or auctions related to the operation and maintenance of public toilets located in public beaches belonging to the municipality and located in Kuwait City.

In the same context, the municipality approved licensing the Public Utilities Management Company to provide self-service smart toilets for a nominal fee in the company's multiple and ground car parks.

The Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality Eng. Saud Al-Dabbous stated that the municipality approved the initiative presented, as it is in line with the Kuwait Municipality's vision regarding the operation of public toilets.

He stressed that the Projects Development Department in the Projects Sector has completed preparing the necessary study for the possibility of operating toilets in the governorates as an investment option.

Application

Eng. Al-Dabbous indicated that the approval of the application is conditional on obtaining the prior approval of the Ministry of Finance to collect a small fee in return for using the toilets within the car parks managed by the public utility company.

He revealed that symbolic entry fees will be set for smart bathrooms in order to facilitate the public use of toilets; however, people with special needs and the elderly will be exempted from paying entry fees to use the toilets.

Eng. Al-Dabbous stressed the need to develop a mechanism that facilitates their entry to bathrooms, and to provide a system that facilitates the payment process for users of smart toilets so that the system allows diversity and ease of payment methods.

He highlighted the provision of an integrated emergency program for smart toilets so that any problem facing the operation of smart toilets is addressed.

Eng. Al-Dabbous implied the need to set timings for operating and closing them so that they are not exploited in an uncivilized manner, provide general hygiene for them either by self-cleaning or allocating specialized labor, provide security guards to ensure the safety of users and facilities, and avoid any problem related to the users of smart toilets.

Celebrating his

Continued from Page 1

While the brothers in Algeria gave priority to the interest of the centers of power in the "Liberation Front" party over the national and regional interest, and they proceeded to escalate through the gangs of the so-called "Polisario" and their support for its terrorism, the whole world stood by Morocco in a right that no one disputes.

Today, King Mohammed VI extends his hand once again to Algeria, because he is aware more than ever of the importance of cooperation between the two countries, especially with regard to the repercussions of the international situation and its reflection on the entire Moroccan region.

Therefore, the ball today is in the court of Algeria, which must respond to the royal Moroccan salutation in a manner that is better, and realize that the Kingdom today has become an international development, economic and investment force. There is no escape from cooperation with it, and a way out of the cocoon of personal ambitions that control the Algerian people.

Kuwait recalls

Continued from Page 1

on all aspects of life in the country, Kuwaiti has been trying hard to bury the hatchet and turn over a new chapter of good relationships, neighborliness and joint interests.

Remembering 33 years since the Iraqi invasion, the Kuwaiti people would always remain grateful to world countries, mainly the United States, Gulf, Arab and friendly countries, for their highly commended efforts against oppression, and their support for Kuwait's liberation.

Immediately following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) heled an emergency session, as requested by many countries, on August 3, 1990, and adopted Resolution 660 that condemned the invasion and called on Iraq to pull its forces out of Kuwait immediately and unconditionally.

The US and Soviet Union deplored the Iraqi move and called on Baghdad to immediately withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

The foreign ministers of Muslim countries met in Cairo for their 19th session and adopted a statement urging the Iraqi army to leave Kuwaiti territories, while Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ambassadors convened in New York to denounce the Iraqi invasion and demand Iraqi army pullout.

Only a few days after the Iraqi military action, the US tabled a draft resolution to the UNSC imposing comprehensive economic and military sanctions on Iraq in a bid to force it withdraw from Kuwait in line with the UNSC resolution adopted just a few hours following the invasion.

The UNSC approved the US-forwarded draft resolution after having revised it and added some items, adopting its Resolution 661 on August 6, the second since the inva-

sion, in a move that reflected its determination to put an end to the occupation of Kuwait and to help it regain its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As developments went on, peace-loving countries had to dispatch forces to the region, and immediately, various world capitals had contracts in order to mobilize an international coalition, particularly after the UNSC adopted a third resolution on the occupation of Kuwait, Resolution 662, in which the UN underlined its categorical opposition to Iraq's decision to annex Kuwait as being "null and void".

The third UNSC resolution also called on all countries, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize the Iraqi annexation attempt.

Only several weeks following the Iraqi invasion, Arab and international vanguard forces began to flow to Saudi lands as part of an international coalition to liberate Kuwait, concurrently with the fourth UNSC Resolution 664 which reiterated Iraq's attempted annexation of Kuwait as being "invalid".

Afterwards, the five major countries of the UNSC agreed on a draft resolution authorizing the use of military force against Iraq due to its reluctance to pull out of Kuwait.

In late November 1990, the UNSC adopted several resolutions related to Iraq, mainly Resolution 677, which warned Iraq of the consequences of its attempts to wipe out the identity of Kuwait and settle Iraqis in Kuwait, stressing the significance of keeping smuggled copies of Kuwait's population registry.

The UNSC, then, adopted Resolution 678, which authorizes all necessary means to ensure compliance with previous resolutions and gives Iraq a deadline until January 15, 1991 to pull its forces out of Kuwait, or it would be at war with the international coalition forces.

After the UNSC Resolution No. 678 authorizing the use of military force against Iraq had been adopted, events developed so quickly at local, regional and global levels.

At the dawn of January 7, 1991, the international coalition's forces commenced their major attack on Iraqi military and strategic sites in Kuwait and Iraq as a prelude to the liberation of Kuwait. They launched an air attack on Iraqi military facilities and bases, public facilities, bridges, water and electricity stations, as well as 60 military bases.

The international coalition started preparations for a ground attack on Iraqi forces in Kuwait, with then US President George Bush having greenlit the coalition forces' commander Norman Schwarzkopf, to launch the ground attack shortly before the end of the UN deadline.

Consequently, the Iraqi army collapsed under the international forces' strikes, and the Kuwaiti forces began to return to the country on February 26, 1991.

Remembering the invasion after 33 years, Kuwaitis would remain grateful to the late Saudi King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud for having hosted the Kuwaiti leadership and people, along with the Egyptian leadership for having supported Kuwait from the very beginning of the invasion.

More than 163,000 Kuwaitis visit Turkey in last 6 months

Iraqi tourists tops list among Arab countries

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: In an indication of the strong performance of the tourism sector in Turkey, the Turkish Statistics Authority said revenues increased during the second quarter of 2023 at a rate of 23.1%, compared to the same period last year, achieving almost 13 billion dollars, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a statement the tourism sector said during the second quarter of 2023, the number of tourists during the aforementioned period increased by 17.2% compared to the second quarter of last year, and reached 13,995,495 tourists.

Visitors from Russia, Germany and Britain topped the list of foreigners who arrived in Turkey in June, according to the data.

Statistics published by the Turkish Ministry of Tourism on its website showed that the number of Kuwaiti tourists who visited Turkey during the first six months of 2023 reached 163,496, while the number of Saudi tourists during the same period was 286,000.

Iraqi tourists topped the list of Arab countries that visited Turkey the most during the first six months of 2023, with 469,947 tourists.

Antalya announced that it had achieved a record during the first 7 months of this year -- from January to July -- as the city's governor, Arsene Yazigi, explained that the number of tourists coming to Antalya during that period amounted to 8,011,828.

Blood donation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: The Ministry of Health's Blood Transfusion Services Department announced the launch of the annual blood donation campaign "Together forever, a wall of the homeland 8" on Wednesday, August 2, coinciding with the 33rd anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, under the auspices of the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Medical Director of the Blood Transfusion Services Department Dr. Hanan Al-Awadhi told KUNA that the campaign will be launched at the Central Blood Bank in Jabriya, and in all donation centers of the department from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, and souvenirs will be distributed to the donors.

She explained that the campaign is being held for the eighth year in a row within the framework of joint cooperation between the Ministry of Health, represented by the Central Blood Bank, and the entities with social responsibility.

"Mujezat Alshifa": A study recommends royal jelly as a safe solution to enhance fertility in men

The nutrition consultant at Mujezat Al-Shifa Company said: The occurrence of pregnancy is evidence of the man's ability to fertilize, and therefore men are treated in various ways, but the use of royal jelly in the treatment of infertility in men was limited to folk recipes, so Professor Ali Al-Sanafi, with his colleagues at the College of Medicine and Pharmacy at Tikrit University, 2007, in a study that included the treatment of infertile male patients who attended the infertility clinic in Tikrit. Their number was 83 sterile males who were treated with royal jelly for three months and divided into one groups of 22 males who were treated with a dose of 100 mg royal jelly, 21 males who were treated with a dose of 50 mg royal jelly, 20 males with a dose of 25 mg royal jelly and 20 males were treated with a dose of 10 gm of pure honey, and the results of the study concluded that the treatments with royal jelly were safe.



She added: The tests conducted before and after the study, which showed an improvement in a direct relationship with the doses of royal jelly, also showed that the hormone stimulating the production of gametes such as sperm, and therefore their numbers increased, but not much, while the percentage of sperm with active movement increased significantly compared to the percentage of sperm with slow movement.

And she concluded: The results of the study showed that royal jelly is safe and effective for increasing fertility for infertile men.

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New features ensure strong protection

Kaspersky consumer product line now protects users' crypto assets

LONDON, Aug 1: Kaspersky announced the addition of new crypto protection features to its consumer product line, including Kaspersky Standard, Kaspersky Plus and Kaspersky Premium. The new features, based on our core award-winning technologies, have been specially tailored for crypto users. In particular, it includes defense from cryptoscam fraud, cryptojacking and enhanced protection of crypto wallet credentials.

Cryptocurrency users are a very attractive target for cybercriminals who aim to gain access to users' money and personal data. In the last year, cryptocurrency phishing rose significantly, seeing 40% year-on-year growth with 5,040,520 detections of crypto phishing in 2022, compared to 3,596,437 in 2021.

Essential crypto protection features such as cryptoscam and cryptojacking protection are available across all three new Kaspersky plans: Kaspersky Standard, Kaspersky Plus and Kaspersky Premium. Among all tiers, Kaspersky Premium is the most complete solution with maximum features for crypto protection.

New crypto relevant tools are available with in four main sets.

Kaspersky cryptoscams and fraud has the power to protect users from various scams and fraud. It prevents users from visiting websites masquerading as being original crypto sources and is designed to trick the user into sharing personal or financial data relating to crypto wallets and cryptocurrencies. In case users are faced with cryptoscam, the website is blocked and the user is alerted with a notification.

Cryptojacking protection
Cryptojacking protection is the second most important feature devoted to defending users from unauthorized usage of their PC computing power to generate cryptocurrency. It also prevents deterioration of the PC's performance and unwanted electricity usage. Kaspersky's behavior-based detection technology protects devices from unauthorized crypto mining. Again, once cryptojacking behavior is detected, Kaspersky product will notify users.

Crypto wallet credentials' security

Crypto wallet credentials' security features are aimed at protecting two key types of data: account password and a seed phrase. It is important to keep and protect them, since there are no ways users can recover access to their wallets in case of loss of this data, which also means they lose of all assets in the wallet. Key features here are:

- Password Safety Status, which warns users if their crypto passwords have been leaked online or are easy to crack;
- Identity Protection Wallet

that stores any sensitive data in an encrypted vault accessible only by a user on any of the users' devices (utilizing the most secure AES-256-bit encryption algorithms);

■ Secret Vault that converts users' sensitive information like crypto credentials into an unreadable format and protects it with a password on a device hard drive.

Reliable anti-virus and VPN
Core anti-virus and VPN security features ensure strong protection from basic cybersecurity threats like viruses, malware, spyware and ransomware, which are ranking high among crypto owners. In particular, it includes:

- Real-time Threat Protection - multi-layered advanced security that helps protect against existing and emerging malware threats;
- Stalkerware which warns about apps secretly installed on PC and Android devices to spy on users;
- Remote Access Detection which prevents criminals from accessing users' PCs to collect information that could be used to steal their identity;
- Unwanted apps installation blocker that blocks installation of unwanted bundled apps that users didn't intend to install and that might be malicious;
- Smart Firewall which monitors all PC connections and prevents access to a computer over the Internet or local network;
- Secure Data Input which helps protect users' data from keyloggers (secure keyboard input).
- Adware Remover which detects and removes adware, malicious tools, auto-dialers and suspicious packagers.
- Anti-Banner which blocks annoying - and potentially dangerous - banner ads and pop-ups, on websites and in some apps.

In addition, there is also an unlimited VPN for PCs and mobile platforms available, ensuring high levels of personal data and connection protection. In addition, Kaspersky VPN is the fastest product in terms of performance speed, allowing users to download files or watch movies with no ping or traffic loss.

"The crypto population is growing very quickly and already reached 300 million users in 2022. We see that blockchain users are both concerned and exposed to crypto crime as - according to our research - almost half (44%) fear crypto crime. We are supporting the needs of the crypto community by adding special crypto protection features to our portfolio, so our customers can work with cryptocurrency without cybersecurity risks to their money and personal data," comments Marina Titova, Vice-President, Consumer Product Marketing at Kaspersky.

Kuwait's credit growth muted in H1 and historically weaker in second half of '23

Deposit growth softening, but faster than credit growth

By National Bank of Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: Domestic credit growth remained weak in Q2 at 0.2% q/q, translating into a YTD increase of 0.8% (+3.3% y/y). Higher interest rates, banks' lower price competition in terms of retail lending, and normalizing growth following a strong 2022 are some of the factors behind the weakness this year. Looking ahead, while a more favorable political backdrop and ongoing momentum in project awards may support business credit we note that, historically, business credit growth has been much weaker in the second half of the year than in H1.

Business credit increased by a limited 0.4% q/q translating into YTD growth of 1.6%. This follows a strong 6.8% growth in 2022, the fastest annual expansion since 2013. The trade sector was, by far, the main driver of growth in Q2, increasing by a solid 6.3% q/q while "other services" and "oil/gas" were the weakest, dropping by 3% and 2.1%, respectively. From a YTD perspective, "trade" and "construction" are the fastest growing, together accounting for 84% of the total increase in business credit. The particularly interest rate sensitive "real estate", the sector's heavy-weight with a 41% share, is up by 0.9% YTD (+5.6% in 2022) after a strong rise in June, having been in the red for most of 2022. Looking ahead, we note that business credit growth is usually much weaker in the second half of the year. However, an ongoing improvement in project awards, which are up by nearly 140% y/y in H1, especially if accompanied by a sustained favorable political backdrop may support business credit growth in the second half of the year.

Meanwhile, household credit remained flat for the second consecutive quarter, a sharp slowdown following two very strong years. Higher interest rates, eas-

Table 1: Credit growth

Credit	Jun-2023		% growth		
	KD billions	q/q	YTD	y/y	2022
Business	23.4	0.4	1.6	2.1	6.8
o/w Real Estate	9.6	0.5	0.9	1.5	5.6
Household	18.5	0.1	0.1	3.7	9.1
Securities	3.2	-2.6	-1.1	5.8	14.3
Banks & financial institutions	2.2	3.0	1.1	9.7	-3.1
Total domestic credit	47.3	0.2	0.8	3.3	7.7
Non-resident credit	5.7	9.1	3.0	9.0	17.2
Total credit	53.0	1.1	1.0	3.9	8.6

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Table 2: Deposit growth

Deposits	Jun-2023		% growth		
	KD billions	q/q	YTD	y/y	2022
Private-sector	37.9	0.2	2.9	4.5	6.8
o/w Time dep.	20.3	5.6	10.9	25.1	19.3
o/w CASA dep.	15.9	-5.3	-5.0	-13.3	-4.3
Public Institutions	6.1	-3.8	-9.9	-18.2	-7.0
Government	3.9	12.7	16.1	12.9	18.2
Total resident dep.	47.8	0.6	2.0	1.6	5.3
Non-resident deposits	4.0	-12.2	-7.9	-10.8	-1.7
Total deposits	51.8	-0.5	1.2	0.5	4.6

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

ing price competition among the banks given the higher cost of funds, softening consumer spending growth, and lower real estate sales are all factors that have contributed to this major slowdown in household lending. On a y/y basis, total credit is up by 3.3% through June (business +2.1%, household +3.7%), slower than the 5.1% recorded at the end of Q1.

Deposit growth softening, but is faster than credit growth so far this year; public institutions' deposits falling

Resident deposits increased by 0.6% q/q, lifting YTD growth to 2% (+1.6% y/y). In continuation of Q1, private-sector deposits increased, although marginally, in Q2 and government deposits soared while public institutions' deposits (accounting for 13% of resident deposits) remained on a downtrend, actually falling by a steep 20% since May 2022. YTD, private-sector deposits are up by 2.9%, government deposits soared by 16% while public institutions' deposits fell by 10%. Within private-sector KD deposits, and for the fifth consecutive quarter, growth in time deposits outpaced that of CASA. Since March 2022, when interest rateliftoff commenced, time deposits are up by 29% while CASA is down by 12%.

Market expects hiking cycle is done while the dot-plot calls for a final 25 bps hike; both expect cuts in 2024

Finally, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) tracked the US

Citi appoints Omar Amireh as new CEO for Kuwait business

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: Citi recently announced the appointment of Omar Amireh as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for its business in Kuwait. As CEO, Omar will assume overall responsibility for driving Citi's business in the country, and will report to Ebru Pakcan, Head of Citi's Middle East and Africa (MEA) cluster.

Omar will concurrently continue to serve as Corporate Banking Head, a position he has held since 2018, when he moved to Kuwait. Since starting his career in Jordan in 2005, Omar has held a variety of EMEA-wide roles across Citi's businesses, having worked in Jordan, Kuwait, and the UK.

"Citi has a remarkable history in the region and has been serving clients in Kuwait for more than 70 years. I'm excited to have the opportunity to lead the team, drive business and help our clients succeed" said Omar.



Omar Amireh, new Chief Executive Officer for its business in Kuwait.

Ebru Pakcan, Middle East & Africa Cluster Head said: "Omar's extensive international experience and his in-depth knowledge of Kuwait will be of great value to our clients in this fast-growing market."

Fed in hiking rates by 25 bps in its July meeting, bringing cumulative hikes in the discount rate to 2.75% since March 2022, compared with a cumulative 5.25% increase by the Fed. While the Fed left the door open for further hikes

in the remainder of the year, depending mainly on how inflation will evolve, the most recent (June) dot-plot indicates one final 25 bps hike in 2023 while current futures market pricing indicates that the hiking cycle is done.

JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) - KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY

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 the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Blanket Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **6 August 2023** up to **24 August 2023** for Blanket Purchase Tender - Instrumentation Items & from **6 August 2023** up to **7 September 2023** for Blanket Purchase Tender for Pipes, Sleeves & Heater Tubes & Miscellaneous Valves for a non-refundable fee mentioned

Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tender will be on **Monday, 4 & 18 September 2023 @ 09:00 AM.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	CONTRACT PERIOD	FEES (IN KD)	CLOSING DATE
1	BPT # 237 / 19	Blanket Purchase Tender for Instrumentation Items	3 YRS	50	4 Sep 2023
2	BPT # 229 / 19	Blanket Purchase Tender for Pipes, Sleeves & Heater Tubes	3 YRS	100	18 Sep 2023
3	BPT # 233 / 19	Blanket Purchase Tender for Miscellaneous Valves	3 YRS	50	18 Sep 2023

Notes: Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please send request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to e-mail CBMS@chevron.com or MYDG@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact:

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The Conversation

Proving Fermat's last theorem gives access to new tools, techniques and insights

2 mathematicians build bridge to help solve centuries-old mystery

By Maxine Calle, Ph.D. Candidate in Mathematics, University of Pennsylvania and David Bressoud, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, Macalester College

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



On June 23, 1993, the mathematician Andrew Wiles gave the last of three lectures detailing his solution to Fermat's last theorem, a problem that had remained unsolved for three and a half centuries. Wiles' announcement caused a sensation, both within the mathematical community and in the media.

Beyond providing a satisfying resolution to a long-standing problem, Wiles' work marks an important moment in the establishment of a bridge between two important, but seemingly very different, areas of mathematics.

History demonstrates that many of the greatest breakthroughs in math involve making connections between seemingly disparate branches of the subject. These bridges allow mathematicians, like the two of us, to transport problems from one branch to another and gain access to new tools, techniques and insights.

What is Fermat's last theorem?

Fermat's last theorem is similar to the Pythagorean theorem, which states that the sides of any right triangle give a solution to the equation $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$.

Every differently sized triangle gives a different solution, and in fact there are infinitely many solutions where all three of x , y and z are whole numbers – the smallest example is $x=3$, $y=4$ and $z=5$.

Fermat's last theorem is about what happens if the exponent changes to something greater than 2. Are there whole-number solutions to $x^3 + y^3 = z^3$? What if the exponent is 10, or 50, or 30 million? Or, most generally, what about any positive number bigger than 2?

Around the year 1637, Pierre de Fermat claimed that the answer was no, there are no three positive whole numbers that are a solution to $x^n + y^n = z^n$ for any n bigger than 2. The French mathematician scribbled this claim into the margins of his copy of a math textbook from ancient Greece, declaring that he had a marvelous proof that the margin was "too narrow to contain."

Fermat's purported proof was never found, and his "last theorem" from the margins, published posthumously by his son, went on to plague mathematicians for centuries.

Searching for a solution

For the next 356 years, no one could find Fermat's missing proof, but no one could prove him wrong either – not even Homer Simpson. The theorem quickly gained a reputation for being incredibly difficult or even impossible to prove, with thousands of incorrect proofs put forward. The theorem even earned a spot in the Guinness World Records as the "most difficult math problem."

That is not to say that there was no progress. Fermat himself had proved it for $n=3$ and $n=4$. Many other mathematicians, including the trailblazer Sophie Germain, contributed proofs for individual values of n , inspired by Fermat's methods.

But knowing Fermat's last theorem is true for certain numbers isn't enough for mathematicians – we need to know it's true for infinitely many of them. Mathematicians wanted a proof that would work for all numbers bigger than 2 at once, but for centuries it seemed as though no such proof could be found.

However, toward the end of the 20th century, a growing body of work suggested Fermat's last theorem should be true. At the heart of this work was something called the modularity conjecture, also known as the Taniyama-Shimura conjecture.

A bridge between two worlds

The modularity conjecture proposed a connection between two seemingly unrelated mathematical objects: elliptic curves and modular forms.

Elliptic curves are neither ellipses nor curves. They are doughnut-shaped spaces of solutions to cubic equations, like $y^2 = x^3 - 3x + 1$.

A modular form is a kind of function which takes in certain complex numbers – numbers with two parts: a real part and an imaginary part – and outputs another complex number. What makes these functions special is that they are highly symmetrical, meaning there are lots of conditions on what they can look like.

There is no reason to expect that those two concepts are related, but that is what the modularity conjecture implied.

Finally, a proof

The modularity conjecture doesn't appear to say anything about equations like $x^n + y^n = z^n$. But work by mathematicians in the 1980s showed a link between these new ideas and Fermat's old theorem.

First, in 1985, Gerhard Frey realized that if Fermat was wrong and there could be a solution to $x^n + y^n = z^n$ for some n bigger than 2, that solution would produce a peculiar elliptic curve. Then Kenneth Ribet showed in 1986 that such a curve

could not exist in a universe where the modularity conjecture was also true.

Their work implied that if mathematicians could prove the modularity conjecture, then Fermat's last theorem had to be true. For many mathematicians, including Andrew Wiles, working on the modularity conjecture became a path to proving Fermat's last theorem.

Wiles worked for seven years, mostly in secret, trying to prove this difficult conjecture. By 1993, he was close to having a proof of a special case of the modularity conjecture – which was all he needed to prove Fermat's last theorem.

He presented his work in a series of lectures at the Isaac Newton Institute in June 1993. Though subsequent peer review found a gap in Wiles' proof, Wiles and his former student Richard Taylor worked for another year to fill in that gap and cement Fermat's last theorem as a mathematical truth.

Lasting consequences

The impacts of Fermat's last theorem and its solution continue to reverberate through the world of mathematics. In 2001, a group of researchers, including Taylor, gave a full proof of the modularity conjecture in a series of papers that were inspired by Wiles' work. This completed bridge between elliptic curves and modular forms has been – and will continue to be – foundational to understanding mathematics, even beyond Fermat's last theorem.

Wiles' work is cited as beginning "a new era in number theory" and is central to important pieces of modern math, including a widely used encryption technique and a huge research effort known as the Langlands Program that aims to build a bridge between two fundamental areas of mathematics: algebraic number theory and harmonic analysis.

Although Wiles worked mostly in isolation, he ultimately needed help from his peers to identify and fill in the gap in his original proof. Increasingly, mathematics today is a collaborative endeavor, as witnessed by what it took to finish proving the modularity conjecture. The problems are large and complex and often require a variety of expertise.

So, finally, did Fermat really have a proof of his last theorem, as he claimed? Knowing what mathematicians know now, many of us today don't believe he did.

Although Fermat was brilliant, he was sometimes wrong. Mathematicians can accept that he believed he had a proof, but it's unlikely that his proof would stand up to modern scrutiny. (AP)



A group of senior Kuwaiti government officials, business leaders, other strategic thinkers and German ambassador at the SAP Discovery Day held in Kuwait City recently.

Sustainable digital transformation top agenda at business leaders meet

SAP commits to develop Kuwaiti tech skills

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: As senior Kuwaiti government officials, business leaders and other strategic thinkers were joined by the German ambassador for SAP Discovery Day held in the capital recently, discussions focused on initiatives to develop local technological talent, transform businesses in the cloud, build resilient supply chains, and create sustainable enterprises to support Kuwait's future digital economy.

Among the many developments highlighted at the event was how SAP and Google Cloud are collaborating, with the support of the Kuwaiti government, to facilitate companies' digital transformations. With the launch of Google Cloud's local data center announced this year, Kuwaiti businesses will be able to adopt either of SAP's acceleration programs – RISE with SAP or GROW with SAP – to facilitate their move to the fast, secure, reliable and clean Google Cloud platform. This approach will enable companies to benefit from the comprehensive range of SAP cloud solutions that include automatically updated programs with embedded emerging technologies such as AI and automation, as well as sustainability metrics and data analytics.

Dr. Khaled Mahdi, Secretary-General of the General-Secretariat of The Supreme Council for Planning and Development, who participated in an emerging technology panel discussion, noted, "Emerging technologies will shape Kuwait's future planning and development in the context of public policy. We are actively exploring the benefits and challenges of incorporating AI into decision-making processes at Kuwait's General-Secretariat of The Supreme Council for Planning and Development for the benefit of our citizens."

Collaboration

Dr. Ammar Alhusaini, Acting Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), also participated in the panel discussion, highlighting how collaboration between the public and private sectors could accelerate the pace of digital transformation in Kuwait.

The Ministry of Electricity and Water and Renewable Energy was also represented on the panel by its Director of IT, Saud Al Ajmi, who shed light on technology's transformative role in the energy and water sectors, focusing on sustainability and infrastructure security.

Also sharing their insights from an SAP customer perspective on the panel were CEO of Floward, Abdulaziz Al Loughani; CIO of Al-Sayer Group Holding, Dr. Alexious Mulemba; and Magd Donia, General Manager of KASAP. SAP was represented by Sundus Bushahri, VP of Business Development and Sales in Kuwait, who highlighted SAP's commitment to developing career opportunities for technology talents through expanding the SAP ecosystem in Kuwait while also building digital capabilities and training individuals in the specific skills

that SAP's partners and customers require.

After the session, Dr. Al Hussaini commented, "Digital transformation is a fundamental pillar of the New Kuwait Vision 2035, and public-private partnerships and foreign investment are key strategic components of economic diversification. Collaborations with global technology companies such as SAP and Google Cloud, which are focused on facilitating digital transformation and developing Kuwaiti talent, will help to create a digital society to benefit all citizens. International collaboration ensures we are implementing global best practices and that Kuwait remains at the forefront of business and technology developments in the region."

The hundreds of guests in attendance also heard the opening address delivered by H.E. Hans-Christian von Reibnitz, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Kuwait, in which he emphasized the strong bilateral relations between Kuwait and his country, where SAP has its headquarters.

Ambassador von Reibnitz later commented, "I believe SAP is playing a pivotal role in supporting Kuwait's impressive digital transformation agenda. Collaboration on innovation and research between our two countries is highly significant and we believe there are further opportunities to explore. Among these, cooperation between German and Kuwaiti businesses, government agencies and institutions could deliver mutually beneficial results in fields such as green technology, AI, Internet of Things and cloud computing. Moreover, SAP is committed to helping create a technically skilled workforce to support Kuwait's future digital economy by providing specialist training."

Developing a Digital Workforce

During the Discovery Dual event, SAP highlighted its commitment to developing and upskilling Kuwaiti technology talent through the SAP University Alliances, the SAP Dual Study Program, and the SAP Young Professionals Program.

SAP University Alliances represents an ongoing initiative to empower young people to create a sustainable future by enabling academia to educate the next generation to lead digital transformation, including socially and environmentally responsible business processes. The program builds industry partnerships and contributes towards creating a sustainable digitally focused workforce in the region through education in Intelligent Enterprise and the experience economy. Young people graduate with a competitive edge, thanks to their SAP training and engaging at SAP events.

Similarly, the SAP Dual Study Program is run by the Digital Skills Center of SAP and includes business processes integration and certifications in analytics, implementation processes, and control functions, bridging the gap between university and

employment.

The SAP Young Professionals Program, on the other hand, is a comprehensive training initiative designed by SAP to help create a sustainable future workforce and provide a solid foundation of excellence backed by technological certifications to launch university graduates' careers. Participants graduate from the program as SAP Associate Consultants, enabling immediate employment by SAP customers and partners.

On the sidelines of the event, Badih Hakim, Managing Director, SAP Kuwait, said of these initiatives, "The partnership between SAP and educational institutions under the SAP Dual Study Program, and between local businesses and the SAP Young Professionals Program, demonstrate how private-public collaborations can support measurable skills development. The programs train students for a successful future aligned with Kuwait's focus on digital transformation. SAP is committed to expanding these programs in partnership with Kuwaiti institutions and enterprises to ensure that the future leaders of tomorrow are equipped with the technological skills they will need."

Career

In addition to developing Kuwait talent, Hakim said SAP is committed to providing career opportunities to nationals. He adds that over the past year, SAP Kuwait increased the proportion of nationals in its employ to 30%.

"We hope that SAP Discovery Day has demonstrated how Kuwaiti companies can more easily align with the government's digital transformation agenda, while simultaneously benefiting from new automation and data analytics capabilities supported by new technologies to transform their businesses into intelligent sustainable enterprises," concluded SAP's Hakim.

SAP's strategy is to help every business run as an intelligent, sustainable enterprise. As a market leader in enterprise application software, we help companies of all sizes and in all industries run at their best: SAP customers generate 87% of total global commerce. Our machine learning, Internet of Things (IoT), and advanced analytics technologies help turn customers' businesses into intelligent enterprises. SAP helps give people and organizations deep business insight and fosters collaboration that helps them stay ahead of their competition. We simplify technology for companies so they can consume our software the way they want – without disruption.

Our end-to-end suite of applications and services enables business and public customers across 25 industries globally to operate profitably, adapt continuously, and make a difference. With a global network of customers, partners, employees, and thought leaders, SAP helps the world run better and improve people's lives.

Unique prejudice

Men posting to social media seen as 'sissy'

By Andrew Edelblum, University of Dayton and Nathan B. Warren, BI Norwegian Business School

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



For better or worse, much of life is categorized along gendered lines: Clothing stores have sections for men and women, certain foods are considered more manly or more feminine, and even drinks can take on a gendered sheen ("manmosa," anyone?).

Our newly published research finds that even social media is a canvas for rigid gender stereotyping.

Specifically, we show that men who post often on social media are seen as feminine, a phenomenon we refer to as the "frequent-posting femininity stereotype." We observed this bias in four experiments featuring over 1,300 respondents from the US and UK.

As consumer behavior researchers, we have long been interested in the contradictions, peculiarities and restrictions associated with masculinity.

These dynamics have far-reaching implications in the world of marketing. It is widely known, for example, that Coke Zero was created as an alternative to Diet Coke, a product that men notoriously shied away from for its perceived ties to women who wanted to lose weight. There's even a tendency for people to think it is unmanly to sleep more, because needing rest is connected to being weak and vulnerable.

We thought about how some of these notions might come into play on social media. Polling data suggests that men and women use social media platforms in very different ways: For example, men tend to be on fewer platforms overall and don't post as often as women on apps like Instagram.

Share

We wondered if gender biases had anything to do with why. Are men judged harshly when they share on social media?

To test this question, we ran a series of experiments in which respondents were asked to evaluate a "normal, average, ordinary" man who either frequently or rarely posts on social media. To provide a more concrete picture, we described the man as someone who posts online for fun and has a moderate number of followers.

Respondents consistently rated the man as more feminine when he was described as a frequent social media poster. This was true regardless of assumptions made about the man's age, education, wealth and preferred social media platform. We also controlled for the gender, age, political beliefs and social media use of the people who participated in the study.

Notably, we used an identical scenario to describe a woman's posting behavior – and post frequency had no effect on how feminine people thought she was.

What, then, explains this somewhat unusual effect?

We discovered that anyone who frequently posts, regardless of their gender, comes across as a person who seeks attention and validation. But this projected sense of neediness only translates to perceived femininity in men.

This makes sense. After all, research has shown that rejecting femininity is crucial to conventional notions of manhood, while avoiding masculinity is not necessarily crucial to conventional womanhood. Indeed, ads, TV shows, movies and music continue to reinforce ideas that men be resolutely stoic and self-sufficient. Our results indicate that by posting frequently online, men come across as the opposite.

Not only that, but the "frequent-posting femininity stereotype" effect turned out to be even more stubborn than we expected.

Two of our experiments attempted, but ultimately failed, to curb this bias. First, we examined whether men were judged differently when sharing content about others as opposed to themselves – the idea being that this form of posting behavior would come across as considerate and not as validation-seeking. Second, we examined whether male influencers – who post largely for professional reasons – faced the same stereotype.

Feminine

In both cases – and to our surprise – frequent posting caused participants to see these social media users as more feminine.

There's a lot we don't know about this unique prejudice. For example, it's unclear to what degree the frequent-posting femininity stereotype affects how men are judged in different cultures. While men around the world are often considered less masculine when they appear needy, our research only included participants from the UK and US.

Just as critical: How can the connection between frequent posting and femininity be broken altogether? Our research suggests that this link is durable and reflects persistent gender dynamics.

Still, it's worth exploring how platforms can curb this prejudice through their design. For example, BeReal is an app that prompts users to quickly share an unedited photo snapshot of what they're doing at a random time throughout the day. Functions like these seem to emphasize authenticity, routine and community. Is this the recipe that's needed to change the association between posting and validation-seeking?

Notably, men are experiencing historic rates of social isolation and facing dire mental health consequences. This health crisis is likely exacerbated by pervasive biases that make men feel like they can't talk about their problems or ask for help. The frequent-posting femininity stereotype reveals another instance in which men are judged for attempting to express themselves and build social connections.

Australia's central bank leaves cash rate at 4.1%

Australia's central bank on Tuesday left its benchmark interest rate on hold at 4.1% for a second consecutive month raising expectations that rates might have reached their peak or are close to plateauing in the current cycle. The Reserve Bank of Australia has hiked the cash rate 12 times from a record-low of 0.1% in May last year - as the board has attempted to rein in inflation - to a target range between 2% and

3%. Inflation fell from 7% in the first quarter of the year to 6% in the June quarter. The bank's governor Philip Lowe said inflation was "still too high at 6%" and interest rates could be lifted further. "Some further tightening of monetary policy may be required to ensure that inflation returns to target in a reasonable time-frame, but that will depend upon

the data and the evolving assessment of risks," Lowe said in a statement. The bank's decision not to lift rates was based on previous hikes continuing to rebalance supply and demand forces in the economy and an uncertain outlook, he said. Economists are divided on whether taming inflation will tip Australia's sluggish economy into recession. (AP)

BP profits are cut in half to \$2.6 billion

Energy giant BP said Tuesday that it earned nearly \$2.6 billion in the second quarter, almost half what it posted in the first three months of the year as oil and natural gas prices that surged after Russia's invasion of Ukraine have fallen. The company's underlying replacement cost profit, which excludes one-time items and fluctuations in the value of inventories, was down nearly 70% from the

April-to-June period a year ago, when London-based BP brought in \$8.45 billion. It's the latest oil and gas major to see profits fall from record highs last year, following British rival Shell, France's TotalEnergies and U.S.-based ExxonMobil. Energy prices spiked after Russia launched its war in Ukraine, raising fears about Moscow's supplies of oil and natural gas before it cut off

most of its gas heading to Europe. Energy costs were a major driver of inflation around the world, stirring outcry as households and businesses faced skyrocketing electricity and heating bills while energy companies' profits skyrocketed. The U.K. has passed taxes on such wind-fall profits. Now, those outsized earnings are drawing back down. (AP)

Market Movements

01-08-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+0.44	4,077.28	SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.48	11,636.07
JAPAN - Nikkei	+0.92	33,476.58	EGYPT - EGX 30	-0.46	17,514.11
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.31	48,201.25			
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.04	6,593.80			

Business

Real estate activity continues to ease in Q2 2023

Softening demand cited as reason for slowdown

By National Bank of Kuwait

Real estate sales fell in Q2 2023, in a further sign of a market slowdown amid high residential valuations and rising borrowing costs. Sales dropped across all segments on a year-on-year basis, and we expect activity to remain soft during the remainder of 2023. Meanwhile, the government's recent efforts in resolving the housing crisis could help in reducing the number of outstanding applicants over the medium-to-long term.

Overall sales declined for the second consecutive quarter, reaching KD672 million (-5.8% q/q) and the lowest level since Q3 2020. (Chart 1.) There were also signs of a slowdown in other indicators, with our real estate price index (incorporating both residential and investment segments) showing price gains decelerating to just 1.4% y/y which is the slowest since Q3 2018. (Chart 2.) In addition, central bank data show real estate-related lending slowing significantly so far this year. (Chart 4.) Admittedly however, weak sales figures in Q2 2023 may have been impacted by seasonal factors, with activity dropping sharply in April which coincided with the typically slow Ramadan/Eid period.

In terms of market segments, residential sector sales saw only a modest decline in the quarter though still fell to their lowest since Q3 2020. Home sales remained concentrated in Kuwait City and Al-Ahmadi governorates, accounting for nearly half of total home sales, while plot sales in Kuwait City accounted for around a third of total plot sales during the quarter, some of which may be related to the KD55 million Mubarak development project.

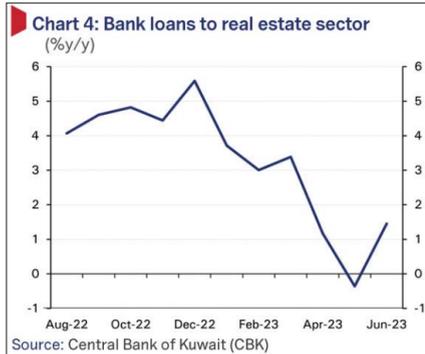
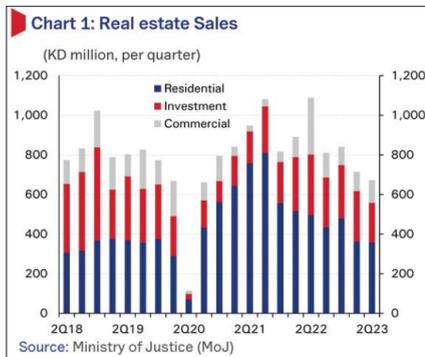
Residential sales have been trending lower for the past two years with several factors potentially at play. (Chart 3.) These include a normalization following exceptional strength during the pandemic period, weaker speculative pressures due to elevated valuations, and higher borrowing costs. Meanwhile, the residential price index saw its third consecutive quarterly decline, resulting in the first year-on-year drop since Q1 2018 (-0.3% y/y). Home prices (as opposed to land) were still up (+2.2% y/y), reflecting a rise in prices in Kuwait City, Hawalli, and Farwaniya governorates. AlAhmadi and Mubarak Alkabeer saw a decline in y/y prices, while Al-Jahra saw no change.

Investment sales (which includes individual units and apartment buildings), declined a steeper 21% in the quarter to their lowest since Q2 2021. Nearly half of the apartment unit sales were concentrated in AlAhmadi governorate (101 units), while 54% of apartment building sales were in Hawalli governorate (59 buildings). Price trends in the investment segment are currently holding up somewhat better than in the residential market, up 3.5% y/y in Q2 2023. We attribute this to two key factors: prices rose much less through the pandemic than in the residential sector, meaning that valuations are lower; and demand has been supported by the post-pandemic increase in expatriate workers, the main demographic driving demand. The past year has also seen apartment rents picking up in the Consumer Price Index figures, following a multi-year period of stagnation/contraction. This said, activity in the segment is still well below pre-pandemic levels. The potential re-opening of dependent visas could support demand for apartment property over coming quarters.

Finally, commercial sales rose 18.6% q/q in Q2 2023, though was still down sharply on a year-on-year basis. The quarterly increase came mainly on a KD21 million transaction in Kuwait City. Excluding this item, sales would have been broadly stable compared to Q1 2023.

KCB loans drop, government outlines steps to resolve housing crisis

Loans disbursed by Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB), the public organization in charge of providing residents with home loans, fell by -13% q/q (-1.0% y/y) to KD 111 million



in Q2 2023. Again, the weaker figures could reflect seasonal factors during the quarter. However, we expect that disbursed loans could pick up in H2

2023 and 2024 as the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) is accelerating plot distributions, the rise in the demand for construction permits, the recent announcement of the availability of 30,593 plots for distribution in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak project, Khaitan, and Mutla'a city suburbs (N1,3,4,5,12), and projects to develop the Al-Sabriya and Nawaf Al Ahmad areas, which could make around 52,000 units available for future distributions.

Moreover, the government's recently published four-year action included arrangements to distribute 15,094 lots in Qairawan and Sa'ad Al-Abdullah, as well as 42,932 building permits in South Sabah al-Ahmad- South Sa'ad Al Abdullah, South Qairawan in the next four years. The plan also outlines steps to resolve the housing crisis through several mandates including the passing of the real estate financing and residential cities laws and their by-laws. Additionally, the National Assembly passed and referred to the administration a law to establish real estate firms for large-scale residential developments and other key economic projects. With a more than 90,000-application backlog for government housing initiatives, the measure aims to increase home supply. Private sector enterprises and citizens (via IPOs) will be important stakeholders and partners in the companies, reducing the financial load on the government.

Residential market outlook is soft for the rest of 2023

The outlook for residential activity remains soft for the rest of 2023, with high valuations and the higher interest rate climate representing headwinds to demand. On a brighter note, the government's reform proposals and fo-



	Quarterly Average		Quarterly Sales/ Transactions						Change in 2023, %	
	2021	2022	2022	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	q/q	y/y	
Sales (KD million)	921	907	1,088	810	840	714	672	-5.8	-38.2	
Residential	692	482	495	434	480	363	358	-1.5	-27.8	
Investment	188	275	307	252	269	254	200	-21.3	-34.8	
Commercial	40	151	285	124	91	96	114	18.6	-60.0	
Number of Transactions	2415	1473	1621	1272	1368	1085	1029	-5.2	-36.5	
Residential	2124	1091	1158	911	982	760	729	-4.1	-37.0	
Investment	271	342	372	331	364	306	280	-8.5	-24.7	
Commercial	19	40	91	30	22	19	20	5.3	-78.0	
Average Transaction Value (KD '000)	381	616	671	637	614	658	653	-0.7	-2.7	
Residential property	326	442	428	477	489	478	491	2.7	14.7	
Investment	694	803	826	760	738	831	715	-14.0	-13.4	
Commercial	2098	3745	3137	4145	4142	5061	5704	12.7	81.8	

	Weight (100=2019)	q/q					y/y				
		2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23	2Q23
RE price index	100	2.7	4.8	-3.2	0.5	-0.5	9.9	12.2	5.4	4.7	1.4
Investment	45.5	-3.5	5.3	-3.3	2.0	-0.3	1.9	7.6	0.7	0.3	3.5
Apartment	7.2	-0.6	0.7	4.9	-1.1	-1.0	-0.4	1.0	3.4	3.9	3.5
Building	69.9	-5.0	5.2	-4.1	2.7	-0.5	1.4	6.4	-1.7	-1.6	3.0
Plot	22.9	1.3	7.0	-2.9	0.7	0.5	4.3	14.1	9.1	5.9	5.2
Residential	54.5	8.1	4.4	-3.2	-0.7	-0.6	17.1	16.1	9.2	8.4	-0.3
Home	62.4	11.0	4.8	-1.0	0.3	-1.9	16.2	15.4	11.8	15.5	2.2
Plot	37.6	5.1	3.9	-5.5	-2.0	0.9	18.1	16.9	6.4	1.1	-3.0

cus on addressing the housing shortage offer the prospect of a supply boost in the future which would help reduce the large backlog of applications for government housing and absorb new applications. In the investment and commercial property segments, we expect that moderate

growth in the non-oil economy, the pick-up in rents and the recovery in expatriate demand to provide some offset to downward pressures from the higher interest rate environment, although given global trends the latter may be at or close to their peak.

Asian benchmarks boosted by WS latest winning month

Wall St edges back from its big rally for the year so far

NEW YORK, Aug 1, (AP) - Stocks are taking a step back Tuesday from their big surge for the year so far following a mixed set of earnings reports from U.S. companies.

The S&P 500 was 0.3% lower in afternoon trading, coming off its fifth straight winning month. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 14 points, or less than 0.1%, at 35,574, as of 12:18 p.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.4% lower.

Travel-related stocks were dragging the market lower, giving up some of their big gains from earlier in the year. Norwegian Cruise Line lost 13.5% despite reporting stronger profit and revenue for the spring than expected. Expectations have been high for it and rivals after its stock soared 80% for the year through Monday.

JetBlue Airways sank 8.5% to slice into its nearly 20% gain for the year through Monday, despite reporting better profit than expected for the latest quarter. It cut its forecast for results for the full year, partly because of the cancellation of a partnership with American Airlines

Worries have been rising broadly about expectations building too high for the U.S. stock market, which saw the S&P 500 surge 19% this year through July. Stocks had leaped to a 16-month high on hopes inflation is cooling enough to get the Federal Reserve to stop hiking interest rates. That in turn could allow the economy to avoid a long-expected recession. While inflation has indeed come

down since the summer and the economy has remained remarkably resilient, critics say it's no guarantee inflation will continue to cool at the same rate. They say stock prices have risen too far, too quickly.

Among other stocks that struggled with high expectations Tuesday was Molson Coors Beverage. It fell 3.7% after reporting weaker revenue for the spring than expected, even though its profit topped expectations.

The majority of companies so far this reporting season has been beating forecasts, but that's usually the case. And expectations were low coming into this season, with analysts calling for the worst decline in S&P 500 earnings per share in years.

Among the winners on Wall Street Tuesday was Caterpillar. It rose 8.3% after blowing past analysts' forecasts for earnings during the spring. It was the stock pushing up the most on the Dow, where Caterpillar can have more of an impact than on the S&P 500 because of its big stock price.

Arista Networks jumped 21.7% for the biggest gain in the S&P 500 after it also beat expectations for profit and revenue in the latest quarter.

Reports on the economy Tuesday also came in mixed. The number of job openings advertised across the country dipped slightly in June, when economists were expecting a rise. But the job market broadly remains solid, propping up the rest of the economy and keeping it out of a recession so far.

One report on the manufacturing industry from the Institute for Supply Management said it contracted at a slightly worse pace in July than economists expected, but not as badly as it did in June. A separate report from S&P Global also said U.S. manufacturing is continuing to decline.

"However, producers are clearly shrugging off recession fears and planning for better times ahead," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Other profit reports scheduled for later in the week could have more of an impact. Amazon and Apple are scheduled to report on Thursday, and because they're two of the biggest stocks by market value, their movements pack more punch on the S&P 500 than other companies'. Both have also soared this year, along with other Big Tech stocks.

Europe

France's CAC 40 shed 0.1% to 7,487.17 in early trading, while Germany's DAX fell 0.2% to 16,408.78. Britain's FTSE 100 inched up less than 0.1% to 7,701.80.

Asia

Asian shares mostly rose Tuesday, boosted by market optimism set off by a Wall Street rally despite lingering worries about inflation and regional growth.

Investors were also watching for the policy decision by the Reserve Bank of



A man walks past monitors showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm in Tokyo, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023. Asian shares mostly rose Tuesday, boosted by market optimism set off by a Wall Street rally despite lingering worries about inflation and regional growth. (AP)

Australia, which kept its rates steady.

"With the RBA keen not to overdo the tightening, it seems unnecessary to hike today when in all likelihood the macro signals for hiking will look much stronger at the September meeting," said Robert Carnell, Asia-Pacific regional head of research.

Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.9% to finish

at 33,476.58. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.5% to 7,450.70. South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.2% to 2,664.19. Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged down 0.7% to 19,949.32, while the Shanghai Composite shed 0.1% to 3,287.01.

Oil

In energy trading, benchmark U.S.

crude lost 23 cents to \$81.57 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 57 cents to \$85.56 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar edged up to 142.67 Japanese yen from 142.24 yen. The euro cost \$1.0991, inching down from \$1.0993.

BUSINESS

The sun rises over the headquarters of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. headquarters that dominates the skyline in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Nov. 7, 2016.

The state-run oil giant in the United Arab Emirates, ADNOC, said Monday July 31, 2023 it has moved up its target for achieving net zero emissions in its operations to 2045, as the country prepares to host U.N. climate talks later this year. (AP)



UAE state oil firm moves up net zero climate target to '45

A state-run oil giant in the United Arab Emirates said Monday it has moved up its target for achieving net zero emissions in its operations to 2045, as the country prepares to host U.N. climate talks later this year.

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, known as ADNOC, said it is also committed to achieving zero methane emissions by 2030. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in the short term.

Earlier this year, ADNOC earmarked

\$15 billion for an array of green initiatives, including the development of hydrogen power, carbon capture facilities and the planting of mangroves.

The company had previously committed to net zero - the balancing of greenhouse gas emissions to the point that the amount removed from the atmosphere is equal to the amount emitted - by 2050.

The UAE, an OPEC member that produces over 3 million barrels of crude oil a day, will host the global climate talks

known as COP28 from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12 in Dubai. It has appointed Sultan al-Jaber, the head of ADNOC, to chair the meeting, a move that drew criticism from some environmentalists.

Al-Jaber has emphasized the need to cut emissions, rather than end fossil fuel use itself. It's prompted fears that he might seek loopholes for untested carbon-capture technologies and so-called offsets that experts say distract from the need to end the release of greenhouse gases. (AP)

'Warba' achieves KD10.255m net profit for H1 of 2023

KD 4.727 billion total assets, an increase of 12.51%

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: Warba Bank announced its business results for the first half ending on June 30, 2023, and these results indicated that the Bank's net profit amounted to KD10.255 million, equivalent to 4.23 earnings per share.

The Bank said in a press statement that the total assets as at the end of June 2023 grew by 12.51% to reach KD 4.727 billion, compared to KD 4.201 billion at the end of 2022, while the total financing portfolio amounted to KD 3.453 billion, compared to KD3.130 billion as of December 31 of 2022. The total accounts of depositors amounted to KD2.930 billion at the end of the second quarter of this year 2023, compared to KD 2.674 billion as at the end of December 2022, and the total operating revenues for the first half of 2023 amounted to KD118.5 million, with a growth rate of 70%, compared to the same period last year.

The balance of investment in sukuk as at the end of the second quarter of 2023 amounted to KD333.6 million, an increase of KD 48.7 million, or 17% over the end of the previous year 2022. The total shareholders' equity reached KD 303.3 million at the end of June 2023, and the capital adequacy ratio reached 15.3%, exceeding the minimum required by the regulatory authorities, which confirms the solid financial position of "Warba".

Commenting on the Bank's quarterly financial results, Chairman of Warba Bank Hamad Musaed Al-Sayer said: "We achieved strong results in the first half of this year 2023, despite the challenges of the global economic environment and developments in global markets." Al-Sayer emphasized that Warba enjoys a strong financial position and a solid and stable capital base, which supports meeting the growing needs of its clients as well as achieving the best returns for its shareholders, explaining that the Bank will continue in 2023 to invest carefully in its employees, capabilities and digital technologies, in order to secure the future growth of the Bank.

He pointed out that "Warba" has proven during the previous period the success of its comprehensive strategy in risk management, through proactive reading of market risks and careful study of the results of stress tests required according to strict scenarios, which helped "Warba" in expanding the scope of treatments for any sudden challenge, and reduced risks and exposures. In the past period, Warba resorted to improving the indicators of asset quality and total operating income, which gives the bank increasing confidence in facing challenges and taking advantage of future opportunities without any fears. Al-Sayer stressed that the Bank's firm commitment to sustainability enhances long-term growth opportunities and supports its position in the local market, indicating that the Bank continues to implement many important initiatives that support responsible business practices and contribute to the sustainable development of the Kuwaiti economy.

The non-performing financing ratio improved to 0.8% compared to



Anwar Al-Ghath DCEO



Hamad Musaed Al-Sayer

1.1% as at the end of 2022, and the coverage ratio increased to 346% compared to 275% at the end of 2022.

He pointed out that Warba Bank achieved strong revenue growth, continued good operational performance of business and continued to benefit from the advantages of its diversified business mix and strategic investments in talent and technology enjoying the stability of the operating environment in the Kuwait during the first half of 2023. He stressed that the bank's main business sectors achieved good performance in the first half, in addition to registering more momentum in strategic areas that include wealth management, indicating that the bank's performance is based on prudent risk management and high credit quality, as it will benefit from these strengths throughout the fiscal year 2023 to create added value for its shareholders. Al-Sayer added: During the year 2023, we continued to invest in future, and strengthened our digital capabilities to better serve our clients. We also launched innovative products and solutions that will help our customers meet their banking needs more easily.

He continued, saying: "We have a proven track record of sustainable performance and our focus is always on improving operational efficiency and prudently managing capital levels so that we are appropriately prepared for any scenarios in the global economy.

Al-Sayer expected revenue growth to continue at its strong rate, thanks to our solid financial position, strong capitalization rates, and comfortable liquidity levels, which enhance our ability to generate profits. Al-Sayer said, "We are proud of Warba Bank in our contribution to society and the progress we have made in our journey towards strengthening the pillars of sustainability in our operations and our corporate culture through many initiatives." He explained that "Warba" continues to strengthen its position as a major and essential factor in the financial and banking sector in the country, pointing out that the Board of Directors was

keen to continuously develop the capabilities of employees by organizing training courses in partnership and cooperation with many leading specialized agencies and institutions at the local and regional levels.

Al-Sayer praised the permanent support that Warba Bank and the Kuwaiti banking sector receive from the Central Bank of Kuwait and the rest of the regulatory authorities in Kuwait, praising the confidence of all shareholders and stakeholders in the Bank's performance, and the performance of the executive management and all the Bank's employees and their contribution to providing Warba Bank with the highest levels of service.

The acting CEO of Warba Bank, Anwar Bader Al-Ghath, said that the profits achieved for the first half of 2023 confirm the success of Warba and the soundness of its approach and operational plans, as the Bank enjoys a strong position that qualifies it to take advantage of the opportunities available in various economic sectors, adding that the Bank continues its efforts in maximizing profitability and return on equity, and maintaining a strong operating performance, especially in light of its strong credit quality.

He added, "The growth in the Bank's financial indicators shows the continuous success in implementing the strategic plan and developing its market shares at the level of all segments of clients, both individuals and companies," pointing out that the strong financial performance recorded by "Warba" during the previous period made it occupy a strong position among local banks in the world in several financial indicators.

He stated that Warba Bank was able to maintain excellent rates with regard to indicators of profitability, return on assets, return on shareholders' equity, improving asset quality, debt coverage rates from provisions, cost-to-revenue ratios, and all basic financial indicators, adding that Warba Bank is keen to seize opportunities that contribute to achieving sustainable growth, while continuing to contribute to the economic growth of the country, and help ensure the success of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Al-Ghath pointed out that "Warba" is known for its solid capital base and high liquidity ratios that support the growth of its business and enhance its credit strength, noting that "Warba" continues to implement its strategy to enhance the role of basic banking activity by achieving profitability and sustainable growth and keeping abreast of developments in the fields of digitization, application of artificial intelligence and innovation in financing and investment products and solutions, increasing investment in green sukuk from the total financing portfolio and expanding in linking investments with sustainable development goals, optimal investment in human resources and knowledge enhancement, as well as supporting entrepreneurship and youth, providing innovative banking services to companies, and supporting small and medium enterprises, in a way that enhances the status of "Warba" in the banking sector.

Al-Ghath emphasized the applying the rules of transparency and environmental standards, social values, governance, financial inclusion, empowering women, enhancing their representation in the workforce of "Warba", and enhancing green and sustainable financing efforts as part of the integrated sustainability strategy adopted by the Bank, in which it has made great strides.

Event part of 'Keep it Green' initiative

KFH underlines value of green initiatives with Sadu House

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) organized "Fun with Weaving" program in collaboration with Sadu House for Baiti customers. The program encourages kids to preserve the environment and use recycled materials under (Keep it Green) initiative.

The consistent partnership is part of KFH's efforts to sponsor and support initiatives that target all age groups and enhance the Bank's strategy in sustainability and social role.

The strategic partnership also focuses on the environmental aspects as part of KFH's sustainability strategy and its (Keep it Green) initiative. All materials used in the workshops are made of recycled resources to convey an important message to the participating children about the importance of recycling and preserving the environment.

The partnership contributes to boosting the cultural and practical activities of Sadu House, in particular those related to spreading Kuwait's heritage in the art of weaving by introducing kids to traditional handicrafts, history of unique textiles such as Sadu and develop their skills and creative thinking, in addition to specialized programs dedicated to different age groups.

Among the programs KFH sponsors are (Fun with Weaving) and (Weaving School). The programs encompass workshops for KFH customers and staff in addition to social and cultural collaborations during national holidays including handicrafts and knitting lessons as well as new weaving skills.



Part of the presentation.

The partnership with AlSadu Society continues throughout the year by offering special and notable summer programs, in addition to programs targeting children of "Baiti" account customers.

Further, KFH collaborated with AlSadu Society to launch free work-

shops for kids under the Bank's strategic sponsorship of the first Winter Wonderland in Kuwait. The collaboration granted an opportunity to a larger group of kids to experience the heritage handicrafts and familiarize themselves with historical and cultural legacy that would strengthen their bond

with the community.

It is worth noting that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) included Sadu weaving on its List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and Al-Sadu Society as an advisory organizer at UNESCO.

Ooredoo Kuwait offers pre-ordering service of the latest Galaxy Z phones

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: Ooredoo Kuwait, the leading telecommunications company, has announced an exciting opportunity for its customers to get the latest Samsung Galaxy Z series phones, by opening the door to pre-order the devices prior to their availability at points of sale. The new group, which is already available since July 26, includes the Galaxy Z Flip5 and Galaxy Z Fold5 phones.

The Galaxy Z series is distinguished by its innovative foldable design, which makes it easy to carry and use. The advanced camera, large-capacity battery, and various customizations combine to offer a unique experience unparalleled in similar smart devices. In addition, the devices are equipped with immersive screens and multitasking features that are equivalent to those of a laptop.

In terms of the individual features of each device, the Galaxy Z Fold5 is most popular with customers who prefer smart foldable devices. The device includes two foldable AMOLED screens and supports a refresh rate of up to 120Hz, which provides rich and vivid viewing. Also, the lack of edges of the screen and the integration of the front camera under it, gives a smooth experience without interfering when displaying the content. The internal screen was designed to support the S-Pen, which gives more smoothness to



Web

users, especially in business-related uses.

The device features powerful and superior performance thanks to the Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 processor from Qualcomm, along with the latest Android 13 operating system with Samsung's custom interface (One UI 5.1.1), which has been continuously developed. It is Samsung's thinnest and lightest foldable device to date, with IPX8 water

resistance, robust construction and Gorilla Victus 2 protection that underpins all parts of the phone.

For the Galaxy Z Flip5, the external display has been significantly improved, expanding from 1.22 inches to about 2.2 inches. The device offers a flexible and customizable Flex Window feature, in addition to a camera capable of capturing selfies with sharp angles. The device's battery supports

various activities and has the ability to work for 57 hours of listening to music, and supports watching videos for up to 20 hours. And with the phone's support for IPX8 water resistance standards, it can stay under water up to a depth of one and a half meters for 30 minutes.

In the same context, Ooredoo Kuwait intends to offer the two devices with multiple options of storage capacities to meet different usage requirements, in addition to providing a variety of colors to suit different customer tastes.

Commenting on this, (Ooredoo Spokesperson) said: "We are pleased to introduce the new Samsung Galaxy Z Flip5 and Galaxy Z Fold5 range for pre-order, as they represent an important addition to the devices and modern smartphones that we provide to customers. We are committed to empowering our customers to experience the latest technologies and smart devices." To enjoy a unique and enjoyable experience, and this reflects our constant endeavor to develop their digital experience and achieve their satisfaction."

Customers wishing to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity can get either of the two devices by pre-ordering on the Ooredoo Kuwait website (www.ooredoo.com.kw), or by visiting any of the Ooredoo branches across Kuwait.

Unique banking experience

KIB provides a 'complaints' service on new mobile app

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the provision of a service to allow customers to submit complaints and receive timely responses and solutions via the new KIB Mobile application. This step reflects KIB's firm commitment to providing the best banking services and ensuring the satisfaction of its customers from all segments.

Commenting on the feature available on the application, Hussain Abdurrahman, Unit Head of the Complaints and Customer Protection Unit at KIB, said: "We at KIB are constantly keen to introduce features and solutions that contribute to providing convenience and credibility to customers. This feature will allow them to submit complaints easily through the KIB Mobile application. It allows the customer to fill out the complaint form electronically through their mobile device. Once submitted, the customer receives a notification from the Bank stating that it has received the complaint, will begin processing it, and respond within 15 business days."

He added that KIB will respond to customers' filed complaints directly through the application. Customers will be able to view the Bank's responses to complaints and print them out.

Abdurrahman pointed out that KIB considers customer satisfaction a top priority within the framework of its



Hussain Abdurrahman

strategy aimed at enhancing the level of its banking services and products. He stated that the Bank is working tirelessly to maintain a relationship built on trust with its customers and to meet their expectations by providing a distinguished banking experience coupled with easy and safe financial operations.

It is worth noting that KIB is committed to continuous innovation and growth, seeking opportunities to drive both economic and social development. To this end, the Bank aims to improve its digital banking services and adopt innovative financial technology that ensures customers enjoy an unmatched experience in line with their diverse and ever-evolving needs.

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co. opens its 131st & 132nd branches in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 1: The number one money exchange company in Kuwait, Al-Muzaini Exchange Company recently opened its 131st branch in Al Andalus on Monday, 17th July, 2023 and opened its 132nd branch in Al Eqailla on Tuesday, 18th July, 2023. This rapid expansion reflects the company's endeavor to always be near its customers and its commitment to providing the highest quality of financial services such as money transfers, foreign currency exchange and bill payments with ease, comfort and safety and at the best prices, seven days a week.

The General Manager of Al Muzaini Exchange Company, Mr. Hugh Fernandes and the company's department managers, along with a number of the company's valued customers inaugurated the new branches in Al Andalus and Al Eqailla and Mr. Fernandes stated: "We place immense focus in strengthening our leading position in the local market and to ensure that we provide the best financial services experience to our customers and meet all their money transfer needs. It is an incredible achievement for Al Muzaini to have launched two new branches in Al Andalus and Al Eqailla within a span of few days and this emphasizes our efforts to stay true to our mission; to always be near to our customers and to add to their convenience." The company always strives to make its financial services accessible to all. In ad-



During the opening of one of the branches.

dition to its strong network of branches, Al Muzaini application provides safe and simplified financial solutions with many features such as: Availability in all digital platforms, new customer registration, the ability to add a new beneficiary and benefits from the Western Union service and Visa Direct services with simple steps to assist you with your transfers anywhere, anytime.

NerdWallet

Let a travel company plan your trip

Mystery travel lets you focus on the fun, not the details

By Sam Kemmis
NerdWallet

Travel planning can be a real chore. Booking flights, deciding on the right hotel and building an itinerary might be fun for some, but others dread it. That's why some travelers are opting for an unorthodox travel strategy that eliminates the planning stage altogether. It's called "mystery" or "surprise" travel, and the destination isn't revealed until the day of departure.

This idea isn't new. Some friend groups plan regular mystery travel vacations, with one person or family planning and booking the itinerary for everyone else.

Lanie van der Horst, a travel blogger, asked her husband to plan a trip. He decided to keep the destination - Byron Bay, Australia - a secret.

"I literally cried when he told me that he had a trip planned that I didn't have to think about," van der Horst says.

Travel company

As these surprise trips have become more popular, travel booking companies have begun offering them. Customers pay a flat fee for the trip and set certain guidelines such as dates and preferences, but the destination remains a surprise until the last minute. For group travel, this means that everybody will be surprised when the destination is revealed.

Mystery travel is not only exciting and simple to plan, but it can also nudge travelers to explore destina-

Arcube and Etihad extend partnership for new NFT collection

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 1: Following the successful launch of the EY-ZERO1 NFT collection in July 2022, Etihad Airways has extended its partnership with Arcube to add a new livery to its NFT collection, as well as development of an industry-first "Staking-for-miles" platform.

The upcoming livery, will be themed after the partnership between Etihad Airways and Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One. The original EY-ZERO1 collection featured exclusive benefits to buyers, including Etihad Silver Tier status for 12 months, access to a NFT holders' event at the Formula 1 at Yas Marina Circuit, and participation in Etihad's

agency to travel agency (and from friend group to friend group), the basic process of mystery travel involves:

- Choosing a date or range of dates.
- Deciding on a budget.
- Setting certain parameters or preferences.

Preferences could include the types of activities you enjoy, such as outdoor adventures, or exclusions for destinations you've recently visited or plan to visit.

Then you wait and let the antici-

exclusive online community discussion forums.

For the latest Mission: Impossible livery NFT, Etihad are providing even more benefits to the limited 300-piece issue. As before, members can enjoy 12-month Etihad Silver Tier promotion, which includes priority check-in, 25% extra Etihad Guest Miles, lounge access at Abu Dhabi International, and more. Additionally, buyers will be granted membership to the Etihad: Virtual Club, which provides an additional 10% extra miles, a fast-track promotion from Silver to Gold Tier for 6 months, and a customised Etihad membership card for online and app use.

Holders will also receive added

benefits with the Etihad "Staking-for-miles" programme, branded the Etihad "Horizon Club". Arcube is working closely with Etihad to develop this program, set to launch in September 2023. NFT owners will have the opportunity to lock up their NFTs and earn Etihad Guest miles. This platform represents a world-first using NFTs to personalise traveller's digital experience with Etihad, where holders can explore their 3D NFT, benefits, and stay up-to-date on Etihad's web3 initiatives. Miles earned in the programme can be redeemed for flights, upgrades, and other exciting rewards.

Arcube plans to extend this blockchain-based loyalty and digital en-

agement platform to other airlines and companies in the hospitality and travel sectors, reimagining loyalty programs from the ground up.

The new 300-piece Etihad NFT collection available to public for sale from 1st August 3:00 pm UTC on etihad.arcube.io

Arcube assists brands and organisations in transitioning to web3 space by managing all aspects, from concept to development and marketing. For over 16 months, Arcube has been the web3 partner of Etihad Airways, crafting their strategy, concept and collaborating on the development of their new initiative, the Etihad Horizon Club - the latest innovation in airline loyalty.

for package trips.

"We often tell our travelers to expect to spend around \$100 per person per day on dining, shopping and activities," Agarwal said.

For mystery trips planned for a group of friends or family, it's imperative to get aligned on the budget ahead of time. The cost of the trip shouldn't be one of the surprises.

Decisions

Beyond the sense of adventure and the fun story to share with friends,

EY-ZERO1 collection features exclusive benefits to buyers

the appeal of mystery travel lies in its simplicity. Rather than spending time and energy on decision making, travelers can focus on the trip's experience.

"There are a lot of decisions that have to be made at every stage of a trip, and having someone else decide for you is honestly one of the biggest advantages of surprise trips," Agarwal said.

Even the relatively simple act of booking a flight involves dozens of decisions, such as choosing the airline, where to sit and when to depart. Handing these decisions to a travel booker or trusted friend can mitigate decision fatigue.

This simplicity comes with trade-offs: You may prefer an afternoon departure but get stuck with a morning flight. Or you could end up in a destination you would never choose for yourself (for good reason).

Meticulous planners, who prefer to set every detail of their trips months before departure, could also feel discombobulated by the uncertainty of mystery travel. What to pack? How to know what activities or restaurants to visit? These uncertainties could generate a sense of anxiety rather than adventure for planners.

Van der Horst, whose husband planned a last-minute trip to the beach, suggests that planners share some details about what travelers need - like a bathing suit.

"If you want to trick them ... tell them to pack extra stuff. Just let people know what they actually need." (AP)

'Block highly evasive threats'

Menlo Security redefines browser security with AI-powered phishing

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif., Aug 1: Menlo Security, Inc. ("Menlo Security"), a leader in browser security, has announced HEAT Shield™ and HEAT Visibility™, the industry's first suite of threat prevention capabilities designed to detect and block highly evasive threats targeting users via the web browser.

Menlo Security HEAT Shield™ detects and blocks phishing attacks before they can infiltrate the enterprise network. It uses novel, AI-based techniques - including computer vision combined with URL risk scoring and analysis of the web page elements - to accurately determine in real time if the link being accessed is a phishing site designed to steal the user's credentials. In parallel, HEAT Visibility performs continual analysis of web traffic and applies AI/ML-powered classifiers that identify the presence of highly evasive attacks. This delivers timely, actionable alerts that enable security teams to significantly reduce mean time to detect (MTTD) and mean time to respond (MTTR) to any highly evasive threats that could be targeting enterprise users.

"Highly evasive threats are growing as threat actors evolve how they deploy phishing and malware attacks," said Michael Urciuoli, Chief Information Officer of JPMorgan Chase Asset and Wealth Management. "Tools like Menlo Security's browser security solution, including their HEAT Shield, can help to combat cyber threat vectors for the world's top financial institutions, governments and leading enterprises."

Menlo Security HEAT Shield and HEAT Visibility are built on Menlo Security's cloud-based Isolation Core™ which monitors and analyzes over 400 billion web sessions annually. Commonly deployed security infrastructure such as Secure Web Gateways, firewalls, endpoint security and EDR solutions are blind to actions occurring inside the browser and fall short in combating web-based attacks including highly evasive threats. HEAT Shield leverages the Isolation Core to power dynamic security policies which can be applied to users based on web session events and behavior to prevent attackers from gaining access to the endpoint. Individuals are protected from potential threats without any impact on the end user experience.

Protect

"We know we need to protect our network from emerging attacks and threats targeting the web browser," said Greg Pastor, Director of Information Security for Remedi SeniorCare. "We are seeing highly evasive threats as a concerning and growing tactic amongst threat actors, and solutions like HEAT Shield can dynamically block these attacks, even if they are zero hour, keeping our endpoints safe."

A HEAT Attack™ Dashboard allows customers to receive detailed threat intelligence, which can be integrated into their existing SIEM or SOC platforms, while HEAT alerts sent to SOC teams provide real time threat visibility to enrich their existing threat intelligence sources and enhance and accelerate incident response capabilities.

Nick Edwards, Vice President, Product Management at Menlo Security, said, "Adversaries have placed a massive bullseye on the web browser. It has become the new desktop, where we spend the bulk of our working day. Legacy security vendors are fighting yesterday's war by trying to shoehorn network security and endpoint tools to keep users safe and it isn't working. The capabilities we are introducing today mark a significant leap forward towards our mission of creating a secure, seamless browsing experience, ensuring the internet can be used safely by our customers."

Menlo Security isolates more than four billion files annually for many of the largest and most security-conscious organizations around the world. Threat actors are refining their techniques daily, developing novel and innovative ways to target their victims through the web browser, often testing their attacks against commonly deployed security tools before launching them in the wild. "Armed with this knowledge and a decade of developing industry-leading browser security products, we are proud to be able to deliver the industry's first suite of threat prevention capabilities designed to detect and block HEAT attacks," continued Edwards.

Both HEAT Shield and HEAT Visibility are generally available now across Menlo Security's global network.

"Menlo Security's HEAT Shield product allows us to offer reliable, preventative security to our clients who are exposed to highly evasive threats every day," said Jamie Gray, VP, Sales-East at Tevera. "Web browser threats are growing in both frequency and sophistication, so it's critical that companies have the technology to help them, not distract them. Menlo Security's HEAT Shield is going to make a difference to our customers."

Menlo Security protects organizations from cyberattacks by eliminating the threat of malware from the web, documents, and email. Menlo Security's patented Isolation-powered cloud security platform scales to provide comprehensive protection across enterprises of any size, without requiring endpoint software or impacting the end user experience. Menlo Security is trusted by major global businesses, including Fortune 500 companies, eight of the ten

Faster, easier transfers

Flutterwave 'expands' remittance capabilities

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 1: Flutterwave, Africa's leading payments technology company, has announced the enhancement of its Send Mobile product, now Send App by Flutterwave, to facilitate faster, easier, and more affordable money transfers from people in the diaspora to their families, friends, and loved ones in Africa. Send App now supports transfers from US and Canada and has added new recipient countries namely Egypt and Sénégal as its network. Launched in 2021, Send by Flutterwave has been fulfilling its mission of providing a fast, transparent, and secure way for the Africans Diaspora to bridge the distance, strengthen the bonds and connect with home.

The rebrand comes at a time when remittances to the continent have doubled over the last decade-reaching an estimated \$100 billion in 2022, according to the United Nations, supporting the medical bills, school fees, and living costs of an estimated 200 million relatives in Africa. With Send App, money transfer has been taken a notch higher to become an expression of love and support and a way to make a positive change in the lives of those you care about. Flutterwave is committed to helping the diaspora communities connect with their roots without compromising transparency, fees, security, and delivery time.

The app is currently available on Play Store and App Store and aims to enhance customer experience. Other key features of the Send App include real-time support and exchange rate update, an improved activity section that tracks transactions in real-time, and a new voucher code section that allows users to get discounts on transactions.

Commenting on the relaunch, Temioluwa Adesina, Lead Product Manager, Send, said, "We've been iterating and working hard to make Send App the ultimate money transfer solution for Africans in the diaspora. I am happy we are deploying it at this time and empowering millions of Africans home and abroad to easily, safely, and quickly support and connect with each other via money transfer on Send App."

Connected

Olugbenga GB Agboola, the Founder and CEO of Flutterwave, commented, "No matter where we find ourselves as Africans, we remain tied to our home and always seek measures to support, appreciate and stay connected with our loved ones. We are excited to be joining and helping the over 160 million Africans diasporans in the journey to easily connect with home via quick and safe money transfer on Send App. This is a remittance solution built on our cross-border experience and global payment infrastructure reach. We are on a mission to simplify payments for endless possibilities, Send App is a critical step in that direction."

Flutterwave is the leading payments technology company that enables businesses across the world to expand their operations in Africa and other emerging markets through a platform that enables local and cross-border transactions via one Application Programming Interface (API). Flutterwave has processed over 400M transactions in excess of USD \$25B and serves more than one million businesses, including customers like Uber, Airpeace, Bamboo, Piggyvest, and others.

The company's key advantage is connecting businesses to various local and international payment types to enable them to expand globally.

It also enables cross-border transactions from the diaspora to African countries via its Send App product. Flutterwave processes payments via multiple payment modes, including local and international cards, mobile wallets, bank transfers, and Google Pay. The company has an infrastructure reach in 34 African countries.

largest global financial services institutions, and large governmental institutions. The company is backed by Vista Equity Partners, Neuberger Berman, General Catalyst, American Express Ventures, Ericsson Ventures, HSBC, and JPMorgan Chase. Menlo Security is headquartered in Mountain View, California.

Not everyone thinks chatbots falsehoods fixable

AI's hallucination a challenge for businesses, organizations

LOS ANGELES, Aug 1: Spend enough time with ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence chatbots and it doesn't take long for them to spout falsehoods.

Described as hallucination, confabulation or just plain making things up, it's now a problem for every business, organization and high school student trying to get a generative AI system to compose documents and get work done. Some are using it on tasks with the potential for high-stakes consequences, from psychotherapy to researching and writing legal briefs.

"I don't think that there's any model today that that doesn't suffer from some hallucination," said Daniela Amodei, co-founder and president of Anthropic, maker of the chatbot Claude 2.

"They're really just sort of designed to predict the next word," Amodei said. "And so there will be some rate at which the model does that inaccurately."

Truthful

Anthropic, ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and other major developers of AI systems known as large language models say they're working to make them more truthful.

How long that will take - and whether they will ever be good enough to, say, safely dole out medical advice - remains to be seen.

"This isn't fixable," said Emily Bender, a linguistics professor and director of the University of Washington's Computational Linguistics Laboratory. "It's inherent in the mismatch between the technology and the proposed use cases."

A lot is riding on the reliability of generative AI technology. The McKinsey Global Institute projects it will add the equivalent of \$2.6 trillion to \$4.4 trillion to the global economy. Chatbots are only one part of that frenzy, which also includes technology that can generate new images, video, music and computer code. Nearly all of the tools include some language component.

Google is already pitching a news-writing AI product to news organizations, for which accuracy is paramount. The Associated Press is also exploring use of the technology as part of a partnership with OpenAI, which is paying to use part of AP's text archive to improve its AI systems.

In partnership with India's hotel management institutes, computer scientist Ganesh Bagler has been working for years to get AI systems, including a ChatGPT precursor, to invent recipes for South Asian cuisines, such as novel versions of rice-based biryani. A single "hallucinated" ingredient could be the difference between a tasty and inedible meal.

When Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, visited India in June, the professor at the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi had some pointed questions.

"I guess hallucinations in ChatGPT are still acceptable, but when a recipe comes out hallucinating, it becomes a serious problem," Bagler said, standing up in a crowded campus auditorium to address Altman on the New Delhi stop of the US tech executive's world tour.

"What's your take on it?" Bagler

Teach like human teachers do

Otermans builds world's first digital human AI teacher OIAI

LONDON, Aug 1: The world has a global shortage of 69 million teachers. Without them, it is nearly impossible to meet the basic educational needs of the population worldwide. Moreover, despite the numerous online courses available nowadays, it has been hard for schools to offer support that matches the individual needs of their students, as there are far more learners than real-life teachers. Hiring private tutors is not an option for most families worldwide, as a one-to-one lesson can cost between \$25 and \$80 per hour and an AI teacher can be available at a fraction of that cost.

To solve these problems, Dev Aditya and Dr Pauly Otermans created OIAI, an innovative educational platform that uses digital human teachers powered by Artificial Intelligence who possess humanlike qualities.

These AI teachers can not only teach learners remotely at any time they wish to learn but also understand their learning requirements and tailoring their lessons to them.

Their very first digital human teacher is named Beatrice, and she can teach the essential soft skills that modern-day employers seek, such as effective communication, leadership, and critical thinking. Her first free webinar on CV writing received an astounding 37,000 visits in less than 72 hours.

eventually asked.

Altman expressed optimism, if not an outright commitment.

"I think we will get the hallucination problem to a much, much better place," Altman said. "I think it will take us a year and a half, two years. Something like that. But at that point we won't still talk about these. There's a balance between creativity and perfect accuracy, and the model will need to learn when you want one or the other."

But for some experts who have studied the technology, such as University of Washington linguist Bender, those improvements won't be enough.

Bender describes a language model as a system for "modeling the likelihood of different strings of word forms," given some written data it's been trained upon.

Language

It's how spell checkers are able to detect when you've typed the wrong word. It also helps power automatic translation and transcription services, "smoothing the output to look more like typical text in the target language," Bender said. Many people rely on a version of this technology whenever they use the "autocomplete" feature when composing text messages or emails.

The latest crop of chatbots such as ChatGPT, Claude 2 or Google's Bard try to take that to the next level, by generating entire new passages of text, but Bender said they're still just repeatedly selecting the most plausible next word in a string.

When used to generate text, language models "are designed to make things up. That's all they do," Bender

Dev Aditya and Dr Pauly Otermans' project began over two years ago when their first version of Beatrice trained refugees in BCF UNHCR camps in Northern Iraq.

OIAI's digital teachers are the solution to the lack of human teachers worldwide.

They can automate learning, teach students who cannot access quality education, and support human teachers in tracking their students' progress simultaneously and 24/7.

Through its AI-powered teachers, OIAI promises to democratize quality education, and train global learners of tomorrow, giving everyone a personalized teacher in their pocket.

As Dev and Dr Pauly say: "Beatrice is your personal teacher, trainer, and friend who is with you anytime and everywhere to ensure that no one is ever left behind".

Technologies such as OIAI are developed having humans in mind and meant to empower them in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

OIAI aims to address the current technological and educational divide between countries and between people.

By harnessing the power of Artificial Intelligence, OIAI aims to revolutionize the education landscape, making learning accessible and engaging for all.

said. They are good at mimicking forms of writing, such as legal contracts, television scripts or sonnets.

"But since they only ever make things up, when the text they have extruded happens to be interpretable as something we deem correct, that is by chance," Bender said. "Even if they can be tuned to be right more of the time, they will still have failure modes - and likely the failures will be in the cases where it's harder for a person reading the text to notice, because they are more obscure."

Those errors are not a huge problem for the marketing firms that have been turning to Jasper AI for help writing pitches, said the company's president, Shane Orlick.

"Hallucinations are actually an added bonus," Orlick said. "We have customers all the time that tell us how it came up with ideas - how Jasper created takes on stories or angles that they would have never thought of themselves."

The Texas-based startup works with partners like OpenAI, Anthropic, Google or Facebook parent Meta to offer its customers a smorgasbord of AI language models tailored to their needs. For someone concerned about accuracy, it might offer up Anthropic's model, while someone concerned with the security of their proprietary source data might get a different model, Orlick said.

Orlick said he knows hallucinations won't be easily fixed. He's counting on companies like Google, which he says must have a "really high standard of factual content" for its search engine, to put a lot of energy and resources into solutions.

Melinta announces commercial availability of Rezzayo.



Melinta Therapeutics, LLC has announced the availability of Rezzayo™ (rezafungin for injection), for the treatment of candidemia and invasive candidiasis in adults with limited or no alternative treatment options. Rezzayo is the first new treatment option approved for patients with candidemia and invasive candidiasis in over a decade. Based on Qualified Infectious Disease Product (QIDP) designation, Rezzayo was approved under Priority Review. While echinocandins have been avail-

able since the early 2000's, their use has been primarily limited to the hospital inpatient setting due to their requirement of daily IV infusions. In contrast, Rezzayo is administered as a once weekly infusion, creating the opportunity for appropriate patients to leave the hospital sooner to continue their treatment at home, potentially reducing the burden on patients and the healthcare system.

John Harlow, Chief Commercial Officer for Melinta Therapeutics said, "Making Rezzayo available in the U.S. is another way Melinta will leverage our expansive commercial infrastructure and experience launching products and therapies into acute care environments with the ultimate goal of better patient care and outcomes." Last year, Melinta announced that it had acquired the exclusive rights to commercialize Rezzayo in the U.S. from Cidara Therapeutics. Once-weekly Rezzayo is available by prescription beginning July 31, 2023.

Harlow added, "The availability of Rezzayo, the first new treatment of its kind in over a decade, is a major step forward in offering healthcare providers a way to simplify and treat patients suffering from invasive Candida infections. It's a much-needed option for physicians, and those patients who may be able to transition out of the hospital sooner." Rezzayo is an echinocandin antifungal indicated in patients 18 years of age or older who have limited or no alternative options for the treatment of candidemia and invasive candidiasis. Approval of this indication is based on limited clinical safety and efficacy data. (AP)

Melinta announces commercial availability of Rezzayo

Next gen oral TNF-&alpha inhibitor reduces chronic inflammatory markers

Experimental therapy shows hope for age-related frailty

BALTIMORE, Aug 1: MyMD Pharmaceuticals, Inc.® (Nasdaq: MYMD) ("MyMD" or the "Company"), a clinical stage pharmaceutical company committed to developing novel therapies for age-related diseases, autoimmune and inflammatory conditions, has announced statistically significant positive topline results from its randomized Phase 2 study of oral TNF-α inhibitor, MYMD-1® in patients with chronic inflammation associated with sarcopenia, or age-related frailty. The study met its primary endpoints of significantly reducing chronic inflammatory markers in participants treated with MYMD-1. MYMD-1 has the potential to be the first drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for sarcopenia, an age-related decline in physical function which leads to greater risk of hospitalization, disability, and death.

The study met both of its primary endpoints, significantly reducing serum levels of three biomarkers, TNF-α (P=0.008), sTNFR1 (P=0.02), and IL-6 (P=0.03) and maintaining appropriate plasma concentrations and parameters in pharmacokinetic evaluations. The study also achieved all secondary endpoints related to safety and tolerability. There were no treatment-related adverse events (AEs) or serious adverse events (SAEs) over the course of the study.

"We are very excited about these results indicating MYMD-1 demonstrated statistically significant reductions in all three inflammatory markers and met all additional pharmacokinetic and safety endpoints needed to advance our sarcopenia clinical program, with guidance from the FDA," said Chris Chapman, M.D., President, Director, and Chief Medical Officer at MyMD. "These results support the unique advantages of MYMD-1 as the first oral, selective TNF-α inhibitor candidate and potential future treatment option for sarcopenia and other autoimmune conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis."

Investigate

The Phase 2 multi-center double-blind, placebo controlled, randomized study (NCT05283486) was designed to investigate the efficacy, tolerability and pharmacokinetics of MYMD-1 in participants aged 65 years or older with chronic inflammation associated with sarcopenia/frailty, a condition linked to elevated levels of proinflammatory cytokines. Patients in the study were dosed weekly with MYMD-1 or placebo over a 28-day period. The study consisted of four dosing cohorts versus placebo (600mg, 750mg, 900mg and 1050mg).

"We are encouraged by the reduction of inflammatory markers along with the favorable safety profile demonstrated in this study of an oral TNF-α inhibitor," continued Dr. Chapman. "Sarcopenia can significantly affect people as they age, and there are currently no approved treatments for the condition. A selective, oral treatment that reduces TNF-α and inflammation and does not require infusion or injection would be a welcome advance for this population."

Full results from the study will be presented or published at a later date to be determined. The company plans to initiate discussions with the FDA regarding a Phase 3 study of MYMD-1 in sarcopenia.

MyMD management will host a conference call on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 4:30 PM ET. The webcast can be accessed under the 'Events & Presentations' section on the Investors page at www.MYMD.com. A replay of the webcast will be archived on the MyMD website for 30 days. Dial-in information for conference participants may be obtained by registering for the event here.

MYMD-1, a next generation, oral selective inhibitor of tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α), a driver of chronic inflammation, is being studied to slow the aging process, prevent sarcopenia and frailty, and extend healthy lifespan. Its ease of oral dosing is a significant differentiator compared to currently available TNF-α inhibitors, all of which require delivery by injection or infusion.

MYMD-1 has shown effectiveness in pre-clinical and clinical studies in regulating the immune system. Unlike other therapies, MYMD-1 has been shown in these studies to selectively block TNF-α when it becomes overactivated in autoimmune diseases and cytokine storms, but not block it from doing its normal job of being a first responder to any routine type of moderate infection. In addition, it has not been shown to cause serious side effects common with traditional immunosuppressive therapies that treat inflammation.

Autoimmune

MyMD Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: MYMD), is a clinical stage biopharma company developing groundbreaking therapies for the treatment of serious and debilitating autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. MyMD's lead clinical candidate, MYMD-1®, is an orally available next-generation TNF-α inhibitor with the potential to transform the way that TNF-α based diseases are treated. MYMD-1®, with its small molecule design, improved safety profile and ability to cross the blood brain barrier, has the promise to provide meaningful therapeutic solutions to patients not served by current TNF-α inhibitors and as a potential therapy for CNS-based inflammatory and autoimmune diseases. The company has completed Phase 2 studies of MYMD-1® for sarcopenia/frailty, a result of the aging process, as well as early-stage trials for rheumatoid arthritis (RA), with the potential to expand into other applications.

MyMD's second therapeutic candidate is Supera-CBD, a novel, synthetic, non-toxic cannabidiol (CBD) analog that is 8000 times more potent a CB2 agonist (activator) than plant-based CBD. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)'s scientific review concluded Supera-CBD will not be considered a controlled substance or listed chemical under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and its governing regulations or require scheduling during development. In addition to its potential role in managing addiction, anxiety, chronic pain and seizures, Supera-CBD has also been shown to have anti-inflammatory effects. (AP)

Axial3D pushing boundaries of innovation in healthcare

FDA approves AI-driven solution for personalized 3D anatomical models

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Aug 1: Axial3D, a leader in medical segmentation and 3D solutions, has announced that it is the first to receive FDA clearance for an automated, AI-driven, cloud-based segmentation platform for orthopedic trauma, orthopedic maxillofacial, and cardiovascular applications. This achievement is the second FDA clearance Axial3D has received for its segmentation platform, INSIGHT™, and a significant milestone for the healthcare industry in its embrace of automation and artificial intelligence to personalize patient care. The FDA clearance is expected to provide a major boost towards scaling up production processes particularly by medical device companies.

Differentiated by its AWS cloud-based infrastructure, AI algorithms and advanced machine learning techniques, Axial3D INSIGHT™ automates the conversion process of 2D DICOM images such as CT and MRI scans into accurate 3D visualizations, 3D print-ready files, 3D mesh files, or 3D printed anatomical models, made with Stratasys print technology. By automating the traditionally arduous and time-consuming task of manual or semi-manual image segmentation, Axial3D enables healthcare providers and medical device companies to address more applications while saving hours or days per case and reducing capital expenditures.

"Our FDA clearance for Axial3D INSIGHT™ is a testament to how far Axial3D has come," stated Dan Crawford, Founder and CSO of Axial3D. "From our humble beginnings as a start-up to now being recognized as a leading medical technology company, this achievement showcases our dedication to pushing the boundaries of innovation in healthcare. We are immensely proud of our team's commitment in delivering

NOVATO, Calif., Aug 1: Zenni, the world's leading online eyewear retailer, has announced its latest technology innovation launch: FL-41 migraine lenses developed to help those with light sensitivity due to migraines, post-concussion relief and other conditions.

Zenni's migraine lenses can be added to a select number of Zenni frames and are designed to filter out the most visually painful spectrum of light to help mitigate the risks of a migraine and relieve a migraine in progress - blending therapeutic relief and fashionable style. Backed by research, FL-41 lenses may benefit migraine sufferers, helping reduce attack frequency and alleviate symptoms of eye strain and light sensitivity.

"Migraine lenses are a game changer for anyone who suffers from chronic headaches, migraines or other conditions due to light sensitivity, as they filter a majority of blue and green light that can create glare and cause eye pain," said Zenni Head of Optical Product, Dr. Steven Lee, OD. "Zenni's newest lens offering will provide many migraine sufferers with an affordable solution that actually works. The migraine lens is our latest in a series of technological innova-

tions that provide the best possible product and price for our customers."

The rose-colored lenses come in three different fashionable tints (25%, 50% and 80%) and two different lens indexes at 1.57 and 1.61 for varying severities of migraines to help cut out painful light, reduce glare and provide eye relief. Customers can add migraine lenses to a variety of non-prescription, single vision, and progressive glasses within Zenni's expansive product catalog. Zenni's migraine lenses start at \$45.95 and include an anti-scratch coating, advanced water-resistant anti-reflective coating, as well as, 100% UV protection.

Experience

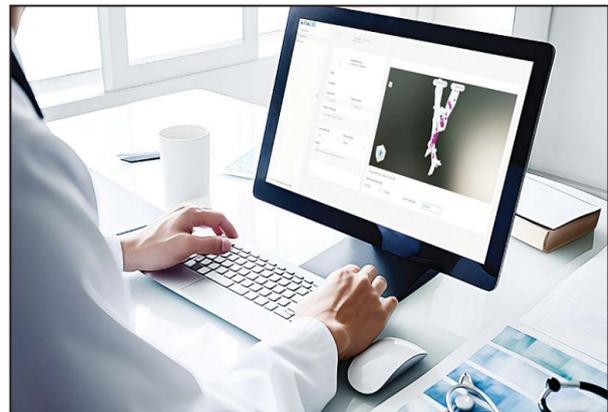
The 25% lens tint is designed for indoor use or for individuals who experience mild light sensitivity and/or migraines. They are designed to be worn near fluorescent lights, LEDs, and when looking at digital devices. The 50% lens tint is designed for indoor and outdoor use or for individuals who experience moderate light sensitivity and/or migraines. The 80% lens tint is designed for outdoor use in bright sunlight or for individuals who experience heavy light sensitivity and/or migraines. The 80%

lens tint blocks out more of the painful 480-520 nm light compared to the 25% and 50% tints.

"Zenni is pioneering a new era of accessible technology. By streamlining the process, we're driving costs down and passing those savings directly to you. Innovation and affordability, hand in hand, that's in Zenni's DNA," said Zenni Head of Optical Product, Dr. Steven Lee, OD.

Since its founding in 2003, the company's mission has focused on providing the highest quality eyewear at a fraction of the cost of traditional retailers and delivers solely direct to consumers via its online store. Zenni's migraine lenses are the latest in a number of advancements to better serve customers and make ordering high-quality, affordable glasses easier than ever before. Recently, the company expanded its technology advancements with AI-powered digital tools such as Prescription Scan and Image Search, which simplify the online shopping experience for consumers.

Zenni pioneered the online eyewear industry in 2003 with a mission to make prescription eyewear affordable and accessible to everyone. (AP)



The Axial INSIGHT platform allows medical device companies the ability to accelerate their patient-specific programs quickly by being able to process more patient data with the same resources.

exceptional patient care using advanced automation, artificial intelligence, and machine learning technologies."

By implementing automation and AI into the workflow, Axial3D is equipping healthcare professionals with powerful tools to make it easier and faster to access patient data in 3D and grow their program. More visible patient data in 3D enables surgeons to enhance diagnostic accuracy, treatment planning, and surgical intervention.

The Axial INSIGHT™ platform also allows medical device companies the ability to accelerate their patient-specific programs quickly by being able to process more patient data with the same resources. This 3D data can then be used to design personalized devices and surgical kits that include surgical plans, models, and surgical guides, that can be 3D printed on a variety of printers including Stratasys systems from Digital Anatomy 3D printers to production-scale additive manufacturing systems.

Stratasys Ltd. (NASDAQ: SSYS) led an

investment round in late 2022 to help advance Axial3D's technology and to bring a joint solution to market for healthcare providers and medical device manufacturers. "Stratasys is proud to partner with Axial3D in driving innovation and in transforming the healthcare landscape with 3D solutions that help make personalized healthcare at scale possible," said Stratasys CEO Dr. Yoav Zeif. "We congratulate Axial3D on achieving FDA clearance for their segmentation platform, leveraging the power of automation and AI as a key business driver for their continued success in the medical sector."

Axial3D, a leader in medical segmentation and 3D printing, provides hospitals and medical device manufacturers access to an easy-to-use, repeatable, and scalable way to transform 2D medical image data into 3D. Through our 510(k) cleared, automated, AI-driven cloud-based segmentation platform, we convert patients' DICOM data into accurate and data rich 3D visualizations, printable and mesh files, and 3D models printed with Stratasys print technology. (AP)

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True crime meets history in DiVello's 1920s murder mystery

By Donna Edwards

The unsolved murder of the beautiful Dot King captivated New York. But the hype around the case proved insufficient motivation to catch the killer. So what happened?

In "Broadway Butterfly," a jazzy true crime historical thriller, author Sara DiVello unearths piles of evidence and presents them through witnesses, detectives and journalists in an attempt to find out what happened to the fast-living, generous and ambitious young woman whose life was suddenly and mysteriously snuffed out.

All third person limited, the chapters go around between reporter Julia Harpman, inspector John D. Coughlin, and Dot's maid and confidant Ella Bradford. Each takes on their own lexicon for a personal feel of character — Julia is obsessed with reporting and the hustle of being a pioneer newspaperwoman, and sees herself as a righteous champion of women. Coughlin is a hardened policeman whose preconceived ideas of others are solidified, and he's constantly surprised at "girls these days" living and traveling alone, and at Broadway women's apparent lack of moral values. Ella came from the South and, while she sees more opportunity and less overt racist violence and segregation in New York, is well aware of the dangers she and her family face simply by her connection with a murdered white woman.

Then there's Frances Stotesbury Mitchell, a high society woman with equally high connections getting ready to host the scandal-ridden President Warren G. Harding in Palm Beach ahead of his renomina-

tion. For those not already familiar with the history, it's not until about a third of the way through "Broadway Butterfly" that it becomes clear why her narrative is woven into the broader story at all. Then, it becomes integral.

Julia herself notes early on that people have a way of seeing themselves as a hero — a forecast of her own hubris. The Julia chapters always paint her as chasing justice, and she excuses occasional sensationalizing as necessary to keep the Dot King case on the front page, therefore making it more likely to get solved. "The singular life of a reporter" becomes her refrain. But time and again other characters read her words and reveal that, in practice, she isn't the champion of women that her internal narrative makes her out to be.

Investigation

So many things muddy the investigation: newbies on the force who make rookie mistakes, oldies who make assumptions, bad interrogation techniques, raw deals, classism, racism, sexism, and flat-out corruption. DiVello captures it all, revelations unfolding one by one as tips roll in from sources and shady deals are made, replete with all the '20s slang and swanky synonyms a person could hope for, and smoking everywhere all the time. The tone is precise and transportive.

DiVello also has some fun with it, like when the inspector pointedly tells Julia that this is a murder investigation, not a detective novel. At once a jab at the character's lust for front-page space, it's also a self-aware criticism of true crime and, therefore, the author herself.

DiVello's passion for the genre is evident both in the writing and by her role as creator and host of a mystery and thriller podcast.

The end result is a fascinating murder mystery packed with history. However, its repetitiveness presents a sticking point. While it underscores characters, it undermines the pacing. The book feels unnecessarily long. Still, "Broadway Butterfly" is an enjoyable read loaded with factoids I might never have been aware of otherwise.

Also:

COLUMBIA, S.C.: John Warren — the multimillionaire businessman who forced South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster into a 2018 GOP runoff — has written a new book, saying he wants to share leadership lessons he has learned from military service and the business world, while leaving open a return to politics for himself.

In "Lead Like a Marine," which is on sale, Warren says that he and his co-author and fellow Marine and business partner, John Thompson, aim to show how the US Marine Corps' philosophy of "doing everything for a reason" and emphasis on "shared core values" can be applied to what he sees as institutional failures because of misdirected leadership.

"I really feel like all of these institutions around us are breaking down because of failure of leadership — political, both parties, business, religious organizations, you name it; things are collapsing, and it's due to bad leadership," Warren told The Associated Press in a recent interview. (AP)

Books

Variety



This image released by Polk & Co. shows Casey Likes, (center), and the cast during a performance of 'Back to the Future: The Musical.' (AP)

Stage

Musical adaptation retains original charm

'Back to the Future' stars revisit past

NEW YORK, Aug. 1. (AP) — When actor Casey Likes watched "Back to the Future" growing up, his mom would always say he reminded her a lot of the film's star, Michael J. Fox. Something in the universe agrees: He's taken on Fox's classic movie role on Broadway.

The rising stage star plays Marty McFly for a musical adaptation of the beloved 1985 sci-fi comedy about a time-traveling duo who go back to the 1950s in a souped-up, gull-winged DeLorean.

"I remember growing up and just really, really loving the film. It kind of sat in that realm of like 'E.T.' and 'Close Encounters' - movies that came at a time when film was magical," says Likes, 21. "I hope we accomplish something kind of similar with Broadway."

The show, which won the Olivier Award for best new musical last year in London, arrives at the Winter Garden Theatre this summer with a story by Bob Gale, who previously co-created and co-wrote the movie with Robert Zemeckis. It hews very closely to the original, including having a DeLorean onstage and the shout "Great Scott!"

Broadway veteran and Tony Award-winner Roger Bart takes on Christopher Lloyd's role of Doc Brown, the oddball scientist with a knack for inventions. Bart recalls seeing "Back to the Future" in his early 20s when it first appeared in movie theaters. He watched with three friends from theater school and they were all secretly jealous of Fox.

"None of my friends - even knowing each other as well as we did - none of them, including my mother, ever nudged me and said, 'No, no, kid. You're Doc Brown. Just be patient,'" the Tony-winner says laughing.

Like the film, the musical centers on Marty McFly traveling back to his hometown in 1955. Once

there, he gets caught up in the soap opera lives of his own teenage parents, including his mom, who develops a crush on her future son. He must reconnect mom and dad or he risks disappearing from history.

"We feel like it's very important - I'm sure Casey would agree - for the public to come to the show and recognize that they are seeing that story in a different form but with all of its charms very deeply intact," says Bart, whose Broadway credits include "The Producers," "Disaster!" and "Young Frankenstein."

New songs have been crafted by the film's composer Alan Silvestri and songwriter and producer Glen Ballard. Some Huey Lewis and the News songs from the movie also have been included, like the theme tune "The Power of Love" and "Back in Time," as well as Marty McFly's futuristic rendition of "Johnny B. Goode."

Impersonate

"We go back to the '50s, you get some songs that sound like 'Grease,' like 'Bye Bye Birdie.' And then we have some '80s moments in there that are very 'Footloose,'" says Likes. "It feels kind of like the greatest hits of not only rock 'n' roll, but of musical theater."

While both men are fans of the films - and both got to meet the original stars at a gala last week - neither Bart nor Likes want to straightjacket themselves into the way Fox and Lloyd performed their roles.

"I don't want to impersonate the movie. I want to remind you of the movie," says Likes, who made his Broadway debut last year as the Cameron Crowe-inspired lead character of the musical "Almost Famous."

"There's a lot of things that Roger is doing that

are similar, and there's a lot of things that I'm doing that hopefully are similar to Michael. But we're really just reminding you of their brilliance. Hopefully, at the same time, you're able to kind of go along the journey with our Marty and Doc."

In addition to being a cultural touchstone, "Back to the Future" was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Film Registry and the American Film Institute listed it as the No. 10 best science-fiction film. Bart thinks the movie's staying power is because it manages to straddle many worlds.

There's a time travel story and one about getting to know your parents as peers. There's a love story between Marty's parents and there's also a buddy movie - Marty and Doc putting their friendship on the line.

"Between all of these elements, it answers so many of the things that we love about that era of moviemaking and storytelling," says Bart. "I think that's one of the reasons why it is has sort of stuck around so long."

Not to mention the fact that audiences can appreciate the story at different parts of their lives. Kids can enjoy the thrills and special effects; adults can be moved by the notion of meeting their own moms and dads. "Part of its sustaining power is the fact that it can mean one thing at one age and another at another," says Bart.

Likes also adds another reason: Marty initially only wants to get back to his own time period to reconnect with his girlfriend. But his reasons start to change - save Doc, save his family, save the world.

"As the show goes on, there's more stacked up reasons as to why he has to get back. And I think that's a really interesting thing to think about in our own life," he says. "What would be our reasons to get back to our current life?"

Features

ARABO TIMES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023

LOS ANGELES: This year Whitney Houston would have turned 60, and a special celebration to raise money for a good cause is being planned for her birthday.

Houston's estate, Sony and Primary Wave Music will host the 2nd annual Whitney Houston Legacy of Love on Aug. 9, which will benefit the late singer's foundation aimed at helping young people.

Houston's close friends BeBe Winans and Kim Burrell will perform at the gala at Atlanta's St. Regis Hotel, as will Whitney's brother, Gary, who toured with her for three decades.

"When I turned 50, Whitney gave me two celebrations — one in Ireland and one in London. I always tell everyone now that one of them was for her," says Pat Houston, Whitney Houston's sister-in-law and the executor of her estate. Houston died in February 2012 at age 48. "This year is Whitney at 60 — we're all looking forward to being a part of the power of love in that room."

Houston founded the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children in 1989 with the goal of empowering youth, providing resources to unhoused children, giving out college scholarships, and raising funds for charities like the Children's Defense Fund and St. Jude Children's Research.

A charity auction will raise money for the foundation, which is now called the Whitney E. Houston Legacy Foundation.

"We're going to auction off a beautiful lavender dress Dolly Parton wore when she sang 'I Will Always Love You' at Country Music Television's '100 Greatest Love Songs of Country Music' special in 2004," says Pat Houston. "This dress is particularly special because it's lavender, and lavender is Whitney's favorite color." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit Donald Trump filed against CNN in which the former U.S. president claimed that references in news articles or by the network's hosts

to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election as "the Big Lie" were tantamount to comparing him to Adolf Hitler.

Trump had been seeking punitive damages of \$475 million in the federal lawsuit filed last October in South Florida, claiming the references hurt his reputation and political career. Trump is



Trump



Houston

a candidate for the 2024 GOP presidential nomination in what is his third run for the presidency as a major-party candidate.

U.S. District Judge Raag Singhal, who was appointed by Trump, said Friday in his ruling that the former president's defamation claims failed because the references were opinions and not

factual statements. Moreover, it was a stretch to believe that, in viewers' minds, that phrase would connect Trump's efforts challenging the 2020 election results to Nazi propaganda or Hitler's genocidal and authoritarian regime, the judge said. "CNN's use of the phrase 'the Big Lie' in connection with

Trump's election challenges does not give rise to a plausible inference that Trump advocates the persecution and genocide of Jews or any other group of people," the judge wrote in his decision.

Email messages seeking comment were sent to Trump's attorneys in South Florida and Washington. (AP)

People & Places

Music

Set to tour again

Singer Monae's new album 'defines' her

LOS ANGELES, Aug 1, (AP): If you believe **Janelle Monae's** hyper-sexual expression is a front, think again.

These days, Monae is unapologetically living her truth in a bold manner while trying to avoid negativity. The star, once known for sporting custom-made suits, has shed that attire (at least for now) to nearly bare all, like on the cover of her latest studio album, "The Age of Pleasure," where she's seen swimming topless in a pool. It's her first release since 2018's "Dirty Computer," which was nominated for album of the year at the Grammys.



Monae

In recent months, Monae hasn't been afraid of risque looks and nudity. She revealed herself during an event celebrating the release of her single "Lipstick Lover" and again onstage at an Essence Music Festival set - which drew some social media criticism including from singer India Arie and rapper Uncle Luke. She also attended the 2023 Met Gala in a barely-

there outfit.

For Monae, this is her time to be free.

Monae spoke recently with The Associated Press about her supportive mother, side-stepping criticism and teasing her upcoming North American tour, which kicks off Aug. 30 in Seattle. Other tour stops include New York and Nashville and she'll wrap in Los Angeles in mid-October.

AP: Since you haven't toured since 2019, was your recent Essence Festival performance a tune up for your upcoming tour?

Monae: Yeah, we're testing out the songs. You're getting them in your body. Right now, we don't have a lot of muscle memory with the new songs. We haven't toured them. I know if you come into the show, you'll love the songs. But hearing them live is a different experience, especially when you're putting them with songs from previous work. We're basically just putting a show together based on what we feel is good. Sometimes you just don't know until you get on stage.

AP: What do you want people to take away from your show?

Monae: Tap into your free (expletive) energy. That's rooted in self-love - not arrogance. Tap into that space and then take care of each other. That's what I hope. With the shows that I do, and when I look out, it's an experience. It's like our own church. You want to take care of each other.

Even if your freedom doesn't look like that person's freedom, you understand that we're fighting against something much bigger than us. We're systematically fighting against something much bigger than us, so we got to band together, we got to stick together. We have to make sure that we're showing up for each other. If we have privilege in certain areas, making sure that we're lending a hand, lending a voice, amplifying a message.

AP: How has it been to walk in your truth while facing criticism about your racy performances from people like Arie and Uncle Luke?

Monae: That has absolutely nothing to do with me. I love everybody. I'm in the age of pleasure.

AP: When did you feel comfortable with living life the way you want without caring about others' opinions?

Monae: It's not like I don't care what people think. I care what some people think. I don't care what everybody thinks. That's the same when it comes to music. When you make a new song, I can't go soliciting everybody's opinions about the song. By the time I get back to the second pass of it, it's all over the place. Everybody's going to have an opinion. For me, it's like, whose voice do I trust? Who do I know that loves me, cares about me, whose taste do I like, who actually is evolved enough to even understand what it is that I'm doing? Who understands nuance?

You shouldn't care what anybody has to say. You just care what the right people have to say and everything else is muted.

AP: Who are those right people for you?

Monae: Family. Close friends.

AP: In your journey, your mother has been a huge supporter. Whenever you have fallen under certain criticisms, how has she helped you navigate the critics?

Monae: My mom is like ride or die. I have to tell her like "Mom, you don't need to defend me. You don't need to defend my life or my decisions." For her, I'm her baby. Like any mama bear, you might get punched in the eye if you say something. You might. But I've calmed her down over the years. For the most part, we mostly respond to love. It's a lot of people that love where I am and who I am and what I'm doing, and they feel really empowered and inspired by it, and that makes my mom proud, and it makes me happy.

AP: How do you avoid the naysayers?

Monae: I'm too busy living life to be distracted. The positive things are always amazing too, but I also don't go fishing for that. One of the things about being in the age of pleasure is being present and making sure that I'm dipping in on social media, saying what I need to say, showing love, saying "thank you," putting up my art and leaving, going to go create more things and make more memories and more experiences.

I'm in the middle of putting together a tour for North America. We haven't been on tour since 2019. For me, I have a lot of things that keep me busy. I'm practicing guitar. I'm having the best sex of my life. I'm happy. Even in the middle of all that's going on in this world, I'm finding time to steal joy and to center joy and to stay surrounded by the people that bring me joy and that I can bring joy to.

AP: How did "Age of Pleasure" define where you are in life?

Monae: I wanted to create a soundtrack to our lifestyle. I think this album like all my albums reflect exactly where I am at that time. Each album will let you know where I was in my evolution process, what things I had to unlearn, what things I learned. I love that. I love that you can always look at an artist working, sort of see what they were on at that time.



Actor Paul Reubens portraying Pee-wee Herman poses for a portrait while promoting 'The Pee-wee Herman Show' live stage play, Monday, Dec. 7, 2009, in Los Angeles. Reubens died Sunday night after a six-year struggle with cancer that he did not make public, his publicist said in a statement. (AP)

Obituaries

'A brilliant and original comedian'

Pee-wee Herman actor Reubens dies

LOS ANGELES, Aug 1, (AP): Paul Reubens, the actor and comedian whose Pee-wee Herman character - an overgrown child with a tight gray suit and an unforgettable laugh - became a 1980s pop cultural phenomenon, has died at 70.

Reubens, who's character delighted fans in the film "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" and on the TV series "Pee-wee's Playhouse," died Sunday night after a six-year struggle with cancer that he kept private, his publicist said in a statement.

"Please accept my apology for not going public with what I've been facing the last six years," Reubens said in a statement released Monday with the announcement of his death. "I have always felt a huge amount of love and respect from my friends, fans and supporters. I have loved you all so much and enjoyed making art for you."

Created for the stage, Pee-wee with his white chunky loafers and red bow tie would become a cultural constant in both adult and children's entertainment for much of the 1980s, though an indecent exposure arrest in 1991 would send the character into entertainment exile for years.

Success

The staccato giggle that punctuated every sentence, catch phrases like "I know you are but what am I" and a tabletop dance to the Champs' song "Tequila" in a biker bar in "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" were often imitated by fans, to the joy of some and the annoyance of others.

Reubens created Pee-wee when he was part of the Los Angeles improv group The Groundlings in the late 1970s. The live "Pee-wee Herman Show" debuted at a Los Angeles theater in 1981 and was a success with both kids during matinees and adults at a midnight show.

The show closely resembled the format the Saturday morning TV "Pee-wee's Playhouse" would follow years later, with Herman living in a wild and wacky home with a series of stock-character visitors, including one, Captain Karl, played by the late "Saturday Night Live" star Phil Hartman.

HBO would air the show as a special.

Reubens took Pee-wee to the big screen with 1985's "Pee-wee's Big Adventure," which takes the character outside for a nationwide escapade. The film, in which Pee-wee's cherished bike is stolen, was said to be loosely based on Vittorio De Sica's Italian neo-realist classic, "The Bicycle Thief." Directed by Tim Burton and co-written by Hartman, the movie was a success, grossing \$40 million, and continued to spawn a cult following for its oddball whimsy.

A sequel followed three years later in the less well-received "Big Top Pee-wee," in which Pee-wee seeks to join a circus. Reubens' character wouldn't get another movie starring role until 2016's "Pee-wee's Big Holiday," for Netflix. Judd Apatow produced Pee-

Angus Cloud, breakout star of 'Euphoria,' died aged 25

LOS ANGELES, Aug 1, (AP): Angus Cloud, the actor who starred as the drug dealer Fezco "Fez" O'Neill on the HBO series "Euphoria," has died. He was 25.

Cloud's publicist, Cait Bailey, said Cloud died Monday at his family home in Oakland, California. No cause of death was given.

In a statement, Cloud's family said goodbye to "an artist, a friend, a brother and a son."

"Last week he buried his father and intensely struggled with this loss," the family said. "The only comfort we have is knowing Angus is now reunited with his dad, who was his best friend. Angus was open about his battle with mental health and we hope that his passing can be a reminder to others that they are not alone and should not fight this on their own in silence."

"We hope the world remembers him for his humor, laughter and love for everyone," his family added.

Cloud hadn't acted before he was cast in "Euphoria." He was walking down the street in New York when casting scout Eléonore Hendricks noticed him. Cloud was resistant at first, suspecting a scam. Then casting director Jennifer Venditti met with him and series creator Sam Levinson eventually made him a co-star in the series alongside Zendaya for its first two seasons.

Reubens' big-screen revival.

His television series, "Pee-wee's Playhouse," ran for five seasons, earned 22 Emmys and attracted not only children but adults to Saturday-morning TV.

Jimmy Kimmel posted on Instagram that "Paul Reubens was like no one else - a brilliant and original comedian who made kids and their parents laugh at the same time. He never forgot a birthday and shared his genuine delight for silliness with everyone he met."

Subversive

Both silly and subversive and championing nonconformity, the Pee-wee universe was a trippy place, populated by things like a talking armchair and a friendly pterodactyl.

Director Guillermo del Toro tweeted Monday that Reubens was "one of the patron saints of all misfitted, weird, maladjusted, wonderful, miraculous oddities."

The act was a hit because it worked on multiple levels, even though Reubens insists that wasn't the plan.

"It's for kids," Reubens told The Associated Press in 2010. "People have tried to get me for years to go, 'It wasn't really for kids, right?' Even the

To some, Cloud seemed so natural as Fez that they suspected he was identical to the character - a notion that Cloud pushed back against.

"It does bother me when people are like, 'It must be so easy! You get to go in and be yourself.' I'm like, 'Why don't you go and do that?' It's not that simple," Cloud told Variety. "I brought a lot to the character. You can believe what you want. It ain't got nothing to do with me."

The part made Cloud the breakout star of one the buzziest shows in television. He had a supporting role in his first film, "The Line," a college drama starring Alex Wolff and John Malkovich that premiered earlier this year at the Tribeca Festival. Cloud was recently cast to co-star in "Scream 6." He's also made cameos in music videos for Juice WRLD, Becky G and Karol G.

The third season of "Euphoria" hasn't yet begun filming.

"There was no one quite like Angus," Levinson said in a statement. "He was too special, too talented and way too young to leave us so soon. He also struggled, like many of us, with addiction and depression. I hope he knew how many hearts he touched. I loved him. I always will. Rest in peace and God Bless his family."

original show was for kids. I always censored myself to have it be kid-friendly.

"The whole thing has been just a gut feeling from the beginning," Reubens told the AP. "That's all it ever is and I think always ever be. Much as people want me to dissect it and explain it, I can't. One, I don't know, and two, I don't want to know, and three, I feel like I'll hex myself if I know."

Reubens' career was derailed when he was arrested for indecent exposure in an adult movie theater in Sarasota, Florida, the city where he grew up. He was handed a small fine but the damage was incalculable.

He became the frequent butt of late-night talk show jokes and the perception of Reubens immediately changed.

"The moment that I realized my name was going to be said in the same sentence as children and sex, that's really intense," Reubens told NBC in 2004. "That's something I knew from that very moment, whatever happens past that point, something's out there in the air that is really bad."

Reubens said he got plenty of offers to work, but told the AP that most of them wanted to take "advantage of the luridness of my situation," and he didn't want to do them.



Angus Cloud attends the Ralph Lauren Fall/Winter 2022 fashion show on March 22, 2022, in New York. Cloud, the actor who starred as the drug dealer Fezco 'Fez' O'Neill on the HBO series 'Euphoria,' has died. He was 25. Cloud's publicist, Cait Bailey, said McCLOUD died Monday at his family home in Oakland, Calif. No cause of death was given. (AP)

Variety

SANTA FE, NM: Prosecutors are urging a judge in Santa Fe not to throw out charges of involuntary manslaughter against a movie weapons supervisor in the 2021 shooting death of a cinematographer by **Alec Baldwin** during a rehearsal for the film "Rust."

At an online hearing scheduled for Tuesday, defense attorneys for **Hannah Gutierrez-Reed** will counter that the charges should be dismissed, after accusing the prosecution of sloppy work and public grandstanding that violates their client's rights to due process.

The hearing also will address objections to a recently filed charge of evidence tampering against Gutierrez-Reed and whether prosecutors can shield the name of a witness from public disclosure as they pursue that charge.

Prosecutors say a witness is prepared to testify that Gutierrez-Reed handed off a small bag of narcotics to the witness after returning from an interview at a police station. But they said the person worries about being harassed by media and blacklisted by the industry.

Defense attorney **Jason Bowles** has called the evidence-tampering charge a vindictive attempt at "character assassination" by prosecutors.

Prosecutors dropped an involuntary manslaughter charge against Baldwin in April, leaving Gutierrez-Reed as the sole remaining defendant in the case. She faces up to three years in prison if convicted.

Baldwin was pointing a gun at cinematographer **Halyna Hutchins** during the rehearsal on Oct 21, 2021, when it went off, killing her and injuring director **Joel Souza**. (AP)

HONG KONG: Singer and songwriter **Coco Lee** was being mourned by family and friends at a private ceremony Tuesday, a day after fans paid their respects at a public memorial for the Hong Kong-born entertainer who had international success.

Sobs were heard when pallbearers marched solemnly with her coffin inside the funeral hall before her cremation. Lee, who died July 5 at age 48, was known for her powerful voice and live performances.

On Monday, scores of fans dressed in black had waited outside the funeral hall in the summer heat, with some carrying flowers. The public memorial service was also attended by her relatives and friends, including singers **Elva Hsiao** and **Jenny Tseng**.

Lin Jing, a fan from Fujian province in southeast China, said she admired Lee's smile and appearance, adding: "She was really talented. She always tried to improve and she inspired women to feel independent."

Inside the funeral hall, three pink hearts made of flowers and other floral decorations were displayed below Lee's photo.

Her close friend, Hsiao, said dur-

ing the ceremony that she remembered watching Lee's performances as a student and thinking of her as a perfect idol. After they became friends in the entertainment industry, Lee encouraged Hsiao when she was lost and treated her as "a little sister."

"She brightened my life with her happiness and bravery. I will keep preserving her spirit," Hsiao said in a quavering voice.

In a video for the memorial ser-



Baldwin



Lee

vice, actors and singers from Hong Kong, mainland China and Taiwan recalled their memories with Lee and mourned her death.

Action star **Jackie Chan** said in the video that everyone was proud of her when she sang at the Oscars.

"To friends like us, Coco was a passionate and kind friend who showed care to us. She was really a good person. That's why we are so reluctant to accept she has left us," he said. (AP)

Space

Craft alive, operating

NASA picks up signal from 'lost' Voyager 2

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Aug 1, (AP): After days of silence, NASA has heard from Voyager 2 in interstellar space billions of miles away.

Flight controllers accidentally sent a wrong command nearly two weeks ago that tilted the spacecraft's antenna away from Earth and severed contact.

NASA's Deep Space Network, giant radio antennas across the globe, picked up a "heartbeat signal," meaning the 46-year-old craft is alive and operating, project manager Suzanne Dodd said in an email Tuesday.

The news "buoyed our spirits," Dodd said. Flight controllers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California will now try to turn Voyager 2's antenna back toward Earth.

If the command doesn't work - and controllers doubt it will - they'll have to wait until October for an automatic spacecraft reset. The antenna is only 2% off-kilter.

"That is a long time to wait, so we'll try sending up commands several times" before then, Dodd said.

Voyager 2 rocketed into space in 1977, along with its identical twin Voyager 1, on a quest to explore the outer planets.

Still communicating and working fine, Voyager 1 is now 15 billion miles (24 billion kilometers) from Earth, making it the most distant spacecraft.

Voyager 2 trails its twin in interstellar space at more than 12 billion miles (19 billion kilometers) from Earth. At that distance, it takes more than 18 hours for a signal to travel one way.

Meanwhile, President Joe Biden has decided to keep US Space Command headquarters in Colorado, overturning a last-ditch decision by the Trump administration to move it to Alabama. The choice ended months of thorny deliberations, but an Alabama lawmaker vowed to fight on.

US officials told The Associated Press on Monday that Biden was convinced by the head of Space Command, Gen. James Dickinson, who argued that moving his headquarters now would jeopardize military readiness. Dickinson's view, however, was in contrast to Air Force leadership, who studied the issue at length and determined that relocating to Huntsville, Alabama, was the right move.

Decision

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of Biden's rationale for the decision.

In announcing the plans, Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, said the decision was based on an "objective and deliberate process informed by data and analysis." He said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin supported the president's decision.

Reaction to the decision came fast and was sharply divided, as Colorado lawmakers praised it and Alabama officials slammed it as a political maneuver. "This fight is far from over," warned Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Biden, said the US officials, believes that keeping the command in Colorado Springs would avoid a disruption in readiness that the move would cause, particularly as the US races to compete with China in space. And they said Biden firmly believes that maintaining stability will help the military be better able to respond in space over the next decade. Those factors, they said, outweighed what the president believed would be any minor benefits of moving to Alabama.

Biden's decision enraged Alabama lawmakers and is sure to fuel accusations that abortion politics played a role in the choice. The location debate has become entangled in the ongoing battle between Alabama Republican Sen. Tommy Tuberville and the Defense Department over the move to provide travel for troops seeking reproductive health care. Tuberville opposed the policy is blocking hundreds of military promotions in protest.

The U.S. officials said the abortion issue had no effect at all on Biden's decision. And they said the president fully expected there would be different views on the matter within the Defense Department.

Tuberville, in a statement, said the top three choices for Space Command headquarters were all in Republican-leaning states - Alabama, Nebraska and Texas - and bypassing them "looks like blatant patronage politics."

Formally created in August 2019, the command was temporarily based in Colorado, and Air Force and Space Force leaders initially recommended it stay there. In the final days of his presidency Donald Trump decided it should be based in Huntsville.

The change triggered a number of reviews. Proponents of keeping the command in Colorado have argued that moving it to Huntsville and creating a new headquarters would set back its progress at a time it needs to move quickly to be positioned to match China's military space rise. And Colorado Springs is also home to the Air Force Academy, which now graduates Space Force guardians, and more than 24 military space missions, including three Space Force bases.

Officials also argued that any new headquarters in Alabama would not be completed until sometime after 2030, forcing a lengthy transition.

Command

Huntsville, however, scored higher than Colorado Springs in a Government Accountability Office assessment of potential locations and has long been a home to some of earliest missiles used in the nation's space programs, including the Saturn V rocket. It is home to the Army's Space and Missile Defense Command.

According to officials, Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall, who ordered his own review of the matter, leaned toward Huntsville, while Dickinson was staunchly in favor of staying put. The officials said Austin presented both options to Biden.

In a statement Monday, Kendall said the service will work to quickly implement Biden's decision, adding that keeping the command in Colorado will "avoid any disruption to its operational capability."

The decision was hailed as a victory in Colorado lawmakers and condemned in Alabama.

"For two and a half years we've known any objective analysis of this basing decision would reach the same conclusion we did, that Peterson Space Force Base is the best home for Space Command," Sen. John Hickenlooper, D-Colo., said in a statement. "Most importantly, this decision firmly rejects the idea that politics - instead of national security - should determine basing decisions central to our national security."

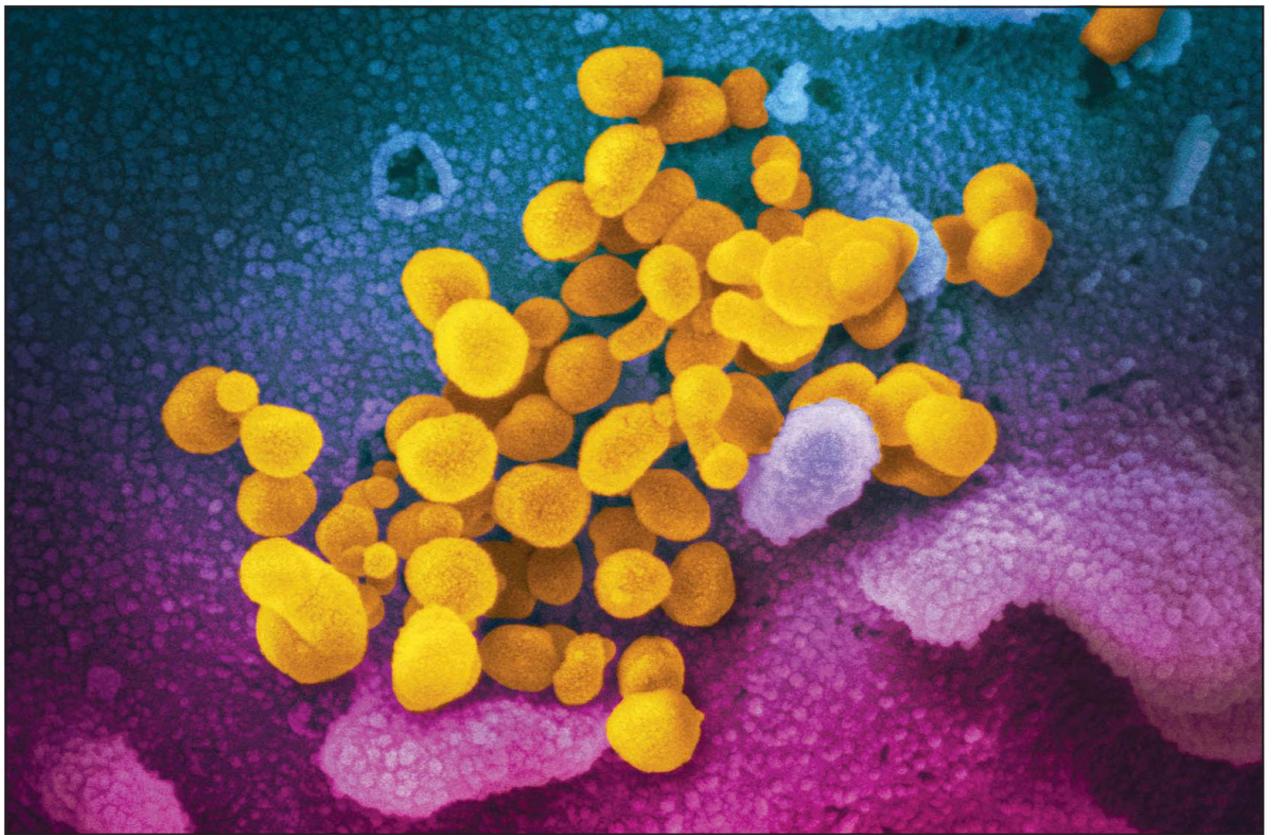
Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., said the decision "restores integrity to the Pentagon's basing process and sends a strong message that national security and the readiness of our Armed Forces drive our military decisions."

Rogers, meanwhile, vowed that his committee will continue an investigation into the matter, calling it a "deliberate taxpayer-funded manipulation of the selection process." He added, "It's clear that far-left politics, not national security, was the driving force behind this decision."

Republican Alabama Sen. Katie Britt echoed his sentiment, saying it was irresponsible for Biden to "yank a military decision out of the Air Force's hands in the name of partisan politics." She said an Air Force evaluation of the potential locations ranked Huntsville first, adding that the decision "should have remained in the Air Force's purview."



Biden



This updated, colored electron microscope image made available by the US National Institutes of Health in February 2020 shows the Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, indicated in yellow, emerging from the surface of cells, indicated in blue/pink, cultured in a laboratory. The National Institutes of Health is opening a handful of studies to start testing possible treatments for long COVID, an anxiously awaited step in US efforts against the mysterious condition. The announcement, Monday, July 31, comes amid frustration from patients who've struggled for months or years with sometimes disabling health problems. (AP)

Health

New treatment studies bring hope

Brain fog, long COVID affect millions

WASHINGTON, Aug 1, (AP): The National Institutes of Health is beginning a handful of studies to test possible treatments for long COVID, an anxiously awaited step in US efforts against the mysterious condition that afflicts millions.

Monday's announcement from the NIH's \$1.15 billion RECOVER project comes amid frustration from patients who've struggled for months or even years with sometimes-disabling health problems - with no proven treatments and only a smattering of rigorous studies to test potential ones.

"This is a year or two late and smaller in scope than one would hope but nevertheless it's a step in the right direction," said Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly of Washington University in St. Louis, who isn't involved with NIH's project but whose own research highlighted long COVID's toll. Getting answers is critical, he added, because "there's a lot of people out there exploiting patients' vulnerability" with unproven therapies.

Symptoms

Scientists don't yet know what causes long COVID, the catchall term for about 200 widely varying symptoms. Between 10% and 30% of people are estimated to have experienced some form of long COVID after recovering from a coronavirus infection, a risk that has dropped somewhat since early in the pandemic.

"If I get 10 people, I get 10 answers of what long COVID really is," US Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said. That's why so far the RECOVER initiative has tracked 24,000 patients in observational studies to help define the most common and burdensome symptoms - findings that now are shaping multipronged treatment trials. The first two will look at:

Whether taking up to 25 days of Pfizer's antiviral drug Paxlovid could ease long COVID, because of a theory that some live coronavirus, or its remnants, may hide in the body and trigger the disorder. Normally Paxlovid is used when people first get COVID-19 and for just five days.

Treatments for "brain fog" and other cognitive problems. They include Posit Science Corp.'s BrainHQ cognitive training program, another called PASC-Cognitive Recovery by New York City's Mount Sinai Health System, and a Soterix Medi-

cal device that electrically stimulates brain circuits. Two additional studies will open in the coming months. One will test treatments for sleep problems. The other will target problems with the autonomic nervous system - which controls unconscious functions like breathing and heartbeat - including the disorder called POTS.

A more controversial study of exercise intolerance and fatigue also is planned, with NIH seeking input from some patient groups worried that exercise may do more harm than good for certain long COVID sufferers.

The trials are enrolling 300 to 900 adult participants for now but have the potential to grow. Unlike typical experiments that test one treatment at a time, these more flexible "platform

studies" will let NIH add additional potential therapies on a rolling basis. "We can rapidly pivot," Dr. Amy Patterson with the NIH explained. A failing treatment can be dropped without ending the entire trial and "if something promising comes on the horizon, we can plug it in."

The flexibility could be key, according to Dr. Anthony Komaroff, a Harvard researcher who isn't involved with the NIH program but has long studied a similarly mysterious disorder known as chronic fatigue syndrome or ME/CFS. For example, he said, the Paxlovid study "makes all sorts of sense," but if a 25-day dose shows only hints of working, researchers could extend the test to a longer course instead of starting from scratch.

went to a class together during her trip to London in May for the coronation of King Charles III. Sunak met with President Joe Biden at the White House the following month and afterward commented on how much time he and the president had spent together in the preceding months. "I gather our wives have even started to take spin classes together," Sunak added.

Exercise has been a part of Jill Biden's life since she was a child who liked to roller skate. She took up ice skating in college and enjoyed swimming while pregnant with daughter Ashley. She wrote in her memoir that she kept a pair of running shoes by the front door of their house in Wilmington, Delaware, when Ashley was a teenager. "Whenever she and I would get into an argument, I'd put on those shoes to go running and calm myself down," she wrote. "We argued so much, I became a marathon runner."

At the White House, the first lady is up early to feed cat Willow and dog Commander before she takes the German shepherd outside for a walk. As for her diet, she likes to eat fish and vegetables. She takes lunch with her on days when she's teaching her English and writing classes at Northern Virginia Community College.



First lady Jill Biden rides a bicycle in Gordon's Pond State Park in Rehoboth Beach, Del., March 20, 2022. Jill Biden says exercise helps her find 'inner strength.' The first lady attends spin classes when she's on the road. She rides a bicycle near her Delaware beach home. She jogs on the White House driveway. Biden also takes barre classes and rides a Peloton bike. (AP)



Matsumoto



Inslee

Discovery

Whale carcass sparks anger: The discovery of a whale carcass in Hong Kong waters Monday sparked an outpouring of grief on social media, with many comments blaming the mammal's death on sightseers.

Many residents speculated that the dead mammal was the same whale that had been attracting groups of sightseers since it was first spotted in the city's waters in mid-July.

Compass Chan, scientific officer of Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong, didn't confirm whether it was the same whale. But he said an initial check of the dead whale found a new wound on its back, in addition to two old wounds.

"It's a pity," Chan said at a media briefing. "I think it's a good opportunity for everyone to think seriously about how we should get along with other species in nature."

The whale's cause of death would have to be confirmed by a necropsy, he said.

The carcass was found in the waters in Sai Kung - a district known for its hiking trails, beaches and islands. Many residents blamed the death on sightseers who have flocked to those waters since a whale was spotted there about two weeks ago. Some posted a Canto-pop song whose title translates as "Whale Eater."

The foundation had released a statement last week saying that crowds of people had been seen approaching the animal, which was believed to be a Bryde's whale of about seven meters (23 feet) long. The foundation said at the time that the whale had propeller wounds and that nearby human activity could cause it stress and have life-threatening consequences. (AP)

Child survives cougar attack: An 8-year-old child survived a cougar attack with minor injuries while camping in Olympic National Park in Washington state over the weekend.

"The cougar casually abandoned its attack after being yelled and screamed at by the child's mother," the National Park Service said in a statement. After being assessed by park personnel, the child, who was not identified, went to a hospital for further evaluation. Washington's governor is Jay Inslee.

Rangers shut down the campsite and surrounding areas following the Saturday attack. Park law enforcement and cougar specialists began looking for the animal on Sunday at Lake Angeles. If located, the cougar will be euthanized and officials hope a necropsy will provide clues as to why it attacked.

Cougars are rarely seen and attacks on humans are extremely rare, park officials said. The lethal removal of the cougar is in line with the park's protocol for wildlife observations, interactions and attacks.



In this Aug. 4, 1977 photo, provided by NASA, the 'Sounds of Earth' record is mounted on the Voyager 2 spacecraft in the Safe-1 Building at the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., prior to encapsulation in the protective shroud. NASA is listening for any peep from Voyager 2 after losing contact with the spacecraft billions of miles away. (AP)

SPORTS

Wild, Gustavsson agree to 3-year, \$11.25mn contract

ST. PAUL, Minn., Aug. 1, (AP) - The Minnesota Wild signed goalie Filip Gustavsson to a three-year, \$11.25 million contract on Monday, avoiding salary arbitration after his strong first season with the club.

The Wild have little room left on their salary cap after accounting for Gustavsson's \$3.75 million annual average value, but general manager Bill Guerin said he expects the 25-year-old to compete with veteran Marc-Andre Fleury for the starting job this season. The Wild also have top prospect Jesper Wallstedt waiting in the wings in the AHL.

"Having good goalie is a luxury, and we've got three of them, so we're very happy about that," Guerin said. "I think three years at the age that Gus is, it gives him a nice runway to really prove what he can be, and if he can continue to get better and build on the season that he had last year, then at 27 or 28 years old he's going to be looking at an even better deal down the road."

Gustavsson made 37 starts last season, going 22-9-7 with three shutouts, a 2.10 goals-against average and a .931 save percentage. He had a shutout streak of 177 minutes, 13 seconds across four games from Feb. 28 to March 12, the third-longest in franchise history.

Gustavsson, who is from Sweden, was acquired a year ago in a trade with Ottawa for goalie Cam Talbot. He was 2-3 in five starts in the playoffs, including a 51-save performance in a double overtime win over Dallas in Game 1 of the first-round series.

"I'm really happy to have three years instead of just hav-

ICE HOCKEY

ing one year and having all the pressure on my shoulders again to really perform for this year to get another contract," Gustavsson said.



The New Jersey Devils have signed defenseman Kevin Bahl to a two-year contract worth \$2.1 million. Devils general manager Tom Fitzgerald said Monday the 23-year-old will earn \$900,000 this season and \$1.2 million in 2024-25.

Bahl appeared in his third NHL season with New Jersey and played in a career-high 42 games, finishing with two goals and six assists. His 6.52 hits per 60 minutes ranked second for all New Jersey defensemen who played in more than 10 games. He played in 11 of the team's 12 playoff games and averaged 13 minutes, 31 seconds in time on ice.

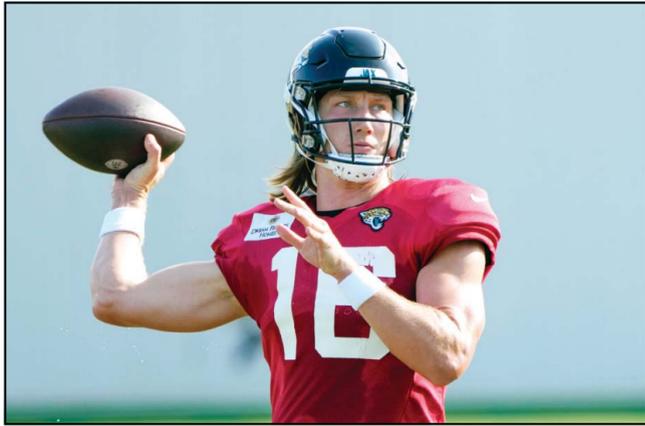
Broad 'enjoys' fitting end to career by leading England to series-tying win in final Ashes Test



Australia's captain Pat Cummins holds the Ashes Urn as Australia retain the trophy on day five of the fifth Ashes Test match between England and Australia, at The Oval cricket ground in London. (AP)

WR missed last year with torn right ACL

Broncos' Patrick injures left Achilles tendon



Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence (16) throws a pass during a practice at the NFL football team's training camp in Jacksonville, Fla. (AP)

Another milestone on the journey

Hamlin puts aside fear and practices in pads for first time since cardiac arrest

PITTSFORD, N.Y., Aug. 1, (AP) - Of the thousands of emotions - trepidation among them - running through Damar Hamlin's head Monday while pulling on his pads for practice for the first time at training camp, the one that ultimately won out was joy.

For everything the Buffalo Bills safety has overcome in seven months since going into cardiac arrest during a game and needing to be resuscitated on the field, Hamlin leaned on his faith in God and himself, along with the support from his family and teammates, to take another step toward resuming his playing career.

"This is just another milestone on the journey - might be one of the biggest ones," Hamlin said after practice.

"I made the choice to play. But I'm processing a thousand emotions. I'm not afraid to say that it crosses my mind of being a little scared here and there," he added. "My faith is stronger than any fear. That's what I want to preach up here. And that's the message I want to spread on to the world that as long as your faith is stronger than your fear, you can get through anything."

FOOTBALL

Though Hamlin was cleared to resume practicing in mid-April, he did so wearing a helmet and shorts with his teammates through their spring sessions and first four days of training camp, as mandated by NFL rules. The magnitude of the Bills' first day in pads wasn't lost on Hamlin, given it marked the first time he was in full uniform since collapsing on the field in Cincinnati on Jan. 2 after making what appeared to be a routine tackle of Bengals receiver Tee Higgins.

"It's a superblessed space. To be able to do what I love again," Hamlin said. "Just trying to keep everything as normal as possible."

The normality of football struck him about an hour

into practice when Hamlin took the field for the first time during a team red-zone running drill in which tackling was still not allowed.

On his second play, Hamlin showed no hesitation when bursting toward Damien Harris and wrapping him up with both arms.

Hamlin's biggest contact came on the final play of practice, when he avoided a block to work his way into the backfield and help a teammate stop tight end Quintin Morris for what would have been a loss.

"That first little moment of contact, that was just letting me know. I felt alive, man. I felt like I'm here," Hamlin said with a wide grin. "So it felt good. It was just that moment of: 'All right, let's settle in and let's just take one play at a time. Let's just keep going.'"

The 25-year-old from the Pittsburgh area is entering his third NFL season. Selected by Buffalo in the sixth round of the 2021 draft out of Pitt, he opened last season as a backup before starting 13 games after Micah Hyde sustained a season-ending neck injury.

This year, Hamlin is competing with offseason free agent addition Taylor Rapp for a backup role behind Hyde and Jordan Poyer. As for Hamlin's next hurdle, it'll come Aug. 12, when the Bills open their preseason schedule at home against Indianapolis.

Rapp, who spent his first four NFL seasons with the Los Angeles Rams, might be new to Buffalo but is impressed with how Hamlin has handled himself.

"How far he's come and what he's able to come back from late last season and just seeing how he goes about himself and attacks the rehab at the facility is nothing short of inspiring," Rapp said.

ENGLEWOOD, Colo., Aug. 1, (AP) - The Denver Broncos braced themselves for a second straight season without their steadiest wide receiver and locker room leader after Tim Patrick was carted off the field with a left Achilles tendon injury Monday - almost a year after tearing his right ACL at training camp.

"It's a tough break for us as a team when you see something like that, a great player, a great leader," cornerback Patrick Surtain II said. "We wish him the best and just go on from there."

With an energized crowd of 3,000 looking on as the Broncos practiced in full pads for the first time, Patrick hit the ground in pain just as he came out of his cut on a short route during a seven-on-seven passing drill. He threw his helmet as teammates including Courtland Sutton and Russell Wilson rushed to his side.

The injury happened right in front of head coach Sean Payton, who was watching Patrick make an adjustment from a previous route.

"It's always difficult, especially a guy like that's a leader who's coming off an entire year of rehabilitation," Payton said. "It's difficult for his teammates, for all of us. So, maybe, hopefully we get some good news. But it appears it's his left Achilles."

After being carted off, Patrick entered the Broncos facility on crutches, keeping weight off his left leg.

Patrick is known for his strong work ethic and no-nonsense approach. He was one of the more notable finds by the Broncos in recent years.

Undrafted out of Utah in 2017, Patrick bounced around the Ravens' and 49ers' practice squads before arriving in Denver later that year. He became a contributor in 2018 and '19 before posting back-to-back productive seasons that earned him a three-year, \$34.5 million contract extension in November 2021.

He was the team's No. 1 receiver going into last season when he tore his right ACL in a noncontact drill on Aug. 2. Two months later the Broncos lost their top running back when Javonte Williams suffered a knee injury and Denver's offense never recovered from the one-two punch, averaging a league-worst 16.9 points a game in Wilson's first year in Denver.

Like Williams, Patrick was looking for a big comeback in 2023 atop the receiver rotation alongside Sutton and Jerry Jeudy.

"When I got hired here, he was one of the guys I saw every day because he was rehabbing last year's injury," Payton said. "So, that's what makes it more difficult."

The Broncos do appear to be in better position to weather the loss of Patrick this year if the injury proves to be as serious as suspected.

FOOTBALL

They bolstered their receiver room, chiefly by drafting speedster Marvin Mims Jr. out of Oklahoma in the second round and signing veterans Marquez Callaway and Lil'Jordan Humphrey in free agency.

"We've just got great guys all around the receiving room, so obviously next man up situation," Surtain said. "But Tim is a big loss, a big blow, because he brings such a presence out there on the field that many people can't compare to."

Mims pulled a hamstring in June and suffered a setback before camp, but Monday marked his first practice of camp and Payton was encouraged: "He's feeling good. You're going to see him more and more this week. He's ramping up and we're encouraged."

However, another receiver, KJ Hamler, who is on the mend from a torn chest muscle, was released Monday when the Broncos signed guard Yasir Durant. Hamler was released with a non-football illness designation. Earlier in the day, he posted on Instagram that he was diagnosed with the heart condition pericarditis "after feeling some chest pains while working out on the break before camp started." He vowed to return to the field as soon as he could "better and stronger than ever."

Notes: Payton had no comment about Aaron Rodgers' spirited defense of Jets OC Nathaniel Hackett after Payton ripped him last week for his poor head coaching job in Denver last year. "No, we're past it," said Payton, who did a mea culpa last week, saying he regretted criticizing Hackett, the Jets and members of the Broncos' front office in trying to spread the blame for Wilson's career-worst season in 2022 during an interview with USA Today.

Australia bowled out for 334

LONDON, Aug. 1, (AP) - Wearing his familiar white headband, Stuart Broad roared in - knees pumping - to send down one last delivery in his brilliant cricket career.

Broad, one of England's greatest-ever players, wasn't going to let this moment pass him by. Not in the final test of an Ashes series, the kind of match this 37-year-old pace-bowling warrior has lived for.

It's 604 test wickets and out for Broad after he took the match-clinching wicket to earn England a series-tying victory late in the last session of the fifth and final test against Australia on Monday.

England bowled out Australia for 334 and claimed a 49-run win to secure a 2-2 draw in an Ashes series that had pretty much everything.

"You wonder what your last ball will be," said Broad, who announced Saturday that he would be retiring after this match to end his 18-year career, "so to take a wicket to win an Ashes test match is pretty cool."

The Australians, who still haven't won an Ashes series in England since 2001 but will return Down Under with the urn, lost their last seven wickets for 70 runs after looking good at 264-3, chasing 384 to win.

With two wickets still to get, England captain Ben Stokes turned to Broad one final time.

A number of balls slipped past the outside edge and Broad switched the bails at the non-striker's end for good luck. The very next ball, he got an edge off Todd Murphy with an absolute beauty of an outswinger.

CRICKET

One wicket left and of course it was Broad who took it. When Alex Carey edged behind, again to wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow, Broad wheeled away in celebration and was soon engulfed by his teammates. His wife, holding their baby, looked on from the balcony as did his father, Chris, a former England international.

"It was written in the stars he was going to take the last two wickets," Stokes said, "with two left-handers at the crease."

Broad is fourth on the all-time list of wicket-takers in tests, behind Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne and his great friend, England pacer Jimmy Anderson, who - at 41 - says he will continue to play.

Anderson didn't have a say on Day 5. Instead, it was Chris Woakes (4-50), Moeen Ali (3-76) and ultimately Broad (2-62) who bowled England to victory.

The English will rue the rain that denied them a likely victory in the fourth test at Old Trafford - and therefore a chance at completing a series win at The Oval - but the team's recovery from 2-0 down in a six-week stretch of five tests was another validation of its "Bazball" approach that is winning fans, if not quite the biggest series of them all.

The series got the denouement it deserved, even though a rain delay of nearly three hours - wiping out the entire middle session - threatened to ruin the final day.

Australia started the day on 135-0 but England finally found some seam movement and swing in cloudy conditions with a new ball, accounting for David Warner (60), Usman Khawaja (72) - both to Woakes - and Marnus Labuschagne (13) in an 11-over spell in which the tourists hit just 34 runs.

For Warner, it was a last innings in England ahead of what he hopes is the final innings of his career, in Sydney against Pakistan in January.

A 95-run stand between Steve Smith and Travis Head either side of the rain delay steadied the Australians, and even put them as the marginal favorite for a short time. In a dramatic incident, England's players thought they had got Smith in the final over of the morning session but Stokes, who took a fine, leaping, one-handed catch off the batter's glove, lost control of the ball as he brought his arm down and brushed his thigh. He was adjudged to have dropped the ball before having complete control.

Woakes and Ali turned the match around after the resumption, which came at 4.20



England's Stuart Broad celebrates bowling out Australia on day five of the fifth Ashes Test match between England and Australia, at The Oval cricket ground in London. (AP)

p.m. local time and gave England 47 overs to capture victory under what had quickly become a sunny sky in south London. They didn't need them all.

Head sliced Ali on the drive to Joe Root at slip for for 43, Smith - having just reached his 25th fifty against England - edged Woakes to Zak Crawley at second slip for 54, and Mitch Marsh drew a stunning diving catch from Bairstow after an inside edge onto his pad off Ali.

England claimed a fourth wicket in 19 deliveries when Mitchell Starc edged Woakes to Crawley, again demonstrating safe hands, for a second-ball duck and Australia captain Pat Cummins (9) was the next to depart, top-edging Ali onto his pad and to Stokes coming round from leg-slip.

Stokes, mindful of his botched catch earlier in the day, held onto the ball with a broad grin on his face.

Then it was left to Broad, steaming in through the shadows in a scene familiar to many, to clean up the tail and he walked off the ground to a standing ovation and with a stump in his hand.

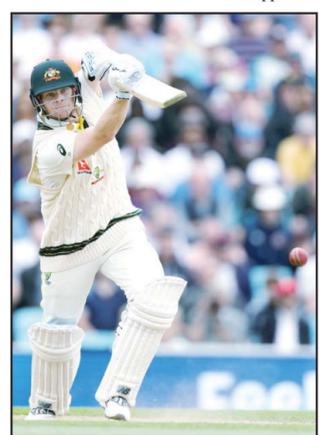
Australia was looking to complete the highest-ever chase at The Oval, where the team became world test champions by beating India in early June. It would have been the eighth highest chase in test history and the second highest by Australia.

"Going one further would have been nice," Cummins said, "but in saying that I think we can be really proud of retaining the Ashes and the way we have played."

As it was, England recovered for the 2-2 draw - just like in 2019.

It was a series that just kept on giving, from the first ball of the first test slapped for four by Crawley at Lord's right through to Broad's fitting finale.

"The ebbs and flows of this Ashes series have been incredible to be a part of and to watch," Starc said, "and it didn't disappoint."



Australia's Steven Smith plays a shot off the bowling of England's Mark Wood on day five of the fifth Ashes Test match between England and Australia, at The Oval cricket ground in London. (AP)

Change Name

Earlier my name was MOHAMMAD ISMAEL SIDDIQUI. I have changed it to MOHAMMAD ISMAEL. I should be known by this name my passport no.M7062442 and My Kuwait civil id no.273121303626 MOHAMMAD ISMAEL S/O MOHAMMAD ISHAK SIDDIQUI south tola marwtiya ward no.9 bansgaon gorakhpur pin code. 273403

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France need draw against Panama to advance

Marta heads into Brazil's final group game tearfully reflecting on her legacy

LA Angels 'cool' off MLB leaders Braves

Reds win series opener vs Cubs

ATLANTA, Aug 1, (AP): Luis Rengifo, Randal Grichuk and Chad Wallach hit solo homers off Charlie Morton, Chase Silseth won his second straight start and the Los Angeles Angels cooled off the major league-leading Atlanta Braves with a 4-1 victory on Monday night.

Matt Olson's NL-best 36th homer and major league-leading 89th RBI made it 2-1 in the fifth, helping the Braves join the 2019 Minnesota Twins as the only teams with 200 long balls before August. Atlanta began the game with 31 more homers than the Los Angeles Dodgers, the No. 2 team.

Los Angeles two-way star Shohei Ohtani went 2 for 3 and was robbed of a three-run homer by center fielder Michael Harris II in the ninth.

BASEBALL

Silseth (3-1) started in place of Griffin Channing, who was scratched with what Channing described as "general soreness. Making his third major league start, Silseth gave up three hits and one run in five innings as the Angels won for the 10th time in 13 games.

Morton (10-9) lost his third straight start, allowing six hits and three runs in six innings.

Reds 6, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Joey Votto, Christian Encarnacion-Strand and Will Benson each had two hits, and Cincinnati beat Chicago in the opener of a key four-game series between NL Central contenders.

After Andrew Abbott struggled, six Cincinnati relievers combined for 5 2/3 innings of one-run ball. Buck Farmer (3-4) got five outs for the win, and All-Star Alexis Diaz worked the ninth for his 32nd save in 33 opportunities.

Cincinnati (59-49) improved to 4-3 on a 10-game trip. It also increased its lead in the division to 1 1/2 games over Milwaukee.

Dansby Swanson hit his 13th homer for third-place Chicago (53-53), and Yan Gomes had three of the team's eight hits. But the Cubs were unable to overcome another shaky performance by Marcus Stroman (10-8).

Rockies 4, Padres 3

In Denver, Ryan McMahon hit a sacrifice fly with the bases load in the bottom of the 10th inning, lifting Colorado past San Diego.

McMahon also homered and doubled, Elehuris Montero also had two hits and Brad Hand (3-1) got the win for Colorado. Rockies second baseman Brendan Rodgers made his season debut with a single in four at-bats as the designated hitter.

Trent Grisham hit a solo homer off Justin Lawrence with two outs in the ninth to tie it but San Diego failed to score in the 10th after loading the bases with no outs.

Colorado also loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom of the inning, and after a force play at home, McMahon

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 1, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Monday.

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	5	NY Yankees	1	—
LA Angels	4	Atlanta	1	—
Baltimore	4	Toronto	2	—
Houston	7	Cleveland	3	—
Seattle	6	Boston	2	—
Philadelphia	4	Miami	2	—
Washington	5	Milwaukee	3	—
Cincinnati	6	Chicago Cubs	5	—
Colorado	4	San Diego 10 Inns	3	—
Arizona	4	S. Francisco 11 Inns	3	—

American League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	65	41	.613	—
Tampa Bay	65	44	.596	1-1/2
Toronto	59	48	.551	6-1/2
Boston	56	50	.528	9
New York	55	51	.519	10

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	54	53	.505	—
Cleveland	53	54	.495	1
Detroit	47	59	.443	6-1/2
Chicago	43	64	.402	11
Kansas City	32	75	.299	22

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	60	46	.566	—
Houston	60	47	.561	-1/2
Los Angeles	56	51	.523	4-1/2
Seattle	55	51	.519	5
Oakland	30	77	.280	30-1/2

National League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	67	37	.644	—
Philadelphia	57	49	.538	11
Miami	57	50	.533	11-1/2
New York	50	55	.476	17-1/2
Washington	45	62	.421	23-1/2

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cincinnati	59	49	.546	—
Milwaukee	57	50	.533	1-1/2
Chicago	53	53	.500	5
Pittsburgh	47	58	.448	10-1/2
St Louis	47	60	.439	11-1/2

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	59	45	.567	—
San Francisco	58	49	.542	2-1/2
Arizona	57	50	.533	3-1/2
San Diego	52	55	.486	8-1/2
Colorado	42	64	.396	18



Cincinnati Reds' Christian Encarnacion-Strand swings into an RBI fielder's choice off Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Marcus Stroman during the third inning of a baseball game in Chicago. (AP)

lofted a ball to left off of Nick Martinez (4-4) and Brenton Doyle beat Juan Soto's throw home to win it.

Astros 7, Guardians 3

In Houston, Yordan Alvarez hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning to put Houston on top after Noah Syndergaard exited his Cleveland debut with an injury.

J.P. France pitched seven strong innings for Houston, which moved within a half-game of idle AL West-leading Texas.

Cleveland fell one game under .500 and one game behind first-place Minnesota in the weak AL Central. Earlier Monday, the Guardians traded starting pitcher Aaron Civale to Tampa Bay for a minor league outfield prospect.

Syndergaard, acquired in a trade with the Los Angeles Dodgers last week, had allowed just two hits and Cleveland was up 2-0 when Jeremy Peña hit a ball that bounced off the pitcher's lower right leg. Syndergaard fielded the ball and got it to first for the out. But was lifted by manager Terry Francona.

France (7-3) yielded seven hits and two runs in seven innings for his fifth straight win. Eli Morgan (4-2) took the loss after replacing Syndergaard.

Phillies 4, Marlins 2

In Miami, Taijuan Walker became the first 12-game winner in the major leagues, throwing 6 2/3 solid innings in Philadelphia's win over Miami.

Walker (12-4) allowed two runs and six hits while striking out four to win his eighth decision.

Alec Bohm doubled, singled and had two walks and an RBI for the Phillies (57-49), who moved a half game ahead of the Marlins for the third NL wild-card spot.

Orioles 4, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Austin Hays made a lunging, game-saving catch of Whit Merrifield's liner in the ninth inning, and AL-best Baltimore remained unbeaten at Toronto this season.

Orioles closer Félix Bautista walked two with one out in the ninth before Merrifield lined a 99 mph fastball to left-center. Left fielder Hays sprinted toward the ball, left his feet and grabbed it just before he hit the turf. Bautista then struck out Santiago Espinal to complete the five-out save, his 29th in 34 opportunities.

Gunnar Henderson homered for Baltimore, which swept a three-game series at third-place Toronto in May. Ryan Mountcastle doubled twice and drove in three runs as the Orioles maintained their 1 1/2-game lead over Tampa Bay in the AL East.

Rays 5, Yankees 1

In New York, Tyler Glasnow pitched seven strong innings and Tampa Bay hit four early homers off spot starter Jhony Brito to beat New York.

Brandon Lowe launched a two-run drive in the first and Wander Franco added a solo shot in the third before Isaac Paredes and Josh Lowe went back-to-back in the fourth.

Glasnow (5-3) allowed three hits and struck out eight for Tampa Bay, which is behind first-place Baltimore in the AL East and leading the wild-card standings. Robert Stephenson and Pete Fairbanks finished the three-hitter.

Nationals 5, Brewers 3

In Washington, Joey Meneses homered and drove in three runs, and Washington handed Milwaukee its fourth straight loss.

Lane Thomas had a pair of RBI singles for Washington, which has won seven of 11 overall and eight of its last

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Aug 1, (AP): Marta arrived at her sixth Women's World Cup expecting to go deep into the tournament. Then a loss to France put Brazil in jeopardy of being eliminated in group play, and one of the greatest players has been forced to examine her own legacy.

The veteran forward, who has been used sparingly in this tournament, is trying to become the first player, female or male, to score in six different World Cups.

She could get a chance Wednesday against Jamaica in the Group H

finale played in Melbourne, where a win would guarantee the Selecao advance to the knockout round for their seventh consecutive World Cup.

A draw would put Brazil's fate in the outcome of France's game against Panama, and, possibly end Marta's World Cup career. She began to cry Tuesday when asked about her legacy.

"When I started playing I didn't have an idol, a female idol," she said through a translator. "You guys didn't show any female games. How was I supposed to understand that I

could arrive at a national team and become a reference?"

Now she's 37 and supporters regularly stop her to tell her their daughter strives to be like Marta.

"I am very happy to see all of this now because 20 years ago, nobody knew Marta," she said. "It was my first World Cup. Twenty years later, we have become the reference for many women all over the world, not only in football, in journalism as well, we see many women journalists here today."

Marta didn't expect to be so reflective this early in the tournament. But she's forced to face it because the World Cup could end for Brazil much earlier than expected.

"Of course, (it) is going to be a nervous game because it is (like) a knockout game - that started a little bit earlier than we expected," she said. "But I believe we have a very qualified team. When we're playing a World Cup, we have to be prepared for everything. Of course, my experience and other players that have already experienced this moment, we're going to do our best to keep our team confident."

Brazil coach Pia Sundhage wouldn't say if Marta will be in the starting lineup against Jamaica, or be used as a late substitute. Marta did not start in a 4-0 win over the Panama or in the loss to France.

"You will see who is in the starting lineup. This old lady, she's important for all of us with all the experience she has," Sundhage said. "The game plan will be important against Jamaica because it's now or ever. We have the chance to play some great football and try to win the game."

Jamaica is expecting Brazil to have made major adjustments following its loss to France. Jamaica, which played to a scoreless draw against France and earned a 1-0 win over Panama, can reach the knockout stage with a win or draw over Brazil. Tie-breakers would come into play if the Reggae Girlz lose, but Panama beats France.



Marta

Japan switch tactics for another big win

Stajcic leaves as head coach of Philippines Women's WC team

SYDNEY, Aug 1, (AP): The Philippine Football Federation said Tuesday that Alen Stajcic has decided not to continue as head coach of its national soccer team just two days after the side played its final group game at the Women's World Cup.

The federation said the Australian coach is set to "explore other options" after he was recently linked with the vacant role with Perth Glory's A-League men's side.

Stajcic is a former coach of the Australian women's team who was removed from his position just before the 2019 Women's World Cup in France. No official reason was given by Australian officials.

The Philippine federation praised Stajcic for "changing the landscape of Philippine football forever" after taking the country to its first World Cup.

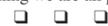
His side upset co-hosts New Zealand in a historic 1-0 win but lost later matches to Switzerland and Norway, including a 6-0 defeat Sunday to the Norwegians that meant the Philippines would not qualify for the knockout stage.

Previously, Stajcic led the Philippines to the semifinals of the Asian Cup and helped the team achieve its best world ranking of 46.

"Beating New Zealand on home soil and scoring our first World Cup goal and getting our first win was the things that dreams are made of," Stajcic, 49, said in a statement.

"And despite the scoreline, the last match against Norway, where 34,000 patrons attended, with 30,000 singing for the Filipinas, brought shivers down our spine. It showed that football does belong in the Philippines, and that legacy

is something we are all proud of."



Japan held the ball far less against Spain than it did in its first two Women's World Cup matches and yet kept right on scoring.

Japan switched tactics in its final Group C match, moving from a possession-oriented style to quick counterattacks. The result was a 4-0 trouncing of the sixth-ranked team in the world, a first-place finish in the group, and a display of versatility that makes Japan look like a serious title contender.

SOCCER

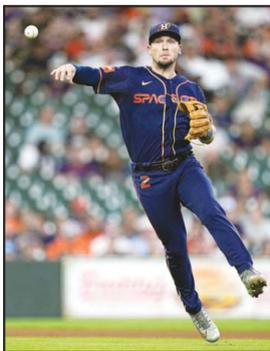
Playing in a stadium dominated by their fans, the Japanese team and again swarmed the Spanish offense, stole the ball, and moved up the pitch as aggressively as possible. Japanese forward Hinata Miyazawa scored twice and said she "never imagined" such offensive power.

"Achieving the result is something that is a great pleasure for me," she said. "It's everybody's goal together, not just me."

Miyazawa's performance against Spain was the latest in a run that's elevated her to one of the tournament's best forwards. She has four goals and an assist in three games.

It's a remarkable turnaround from Japan's 2019 performance at the Women's World Cup, when the entire team scored three goals in four games.

Japan's aggressive play was noticeably different from Spain's approach. The Spanish took their time in possession, moved the ball around and tried to poke holes in the Japanese backline. It didn't work and Japan claimed its third shutout through three games at the tournament.



Houston Astros third baseman Alex Bregman throws out Cleveland Guardians' Josh Naylor on a ground ball during the third inning of a baseball game in Houston. (AP)

nine at home.

Joey Wiemer homered for the Brewers, who are chasing first-place Cincinnati in the NL Central.

Diamondbacks 4, Giants 3, 11 Innings

In San Francisco, Ketel Marte hit a tiebreaking double to the warning track in right-center with none out in the 11th inning and Arizona denied San Francisco a third straight walk-off win.

Taylor Rogers (5-4) gave up Marte's hit to score Gerald Perdomo, who began the inning on second base.

Emmanuel Rivera hit a go-ahead single in the 10th only for the Giants to even it in the bottom half when Kevin Ginkel (5-0) threw a wild pitch that scored Brandon Crawford for the tying run. Ginkel recovered for the win.

Mariners 6, Red Sox 2

In Seattle, Cal Raleigh hit two solo homers off Nick Pivetta, Julio Rodriguez added a two-run single in a four-run eighth inning, and Seattle moved a season-best four games over .500 with a win over Boston.

Seattle (55-51) concluded its most successful month of the season, going 17-9 in July and inched closer in the AL West and wild-card races.

Raleigh's two homers were the only mistakes by Pivetta (7-6), who pitched 7 1/3 innings, allowed five hits and struck out 10.



England fans watch a screening of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 Group D match between England and China, in London. (AP)

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"It's a cat and mouse game. There's going to be adjustments," Jamaica coach Lorne Donaldson said. "We're going to try to mimic some stuff, but we're not France. They're totally different from us. France's tactics worked, and we're not going to use the tactics France used. We're going to use the tactics that our players are capable of doing."

Jamaica, playing in its second World Cup, will have Bunny Shaw back in the lineup and Donaldson said the veteran forward's return is enormous for the team.

"I don't know if I need a description. She's a big target. I'll call her a weapon," Donaldson said. "She scores goals, she's the all-time leading goal scorer in Jamaica, men's or women's, and I think that speaks for itself. She's a very technical player, just a solid footballer."

Panama vs France

France goes into its last Group F match needing only a draw with Panama to advance.

But even a loss in Sydney on Wednesday would get Les Bleus into the next round if Jamaica beats Brazil in a game being played simultaneously in Melbourne. Panama, playing in its first World Cup, has already been eliminated following losses to Brazil and Jamaica.

Panama has lost its last four international matches. France, ranked fifth in the world by FIFA, has seven wins and two draws in its last 10 international matches.

South Africa vs Italy

South Africa and Italy square off with a spot in the round of 16 up for grabs in a Group G finale played in Wellington.

Italy, with a win over Argentina but a loss to Sweden, sits second in the group and can advance to the round of 16 with a win over South Africa. A draw would be enough if Sweden beats Argentina, but a loss to South Africa would send the Italians home.

South Africa has to beat Italy to advance. A loss or draw leaves South Africa's fate to the result of Argentina's match against Sweden.

The Banyana Banyana picked up their first-ever point at the World Cup with a 2-2 draw against Argentina, but an opening game 2-1 loss to Sweden has them really needing their first win the tournament.

Argentina vs Sweden

Sweden can use its final Group G game as a warmup because the Swedes have already locked themselves into the round of 16.

Argentina's only direct route into the next round is a victory, coupled with a draw between South Africa and Italy.

Sweden has had a relatively smooth run with a 2-1 win over South Africa, followed by a 5-0 win over Italy. Argentina lost 1-0 to Italy in the opening game, then played South Africa to a 2-2 draw.



U.S. supporters react ahead of the Women's World Cup Group E soccer match between Portugal and the United States at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

Sports

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US 'slip' into round of 16, England rout China

Denmark set up encounter with co-hosts Australia

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Aug 1, (AP): A goal post saved the United States from elimination at the Women's World Cup.

Ana Capeta nearly scored for Portugal in stoppage time but her shot hit the left post and the United States escaped with a uninspiring 0-0 draw Tuesday night that got them through - just barely - to the knockout round.

The U.S. won only one game in group play for the first time in tournament history, scoring just four goals over three games. With the scoreless draw, the United States fell to second in the group behind the Netherlands and will head to Melbourne, Australia, for a round of 16 match on Sunday.

"We should have put some in the back of the net and we didn't. We own that," Alex Morgan said. "We're not happy with the performance we put out there. But at the same time, we're moving on."



James

The Americans, the most successful team ever at the World Cup with four titles, have never been eliminated in the tournament's group stage. But they looked shaky against the Portuguese, who were playing in their first World Cup.

The Portuguese players sobbed on the field after the final whistle after having come oh-so-close to upsetting the mighty United States. Capeta's shot about two minutes into stoppage time looked so good that her coaches started celebrating and the players on the bench jumped to their feet.

Lynn Williams, who started for the U.S. for the first time in the tournament, had a chance on a header in the 14th minute but Portugal goalkeeper Ines Pereira smothered it. While the U.S. controlled possession and had the better chances, the team could not finish and the game was scoreless at the break.

Rose Lavelle picked up a yellow card in the 38th minute, her second of the group stage, and she won't be available for the team's round of 16 match.

The frustration of the U.S. fans at Eden Park was evident at the break, when there were scattered boos among the crowd as the teams headed for the tunnel. Early in the second half, a fire alarm went off in the stadium but it turned out to be a malfunctioning sprinkler.

The United States had a free kick from a dangerous spot in the 57th minute, but Morgan's header popped up well over the goal. She put her hands to her face in exasperation.

Rapinoe came in as a sub in the 61st minute, but the Golden Boot winner at the 2019 World Cup couldn't find that elusive goal.

U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski tweaked his starting lineup for the match and started both Williams and Lavelle for the first time at this World Cup. He had started Trinity Rodman at forward and Savannah DeMelo in the midfield for the team's first two games.

Lavelle boosted the team when she came in at halftime against the Netherlands on Thursday in Wellington when a lackluster opening half sent the Americans into the break down 1-0 to the Dutch. Lavelle's corner to Lindsey Horan gave the Americans a 1-1 draw in the match.

But the energy just wasn't there against Portugal and the Americans seemed lost and unorganized for most of the match. In a post-game huddle, defender Kelley O'Hara, one of the veterans, shouted at her teammates.

The United States last lost in the group stage to Sweden at the 2011 World Cup, but the Americans still advanced to the final match before losing on penalties to champion Japan.

The Americans have not needed the third and final group-stage match to learn their tournament fate since 2007, when there was only a slim chance for elimination. A loss to Portugal on Tuesday could have ended the tournament for the Americans.

Going into the match, the United States sat atop Group E even on



United States' Naomi Girra (right), and Portugal's Diana Silva compete to head the ball during the Women's World Cup Group E soccer match between Portugal and the United States at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

points with the Netherlands but holding an edge on goal differential. But the Netherlands erased that advantage and took the group lead with a decisive 7-0 victory over Vietnam, in a match played simultaneously in Dunedin.

The Netherlands now heads to Sydney to face the second-place team from Group G, which includes Sweden, South Africa, Italy and Argentina. The United States plays the group's top team - likely Sweden.

England 6, China 1

In Sydney, with two goals and three assists, Lauren James made a big impact as England advanced to the knockout stage with a 6-1 rout of China.

The Chelsea forward scored her second and third goals of the tournament with two wonderful strikes as the European champions finished atop Group D with three straight wins.

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Alessia Russo, Lauren Hemp, substitute Chloe Kelly and Rachel Daly also added goals at Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium, and China's Wang Shuang pulled one back from the penalty spot.

China's worst-ever loss at the tournament means it failed to advance from the group stage for the first time at a Women's World Cup.

Denmark finished second to England in the group, advancing after a 2-0 win over Haiti.

England next plays Nigeria in the round of 16 on Monday in Brisbane, kicking off three hours before Denmark plays co-host Australia in Sydney.

The Lionesses equaled their biggest-ever World Cup win, matching the margin against Argentina in 2007.

England also set a World Cup record by scoring in 16 consecutive games at the tournament.

England just had to avoid defeat to be guaranteed a place in the knockout stage after back-to-back wins of Haiti and Denmark.

Even with a 100% winning start there had still been questions over England's performances, while a knee injury for Keira Walsh raised concerns about how coach Sarina Wiegman would replace one of her key players.

While the loss of Walsh is a setback for England, the emergence of James has made her one of the stars so far in the tournament.

After her brilliant winner against

Denmark, she narrowly missed a hat trick against China. A VAR ruling deprived her of a goal just before halftime.

James was the provider as Alessia Russo got England off to a flying start in the fourth minute. With her first goal of the tournament, Russo controlled James' header and fired low past goalkeeper Zhu Yu.

Hemp scored England's second in the 26th, with James the provider again after swift counterattack.

James struck from the edge of the box in the 41st and, after Wang scored from the spot in the 57th, she provided the moment of match with a left-foot volley into the top corner.

James was the provider again with a perfectly-weighted pass beyond China's defense for Kelly to score England's fifth in the 77th. Daley rounded off the scoring in the 84th.

Denmark 2, Haiti 0

In Perth, Denmark advanced to the round of 16 of the Women's World Cup for the first time since 1995 after beating Haiti 2-0 in its last group-stage match. The win sets up a round of 16 matchup against tournament co-host Australia in Sydney next Monday.

Denmark's goals came courtesy of a penalty kick by Pernille Harder in the 21st minute and a calm finish by Sanne Troelsgaard in stoppage time. Haiti exits the tournament without any goals or points to show for its World Cup debut despite pushing Group D winner England all the way in its opener.

A handball from Haiti's Dayana Pierre-Louis led to a penalty kick for Denmark in the 21st minute. Star forward Pernille Harder sent the keeper the wrong way to score her 71st career international goal. It was the third penalty Haiti conceded in as many games in Australia.

Sanne Troelsgaard put the game out of reach in the 10th minute of stoppage time with a composed finish after a Danish counterattack.

Despite its efforts, Haiti was unable to create many scoring opportunities. Denmark limited Haiti to two shots on target, earning its second shutout of the group stage.

With the win, Denmark placed second to England in Group D and booked its place in the knockout stage. The Danes, who are making their first World Cup appearance since 2007, will face co-host Australia in the round of 16 in Sydney.

Denmark will play Group B winner Australia in Sydney on Monday, Aug. 7 in the round of 16. Haiti is out of the tournament after finishing last in Group D.

Uruguay defender Godin ends playing career

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 1, (AP): Former Uruguay defender Diego Godin retired from professional soccer on Monday, ending a 20-year career at age 37.

SOCCER

Godin played in four World Cups and spent much of his club career in Spain, notably at Atlético Madrid from 2010 to 2019. This season, he played in Argentina for Velez Sarsfield.

"Dear soccer, today I am finishing a stage of my life. A

stage that was my life," Godin said in his social media channels. "I am coming back home with my family now. That's something I always wanted. Since the moment I left, I wanted to enjoy my country and my family."

Godin announced his retirement a day after his final appearance for Velez in a 1-0 loss to Huracan.

The Uruguayan also had spells at Villarreal, Inter Milan and Cagliari. He arrived at Velez in the second half of 2022 after a disappointing stint at Brazil's Atletico Mineiro.

Godin played more than 600 professional matches and scored 38 goals in his career. He lifted 10 titles, including two at the Europa League.

WC Standings

BRISBANE, Aug 1, (AP): Women's World Cup standings on Tuesday:

Group A									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
*-Switzerland	3	1	2	0	2	0	5		
q-Norway	3	1	1	1	6	1	4		
e-New Zealand	3	1	1	1	1	1	4		
e-Philippines	3	1	0	2	1	8	3		

Group B									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
*-Australia	3	2	0	1	7	3	6		
q-Nigeria	3	1	2	0	3	2	5		
e-Canada	3	1	1	1	2	5	4		
e-Ireland	3	0	1	2	1	3	1		

Group C									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
*-Japan	3	3	0	0	11	0	9		
q-Spain	3	2	0	1	8	4	6		
e-Zambia	3	1	0	2	3	11	3		
e-Costa Rica	3	0	0	3	1	8	0		

Group D									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
*-England	3	3	0	0	8	1	9		
q-Denmark	3	2	0	1	3	1	6		
e-China	3	1	0	2	2	7	3		
e-Haiti	3	0	0	3	0	4	0		

Group E									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
*-Netherlands	3	2	1	0	9	1	7		
q-United States	3	1	2	0	4	1	5		
e-Portugal	3	1	1	1	2	1	4		
e-Vietnam	3	0	0	3	0	12	0		

Group F									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
France	2	1	1	0	2	1	4		
Jamaica	2	1	0	1	0	4	0		
Brazil	2	1	0	1	5	2	3		
e-Panama	2	0	0	2	0	5	0		

Group G									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
q-Sweden	2	2	0	0	7	1	6		
Italy	2	1	0	1	1	5	3		
South Africa	2	1	0	1	3	4	1		
Argentina	2	0	1	1	2	3	1		

Group H									
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
Colombia	2	2	0	0	4	1	6		
Germany	2	1	0	1	7	2	3		
Morocco	2	1	0	1	1	6	3		
South Korea	2	0	0	2	0	3	0		

Note 1: Standings read as played won draw lost goals for goals against and points.
Note 2: * denotes qualified as group winners for the knockout stage.
Note 3: q denotes qualified for the knockout stage.
Note 4: e denotes eliminated.



England's Alessia Russo (left), battle for control of the ball with China's Yao Wei during the Women's World Cup Group D soccer match between China and England in Adelaide, Australia. (AP)

Tuchel bids Mané farewell

Fabinho follows Jordan in leaving Liverpool to move to Saudi Arabia

LIVERPOOL, England, Aug 1, (AP): Liverpool lost another midfielder to the emerging Saudi Pro League on Monday when Brazil midfielder Fabinho joined Al-Ittihad, the team where Karim Benzema and N'Golo Kanté now play.

Fabinho moved for a reported 40 million pounds (\$51.5 million) to end his five-year stay at Liverpool, which he joined from Monaco.

His exit comes a week after Jordan Henderson left Liverpool after 12 years to join another Saudi team, Al-Ettifaq. Roberto Firmino also moved to the oil-rich kingdom after his contract expired at Liverpool.

The Saudi league hopes to raise the profile of soccer in the country by signing some of the world's top players. Cristiano Ronaldo moved to Al-Nassr in December.

The 29-year-old Fabinho made 219 appearances for Liverpool and helped the club win the Champions League in 2019 and the Premier League a year later.

Fabinho was not always a regular for Liverpool last season after a loss of form. Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has overhauled his midfield by signing Argentina's Alexis Mac Allister and Hungary captain Dominik Szoboszlai, and the club is now searching for a holding midfielder to replace Fabinho.

"It's been five years wearing this jersey and always with the greatest honor and happiness possible," Fabinho wrote in a post on X, formerly

known as Twitter.

"Since day one at Liverpool, I've been embraced by everyone. What I saw inside this club, the relationship between the people there, made me feel like family. In these five years, I grew as a player, as a man, I made dreams come true."

Al-Ittihad said Fabinho has signed a three-year deal. Bayern Munich coach Thomas Tuchel said Tuesday he shared a hug with Sadio Mané and is saddened the Senegal forward couldn't top his full potential in Germany ahead of his looming move to Saudi Arabia with Al-Nassr.

Mané is expected to leave the German champion after a single season that was marred by injury and a lack of goals. After Tuchel took over in March, he was often a bench player.

"It was kind of sad. We had a long hug but we had both a smile on our faces and we assured ourselves to keep the good relationship. It's not personal from his side. I can totally understand that he feels hurt. I feel also not happy if things like this happen," Tuchel said in Singapore during Bayern's pre-season tour.

SOCCER

"We didn't bring it to the full potential, which is my job also and my responsibility. So it's always kind of a sad moment but in this particular situation it was the best solution to untie the knot."

Mané is set to become the latest world soccer star to head to Saudi Arabia and would join up with Cristiano Ronaldo at Al-Nassr.

German broadcaster Sky Sport reported Monday that Mané had said it was painful to leave Bayern and that he believed he was still useful to the team.

Tuchel said he was surprised by the "gold rush" unleashed by Saudi Arabia's clubs over the last year and compared it to similarly lavish spending in the Chinese league in the 2010s, something which has since eased up.

"We're experiencing the next league who tries to become more popular, more famous, who tries to build a brand, and they convince a lot of players, a lot of quality players and even coaches," Tuchel said. "So a completely new situation and a bit too early for me to have a clear opinion. I'm an observer, a surprised observer."