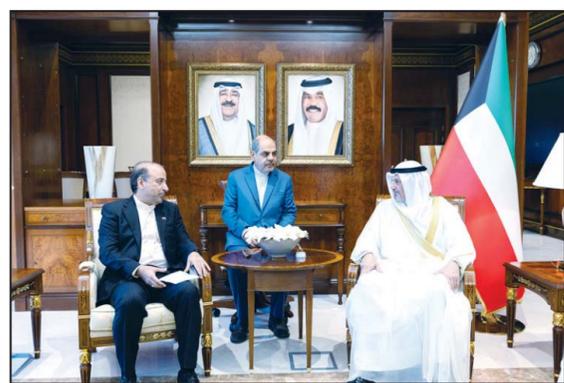




# Kuwait, Saudis affirm Durra rights

Call on Iran to negotiate

Loss of coveted triple-A an embarrassment



Ministry of Foreign Affairs photo  
Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the credentials of newly appointed Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Totonchi on Thursday. During their meeting, the two sides discussed the Kuwaiti-Iranian relations and Ambassador Totonchi handed the Foreign Minister a letter from his Iranian counterpart Dr Hossein Amirabdollahian, which included an invitation for an official visit to Iran.

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (KUNA):** The State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterated Wednesday that they have full right to own all natural resources of the Divided Zone, including Al-Durra oilfield.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have the exclusive and sovereign right to utilize the wealth in this zone, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a press release, citing a joint statement by both countries.

The statement reiterated the call for Iran to engage in negotiations with both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as one negotiating party over the eastern borders of the Divided Zone, pursuant to the rules of the international law and the principles of neighborliness.

## Impact of US downgrade assessed

WASHINGTON, Aug 3, (AP): Late Tuesday, Fitch Ratings became the second of the three major credit-rating firms to remove its coveted triple-A assessment of the United States government's credit worthiness, a move that spurred debate in Washington about spending and tax policies.

Fitch cited the federal government's rising debt burden and the political difficulties that the U.S. government has had in addressing spending and tax policies as the principal reasons for reducing its rating from AAA to AA+.

Fitch said its decision "reflects the expected fiscal deterioration over the next three years, a high and growing general government debt burden, and the erosion of governance" compared with other countries with similar debt ratings.

The downgrade may have little impact on financial markets long-term or on the interest rates the U.S. government will pay.

Fitch's move comes just weeks after the White House and Congress resolved a standoff on whether to raise the government's borrowing limit. An agreement reached in late May suspended the debt limit for two years and cut about \$1.5 trillion in spending over the next decade. The agreement came after negotiations approached a cutoff date after which Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen had warned the government would default on its debt.

The Biden administration reacted angrily to the move. Yellen said Wednesday that Fitch's "flawed assessment is based on outdated data

and fails to reflect improvements across a range of indicators, including those related to governance, that we've seen over the past two and a half years."

"Despite the gridlock, we have seen both parties come together to pass legislation to resolve the debt limit," Yellen said.

But Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum and former director of the Congressional Budget Office, said that Fitch's decision was the right one, given that there are few efforts in Washington to address the government's longstanding budget deficit.

"This is about a fundamental mismatch over the long term between our spending growth and our revenue capabilities," he said.

Standard & Poor's removed its coveted triple-A rating of U.S. debt in 2011, after a similar standoff over the borrowing limit.

Fitch said that the ratio of U.S. government debt relative to the size of its economy will likely rise from nearly 113% this year to more than 118% in 2025, which it said is more than two-and-a-half times higher than is typically the case for governments with triple-A and even double-A ratings.

Ratings agencies like Fitch and its counterparts, Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service, rate all kinds of corporate and government debt, ranging from local government bonds to debt issued by huge banks.

In general, when an issuer of debt has its credit rating downgraded, that often means it has to pay a higher interest rate to compensate for the potentially higher risk of default it poses.

50s weekend

## Kuwait temp 5th in world

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3. (Agencies): Kuwait recorded the fifth highest temperature in the world recently, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to El Dorado Weather website, the temperature at Kuwait International Airport reached 51 degrees Celsius. Meteorologist Jamal Ibrahim confirmed to the daily that the temperature reached 51 degrees Celsius in Kuwait City and Jahra — the highest in the country.

He added the high temperature is considered a record; indicating it is extremely hot in the month of August, especially with the low humidity that reached five percent.

Temperature was forecasted to exceed 50 degrees threshold earlier Thursday with the scorching heat expected to proceed over the weekend.

Yasser Al-Bloushi, the chief marine forecaster at the department, told KUNA on Thursday the Indian seasonal depression coupled with very hot winds would remain prevalent throughout Kuwait, also forecasting some scattered dust waves.

Top heat was expected to reach as high as 51 degrees and would subside to 49 degrees at later hours. At night, the heat is expected to drop further to the 35-27 degrees level.

On Friday, the temperature would soar to the 47-49 degrees level and the lowest fall would be at 33-35 degrees range.

On Saturday, Al-Bloushi said maximum heat would be at the level of 50-48 degrees and the lowest at 32-35 degrees at night time.

Meanwhile, the electrical load index continued its rise for the second day, recording the highest electric load in the history of Kuwait at 1:00 pm Wednesday reaching 16,735 megawatts, reports Al-Rai daily.

### Opinion

## Without repeating ... 'Rejoice not at the wedding where divorce is at the door'

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah  
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

MAY the harmony between the parliament and the government continue forever, and be translated into the interest of the citizens, without being satisfied with four laws that did not provide any direct benefit to the Kuwaitis despite their importance, and remained insufficient.

We also hope that His Highness the Prime Minister will be convinced that those who raise the slogan of social justice and the preservation of rights have deceived the ministers and their boss for purely personal benefits and not to achieve this slogan at all. They will also be convinced that the political reform path must go through the interest of the citizens first.

This is due to the fact that it is the basis for judgment of any step taken by the government. The parliamentarians are the echo of the people's voices, even though they seek political and electoral gains, which they are trying to pass by issuing statements and threats to hold certain ministers accountable, and even the prime minister.

In this regard, it is necessary to look concerned and carefully address a vital issue that benefits all people in this country, which is the subsidy. It annually costs public funds KD 7 billion, equivalent to about USD 23 billion.

The interest is for the needy, not for everyone. For instance, does the prime minister, the speaker of the National Assembly, or the ministers and parliamentarians need a few bags of bread per month, or cheese or tea or salmon file and breaded shrimp to be subsidized by the state?

Are the palaces of the rich, which waste electricity and water, equivalent to the consumption of a citizen living in a modest house?

Aren't there about 120,000 citizens who are banned from traveling or are languishing in prisons as a result of their need to borrow, while successive governments and the current government did not move a finger to alleviate their grievances, even though they had spent billions on subsidies from which only a quota of merchants and owners of food and medicine agencies benefit?

They monopolize it to raise its prices, that is, they work with the popular Egyptian proverb - "Go up eating, go down eating".

In the latest report by the United Nations, the percentage of the poor, or rather those living below the poverty line among citizens, reached 20,000. If these are added to the 550,000 Kuwaiti borrowers, this means that half of the people are suffering from a crisis, including those who are involved in cases and are sentenced to prison for not being able to repay their debts.

Many of them are forced to educate their children in public schools, but we all know the extent of fraud and poor performance in them, and how the student graduates with ignorance, while the private education sector, which is supported by public money, has also become a source of enrichment at the expense of the Kuwaiti generations.

The needy do not benefit from the subsidy. A sum of just KD 2 billion is enough to pay off their loans in one year. The state can save KD 5 billion in the event that it stops subsidies, and allocates a cash allowance for the needy, which will cost not more than KD 1 billion annually.

Continued on Page 3

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In this photo released Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, by Sepahnews of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, the Guard's speedboats move during a drill in the Arabian Gulf. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched a surprise military drill Wednesday on disputed islands in the Arabian Gulf, just as the U.S. military increased its presence in the region over recent ship seizures by Tehran. (AP)

Fighting resumes at refugee camp

## Lebanon may intervene in camp violence

SIDON, Lebanon, Aug 3, (AP): Lebanon's caretaker prime minister called the Palestinian president Thursday to demand an end to the volatile situation in the country's largest Palestinian refugee camp, warning that Lebanese troops may intervene to stop the fighting that has left dozens dead and wounded.

Najib Mikati's call with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas came after days of sporadic clashes between Palestinian factions in the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp near the southern port city of Sidon.

Mikati called the fighting a "flagrant violation of Lebanese sovereignty" and said it was unacceptable for the warring Palestinian groups to "terrorize the Lebanese, especially the people of the south who have embraced the Palestinians for many years," according to a statement released by his office.

His call came as cautious calm returned to the camp and surrounding area Thursday after a night of renewed clashes.

Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, which is home to about 50,000 people, has been rocked since Sunday by fierce battles between Abbas' Fatah party and Islamist groups Jund al Sham and Shabab al Muslim.

Fatah has accused the Islamists of gunning down a Fatah military general, Abu Ashraf al Armoushi, in the camp on Sunday.

The fighting has so far killed more than a dozen people, wounded dozens more, and displaced thousands.

In the city of Sidon, outside the camp's borders, around 100 camp residents who had fled the clashes were sheltering in a nearby mosque on Thursday. Sheikh Ahmad Nader said that around 2,000 people had sheltered at the mosque since the beginning of the clashes.

"We are tired of all of this," said Mohamed Sabakh, an Ein el-Hilweh resident staying in the mosque with his family. "We have children."

Even outside the camp, Sabakh said, they feel trapped by the fighting.

"Look around you, all the stores are closed. People are locked down in their houses. There is nowhere to get bread even, all the roads are closed."

Dr. Riad Abu al-Einein, head of Al Hamshari Hospital near the camp, told The Associated Press that the hospital had received the body of a person killed in Wednesday night's clashes, bringing the total number killed in the battles to 13, with dozens more wounded.

If the situation continues, he said, "it will affect not only the families in the camp but all of the people in Sidon, especially as there were several rocket-propelled grenades and gunshots hit residential areas in the city," he said.

Maher Shabaita, head of Fatah in the Sidon region, confirmed that one of the group's members was killed in Wednesday night's clashes.

He said Fatah fighters had defended themselves after the Islamist groups attacked one of Fatah's centers in the camp, breaking a cease-fire agreement reached Monday, in what he described as part of a "project to destroy the camp and transform the camp into a camp of militants, possibly a camp of terrorists."

Palestinian factions in the camp have formed an investigative committee to determine who was responsible for Armoushi's killing and hand them over to the Lebanese judiciary for trial, he said.

The Lebanese army generally doesn't enter the Palestinian camps, which are controlled by a network of Palestinian factions, and hasn't taken an active role in the conflict in Ein el-Hilweh.

In 2007, the Lebanese army battled Islamist extremists in another Palestinian camp, Nahr al-Bared in north Lebanon, razing most of the camp in the process.

Elias Farhat, a retired Lebanese army general who is now a researcher in military affairs, said it was unlikely that the army would intervene in the Ein el-Hilweh clashes, because - unlike in Nahr al-Bared - the combatants haven't directly targeted the army.

## Burnings hit

BRUSSELS, Aug 3, (KUNA): The European Union Thursday reiterated its rejection of the burning of the Holy Quran as a "reckless act" saying it benefits those who want to divide the European society.

"Sweden and Denmark have been extremely clear in rejecting such reckless acts that are conducted by individual provocateurs which only benefits those who want to divide our society," EU spokesperson for foreign affairs and security policy, Nabila Massrali, told a press conference in Brussels.



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

### Day by Day

THERE are many witnesses who can testify that the thief stole planes, people's homes and their property. The thief is now known to the people of Dubai and he will get his punishment.

His actions have been exposed, and he is now known to authorities even in a country as far as Canada - the country whose nationality he has reportedly purchased.

According to the saying, if an individual were to witness their own faults, they would be overwhelmed by self-disapproval, leading to their emotional distress, as well as causing discomfort among those in authority.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

### NewsWatch

**NEW DELHI:** India will participate in a weekend meeting that Saudi Arabia is hosting to find a way to start negotiations to end Russia's war in Ukraine.

Saudi Arabia invited India to the two-day meeting in Jeddah and its "participation is in consonance with our long-standing position that dialogue and diplomacy is the way forward," Arindam Bagchi, the spokesman for India's External Affairs Ministry, told reporters in New Delhi on Thursday. (AP)

**LUCKNOW:** An Indian court on Thursday ruled that officials can conduct a scientific survey to determine if a 17th-century mosque in the country's north was built over a Hindu temple.

The Gyanvapi mosque in the holy Hindu city of Varanasi, an area Prime Minister Narendra Modi represents in India's parliament, is one of several mosques in northern Uttar Pradesh state that some Hindus believe was built on top of demolished Hindu temples. (AP)

**RIYADH:** The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Wednesday denounced the "heinous" attack that targeted a public bus in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, which claimed several deaths and injuries.

The OIC, in a press release, reiterated its principled position rejecting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, considering that targeting innocent civilians is an unjustifiable act. (KUNA)

**ABU DHABI:** Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) contributed fire engines and medical equipment to the battle against wildfires in the rural areas of Latakia, north Syria.

Four fire engines, two ambulances, and medicines have been sent to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Latakia as part of the UAE's humanitarian support for Syrian people, the UAE news agency (WAM) reported on Wednesday.

The UAE Embassy in Damascus also recently inaugurated its first Co-ordination Office for Foreign Aid in Syria, which aims to coordinate the UAE's charitable work to provide aid to beneficiaries, as well as monitor relevant projects. (KUNA)

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	03:41	Asr .....	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:09	Maghrib ..	18:39
Zohr .....	11:54	Isha .....	20:04

# Local

## Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 15-40 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

## Weather

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-35 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	51	38
Kuwait Airport	51	37

Abdaly	51	33
Jahra	52	37
Salmiyah	47	37
Ahmadi	44	38
Nuwaisib	50	35
Wafra	51	33

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

## 'Females embraced martyrdom, played active role with resistance forces'

# Kuwaiti women boldly confronted Iraqi occupiers in '90-'91 aggression

By Zahraa Al-Kadhmi

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (KUNA): Kuwaiti women had a significant and important role that history would never forget in confronting the Iraqi occupiers, with a record of highest degree of sacrifice for their homeland, since the gloomy date August 2, 1990.

As soon as the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait took place, whose painful 33rd anniversary occurred yesterday (Wednesday), Kuwaiti women recorded a historical epic in defending the homeland and resisting the occupiers, leading to the liberation of the country.

Examples of the heroism and sacrifices made by the women and their courage in facing the treachery of the neighbor will remain in the memory of the Kuwaitis.

Marking the occasion, KUNA met Thursday with families of two female martyrs Wafa Al-Amer and Suad Al-Hassan in addition to professor of political science Dr. Haila Al Mukaimi, to talk about the role of the women during this painful stage.

The mother of Suad Al-Hassan, said her daughter made many heroic acts during the Iraqi invasion, even though she was only 19 years old at the time, as she stood in the face of the enemy in defense for Kuwait.

Al-Hassan joined resistance ranks from the first moments of the invasion and was a friend of the two martyrs Asrar Al Qabandi and Wafa Al-Amer, as they together helped out the resistance, where "she was working on car bombs and detonating them with Al-Amer and transferring weapons to resistance fighters," she added.

Al-Hassan was participating in all positions against the occupiers, she said. For example, at the Sheraton Hotel and Kaifan area she used to put toxic substances in food and distribute it to the occupiers. She also used to deliver money to the Kuwaiti resistance.



Martyr Wafaa Al-Amer



Martyr Suad Al-Hassan



Dr. Haila Al-Mukaimi

Her daughter was captured in January to be martyred 20 days before Kuwait's liberation in February 1991.

For her part, sister of martyr Wafa Al-Amer, told KUNA that her sister, who was 23 years old at the time, had made many heroic acts, indicating that the news of the occupation of Kuwait was appalling, she never accepted it. Al-Amer planned to be with the resistance, as she fought the armed occupiers out of love for Kuwait.

Al-Amer initially joined a group of Kuwaiti youth (February 25 Force), as she carried out the process of transmitting news, leaflets, and what the group's members needed of explosive materials. Because of her audacity, she was assigned to head a resistance group, she added.

She also detonated explosives in Al-Hasawi area, which was under control of the occupation forces. She blew up a restaurant in the Sulabikhat where the Iraqi forces were stationed, as well as bombing the 12th floor of the Hilton Hotel, where the occupation forces were stationed, the sister of Al-Amer said.

Her sister was happy with these operations, but after that martyr Suad Al-Hassan was arrested and Wafa Al-Amer was identified, she was then arrested in January for 20 days to be executed in February two weeks before Kuwait's liberation.

Al-Amer was executed by hanging, with traces of torture on her body and face, as her body was dumped in front of her house in the Adailiya area, she said. The sister expressed her pride in the martyrdom for the homeland and her happiness that over these years, people still remember the martyr Wafaa Al-Amer and her heroism.

For her part, political science professor Dr. Haila Al Mukaimi told KUNA that Kuwaiti women played an active role during the Iraqi invasion, as they participated in the resistance in all its forms, starting from steadfastness to civil disobedience and martyrdom. In all of her roles, she was the mother, sister and daughter supporting the man.

Al-Mukaimi added that Kuwaiti women presented the most beautiful images of sacrifice, represented by a group of martyrs that are all remembered to this day, such as Asrar Al-Qabandi, Suad Al-Hassan, Samira Ma'arafi and others, to emphasize the Kuwaiti society's rejection of the invasion and devotion to the homeland.

There is an unforgettable scene, she said, when Asrar Al-Qabandi reached the most watched American program presented by the famous media icon, Oprah Winfrey. Al-Qabandi spoke to Oprah and told her exactly what was happening from the occupation soldiers, including assaulting people, killing children, destroying, burning wells and sabotaging.

The number of martyrs during the period of the Iraqi invasion reached 968 martyrs, 876 men and 92 women, from 14 different nationalities, including Kuwaiti, in addition to illegal residents.

# Nationality for Bedoun martyrs kin

Malls, airport exhibitions highlight sacrifices



The Martyr's Monument.

## Martyr's Park depicts sacrifices

By Meshari Al-Kandari

The Martyr's Park (Al-Shaheed Park) marks the anniversary of the flagrant Iraqi aggression that happened on August 2, 1990.

In revived memory of the martyrs, the Memorial Museum stands out as the icon for permanent eulogizing of the devout citizens who sacrificed their souls

for Kuwait. Equally symbolic at the park is the Martyr's Statue.

The museum presents detailed information about battles that had happened on the Kuwaiti soil, namely the old battles of Al-Reqaa, Al-Sereef and Al-Jahraa as well as the Iraqi aggression on the country, shedding light on the patriots' resistance against the occupiers and their sacrifices. (KUNA)

## Contracts to be awarded mid-Aug

# Step towards road maintenance

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: MEED magazine said that the Ministry of Public Works is preparing to award tenders for the huge road maintenance program by mid-August, as the project implementation period is three years, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The project includes road maintenance, bridge maintenance, and storm water improvement works in various parts of the country, including the capital, Hawalli, Farwaniya, Jahra, and Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

The cost of the project is expected to range between 220 million dinars and 240 million dinars (\$726 million-\$792 million), while the scheme is open to international contractors and includes a total of 10 bids that require road maintenance work.

The bid was open exclusively to international companies: 6 from Turkey, 6 from India, 5 from Japan, 4 from China, 3 from France, 3 from South Korea, and one each from America, Germany and Hungary.

These companies include: Shimizu Corporation (Japan), Nippo (Japan), Kaihatsu Kogyo (Japan), Itochu (Japan), Toa Corporation (Japan), Daewoo Engineering & Construction (South Korea), Hyundai Engineering & Construction (South Korea) and Korea Expressway Corporation (South Korea), Sinohydro Co., Ltd. (China), China First Highway Engineering (China), China State Construction Engineering (China), China Jizoba Group Co., Ltd. (China), Eiffage Construction (France), Colas (France), Eurovia (France), Dogus Construction and Trade (Turkey), Eser Contracting and Industry (Turkey), Limak Construction (Turkey), Onur Contracting, Transportation, Construction, Trade and Industry (Turkey), Tekfen Construction and Installation (Turkey), GAP Construction Investment and Trade (Turkey), Strabag International (Germany), S&S Paving & Construction (USA), Mega Engineering & Infrastructure (India), Gawar Construction (India), Raj (India), Apco Infratech Private (India), Infrastructure & Developers Lakshmi (India), Laresen & Toubro (India) and Duna Group-Dunaazfzalt ZRT (Hungary).

## KFU up in arms

# 'Decision not fair'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Kuwaiti Fishermen Union (KFU) says removing fishing trawlers from the Naqat Al-Shamian by a government committee, despite a decision issued by the Services Committee in the Council of Ministers to keep fishing vessels in Naqaa until an alternative is provided, is tantamount to a declaration of 'war' on the local produce, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a statement, the Union said what is happening is a catastrophe by all standards, after the fishermen's village was removed to make way for a different project in its place after promises were made to find an alternative village more than 23 years ago but nothing has happened.

Now they take away the only place where fishing boats can be moored, without providing an alternative place.

The Union appeals to His Highness the Prime Minister to support the fishermen, and to stop the un-studied decisions that are taken without knowing the implications thereof, indicating that the same situation occurred years ago and the Services Committee in the Council of Ministers stopped it, and asked the Kuwait Municipality to provide an alternative within three years, but until this date nothing has happened.

He pointed out that some parties deliberately spoil the fishermen's joy with the start of the fishing seasons, and put tons of challenges and obstacles to coincide with the shrimp fishing season.

**Jarallah gets new post:** Fahd Al-Jarallah has been officially appointed as Assistant Undersecretary for State Property and Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Finance, reports Al-Rai daily.

This came after the issuance of a decree on Al-Jarallah's appointment.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Assistant Undersecretary at the Amiri Diwan and the Director General of the Martyr's Office Salah Al-Awfan says, "The office has submitted all the files of the Bedoun martyrs' families to the Ministry of Interior in preparation for considering their naturalization according to the procedures and laws regulating the process", reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Awfan said this in an exclusive press statement issued on the sidelines of the activities held in honor of the martyrs and their families, which the office organized on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the Iraqi invasion.

Al-Awfan said, "The office organized activities and exhibitions in various commercial complexes in the country, as well as in the Kuwait International Airport's T1 terminal and the Museum of Remembrance in the Shaheed Park.

Commemorating the invasion is part of what the Martyr's Office is doing to perpetuate the memory of the righteous martyrs of Kuwait, and turn it into an occasion to remember the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Kuwait.

The activities include an exhibition titled "The Most Expensive Homeland" held in complexes through panels bearing pictures and names of 1,317 martyrs of 14 different nationalities who sacrificed themselves for the sake of Kuwait.

Kuwait International Airport is also witnessing part of the activities by distributing the slogan of the martyr's fingerprint to travelers and returnees to the country.

## Martyrs

The office is currently expanding horizontally in the various complexes and public places frequented by citizens and residents to place the monuments and murals of the martyrs in them in order to introduce the visitors to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Kuwait.

There are nearly 1,000 martyrs who died for this good land during the period of aggression. Their blood was spilled to defend it and liberate it from the brutal invasion, thus proving that nothing is more precious than the homeland.

Regarding the targeting of young people and children, Al-Awfan explained that the office, through this matter, aims to introduce young people to the heroics of the martyrs and urge them to love and defend the homeland and strengthen their patriotic spirit.

A number of cooperation protocols has been signed with the Ministry of Education to reach the largest segment in public schools through a competition dedicated to the students of the Ministry of Education for the intermediate and secondary levels.

There are also previous protocols for introducing the stories of the martyrs in the educational curricula and providing school libraries with the epics written about the martyrs who defended the homeland.

One of the most important policies of the Martyr's Office management is to work on perpetuating the memory of the martyrs. The office therefore seeks to organize events in public places and other activities in a manner that is appropriate to the names of the martyrs of Kuwait and the recommendations of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Minister of the Amiri Diwan.

It is noteworthy that the Martyr's Office held a number of exhibitions in the Avenues, 360, Assima, Al-Kout, Al-Hamra and Al-Khairan malls, in addition to Al-Shaheed Park and Kuwait International Airport's T1 terminal.

## Summarized

Regarding the upcoming activities of the Martyr's Office, Al-Awfan affirmed that they are summarized as follows:

1. Establishing Academy 5, which will be innovative and effective for the children of the martyrs.
2. Honoring the children of outstanding martyrs under the auspices of the Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs and Head of the Office of Trustees of the Martyr's Office.
3. Participating in the Kuwaiti-Egyptian exhibition in Cairo in November.
4. Preparing an integrated plan for the celebrations of national holidays, the activities of which will be mainly held in Shaheed Park.
5. Producing new patriotic songs during national holidays.
6. Signing a protocol soon with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature for the renovation of the wing of the Martyr's Office in Beit Al-Qurain, which will be ready before February.
7. Executing the project of the Martyr's Monument, which was chosen from one of the designs of Kuwait University students. It will begin after the end of the Engineering and Structural Planning Office. It is awaiting the Municipal Council's licenses to launch the project and start implementing it on the roundabout opposite the main building of the Martyr's Office.



KUNA photo

A copy of Al-Seyassah newspaper issued from the city of Jeddah during the invasion.

## Anti-occupation fight from abroad

By Maha Al-Barjas

The Kuwaiti press successfully rose up to the challenge and bore the national responsibility 33 years when tanks of the defunct Iraqi regime's aggressors rumbled into the country.

Bent on supporting the national legitimacy and the just cause of Kuwait, the publishers scrambled into action abroad to hit the stands and promote the national cause against the occupation.

Al-Anbaa daily newspaper had chosen Cairo as the venue for its external offices, in addition to Al-Qabas International that published in London, Al-

Seyassah (Jeddah) and Sawt Al-Kuwait -- the latter came to light after the invasion.

The Kuwaiti newspapers abroad at the time affirmed loyalty to the legitimate leadership, covered Kuwaiti political and diplomatic activities at the Arab and international levels, broadcast news about the hard seven months of the aggression, the patriotic Kuwaiti resistance and Kuwaitis' conditions in the stricken homeland and abroad.

The Kuwaiti press archive is rich in reports about practices of the occupiers and the Kuwaitis' steadfastness. (KUNA)

## Other Voices

# Sixty co-ops, sixty problems

By Ahmad alsarraf

After more than sixty years of the experience of cooperative societies, it has been proven that their harms and corruptions are much more than their advantages.

In an interview with brother Muhammad Al-Shaya, the well-known businessman, he said that Kuwait, and perhaps North Korea and Cuba, are still among the rare countries that follow the system of cooperative societies, and how wrong and unreasonable that we have sixty cooperative societies with sixty boards of directors, sixty general managers, a sales manager, legal advisor, personnel manager, and an army of workers, securitymen, clerks, and administrators for each association.



alsarraf

Al-Shaya suggested abolishing the current structure or system of cooperative societies, by establishing two or three publicly owned companies, so that they would do the same work that societies do, albeit in a more effective and professional manner, so that huge savings could be achieved, by reducing the huge administrative expenses, and have the greater negotiation ability when purchasing, providing better goods, at a better price, and more advanced service.

These new companies can buy the

properties of the associations, so that each one of them will have 20 associations, for example, distributed equitably geographically, and their capital and properties, and the shares of their shareholders will be transferred to the new companies, and this can be done in more than one satisfactory way for the residents of the area, and for the new shareholders in the new companies, which will offer its shares for public subscription, so that its incorporation laws prevent any party from owning more than a certain percentage of its shares.

The new situation will also end the chronic headache that the Ministry of Social Affairs suffers from with the boards of directors of these associations, which may not have been spared from corruption or suspicions, and members of their boards of directors stealing their money, and forcing the ministry to isolate the violating board, and refer all or some of its members to the prosecution to investigate them for the actions attributed to them, to appoint temporary boards of directors in their place, then to go back and hold elections for a new board of directors, so that ruin and corruption will return again and again, endlessly.

Muhammad Al-Shaya's proposal is worth considering and adopting, as the current system of cooperative societies is ruined, harmful, and dilapidated. It encourages corruption and waste, and has no effective effect on any party. It is like a cancer whose time has come to be eradicated.

His e-mail: [a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw](mailto:a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw)

## Vacancies in co-ops for Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: A total of 11 cooperative societies have joined the Fakhru (our pride) platform to offer vacant leadership and supervisory job positions to citizens. Also, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) added 15 supervisory positions in six cooperative societies, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The announced jobs included three vacancies in Al-Naseem, Sabah Al-Salem Suburb, and Sulaibiya cooperative societies. Bayan Cooperative Society offered four vacancies. Siddiq, Adan and Qusour

cooperative societies offered one vacancy each.

The job titles awaiting citizens include heads of accounting, procurement, and IT departments, deputy general manager of financial and administrative affairs, and commercial and marketing affairs sectors, and the position of general manager.

The plan to amend the demographics continues in coordination between the concerned state authorities, as there are many privileges to encourage Kuwaitis to work in the cooperative sector.

## 'Decline in Kuwait's int'l activity and influence raises concerns'

"ONLY now, the importance of Kuwait's reputation has become evident to some of us, while unfortunately not everyone realizes its significance. When we reflect honestly, we must question why Kuwait's reputation was not a concern in the past, even when it faced internal challenges that tarnished its image on the global stage, not just in sports but in various other activities," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"When discussing Kuwait's reputation and our efforts to uphold it, the conversation should encompass all sectors -- the people, the National Assembly, and the government, rather than being limited to certain interests. True champions of Kuwait's reputation are those honorable citizens who are genuinely hurt by the negative impact on their beloved country, and who selflessly strive to improve it without personal gain.

"Perhaps those who lament Kuwait's tarnished reputation should ponder about the nation's previous influential roles in the Gulf, Arab, Islamic, and global spheres. There was a time when Kuwait played a significant role in international affairs, with heads of state, government officials, and foreign ministers frequently visiting the country for consultations and cooperation. Unfortunately, much of this has diminished today.



Talal Al-Saeed

"The decline in Kuwait's international activity and influence raises concerns about the nation's standing in the world. The loss of respect and cooperation from foreign powers, who once sought assistance from Kuwait, speaks volumes about the current state of affairs.

"To preserve Kuwait's reputation and restore its former glory, it is crucial to address the factors leading to the relocation of foreign embassies and the departure of international banks and companies. The strict bureaucratic procedures, corruption, and lack of concern for Kuwait's best interests by some officials have driven away potential partners and investors.

"Focusing solely on Kuwait's reputation without addressing these underlying issues will not yield significant improvements. It requires a comprehensive approach that addresses internal challenges and promotes transparency, efficiency, and integrity in the nation's governance.

"Let us not merely talk about Kuwait's reputation; let us take meaningful action to revitalize its international presence and regain the trust and respect of the global community. Together, we can build a brighter future for Kuwait and its people."

**Also:**

"For over two decades, my focus has been on documenting legislative improvisation within the National Assembly, where laws are hastily passed by taking advantage of a majority presence," columnist **Dr Muhammad al-Maqati** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"When a parliamentarian gains a majority, they often rush to enact laws, prioritizing their own agenda without proper consideration for societal, political, and legal controversies.

"They seem unconcerned about opposition and push laws through, as if deciding matters stealthily, without people's input and sufficient time for review.

"An example of this rush was seen in the adoption of Law No. 44 of 1994, which violated the precise provisions of the Constitution defining Kuwaiti origin and who has the right to run for office.

"This pattern of legislative improvisation continued with issues such as climate crisis repercussions and the constituency law (Nabiha Khums). The latter led to a distorted electoral system that undermined Kuwait, allowing fragmentation and sectarian polarization.

"Unfortunately, pride and euphoria in the majority clouded the judgment of the wise leaders, leading them to introduce weak and distorted amendments without referring laws to the Legislative Committee.

"This misconception led lawmakers to believe they could legislate according to their personal preferences, which is an erroneous and invalid approach.

"In this atmosphere, an amendment to the Constitutional Court Law was passed, potentially challenging constitutional principles of justice, fair trial, and separation of powers.

"The High Electoral Commission and electoral system laws were also approved in a defective and derogatory manner, driven by the arrogance of an irrational parliamentary majority.

Despite alternative proposals, the law was rushed through within hours, putting the country at risk unless it is rejected by the government and the Amir. Activating Article 66 of the constitution or challenging it in the Constitutional Court could be options to address this issue.

"In conclusion, legislative improvisation has resulted in a violation of the constitution and denial of its provisions, creating a concerning situation for Kuwait's governance and stability."



"Kuwait can withstand the short term, relying on the layer of grease that erodes with the passage of time as a result of the increase in commitments, but not the medium and long terms," columnist **Abdulaziz Al-Kandari** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Over the past few days, most of the proposals presented by members of the National Assembly are

implausible. Also, some of them acted as if the election is on the doorstep, so you find comical proposals that no one presents at the beginning of his political career. Everyone who wants to enter into political work must realize that it is not a field for individual action and imposing ideas, but serving people and easing their lives.

"We were ecstatic after the Assembly election and formation of the parliamentary governmental committee to coordinate efforts, especially since the government did not interfere in the election or in the formation of parliamentary committees with good intentions and desire to start a new page..."

"Unfortunately, we witnessed a frantic race between some lawmakers distributing money to the people. It is clear in most of these proposals that they did not study the effects on Kuwaiti families. Thus, you find them confused, while increasing inflation and harming families. Why did they not study the impact of these proposals on the budget, as well as their effects in the medium and long terms before presenting them?"

"The budget for fiscal 2023/2024 has a deficit exceeding KD5 billion, as the total revenues will reach KD19.452 billion while the total expenditures will reach KD26.278 billion.

"The expected oil revenue in the next fiscal year is KD17.168 billion -- 19.5 percent lower compared to that of the previous fiscal year. The average price of a barrel of oil in the budget is \$70 with a production of 2.6 million barrels per day. The expected revenues amount to KD19.5 billion -- 88 percent of which come from oil. On the other hand, salaries and subsidies constitute 80 percent of the expenditures. All these figures entail that members of the Assembly and the government must find a radical solution.

"The government must reject non-serious financial projects that inflate the budget, especially since oil prices have been fluctuating over the past years. We heavily depend on oil as a source of national income -- around 90 percent. This is a very dangerous matter.

"Yes, certain people deserve increments such as retirees and landlords. Low salaries, or unifying the salary scale for the same specialization in various agencies, and entering through the door of retirees to spend other sums, are unacceptable and an illogical wastage."



"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."



"An important consumer issue has been surfacing in this country for quite some time now -- the high prices of many basic and non-essential commodities," columnist **Dr Essa Al-Omairi** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Some prices increased by a reasonable percentage of five percent, which may be acceptable for majority of the consumers, but it may not be the case for the rest.

"In any case, we as consumers can accept this matter, but what is unacceptable is the insanely high prices of some commodities. This is a very dangerous matter that must be highlighted by everyone, because it is a form of price manipulation carried out by some weak-minded people. These people are away from serious oversight by the concerned authorities, led by the Ministry of Commerce, which should be responsible for controlling prices and does not let the consumer be an easy prey for weak-minded people without accountability.

"Today, more than ever, it is necessary for the ministry to take a transparent step to address this issue, which is an important concern for the consumers.

"Yes, we believe in the existence of the Free Trade Law in this country, but we do not believe and do not accept setting prices without any study or approval of the ministry. At least, let us say that they should keep pace with prices in the local market under the supervision of the ministry, as it does not make sense that everyone sets whatever price they want!"

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Minister of Health Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi with the employees of the Blood Bank.

KUNA photo

## 'MoH keen on expanding services, upgrading sector'

Chief lawmaker hails parliament achievements'

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (KUNA):** The Ministry of Health is keen on expanding services and medical centers at hospitals to improve this sector, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said Wednesday.

Al-Awadhi made the statement to KUNA during partaking in a blood donation campaign launched by the blood transplant department under his patronage on the 33rd anniversary of liberation of Kuwait.

On this occasion, the minister recalled all martyrs who sacrificed their souls for the sake of the homeland during the Iraqi invasion.

The ministry was eager to launch the campaign for the eighth year in a row to encourage Kuwaiti people to donate blood in order to help their patient brothers and sisters, he said.

**Delight**

He expressed his delight as both Kuwaitis and expats took part in the campaign and contributed to increasing the strategic stock of the blood bank.

He also lauded the role of military personnel from the Ministries of Interior and Defense, as well as the National Guard and the Kuwaiti Fire Force for their donation.

Al-Awadhi indicated that most of the ministry's hospitals have centers of blood donation ready to receive any donors.

He said that the ministry has spared no efforts to provide the state-of-the-art devices to make sure of the quality and safety of blood.

Kuwait has no shortage in blood, thanks to the efforts of the blood bank's workers and the keenness of Kuwaitis and expats on contributions to enhance the stock of the bank, he said.



**Achievements hailed:** Kuwait's top lawmaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun on Wednesday praised the outcome of the latest sessions of parliament as "fulfilling", saying the raft of legislation recently approved will be instrumental in bringing national aspirations to fruition.

These laws run the gamut from electoral legislation to social insurance policies, he told the closing session of parliament ahead of the forthcoming legislative term, underlining his optimism that lawmakers will continue to build on such progress.

He spoke of the "amity" that brings lawmakers and state ministers together for the best interests of the nation, saying such dedication will help place the country firmly on the path towards a "more prosperous future," as he looked forward to similar legislative success.

On the latest sessions of parliament, Kuwait's chief lawmaker said he noticed a "tangible" improvement in the



Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad during his meeting with the ambassador of Bahrain.

KUNA photo

### Kuwait, Bahrain eye boosting co-op

Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Bahraini Ambassador to the country Salah Al-Malki Wednesday discussed means of enhancing bilateral cooperation for mutual interests.

Sheikh Ahmad Fahad received

Ambassador Al-Malki in his office during which they reviewed issues and topics of common concern, the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces said in a news statement.

During the meeting, the two sides also stressed the deep-rooted historic relations between the two sisterly countries, it added. (KUNA)

### Three caught stealing diesel

## 118 law violators arrested

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3:** The security authorities have arrested scores of people -- violators of the residence and labor laws during inspection campaigns in Ahmadi, Hawalli and Farwaniya governorates, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Giving a breakdown, the Ministry of Interior said 113 violators of the residence and labor laws -- people of various nationalities -- were arrested.

The security follow-up also resulted in the arrest of a person accused of impersonating an embassy employee and smuggling domestic workers, sheltering them and employing them on hourly basis.

Moreover, four delivery workers were arrested and handed over to the competent authorities to take the necessary action against them.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of the Interior said personnel from the Criminal Investigation as part of its continuous efforts to protect government property have arrested three Arabs for stealing and selling subsidized diesel, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Without going into details the criminal security sector said the men were caught red-handed and have been handed over to the competent authority to take legal action against them.

cooperation between the country's legislative and executive powers, which will help translate the aspirations of Kuwaitis into realities, he said.

He went on to acknowledge the collective efforts of state bodies in achieving significant objectives, pointing out

that goals were accomplished with "promptness and efficiency."

Kuwait's top lawmaker adjourned on Wednesday the ordinary session of the National Assembly's 17th legislative term after the conclusion parliament's last session.

### Without

Continued from Page 1

Your Highness the Prime Minister, whoever talks about social justice, is reconciled with the waste of public money, because it is in fact a slogan that is popular with officials. It is right to say that it is a "social scam". Therefore, lifting subsidies and remedying low salaries is the only solution to get out of a circle that haunts the Kuwaitis.

For instance, we repeat the question once again - If a disaster occurs in one of the areas, will the government not rush to aid the affected ones? Will it hesitate because some people say all areas must receive aid too?

The honeymoon between the government and the parliament must translate into compassion for the citizens and alleviation for them, because it will otherwise end with the application of the popular proverb - "Rejoice not at the wedding where divorce is at the door."

## 17 kidney transplant operations carried out in 1 month

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3:** For the first time in the history of Kuwait, a total of 17 kidney transplant operations were carried out within one month in the country, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

This was announced by the Head of the Department of Organ Transplant Surgery at the Hamed Al-Essa Center, Dr. Saja Sorour.

In a press statement, she explained that increasing health awareness regarding the importance of organ donation of the living or dead played a vital role in carrying out this type of operation.

During the last period, the center witnessed continuous efforts to increase the capacity for kidney transplant operations, with the aim of ensuring saving on the general budget, and conducting operations in Kuwait instead of sending patients abroad.

The medical and nursing staff succeeded in increasing transplant operations, thanks to the efforts made by the President of the Kuwait Organ Transplantation Society Dr.

Mustafa Al-Mousawi.

There are 10 cases out of the 17 operations in which the kidneys were donated by the living, including relatives of the patient. This indicates an increase in health awareness among large segments of society. This contributed significantly to demonstrating the benefits of organ donation clearly, and its legitimacy and importance.

Dr. Sorour stressed the importance of this step in developing the activity of organ transplantation in the country over the past years.

She went on to explain that the other seven kidney transplant operations were done using the kidneys of brain-dead donors who opted to donate their organs before their death. All approvals were obtained from the patients before their death or from their relatives.

Dr. Sorour affirmed the need to donate organs after death to save the lives of others.



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Kuwait Fund contributed to issuance of UNSC Resolution No. 660

**'Global consensus in support of Kuwaiti rights'****KD 28.78 billion from oil exports**

Kuwait exports up 49 pct in 2022, reaching total value of KD 30.69b

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: During the past year, Kuwait's total exports reached around 30.69 billion dinars, marking a significant increase of 49 percent compared to the previous year when exports were approximately 20.6 billion dinars, reports Al-Rai daily.

The statistics on foreign trade, released by the Central Administration for Statistics, reveal that Kuwait's oil exports in 2022 accounted for about 28.78 billion dinars, making up around 93.8 percent of the total exports for that year. This figure represents a notable surge of about 52.55 percent compared to the oil export value of 18.87 billion dinars in 2021.

On the other hand, non-oil exports amounted to approximately 1.88 billion dinars in 2022, contributing about 6.2 percent to the overall exports. These non-oil exports saw an increase of 17.3 percent from the previous year, which recorded a value of around 1.6 billion dinars.

Looking at the quarterly figures, Kuwaiti exports for the fourth quarter of the past year amounted to roughly 6.787 billion dinars, showing growth of about 12 percent when compared to the same quarter of 2021, which saw exports worth approximately 6.06 billion dinars.

**Imports**

Regarding imports, Kuwait imported goods worth about 11.029 billion dinars in the past year, indicating a rise of 14.7 percent from the imports in 2021

valued at about 9.62 billion dinars. The last quarter of 2022 witnessed a growth of around 16.3 percent in imports, reaching 2.96 billion dinars, as opposed to approximately 2.55 billion dinars in the same quarter of the previous year.

Specifically, the total value of cars imported by Kuwait in the past year amounted to about 1.268 billion dinars, representing a 22.4 percent increase from the value of car imports in 2021, which stood at about 1.036 billion dinars.

Further details reveal that Kuwait's imports of vehicles for transporting people amounted to about 1.1 billion dinars in 2022, indicating a 25.1 percent increase from the previous year's value of 889.23 million dinars. Meanwhile, the country's imports of goods and transport vehicles amounted to about 155.59 million dinars last year, showing a 5.9 percent increase from the 2021 value of 146.86 million dinars.

The imports of half-milled or fully milled rice in Kuwait experienced a growth of 19.55 percent, reaching a value of 80.076 million dinars, in contrast to imports worth about 67 million dinars in 2021.

During the fourth quarter of the last year, the value of the country's imports of half-milled or fully milled rice amounted to about 21.3 million dinars, indicating an increase of approximately 71.9 percent compared to the same quarter in 2021, which recorded imports worth about 12.4 million dinars.

By **Mohammad Al-Mutairi**

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (KUNA): Acting Director General of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Walid Al-Bahar said that the unprecedented global consensus in support of Kuwaiti rights is due to the Kuwait foreign policy.

In a statement to KUNA on Thursday, Al-Bahar said that the fund was committed to fulfilling its mission and extending a helping hand to the beneficiary countries during the Iraqi invasion on Kuwait in 1990, which contributed greatly to the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution No. 660 condemning the brutal invasion and demanding the return of Kuwaiti



Al-Bahar

legitimacy with the vote of the vast majority of world countries without any opposition.

He explained that the Kuwait Fund is among the entities whose global development efforts have contributed to raising the issue of Kuwait in regionally and internationally.

Despite these difficult circumstances, Al-Bahar added, the Kuwait Fund continued its work based on the directives of the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who insisted that the Fund continue its work in development during the crisis.

Al-Bahar indicated that most of the countries that borrowed from the Kuwait Fund for Development came to the temporary funds HQ in the British capital, London, during the Iraqi invasion, expressing their willingness to repay their debt fully, if Kuwait was in urgent need of funds, as those countries wanted to help the Kuwaiti government in time of distress.

**Scams with HR credentials spread this summer season****Q1 of 2023 Kuwait sees a 27% increase phishing attacks compared to Q1 2022**

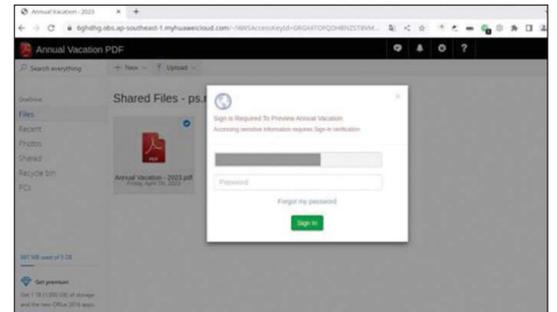
DUBAI, Aug 3: Scam and phishing are on the rise globally and in META, in particular in Q1 of 2023 Kuwait saw a 27% increase in the number of phishing attacks compared to Q1 2022. A holiday season is usually the time when cybercriminals intensify their activity. Summer time is not an exception: people are planning their vacations and dreaming of a nice time travelling or on the beach, becoming easy targets of summer scam campaigns.

Kaspersky found that over the summer months cybercriminals send out fake HR emails to employees in order to get corporate credentials. The aim is to get the phishing link clicked by the employee. In the emails, the attackers mention vacation schedule: sudden vacation rescheduling, the need to confirm the dates, or a clash with some important events. Given that many employees already have plans made, tickets bought, hotels booked, they are more likely to fall for it.

A closer examination of the above email showed that the sender was not a company employee; the "HR director" who "signed" was nameless and his signature does not match the organization's corporate style; hidden behind the link seemingly pointing to a PDF file was a completely different address.

It is also clear that the attackers know only the recipient's address. The automated mass mailing tool takes the company's domain name and employee's name from the address and automatically substitutes them into the imitation of the link and the sender's signature.

Even if the victim clicks the link, they can still spot signs of phishing on the attackers' website. The link in the above email directs to the page below:



Example of a fraudulent email.

The site is hosted not on the company's server, but in Huawei Cloud (myhuaweicloud.com), where anyone can rent space. The name of the file doesn't match the name of the PDF mentioned in the

email. There's not a single attribute on the site to connect it to the specific company. Once the victim enters their password in the login window, it goes straight to the cybercriminals' servers.

**H1 profits of 8 Kuwaiti banks surge, recording remarkable 47% increase**

Net profits reach KD758.58 mln

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The financial reports of 8 Kuwaiti banks for the first half of the current year, ending on June 30, 2023, unveiled a significant surge in their net profits, reaching 758.58 million dinars, representing a remarkable increase of 46.7% compared to their net profits of 517.07 million dinars for the same period in 2022, reports Al-Anba daily.**

During the first half, Kuwaiti banks demonstrated robust operating performance, supported by the growth in net interest income and fee and commission income. This growth was attributed to the benefits of the cycle of monetary tightening and the raised central discount rate of the Central Bank of Kuwait, which remained at 4% until the end of June. Notably, the Central Bank had raised the discount rate to 4.25% by the end of July of the same year.

The positive economic momentum, driven by strong consumer spending, further bolstered business activity, showcasing the operational prowess of Kuwaiti banks. Their success was attributed to their focus on core banking activities and prudent risk management, in line with the directives of the conservative and closely monitored Central Bank of Kuwait.

**Conventional**

Among the banks, the conventional ones accounted for 46.56% of the sector's profits, totaling 353.20 million dinars, while the Islamic banks contributed 53.44% of the profits, amounting to 405.37 million dinars.

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) emerged as the largest bank in terms of profits, generating 333.39 million dinars during the first half of 2023, exhibiting an impressive annual growth rate of 141.4%. It was followed by the National Bank of Kuwait with 275.34 million dinars, reflecting a growth rate of 15.8%. Boubyan Bank secured the third spot with profits amounting to 41.27 million dinars, marking a growth rate of 25%. Gulf Bank followed with a profit value of 35.84 million dinars, showcasing an annual growth rate of 18.3%.

The subsequent positions were held by the National Bank, Ahli United Bank, Burgan Bank, and Warba Bank, with varying profit values and growth rates.

In terms of operating revenues, the 8 Kuwaiti banks displayed a remarkable 26.14% increase, totaling 1.77 billion dinars during the first half of 2023. Kuwait Finance House (KFH) stood out with operating revenues of 734.36 million dinars, followed by the National Bank of Kuwait at 565.85 million dinars.

Regarding total assets, the combined value of the 8 banks' assets at the end of June 2023 reached 110.66 billion dinars, representing an 18.28% growth rate compared to the previous year.

**Activities offered at 11 youth centers**

More than 5K young men, women benefit from 'summer programs'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (KUNA): According to the Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Youth, Mishaal Al-Subaie, approximately 5,077 young men and women from various age groups are currently benefiting from a wide range of summer programs and activities offered at the authority's 11 youth centers.

These activities commenced at the beginning of July and will continue until the end of August, comprising over 100 diverse programs organized into ten different categories. The programs are tailored to the interests and ages of the youth, covering scientific, cultural, religious, social, and sports-related activities.

Among the prominent programs is "Tweeting the Noble Qur'an," which involves courses on intonation and memorization of the Prophet's (PBUH) hadiths. Additionally, the "Sports Academies" program features activities in football, swimming, padel, and various combat sports, with special sports events catered to individuals with disabilities.

Focusing on the intellectual and technological development of young minds, the "Youth Valley" program conducts training courses and scientific workshops. The "My Hobbies"

program aims to nurture and refine the youths' interests through courses and workshops encompassing cultural, artistic, craft, and scientific disciplines, with an emphasis on instilling noble values and strengthening their national identity.

The "Academy of Arts and Media" program enables young individuals to enhance their skills in artistic and media fields. Meanwhile, the "Future Leaders" program actively engages young people in interactive and field activities to foster leadership qualities from an early age.

Recognizing the importance of preserving heritage, the "Craft Courses" program offers workshops at the Qadisiyah Youth Craft Center to teach traditional crafts like making rosaries, built-in boxes, owls, copper items, and crochet accessories.

The "Volunteer Work Academy" program includes activities and training courses with enthusiastic participation from young people. Additionally, summer clubs have been established in various centers, providing age-appropriate activities and hobbies.

To accommodate remote learning, the authority introduced "Imkan platform," facilitating online training courses that have witnessed significant interest and enthusiasm from young participants, who are keen to learn and benefit from the provided programs.

Parallel to these activities, the authority has offered temporary job opportunities for high school students to work in centers and collaborate with different state agencies, with a strong emphasis on youth development and skill-building in various essential fields.



Al-Subaie



A course for volunteer work at the Daiya Youth Center.



Part of the activities of the (Valley of Youth) scientific program at the Palaces Youth Center.



Nutrition course at Shamiya Youth Center.

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## The Conversation

## Extreme heat is particularly hard on older adults

## Aging population, climate change put ever more people at risk

By Deborah Carr, Boston University; Giacomo Falchetta, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and Ian Sue Wing Boston University

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

Scorching temperatures have put millions of Americans in danger this summer, with heat extremes stretching from coast to coast in the Southern US. Phoenix hit 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius) or higher every day for over three weeks in July. Other major cities, from Las Vegas to Miami, experienced relentless high temperatures, which residents described as "hell on earth."

While the evening news runs footage of miserable sunbathers on Miami Beach and joggers in Austin, Texas, dousing themselves with water, these images conceal a growing hidden crisis: the millions of older adults who are suffering behind closed doors.

As researchers who study older adults' health and climate change, we have found that two societal trends point to a potentially dire future: The population is getting older, and temperatures are rising.

Some of the country's hottest states, including Arizona, are forecast to see dramatic growth in their older adult populations. But heat isn't just a problem in the South: Northern populations also face rising risks from extreme heat that many people aren't accustomed to.

Communities, families and older residents need to understand these risks and be prepared.

Triple-digit temperatures are miserable for everyone, but for older adults they can be deadly.

Older adults don't sweat or cool down as efficiently as younger people. Heat stress can worsen underlying conditions like heart, lung and kidney disease, and extreme heat can trigger delirium.

Poor air quality makes it harder to breathe, especially among people who already have breathing difficulties. For older adults with physical health problems, temperatures as low as 80 degrees F (26.7 C) – to say nothing of 110 degrees – can pose a grave danger.

Prescription medications make older people more sensitive to heat. Anti-

cholinergics, used to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, or COPD, reduce our capacity to sweat. Dehydration is a side effect of beta blockers and diuretics, which are used to help control blood pressure.

Medications also work best when stored at room temperatures of 68 to 77 degrees and may lose their effectiveness if not kept in a cool place on a very hot day.

And it's not just physical health that suffers.

Having to stay indoors all day to keep cool and enduring the stress of heat emergencies can make older adults depressed and isolated. Those with cognitive problems or dementia may not understand their health risks or may not take proper precautions. Seniors with physical disabilities, limited mobility or lack of access to transportation can't easily travel to a public cooling center – if there is one nearby.

## Communities

Retirees are often drawn to the South's sunny skies, low taxes and costs of living and amenities, like golf courses, beaches, health care facilities and age 55+ residential communities tailored to their needs. In Phoenix, the share of residents over age 65 is projected to rise from 10% of its 1.6 million residents today to roughly 17% by 2050.

At the same time that these populations are rising, the number of days people will need air conditioning is rising, too.

We used scenarios of future county-level population and climate model output from NASA to assess the consequences of moderate and dramatic warming. Our projections show that ever-rising numbers of older people are at risk of the harmful physical and mental health consequences of heat extremes.

We found that populations in historically hot locations like Arizona and desert regions of California are aging at a rapid clip, placing demands on cities, counties and states to meet the pressing needs of older residents during heat waves.

These include providing cooling centers and ensuring that they are physi-

cally accessible to those with mobility challenges, and training first responders to be sensitive to the special needs of older adults who may be reluctant to leave their homes during a heat emergency.

Communities also need to find effective ways to warn "snowbirds," vacationers or recent migrants who might hail from cooler climates and be less aware of, or adapted to, the risks of extreme heat.

Our research finds that historically cooler places like New England, the upper Midwest and the Pacific Northwest also have rising heat risks.

These regions – historically home to high shares of older adults – are projected to experience the steepest increases in heat exposure relative to temperatures historically experienced. Older adults who are accustomed to the New England chill may not fully understand the threats an extreme heat wave can pose, and they may underestimate the harm they might suffer from a day in the hot sun.

Older homes in the Northeast also tend to have less efficient cooling systems. Nighttime heat can be particularly harmful for those without air conditioning, including people who live in densely populated Northeastern and Rust Belt cities where "heat islands" trap temperatures. For older adults with health conditions, a night of restless sleep may make one more depressed and confused during waking hours.

Older adults and their caregivers can take some steps to adapt.

Stay indoors. Use air conditioning. Drink plenty of water. Don't use the oven, especially in small homes. Help an older adult with transportation to a cooling center. Place medications in the coolest spot in one's home. Be sensitive to symptoms like dizziness and call for medical attention as needed.

However, community-scale adaptations also are needed. Public investments in early warning systems for extreme weather, ride services to transport older adults to cooling centers and hospitals, geographic information systems to help first responders identify neighborhoods with high concentrations of older adults, and installation of energy-efficient air conditioning in homes and public settings can help to fight back against sweltering days in the future. (AP)

## Reward for right info

## Social media can in fact be made better

By Ian Anderson, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences; Gizem Ceylan, Yale University, and Wendy Wood, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

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

Is social media designed to reward people for acting badly?

The answer is clearly yes, given that the reward structure on social media platforms relies on popularity, as indicated by the number of responses – likes and comments – a post receives from other users. Black-box algorithms then further amplify the spread of posts that have attracted attention.

Sharing widely read content, by itself, isn't a problem. But it becomes a problem when attention-getting, controversial content is prioritized by design. Given the design of social media sites, users form habits to automatically share the most engaging information regardless of its accuracy and potential harm. Offensive statements, attacks on out groups and false news are amplified, and misinformation often spreads further and faster than the truth.

We are two social psychologists and a marketing scholar. Our research, presented at the 2023 Nobel Prize Summit, shows that social media actually has the ability to create user habits to share high-quality content. After a few tweaks to the reward structure of social media platforms, users begin to share information that is accurate and fact-based.

The problem with habit-driven misinformation-sharing is significant. Facebook's own research shows that being able to share already shared content with a single click drives misinformation. Thirty-eight percent of views of text misinformation and 65% of views of photographic misinformation come from content that has been reshared twice, meaning a share of a share of a share of an original post. The biggest sources of misinformation, such as Steve Bannon's War Room, exploit social media's popularity optimization to promote controversy and misinformation beyond their immediate audience.

## Re-targeting rewards

To investigate the effect of a new reward structure, we gave financial rewards to some users for sharing accurate content and not sharing misinformation. These financial rewards simulated the positive social feedback, such as likes, that users typically receive when they share content on platforms. In essence, we created a new reward structure based on accuracy instead of attention.

As on popular social media platforms, participants in our research learned what got rewarded by sharing information and observing the outcome, without being explicitly informed of the rewards beforehand. This means that the intervention did not change the users' goals, just their online experiences. After the change in reward structure, participants shared significantly more content that was accurate. More re-

markably, users continued to share accurate content even after we removed rewards for accuracy in a subsequent round of testing. These results show that users can be given incentives to share accurate information as a matter of habit.

A different group of users received rewards for sharing misinformation and for not sharing accurate content. Surprisingly, their sharing most resembled that of users who shared news as they normally would, without any financial reward. The striking similarity between these groups reveals that social media platforms encourage users to share attention-getting content that engages others at the expense of accuracy and safety.

## Engagement &amp; bottom line

Maintaining high levels of user engagement is crucial for the financial model of social media platforms. Attention-getting content keeps users active on the platforms. This activity provides social media companies with valuable user data for their primary revenue source: targeted advertising.

In practice, social media companies might be concerned that changing user habits could reduce users' engagement with their platforms. However, our experiments demonstrate that modifying users' rewards does not reduce overall sharing. Thus, social media companies can build habits to share accurate content without compromising their user base.

Platforms that give incentives for spreading accurate content can foster trust and maintain or potentially increase engagement with social media. In our studies, users expressed concerns about the prevalence of fake content, leading some to reduce their sharing on social platforms. An accuracy-based reward structure could help restore waning user confidence.

## Doing right &amp; doing well

Our approach, using the existing rewards on social media to create incentives for accuracy, tackles misinformation spread without significantly disrupting the sites' business model. This has the additional advantage of altering rewards instead of introducing content restrictions, which are often controversial and costly in financial and human terms.

Implementing our proposed reward system for news sharing carries minimal costs and can be easily integrated into existing platforms. The key idea is to provide users with rewards in the form of social recognition when they share accurate news content. This can be achieved by introducing response buttons to indicate trust and accuracy. By incorporating social recognition for accurate content, algorithms that amplify popular content can leverage crowdsourcing to identify and amplify truthful information.

Both sides of the political aisle now agree that social media has challenges, and our data pinpoints the root of the problem: the design of social media platforms. (AP)



Kuwait Music Academy to welcome internationally renowned Guitarist Virtuoso, Alexandre Kovalev



Leader of the Master Course Opera star soprano Alexandre Novina Chacinska



Triumphant Hassan Hajiyah with his teacher Kinga Masternak



Kinga Masternak singing during 'Final Concert of Masters'



Winners of Int'l Vocal Master Course in Poland. First three persons from the left are 'Voices from Kuwait' Kuwaiti winner, Hassan Hajiyah, his teacher Kinga Masternak and Aga Fajga (both Polish ladies-musicians lecturing in Kuwait)



Viktor Shramko presents certificate to Nigerian pianist



Viktor Shramko with the youngest student of Summer Course of KMA



Dmitri Krasnikov with Kuwaiti young pianist

## Kuwait's Hassan Hajiyah makes his mark on int'l stage

## 'Voices from Kuwait' triumphs on European stages

By Prof Cezary Owerkowicz  
Pianist, co-founder of KMA

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: 'Summer Time' is a beautiful song about the summer holiday by G. Gershwin. In Kuwait, the streets and shopping malls are deserted during summer. It is the opposite at the resorts and tourist destinations in different parts of the world; which are filled with people, music and many other attractions.

Summer is not a 'cucumber season' season everywhere. For years, summer is a time for music festivals. The most popular are various vocal festivals with a wide range – from operatic like Puccini's in Torre del Lago or Wagnerian in Bayreuth up to Chicago's pop music festival Lollapalooza. Most of them are drawing attention and are usually crowded.

Definitely, some families spend part or full summer holiday in the city, because of duties or other circumstances. For their children and youths everywhere, several local activities and courses are organized. Thanks to the information from Arab Times or About Kuwait (on the Internet), I noticed that the number and variety of such activities are growing constantly in Kuwait.

Since a few years ago, Kuwait Music Academy

(KMA) has been organizing music, vocal and instrumental summer courses. The activities became popular and packed. This year such courses started only two days after the school year ended and were conducted by renowned KMA lecturers – Viktor Shramko and Dmitri Krasnikov.

The International Summer Music Master courses are also well-known in Europe. This year, the voices from Kuwait sounded loudly in one of these courses, or we can even say 'dominated the course'.

The 21st Treasure of Talents Festival crowned the year 2022/2023 in KMA, owing to the enormous success of International Opera Soprano, Mrs. Alexandre Novina-Chacinska. She also conducted the Vocal Master Course for KMA students. The undisputed winner of the course was a Kuwaiti talented singer – Hassan Hajiyah who showcased excellent voice, musicality and stage presence. He is the student of pianist and vocal lecturer, Mrs. Kinga Masternak.

After such success, Hajiyah was invited to the 18th International Vocal Master Course in Poland, which is being conducted yearly by Mrs. Alexandra in different major cities and resorts in Poland. This year, the three-week long Master Course – Opera More – was held in the beautiful Lower Silesian city, Brzeg Dolny Palace

where Hajiyah repeated his success, so much that he was encouraged to consider pursuing Operatic studies at The Polish Music Academy.

At the Final Gala Concert entitled 'Pearls of the Vocal Classics', the winners performed a number of Opera, Operetta and Musical world hits. Surprisingly, there were more voices from Kuwait. Besides Hajiyah, two female academic musicians lecturing in Kuwait also participated – Kinga Masternak, an outstanding soprano singer and pianist who was there as a Concert Star; and talented cellist, Aga Fajga, who appeared as a soprano singer this time.

It is possible to say that voices from Kuwait dominated the renowned European Vocal Master Course this year. "It is a reason to be proud and congratulate them once they return home to Kuwait," says KMA Co-Founder Fajer Al-Mazidi.

In September, we will also welcome internationally renowned guitar virtuoso Alexandre Kovalev who will conduct guitar courses upon the invitation of KMA.

Apparently, 'Summer Time' and 'Voices from Kuwait' would sound strongly and beautifully in the country, as well as in summer, rather in all four seasons.

## The Conversation

## One of least-used letters appears throughout American culture

## X marks unknown in algebra – but X's origins a math mystery

By Peter Schumer  
Middlebury

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



Even though x is one of the least-used letters in the English alphabet, it appears throughout American culture - from Stan Lee's X-Men superheroes to "The X-Files" TV series. The letter x often symbolizes something unknown, with an air of mystery that can be appealing - just look at Elon Musk with SpaceX, Tesla's Model X, and now X as a new name for Twitter.

You might be most familiar with x from math class. Many algebra problems use x as a variable, to stand in for an unknown quantity. But why is x the letter chosen for this role? When and where did this convention begin?

There are a few different explanations that math enthusiasts have put forward - some citing translation, others pointing to a more typographic origin. Each theory has some merit, but historians of mathematics, like me, know that it's difficult to say for sure how x got its role in modern algebra.

**Ancient unknowns**

Algebra today is a branch of math in which abstract symbols are manipulated, using arithmetic, to solve different kinds of equations. But many ancient societies had well-developed mathematical systems and knowledge with no symbolic notation.

All ancient algebra was rhetorical. Mathematical problems and solutions were completely written out in words as part of a little story, much like the word problems you might see in elementary school.

Ancient Egyptian mathematicians, who are perhaps best known for their geometric advances, were skilled in solving simple algebraic problems. In the Rhind papyrus, the scribe Ahmes uses the hieroglyphics referred to as "aha" to denote the unknown quantity in his algebraic problems. For example, problem 24 asks for the value of aha if aha plus one-seventh of aha equals 19. "Aha" means something like "mass" or "heap."

The ancient Babylonians of Mesopotamia used many different words for unknowns in their algebraic system - typically words meaning length, width, area or volume, even if the problem itself was not geometric in nature. One ancient problem involved two unknowns termed the "first silver thing" and the "second silver thing."

Mathematical know-how developed somewhat independently in many

lands and in many languages. Limitations in communication prevented any immediate standardization of notation. However, over time some abbreviations crept in.

In a transitional syncopated phase, authors used some symbolic notation, but algebraic ideas were still presented mainly rhetorically. Diophantus of Alexandria used a syncopated algebra in his great work *Arithmetica*. He called the unknown "arithmos" and used an archaic Greek letter similar to s for the unknown.

Indian mathematicians made additional algebraic discoveries and developed what are essentially the modern symbols for each of the decimal digits. One especially influential Indian mathematician was Brahmagupta, whose algebraic techniques could handle any quadratic equation. Brahmagupta's name for the unknown variable was *yāvattāvāt*. When additional variables were required, he instead used the initial syllable of color names, like *kā* from *kālaka* (black), *ya* from *yavat tava* (yellow), *ni* from *nilaka* (blue), and so on.

Islamic scholars translated and preserved a great deal of both Greek and Indian scholarship that has contributed immensely to the world's mathematical, scientific and technical knowledge. The most famous Islamic mathematician was al-Khwarizmi, whose foundational book *Al-jabr wa'l muqabalah* is at the root of the modern word "algebra."

**So what about x?**

One theory of the genesis of x as the unknown in modern algebra points to these Islamic roots. The theory contends that the Arabic word used for the quantity being sought was *al-shayun*, meaning "something," which was shortened to the symbol for its first "sh" sound. When Spanish scholars translated the Arabic mathematical treatises, they lacked a letter for the "sh" sound and instead chose the "k" sound. They represented this sound by the Greek letter  $\chi$ , which later became the Latin x.

It's not unusual for a mathematical expression to come about through convoluted translations - the trigonometric word "sine" started as a Hindu word for a half-chord but, through a series of translations, ended up coming from the Latin word "sinus," meaning bay. However, there is some evidence that casts doubt upon the theory that using x as an unknown is an artifact of Spanish translation.

The Spanish alphabet includes the letter x, and early Catalanian involved several pronunciations of it depending on context, including a pronunciation akin to the modern sh. Although the sound changed pronunciation over time, there are still vestiges of the sh sound for x in Por-

tuguese, as well as in Mexican Spanish and its use in native place names. By this reasoning, Spanish translators conceivably could have used x without needing to resort first to the Greek  $\chi$  and then to the Latin x.

Moreover, although the letter x may have been used in mathematics during the Middle Ages sporadically, there is no consistent use of it dating back that far. Western mathematical texts over the next several centuries still used a variety of words, abbreviations and letters to represent the unknown.

For instance, a typical problem in the algebra book "Sumario Compendioso de Juan Diez," published in Mexico in 1556, uses the word "cosa" - meaning "stuff" or "thing" - to stand in for the unknown.

I think that the most plausible explanation is to credit the influential French scholar René Descartes for the modern use of x. In an appendix to his major work "Discourse" in the 17th century, Descartes introduced a version of analytic geometry - in which algebra is used to solve geometric problems. For unspecified constants he chose the first few letters of the alphabet, and for variables he chose the last letters in reverse order.

Although scholars may never know for sure, some theorize that Descartes may have chosen the letter x to appear often since the printer had a large cache of x's because of its scarcity in the French language. Whatever his reasons for choosing x, Descartes greatly influenced the development of mathematics, and his mathematical writings were widely circulated.

**Xtending beyond algebra**

Even if the origins of x in algebra are uncertain, there are some instances in which historians do know why x is used. The X in Xmas as an abbreviation for Christmas definitely does come from the Greek letter  $\chi$ . The Greek word for Christ is *Christos*, written  $\chi\rho\iota\sigma\tau\omicron\varsigma$  and meaning "anointed." The  $\chi\rho\iota$  monogram was used as a shorthand for Christ in both Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox writings dating back as far as the 16th century.

There are also some contexts in which x was chosen specifically to indicate something unknown or extra, such as when the German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen accidentally discovered X-rays in 1895 while experimenting with cathode rays and glass.

But there are other cases in which scholars can only guess about the origins of x's role, such as the phrase "X marks the spot." And there are other contexts - such as Elon Musk's affinity for the letter - that may just be a matter of personal taste. (AP)

**Back-to-school fear**

## Parents can help children deal with anxiety: expert

By Elizabeth Englander  
Bridgewater State University

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



As a child, I had a great deal of anxiety. If you've ever seen me speak in public, that might surprise you. But anxiety among children is extremely common and affects almost all children, to varying degrees.

During pre-pandemic times, researchers noted that as many as 7% of children had a diagnosable anxiety disorder that disrupted their everyday functioning. In addition, 20% had a tendency to feel anxious that didn't rise to the level of a clinical disorder. And all children feel anxious at some time or another.

Most researchers have found that anxiety in children increased during and after the pandemic. Lockdowns that isolated children from their peers and interruptions to their routines may have accounted for the findings in these studies.

As a researcher who's studied children's mental health for decades, I know that predictability helps prevent anxiety in children. Predictability means things going along as they've always gone: sleep at night, up in the morning, cornflakes for breakfast, off to school, activities in the afternoon, dinner with the family. In Louise Fitzhugh's children's novel "Harriet the Spy," Harriet's mother can't believe that her daughter always takes a tomato sandwich to school. Always. Harriet has no interest in variety. She's perfectly happy with the same sandwich, year after year.

Anxiety will crop up for many children again this fall, and it can be intertwined with other feelings, such as excitement and shyness. Here are steps parents can take to help reduce their kids' back-to-school anxiety and encourage a better start to the fall term.

**Look for general symptoms**

Ask your kids how they're feeling about going back to school, and keep an eye out for headaches, stomachaches, sleeping troubles, persistent "what if" questions, crankiness, excessive concern about very distant events, problems focusing on schoolwork and concerns that aren't alleviated by logical explanations. An example might be your children worrying that they won't have friends in school, even though they do have friends from their class last year; or concerns that while they're at school, something extremely unlikely will happen, such as the house being hit by lightning.

What's tricky, of course, is that any of these behaviors can be an indication of many different problems, so probe further. Talking to your kids about their thoughts may help you unravel whether they're feeling anxious.

**Encourage activities**

Playing outside, playing with friends or even just "hanging out" can be powerful ways to reduce negative feelings. Outdoors, people often feel more relaxed. Playing in an unstructured way - that is, without someone else telling them what or how to play - allows kids to work through their feelings and reduce anxiety.

**Limit kids' screen time**

Researchers have found that, post-pandemic, more children are using different types of digital devices, along with more social media apps. The significant body of evidence finding a link between excessive digital device use and anxiety suggests that these increases in device use may contribute to increased anxiety rates in children.

**Focus on family activities**

The emotional connection that children have with their families is their psychological anchor during difficult times. At a time of increased stress and uncertainty, spending time with family can be an antidote. Take a walk or a hike together, eat dinner together, or play board games. (AP)

**Embrace distraction (bold)**

Distraction isn't a cure for anxiety, but it can diminish its intensity and help sufferers think more clearly about the source of their worries. When children are feeling very anxious, it's fine to talk to them about how watching TV or reading a funny book can help them feel calmer.

**Get professional help**

If your child's anxiety is interfering with sleep, eating, socializing or school attendance, and it persists beyond a few days, it's a good idea to call your pediatrician or family doctor and report what's going on. Medical professionals who work with children have seen anxiety skyrocket among kids, and they know how to get your child the necessary help.

As with any back-to-school season, you may find yourself shopping for binders and backpacks. However, children and their anxiety may also need your attention. Practicing simple prevention and intervening when necessary can get your kids off to a great school year. (AP)



Students from GUST checked out Missouri S&T's bronze cast of St. Patrick during their campus tour. As the patron saint of engineers, St. Patrick and the holiday in his honor have played a large role in S&T's culture since the university's first St. Pat's celebration in 1908. Pictured, from left, are Farah Al-Bader, Abdulaziz Malallah, Mohamad Alaskandarani, Hiba Khan, Farah Kaafarani and Rayan Alebrahim.

## Kuwaiti students gain important life skills, positive experience in US

## Missouri S&amp;T hosts GUST students for summer program

ROLLA, Mo, Aug 3: Six undergraduate students from Gulf University for Science and Technology in Kuwait recently lived on the campus of Missouri University of Science and Technology for a month-long summer program and gained experiences similar to many American college students.

"We enjoyed taking part in several new experiences throughout our time in the United States," says Abdulaziz Malallah, a senior in visual communication. "This was my first time living away from my family, and I was able to grow as a person and become more independent. I gained some important life skills and had a positive experience."

While at Missouri S&T, the students completed an American history course with Dr. Petra DeWitt, associate professor of history and political science, and an energy engineering and economics course with Dr. Joseph Smith, professor of chemical and biochemical engineering.

"Both professors were respectful and welcoming," says Farah Kaafarani, a junior in visual communication. "They made efforts to include our cultures into their lectures and truly cared about our learning experiences."

Hiba Khan, a junior in computer science, expressed similar feelings.

"I didn't expect to enjoy the American history course as much as I did," she says. "Our professor was wonderful at storytelling and kept everyone engaged."

"Then, in our course with Dr. Smith, we covered some fascinating topics related to energy policies and resources."

The students toured multiple S&T facilities while in the U.S., such as the Missouri S&T Nuclear Reactor, Solar Village and the Wind Hazard Mitigation Laboratory, which can simulate natural hazards.

They also visited multiple destinations for the region and traveled to St. Louis, where Six Flags was a favorite attraction.

Locally, the students enjoyed Maramec Spring Park and being outside in nature.

"There is nothing in Kuwait quite like Maramec Spring," says Kaafarani. "It would be easy to spend the entire day there enjoying its beauty."

Other stops for the group included Lane Springs, Meramec Caverns, a local skating rink, an escape room, the Missouri Botanical Gardens, a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game and the St. Louis Zoo, among other destinations.

Malallah, Kaafarani and Khan agree they missed their family and Kuwaiti food, but they still enjoyed the summer program.

"We were able to do some video calls with our families, which helped," Khan says. "We also found some halal food options at restaurants and did some of our own cooking."

"The Missouri S&T staff also gave us some great assistance and resources that made us feel welcome, and we appreciated the support of the local Islamic community as well."

Other students who were part of the GUST summer program include Farah Al-Bader, a junior in computer science; Rayan Alebrahim, a senior in visual communication; and Mohamad Alaskandarani, a senior in computer science.

For more information about Missouri S&T's partnership with GUST, visit [cec.mst.edu/gust-partnership](http://cec.mst.edu/gust-partnership).

About Missouri University of Science and Technology

Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) is a STEM-focused research university of over 7,000 students. Part of the four-campus University of Missouri System and located in Rolla, Missouri, Missouri S&T offers 101 degrees in 40 areas of study and is among the nation's top 10 universities for return on investment, according to Business Insider. For more information about Missouri S&T, visit [www.mst.edu](http://www.mst.edu).

## Nintendo's profit jumps

Nintendo reported a 52% increase in net profit for the first fiscal quarter on Thursday following the success of its Super Mario movie and the new Zelda video game.

Demand was strong for Nintendo Switch game software, which received a boost from the release earlier this year of the film about the jumping plumber called "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," according to Nintendo

Co. The film has so far drawn more than 168 million people globally, grossing \$1.3 billion.

That makes it one of the top-selling animation films on record, second only to "Frozen II," and the top animation film based on a video game. The "Lion King" 2019 remake, while it uses computer graphics and was an even bigger hit, isn't categorized as an animation film.

Also helping lift Nintendo's results was the popularity of "The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom" game, released in May, the latest in the hit action-adventure series.

The Japanese video game maker's April-June net profit totaled 181 billion yen (\$1.3 billion), up from nearly 119 billion yen a year ago. Quarterly sales surged 50% to 461.3 billion yen (\$3.2 billion). (AP)

## Agence France-Presse pursues copyright case against X

France's international news agency, Agence France-Presse, says it is pursuing a copyright case against X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, in an effort to secure potential payment for its news content.

The news agency said it applied Wednesday to a Paris court to compel Elon Musk's rebranded company to provide data it says is needed "for assessing the remuneration owed to AFP."

The news agency announced the legal action in a statement. It said it is seeking payment under European Union intellectual property rules that cover "neighboring rights," which allow news outlets and publishers to seek payment from digital platforms for the sharing of their work.

France was the first EU country to adopt the rules into national legislation, in 2019. "As a leading advocate for the

adoption of neighboring rights for the press, AFP remains unwavering in its commitment to the cause," the news agency said.

It described the legal action against Twitter as "in line with this ongoing commitment."

AFP said it "will continue to employ the appropriate legal means with each relevant platform to ensure the fair distribution of the value generated by the sharing of news content." (AP)

## Market Movements

3-08-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+1.44	6,576.76	UAE - DFM	-0.80	4,051.18
			JAPAN - Nikkei	-1.68	32,159.28
			PAKISTAN - KSE 100	-0.49	48,607.20
			SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.89	11,375.78
			EGYPT - EGX 30	-0.02	17,451.44

# Business

## WS mixed as big rally cools some more

Asia follows Wall St lower

**NEW YORK, Aug 3, (AP):** Stocks are mixed Thursday as Wall Street's red-hot rally for the year cools a bit more.

The S&P 500 was 0.2% lower in midday trading and on pace for a third straight loss after hitting a 16-month high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 40 points, or 0.1%, at 35,242, as of 11:30 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.1% higher.

A day earlier, U.S. stocks tumbled to their worst loss in months. While the drop came after Fitch Ratings downgraded the U.S. government's credit rating, several analysts say they expect the move to have minimal impact on financial markets. U.S. Treasury debt is the cornerstone of the global financial system, but the downgrade by itself likely won't push any investors to dump theirs.

The big questions remain whether the economy will avoid a recession, how corporate profits will do and where interest rates are heading. Hanging over them all is whether the stock market's big run this year was overdone, as critics suggest.

Treasury yields in the bond market continued to march higher Thursday, putting more pressure on the stock market. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 4.16% from 4.09% late Wednesday and from 2.75% a year ago.

Higher yields mean bonds are paying more in interest, which can peel buyers away from stocks. They also make borrowing more expensive for companies, crimping their profits.

Yields have climbed as the economy has remained remarkably resilient despite much higher interest rates meant to drive down inflation. The U.S. government also continues to borrow heavily.

In the latest reading on the economy, a report showed that the number of workers applying for unemployment benefits rose last week but remains relatively low.

A solid job market has helped to keep the economy out of a long-predicted recession. But it also threatens to keep upward pressure on inflation. That could push the Federal Reserve to keep raising interest rates, dashing Wall Street's hopes that the last hike of the cycle has already been put in place.

"The Fed has singled out the jobs market as a potential inflationary threat, and until it shows some signs of deterioration, we're still looking at a 'higher for longer' outlook for interest rates," said Mike Loewengart, head of model portfolio construction at Morgan Stanley Global Investment Office.

A report from the Institute for Supply Management said growth in the U.S.



A currency trader watches monitors at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023. Asian stock markets followed Wall Street lower on Thursday after Fitch Ratings cut the United States government's credit rating. (AP)

economy's services industries continued last month, though at a slower rate than economists expected. A separate report from S&P Global also said growth is slowing for services industries, pointing to customers contending with the more expensive cost of living and higher interest rates.

The Fed has hiked its federal funds rate to the highest level in more than two decades, up from virtually zero early last year. High rates grind down inflation by bluntly slowing the entire economy and dragging on prices for investments.

Critics say a consensus has formed too quickly on Wall Street that inflation will continue to moderate and that the Fed can not only halt its hikes to rates but even

begin cutting them early next year.

Across the Atlantic, the Bank of England on Thursday raised its main interest rate again to a 15-year high and indicated it could stay high for a while. That followed a move last week by the Bank of Japan that could allow longer-term interest rates there to rise. Earnings reporting season also continues for big U.S. companies. The majority have reported better results for the spring than expected, but that's usually the case and expectations were quite low coming into this quarter's season.

Qualcomm tumbled 10.3% for one of the largest losses in the S&P 500. It reported weaker revenue for the spring than expected, even though its profit topped forecasts.

### Europe

In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London lost 1.3% to 7,466.49. The CAC 40 in Paris retreated 0.9% to 7,246.21, and the DAX in Frankfurt gave up 0.8% to 15,883.21.

### Asia

Asian stock markets followed Wall Street lower on Thursday after Fitch Ratings cut the United States government's credit rating.

Tokyo's market benchmark fell almost 1.5%. Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul declined. Oil prices edged higher.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo tumbled 1.4% to 32,244.08 and the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.2% to 3,254.37. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong retreated 0.5% to 19,429.17.

The Kospi in Seoul gave up 0.8% to 2,597.36 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 declined 0.5% to 7,318.20. Jakarta gained while New Zealand and other Southeast Asian markets declined.

### Oil

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude edged up 7 cents to \$79.56 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$1.88 the previous day to \$79.49. Brent crude, the price basis for international oil trading, gained 8 cents to \$83.28 per barrel in London. It lost \$1.71 the previous session to \$83.20.

### Currencies

The dollar held steady at 143.28 yen. The euro declined to \$1.0934 from \$1.0943.

**'We are a nation with an economy...'**

## DeSantis unveils a new 'economic policy' that targets China, taxes and regulations

ROCHESTER, N.H., Aug 3, (AP): In a new policy plan unveiled Monday, Republican presidential hopeful Ron DeSantis took aim at China with a "Declaration of Economic Independence" that also targets taxes, regulations and "elites" he blames for the nation's decline.

Speaking in a New Hampshire warehouse, the Florida governor promised to diversify and expand the economy by fighting for the middle class.

"Revitalizing economic freedom and opportunity will require building an economy where the concerns of average citizens are elevated over those deemed too big to fail," he said at Prep Partners Group, which coordinates warehousing, distribution and other logistics for other companies.

"We are a nation with an economy, not the other way around," DeSantis said. "We are citizens of a republic. We are not cogs in a global economic empire."

DeSantis said his top priority would be wresting economic control from China by ending the nation's preferential trade status, banning imports of goods made from stolen intellectual property and preventing companies from sharing critical technologies with China. Current policies, he said, have created an "abusive relationship" between the two countries.

"The elites sold us a bill of goods when it came to China. They were wrong, and we need to get it right," he said.

The 10-point economic plan is the third major policy proposal put forth by DeSantis, who remains a distant second to former President Donald Trump in most polls and is fighting for momentum in the midst of a campaign reset. He recently shed more than one-third of his staff as federal filings showed his campaign was burning through cash at an unsustainable rate.

But on Monday, his focus was on



Republican presidential candidate Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis gestures during a campaign event, Monday, July 31, 2023, in Rochester, N.H. (AP)

reckless federal government spending. His plan describes him as a "new sheriff in town" who will veto wasteful spending and mandate work requirements for welfare programs. He also claimed he could achieve 3% annual economic growth by keeping taxes low, eliminating bureaucracy and incentivizing investment.

On the education front, DeSantis said he will stop incentivizing "useless degrees" by making universities responsible for the loans their students accrue.

"It's wrong to say that a truck driv-

er should have to pay off the debt of somebody who got a degree in gender studies," he said.

After the speech, in what was billed as a news conference, DeSantis sidestepped a question about Trump's mounting legal fees. That's even as the DeSantis campaign has been attacking Trump for devoting much of his political fundraising to his legal entanglements.

"We're here to talk about restoring this economy. We're here to talk about uplifting the middle class," DeSantis said. "To me, if you ask voters,

are they more interested in hearing about that or the process stories about politics? I think that they want to hear about the country's future so that's what we're going to talk about."

A spokesperson for the Democratic National Committee said DeSantis should be talking about the economic woes he created in Florida including the rising costs of housing, property insurance and health care.

"It remains a mystery why DeSantis would try to reboot his dumpster fire of a campaign by promising to bring his failures as governor nationwide,"

## Banks from 4 Arab countries in talks to invest in struggling Lebanese banks

BEIRUT, Aug 3, (AP): Banks from four Arab countries are interested in investing in Lebanon's struggling banking sector, which was hard-hit by the small nation's three-year economic meltdown, a top Arab banker said Thursday.

Lebanon is in the throes of its worst economic crisis in its short and troubled history that has skyrocketed poverty and inflation, and crippled its bloated public sector and infrastructure.

Wissam Fattouh, the Secretary General of the Union of Arab Banks, spoke to The Associated Press on the sidelines of the biggest regional banking conference held in Beirut since the historic economic crisis began in October 2019. Caretaker Economy Minister Amin Salam and Lebanese and regional banking officials called on their Arab counterparts to invest in the

crisis-hit country and help revitalize its battered economy.

Fattouh told Saudi-owned TV station Al-Hadath in July that Jordanian and Iraqi banks have expressed an interest to buy small Lebanese banks.

"During our numerous visits to Arab countries and visits with banking leadership, we discussed the possibilities of owning and possessing some Lebanese banks that have the intention to sell," Fattouh told the AP. He did not name the banks interested in investing in Lebanon.

As of 2022, some 61 banks operate in the tiny Mediterranean country, of which 46 are commercial banks. Many have downsized due to the crisis.

The World Bank says Lebanon's financial crisis is among the worst worldwide since the mid-19th century - a culmination of decades of financial mismanagement, corruption, and ne-

furious policy.

In late 2019, Lebanon's dollar shortages created a panic and run on the banks as they imposed strict withdrawal limits for depositors who kept their savings there. Under what financial experts and the World Bank described as a Ponzi scheme, Lebanon's central bank would entice commercial banks to lend dollars at high interest rates to stay flushed with cash. The banks then attracted customers to deposit their savings in their accounts at even higher interest rates.

Lebanon since then has run on a cash economy. The value of its local currency, the Lebanese pound, has lost around 90% of its value, primarily determined by an opaque black market rate that has become standard for most goods and services across the country. Depositors desperate for money have since been withdrawing their savings

at exchange rates far lower than the market rate.

"The fate of those deposits at the Central Bank is still a mystery," Fattouh explained. "So they will go for banks that don't have high liabilities and only have some deposits in the Central Bank."

The International Monetary Fund and the Lebanese government reached a tentative agreement in April 2022, which called for an "externally assisted bank-by-bank evaluation for the 14 largest banks." The audit never happened, as Lebanon's ruling political parties and officials, many of whom are shareholders or owners in the banks, refused to implement any reforms.

The country has been without a president since October and its Central Bank governor stepped down on Monday.

## Redington announces its Q1FY24 results: Highest ever Q1 revenue

CHENNAI, India, Aug. 3, (PR Newswire): Redington Ltd (NSE: REDINGTON) (BSE: 532805), today announced its financial results for Q1FY24, which ended on June 30, 2023. It delivered strong performance vis-à-vis the industry across all business segments and geographies.

At Rs. 21,251 crores, overall global revenues for the quarter have been the highest ever for any Q1 growing by a strong 26% YoY and at Rs. 1,248 Crores, it has registered the highest ever Q1 gross profit with a 17% YoY. However, the PAT is down 21% YoY due to a significant increase in interest and factoring charges. Both these have been driven by the ongoing situation of the global financial markets and should start to normalize in the 2nd half of the year. The Cloud business - an area of strong focus for the organization - has achieved the highest quarterly revenue of Rs. 674 crores, with a 44% YoY growth.

Redington's strong performance in the quarter results from its continued investments in technology capabilities, deeper partner relationships, and innovative business models. The company's digital transformation journey over the past two years has catalyzed its evolution to become a trusted digital distributor and technology solutions provider. Its digital platforms Cloud-Quarks and Redington Online have continued to gain traction as they have significantly enhanced accessibility to cloud, managed services and a comprehensive stack of enterprise technology products and solutions.

"While the slowdown in IT and Technology spends across the world continued in Q1FY24, Redington witnessed a very strong growth quarter. Our efforts and focus towards expanding reach, coverage and geographical expansion have ensured that business-

es are able to access a wide gamut of technology products, services, and solutions through our digital distribution platforms. We continue to strengthen our partner network and equip them with the right training and resources to empower them in addressing the requirements of their end customers better," said Mr. Rajiv Srivastava, Managing Director, Redington Ltd.

Redington has a strong and unwavering commitment towards bridging divides that exist in the world through synergizing innovation, technology, and partnerships. This vision has enabled the company to stay at the forefront of all technology breakthroughs and innovations - 5G, Internet of Things (IoT), Edge Computing and Generative AI - and drive their adoption by Enterprises, SMBs and the Government sector.

\*The detailed Financial Report for Q1FY24 can be accessed here:

<https://redingtongroup.com/financial-reports/>

### Safe Harbor

Certain statements in this release are forward-looking statements. The business involves various risks, and uncertainties that could result in the actual results to differ materially from those indicated here. All forward looking statements made herein are based on information presently available to the management of the Company and the Company does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of the Company.

### About Redington Ltd:

Redington Limited, an integrated technology solutions provider and a Fortune 500 company, enables businesses in their digital transformation journeys by addressing technology friction - the gap between innovation and adoption.

## Saudi Arabia extends cut of 1m barrels of oil a day through Sept

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Aug 3, (AP): Saudi Arabia said Thursday it will extend its unilateral production cut of 1 million barrels of oil a day through the end of September in its effort to boost flagging energy prices.

The Saudi reduction, which began in July, comes as the other OPEC+ producers have agreed to extend earlier production cuts through next year.

The kingdom announced the extension in a statement on the state-run Saudi Press Agency, quoting an anonymous official in the kingdom's Energy Ministry. The official added that the cut "can be extended or deepened" if the need arises.

"This additional voluntary cut comes to reinforce the precautionary efforts made by OPEC+ countries with the aim of supporting the stability and balance of oil markets," the official said.

The move was widely expected by analysts.

Benchmark Brent crude traded Thursday at over \$80 a barrel.

A series of production cuts over the

past year has failed to substantially boost prices amid weakened demand from China and tighter monetary policy aimed at combatting inflation. Brent has largely hovered between \$75 and \$85 a barrel since last October.

The Saudis are particularly keen to boost oil prices in order to fund Vision 2030, an ambitious plan to overhaul the kingdom's economy, reduce its dependence on oil and create jobs for a young population. The plans include several massive infrastructure projects, including the construction of a futuristic \$500 billion city called Neom.

Higher prices would also help Russian President Vladimir Putin fund his war on Ukraine, as Western countries have used a price cap to try to cut into Moscow's revenues.

Western sanctions mean Moscow is forced to sell its oil at a discount to countries like China and India. Its estimated export revenue fell by \$1.4 billion from a year ago, the International Energy Agency said in a report in June.



Dubai International Financial Centre.

**DIFC reaffirms position as global hub for finance with strong H1 '23 results**

Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), the leading global financial centre in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region, witnessed unparalleled growth in the first half of 2023. DIFC's performance reaffirms its efforts in driving the future of finance as the region's growth catalyst for financial institutions, FinTech firms and Innovation companies.

A total of 661 new entities registered during the first half of this year, representing a double digit (23 per cent) year-on-year increase. The total number of

companies operating in DIFC has risen from 4,031 to 4,949 at the end of June 2023, a year-on-year increase of 23 per cent. Reflecting DIFC's growing reputation as a global hub for FinTech and Innovation, the number of firms in those sectors grew from 599 to 811 year-on-year, up 35 per cent.

Company growth has led to a strong increase in job creation, up 20 per cent year-on-year to 3,057, bringing the total workforce in DIFC to 39,140 individuals in line with DIFC's 2030 Strategy, further

strengthening Dubai's position as a global hub for world-class talent.

The strong inflow of top firms underscores Dubai's attractiveness as a global business hub and reaffirms DIFC's world-class reputation that continues to attract companies from around the world. The inflow of hedge funds continued in H1 2023, leveraging DIFC's eco-system of over 300 Wealth and Asset Management firms, and progressive global centre for alternative investments. (PR Newswire)

**BMW Group, Airbus, Quantinuum collaborate to fast-track sustainable mobility research using quantum computers**

MUNICH, TOULOUSE and CAMBRIDGE, Aug. 3, (PR Newswire): Airbus, BMW Group and Quantinuum, world leaders in mobility and quantum technologies, have developed a hybrid quantum-classical workflow to speed up future research using quantum computers to simulate quantum systems, focusing on the chemical reactions of catalysts in fuel cells.

In a new technical paper, "Applicability of Quantum Computing to Oxygen Reduction Reaction Simulations", the three partners report accurately modeling the oxygen reduction reaction ("ORR") on the surface of a platinum-based catalyst.

The ORR is the chemical reaction in the process that converts hydrogen and oxygen into water and electricity in a fuel cell and it limits the efficiency of the process. It is relatively slow and requires a large amount of platinum catalyst, so there is great interest and value in better understanding the underlying mechanisms involved in the reaction.

Using Quantinuum's H-Series quantum computer, the collaboration team has demonstrated the applicability of quantum computing in an industrial workflow to enhance our understanding of a critical chemical reaction. The three companies plan further collaboration to explore the use of quantum computing to address relevant industrial challenges.

Dr. Peter Lehnert, Vice-President, Research Technologies at BMW Group

stated: "Circularity and sustainable mobility are putting us on a quest for new materials, to create more efficient products and shape the future premium user experience. Being able to simulate material properties to relevant chemical accuracy with the benefits from the accelerating quantum computing hardware is giving us just the right tools for more speed in innovation for this decisive domain."

As a pioneer in the global automotive market BMW Group recognizes the transformative potential of quantum computing and its importance in researching new materials, where it can enable faster and more efficient processes while reducing lab prototypes. Approaching and accurately simulating one of the most fundamental electrochemical processes for the first-time using quantum computing marks a substantial step towards the sustainable energy transition, benefiting metal-air batteries, and other products with enhanced efficiency.

Isabell Gradert, Vice-President, Central Research & Technology at Airbus said: "We can clearly envision the benefits of the study in our quest for sustainable and hydrogen powered alternatives such as the ZEROe aircraft, which may operate on fuel cell engines. The study confirms that quantum computing is maturing at the scale we need for aviation."

Airbus has identified hydrogen as a promising candidate to power low-

carbon aircraft, because it emits no CO2 when flying, when generated from renewable energy. The company previously announced plans to start testing a hydrogen-powered fuel cell propulsion system onboard its ZEROe demonstrator aircraft in the next few years. The company has the ambition to develop the world's first hydrogen-powered commercial aircraft for market entry by 2035.

Ilyas Khan, Chief Product Officer, Quantinuum said: "We have been excited to be working for some time now to support the BMW Group and Airbus, both leaders in their fields, and both of whom recognize that quantum computing could play a pivotal role in advancing future sustainable mobility. In this pioneering work, we demonstrate how to integrate quantum computing into the industrial workflows of two of the world's most technologically advanced companies, tackling material science problems that are a prime target for progress using quantum computing."

The research team hopes that understanding the ORR reaction provides insights that help them identify alternative materials that may improve the performance and reduce the production costs of fuel cells. Modeling chemical reactions such as the ORR accurately is an intractable task for classical computers, due to the quantum properties of the chemical mechanisms involved, making such simulations a good candidate to benefit from a potential quantum advantage in the future.

**BoE hints that UK borrowing rates will stay high after its new hike to 5.25 pct**

Raise a fresh 15-year high

LONDON, Aug 3, (AP): The Bank of England raised its main interest rate Thursday to a fresh 15-year high and indicated it would stay high for some time to bring down persistently high inflation - another potential blow for those seeing their rents and mortgages rise during a cost-of-living crisis.

The widely anticipated quarter-percentage point increase, to 5.25%, was the central bank's 14th hike in a row. The bank said some of the risks from more stubborn inflation, notably higher wages, had "begun to crystallize," leading it to push borrowing costs higher.

There had been fears, certainly among hard-pressed households and businesses, that the bank would repeat its outsized half-point increase from June. But figures last month showing that inflation fell more than anticipated to 7.9% eased the pressure to act as aggressively again.

In new forecasts, the central bank said inflation is expected to drop to 4.9% by the end of the year, with food price rises set to moderate.

"Inflation is falling, and that's good news," bank Gov. Andrew Bailey said. "We know that inflation hits the least well-off the hardest, and we need to make absolutely sure that it falls all the way back to the 2% target."

With inflation four times that level, the bank is widely expected to hike again - potentially once more in September - before taking a pause as previous increases work through the economy. The effects of higher interest rates have a lag, most notably in the housing market, where many households will have to refinance their mortgages in the months to come at a higher cost.

"I don't think it's time to declare that it's all over and sticking where we are for the moment," Bailey told reporters. "We have to remain evidence-driven."

In new language that appears to have doused hopes that the bank would reverse course soon, it said it would ensure borrowing costs remain "sufficiently restrictive for sufficiently long to return inflation to the target."

The U.S. Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank also raised rates last week, but they are thought to be closer to a change in direction as they deal with far lower inflation rates than the U.K. Price spikes have eased to 3% in the United States and 5.3% across the 20 countries that use the euro currency.

Central banks around the world have been raising borrowing costs to combat inflation unleashed by higher energy prices after Russia invaded Ukraine and supply chain backups as the



Zain Ocean Padel Academy 2023

**Zain partners with OCEAN PADEL Academy**

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Zain has partnered with OCEAN PADEL Academy, a unique local sports club with world-class facilities, to support the academy's various programs and services offered to padel enthusiasts in Kuwait, including fully equipped courts and facilities, kids camps, and seasonal championships.

The partnership agreement was signed at the academy's headquarters in Salmiya, attended by Zain Kuwait Corporate Relations Department Manager Hamad Al MUSAIBEEH, OCEAN PADEL Academy Co-founder & Manager Abdullahif Al Asfour, and Academy Co-founder & Deputy Manager Hamad Al Asfour.

The partnership comes under the umbrella of Zain's sustainability strategy, which closely focuses on contributing to growing the sports and youth sectors. The company supports local projects that serve athletes and enthusiasts of various sports in Kuwait, including padel, a sport that continues to gain popularity among Kuwaiti youth.

OCEAN PADEL Academy is a unique local sports club that specializes in padel, covering over 3000 square meters and overlooking the Arabian Gulf Street. The

academy boasts several indoor and outdoor courts, the Zain Center Court with seats for 120+ spectators, state-of-the-art health and sports facilities, international trainers, and more.

teamwork.

Zain is always committed to empowering the next generation of professional Kuwaiti athletes so they can excel and compete at



Zain Ocean Padel Academy 2023 during the signing ceremony.

As a partner of the academy, Zain will also support a number of seasonal championships and special padel camps for kids facilitated by world-class trainers. The company will also hold exclusive championships for Zain employees at the academy's courts to boost the spirit of competitiveness and

top international arenas. The company strongly believes that the private sector has an essential role in supporting and encouraging sports projects to enable local athletes, develop their skills, and empower them to raise the Kuwaiti flag high at regional and international arenas.

global economy recovered from the coronavirus pandemic.

Higher interest rates help dampen inflation by making it more expensive for consumers and businesses to borrow to buy homes, cars or equipment.

That also weighs on economic growth, but the bank appears confident that the British economy will avoid falling into recession over the coming years even as unemployment begins to rise.

"The price for taming inflationary pressures from Britain's tight labor market is an increase in unemployment of around 350,000," said James Smith, research director

at the Resolution Foundation economics think tank.

Several reasons point to the U.K.'s higher inflation. Many economists blame Britain's departure from the European Union, as Brexit impeded trade and raised costs for businesses. Others put more of the blame on the Bank of England itself - for being too slow in starting to raise interest rates, thereby allowing inflation to root itself more widely in the economy, most notably in higher wages.

Whatever the balance of blame, it's been a particularly painful time for U.K. households whose mort-

gage rates or rents have skyrocketed while they struggle to make ends meet during a cost-of-living crisis marked by higher costs for food and energy.

But for many, the pain has yet to hit. Unlike in the U.S., most homeowners in Britain lock in mortgage rates for only a few years, so those whose deals expire soon face the prospect of much higher borrowing costs.

Around 2.5 million such deals are due to expire by the end of next year, with around a million households facing a 500-pound (\$640) monthly increase in their mortgage repayments by 2026, according to Bailey.

**Bid to produce sustainable packaging**

**Origin Materials, Terphane form strategic partnership**

WEST SACRAMENTO, Calif. & BLOOMFIELD, N.Y. Aug 3, (BUSINESS WIRE): Origin Materials, Inc. ("Origin," "Origin Materials," or the "Company") (NASDAQ: ORGN, ORGNW), the world's leading carbon negative materials company with a mission to enable the world's transition to sustainable materials, and Terphane, part of Tredegar Corporation (NYSE:TG), a global leader in specialty PET polyester films ("BOPET"), announced today a strategic partnership to produce sustainable, high-performance bio-polymer films.

As part of the partnership, Terphane signed a multi-year capacity reservation agreement to purchase the advanced bio-polymer PEF for use in film applications, including food and beverage packaging and high-value industrial applications. BOPET is biaxially oriented PEF, and BOPET is biaxially oriented PET. These stretched polymer films are valued for their strength, transparency, barrier properties, and electrical insulation.

"We are pleased to partner with Terphane, a trusted global leader in films with expansive customer and partner relationships," said Rich Riley, CO-CEO of Origin Materials. "We are thrilled to work together to develop advanced, performance-enhanced products that help to enable a net zero material economy. This partnership represents further progress in Origin's mission to enable the world's transition to sustainable materials."

According to Marcos Vieira, global director of R&D for Terphane, "The development of this film will be critical to our efforts to meet this new global demand for sustainable flexible packaging solutions. The film is partially made from PEF and has all the traditional properties of a regular PET film, including post-consumption recycling. In addition, PEF provides an excellent thermal resistance and superior barrier performance, extending the shelf life of the packaged products." Vieira adds that initial tests in the U.S. proved the material works perfectly in extrusion lines.

**Breakthrough**

Origin Materials' patented technology platform represents a potential breakthrough in the commercialization of cost-competitive and low-carbon PEF. Made from furandicarboxylic acid ("FDCA"), the primary precursor to PEF, Origin PEF is a polymer with an attractive combination of sustainability and performance characteristics for packaging including enhanced barrier properties. Origin's PEF is expected to be 100% plant-based, fully recyclable, have attractive unit economics, and to offer a significantly reduced carbon footprint, with superior strength, thermal properties, and barrier properties compared to today's widely used petroleum-based materials.

Headquartered in West Sacramento, Origin Materials is the world's leading carbon negative materials company. Origin's mission is to enable the world's transition to sustainable materials. For over a decade, Origin has developed a platform for turning the carbon found in inexpensive, plentiful, non-food biomass such as sustainable wood residues into useful materials while capturing carbon in the process. Origin's patented technology platform can help revolutionize the production of a wide range of end products, including clothing, textiles, plastics, packaging, car parts, tires, carpeting, toys, fuels, and more with a ~\$1 trillion addressable market. In addition, Origin's technology platform is expected to provide stable pricing largely decoupled from the petroleum supply chain, which is exposed to more volatility than supply chains based on sustainable wood residues. Origin's patented drop-in core technology, economics and carbon impact are supported by a growing list of major global customers and investors.

For more information, visit [www.originmaterials.com](http://www.originmaterials.com).

Since its founding in 1976, Terphane

has developed technologies and processes to produce specialty bioriented polyester films (BOPET). With significant experience and technical knowledge in film production, coating, and metallization, the company is recognized for its vertical integration, from resin to specialty films. Terphane is a global leader in specialty PET films, and a key company in Latin America. Terphane is a subsidiary of U.S.-based Tredegar Corporation (NYSE:TG).

This press release contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Forward-looking statements generally are accompanied by words such as "believe," "may," "will," "estimate," "continue," "anticipate," "intend," "expect," "should," "would," "plan," "predict," "potential," "seem," "seek," "future," "outlook," and similar expressions that predict or indicate future events or trends or that are not statements of historical matters. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding Origin Materials' business strategy, estimated total addressable market, ability to develop new product categories, commercial and operating plans, product development plans, and ability to realize the anticipated benefits of the partnership discussed in the press release.

**Assumptions**

These statements are based on various assumptions, whether or not identified in this press release, and on the current expectations of the management of Origin Materials and are not predictions of actual performance. These forward-looking statements are provided for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to serve as, and must not be relied on as, a guarantee, an assurance, a prediction, or a definitive statement of fact or probability. Actual events and circumstances are difficult or impossible to predict and will differ from assumptions. Many actual events and circumstances are beyond the control of Origin Materials. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, including that Origin Materials may be unable to successfully commercialize its products; the effects of competition on Origin Materials' business; the uncertainty of the projected financial information with respect to Origin; disruptions and other impacts to Origin's business as a result of outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's military intervention in Ukraine, the impact of severe weather events, and other global health or economic crises; changes in customer demand; and those factors discussed in the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on May 10, 2023, under the heading "Risk Factors," and other documents Origin Materials has filed, or will file, with the SEC. If any of these risks materialize or our assumptions prove incorrect, actual results could differ materially from the results implied by these forward-looking statements. There may be additional risks that Origin Materials presently does not know, or that Origin Materials currently believes are immaterial, that could also cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements. In addition, forward-looking statements reflect Origin Materials' expectations, plans, or forecasts of future events and views as of the date of this press release. Origin Materials anticipates that subsequent events and developments will cause its assessments to change. However, while Origin Materials may elect to update these forward-looking statements at some point in the future, Origin Materials specifically disclaims any obligation to do so. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing Origin Materials' assessments of any date subsequent to the date of this press release. Accordingly, undue reliance should not be placed upon the forward-looking statements.

### Aussie govt urged to extend TikTok ban to WeChat

An Australian Senate committee has recommended a ban on the Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok from federal government devices be extended to China's most popular social media platform, WeChat.

The Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media also recommended in a report late Tuesday that social media giants such as Facebook and Twitter should become more transparent or be fined.

Committee chair James Paterson

said on Wednesday the report's recommendations would make Australia a more difficult target for the serious foreign interference risks that the nation faced.

"It tackles both the problems posed by authoritarian-headquartered social media platforms like TikTok and WeChat and Western-headquartered social media platforms being weaponized by the actions of authoritarian governments including Facebook, YouTube and Twitter," Paterson told reporters.

The committee was established last year to examine uses of social media that undermine Australia's democracy and values, including the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

The committee found that China and other authoritarian regimes continue to pose an unacceptable risk to democracies through targeted online disinformation campaigns that leverage social media platforms to skew public debate and undermine trust in institutions. (AP)

### United adding Braille signs inside planes

United Airlines says it will install Braille signs to help visually impaired travelers find row and seat numbers and lavatories.

The airline said Thursday that it has outfitted about a dozen planes with Braille markings and expects to finish work on its entire fleet except United Express planes by the end of 2026.

United said it is working with groups including the National Federation of the Blind and the American Council of the Blind to consider adding other aids

such as raised letters, numbers and arrows.

Mark Riccobono, president of the federation, said it's frustrating that so much information for travelers is only available by reading printed signs or other visual cues. He said his group hoped to work with United to find other ways to make flying more accessible and less stressful for blind passengers.

Dan Spooner, the council's interim executive director, urged other airlines to follow United's example. (AP)

### NerdWallet

### Flight disruptions common

By Sally French  
NerdWallet

# How much time do you need for an international layover?

Most airlines recommend arriving at least two hours before domestic flights and at least three hours before international flights. But do you need that much time for connections between international flights?

Layovers of just 30 minutes can be feasible for domestic flights, especially at small airports where the next flight might be just one gate over. But international layovers are typically far more complicated, and even two hours can be insufficient. Here's how to book flights with an international layover, and how much time you really need.

#### Book a flight

Let's say you're flying from Houston to Hanoi, Vietnam. There might be no direct flights between those two cities, but you could get there via layover.

The most common, least risky way to book international flights necessitating a layover is by searching for flights between your departure and arrival cities. Even with no nonstops available, the airline automatically determines your layover and puts both flights on one reservation. This strategy is ideal for a few reasons:

■ If you miss your second flight because the first was delayed or canceled, airlines will generally rebook you at no additional cost so you're not just stranded in say, Hong Kong, on the way from Houston to Hanoi.

■ Checked bags are less likely to get lost, as they're usually checked to the final destination.

■ You won't need to know how long you need between flights because airlines won't let you book

less than the minimum connection time, or MCT, anyway.

Minimum connection times vary by airport and sometimes even terminal. For example, the lowest MCT is just one hour (for flights within its tiny terminal 3), according to the latest customer guide for Paris Charles de Gaulle airport. But for certain flight combinations, the airport requires 2.5 hours, minimum.

On the other hand, booking two separate flights is sometimes considered a clever money move. You might find an amazing deal from Houston to Hong Kong - even if airfares to Hanoi (your final destination in this example) are exorbitantly high. In that case, you might nab that Hong Kong deal. From there, you could separately book a budget airline operating within Asia

to go onward to Hanoi.

But such savings are often not worth it, largely because neither airline is obligated to help you if one flight disruption causes you to miss the other. Instead, you'll likely be left in a foreign country that you never intended to visit at all.

Here are a few risks to consider when booking on two separate itineraries:

■ Flight disruptions are common. Only 77% of U.S. domestic flights between April 2022 and April 2023 arrived on time, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

■ If you miss your second flight, it's unlikely you'll get the money back (unless you booked refundable airfares or had Cancel For Any Reason travel insurance).

■ For flights through Europe,

you'll lose the protections of EU261 (which provides compensation for delays two hours or more).

#### International layover

Depending on your risk tolerance, even three hours might be insufficient for international connection. Risk averse passengers booking two separate itineraries might budget at least a day between flights. That's because - even if you land on time - there are many steps (and lines) along the way that might hold you up.

Arriving in a foreign country might require you to go through immigration and clear customs, even if you're only staying there for a brief layover. If you're flying on two separate itineraries with checked bags, you'll have to retrieve your luggage and recheck it. You'll also need to visit your next airline's check-in

desk to collect your boarding pass if you can't retrieve it online. Depending on the airport, it might be a hike (or a shuttle) to your next gate. Then, you'll have to go through security and passport control again.

#### Long layover

Booking international flights on two separate itineraries can sometimes save money, but if things go awry you could end up paying far more to rebook missed flights. Mitigate that risk with a long layover, which doesn't have to be that bad. With a credit card that offers Priority Pass membership, you could relax in an airline lounge. Amenities vary, but lounges often provide buffets, nap rooms and showers. Or, just build in a few buffer days to really slow down and embrace the long layover. (AP)

### Challenges removed

## IZO Multi Cloud Connect reimagines connectivity, boosts user experience

MUMBAI, India, Aug 3: Tata Communications, a global digital ecosystem enabler, reimagines connectivity by announcing new features in its IZO Multi Cloud Connect solution to integrate multiple clouds instantly, seamlessly and with flexibility. It is empowering enterprises with speed and intelligence by enabling next-gen digital businesses to get ready with an end-to-end, on-demand, real-time, reliable, and scalable multi cloud connectivity. These enterprises also get real time provisioning, pay-as-you-go usage-based billing and enhanced performance.

Through a single window, Tata Communications IZO Multi Cloud Connect offers enterprises an improved user experience while accessing their data, applications and content. It eases information technology (IT) operations of an enterprise to manage multiple cloud services with the ability to add more services on the go, providing complete visibility and management of the cloud traffic.

"Our IZO Multi Cloud Connect brings fast, seamless and intelligent connectivity for next-gen global enterprises helping them rapidly transform for a hyperconnected world. With our digital fabric, we stitch IZO Multi Cloud Connect into the existing digital architecture of the enterprise improving processes and bringing operational efficiencies. We are empowering our customers with greater agility to connect their users, branches, data centres, applications, cloud and partners globally," said Hon Kit Lam, Vice President, Core and Next-Gen Connectivity Services, Tata Communications. "A multi-cloud environment is a reality for enterprises today with mission critical applications moving to the cloud. Built on Tata Communications global network, IZO Multi Cloud Connect removes complexities and challenges associated with managing virtual connections and virtual network functions cost-effectively with end-to-end service assurance."

#### Provided

Oscar Martínez, IT Senior Network Architect, Clariant SE, said, "We have been partnering with Tata Communications, using their IZO™ Hybrid WAN to connect our sites to data centers. On moving 200+ applications from on-premises to the cloud, we needed a solution to connect our distributed cloud data centers over internet, with performance like MPLS VPN. IZO Multi Cloud Connect with virtual router capability provided predictable internet connections from our 100+ sites to business-critical applications in the cloud. Tata Communications has enabled our smooth transition to internet-only network for our cloud transformation."

Brian Washburn, Research Director, Omdia, said, "It's not an understatement that everything is moving to cloud. Tata Communications IZO Multi Cloud Connect mixes versatile connectivity options, fast and flexible capacity, ease of ordering and configuration, plus optional virtual network functions. It effectively serves site-to-cloud, data center-to-cloud and cloud-to-cloud use cases.

### Data-driven talent decisions

## iMocha, PwC reshape skills development in Middle East

PUNE, India, Aug 3: iMocha, an industry-leading skills intelligence platform, has unveiled its strategic partnership with PwC's Academy, the talent and skills development business of PwC Middle East, marking a revolutionary leap forward in talent acquisition and skills development in the region.

This collaboration signals iMocha's expansion into the Middle East, aligning with PwC's Academy's demonstrated commitment to professional upskilling in the region's booming sectors, such as the public sector, BFSI, real estate, hospitality and others.

iMocha's platform harnesses AI-driven analytics to provide a wealth of insights into professional skills and competencies. Through this alliance, PwC's Academy will leverage these capabilities to deliver enhanced value to their client's assessments and training needs and help them make data-driven talent decisions using iMocha's AI-powered Skills Intelligence.

Amit D Mishra, the Founder and CEO of iMocha, expressed his excitement about the collaboration, stating, "Our partnership with PwC is a milestone in our mission to transform the talent landscape using a skills-first methodology. In today's dynamic global economy, understanding the skills within an organization is necessary. We are eager to support PwC's Academy in fostering a skilled, resilient, and adaptable workforce in the Middle East region" Samar Sayegh, PwC Partner and

PwC's Academy Leader, added, "We are committed to empowering our clients' transformation agenda and building a future-ready workforce. Our collaboration with iMocha is a significant step in furthering our continued efforts to help bridge the regional workforce's skills-gap using the latest tools and global best-practices and revolutionising their upskilling experience."

#### Talent

iMocha is an AI-powered Skills Intelligence Cloud that helps enterprises to build a skills-first and data-driven ecosystem of hiring, upskilling, and managing talent - at scale, for any job role, and any industry. Founded in 2015, by Amit D Mishra (Founder and CEO), and Sujit Karpe (Co-founder and CTO), more than 500 organisations in 70+ countries are using iMocha's solution for taking a skills-first approach to accelerated hiring, objective learning and development programs and to manage talent from candidate to alumni. Enterprises from IT/ITeS, Telecom, Banking, Financial and Insurance and Engineering are using iMocha's Skills platform to make data driven talent decisions.

The platform leverages patented technologies and includes innovative features to build employee skills profile, organisational skills inventory, skills taxonomy and skills ontology, skill benchmarking and skills analytics that helps to hire, develop and manage talent by taking a skills-first approach.

Enterprises may find the combination of IZO Multi Cloud Connect with IZO Internet WAN especially compelling as an option to migrate private networks to Internet with end-to-end, SLA-backed performance guarantees."

With Tata Communications IZO Multi Cloud Connect, enterprises can access different applications from different clouds seamlessly and experience continuous connectivity with better performance.

A part of the Tata Group, Tata Communications (NSE: TATA-COMM) (BSE: 500483) is a global digital ecosystem enabler powering today's fast-growing digital economy in more than 190 countries and territories. Leading with trust, it enables digital transformation of enterprises globally with collaboration and connected solutions, core and next gen connectivity, cloud hosting and security solutions and media services. 300 of the Fortune 500 companies are its customers and the company connects businesses to 80% of the world's cloud giants.

Tata Communications Limited is an Indian telecommunications company. It was previously a government-owned telecommunications service provider and under the own-

ership of Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, and the Government of India. It was then sold to Tata Group in 2008 under first Manmohan Singh ministry government.

Tata's communications provides network services and software-defined network platforms, such as Ethernet, SD-WAN, content delivery networks (CDNs), the internet, Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS), and private lines.

It is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange of India.

The business was founded as Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) in 1986. Under the chairmanship of B. K. Syngal (1991-1998), VSNL launched the first publicly-available Internet plans in India in 1995. The international arm of VSNL (VSNL International) was launched in 2004. After the Government of India launched Disinvestment of Public Sector Units in India, VSNL was completely acquired by the Tata Group and renamed Tata Communications on 13 February 2008.

In 2009, Tata Communications and Tyco Telecommunications completed the TGN-Intra Asia cable system.

## IRS aims to go paperless by '25 for faster refunds

NEW YORK, Aug 3, (AP): Most taxpayers will be able to digitally submit a slew of tax documents and other communications to the IRS next filing season as the agency aims to go completely paperless by 2025.

The effort to reduce the exorbitant load of paperwork that has plagued the agency - dubbed the "paperless processing initiative" - was announced Wednesday by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel.

The effort is being financed through an \$80 billion infusion of cash for the IRS over 10 years under the Inflation Reduction Act passed into law last August, although some of that money already is being cut back.

"Thanks to the IRA, we are in the process of transforming the IRS into a digital-first agency," Yellen said during a visit to an IRS paper processing facility in McLean, Virginia.

"By the next filing season," she said, "taxpayers will be able to digitally submit all correspondence, non-tax forms, and notice responses to the IRS."

"Of course, taxpayers will always have the choice to submit documents by paper," she added.

Under the initiative, most people will be able to submit everything but their tax returns digitally in 2024. And as the IRS pilots its new electronic free file tax return system starting in 2024, the agency will be able to process everything, including tax returns, digitally by 2025.

#### Change

The processing change is expected to cut back on the \$40 million per year that the agency spends storing more than 1 billion historical documents. The federal tax administrator receives more than 200 million paper tax returns, forms, and pieces of mail and non-tax forms annually, according to the IRS.

Roughly 213.4 million returns and other forms were filed electronically in fiscal year 2022, which represents 81.2 percent of all filings, according to IRS data.

Coupled with decades of underfunding, an overload of paper documents has prevented the agency from processing tax forms at a faster pace in years past, agency leaders have said. The new initiative should allow the agency to expedite refunds by several weeks, according to the IRS.

In June, National Taxpayer Advocate Erin M. Collins said the IRS cut its backlog of unprocessed paper tax returns by 80%, from 13.3 million returns at the end of the 2022 filing season to 2.6 million at the end of the 2023 filing season.

The federal tax collector's funding is still vulnerable to cutbacks. House Republicans built a \$1.4 billion reduction to the IRS into the debt ceiling and budget cuts package passed by Congress this summer.

The White House said the debt deal also has a separate agreement to take \$20 billion from the IRS over the next two years and divert that money to other non-defense programs.

### A digital-first agency



Manager Nick Reynoza holds a 100-watt incandescent light bulb at Royal Lighting in Los Angeles, Jan. 21, 2011. (AP)

### New rules kicked in

## Prepare to 'flick off' your incandescent bulbs in US

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 3, (AP): Get ready to say goodbye to the once ubiquitous incandescent light bulb, pioneered by Thomas Edison more than a century ago. You can thank - or blame - new federal energy efficiency regulations that went into full effect Tuesday. Quite possibly without you even noticing.

The Energy Department rules, which date back to the Obama administration, have been whipsawed in the political process for years. Some conservatives and Republican lawmakers long denounced them for interfering with consumer choice and placing undue burdens on business. Under former President Donald Trump, the Energy Department scrapped them in 2019; the Biden administration subsequently revived them.

Yet by the time Aug. 1 rolled around, the critics had gone quiet, possibly because companies and consumers have already started voting for better lighting efficiency with their wallets.

Here's what you need to know.

#### What changes under the new rules?

The rules establish strict new efficiency standards for bulbs used in homes and businesses and bans the manufacture and sale of those that don't meet those requirements. Practical incandescent bulbs, which trace their origin to an 1880 Edison patent, can't meet those standards. Neither can halogen bulbs. The rules also ban imports of less efficient bulbs.

But those requirements carry a bit less heft than they would have several years back, largely because advances in LED technology and manufacturing have dramatically lowered prices and improved quality. LED stands for "light emitting diode," a semiconductor device that converts electricity directly into light.

Between 2015 and 2020, for instance, the percentage of American households that reported using LED bulbs for most or all of their lighting

jumped more than tenfold - from 4% to 47%, according to the Energy Information Administration, an independent federal statistics agency.

#### So do I have to throw away my old incandescents?

Fortunately not. The rules don't affect bulbs that you already own; they also exempt special purpose incandescents such as those used inside ovens.

But suppose you discard - or give away - your halogen and incandescent bulbs. Odds are good that replacing them with LED bulbs could save you a fair amount of money.

As the rules reinforce existing market changes, the Energy Department believes that US consumers can save almost \$3 billion annually on their utility bills. Similarly, it projects that the rules could cut carbon emissions by 222 million metric tons over the next 30 years.

#### Why do led bulbs save energy and money?

Incandescent bulbs create illumination by running an electric current through a filament that heats it until it glows. Edison's first practical light bulb used a carbonized cotton thread for that purpose; modern bulbs use tungsten filaments in an inert gas.

But incandescents are not very efficient. Only roughly 5% of the energy used by an incandescent bulb produces light; the remaining 95% or so is lost as heat. This is why you let an incandescent bulb cool off before unscrewing it.

They also burn out frequently, requiring replacement roughly every year.

The light-emitting components in LED bulbs, by contrast, are manufactured via the same process used to make computer chips, which makes them extremely efficient. They generate almost no heat and use up to 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs while lasting up to 25 times longer, according to the Energy Department.

Over 1,000 patients treated with Fred X device

BeautyHealth's SkinStylus improves appearance of facial acne scars

LONG BEACH, Calif., Aug 3: The Beauty Health Company (NASDAQ:SKIN), home to hero brand HydraFacial, has announced the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared its SkinStylus™ microneedling device for use on facial acne scarring in Fitzpatrick skin types I, II, and III in patients aged 22 years and older, making it the only microneedling device FDA cleared for both the face and abdomen.

The clearance from the FDA is a notable milestone for SkinStylus™ since its acquisition by BeautyHealth in February of this year, revealing of an ambitious and accelerated path for the brand since coming under BeautyHealth's leadership.

"SkinStylus™ new facial indication for acne scarring is a testament to BeautyHealth's innovation track record, proven brand building expertise, and our commitment to creating the future of skin health," said BeautyHealth President and Chief Executive Officer Andrew Stanleick. "Our goal is to become the world's leading beauty, health and wellness platform by bringing together incredible brands and growing them into category leaders. This SkinStylus™ indication further unlocks the potential of the highly complementary treatments in our multi-brand ecosystem and positions SkinStylus™ for exponential growth in the years ahead."

Expected to reach \$1 billion U.S. market size by 2030, microneedling is a minimally invasive treatment that is quickly becoming a favorite amongst providers and skincare lovers. Google searches for microneedling are up +20% YoY and up +88% from five years ago; and the hashtag term #microneedling has over 4.4 million uses on Instagram.

Microneedling uses small needles to create tiny, controlled micro injuries that help trigger collagen and elastin production, which is essential for smoother, firmer, and more even-toned skin.

Fit

SkinStylus™ is an esthetician-founded brand, and the SkinStylus™ SteriLock® MicroSystem is designed to fit into the way medical and aesthetic professionals work, with a combined feature set they won't find anywhere else.

Categorized by the FDA as a Class II Medical Device and under its new clearance, SkinStylus™ SteriLock® MicroSystem is intended to be used as a microneedling treatment to improve the appearance of facial acne scars in Fitzpatrick skin types I, II, and III in patients aged 22 years and older.

SkinStylus™ is already FDA-cleared for the indication to improve

the appearance of surgical or traumatic hypertrophic scars on the abdomen in adults aged 22 years and older. This was supported by the clinical data that was submitted to FDA during the clearance process.

SkinStylus™ is available at providers across the United States.

The Beauty Health Company (NASDAQ: SKIN) is a global category-creating company delivering millions of skin health experiences every year that help consumers reinvent their relationship with their skin, bodies, and self-confidence. Our brands are pioneers: HydraFacial™ in hydradermabrasion, SkinStylus™ in microneedling, and Keravive™ in scalp health. Together, with our powerful community of estheticians, partners, and consumers, we are personalizing skin health for all ages, genders, skin tones, and skin types in more than 90 countries. We are committed to being ever more mindful in how we conduct our business to positively impact our communities and the planet.

MicroVention, Inc., a global neurovascular company and wholly owned subsidiary of Terumo Corporation, is celebrating the one-year anniversary of the company's Fred™ X Flow Divertor. In close collaboration with physician partners across the United States, over 1,000 patients have been successfully treated with the FRED X device.

Optimized for small vessel flow diversion, Fred X is the only FDA PMA approved portfolio with a 0.021" delivery system for smaller device sizes, and no distal lead wire. Fred X offers the same precise, predictable placement and immediate opening of the Fred™ device – now with X Technology. Derived from over 30 years of study and use at Terumo, X Technology is a proprietary, nanoscale surface treatment covalently bonded to the Fred X Flow Divertor for a permanent chemical change to the device surface. X Technology creates an optimized, protective hydration layer that is designed to reduce material thrombogenicity while maintaining natural vessel healing and endothelial cell growth. MicroVention's research and testing of X Technology was also published in the Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery (JNIS) in September 2022.

The first publication on Fred X was released in March 2023 and can be found in the American Journal of Neuroradiology (AJNR). This European-based publication shows strong safety and efficacy of the FRED X device at mean of 7 months follow-up. Across the United States, hundreds of physicians are also finding success and promising outcomes on their FRED X treatments. (AP)



BeautyHealth's SkinStylus.

Massive Bio, Asklepieia & Open Health Alliance to enhance cancer clinical trial

NEW YORK, Aug 3: Massive Bio and Asklepieia will utilize their innovative technologies to provide oncologists and patients unparalleled access to crucial clinical trials, personalized cancer treatments, and reports on adequate therapies. Plans are underway for future collaborations with BeStrong and Open Health Alliance.

Cagatay M. Culcuoglu, COO, CTO, and Co-Founder of Massive Bio, expressed his optimism about these alliances. "Our collaboration with Asklepieia combines precision medicine with AI-driven clinical trial matching, speeding up the introduction of clinical trials in Greece," Culcuoglu said. He added, "Our partnerships with BeStrong and Open Health Alliance will help us to enhance oncology and hematology cancer care through cutting-edge technologies, physician access, and patient advocacy, delivering more personalized care and advanced treatments."

George Kakoulidis, CEO of Asklepieia, also emphasized the transformative potential of collaborations. "Our mission, through integrating with Massive Bio's platform, is to improve patients' quality of life and contribute to the global fight against cancer. We want to expand our partnership with Massive Bio to introduce new clinical trials and leverage technology to shorten the enrollment process leveraging Massive Bio's global expertise," Kakoulidis stated.

Asklepieia will leverage its platform to identify patients who could most benefit from novel clinical trials, expanding Massive Bio's trials' reach. Concurrently, BeStrong and Open Health Alliance will provide physicians with updated clinical trial information for faster patient referrals, real-time support, and access to cancer patients or caregivers in Greece.

Massive Bio will use its advanced AI to process patient clinical health data, accelerating drug development and enhancing personalized treatment strategies. Caglar Demirbag, Director of International Partnerships at Massive Bio, stated, "Our partnerships will improve access to cancer treatments in the region and promote diversity in clinical trial participation."

Facilitate

Harnessing combined global and national expertise, the partnerships aim to facilitate patient referrals to clinical trials, thus improving health outcomes and lowering healthcare costs.

Massive Bio is at the forefront of empowering cancer patients to discover their optimal treatment options. Utilizing AI to enhance equitable access and precision targeting for clinical trial matching, drug matching, and drug development, Massive Bio is committed to breaking down barriers in clinical trial enrollment, fostering value-based oncology decisions, and facilitating data-driven cancer treatment. Serving over three dozen pharmaceutical companies, contract research organizations, and hospital networks, Massive Bio has earned recognition from the National Cancer Institute with an SBIR contract. Founded in 2015 by a team of clinical, technology, and M&A executives, Massive Bio boasts a global presence with nearly 100 people across 12 countries.

Asklepieia Health Cluster aims to transform Greece into a premier Health & Wellness tourism destination by leveraging innovative marketplace solutions and renowned partnerships. Its mission is to deliver superior care

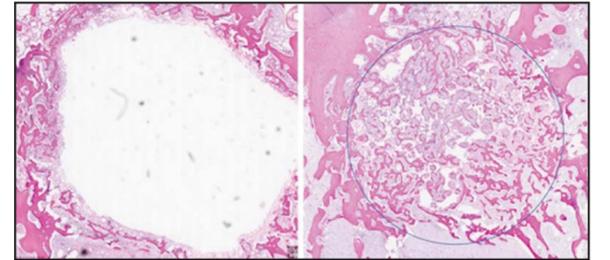
Orthogon marks major technical milestone

Tetranite helps cut complexity of dental implant procedures

LOWELL, Mass., Aug 3: RevBio, Inc. announced that it has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to start a 20-patient clinical trial to examine the safety and efficacy of a more rapidly replaced, pH modified porous formulation of the company's bone adhesive biomaterial called Tetranite® to immediately stabilize dental implants following tooth extractions. This new formulation has shown evidence of a more biologically active bone substitution. While not osteoinductive, this patent-pending version of Tetranite has shown characteristics which may be described as "osteopromotive."

The clinical trial will be conducted by Paul A. Fugazzotto, DDS, a world-renowned periodontist based in Massachusetts, who has over 30 years of experience placing dental implants, and Kanyon Keeney, DDS, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon based in Virginia whose clinical practice focuses exclusively on dental implant surgery. "This product is truly transformational," said Dr. Fugazzotto. "Tetranite will revolutionize how implant dentistry will be performed. The adhesive properties and handling characteristics of this material are incomparable to any product on the market."

Teeth are extracted due to damage from traumatic injuries, tooth decay, or gum disease. The current standard of care consists of multiple staged surgical procedures to restore a patient's dentition with prosthetic crowns supported by dental implants. Frequently, extraction sites are too large for dental implants to achieve primary stability through conventional mechanical engagement. Instead, patients must undergo a costly, complex, and lengthy



Histological images of bone formation within a critical size defect after three weeks in vivo in a rabbit distal femur. On the left, the original Tetranite formulation shows very little substitution with new bone and appears white, which indicates the presence of the biomaterial. On the right, the more osteopromotive formulation shows significant bone in-growth with the red and pink areas indicating new bone substituting the Tetranite biomaterial.

process including a preliminary bone grafting surgery before receiving a dental implant. Based on company surveys, each year in the U.S. approximately 2.1 million implants are eventually placed into initially unstable tooth extraction sites that first must receive a bone graft. The use of Tetranite to stabilize an unstable implant will allow for the immediate placement of dental implants which otherwise could not be placed until the initial bone graft has healed to form new bone. As a result, the Tetranite® biomaterial will help reduce the duration and complexity of these dental implant procedures, lessen patient pain and recovery time, and reduce the overall cost of care thereby providing greater patient access for the treatment of tooth loss.

"We are truly excited to conduct this study with both Dr. Fugazzotto, who will initiate this study enrolling

the first cases, along with Dr. Keeney," said Alan Pollack, RevBio's Senior Director of Dental Clinical Operations. "The improvements we have made to the technology have accelerated both the bone substitution profile and the product's adhesive strength. Having also just recently received IRB approval, we look forward to enrolling our first patients in the coming weeks."

RevBio, Inc., is a clinical stage medical device company engaged in the development and commercialization of a patented, synthetic, injectable, self-setting, and osteoconductive bone adhesive biomaterial called Tetranite®. The company is initially developing this technology for use in the dental, cranial, and broader orthopaedic markets as well as applications in the animal health market. RevBio's Tetranite technology is not yet approved for commercial use. (AP)

and exceptional experiences to domestic and international patients. With three prestigious awards for excellence in healthcare services, Asklepieia is dedicated to promoting well-being and positioning Greece at the forefront of the global Health & Wellness Tourism industry.

BE STRONG is a non-profit organization that provides cancer-related information, prevention awareness, and support. With a pioneering helpline, international collaborations, and a commitment to positively impacting, we strive to be a reliable resource for individuals affected by cancer and other challenging diseases.

Open Health Alliance is a nationwide non-profit Medical Network in Greece uniting healthcare professionals, citizens, and patient associations. With a patient-centered approach and focus on quality care, we aim to overcome challenges in healthcare delivery and foster an innovative doctor-patient relationship for optimized medical services.

Also:

CANTON, Mass: Orthogon Therapeutics LLC, a trailblazer in the field of antiviral therapeutics, has announced

a dual victory. Orthogon's lead molecule has successfully completed acute toxicity studies, marking a pivotal technical milestone that has unlocked an additional \$3M from its dedicated syndicate of healthcare investors. This wraps up a \$6M financing over the past year and brings Orthogon's total raise to a formidable \$18.5M.

"We're celebrating this scientific achievement as much as this new funding," said Dr. Ali H. Munawar, CEO of Orthogon Therapeutics. "Our team's unwavering efforts and ingenuity have led us to these important wins. These achievements bring us one step closer to delivering the first-ever treatment for BK virus."

Dr. Munawar added, "The real breakthrough in truly preventing, managing, and treating BK virus will come with a versatile, small molecule that targets BK virus at the site of replication. One that offers dosing flexibility in both at-risk patients and those already experiencing BK virus reactivation. This therapeutic option is non-existent, but the landscape is about to be transformed."

BK virus presents a substantial threat to immunocompromised patients, especially transplant recipients.

With no current treatment options available, Orthogon's groundbreaking work is poised to deliver a first-of-its-kind solution.

"Once again, our backers have demonstrated their belief in our technology platform and in our mission to develop innovative treatment options for transplant patients," remarked Dr. Munawar.

This development serves as a major catalyst, propelling Orthogon's pioneering drug candidate into pre-IND studies and moving it closer to the clinic.

About Orthogon Therapeutics:

Orthogon Therapeutics, LLC is a privately held R&D firm headquartered in the biotech hub of Greater Boston with a branch in Leuven, Belgium. Orthogon wields an innovative structure-based and biophysics platform for the design of novel medicines.

BK virus (BKV), a member of the polyomavirus family, establishes a life-long, persistent yet silent infection in over 80% of healthy adults. BK virus reactivation is seen in the kidneys of nearly half of all solid organ and stem cell transplant patients, leading to severe complications and graft loss. (AP)

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# Turkey investigates 'cancellation' of Ataturk TV series

Television

ISTANBUL, Aug. 3, (AP) — Turkey's broadcasting watchdog has launched an investigation into claims that streaming service Disney+ pulled a series on the country's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the group's chairman said.

Local media reports said Armenian Americans had lobbied for the show to be canceled on the grounds that Ataturk, as an officer in the Ottoman army, was tied to the mass killing of Armenians in 1915.

The Radio and Television Supreme Board decided to initiate an investigation "based on the public information" that Disney+ decided not to broadcast the series, board chairman Ebubekir Sahin said on social media late Tuesday.

Ataturk, who led the Turkish independence struggle in the years following World War I and went on to become the country's first president, is a much-venerated figure in Turkey, where insulting his memory is a criminal offense.

Disney+ announced last month that the Ataturk series would be aired "on the 100th anniversary" of the Turkish Republic, which falls on Oct. 29.

On Monday, the Armenian National Committee of America thanked supporters of its campaign against Disney+ "glorifying" Ataturk and claimed the show had been canceled.

Disney+ did not respond to an emailed request for comment on the status of the series.

Omer Celik, spokesman for Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, called it a "shame" that Disney+ had "succumbed to the pressure of the Armenian lobby" in reportedly canceling the series.

"This attitude of the platform in question is disrespectful to the values of the Republic of Turkey and our nation," Celik said in a social media post.

An estimated 1.5 million people were killed in what is widely viewed as the first genocide of the 20th century. Turkey denies that the deaths of Armenians constituted genocide, saying the toll has been inflated and that those killed were victims of civil war and unrest.

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Disney kicked off its "Wonder of Princess" festivities, as part of the on-going celebration of 100 years of Disney, with a magical line-up of new Consumer Product, Games and Publishing offerings that fans can expect to find this August. The month-long celebration of the iconic Disney Princess brand and its beloved characters will culminate with the return of World Princess Week, a global extravaganza that highlights the impact of the timeless magic and beloved storytelling of Disney Princess characters.

All-new Disney Princess offerings hitting the market throughout August range from interactive toys, adult collectibles, stylish apparel for kids and adults, to digital and Disney+ content, games additions, publishing titles and more. The lineup includes products for fans of all ages from brands including Janie and Jack, Samii Ryan, Corkcicle, Loungefly, JAKKS Pacific, and Mattel.

To kick off festivities, new Disney Story Dolls from shopDisney.com are available today online and at select shopping destinations at Disney Parks. The dolls feature an additional outfit and various accessories, and are wrapped in packaging that can also be used as a

coloring and activity sheet. Young fans can also get cozy in new sleepwear available on shopDisney, inspired by beloved Disney Princess characters.

Disney Princess and LEGO fans can stream a brand new special, "LEGO Disney Princess: The Castle Quest", debuting exclusively on Disney+, August 18. In this special, Tiana, Moana, Snow White, Rapunzel, and Ariel set off on an adventure when they are each unexpectedly transported to a mysterious castle. The Princess characters work together to solve challenges hidden deep within the castle walls and try to save their kingdoms. For more new content, viewers can also stream a new "Making Wonder" Episode, premiering today on the Disney YouTube channel, where the hosts team up with youth leaders from Girl Up, a girl-centered leadership development initiative focusing on equity for girls and women established by the United Nations Foundation, using LEGO Bricks to build a one-of-a-kind Disney Castle.

Fans can also shop Disney Princess LEGO sets including the Ultimate Adventure Castle, featured in the Disney+ Special, and all-new sets— Disney Castle, Princess Enchanted Journey, Aurora's Castle and Cinderella and Prince Charming's Castle.

For the first-time, Disney and Mattel's premium doll brand American Girl have come together to create a limited-edition series of three, enchanting Disney Princess dolls (Belle, Jasmine, Rapunzel), as part of the American Girl Collector Series. The 18-inch dolls, available today on americangirl.com, come dressed in their exquisitely detailed signature outfits, embellished with more than 100 Swarovski crystals.

Variety



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Robert Downey Jr. as Lewis Strauss in a scene from 'Oppenheimer.' (AP)

Film

"Oppenheimer" represents Manhattan Project with nuance'

## Nolan's film forces you to 'think'

**DORSET, Vt:** A Vermont driver will be charged with gross negligence in the crash that killed actor **Treat Williams**, officials said.

An investigation of the June 12 crash in Dorset concluded a vehicle pulled in front of Williams, who was riding a motorcycle and was unable to avoid a collision, Vermont State Police said Tuesday.

The driver, **Ryan Koss**, 35, of Dorset, was issued a citation Tuesday evening for grossly negligent operation causing death, state police said. He was released and ordered to appear in court in September to be formally charged.

A court official couldn't say whether Koss had a lawyer, and Koss didn't immediately return an email message seeking comment.

Williams, 71, of **Manchester Center**, was pronounced dead at Albany Medical Center in New York.

Richard Treat Williams' nearly 50-year career included starring roles in the TV series "Everwood" and the movie "Hair." (AP)

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**REHOBOTH BEACH, Delaware:** US President **Joe Biden** and first lady **Jill Biden** took a break from their Delaware beach vacation to see the summer blockbuster "Oppenheimer." The Bidens, after a quick dinner at Matt's Fish Camp in nearby Lewes on Tuesday, went to an early evening showing of the three-hour movie about the life of Manhattan Project mastermind **J. Robert Oppenheimer**.

The Bidens chose "Oppenheimer" over the even bigger blockbuster "Barbie," which was showing at the same time at the Movies at Midway theater.

The total box office in US and Canadian theaters on the opening weekend was more than \$300 million, the fourth highest ever. Warner Bros.' "Barbie" grossed \$162 million domestically, the best opening of the year. Universal's "Oppenheimer" took in \$82.4 million.

Director Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" tells the story of the man who changed the

**SANTA MONICA, Calif., Aug. 3, (AP)** — Robert Downey Jr. said he came away from Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer," thinking about how important context is to understand significant moments in history.

The film tells the story of the controversial theoretical physicist, **J. Robert Oppenheimer** (Cillian Murphy), who oversaw the development of the first atomic bomb during World War II. Downey plays former chair of the US Atomic Energy Commission **Lewis Strauss**, a key figure in the revocation of Oppenheimer's security clearance.

The interview, which was conducted before the actors strike was called, has been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP:** You were immersed in this project and have focused on this pivotal moment in history, what has been your takeaway?

**Downey:** Context is so critical. The timing of the Manhattan Project, the need for it, the deployment of it, necessary or not - you can read plenty of data that would support either - regardless, the "why" can be debated, but the "here we are now" is the cold, hard truth. Under Chris Nolan's direction, we're able to invite the audience to be involved in this meditation. We all know the films over the last 50 years that have been important in that way, as well as entertaining and thrilling and just cool to watch. And I guess that's the transcendent thing about certain films, you know? And so, I got to be in one. Yay.

**AP:** Yeah, it is forcing you to think philosophically. But also, it's a really interesting and entertaining movie, which I think is very impressive given that it's just a lot of men talking for the better part of three hours.

**Downey:** Yes, apologies. And there's something about that, too. Maybe if more men were listening to each other, as opposed to having petty arguments and infighting and trying to get each other destroyed, we'd have more space for a larger dialogue. One of the things about Nolan in particular that is now evi-

dent is big scale, big impact, thrilling cinema - but there's also this exploration of the subtleties of all of us, including our frailties and our defects and all these things that are really difficult to describe. And painted this picture that's historic and very personal and also shocking, in a cool way.

**AP:** Did you guys have conversations about the objective versus subjective portions of the film?

**Downey:** The way Chris wrote it was meant to be, as often as not, Oppenheimer's subjective experience. So that was, I think, one of the great, genius decisions he made. By doing that, he puts us all in the position of someone who is just a human being, but they have a certain skill set and it needs to be brought to perhaps the verge of extinction to supposedly save us from another extinction. And it's just incredible that we've even been to a place where, as a species, we have to make these kinds of decisions because of technology.

**AP:** To go back to the topic of men talking, the nature of when this took place means that there weren't a lot of women involved in these conversations. The absence of women in some scenes felt even more deliberate than that. I was curious if you took away any commentary on patriarchy and war?

**Downey:** Men start wars and the entire planet should be a matriarchy. But I've never changed positions on that.

**AP:** You already had that belief going into this?

**Downey:** Well, this is just a triple confirmation.

**AP:** Do you think there are parallels in this story to anything we're seeing right now, politically?

**Downey:** Of course. I think that mid-century Red Scare has now kind of splintered into a million sets of everything is an "other." But again, I think that's the influence of the Information Age. And while we claim we're in the Information Age now, we're still in the atomic age because we still haven't figured it out. It's arguable that we're less safe now than we were during the height of the Cold War. So, I mean, it's a lot to take in, but I think great films are meant

to humble us to the point where we can actually have these sorts of dialogues.

**AP:** Do you think we'll figure it out? You seem like an optimist.

**Downey:** Yeah. And as usual, just in time to not eff it all up.

**Also:**

**LOS ANGELES:** **Janet Yang** has been re-elected to serve as president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organization said Tuesday. This will mark Yang's second term as president of the organization that puts on the Oscars and her fifth year as a governor-at-large.

Yang's background in **Hollywood** is as a producer of films like "The Joy Luck Club," "The People vs. Larry Flynt" and "Over the Moon" as well as the Emmy-winning film "Indictment: The McMartin Trial." After serving the film academy in various positions over the years, she was elected president last year and oversaw the 95th Academy Awards in March, which saw an uptick in viewership compared to the last few years.

Academy CEO **Bill Kramer** said in a statement that under Yang's leadership, "these dedicated governors will guide the Academy's ongoing efforts to elevate the work of our global membership and film community, highlight our industry's rich history, foster meaningful dialogue, and continue to build equity and inclusion in every aspect of our organization."

The Academy's board of governors also announced the election of several officer positions, including several first-time officers like **Howard Berger** to the Museum Committee, **Brooke Breton** to the Education and Outreach Committee, **Tom Duffield** to the Finance Committee and **Howard A. Rodman** to the Governance Committee.

The 96th Oscars will be held on March 10, 2024, and broadcast live on ABC.

course of the world's history by shepherding the development of the first atomic bomb.

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**PORT CLYDE, Maine:** Lightning has knocked out a lighthouse on the Maine coast that was featured in the movie "Forrest Gump."



Williams



Biden

The Marshall Point lighthouse, established in 1832, has been dark since Thursday when a lightning strike took out the light and foghorn, and damaged the associated circuitry, said **Nat Lyon**, director of the Marshall Point Lighthouse and Museum. "It fried everything. It fried the light, the circuit breakers, the

foghorn," Lyon said Wednesday. "At this point we have a lightless lighthouse until the Coast Guard can effect the repairs."

A tenant living in the keeper's house reported a "tremendous crash" and noticed the light was out after the lightning strike, Lyon said. Coast Guard Station Southwest Harbor, which is

responsible for the navigational aid, removed the light for repairs on Monday and is still working on getting the foghorn working, he said. The Coast Guard didn't respond to messages from The Associated Press.

The lighthouse was featured in the 1994 movie, "Forrest Gump." (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

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## People &amp; Places

## Books

## Russo stilling fooling

## Lively sisterhood in 'Goodbye Earl'

**'Goodbye Earl: A Revenge Novel'** by Leesa Cross-Smith (Grand Central)

Whether you know the song by The Chicks or not, there's a lot to love about **Leesa Cross-Smith's** latest and uber-personal novel, "Goodbye Earl."

But it does help to know the context: There are Earls in this world — men who abuse women. And, as the song explains, Earl's gotta die.

When Kasey travels back to Goldie after 15 years away, she faces a traumatic past that she'd just as soon keep buried. But her best friends since they were babies — Rosemarie, Ada, and Caroline, together known as RACK — are there to help her through it.

RACK's sisterhood transcends shared experiences and close proximity. Cross-Smith crafts a magical bond between them, capturing their easy, deep camaraderie as the now-33-year-old women slip into fun teenage banter when they reunite, their Southern accents bleeding through the page when they're especially excited.

The chapters flip between then and now. In 2004, their final months together in Goldie before RACK graduates high school and Rosemarie and Kasey split town for wide open spaces and new faces. Jump 15 years, the four reunite in their hometown for a wedding.

The past reveals the abuse Kasey witnessed and experienced at the hands of her stepdad. The present uncovers a second chance for all of them to make things right and to rid the world of an Earl once and for all.

But the people in their lives aren't all Earls — some of them are positively delightful, with scenes that buoy the book like a breath of fresh air: rejuvenating kinship, contented friendship, giddy romance.

Cross-Smith's novel reflects her wide-ranging interests, which are so broad you'd have to be a total curmudgeon not to connect with at least one of the items in the extensive list on her About Me page. At once small Southern hometown and bigtime world-traveling interests, Cross-Smith pours bits of herself into these four besties to create a nostalgically familiar flavor with a wow-what-is-that-spicy-kick note that's refreshing and fun all the way through.

Baking pies meets kimbap by the lake. A straight Southern red-headed cupcake-baking sweetheart is best friends with a god-loving Black polyamorous bisexual hippie. Nosy Nancy keeps an eye on the town and everyone loses themselves dancing down at Duke's.

It takes a bit to get acquainted with everyone, but after the wedding is over, things start moving at a breakneck speed. Then it somehow keeps rolling forward with the same momentum and doesn't stop.

Ideal summer reading, "Goodbye Earl" is the kind of story you want to tell all your friends about because the content is heavy enough to need to vent it out, but the narration is light enough to merit gossip. Cross-Smith's incredible, easy voice will make your skin crawl one moment and give you goosebumps the next, then smooth out your frazzled emotions with a contented, sunshiny vibe two pages later.

**"Somebody's Fool"** by Richard Russo (Alfred A. Knopf)

**Richard Russo** is back with the third book in his "Fool" series, and while it feels climactic, the author hasn't formally said if it officially ends the trilogy he began in 1993 with "Nobody's Fool" and revisited more than two decades later in "Everybody's Fool" (2016).

"Somebody's Fool" jumps ahead almost 15 years from the end of the second novel. There is an early reference to "the recession the whole damn country is in," pegging the time frame to the late 2000s. The upstate town of North Bath, New York, has been annexed by its well-to-do neighbor, Schuyler Springs. We're treated to an opening chapter that fast forwards through the lives of a few key characters and by page 19, the hero of books one and two, Donald "Sully" Sullivan, is dead. His son, Peter, finds him "sitting on the bench outside, studying the racing form. Or that's what he'd apparently been doing when his heart quit."

Luck, then, and why some people have it and others don't, endures as a favorite Russo theme. Peter wears the hero's cape in this novel, whose main events take place about a decade after Sully's death. He has inherited both his father's and mother's houses and is fixing up the former in the hopes of selling it for a big profit and leaving town. Fate, of course, has other plans. When one of Peter's estranged sons shows up in North Bath, Peter is forced to consider just how much his life is starting to mirror his father's.

Fans of the previous two novels will enjoy reconnecting with familiar characters, from Ruth and her daughter Janay and granddaughter Tina, to Doug Raymer, no longer North Bath's police chief (because, no more North Bath) and he-hopes-still-his-girlfriend Charice (now the police chief of Schuyler Springs). Add in Charice's brother, Jerome, back in town after years away in North Carolina but with the same OCD affliction, and "hapless" Rub Squeers, just starting to get over the death of his wife, Bootsie, and still not over the loss of his best friend Sully, plus a dozen or so others, and you've got a sprawling cast, indeed.

But while Sully is missed as a physical presence in the book, he's never far from anyone's mind. "Dead wasn't the same as gone," writes Russo. In fact, a search of the PDF provided by the publisher yields 260 uses of the name Sully in the 458-page novel. Peter, of course, is always thinking about his father, and everyone else is always thinking about the similarities between Peter and his father, or their own memories of Sully.

The "Fool" books nail that small town vibe, where everybody thinks they know everybody's else's business, and more importantly, cares about what happens to their neighbors. If it all feels a little quaint in America circa 2023, that's part of the charm. And it's what sets in motion a chunk of the plot when an unidentified body is found hanging in the abandoned Sans Souci hotel. The mystery of the man's identity threads throughout the book and when the case is finally solved, there's a sense that the tragedy might have been avoidable if neighbors had just known more about the man's circumstances and been able to help.

In Russo's world, these characters certainly would have tried. Plenty of them get a measure of life or career satisfaction by the novel's end, guided by one of Sully's endearing rules: "Do something. If that doesn't work, do something else." (AP)



Cross-Smith



This image released by HGTV shows Christina Hall, host of the home improvement series 'Christina on the Coast,' at a home in Newport Beach, Calif. (AP)

## Television

## HGTV star likes 'doing the big projects'

## Hall finds success in going solo

NEW YORK, Aug. 3, (AP) — HGTV star Christina Hall promises not to judge your home if you invite her over.

"There's literally zero judgment," the TV personality said during a recent interview. "Unless you live in a hoarder house or it's real gross or dirty, I'm not going to care. I've lived in different types of houses and places and situations."

As the star of two shows on the network, "Christina on the Coast" and "Christina in the Country," Hall has a talent for looking at a floorplan and picturing what could be changed to make a space more functional.

She enjoys renovating homes more than choosing decor or staging for prospective buyers.

"I like doing the big projects," Hall explained. "I like taking down the walls and I like figuring out floor plans and how to make something more functional. I love choosing kitchen material, but I don't love choosing furniture."

Hall began her professional career in real estate, where she met her now ex-husband Tarek El Moussa. After spending a few years flipping houses, they got their own HGTV series "Flip or Flop," showing the process of buying, improving and selling a home for profit. The two divorced in 2018 but continued to work together until 2022 when "Flip or Flop" aired its final episode after 10 seasons.

Hall first's solo TV venture was "Christina on the Coast," now airing its fourth season. On the show, Hall balances solo projects with her home life in Newport Beach, California. She's a mother of three and is remarried to Josh Hall, a realtor and former police officer.

Her husband is featured on the shows and Hall says, "I think his

answer would be it took a minute" to get comfortable on camera. "I feel like it might be weird to be thrown in with me because it comes naturally and I've been doing it for a long time." He looks back at old episodes and is like, "Oh, gosh" and cringing.

The Halls also have a vacation home in Franklin, Tennessee, a suburb of Nashville. The TV personality says there's "a misconception" that she spends more time there than she actually does.

When she takes her kids to Tennessee, it's a getaway. "When we go there, we mostly cook at home, have quiet time and we'll be on our property," said Hall.

## Seasons

It also serves as the backdrop for "Christina in the Country." While filming in Tennessee, "We're packing it in," explained Hall. "We go next week and we're filming six straight days, we're filming very long days, doing six houses. Then there's something called B stories and it's a background story of the show. Those are long days and I'm not going to lie, when I get back home I'm wiped out. My schedule in California is a bit easier."

Both "Christina" shows have been renewed for new seasons. Hall has also considered expanding her work to encompass a "Christina Coast to Coast" type show because, "we can go anywhere" but hesitates from thinking too much about it because she's busy as is.

"Logistically, why it works in Tennessee is because we have a home there. We have clothes there. I don't pack. We just go," she said.

Hall says a challenge of her job is "everyone wants the same look, especially in California."

"Houses have certain architecture," she explains. "Unless you're re-doing the architecture, you can't have a midcentury modern house and then inside make it a farmhouse."

She's also noticed a difference in aesthetics working on her two shows. "Country" is more feminine overall, more wallpapers, textures, a bit more glam. For "Coast," I see more industrial and more modern," she adds that men seem more interested in the design in her California show while the women take the lead on home decisions in Tennessee.

For downtime, the self-professed "extroverted introvert" enjoys reading mystery thrillers and watches TV shows like "Beef" and "Righteous Gemstones" with Josh. She also likes to watch lighter fare including "Ginny & Georgia" and "Firefly Lane" on her own.

She says she does get recognized a lot and for the most part "people are respectful" but public encounters can be awkward. "Airports are where you catch people taking videos of you and they're not very sly about it. Or they Google you right in front of you. Your face is on their phone, and they say, 'Is this you?'" Hall also says people have sat down at her booth in restaurants and started a conversation. "That's a little weird," she said.

Her kids are accustomed to camera crews and not shy. She says her son Braeden recently asked to watch all his scenes in "Christina in the Country." "He was laughing at himself because he's such a ham." He asked why he isn't on the show more and she says she tries not to overdo it. "I try to keep him to short days and doing fun things. The last thing I want is for them to say, 'I don't want to do this.'"



French actress Isabelle Adjani arrives on the red carpet for the movie 'Dammi' during the opening ceremony at the 76th Locarno International Film Festival in Locarno, Switzerland, Wednesday, August 2. The 76th Locarno Film Festival takes place from August 2 to 12 in Locarno. (AP)



Zendaya



Cloud

## Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** Zendaya has posted a tender tribute to **Angus Cloud**, her "Euphoria" co-star who died this week at age 25.

"I'm so grateful I got the chance to know him in his life, to call him a brother, to see his warm kind eyes and bright smile, or hear his infectious cackle of a laugh (I'm smiling now just thinking of it)," the actor said in an Instagram post Tuesday.

Cloud died Monday at his family home in **Oakland, California**, his publicist said, just days after his father was buried. No cause of death was given.

Zendaya said Cloud, who played drug dealer Fezco "Fez" O'Neil on the HBO series, was someone who embodied the phrase "light up any room they entered."

"I'd like to remember him that way. For all of the boundless light, love and joy he always managed to give us. I'll cherish every moment," Zendaya's post said.

Fellow "Euphoria" co-star Sydney Sweeney also posted a touching tribute to Cloud on Instagram, along with a photo of her and Cloud hugging.

"Angus you were an open soul, with the kindest heart, and you filled every room with laughter. This is the hardest thing I've ever had to post, and I'm struggling to find all the words," her post said, adding that she feels "blessed to have known you in this lifetime."

Cloud hadn't acted before he was cast in "Euphoria." He was cast after being discovered while walking down the street in **New York**. In addition to the hit series, which hasn't started filming its third season, Cloud had a supporting role in his first film, "The Line," a college drama starring **Alex Wolff** and **John Malkovich** that premiered at this year's Tribeca Festival. Cloud was recently cast to co-star in "Scream 6."

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

**ALBANY, NY:** A museum in **Rochester, New York**, returned ancestral remains of 19 Native Americans and funerary artifacts to the Oneida Indian Nation on

Wednesday, striving for a "small step in the service of justice."

The remains of Oneida ancestors include those of five men, three women and two adolescent girls who lived sometime between 200 to 3,000 years ago. A mix of pottery and other items traditionally buried with the dead were also

returned, as required by federal law.

**Hillary Olson**, the president of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, apologized for the museum's acquisition of the remains.

"We have perpetuated harmful practices including the excavation, collection, study, and display of Native American

ancestors and their belongings," she said during a repatriation ceremony in Rochester. "This repatriation does not change the past. But we hope that it is a small step in the service of justice."

In 2000, the museum returned the ancestral remains of 25 Native Americans to the Oneidas.

The remains returned Wednesday were dug up from at least six burial sites throughout the state some time between 1928 and 1979. The remains were acquired during the museum's excavations, or were donated to or purchased by the museum, where they had been housed ever since.

"Events like this allow us to move past these failures with a chance for cultural institutions to take accountability and make amends," **Ray Halbritter**, who represents the tribe, said at the ceremony. "Repatriation is more than the simple return of remains and cultural artifacts."

A growing number of museums, universities, and institutions throughout the nation have been grappling with how best to handle Native American remains and artifacts in their collections.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, a federal law passed in 1990, requires museums and universities to disclose to the federal government the Native American items in their possessions, complete item-by-item inventories, and notify or transfer those items to affiliated tribes or descendants. (AP)



The Marshall Point lighthouse sits on the water's edge with its damaged light removed after a July 27 lightning strike Wednesday, Aug. 2, in the village of Port Clyde, Maine. (AP)

## Climate

## Historic heat

## Climate change heat affected 80% in July

NEW YORK, Aug. 3, (AP) — Human-caused global warming made July hotter for four out of five people on Earth, with more than 2 billion people feeling climate change-boosted warmth daily, according to a flash study.

More than 6.5 billion people, or 81% of the world's population, sweated through at least one day where climate change had a significant effect on the average daily temperature, according to a new report issued Wednesday by Climate Central, a science nonprofit that has figured a way to calculate how much climate change has affected daily weather.

"We really are experiencing climate change just about everywhere," said Climate Central Vice President for Science Andrew Pershing.

Researchers looked at 4,711 cities and found climate change fingerprints in 4,019 of them for July, which other scientists said is the hottest month on record. The new study calculated that the burning of coal, oil and natural gas had made it three times more likely to be hotter on at least one day in those cities. In the US, where the climate effect was largest in Florida, more than 244 million people felt greater heat due to climate change during July.

For 2 billion people, in a mostly tropical belt across the globe, climate change made it three times more likely to be hotter every single day of July. Those include the million-person cities of Mecca, Saudi Arabia and San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The day with the most widespread climate-change effect was July 10, when 3.5 billion people experienced extreme heat that had global warming's fingerprints, according to the report. That's different than the hottest day globally, which was July 7, according to the University of Maine's Climate Reanalyzer.

The study is not peer-reviewed, the gold standard for science, because the month just ended. It is based on peer-reviewed climate fingerprinting methods that are used by other groups and are considered technically valid by the National Academy of Sciences. Two outside climate scientists told The Associated Press that they found the study to be credible.

## Forecast

More than a year ago Climate Central developed a measurement tool called the Climate Shift Index. It calculates the effect, if any, of climate change on temperatures across the globe in real time, using European and US forecasts, observations and computer simulations. To find if there is an effect, the scientists compare recorded temperatures to a simulated world with no warming from climate change and it's about 2 degrees (1.2 degrees Celsius) cooler to find out the chances that the heat was natural.

"By now, we should all be used to individual heat waves being connected to global warming," said Princeton University climate scientist Gabriel Vecchi, who wasn't part of the study. "Unfortunately, this month, as this study elegantly shows, has given the vast majority of people on this planet a taste of global warming's impact on extreme heat."

In the United States, 22 US cities had at least 20 days when climate change tripled the likelihood of extra heat, including Miami, Houston, Phoenix, Tampa, Las Vegas and Austin.

The US city most affected by climate change in July was Cape Coral, Florida, which saw fossil fuels make hotter temperatures 4.6 times more likely for the month and had 29 out of 31 days where there was a significant climate change fingerprint.

The farther north in the United States, the less of a climate effect was seen in July. Researchers found no significant effect in places like North Dakota and South Dakota, Wyoming, northern California, upstate New York and parts of Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Heat waves in the US Southwest, the Mediterranean and even China have gotten special analysis by World Weather Attribution finding a climate change signal, but places like the Caribbean and Middle East are having huge climate change signals and not getting the attention, Pershing said. Unlike the other study, this one looked at the entire globe.

Meanwhile, a record string of daily highs over 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 degrees Celsius) in Phoenix ended Monday as the dangerous heat wave that suffocated the Southwest throughout July receded slightly with cooling monsoon rains.

The historic heat began blasting the region in June, stretching from Texas across New Mexico and Arizona and into California's desert. Phoenix and its suburbs sweltered more and longer than most, with several records including the 31 consecutive days of 110 degrees Fahrenheit-plus (43.4 degrees Celsius) weather. The previous record was 18 straight days, set in 1974.

The streak was finally broken Monday, when the high topped out at 108 degrees Fahrenheit (42.2 Celsius) at 3:10 p.m.

"The high temperature for Phoenix today is 108 degrees," Jessica Lefel, meteorologist for the National Weather Service, said at 5 p.m.

"The record streak of 31 straight days of 110+ degree temperatures has ended," the weather service said on social media. "The high temperature at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport reached 108 degrees this afternoon, which is only 2 degrees above normal."

The reprieve was expected to be brief, with the forecast calling for highs again above 110 for several days later in the week. And National Weather Service meteorologist Matthew Hirsch said August could be even hotter than July.

But residents and visitors were taking what they could get. "It's not going to last more than a couple of days, but I'm enjoying this break," said Christine Bertaux, 76, who was cooling off Monday at a downtown day center for older people who are homeless.

"It has been REALLY hot here!" said Jeffrey Sharpe, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, who was in town for a long weekend that on Monday included watching his son's two poodles frolic in a grassy dog park. "But today it was about 85 degrees, more like Wisconsin."

## Records

Phoenix also sweated through a record 16 consecutive days when overnight lows didn't dip below 90 degrees (32.2 degrees Celsius), making it hard for people to cool off after the sun went down.

In California, Death Valley, long considered the hottest place on Earth, flirted in July with some of the hottest temperatures ever recorded, reaching 125.6 degrees Fahrenheit (52.5 Celsius) on July 16 at the aptly named Furnace Creek.

The planet's hottest recorded temperature ever was 134 F (56.7 C) in July 1913 at Furnace Creek, according to the World Meteorological Organization, the body recognized as keeper of world records.

And in Nevada, also on July 16, Las Vegas briefly reached 116 degrees (46.6 degrees Celsius) to tie the record for that date set in 1998.

The heat in Phoenix began to ease slightly last week with the city's first major storm since the monsoon season began June 15.

The Southwest heat wave was just one kind of extreme weather events that hit the US in July. Fatal flash floods swept people and cars away in Pennsylvania, and days of flooding led to dangerous mudslides in the Northeast.

At several points during the month, as many as a third of Americans were under some type of heat advisory, watch or warning. While not as visually dramatic as other natural disasters, experts say heat waves are deadlier - heat in parts of the South and Midwest killed more than a dozen people in June.

Rudy Soliz, who manages the center where Bertaux was cooling off, said those who visit to get a meal and cool off out of the sun "have been having a very hard time this summer."

"Older people have a harder time with the heat, there are a lot of diabetics, people who take medicines," he said.



Pershing



In this 2023 artist illustration by Alberto Gennari, *Perucetus colossus* is reconstructed in its coastal habitat, with an estimated body length: ~20 meters. A new species of ancient whale might be the heaviest animal ever found. Inset: Disarticulated vertebrae of the skeleton of *Perucetus colossus* were surface-scanned to assess their volume by Walter Aguirre, (from left), Alberto Collareta, Marco Merella, in Lima, Peru. (AP)

## Heaviest animal ever may be ancient whale found in Peruvian desert

There could be a new contender for heaviest animal to ever live. While today's blue whale has long held the title, scientists have dug up fossils from an ancient giant that could tip the scales.

Researchers described the species - named *Perucetus colossus*, or "the colossal whale from Peru" - in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday. Each vertebra weighs over 220 pounds (100 kilograms) and its ribs measure nearly 5 feet (1.4 meters) long.

"It's just exciting to see such a giant animal that's so different from anything we know," said Hans Thewissen, a paleontologist at Northeast Ohio Medical University who had no role in the research.

The bones were discovered more than a decade ago by Mario Urbina from the University of San Marcos' Natural History Museum in Lima. An international team spent years digging them out from the side of a steep, rocky slope in the Ica desert, a region in Peru that was once underwater and is known for its rich marine fossils. The results: 13 vertebrae from the whale's backbone, four ribs and a hip bone.

The massive fossils, which are 39 million years old, "are unlike anything I've ever seen," said study author Alberto Collareta, a paleontologist at Italy's University of Pisa. After the excavations, the researchers used 3D scanners to study the surface

of the bones and drilled into them to peek inside. They used the huge - but incomplete - skeleton to estimate the whale's size and weight, using modern marine mammals for comparison, said study author Eli Amson, a paleontologist at the State Museum of Natural History in Stuttgart, Germany.

Nature calculated that the ancient giant weighed somewhere between 94 and 375 tons (85 and 340 metric tons). The biggest blue whales found have been within that range - at around 200 tons (180 metric tons). Its body stretched to around 66 feet (20 meters) long. Blue whales can be longer - with some growing to more than 100 feet (30 meters) in length. (AP)



In this undated photo provided by the California Department of Food and Agriculture is a Tau fruit fly. The department has declared a produce quarantine northeast of Los Angeles to stop the spread of the invasive Tau fruit fly. The fly was discovered on June 6, 2023, in the unincorporated area of Stevenson Ranch, likely brought by a traveler bringing uninspected produce into California, officials said. (AP)



Newsom



Obrador

## Ecology

## Invasive fruit flies found near LA:

The discovery of nearly 30 invasive fruit flies has prompted a produce quarantine affecting over 79 square miles (204.6 square kilometers) of Los Angeles County as state and local officials try to stop the fly from spreading and hurting California's fruit and vegetable industry.

It's the first quarantine ever in the Western Hemisphere for the Tau fruit fly, which is native to Asia, agriculture officials said. The fly was discovered on June 6 in the unincorporated area of Stevenson Ranch, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of downtown Los Angeles, and was likely brought by a traveler bringing uninspected produce into California, officials said. Gavin Newsom is the governor of California.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture announced the quarantine last week.

"We're a big conduit in terms of shipping and trade," said Ken Pellman, spokesperson for Los Angeles County's Agricultural Commission. "We want to keep an eye out and prevent stuff from coming here in the first place, and if it comes here, to eradicate it quickly before it spreads."

Avocados, tomatoes and watermelons are just a few of the roughly 100 fruits that can play host to the fly, making it easier to gain a foothold. If it spreads, the fly could destroy crops and prompt farmers to spray more pesticides to maintain their yields.

While much is unknown about the fly, Jason Leathers, Environmental Program Manager at the California Department of Food and Agriculture, predicts its increasing infestations around the world will lead to further study over the next 10 years.

He added that the Tau fly's ability to evade human detection and reproduce quicker than other fruit flies pose the most significant risks.

For now, the infestation has been contained, but officials from county and state agriculture departments are urging residents not to take their produce, whether grown at their properties or purchased at a market, outside their homes. Farmers market vendors have employed netting systems designed to catch the flies and protect produce as they travel throughout the county. (AP)

**Dead fish carpet beaches:** A town on northern Mexico's Pacific coast saw its

## Health

## Camp helps train students in physical, occupational therapy

## Kids with no limb enjoy limitless life

HAMDEN, Conn., Aug. 3, (AP) — Santino Iamunno was born without most of his right hand, and the 11-year-old tends to keep that hand in his pocket when around new people, just to avoid the questions.

But that's not something he worries about at Camp No Limits, where all the young campers are dealing with limb loss or limb differences.

"It feels nice because I don't have to, like, explain what happened that often," Santino said. "Because outside of camp, I'll get a lot of questions like, 'What happened?' And I mean, I'll explain it to them. But here, it's better here, because I don't have to."

Founded in 2004, Camp No Limits holds sessions in Maine, Missouri, Maryland, Florida, Idaho, Arizona, Texas, California and a special one in Connecticut, where the counselors are physical and occupational therapy students at Quinnipiac University, a private school with about 9,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

At the four-day program, campers stay in the Quinnipiac dorms, attend physical therapy sessions, learn about prosthetics and other equipment and are taught life hacks such as how to tie their shoes, put their hair in a ponytail or climb stairs. They also can challenge themselves physically with activities such as learning or relearning how to ride a bicycle and trying out sled hockey.

Jeni Rhodes' 8-year-old daughter Anya lost her left leg to cancer. She said seeing Anya push herself at camp to overcome obstacles and experience joy again has been special.

"She was able to get on a bike today

and for the first time since her amputation last year," Rhodes said. "So it's a big opportunity not only to just be around other people and differences, but also for her to try new things."

Many of the campers are accompanied by parents and siblings who also stay overnight, participate in some of the activities and create bonds with other families.

Rosanne Keep, of North Wales, Pennsylvania, came with her 12-year-old daughter Mariam, who was born with a congenital condition that led to the amputation of her right foot in January. She said the opportunity to meet other kids with limb differences and their families has been good for both her daughter and her.

## Opportunity

"There are other kids out there, but depending on what circles you travel in, you just don't see them that often," Rosanne Keep said. "So it's a good opportunity for her to meet some other kids, talk about, you know, what they're going through, and also just as parents to meet other parents who are facing the same difficulties. It's just good mentally."

The camps are staffed with physical and occupational therapists, prosthetists and adult amputee mentors.

Quinnipiac's camp is also a learning experience for the student counselors. It's the only such partnership Camp No Limits has with a university. And the Quinnipiac camp gets visits each year from prosthetist students from the University of Hartford, so they can also both teach and learn from the kids.

beaches carpeted with dead fish after what experts describe as a toxic algae bloom.

Officials in the northern state of Sinaloa said this week that dead fish started washing up on beaches around the hamlet of El Maviri around July 25. About a ton of fish carcasses was trucked away, and some were kept for testing. Randy Ross, an inspector with Mexico's health standards agency, said a cyanobacteria was found in the fish.

But researchers said they are also looking at the possibility that high water temperatures - which spiked to as much as 95 degrees (35 Celsius) in recent weeks - might

have contributed to the die-off.

Biologist Rosalba Alonso Rodríguez of Mexico's National Autonomous University said it would be the first time that this particular species of toxic algae was found in that area. Mexico's president is Andrés Manuel L6pez Obrador.

She said high water temperatures can reduce the amount of oxygen in the water, potentially harming fish. (AP)

□ □ □

**Rodeo goat found safe:** Willy the rodeo goat, who has lassoed the hearts of residents in a rural South Texas county ever since she

escaped from an arena enclosure July 15, has been found.

The elusive goat had hidden in sugar cane and corn fields, avoiding capture for weeks in Willacy County, about 300 miles (483 km) southwest of Houston. Residents searched for her on horses, all-terrain vehicles and by drone. Local businesses aided the search by donating 90 prizes and gifts worth \$5,000 in total - including brisket, bales of hay and beef jerky - to be given to whoever found her.

Ricardo Rojas III didn't have to go far to find Willy. He and a friend caught the slippery goat on Monday in his backyard, about 1 mile (1.6 km) away from where she escaped.

The 16-year-old high school junior and family friend Sammy Ambriz were fixing animal stalls on the teenager's 10-acre (4-hectare) family property located between Raymondville and Lyford in deep South Texas when there was a Willy sighting.

Neighbors had possibly seen the goat, so Rojas' father told him to grab some ropes. Rojas used one of his family's goats and its cries to try and lure Willy out of the heavily wooded area behind his family's property.

They soon spotted Willy coming out of the woods and chased her when she ran back into the trees, Rojas said. They cornered her, and both Rojas and Ambriz unsuccessfully tried to lasso Willy.

"And then she started to run again. But luckily, we had a fence that was there, and she tried to hop the fence, but then her head got stuck in the fence," Rojas said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "Me and Sammy jumped on top of her. At that point, she wasn't going nowhere." Alison Savage, president of the Willacy County Livestock Show and Fair, said they believed Willy was getting enough to eat and drink while she was on the lam but worried that predators, including coyotes, might get her. (AP)



Anya Rhodes, 8, of Newton Mass., right, plays a game with a hula hoop during Camp No Limits, Friday, July 14, 2023 at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn. Camp No Limits is helping train students at Quinnipiac University with a four-day program, run and staffed by students in the university's physical and occupational therapy program on the school's campus. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 3, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Wednesday.

Atlanta	12	LA Angels	5	Kansas City	4	NY Mets	0
Detroit	6	Pittsburgh	3	LA Dodgers	10	Oakland	1
Houston	3	Cleveland	3	Washington	3	Milwaukee	2
Seattle	6	Boston	3	San Diego	11	Colorado	1
NY Yankees	7	Tampa Bay	2	Miami	9	Philadelphia 12 inn	8
Toronto	4	Baltimore	1	Chicago Cubs	16	Cincinnati	6
St Louis	7	Minnesota	3	San Francisco	4	Arizona	2
Texas	11	Chicago W. Sox	1				

American League				National League					
East Division				East Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Baltimore	66	42	.611	—	Atlanta	69	37	.651	—
Tampa Bay	66	45	.595	1-1/2	Philadelphia	58	50	.537	12
Toronto	60	49	.550	6-1/2	Miami	58	51	.532	12-1/2
Boston	57	51	.528	9	New York	50	57	.467	19-1/2
New York	56	52	.519	10	Washington	46	63	.422	24-1/2

Central Division				Central Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Minnesota	55	54	.505	—	Cincinnati	59	51	.536	—
Cleveland	53	56	.486	2	Milwaukee	58	51	.532	-1/2
Detroit	48	60	.444	6-1/2	Chicago	55	53	.509	3
Chicago	43	66	.394	12	Pittsburgh	48	59	.449	9-1/2
Kansas City	34	75	.312	21	St Louis	48	61	.440	10-1/2

West Division				West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Texas	62	46	.574	—	Los Angeles	61	45	.575	—
Houston	62	47	.569	-1/2	San Francisco	60	49	.550	2-1/2
Seattle	56	52	.519	6	Arizona	57	52	.523	5-1/2
Los Angeles	56	53	.514	6-1/2	San Diego	54	55	.495	8-1/2
Oakland	30	79	.275	32-1/2	Colorado	42	66	.389	20

# Braves rout Angels as Blue Jays halt home 'losing' streak against Orioles



Miami Marlins relief pitcher Tanner Scott aims a pitch during the 12th inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies in Miami. (AP)

## Queen taking his contract year in stride

OWINGS MILLS, Md., Aug 3, (AP): Patrick Queen is heading into a contract year without a lot of drama, and so far he's doing what he can to keep it that way.

"I'm just looking to play ball," the Baltimore linebacker said this week. "At the end of the day, I get to go out here and play football (and) make my mark at what I want it to be. I'm not stressing anything."

### FOOTBALL

The Ravens, of course, are no stranger to uncertain contract situations, having finally signed quarterback Lamar Jackson to a new long-term deal this offseason. Queen isn't quite the star Jackson is, but he is coming off a fine season in which he and Roquan Smith formed an impressive pairing in the middle of the defense.

Baltimore acquired Smith in a trade in the middle of last season, and Queen immediately said he welcomed the move and the opportunity to play alongside another standout inside linebacker. It showed in his play. Queen finished the season with career highs in tackles, sacks, quarterback hurries and

interceptions.

Queen, Smith and Bobby Wagner are the only three players with at least 300 tackles, three interceptions and 10 sacks since entering the league in 2020. Queen is also one of three Ravens to post multiple seasons with at least 100 tackles, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. The others are Hall of Famer Ray Lewis and C.J. Mosley.

"I definitely haven't even gotten close to the player I can be," Queen said. "Everybody around here knows it. I think people around the league know it. That's why I'm out here just trying to get better, trying to compete (and) trying to just master my craft."

Smith, an All-Pro last season, signed a five-year extension with the Ravens - and the salary cap makes it difficult to keep everyone. Queen and running back J.K. Dobbins, both drafted in 2020, face uncertain futures in Baltimore. Dobbins is on the physically-unable-to-perform list, and coach John Harbaugh said when camp started that there was some "complexity" to his absence.

On Wednesday, Harbaugh said he talked to Dobbins the previous night.

"We talk a lot. He wants to be out there, and he needs to be out there, just like any player does," Harbaugh said.



# August

## Room Promotion







Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 57.173/-net	BHD 128.000/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 65.000/-net	BHD 145.000/-net

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

Terms & conditions apply\*

## Yankees avoid sweep

**ATLANTA, Aug 3, (AP): Ronald Acuña Jr., Austin Riley and Matt Olson homered for the MLB-leading Atlanta Braves, who kept up their power barrage with a 12-5 rout of the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday.**

Acuña launched a three-run shot over the center-field wall off Lucas Giloito (6-8) in the third inning, then Riley and Olson went back to back in the fourth to cap a six-run outburst that finished off the Angels' starter.

### Blue Jays 4, Orioles 1

In Toronto, Brandon Belt reached base three times and scored twice and Toronto snapped a five-game home losing streak against American League-leading Baltimore.

Left-hander Yusei Kikuchi pitched six innings to win back-to-back starts. Kikuchi (9-3) allowed one run and six hits.

### Yankees 7, Rays 2

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton homered and drove in four runs to lead Gerrit Cole and New York past Tampa Bay, preventing a three-game sweep.

Cole (10-2) recovered from a rocky start and beat Shane Bieber (11-2) in a marquee matchup of All-Star aces. New York scored five times in the third inning, highlighted by rookie Anthony Volpe's two-run homer and Stanton's three-run shot.

### Dodgers 10, Athletics 1

In Los Angeles, Mookie Betts hit his 29th homer, Freddie Freeman went 3 for 4 and Los Angeles routed the lowly Oakland.

Betts launched a 436-foot shot into the left-field pavilion off Hogan Harris (2-6) for his 70th RBI in the second, when the Dodgers scored four runs to lead 7-0. Betts doubled leading off the first and struck out before getting the rest of the night off in the top of the fourth.

### Rangers 11, White Sox 1

In Arlington, Dane Dunning had a career-high 11 strikeouts, All-Star shortstop Corey Seager hit a two-run homer in his first at-bat coming off the injured list and Texas beat Chicago to maintain its slim lead in the AL West.

Dunning (9-4) had retired 20 batters in a row, the last five of those strikeouts, before No. 9 hitter Seby Zavala's two-out homer in the eighth inning for Chicago's first runs in three games. That was only the third hit allowed by Dunning, who walked only one against his former team.

### Astros 3, Guardians 2

In Houston, Chas McCormick hit a two-run homer in the second and a tiebreaking shot in the sixth, leading Houston to a series sweep over Cleveland.

The victory comes a day after Framber Valdez threw the 16th no-hitter in franchise history in a 2-0 win Tuesday night.

### Giants 4, Diamondbacks 2

In San Francisco, J.D. Davis hit a go-ahead two-run double in the sixth inning to back Logan Webb's first win in five starts and San Francisco overcame an early two-run deficit to beat Arizona.

Webb (9-9) struck out five and walked one, allowing two runs on four hits over seven innings to snap a four-start winless stretch in which he was 0-2 since beating Colorado on July 9. Webb had just one win over his previous six outings.

### Marlins 9, Phillies 8, 12 innings

In Miami, Jesús Sánchez hit a bases-loaded

single with no outs in the 12th inning as Miami rallied from a five-run deficit and came back twice in extra innings to beat Philadelphia in a matchup of NL wild-card contenders.

The Marlins faced a 5-0 deficit going into the bottom of the sixth inning, but forced extra innings when Jorge Soler slugged a solo homer with one out in the ninth. Josh Bell and Jazz Chisholm Jr. homered on consecutive pitches for the Marlins.

### Cubs 16, Reds 6

In Chicago, Ian Happ homered twice and Chicago easily overcame an early deficit to beat Cincinnati.

Christopher Morel, Dansby Swanson and Seiya Suzuki also went deep to help push the Cubs within three games of the NL Central lead and two games back in the wild-card race.

### Mariners 6, Red Sox 3

In Seattle, Julio Rodríguez hit a tiebreaking RBI single and stole home in a four-run seventh inning, leading Seattle past Boston.

Rodríguez hit a broken-bat grounder that rolled into left field when Boston shortstop Yu Chang and third baseman Rafael Devers collided while trying to field the ball, allowing Tom Murphy to score.

Eugenio Suárez followed with an RBI single to right field, giving the Mariners a two-run lead. Then, Rodríguez, on a double steal with Suárez, scored from third when Boston catcher Connor Wong threw to second base.

### Nationals 3, Brewers 2

In Washington, Corey Dickerson and Ildemaro Vargas scored on third baseman Andruw Monasterio's throwing error in the ninth inning, and Washington rallied off closer Devin Williams and beat Milwaukee for its ninth win in 11 games.

## BASEBALL

Milwaukee, which began the day a half-game behind Cincinnati in the NL Central and a game ahead of Arizona and Miami for the third and final wild-card spot, lost five of six on its road trip to Atlanta and Washington. It lost won consecutive games July 19-20.

### Cardinals 7, Twins 3

In St. Louis, Dakota Hudson pitched seven strong innings in his second start of the season and Alex Burlinson's three-run homer was one of four long balls for St. Louis in a win over AL Central-leading Minnesota.

Lars Nootbaar added a two-run homer and Tyler O'Neill and Jordan Walker added solo homers for the Cardinals, who won their third straight game.

### Padres 11, Rockies 1

In Denver, Gary Sánchez homered twice and drove in four runs, Juan Soto went deep for the third time in two days and San Diego won for the fifth time in six games.

Sánchez had two of his three hits in San Diego's seven-run ninth inning.

### Royals 4, Mets 0

In Kansas City, Cole Ragans pitched out of trouble for six spotless innings and Kansas City earned its fifth consecutive victory, extending its longest winning streak in more than two years.

Michael Massey hit a two-run double off rookie Kodai Senga in the first. Drew Waters homered late and threw out a runner at the plate from right field.

### Tigers 6, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Zack Short tied a career-high with three RBIs, powering Detroit to a split of a two-game series against Pittsburgh.

Pinch-hitting for Akil Baddoo, Short capped a three-run fourth inning with a two-run single off Ryan Borucki to left that extended the Tigers' lead to 4-1. His two-out RBI double, down the left-field line past a diving Ke'Bryan Hayes at third base, made it 5-2 in the sixth.

## There are three moms on the US World Cup team

## Many stars juggle parenthood while playing on the world stage

MELBOURNE, Aug 3, (AP): Alex Morgan was speaking to reporters at the Women's World Cup when she had to excuse herself to Facetime her young daughter before the toddler's bedtime back home in the United States.

Forget about orange slices, players such as Morgan, Katrina Gorry of Australia and Cheyna Matthews of Jamaica are redefining what it means to be a "soccer mom."

There have been plenty of elite athletes who have also juggled parenthood, but the level of support the mothers are receiving while on the job at the Women's World Cup is improving.

Morgan's daughter, Charlie, has now joined her mother at the World Cup as the United States prepares for a Round of 16 match against Sweden on Sunday in Melbourne, Australia.

Morgan has been reflective about being both a parent and a player at soccer's biggest international tournament. In 2019, when the United States won its second straight World Cup trophy and fourth overall, now 3-year-old Charlie hadn't even been born.

Now that the American star has a daughter, she's had to balance her job with trying to lead the United States to an unprecedented third consecutive World Cup title.

"I have become a little bit more patient with my daughter and in life in general. But I think the biggest thing about it is that I get to bring my daughter with me. On all of these trips, I get to show her what mom does and surround her by just so many strong and confident women," Morgan said.

There are three moms on the U.S. team: Morgan, Crystal Dunn and Julie Ertz. Other moms at this World Cup include Konya Plummer of Jamaica, Amel Majri of France, Vanina Correa of Argentina and Melanie Leupolz of Germany.

Morgan, Ertz and Dunn have all become mothers since winning the World Cup in 2019, and all three are benefitting from the battles that prior players fought to make sure that



Morocco's Nesryne El Chad (center), celebrates with fans after the Women's World Cup Group H soccer match between Morocco and Colombia in Perth, Australia. (AP)

moms - and their kids - were supported while representing the United States abroad.

The U.S. women have enjoyed subsidized child care at tournaments for 25 years, but now, thanks to collective bargaining agreements that were struck last year with U.S. Soccer, the men have it, too. Those agreements guaranteed that

both national teams were paid equally and received similar benefits.

"It was important to us and to the women that everything was equal, and we were very transparent about that," said goalkeeper Matt Turner, who brought his wife and son to the men's World Cup in Qatar late last year. "We're going to

take advantage of the different benefits that the other team might have had."

Majri is the mother of a 1-year old daughter, Maryam, who accompanied her to a training camp in April. Her daughter's presence was supported by French coach Herve Renard.

"There needs to be organized facilities, with a nanny. It won't affect the team, and psychologically speaking, it's very important. In order for her to have peace of mind and to perform well, the two need to be associated," Renard said. "There is progress to be made in terms of assistance. We're going to manage what they do in the USA. Maybe one day we'll end up with four or five kids among us, and if things run smoothly, it won't be an issue."

In 2020, FIFA adopted rules to protect women who choose

## SOCCER

to become parents, including mandatory maternity leave of at least 14 weeks, and continued pay at a minimum of two-thirds of their salary. The rules also require clubs to make sure women are reintegrated after childbirth and that they have necessary medical support.

"No female player should ever suffer a disadvantage as a result of becoming pregnant, thus securing greater employment protection for women in football," FIFA said in announcing the new rules.

While all of the Americans have their kids with them at the World Cup, others choose to leave them at home.

"Being a mom and leaving them at home is hard, but it is obviously a personal decision to be here. They are enjoying it from home, they didn't ask to come," said Correa, Argentina's goalkeeper, and the mother of twins. "They have told me they are proud that I'm here. I know they are with me and it gives me the energy and drive to be here."

## Messi continues impressive form

## Inter Miami top Orlando

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Aug 3, (AP): Lionel Messi scored in his third straight game and had his second consecutive multi-goal performance for Inter Miami in a 3-1 victory over Orlando City on Wednesday night.

The Leagues Cup Round of 32 match was delayed 95 minutes because of thunderstorms.

Messi scored seven minutes into the match then added a second strike in the 72nd minute. The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner has five goals in three games since his highly-anticipated MLS debut July 21.

As he eluded the Orlando City backline, Messi stopped a pass from Robert Taylor on his chest, dribbled a couple of yards near the edge of the 6-yard box and converted a shot that landed under the crossbar.



Messi

The goal gave Inter Miami a 1-0 lead before Orlando tied it 11 minutes later.

Messi struck again when he received a centering pass from Josef Martinez and flicked a right-footed shot inside the left post and put Inter Miami ahead 3-1.

Inter Miami also had a scare early in the second half when Orlando's Mauricio Pereyra collided with Messi. Messi remained on the ground, favoring his jaw for a couple of minutes.

Messi received his first yellow card with Inter Miami after he was cited for a hard foul in the 21st minute.

Messi's former Barcelona teammate Jordi Alba made his Inter Miami debut when he entered the match in the 64th minute.

The game was scheduled to start at 8 p.m., but didn't begin on time because of

the storms.

Messi and his Inter Miami teammates appeared on the DRV PNK Stadium field for warm-ups 45 minutes before the scheduled start. The heavy rains began approximately 20 minutes later.

After stadium crew drained water puddles around mid-field, Messi and his teammates re-appeared for a second round of pre-game warm-ups.

Messi has not dealt with inclement weather in his first two Leagues Cup matches since joining the MLS club. He scored the game-winning goal against Cruz Azul and added two goals in a victory over Atlanta United.

Meanwhile, the Columbus Crew have acquired former MLS Golden Boot winner Diego Rossi from Fenerbahçe S.K. of the Turkish league for an undisclosed

## SOCCER

transfer fee.

The 25-year-old Uruguayan forward will join the Crew as a designated player. His contract runs through the 2026 season, with a club option for 2027.

The move comes two days after the Crew transferred top scorer Lucas Zalarayan to the Saudi Pro League.

Rossi was a major contributor to LAFC's 2019 squad that had the league's top regular-season record. He became the youngest player in MLS history to win the league's Golden Boot in 2020, when he scored 14 goals in 19 matches for LAFC during a shortened campaign. He had been in Europe since 2021.

"Diego is a winner and an exciting, skillful player, and we are excited to welcome him to the Crew," Crew president and general manager Tim Bezbatchenko said. "He has a natural ability to score and create goals, and he has further demonstrated his exceptional quality over the past few seasons while competing in Europe."

## Jesus to miss start of the season

LONDON, Aug 3, (AP): Arsenal striker Gabriel Jesus will miss the start of the Premier League season after manager Mikel Arteta confirmed Wednesday that the Brazilian has undergone a minor knee operation.

The Brazil international missed three months of last season after suffering a knee injury at the World Cup, and now faces a shorter spell on the sidelines after another operation.

"Unfortunately, he had a little procedure this morning," Arteta said after Arsenal's friendly against Monaco at the Emirates Stadium. "He had some discomfort in his knee that has been causing some issues and they had to go in and resolve it. It is not something major but

and United States international Folarin Balogun as the two outright strikers in the squad going into the start of the season, although Leandro Trossard and new signing Kai Havertz can also play up front.

Balogun has drawn interest from other clubs in this transfer window after impressing on loan at French club Reims last season, although Jesus' injury could make Arteta less willing to sell the striker.

Newly signed Chelsea striker Christopher Nkunku might miss the start of the Premier League season after coming off injured in the team's final preseason game in the United States.

The France international was substituted midway through the first half of the 1-1 draw with Borussia Dortmund in Chicago on Wednesday after falling to the ground clutching his leg.

Chelsea manager Mauricio Pochettino said Nkunku felt "something in his knee." "The doctors are checking him and I hope it is not a big issue," Pochettino said.

"We hope he can be back quickly with the team. We need a few days to assess him."

Nkunku, who joined from Leipzig for 52 million pounds (\$67 million), has been a regular starter for Chelsea in its preseason games. If he does miss the start of the season, it may open the door for another off-season signing - Nicolas Jackson - to start up front.

Chelsea's first Premier League game is at home against Liverpool on Aug. 13.



Inter Miami midfielder Benjamin Cremaschi (left) vies with Orlando City forward Iván Angulo (77) during the first half of their Leagues Cup soccer match in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

## Shock and sadness in Rio favela after Brazil's early elimination

## Jamaica have extra reason to celebrate after success

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Aug 3, (AP): Jamaica's "Reggae Girlz" gave their small island nation even more reason to celebrate its upcoming Independence Day on Sunday after the national soccer team drew with Brazil 0-0 to advance to the last 16 of the Women's World Cup.

The country's sports minister, Olivia Grange, described Wednesday's performance as "undoubtedly the proudest moment so far in Jamaica's football history."

But some supporters also criticized the lack of support for the team before the tournament with family, friends and fans having to help cover expenses by crowdfunding.

Grange reacted minutes after Jamaica ended Brazil's hopes at the World Cup.

## SOCCER

"I could not help shedding a few tears. Tears of joy," Grange said on Instagram. "These have been magnificent performances by the Reggae Girlz for Jamaica in this World Cup. Words can hardly describe how well they have done."

Jamaica's prime minister, Andrew Holness, posted "HISTORIC!" on Facebook, adding "Jamaica! Best in the world."

Scores of Jamaicans could be seen tracking the progress of the Reggae Girlz on their phones. A small group of people huddled in a section of Half Way Tree in the capital Kingston, and celebrated at the final whistle.

"They gone through?" a man asked as he hurriedly made his way to work while a motorist waved the Jamaican flag with pride from a BMW while proceeding through morning traffic.

Jamaica's soccer governing body, the Jamaica Football Federation, also reacted with "literal tears in our eyes."

"History is being made right in front (of) our eyes," the JFF said.

In the middle of the celebrations, some fans took the opportunity to

## Brady enters world of soccer as Birmingham minority owner

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug 3, (AP): NFL great Tom Brady has become a minority owner of English second-tier soccer team Birmingham and wants to bring a winning mentality to an underperforming club.

The seven-time Super Bowl champion has partnered with the club's holding company, U.S.-based Knighthead Capital Management, and becomes chairman of a new advisory board, Brady and Birmingham said Thursday.

"Maybe you are asking, 'What do you know about English football, Tom?'" Brady said in a club video. "Well, let's just say I've got a lot to learn. But I do know a few things about winning."

Birmingham said Brady will "apply his extensive leadership experience and expertise across several components of the club." That includes working alongside the sports science department to advise on health, nutrition and recovery programs.

"Birmingham is an iconic club with so much history and passion and to be part of the Blues is a real honor for me," Brady said.

Birmingham last played in the Premier League in 2011, the same year it won the English League Cup -

one of two major trophies the club has captured in its 148-year history. Brady joins a number of other American sports stars to invest in English soccer clubs.

Former NFL player J.J. Watt recently became a minority investor in Burnley, which has just been promoted to the Premier League, while PGA Tour golfers Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas have said they will be minority owners of Leeds after investing in 49ers Enterprises, which is in the process of taking over the second-tier team.

Basketball star LeBron James has been a part-owner of Liverpool since 2011 because of a small stake in the club. Brady has partnered with Knighthead Capital on several other ventures and the club's new chairman, Tom Wagner, is looking forward to Brady's "direct impact."

"Tom Brady joining the Birmingham team is a statement of intent. We are setting the bar at world class," Wagner said. "Tom is both investing and committing his time and extensive expertise."

"The goal," Wagner added, "that Tom has committed to own is to make Birmingham a respected leader in nutrition, health, wellness, and recovery across the world of football."

criticize the lack of financial support, and called for the team to be properly financed.

Last month, the Reggae Girlz released a statement on social media

expressing their "utmost disappointment with the Jamaica Football Federation." A typical online comment Wednesday praised the team's success while adding "but no thanks to their federation."



Brazil's Marta (right) competes for controls of the ball with Jamaica's Tierny Wiltshire during the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match between Jamaica and Brazil in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

A group of girls and young women gathered early Wednesday in Rio de Janeiro's working-class Manguinhos neighborhood to watch the Brazilian team compete in the Women's World Cup and pray for a win in the make-or-break match.

Instead, the 0-0 draw against Jamaica knocked Brazil out of the tournament in the group stage for the first time since 1995. The 16 assembled viewers in Manguinhos, who had pinned their hopes on the squad, were wracked with disappointment.

"It is sad to see Brazil lose. We didn't even get to the round of 16," said 14-year-old Mafisa Solano, wearing green-and-yellow face paint and a jersey of veteran star Marta. "We could have gone a little further."

Solano and the others present are among the roughly 60 participants in a project called Stars of Mandela that empowers Manguinhos' girls and young women through soccer and gives more visibility to the women's game.

## SOCCER

he looks to be out for a few weeks I think. It is a big blow because we had him back to his best, especially the way he played against Barcelona (in preseason), and he was in good condition and we lost him."

Arteta said Jesus had been feeling "discomfort" in the knee for the past few weeks.

"We had to make a decision and the best one is to protect the player and get him back as quick as possible so we decided to do it," Arteta said. "It is something related to the previous injury that he had and the surgery. He had some irritation in the knee and we had to get it resolved."

That leaves Arteta with Eddie Nketiah



Chelsea defender Ben Chilwell (second from right), chases the ball past Borussia Dortmund defender Julian Ryerson (right), during the first half of a club friendly soccer match in Chicago. The match ended 1-1. (AP)

# Sports

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## Morocco make more history, reach last 16

This run to knockout stage will cement a legacy for Atlas Lionesses

PERTH, Australia, Aug 3, (AP): Morocco beat Colombia 1-0 to make it to the Women's World Cup knockout round, creating more history in a dramatic conclusion to the group stage of the 2023 tournament.

Morocco is the first Arab or North African nation to qualify for the Women's World Cup and now the first to advance beyond the group stage. That's something none of the other seven newcomers managed to do.

The victory also meant Morocco qualified in second place in the group, behind Colombia, and knocked two-time champion Germany out of the tournament. No. 2-ranked Germany needed a win over South Korea in a game being played simultaneously in Brisbane, but was held to a 1-1 draw.

The Moroccan players and coaching staff gathered on the pitch after fulltime in Perth to watch the end of the Germany-South Korea game in Brisbane, which still potentially had a hand in their World Cup fate.

"We had the phone and we started praying. We were praying while we were watching the game," said midfielder Anissa Lahmari, who scored Morocco's goal in first-half stoppage time. "Afterwards it was just a complete explosion of joy."

### SOCCER

If Morocco's qualification for the Women's World Cup inspired a generation, this run to the knockout stage will cement a legacy for the Atlas Lionesses.

The Moroccans were trounced 6-0 by Germany in their debut game in the tournament, but bounced back with consecutive wins.

The win over South Korea on the weekend was historic for the team, for Ibtissam Jraidi scoring the Atlas Lionesses' first World Cup goal, and for another significant milestone - defender Nouhaila Benzina became the first player to wear a Hijab in a World Cup game at the senior level.

The game against Colombia was an even contest right through the first half until Jraidi was fouled in the penalty area in the dying seconds before the break. Ghizlane Chebbak's penalty attempt was saved, but Lahmari swooped on the rebound to put her team ahead of Colombia - and, just as importantly, the Germany team playing on the other side of the country.

Colombia had its best scoring chance in the 59th minute, when its 18-year-old superstar, Linda Caicedo, served a ball to the far post, which Daniela Montoya one-timed to the left of goalkeeper Khadija Er-Rmichi. The Moroccan keeper made a reflex kick save, blocking the ball with just the front edge of her right cleat.

In the 69th, Caicedo, after a long run, stopped and leaned on the field barrier, reaching down to her left ankle and foot. She appeared hobbled for several minutes but stayed in the match.

Moroccan soccer fans have had plenty of celebrate with their national teams at the most recent World Cups. The Atlas Lionesses had created history just by qualifying, and then just by scoring their first win. Beating Colombia to knock Germany out of the tournament was completely unexpected by most.

Morocco's men's team also made World Cup history last year. In the 2022 men's World Cup, the Atlas Lions advanced to the round of 16 for the first time since 1986 and became the first African or Arab nation to reach a World Cup semifinal.

Colombia wins its group for the first time in team history and is in the knockout rounds for the first time since 2015.

Morocco's fans "are going to support us one more time. We love them, we cherish them, we feel they're behind us. It gives us strength. Well done to all the girls and we're continuing on our merry way." - Reynald Pedros, Morocco coach.

"It was an intense game and a very strategic game. We lost because of a mistake we made in the goal area, with the penalty." - Nelson Abadía, Colombia coach.

Morocco, as the Group H runner-up, will play Group F winner France in Adelaide on Tuesday. Colombia will play Group F runner-up Jamaica the same day in Melbourne.



Morocco's Sakina Ouzraoui (right), challenges Colombia's Linda Caicedo during the Women's World Cup Group H soccer match between Morocco and Colombia in Perth, Australia. (AP)



Players of Morocco celebrate after the Women's World Cup Group H soccer match between Morocco and Colombia in Perth, Australia. (AP)

### WC Standings

BRISBANE, Aug 3, (AP): Women's World Cup standings on Thursday.

Group	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
<b>Group A</b>							
*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	4	4
e-Philippines	3	0	2	1	8	3	3
<b>Group B</b>							
*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
<b>Group C</b>							
*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
<b>Group D</b>							
*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
<b>Group E</b>							
*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
<b>Group F</b>							
*France	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
q-Jamaica	3	1	2	0	1	0	5
e-Brazil	3	1	1	1	5	2	4
e-Panama	3	0	0	3	3	11	0
<b>Group G</b>							
*Sweden	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
q-South Africa	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
e-Italy	3	1	0	2	3	8	3
e-Argentina	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
<b>Group H</b>							
*Colombia	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
q-Morocco	3	2	0	1	2	6	6
e-Germany	3	1	1	1	8	3	4
e-South Korea	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

Note 1: Standings read as played, won, drawn, 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.

Two-time champs held by South Korea

## Second-ranked Germany eliminated in group stage

BRISBANE, Australia, Aug 3, (AP): Two-time champion Germany failed to reach the knockout stage for the first time ever at the Women's World Cup after being held to a 1-1 draw by South Korea in a tense group finale.

Morocco's 1-0 win over Colombia in Perth added pressure on a German team that then needed to beat South Korea in Brisbane to advance. The last two group-stage games of the tournament kicked off simultaneously Thursday night on opposite sides of Australia.

Germany pushed forward in search of the winning goal, knowing the equation required to advance. Led by the head of captain Alexandra Popp, the Germans created numerous scoring opportunities but couldn't find the winner.

Colombia finished atop Group H and Morocco took second place with six points, a remarkable turnaround after being routed 6-0 by Germany in its debut game at the tournament. No. 2-ranked Germany, finalists at the 2022 Euros, finished with four points.

South Korea struck in the sixth minute when a defense-splitting pass from Lee Young-ju found Cho So-hyun, who produced a calm finish after a perfectly timed run into open space.

In the 42nd, Popp equalized for Germany with a towering header off a cross from Svenja Huth.

### SOCCER

Germany chased the winning goal throughout the second half. The Germans had a would-be winning goal from Popp overturned by VAR in the 57th. Just a few minutes later, Popp went close to scoring with another header but was denied by the crossbar.

Germany's final scoring opportunities came in the 11th and 12th minutes of stoppage time when two shots from Sydney Lohmann missed wide and high.

Germany, the second-ranked team in the world, failed to advance from the group stage for the first time in nine appearances in the Women's World Cup.

South Korea finished in last place in the group with one point but can take away something from the tournament after holding the two-time champions to a draw.

"We need some time to process what has happened and to be able to find some confidence again. At this stage, we know that our squad is good, but we were not good enough in these last two games." - Alexandra Popp, Germany forward.

## Jordan's sale of majority ownership of Hornets to Plotkin, Schnall is finalized

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Aug 3, (AP): The sale of the majority stake of the Charlotte Hornets from six-time NBA champion Michael Jordan to Gabe Plotkin and Rick Schnall has been finalized, the team announced Thursday.

The Hornets planned to introduce Plotkin and Schnall at a news conference later in the day.

Jordan, who has owned the team for the past 13 years, said in a news release that it was a "tremendous honor" to own the Hornets but didn't give an explanation for why he sold the franchise.

He will remain on as a minority owner.

"I'm proud of all that the organization accomplished: the exciting on-court moments, the return of the Hornets name, Charlotte hosting the 2019 NBA All-Star Game and HSE (Hornets Sports and Entertainment) becoming a true pillar of this community," Jordan said. "Through the years, the unwavering commitment, passion and loyalty of our Hornets fans has been incredible. As I transition into a minority ownership role, I'm thrilled to be able to pass the reins to two successful, innovative and strategic leaders in Gabe and Rick."

Jordan added: "I know the Hornets organization is in great hands moving forward. I'm excited about the future of the team and will continue to support the organization and the community in my new role in the years ahead."

The Hornets never won a playoff series under Jordan and haven't been to the postseason in the last seven seasons, the longest drought in the NBA.

### BASKETBALL

"We want to thank Michael for this opportunity, as well as his support throughout this process," Plotkin and Schnall said in a joint statement. "During his ownership, he brought stability to the Hornets franchise, achieved many business milestones, reconnected and reinvested in the Charlotte community and has the organization positioned for greater success. We look forward to building upon this success in the years to come."

They said their vision is to take the Hornets to the "next level," both on and off the court.



Germany's Alexandra Popp, (right), and South Korea's Chun Ga-ram battle for the ball during the Women's World Cup Group H soccer match between South Korea and Germany in Brisbane, Australia. (AP)