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CROWN PRINCE PRIORITIZES ORGANIZATION OF RULING HOUSE

Filtering subsidy, Bedoun issue key

Kuwait on its way to rising again

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Milestones of the expected developmental breakthrough that His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will launch during his visit to China in September include challenges related to Bedouns, loans, amnesty, strengthening the ruling house and a subsidy filtration procedure that takes into consideration the use of cash instead of the ration card for those with low income.

Reliable sources confirmed earlier reports about the plan of His Highness the Crown Prince to start the de-

velopment of the country as part of a comprehensive and carefully laid down strategy under his supervision, for which he issued strict directives for its implementation.

Sources indicated that Kuwait has gone through a 'political malaise' in recent years and it has had a negative impact on various fields. They affirmed the country is currently recovering from this malaise and it is on its way towards rising again.

They pointed out that the political leadership has been aware of the negative image left by the recent events among citizens. They were quick to add that "correcting the political path was a priority, so there will be no incomplete step."

Sources added: "His Highness is keen on sorting out the needs of citizens and he is fully aware of their suffering. He is

focusing on the loans issue as it affected a huge percentage of society. It is now necessary to resolve the issue, such that the entire file will be reviewed thoroughly to ascertain no one is aggrieved."

Sources revealed "the previous governments neglected the issue and succumbed to the whims of 'beneficiaries', particularly those who raised the 'social justice' slogan. In this manner, they exacerbated the problem." They confirmed that "His Highness the Crown Prince is determined to put the solution to the issue on a hot fire, taking into account the difference between the needy who obtained a loan to cover their needs, and those whose loans are secured by mortgages and in-kind assets taken from banks."

Sources revealed: "There is an advanced view in this regard, that is, to consider personal loans out of mercy; such that, it serves as a catalyst for social stability, which His Highness the Crown Prince is keen on achieving."

Sources clarified: "This is due to the fact that he is convinced Kuwait cannot advance unless this issue is addressed. The neighboring countries have started solving the issue; thereby, giving those who were in difficulty a chance to return to their normal lives. He believes this greatly contributed to the stability of these countries."

Sources stated that the plan of His Highness the Crown Prince includes "the payment of these loans through the banks with State guarantee and they shall bear interest. Actually, this is related to the subsidy issue."

Sources added: "The view in this regard is that the issue has become a burden on the State. Therefore, its abundance will be in the interest of the needy. The large amount wasted annually is a massive cost for the public treasury. The money goes into the pockets of the wealthy and the merchants, while a certain segment is aggrieved due to the claim that the ration card helps them monthly and relieves their suffering. If the low salaries were raised and cash allowance was allocated to the needy, the State would not have spent as much as its current expenditure on subsidies."

Sources went on to say that "amnesty is included in His Highness' plan; as he intends to expand it in a bid to cover everyone concerned according to a fair and legal perspective. His Highness stressed that the law must be used as the gauge in this matter and no one is above the law."

Sources also confirmed that the Bedoun issue is one of the priorities of His Highness the Crown Prince. They said the issue continues to snowball daily; hence, agitating international concerns. They added that there are realistic solutions which can be considered and there should be a conclusion in this regard.

At the same time, they indicated that His Highness the Crown Prince believes the revival and stability of Kuwait necessitates resolving all issues which tarnish its image abroad and exhaust the security services at home.

Sources pointed out that His Highness' strategy recognizes the fact that Kuwait was the gateway to the Gulf in the past decades. Sources asserted the country must return to its previous status; not only in tourism but in all fields, especially conferences, seminars, and cultural and artistic festivals.

"All this can be achieved only through infrastructure which could accommodate visitors and make domestic tourism attractive, considering the large number of people who spend on tourism abroad," sources elaborated.

Sources disclosed the most important issue, which His Highness the Crown Prince believes must be resolved quickly, is fortifying the ruling house according to a strategy aimed at "preparing the youth of the ruling family to develop their ability to make the right decision, manage national affairs in accordance with their competence, and perform tasks properly, even if the State spends more on them."

Home demolished

Thirty arrested in West Bank sweep

RAMALLAH, Aug 8, (Agencies): Israeli occupation forces launched a series of arrests in West Bank Tuesday capturing 30 Palestinians, Palestine Prisoners Club said in a statement.

The forces swarmed Kobar village and arrested 13 Palestinians then later released the majority while seven others remained in prison.

The statement added that the occupation army arrested a wounded Palestinian in Al-Khalel, a child from Areha city in addition to Palestinians who were previously imprisoned in the occupation forces jails from Jenin, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

The arrests in Kobar were abusive and conducted with threats and assaults against families in addition to vandalizing houses, the statement added.

More than 4,400 Palestinians were arrested since the start of 2023, most of which were later released.

Meanwhile, Israeli security forces on Tuesday demolished the West Bank home of a Palestinian man accused of carrying out a deadly shooting attack earlier this year, the military said, the latest incursion to fuel tensions in the occupied territory.

Israel's decades-old tactic of leveling the family homes of alleged Palestinian assailants has drawn intense criticism from human rights groups, which call it collective punishment - prohibited under international law.

Opponents of the policy also raise questions about its efficacy, arguing that leveling the residences of often uninvolved parents, spouses and children of alleged assailants and leaving them homeless only fuels an unrelenting cycle of hatred and bloodshed.

Israel defends such home demolitions as a deterrent meant to prevent future attacks. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right government, which has taken a hard line against the Palestinians, has vowed to ramp up home demolitions of Palestinian attackers as violence spirals in the West Bank.

The Israeli military said its forces entered the Askar refugee camp in the northern West Bank city of Nablus early Tuesday and demolished the apartment of 49-year-old Abdul Fattah Kharushah, an alleged member of the Hamas militant group who was suspected of shooting and killing two Israeli brothers in the town of Hawara earlier this year.

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NewsWatch

TOKYO: China on Tuesday urged again the Philippines to immediately tow away the military vessel "grounded" at Ren'ai Reef in the South China Sea and restore Ren'ai Reef to its original state of having no personnel or facility on it, state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

On Monday, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs issued a statement saying that on August 5, in the waters adjacent to Ren'ai Reef, China Coast Guard "took blocking and other aggressive maneuvers, including the use of a water cannon" against Philippine supply boats and Coast Guard vessels on a routine re-supply mission to the military vessel grounded at Ren'ai Reef.

The Philippines said such actions violate the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 2016 South China Sea arbitration award and infringe upon the Philippines' sovereign rights and jurisdiction.

When asked for comments, an unnamed spokesperson at the Foreign Ministry stressed that Ren'ai Reef is part of China's Nansha Islands. "The Philippines explicitly promised several times to tow away the military vessel deliberately and illegally "grounded" at Ren'ai Jiao (Reef). (KUNA)

NEW DELHI: India's opposition accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of choosing silence while a northeastern state governed by his party convulsed in ethnic violence as Parliament began debate Tuesday on a no-confidence motion against his government that's certain to be defeated.

"If Manipur is burning, India is burning. If Manipur is divided, India is divided," Congress party lawmaker Gaurav Gogoi said as he opened the debate on the motion.

For three months, Modi has been largely silent on the bloodshed in the remote state, which teeters on the brink of a civil war, and the opposition moved the no-confidence motion to force Modi to address the Manipur conflict from the floor of Parliament.

He is expected to speak Thursday when the motion will be put to a vote. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled government holds a clear majority in Parliament, meaning the motion is certain to be defeated. (AP)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday appealed his conviction and three-year prison sentence in a graft case, a spokesperson for his legal team said.

Naeem Haider Panjutha, Khan's lawyer, said the Islamabad High Court will hear the appeal on Wednesday.

It's the latest turn in Khan's legal drama after being ousted in a no-confidence vote in April 2022. He remains the country's leading opposition figure and was convicted and jailed Saturday on charges of concealing assets after selling state gifts he received while in power. Panjutha met with Khan in the high-security Attock jail in eastern Punjab province.

The former cricket star has denied the charges, saying he did not violate any laws. (AP)

DUBAI: A Houston woman known online as the "Sassy Trucker" who had been stranded in Dubai for months over an altercation at a car rental agency left the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, an advocate for the woman said.

Tierra Young Allen, 29, took off on a flight out of the UAE and will transit through the United Kingdom on her way back to the U.S., said Radha Stirling, who runs a for-hire advocacy group long critical of the UAE called Detained in Dubai.

Allen paid a \$1,360 deposit to Dubai police to clear the travel ban she faced, Stirling said.

It wasn't clear if Allen still has any legal complaints against her in the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula. Officials in Dubai did not immediately return a request for comment, nor did the U.S. State Department.

The circumstances of the April altercation at the unidentified car rental agency also remain unclear. Allen earlier had been in a rental car involved in a crash. (AP)

■ Preparing the youth of the ruling family to have the ability to make the right decision

■ Personal loans must be considered in order to block the path of the owners of the slogans

■ Subsidy is huge for the public treasury and there is an aggrieved segment

■ Kuwait went through a 'political malaise' in recent years and is currently recovering from it

■ Expanding the amnesty to include everyone according to a fair legal perspective in which everyone is equal before the law

Development spend KD 665.1m in '22-'23

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Official data revealed that the actual spending on the development plan in Kuwait was 665.1 million dinars during fiscal 2022/2023 on about 128 different development projects, reports Al-Anba daily.

The data of the annual plan follow-up report for 2022/2023 spanning from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, after the final account, of which Al-Anba obtained a copy, showed that Kuwait's actual spending on development during the fiscal year 2022/2023 decreased by 29.5%, amounting to 279.3 million dinars, compared to actual spending amounting to 944.4 million dinars during the previous year 2021/2022.

In comparison to the annual performance, the ratio of actual spending on development to that approved in the budget amounted to about 50.8%, equivalent to 665.1 million dinars actually

spent, compared to 1.3 billion total financial appropriations for the whole year, while 45% of the plan's projects during that period were classified in the executive stage, and in comparison in the fiscal year 2021/2022, the state spent 56.9% of the appropriations at 944.4 million dinars out of the 1.7 billion dinars approved for 130 projects, and by the end of the year 48% of the projects were in the executive stage.

Regarding the executive position of the projects, the report showed that 45% of the projects are in the executive stage with 57 projects and 42% of the projects are in the preparatory stage with 54 projects, while 6% of the projects with 8 projects have been completed, while 4% of the projects with 5 projects and 3 will not start. % of the projects are in the delivery stage, with 4 projects.

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His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Day by Day

THE fugitive plane thief, has left behind a female accomplice who is using an Egyptian travel document, and who is skillful in forging, creating fake documents, and imitating letters and signatures. The people of the Gulf region must be cautious of this fugitive's associate, who is involved in deceptive activities.

All this happens at a time when the government of this fugitive has exposed his true identity, despite his false claims that the president and a prominent military commander walk hand in hand with him.

The swindler, his family and relatives were all deported from a Gulf state for his dealings with the Satan's party and robbing the citizens of the state.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

End obstacles, Cabinet urges

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8, (KUNA): The Cabinet on Monday expressed utmost appreciation for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's esteemed directives for executive and legislative branches to cooperate.

It also commended the role of the joint government-parliament coordination committee in this regard; as means to approve bills that would be of benefit to the public and country, noted Deputy Premier, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Essa Al-Kandari, after the weekly Cabinet meeting.

His Highness the Prime Minister instructed the Cabinet members to accelerate the extension of public utilities and services to the new cities of Al-Mutlaa and Sabah Al-Ahmad.

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Zain Group Q2 2023 net soars 14%

— Details Page 7 —

Seven killed in strike

'Russia targeting rescuers'

KYIV, Aug 8, (AP): Ukrainian officials on Tuesday accused the Kremlin's forces of targeting rescue workers as the death toll from two Russian missile strikes that slammed into residential buildings in the downtown area of a Ukrainian city climbed to seven.

The dead in the Monday evening strikes in the city of Pokrovsk were five civilians, one rescuer and one soldier, Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrlylenko said. Dozens more were wounded, most of them police officers, emergency workers and soldiers who had rushed to the scene to assist residents.

The Russian missiles slammed into the center of Pokrovsk, which is in the eastern Donetsk region that is partially occupied by Russia. Emergency crews were still removing rubble at the scene on Tuesday. The Iskander missiles, which have an advanced guidance system that increases their accuracy, hit within

40 minutes of each other, according to Kyrlylenko.

Russia has since the start of the war aimed artillery and missiles at the exact same spot it struck around 30 minutes earlier, often hitting emergency workers who had deployed at the scene. It's a tactic, called a "double tap" in military jargon, that the Russians also used in Syria's civil war.

"All of (the police) were there because they were needed, putting their efforts into rescuing people after the first strike," Ivan Vyhivskiy, chief of Ukraine's National Police, said Tuesday. "They knew that under the rubble were the injured - they needed to react, to dig, to retrieve, to save. And the enemy deliberately struck the second time."

Russia's Ministry of Defense claimed it hit a Ukrainian army command post in Pokrovsk. Neither side's claims could be independently verified.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, people carry a wounded person from a damaged building after Russian missile strikes in Pokrovsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine, Monday, Aug. 7, 2023. (AP)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:45 Asr 15:29
 Sunrise .. 05:12 Maghrib .. 18:35
 Zohr 11:54 Isha 19:59

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 10-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

By Night: Hot to rather hot and

Weather

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	48	37

Kuwait Airport	48	32
Abdaly	48	31
Jahra	49	33
Salmiyah	44	37
Ahmadi	41	37
Nuwaisib	45	32
Wafra	48	32

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

No leave, no scholarship, study in Kuwait: Dr. Al-Rubaian

CSC outlines conditions for employees who combine work and study

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has issued a circular to government agencies specifying the conditions for a government employee to combine work and study, the most prominent of which is the non-conflict between study and work hours, and non-compliance with adjusting the employee's status after obtaining the degree, reports Al-Qabas daily.



Dr Al-Rubaian

The CSC head Dr. Essam Al-Rubaian, confirmed in the circular that, according to the decision issued by the Council during a meeting held on July 18, the employee may, after appointment, study at his own expense without obtaining leave or a scholarship, provided that the study takes place inside Kuwait, and the study does not conflict with the official working hours, without prejudice to regularity at work.

The circular stated that the employee should notify his employer of his enrollment in studies at his own expense, provided that the employer follows up on the employee's condition and the extent of his study's impact on his scheduled working hours, and the extent of his regularity and commitment to performing his job duties.

He explained that the responsibility rests with the immediate manager, who bears the responsibility for verifying the employee's regularity at work during the study period, and conducting accurate follow-up on his attendance.

The circular pointed out that the employer must take the necessary legal measures if proven that the employee who is enrolled in the study has violated the job duties, and the employee is subject to disciplinary accountability for this breach of

duties in accordance with the legal decision.

The circular stated that the combination of work and study outside the scope of the list of scholarships and study leaves, in the event of obtaining the qualification, does not entail any obligation to modify the status of the employee, change his position, raise his classified job level, occupy any supervisory position, or pay any allowances, or bonuses, or arranging any other job or financial effects on the qualification obtained.

He pointed out that it is permissible for the employer, within the framework of its discretion and the extent of its need for the specialization of the qualification obtained by the employee, in the event that the specialization of the qualification is among the specializations approved in the scholarship plan of the entity, to decide to benefit from it and then arrange the financial or functional implications related to that.

Sea-goers cautioned: The Ministry of Interior issued a cautionary statement today, Tuesday, directed towards individuals at sea. This advisory pertains to the recent emergence of a submarine cable between Al-Bida'a and Failaka Island, an outcome of maintenance activities performed by the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

According to a press release by the General Directorate of the Coast Guard, the Ministry of Electricity and Water's maintenance operations resulted in the elevation of the cable along the stretch from Al Bida'a to Failaka Island. This situation poses a potential hazard to maritime travelers. As a result, the Coast Guard has urged all individuals to exercise vigilance throughout this period until the Ministry of Electricity and Water completes its maintenance work and resolves the situation.



KUNA photo

Children flock to 'Puppet Theatre' workshop

Numerous children enthusiastically gathered to take part in the "Puppet Theatre" workshop, a creative endeavor aimed at crafting exquisite puppets sized perfectly for their little hands. This engaging workshop was hosted by the Kuwait National Library as a highlight of the summer camp's activities, spanning from the sixth to the eighth of August.

The workshop was skillfully guided by Iman Jawahery, the mastermind behind the project. Young participants delved into the realm of artistic imagination, fashioning puppets with designs that resonated with their preferences. The process began with the me-

ticulous cutting of sponges and cork, leading to the delicate formation of facial and hand features using broadcloth and cork. These elements were then adorned with colors that reflected each child's personal favorites.

Amid the workshop's ambience of creativity, children reveled in the creation of whimsical characters, all while imbibing the knowledge of how to manipulate and employ these puppets within the context of a puppet theater. The workshop's itinerary encompassed spirited competitions and an engaging puppet performance, further enhancing the immersive experience for the young participants. (KUNA)

Summer travel hits 6 million

DGCA to accommodate all flights: Eng Al-Jalawi

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: The Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Eng. Imad Al-Jalawi said the DGCA is working on facilitating all passenger flights to the country during the summer season, which will last until September 2023, reports Aljarida daily.

In a press statement, he affirmed the airport's readiness to receive about six million passengers between inbound and outbound flights.

Eng. Al-Jalawi also affirmed the activation of plans to prepare for the season in coordination with all agencies operating at the airport.

He explained that the movement of aircraft during the months of June and July was close to 22,000 flights, with 10,511 flights in June and 11,465 flights in July. The number of passengers during the two months was about three million.

The expected air traffic in the months of August and September is about three million passengers onboard 23,194 flights. Summer plans have been activated inside Kuwait International Airport to facilitate the movement of passengers to and from the country.

All agencies operating at Kuwait International Airport have been cooperating to facilitate the movement of departing and arriving flights without delay, facilitate traffic through the airport, and implement the work plan and mechanism during the summer vacation season without any obstacles.

Eng. Al-Jalawi affirmed DGCA's keenness to implement security and safety standards at Kuwait International Airport in order to ensure the safety of all flights, passengers and airport workers.

Safety & security rules OK'd in university city

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: The Acting Director of Kuwait University, Dr. Fayeze Al-Dhafiri, said the university council has approved during the last meeting security and safety regulations, believed to be the first of its kind in government agencies in the country, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Dhafiri told the daily that the regulation is necessary in the university city, as the city requires various standards, which are reinforced by the regulation through many indicators, most notably to control the traffic and security in the university city.

Regarding the completion of the process of moving the colleges to their new buildings in the Al-Shaddiya Sabah Al-Salem University City, Al-Dhafiri indicated that the transition committee is continuing its work, and is taking the necessary steps in a gradual manner, according to the interest of the university's employees, and in a manner that does not affect the educational process, stressing that the remaining colleges such as the Social Sciences and Sharia will move gradually according to the scheduled timetable.

Regarding the numbers of recent admissions to the university, he said that the university administration was keen to increase admission seats in colleges, as much as possible to accommodate the largest possible number of students, and to ensure that the quality of education in the university is not affected, stressing that the university seeks with all its energy to provide the needs of accepted students.

He indicated that the university is in dire need to approve its budget, in addition to strengthening this budget, while seeking to strengthen its teaching staff first by sending a batch of scholarship students from the various scientific departments of the university, and secondly by publishing an announcement about vacancies for faculty members positions in some scientific departments, in preparation for accepting the appointment of applicants.

Other Voices

Squandered opportunities

By Ahmad alsarraf

On August 2, 1990, the brutal Iraqi invasion forces entered Kuwait while we were sleeping in our homes, and the memory of its horrific events is still engraved in the minds of those who were in Kuwait at the time, and it is difficult for them to forget it.

After 33 years of that gloomy day, former MP Ahmad Al-Fadl painfully wonders: Why has the call for patriotism and urging adherence to the constitution no longer had any impact on the hearts of the majority of people who are frustrated and hopeless? Is it because they have lost the joy of life in light of the prevailing culture of hate, envy, incitement, hatred, exclusion and religious extremism, which is led by political selfishness and partisan interest, which eat away at the unity, security and stability of the country until it left it to a barren bottom?

And he says, in deep regret, during a third of the last century of our life and the life of the homeland, we have squandered all the golden opportunities that were made available to us after liberation.

Instead of rebuilding the Kuwaiti person, we lost his identity, and instead of strengthening and sustaining the economy, we destroyed it, and instead of fighting corruption we developed it, and instead of cleaning and purifying the nationality file, we raised it, and instead of ending the debt crisis, we turned it into a disaster, and instead of enjoying the luxury of the present while securing the future, behold. We mourn both. So we became like a ship manipulated by crashing regional and international waves that did not reach a port or a beach, but rather reached a deaf rock on which everything crashes!

And we wonder with him: What happened to become, overnight, a Taliban state by choice? And how does Mr. Saad Al-Barrak, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, Acting Minister of Finance, and responsible for the Kuwait Investment Fund, who holds a scientific title, come and

declare in the National Assembly that the "government" will return to Kuwait the real private sector (apparently we were in an unreal private sector, for two centuries, without knowing it)?

His Excellency the Minister based his idea on events and stories whose authenticity cannot be certain, dating back to the beginnings of Islam, noting that the principles and secrets of free trade date back more than a thousand years before that.

I do not know where Mr. Al-Barrak got his words from, and what are the foundations on which he relied, bearing in mind that there is a huge difference, scientifically and practically, between the economy and trade, and our problem in Kuwait is economic, not commercial, so we need to follow old examples, even if what is being circulated is correct, because it has to do with the ways of buying and selling commodities, and has nothing to do with the role of the economy in a modern, highly restricted state.

In his speech, he addresses the superficial thinking that is currently prevalent among the masses, who have become responsive and excited about what others do or think of, or "others", which is the tone of applying Sharia, which has become "fashion", and this is a manipulation of the minds of the "poor" majority.

I do not know how we accepted putting all this financial and technical power in the hands of a minister who has such views and this kind of thinking?

We say this and add that we do not disagree with him at all in what he said that the government is a failed merchant, and that it cannot manage any commercial business, and its role is limited to oversight, legislation, governing, opening up opportunities and support, and managing a friendly economic environment, but all of this was not a justification for involving religious figures.

It has its dignity and respect, in modern issues that have nothing to do with it, just to confirm that Kuwait, which was civil and modern throughout its history, is on its way to becoming religious and has nothing to do with the era?

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KUNA photo
Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receiving the Undersecretary of the National Guard Lieutenant General Hashim Al-Rifai.

Iraqi invading forces countered

Film on Guards resistance hailed

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8, (KUNA): Deputy Chief of the National Guard, Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, commended on Monday the endeavors of those responsible for creating the documentary film titled "The Day of Resilience" and its rendition, which chronicle the courageous endeavors of National Guard personnel in countering the ruthless Iraqi invasion forces.

In an official statement, the National Guard conveyed that Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf, alongside Lieutenant General Hashim Al-Rifai, the Undersecretary of the National Guard, and Brigadier General Dr. [Director's Name], the Director of the Directorate of Moral Guidance, convened. According to the statement, Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf lauded the exceptional

quality of the filming and the substance presented in the production, emphasizing its significance as an archival record for present and forthcoming generations, enlightening them about the sacrifices made by National Guard members in the face of the brutal invasion.

He recollected the valiant martyrs from the National Guard who gave up their lives while safeguarding the cherished homeland. He offered prayers for divine mercy and forgiveness to encompass them and wished for the continuity of security and stability for Kuwait under the astute guidance of His Highness the Amir of the nation and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, as well as His Highness the Trustworthy Crown Prince, under divine protection and preservation.

Move to adjust demographics

Call to end sponsorship system

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: A member of the Board of Directors of the National Bureau for Human Rights and Chairman of the Committee for Combating Torture, Racial Discrimination and Human Trafficking Zakaria Al-Ansari affirmed Kuwait's keenness on upholding human rights and labor protection, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He stressed that the bureau is working continuously, in coordination with the relevant government agencies, to improve performance towards groups that are exposed to problems or discrimination.

In response to a question about the sponsorship system, Al-Ansari said, "This system in itself increases the number of victims of human trafficking. It must be changed through gradual steps that ensure the stability of the labor market and adjust the demographics properly."

He highlighted a proposal that calls for allowing workers to work through the relevant government agencies for jobs in which Kuwaitis do not work, and which the labor market needs such as construction and building workers, cleaners, correspondents, public service workers, and others, instead of insisting that they have a "sponsor" who can exploit them in many issues.

This includes transferring them between

a number of projects, long working hours, non-compliance with paying salaries, and so on, which is considered an infringement that may fall under the umbrella of human trafficking.

Al-Ansari stated that the bureau follows up the complaints that it receives via its email, and seeks to provide solutions to them through the relevant authorities, as well as grant the complainants their rights quickly.

He stressed that the sponsorship system impedes the modification of the demographics, adding, "We demand its abolishment."

Al-Ansari said the bureau also follows up the received international reports, coordinates for them, and works to provide adequate responses that confirm Kuwait's position on them from a human rights point of view, as well as works on trying to raise its classification in various indicators.

He stressed that the bureau exerted great and wide efforts to raise the name of Kuwait in international forums through its tireless work in supporting human rights inside Kuwait.

Al-Ansari explained that the establishment of the bureau took place during the reign of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad in 2015, in view of what Kuwait voluntarily pledged to the Human Rights Council, within the context of the universal periodic review mechanism, to establish an independent national human rights entity, in accordance with the Paris Principles related to the status of national human rights institutions, which stipulates for national human rights institutions to gain independence.



Al-Ansari

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'FM's Iraq visit sparks hope for resolving outstanding issues'

"Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, made a significant visit to Baghdad last week, during which he held meetings with the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, and other officials," columnist **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The discussions focused on resolving various issues to enable both countries to achieve promising advancements and enhance mutual development, particularly in areas crucial for Iraq's progress and Kuwait's aspirations.

"Acknowledging the necessity of political will to overcome obstacles, Minister Al-Jaber is well aware of the priorities that demand attention to realize mutual aspirations. The ongoing negotiations between the two parties on maritime borders are set to continue, with a joint committee meeting in Baghdad on Aug 14, aiming to reach a permanent resolution on border-related matters.

"Additionally, a meeting of the Legal Committee is scheduled in September to address the issue of joint fields that extend across northern Kuwait and southern Iraq. Optimism is growing regarding the possibility of permanently closing these files, but remnants of the past invasion still linger, which had been orchestrated by a previous regime that oppressed Iraq for thirty years.

"Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, the late Amir, made significant efforts to defend Iraq's positions globally, yet the invasion came as a shock, prompting deep reflections on the reasons for the betrayal he encountered. Kuwait is eager to overcome the trauma of the invasion and urges Iraqi officials to take decisive steps to address pending issues and promote economic cooperation.

"Kuwait seeks positive and fruitful relations with Iraq, encompassing trade, investment, tourism, cultural exchange, and political dialogue. The Gulf Cooperation Council's free trade agreement with Britain opens doors for increased trade volume, benefiting Mubarak Port and the Iraqi port of Al-Faw.

"However, Iraq's progress in overcoming hindrances and fully embracing economic cooperation has been slow, impeding the restoration of trust and erasing psychological remnants of the invasion.

"By fostering an environment of sincere cooperation and positivity, both countries can achieve economic growth and transformation. Iraqi talents should also be utilized to meet Kuwait's needs, as both nations share historical boundaries and identities that predate the turbulent period of the invasion.

"Minister Al-Jaber's recent visit to Iraq has sparked hope for resolving outstanding issues. Iraqi Prime Minister, Muhammad al-Sudani, expressed serious determination to address these matters and further enhance bilateral relations.

"Kuwaiti nationals warmly welcome these positive developments, seeking to move beyond the scars of the invasion and foster a brighter future based on genuine cooperation and mutual understanding."

Also:

"During the closing session of the National Assembly for the current term,

significant revelations were made, particularly notable was the statement of Acting Minister of Finance, who expressed regret over the lack of implementation of Kuwait Vision 2035," columnist **Dr Turki Al-Azemi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"He emphasized the need to develop the vision, which may extend to 2040. This statement echoes a sentiment expressed seven years ago in 2016 during the Island Development Forum in front of Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad, may he rest in peace, when the lack of a clear vision was pointed out, and the focus appeared to be more on individual projects.

"The question arises as to what the leaders in the "supreme committee for planning" and other positions have been doing in the past eight years since the implementation of the vision and related projects began.

"These initiatives are supposed to align with the United Nations' sustainable development goals, which Kuwait signed and should strive to achieve by 2030.

"Dr. Saad Al-Barrak rightfully questions whether development can be achieved with the same individuals responsible for the economic, social, and developmental challenges faced by the country with leadership voids and the presence of ineffectual names who fail to contribute positively are evident concerns. To implement a new vision successfully, a decisive leadership approach and wise choices are essential, as Dr. Saad Al-Barrak, with his expertise and experience in strategic work, understands.

"The United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals, including education, healthcare, and clean energy, can be achieved swiftly if the right measures are taken. The reasons behind the deterioration of education and healthcare should be addressed, and obstacles hindering the development of clean energy, such as solar and wind energy, need to be investigated.

"All the programs and charters Kuwait has signed are national duties, and those responsible for fulfilling them must be held accountable. Mere retirement of individuals is no longer sufficient to address failures.

"Furthermore, it was highlighted by a development expert, Dr. Hamad Al-Manawer, that Kuwait is the only country without a measurement of the standard of living, which hampers effective evaluation of other matters.

"Looking forward, important questions arise: Where is Kuwait headed? How will leaders be appointed to vacant positions? Is there a plan to address corruption and inefficiencies in the government? Can the Civil Service Law be reformed, and can digital government implementation be prioritized? Will there be transparency in foreign investments and the consolidation of investment funds under the Kuwait Investment Authority and the Kuwait Fund for Development?

"In conclusion, the hope is that Dr. Saad Al-Barrak and others will bring forth capable leaders who deserve to lead Kuwait's institutions. The misfortunes faced by the country are often the result of appointing unworthy individuals to important roles. The country needs to overcome this trend and seek divine assistance in its efforts for progress."

"In a previous article, I discussed the need to fill vacant leadership positions in various government agencies," columnist **Khalid Al-Arrafa** wrote for **Al-**

Anba daily.

"At the time, I asked the Council of Ministers to quickly fill up these positions, especially after the remarkable changes recently, such as the referral of a number of officials for retirement. Some of these officials received privileges, while others completed their legal term and their tenure was not renewed as per the decision of the Council of Ministers.

"Most leadership positions in many government agencies are vacant now, so the tasks are carried out by interim officials to ensure the smooth flow of work.

"Since assuming the post as head of the Council of Ministers, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah promised to pump fresh blood, so the competent national professionals are given the opportunity to assume leadership positions.

"We hope that he will soon instruct the ministers to quickly submit the list of qualified candidates to pave way for their appointment to leadership positions, considering there are more than 100 vacancies. The concerned committees must scrutinize the profiles of these candidates before they are approved to ensure the selection is in accordance with the regulations.

"The Council of Ministers must complete procedures related to filling up vacant leadership positions before the end of this month, so they can implement the mechanism for evaluating the work of officials during the first months of assuming office. This is in preparation for rewarding those who work, while holding those who fail accountable by imposing punishment immediately."

"Half of the world's population are 30 years old or younger. This is expected to reach 57 percent by the end of 2030. The United Nations defined the youths as people between the ages of 15 and 24," columnist **Dr Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"They are the children of yesterday, the pillar of the present and the strength of the future. They have multiple energies and creativity. They can provide the best for the society in which they live through their coordinated efforts for societal advancement, while urging others to contribute to the progress and development of the country.

"Young people are the spring buds of the community tree. They are the hidden seeds that bear fruits. If they are planted carefully, they bear the best fruits. Therefore, young people must be fully prepared, take care of their health, and provided with all the means to achieve sustainable development for their communities.

"The world has started to transition into a green economy to transform into an environmentally and climatically sustainable world in order to address the global climate crisis and achieve the sustainable development goals.

"The green economy is expected to create about 8.4 million jobs for young people by 2030. Thus, young people need to develop their skills and adapt to this changing environment. "By the way, Aug 12 was set as an international day for the youths to enhance the status of young people in societies. This year's theme is: "Green skills for the youth."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Bishara



National Assembly Speaker Al-Saadoun receiving FM Sheikh Salem. KUNA photo

Assembly Speaker receives FM

National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun received on Monday Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Deputy Speaker Mohammad Al-Mutairi also received the top diplomat. (KUNA)

Expats arrested for altering meters

Gang of 5 expatriates held for stealing phones worth KD 27K

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: The Hawally Governorate Investigation Unit nabbed gang of five expatriates who stole phones worth KD27,000, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media General Department at the Ministry of Interior revealed that the intensified efforts of the Criminal Security Sector in general, and particularly the unit that is under the Criminal Investigation General Department, led to the arrest of the gang whose members broke into a company in Salmiya and stole the phones.

The gang and the stolen items were handed over to the concerned authorities for legal action.

Forgers held: The Criminal Security

Sector, specifically the Department of Combating Electronic Crimes, successfully unraveled the case of unauthorized access to the Ministry of Electricity and Water systems. This breach led to manipulation and forgery in consumer readings and billing, causing financial losses, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Following a thorough investigation that involved utilizing technical resources and confidential informants, the Ministry of Interior apprehended a criminal network comprising expatriates from various Arab nations.

This network was found to be altering meter readings in exchange for monetary gains. The evidence and materials seized during the operation have been handed over to the Public Prosecution for further legal action.

End obstacles,

Continued from Page 1

He urged all government bodies to increase cooperation to remove all obstacles facing the execution of state development and entertainment projects.

The Cabinet assigned Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Acting Minister of Education Jasim Al-Ostad to provide schools and other educational facilities with all their needs to be ready for the new academic year.

Development spend

Continued from Page 1

The summary of the report shows that the 128 projects are divided into 9 programs, while the sixth program includes the construction of a coherent infrastructure with the largest number of projects, 41 projects, while the second program, general privatization, does not include any projects, including those implemented by the government authorities, including what is implemented by the partnership system between the public and private sectors.

The report indicated that the annual plan 2022/2023 includes 112 ongoing projects and 16 new projects, 8 projects have been completed by the end of the annual plan, in contrast, there are 5

projects that have not yet been started, and the percentage of expenditure on projects of the 2022/2023 development plan (after the final account) is 50.8 %, which is 6.1% less than the previous year 2021/2022, and 19% less than the year 2020/2021.

The report showed that 27% of the projects correspond to the implementation schedule in the annual plan 2022/2023, compared to 29% for the same period in the year 2021/2022 and 32% in the year 2020/2021, and the percentage of projects that are behind the schedule at the end of the annual plan 2022/ 2023 is about 70%, at 71% for the previous year, while it reached 67% for the 2020/2021 plan. The executive programs in which there are a large number of delayed projects is a coherent infrastructure construction program with about 30 projects behind schedule.

The development plan included 55 general policies distributed among the nine development programs, and 33 policies were activated in the annual plan 2022/2023, and those policies were implemented at the annual level through projects supporting the policy, which numbered 128 projects in the annual plan 2022/2023. The number of 22 policies indicates that the entities do not participate in projects that support these policies.

The report touched on the development of the main indicators of the Kuwaiti economy during the past 13 years, specifically during the period from 2010 to 2023, indicating that after nearly 13 years have passed since the launch of Vision 2035, and despite the extensive efforts made by the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council

for Planning and Development, all The indicators indicate that the required progress has not been achieved in the sustainable development plan for Kuwait, as the "planning" sees the inefficiency of government investment spending over the past years of the plan and the failure to achieve a tangible developmental impact until the present time.

Thirty arrested

Continued from Page 1

The highway shooting on Feb. 26 that killed the two men - brothers from the Jewish settlement of Har Bracha - had followed a deadly Israeli military raid in Nablus and unleashed the worst outburst of settler violence in decades.

Israeli settlers went on a violent rampage in the town of Hawara after the shooting, burning dozens of Palestinian cars and shops and leaving one man dead.

Kharushah was later killed during an Israeli military raid on the Jenin refugee camp in March.

Young Palestinians burned tires and hurled stones and explosive devices at Israeli forces who stormed into the Askar refugee camp to demolish Kharushah's home, on the third floor of an apartment building, on Tuesday. The Palestinian Red Crescent reported that two Palestinians were wounded by bullet shrapnel and others wounded by rubber bullets as Israeli soldiers tried to disperse the crowds. The Israeli military said it was also confronted with Palestinian gunfire in the camp.

PACI takes tactical measures to end delayed problem of civil IDs

'Awqaf' in bid to guarantee Bedouns to perform Umrah

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: As part of its continuous efforts to solve the problem of the accumulation of thousands of civil cards, the Public Authority for Civil Information is considering imposing a fine on the owner of the completed card who delays receiving it for more than 3 months, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The Director General of the Authority, Mansour Al-Muathen, revealed "more than 220,000 civil cards have accumulated in the Authority's devices, 70 percent of which belong to expatriates who hold Articles 18 and Article 22 residency.

However, he pointed out that these IDs take storage space in the devices and prevent the issuance of new cards, there may be someone who really needs them, so there is a study to impose a fine that may reach 20 dinars for the delay in receiving the civil card.

He explained that the study will be presented to the Authority's Board of Directors upon its completion, and includes "imposing a fine in the event that the card holder, whether a citizen or a resident, delays receiving it for more than 3 months from the date of storage."

Bid to perform Umrah: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs recently sent a letter to the concerned authorities in Saudi Arabia about the guarantees for Bedouns to perform Umrah, reports **Al-Qabas** daily quoting sources.

Sources confirmed that the ministry promised to ensure the Bedoun pilgrims will return to Kuwait after performing Umrah, that they will go with approved Umrah organizers, and that the security cards of those wishing to perform Umrah are valid.

Sources said the Saudi authorities have expressed willingness to cooperate in finding solutions to enable Bedouns to perform Umrah. Sources added the authorities are open to the idea of allowing Bedouns to perform Umrah, provided the aforementioned guarantees are adhered to and all the previous mistakes are not repeated.

No news about missing Kuwaiti Al-Baghli in Romania ... 8 yrs on

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: It has been eight years since the Kuwaiti businessman Mohammad Taher Al-Baghli went missing in Romania. So far there have been no suspects or evidence. The Kuwaiti and Romanian authorities are still unsure about the circumstances that led to his mysterious disappearance on August 5, 2015, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

In memory of his missing father, Riyadh Al-Baghli said, "Our father Muhammad Al-Baghli, today, it has been eight years since you disappeared. We continue to ask for prayers from all our beloved ones in Kuwait and all parts of the earth for your return to us."

In a press statement, Riyadh Al-Baghli appealed to the Kuwaiti authorities to exert more efforts and put pressure on the Romanian authorities to intensify the search, investigation and follow-up of the investigation.

He affirmed that, "The Kuwaiti side has never failed, either the Ministry of Interior or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the follow-up continues and the sending of delegations has not stopped.

The late Amir His Highness Sheikh

Sabah Al-Ahmad used to personally ask about my father's case and used to follow it up.

I appreciate the great role played by the Kuwaiti authorities both inside and outside Kuwait to search for my father. However, after we appointed a lawyer in Romania, it became clear that there was a shortcoming in the investigation procedures from the Romanian side and lack of follow-up. Also, the questions asked to those who were investigated were superficial."

He described his father's disappearance as a mystery that baffled them and the security authorities.

Al-Baghli said, "Initially, we drew more than one scenario, including disappearance, theft, an accident, a spur-of-the-moment kidnapping, and a premeditated kidnapping. Unfortunately, all of these scenarios were blown up, as no one demanded a ransom, and we did not find traces of assault or kidnapping.

We also did not find any clue that leads us to the truth. The authorities neither arrested any suspects, nor found any evidence." As he expressed his hope that his father would return safely to his country, he appealed to the Kuwaiti authorities to exert more effort in following up the case, and urged the Romanian authorities to exert more effort to pursue it and reveal its secrets.



Al-Baghli



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Plans for distributing 'curricula' for different educational stages

MoE activates summer evening club

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: The technical guidance for academic fields are studying the plans for distributing the curricula for the next year 2023/2024, initially specifying it as 12 weeks for the intermediate and secondary stages in the first semester, and 15 weeks in the elementary stage, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to educational sources, the plan will be applied during the second semester with the same distribution unless developments occur that require a change. The actual study in the first semester for the intermediate and secondary stages will be only 60 days, and for the elementary schools 75 days. This period is considered the shortest globally, according to the statistics of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Education activated summer evening clubs in the educational areas, with the cooperation of the Kuwait School Union. The Capital Center for Bowling for Boys in Ahmed Al-Bishr Al-Roumi High School began receiving students and activating its training role.

A member of the Bowling Technical Committee in the School Union and Higher Education Dr. Hussein Jawhar Hayat said, "In light of the fruitful cooperation carried out by the Ministry of Education under the slogan "Our Summer in Our Schools", which lasts for four months, the center aims to detect gifted students and transfer them to talent centers in Bowling, and this applies to all games in the school union."

He praised the role of the Ministry of Education in developing sports by nurturing the talents of its students and providing the appropriate atmosphere for sports activities through which the school union selects distinguished players.

Meanwhile, the supervisor of the Capital Bowling Center Ali Al-Mutawa affirmed that a program was launched in coordination with the Ministry of Education in June and it will continue until September for three days a week from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

He said the program receives students from all educational levels from kindergarten to secondary stage. Al-Mutawa highlighted the provision of experienced trainers to develop students' skills, adding that he appreciates the ministry's support and care for them and for developing their talents.



Capital Center for Bowling for Boys began receiving students and activating its training role.

State-of-the-art tech to be showcased

Bahrain poised to hold first Global Water, Energy, Climate Change Congress in Sept

MANAMA, Aug 8, (KUNA): Bahraini Minister of Oil and Environment, and the Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, Dr. Mohammad Bin Daina, announced Tuesday launching the first edition of the Global Water, Energy and Climate Change Congress (GWECCC), from September 5 to 7.

The local news agency (BNA) reported that this was at the Congress Advisory Committee meeting, chaired by Bin Daina and held to examine latest organizational updates and preparations.

The GWECCC is a focused environmental event aiming to enhance sustainability, security of water and energy resources amid global concern to reduce climate change and to contribute to the implementation of environmental programs and policies.

The Minister, while speaking at the meeting,

took note of the ongoing collaboration with Arabian Gulf countries in organizing and hosting related specialized events.

Bin Daina called the congress a "great opportunity for senior officials from various industrial and environmental fields to discuss challenges and opportunities and learn from the best global practices and advanced technologies in the field of water and energy."

The conference will also include a number of accompanying events, such as the Technology and Youth Forums, and a Technology Exhibition with participants from a number of specialized companies to showcase state-of-the-art technologies.

GWECCC is organized in cooperation with the Water Resources Council, ICONEX Global and a number of Local, regional and international organizations.

Emotet returns, Lokibot persists

Kaspersky reports on new infection tactics

LONDON, Aug 8: Kaspersky's new report uncovers intricate infection tactics of malware strains DarkGate, Emotet, and LokiBot. Amid DarkGate's unique encryption and Emotet's robust comeback, LokiBot exploits persist, illustrating the ever-advancing cybersecurity landscape.

In June 2023, Kaspersky's researchers discovered a new loader named DarkGate that boasts an array of features that go beyond typical downloader functionality. Some of the notable capabilities include hidden VNC, Windows Defender exclusion, browser history stealing, reverse proxy, file management, and Discord token stealing. DarkGate's operation involves a chain of four stages, intricately designed to lead to the loading of DarkGate itself. What sets this loader apart is its unique way of encrypting strings with personalized keys and a custom version of Base64 encoding, utilizing a special character set.

Moreover, the Kaspersky's research examines an activity of Emotet, a notorious botnet that resurfaced after its takedown in 2021. In this latest campaign, users who unwittingly open the malicious One-Note files trigger the execution of a hidden and disguised VBScript. The script then attempts to download the harmful payload from various websites until successfully infiltrates the system. Once inside, Emotet plants a DLL in the temporary directory, then executes it. This DLL contains hidden instructions, or shellcode, along with encrypted import functions. By skillfully decrypting a specific file from its resource section, Emotet gains the upper hand, ultimately executing its malicious payload.

Finally, Kaspersky detected a phishing campaign targeting cargo ship companies that delivered LokiBot. It is an infostealer first identified in 2016, and designed to steal credentials from various applications, including browsers and FTP clients. These emails carried an Excel document attachment which prompted users to enable macros. The attackers exploited a known vulnerability (CVE-2017-0199) in Microsoft Office, leading to the download of an RTF document. This RTF document subsequently leveraged another vulnerability (CVE-2017-11882) to deliver and execute the LokiBot malware.

"Emotet's resurgence and the continuous presence of Lokibot as well as

the appearance of DarkGate serve as stark reminders of the ever-evolving cyber threats we face. As these malware strains adapt and adopt new infection methods, it is crucial for individuals and businesses to stay vigilant and invest in robust cybersecurity solutions. Kaspersky's ongoing research and detection of DarkGate, Emotet, and Lokibot underscore the significance of proactive measures to protect against evolving cyber dangers," comments Jornt van der Wiel, senior security researcher at Kaspersky's Global Research and Analysis Team.

Learn more about new infection methods on Securelist.

To protect yourself and your business from ransomware attacks, consider following the rules proposed by Kaspersky:

■ Always keep the software updated on all the devices you use to prevent attackers from exploiting vulnerabilities and infiltrating your network.

■ Focus your defense strategy on detecting lateral movements and data leaks to the internet. Pay special attention to outgoing traffic to detect cybercriminals' connections to your network. Set up offline backups that intruders cannot tamper with. Make sure you can access them quickly when needed or in an emergency.

■ Activate ransomware protection on all endpoints. There is a free Kaspersky Anti-Ransomware Tool for Business that shields computers and servers from ransomware and other types of malware, prevents exploits and is compatible with already installed security solutions.

■ Install anti-APT and EDR solutions, enabling capabilities for advanced threat discovery and detection, investigation and timely remediation of incidents. Provide your SOC team with access to the latest threat intelligence and regularly upskill them with professional training. All of the above is available within Kaspersky Expert Security framework.

■ Provide your SOC team with access to the latest threat intelligence (TI). The Kaspersky Threat Intelligence Portal is a single point of access to Kaspersky's TI, providing cyberattack data and insights collected by our team over the last 20 years. To help businesses deliver effective defenses in these turbulent times, Kaspersky has announced it is providing access to independent, continuously updated and globally sourced information on current cyberattacks and threats free of charge.



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Defense ministry sign with KISR a cooperation agreement.

Defense ministry and KISR sign agreement

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8, (KUNA): Military Facilities' Engineering Sector of the Ministry of Defense signed, Monday, a cooperation agreement with Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) in technical, scientific and innovation fields.

A ministry statement said the agreement aims at advancing work through mutual technical expertise pertaining to road ex-

aminations. The accord underscores the Ministry's commitment to KISR as a "strategic partner" in this specialized domain and beyond.

The signing ceremony was attended by Ministry acting undersecretary Sheikha Dr. Shamayel Ahmad Al-Sabah, and KISR acting director general Dr. Manea Al-Sedairawi.

AV-Comparatives yearly focus pen-test

Kaspersky Endpoint Security for Business 100 pct anti-tampering protection proven

LONDON, Aug 8: Kaspersky Endpoint Security for Business has proven 100 percent anti-tampering protection in a yearly AV-Comparatives focus pen-test. Tamper protection defends the product against end-user and third-party changes, plus services, processes, files, and registry entries against any controlling attempts, even in the context of a privileged user. Kaspersky Endpoint Security for Business reached the certification requirements by successfully protecting against all the tampering attacks used in the research.

During cyberattacks on business, intruders often try to shut down system security services before moving to the next step and getting access to their target's infrastructure. It is essential for cybersecurity products to have mechanisms that can defend them first from compromise, so attacks don't go further into corporate systems.

Since 2022, AV-Comparatives has been performing yearly focused researches, with Anti-Tampering test in 2023. Completed using Windows 10, it is aimed at searching for vulnerabilities of security products that allow to disable or modify the solution to proceed with the next steps of the targeted attack onto the corporate network. In independent testing, where vendors were not informed in advance of the possible attacks techniques to be used, the success criterion for gaining certification was to prevent 100 percent of attacks, with reports published only for those solutions that prevented all of them.

In April 2023, Kaspersky submitted Kaspersky Endpoint Security for Business into the AV-Comparatives' assessment of an anti-tampering protection and gained the certification in May. The product successfully counteracted all the disabling adversary's attempts such as deactivation or uninstallation of the security solution, changing of its configuration aiming at preventing its updates or white listing the

adversary's tools, etc.

Kaspersky regularly participates and achieves outstanding results in both real-world independent testing, as well as in specific focused testing such as AV-TEST's Ransomware and Fileless evaluations. Kaspersky's solution was also successful in 2022 Local Security Authority Subsystem Service (LSASS) test by AV-Comparatives aimed at revealing security solutions' capabilities to protect system from attacks to LSASS process with purpose to extract system domain credentials for following use in targeted attack.

"We continuously participate in independent regular and focus testing as it's always a great opportunity for us to improve our cybersecurity products, so they can withstand new threats and provide a better user experience. Participants had zero knowledge about the techniques AV-Comparatives security engineers planned to use against the solutions before testing, which makes the Anti-Tampering examination challenging and valuable. Being a top-edge-technology solution, Kaspersky Endpoint Security for Business provides high levels of flexibility in configuring itself and hardening the protected system, thus minimizing the attack horizon. We are proud of achieving the maximum score reached by the solution in this research," comments Alexander Liskin, Head of Threat Research at Kaspersky.

"Since 2022 we have been conducting focus tests in addition to our regular examinations, with the purpose of helping vendors identify technologies and products improvements. In 2023 Anti-Tampering research, we applied various techniques and tools in an attempt to assess the tamper resistance of security solutions. Kaspersky Endpoint Security for Business prevented all tampering activities and showed outstanding results," comments Andreas Clementi, Founder & CEO of AV-Comparatives.

Kuwait seeks to propel its healthcare forward

MoH to highlight strengths

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Kuwait is actively and persistently pursuing efforts to propel its healthcare system forward, aiming for continuous development and a significant advancement in healthcare services to ensure that every member of society can lead a healthy life, positioning Kuwait among countries known for sustainable growth rates, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily says, the Ministry of Health places great emphasis on fostering national competencies through training, scholarships, and collaboration with local and international health institutions by focusing on enhancing systems and procedures for the training and professional development of medical personnel.

Determined to elevate the health sector's standing, the Ministry of Health aims to highlight its strengths and bolster it amid the already high-quality healthcare services that Kuwait offers today.

This strategy serves as a fundamental pillar in nurturing a

new generation of capable healthcare professionals who can effectively tackle future health challenges.

It has been reported that the Ministry of Health has taken significant strides in achieving approximately 80% of the goals set by the Hearing Health Survey Program.

Launched in 2013, the program's primary objective is the early detection of hearing impairments, allowing for timely remedial and rehabilitative measures to be implemented and reducing hearing impairment rates among newborns.

Earlier, the Ministry of Health said the regulatory authorities have finally approved the ministry's request to award a tender for operation, maintenance and repair of engineering services in the new Amiri Hospital to one of the companies that provided the lowest prices conforming to the technical conditions and specifications, for 1.7 million dinars, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources added that the Ministry of Health has obtained other approvals related to direct contracting for the purchase of materials for the cardiac physiology department at the Amiri Hospital, "Sabah Al-Ahmad Heart Center", at a cost of 717,000 dinars, in addition to the supply of materials used as sensors for the blood glucose meter, and sugar and insulin pumps at public hospitals whose value is 5.3 million dinars.

CSC OKs national program to raise standards of healthcare

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: The Civil Service Commission says starting from fiscal 2023/2024 it will dispatch employees from various government institutions to pursue specialization in nursing if they wish to do so, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This move is part of the national program's objective to enhance the performance level of nursing staff members. The program has been approved by the

CSC, following extensive studies on the requirements of government institutions and recent labor market demands in the nursing sector.

The source told the daily that several government institutions, including the ministries of Health, Defense, Interior, and Education have expressed their interest in scholarship seats for nursing specialization while at the same time

acknowledging the shortage of nursing staff within and showing keenness to participate in the program.

The CSC says it is important to note that the dispatch program exclusively targets Kuwaitis and the usual scholarship and study leave conditions will not apply. Eligibility criteria mandate that the applicant must be a Kuwaiti employee with a diploma or secondary qualification.

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EVOLUT FX

Kuwait boasts new medical innovation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: The Chest Diseases Hospital announced that it has performed two operations to replace the aortic valve by catheterization, using the latest types of valves (EVOLUT FX), as "the first country in the Middle East after the United States."

The head of the adult cardiology department at the hospital, Dr. Abdullah Al-Enezi, said that this achievement complements the hospital's efforts to upgrade and benefit from international and modern technologies.

Al-Enezi indicated that the two operations were performed on two patients, each in their 80s, by the valve team at the hospital, under the supervision of Dr. Khaled Al-Marri, and they were successful.

He added that the two patients were suffering from severe narrowing of the aortic valve, which necessitated a replacement operation for this valve, indicating that the modern valve is characterized by ease and accuracy in installation, which results in fewer complications for patients, and less use of dye.

He pointed out that the modern valve reduces the time of the operation, and facilitates the process of cardiac catheterization of the arteries, if the patient needs it in the future.




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Kuwait Investment Authority Office for settlement and management of debts purchased for the account of the state announces



Report Summary on the Bankruptcy Works and a List of Temporary Debts for the Bankruptcy of / Five Oceans Trading and Air Conditioning Contracting Company, Mohammad Hamad Abdul Mohsen Al-Mishary and Co. W.L.L.
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Lawsuit No. 29/2005 Public Debts Bankruptcy/1 on 21/06/2005.

One: Financial and Accounting Procedures
1. The indebtedness as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 2,473,626/450
2. The indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 10,477,957/704
3. Total amounts collected amount to: K.D 572,648/324
a. Amounts paid before the Bankruptcy Proclamation Ruling amount to: K.D 447,097/070.
b. Amounts paid after the Bankruptcy Proclamation Ruling amount to: K.D 18,611/254
c. Reimbursements of the Guarantor/ Mohammad Hamad Abdul Mohsen Al-Mishary amount to: K.D 106,940/000
Two: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deem to accept: Commercial Bank of Kuwait, indebtedness purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 10,477,957/704 according to Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993

Report Summary on the Bankruptcy Works and a List of Temporary Debts for the Bankruptcy of / Jaafar Salah Hanoon, the Guarantor of/ Five Oceans Trading and Air Conditioning Contracting Company, Mohammad Hamad Abdul Mohsen Al-Mishary and Co. W.L.L.
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Lawsuit No. 29/2005 Public Debts Bankruptcy/1 on 21/06/2005.

One: Financial and Accounting Procedures
1. His share of the guaranteed indebtedness as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 449,597/817.
2. His share of the guaranteed indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 1,940,219/361.
3. Amounts collected: None.
Two: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept: Commercial Bank of Kuwait, indebtedness purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 1,940,219/361, his share of the guaranteed indebtedness to the Five Oceans Trading and Air Conditioning Contracting Company, Mohammad Hamad Abdul Mohsen Al-Mishary and Co. W.L.L., according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

Report Summary on the Bankruptcy Works and a List of Temporary Debts for the Bankruptcy of / Enayatollah Mohammad Deen, the Guarantor of/ Five Oceans Trading and Air Conditioning Contracting Company, Mohammad Hamad Abdul Mohsen Al-Mishary and Co. W.L.L.
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Lawsuit No. 29/2005 Public Debts Bankruptcy/1 on 21/06/2005.

One: Financial and Accounting Procedures
1. His share of the guaranteed indebtedness as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 449,597/817.
2. His share of the guaranteed indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 1,940,219/361.
3. Amounts collected: None.
Two: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept: Commercial Bank of Kuwait, indebtedness purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 1,940,219/361, his share of the guaranteed indebtedness to the Five Oceans Trading and Air Conditioning Contracting Company, Mohammad Hamad Abdul Mohsen Al-Mishary and Co. W.L.L., according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993

Report Summary on the Bankruptcy Works and a List of Temporary Debts for the Bankruptcy of / Suleiman Mohsen Abbas Al-Mousawi
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Lawsuit No. 150/2005 Public Debts Bankruptcy/1 on 13/12/2005.

One: Financial and Accounting Procedures
1. His share of the guaranteed indebtedness as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 593,996/195.
2. His share of the guaranteed indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 2,109,364/440.
3. Amounts paid after the Bankruptcy Proclamation Ruling amount to: K.D 61,792/612.
Two: A Statement of the Bankruptcy Debts that the Authority deems to accept: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait, indebtedness purchased by the Two: A Statement of the Bankruptcy Debts that the Authority deems to accept: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait indebtedness purchased by the state amounting to: K.D 2,109,364/440, the bankrupt's share of the guaranteed indebtedness to the bankrupt Suleiman Mohsen Abbas Al-Mousawi to Article (13) of Law No. 41 of 1993

Report Summary on the Bankruptcy Works and a List of Temporary Debts for the Bankruptcy of / Yousef Mohammad Deeb Moutad, Guarantor of/ Suleiman Mohsen Abbas Al-Mousawi
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Lawsuit No. 150/2005 Public Debts Bankruptcy/1 on 13/12/2005.

One: Financial and Accounting Procedures
1. The bankrupt's share of the guaranteed indebtedness as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 593,996/195.
2. The bankrupt's share of the guaranteed indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 2,109,364/440
3. Amounts collected: None.

Report Summary on the Bankruptcy Works and a List of Temporary Debts for the Bankruptcy of / Trans Gulf Transport and Clearance Company/ Hussein Jawad Mohammad Ali Abdurassoul and Co. W.L.L.
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Lawsuit No. 64/2010 Public Debts Bankruptcy/1 on 12/01/2011.

One: Financial and Accounting Procedures
1. The indebtedness as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 760,855/00
2. The indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 4,935,030/749
3. The amounts collected amount to: K.D 2,910/731
Two: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept: Commercial Bank of Kuwait, indebtedness purchased by the state amounting to: K.D 4,935,030/749 according to Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

Report Summary on the Bankruptcy Works and a List of Temporary Debts for the Bankruptcy of / Adel Abdullah Ghanim Al-Othman
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Lawsuit No. 184/2005 Public Debts Bankruptcy/1 on 14/02/2006.

One: Financial and Accounting Procedures
1. The indebtedness as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 1,968,811/530
2. The indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 9,144,982/289
3. Total amounts collected amount to: K.D 382,998/592
a. Amounts paid before the Bankruptcy Proclamation Ruling amount to: K.D 3,620/317.
b. Amounts paid after the Bankruptcy Proclamation Ruling amount to: K.D 378,299/077

c. Expenses amount to: K.D 1,079/198
Two: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait, indebtedness purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 9,144,982/289 according to Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

Report Summary on the Bankruptcy Works and a List of Temporary Debts for the Bankruptcy of the Bankrupt/ Fadhel Khalifa Aati Al-Fulajj, Guarantor of Dana Al-Fulajj General Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L.
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Lawsuit No. 46/2003 Public Debts Bankruptcy/1 on 06/05/2003.

One: Financial and Accounting Procedures
1. His share of the indebtedness as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 1,444,874/667.
2. His share of the indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 5,292,939/995.
3. Amounts collected amount to: K.D 4,200/152.
Two: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept: Commercial Bank of Kuwait, indebtedness purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 5,292,939/995, his share of the guaranteed indebtedness to Dana Al-Fulajj General Trading and Contracting Company W.L.L. according to Article 13 of Law 41 of 1993.

Report Summary on the Bankruptcy Works and a List of Temporary Debts for the Bankruptcy of/ Mohammad Mubarak Al-Mahri (Guarantor of Fartak Trading Company)
Submitted to the Bankruptcy Department in Lawsuit No. 48/2004 Public Debts Bankruptcy/1 on 12/10/2004.

One: Financial and Accounting Procedures
1. His share of the indebtedness as at 01/08/1990 amounts to: K.D 126,306 /522.
2. His share of the indebtedness according to Article 13 amounts to: K.D 517,628/195.
3. Amounts collected: None.
Two: Debts that the Authority in its capacity deems to accept: Commercial Bank of Kuwait, indebtedness purchased by the State amounting to: K.D 517,628/195, his share of the guaranteed indebtedness according to Article 13 of Law No. 41 of 1993.

According to the Provision of Article 111 of Law No. 71 of 2020, "The debtor and each creditor, even if his name is not included in the list of debts, may appeal to the Bankruptcy Department against debts included in the list, within ten days from the date of announcing the list.

oil up

Price of Kuwait crude oil rose 63 cents to USD 90 per barrel on Monday compared with USD 89.37 pb on Friday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Brent crude oil went down 90 cents to USD 85.34 pb and West Texas Intermediate crude went down 88 cents to USD 81.94 pb. (KUNA)

CBK issues bonds

The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced Monday issuing new bonds and related tawarruq valued at KD 160 million (around USD 528 million).

The securities bear a 4.375-percent return rate with a three-month maturity rate, according to a CBK statement received by KUNA.

US investigating power-assisted steering failure complaints

U.S. auto safety investigators have opened a probe into reports that some older Ram 1500 pickup trucks can lose power-steering assistance with little or no warning.

The investigation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration covers over 1.1 million pickups from the 2013 through 2016 model years.

The agency says it has 380 complaints about the problem that include three crashes but no injuries. Investigators say in documents posted Tuesday that if the power steering fails, it takes extra effort to steer the trucks and drivers could lose control.

Stellantis, formerly Fiat Chrysler, recalled 440 pickups in 2016 to fix

a power steering problem. But the agency says the complaints indicate a similar failure in trucks that are outside the scope of the recall.

The agency says the recall query will determine if enough vehicles were recalled or if another safety defect might be causing problems. (AP)

Market Movements

08-08-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
JAPAN			UAE	-0.04	4,077.73
- Nikkei	+0.38	32,377.29	- DFM	-0.04	4,077.73
			PAKISTAN	-1.95	47,365.97
			- KSE 100	-1.95	47,365.97
			PHILIPPINES	-0.53	6,472.97
			- PSEi	-0.53	6,472.97
			SAUDI	-0.25	11,244.27
			- Tadawul	-0.25	11,244.27
			EGYPT	-0.51	17,748.89
			- EGX 30	-0.51	17,748.89

Business

Japan's tech investor SoftBank trims losses and promises offensive turnaround

TOKYO, Aug 8, (AP): Japanese technology company SoftBank Group Corp. continued to rack up losses for the fiscal first quarter as technology investments soured amid a market downturn.

But SoftBank's April-June red ink, at 477.6 billion yen (\$3.4 billion), was smaller than a year ago, when losses totaled 3.16 trillion yen (\$22 billion), the Tokyo-based company said Tuesday.

Losses came from what SoftBank calls its Vision Funds, as well as from other investments including those in telecommunications in Japan.

Chief Financial Officer Yoshimitsu Goto struck an upbeat tone, stressing that the environment for technology issues was improving.

"We must pay attention to the conditions and adjust stepping on the gas pedal, as well as on the brakes on investments accordingly," he told reporters.

SoftBank Vision Fund 1 marked a \$12.4 billion gain since its inception, while SoftBank Vision Fund 2, set up after the first fund, was still performing at a loss of \$18.6 billion, according to SoftBank.

Over the latest period, Vision Fund 1 saw the value of its holdings rise in South Korea e-commerce company Coupang and Singaporean technology outfit Grab. That was offset by declines in its portfolio of Didi and other Chinese companies, it said.

In SBVF2, the strong performance of American warehouse robotics company Symbotic shares was offset by a decline in WeWork, a U.S. workspace-sharing

startup. SoftBank recently announced a joint venture with Symbotic. Goto insisted that the overall performance on the Vision Fund investments was improving.

Much of the latest quarterly loss came from the recent declining value of the yen, which negatively impacts Japanese investors, he said. If that were taken out of consideration, investments were basically breakeven, said Goto.

Quarterly sales were little changed, edging down nearly 1% to 1.56 trillion yen (\$11 billion). The company does not give full year forecasts.

SoftBank, which invests in a sprawling array of companies, including British semiconductor and software design company Arm, has tended to suffer during technology downturns.



Financial Results H1 2023

112 Million
KD NET PROFIT
14%

REVENUE

12%

930
KD Million

EBITDA

9%

348
KD Million

EPS

26
FILS

CUSTOMERS

2%

52.7
Million

The Board of Directors declared an interim dividends of 10 fils per share for the first half of 2023, to the shareholders already registered in the company's register on the record date of Sunday 10/9/2023.

The Corporate Action Time Schedule:

Cum Date*	5/9/2023
Ex Date	6/9/2023
Record Date	10/9/2023
Payment Date	14/9/2023

- Cash dividends will be transferred to the bank accounts of the shareholders, who are registered in the electronic transfer service for the distribution of profits, as of Thursday 14/9/2023.
- Shareholders who were not able to register in the electronic transfer service for the distribution of profits, shall contact the local banks to register in this service or through their electronic services, according to the instructions issued by the Kuwait Clearing Company.

* Cum-Dividend Date:

The last day on which the share must be purchased so that the shareholder is registered in the company's register on the record date and therefore is entitled to receive dividends.

WS 'drops' with mkts worldwide

Asia mixed

NEW YORK, Aug 8, (AP): Stocks were tumbling Tuesday as worries about the banking system and the global economy force more caution into financial markets worldwide.

The S&P 500 was 1.1% lower in midday trading and on track for its fifth loss in the last six days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 345 points, or 1%, at 35,128, as of 11:50 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 1.6% lower.

In the U.S., bank stocks helped lead the market lower after Moody's cut the credit ratings for 10 smaller and midsized ones. It cited a list of concerns about their financial strength, from the effects of higher interest rates to the work-from-home trend that's leaving office buildings vacant.

Across the Pacific, stocks sank after a report showed exports for China's troubled economy shrank by the most since the start of the pandemic in 2020. And in Europe, bank stocks tumbled in Italy after its Cabinet approved a proposal to tax a chunk of their profits this year.

The worries layered on top of a mixed set of earnings reports from big U.S. companies.

Beyond Meat tumbled 19.1% after its revenue weakened by even more during the spring than analysts expected. Demand is softening for its plant-based meat products.

Software company Palantir Technologies gave up some of its big gains for the year after it reported results for the spring that only matched analysts' expectations. It fell 7.3%, though it's still up nearly 160% for the year so far on expectations for tremendous growth. It's one of the companies that's been riding Wall Street's frenzy around artificial-intelligence technology.

Among the relatively few winners on Wall Street was Eli Lilly, which jumped 16.7%. It reported profit and revenue for the spring that both topped analysts' expectations.

Treasury yields fell in the bond market as investors herded into investments considered safer. It's a comedown from the climb yields have been on recently, which has pressured the stock market.

The Federal Reserve has hiked its main interest rate to the highest level in more than two decades in hopes of grinding down inflation. High rates work by slowing the entire economy bluntly, which has raised the risk of a recession but also helped inflation to moderate since its peak last summer.

The much higher rates have hit banks particularly hard. While downgrading credit ratings for 10 banks and putting six others under review, Moody's said the rapid rise in rates has led to conditions that hurt profits for the broad industry. Higher rates also knock down the value of investments that banks made when rates were super low. Such conditions helped cause three high-profile failures for U.S. banks earlier in the spring, which shook confidence in the system.

Moody's also said troubles may be coming for banks with lots of commercial real estate loans, which are threatened as work-from-home trends keep people out of offices.

"This comes as a mild US recession is on the horizon for early 2024 and asset quality looks set to decline from solid but unsustainable levels," Moody's Jill Cetina and Ana Arsov wrote in a report.

M&T Bank, one of the banks whose credit rating they downgraded, fell 2.7%. Truist Financial, one of the banks that Moody's said it's reviewing for a possible downgrade, fell 2.5%. Other, larger banks whose credit ratings weren't affected also sank. Bank of America dropped 2.9%, and JPMorgan Chase fell 1.7%.

Later this week, the U.S. government will release data on consumer and wholesale inflation, which could influence what the Federal Reserve does next with interest rates.

The hope on Wall Street is that the cooldown since inflation topped 9% last summer will help persuade the Fed no more rate hikes are needed. Forecasters expect Thursday's data to show consumer prices rose by 3.3% in July over a year ago, an acceleration from June's 3%.

But some economists and investors say getting inflation down that last bit to the Fed's target of 2% is likely to be the most difficult. They're saying Wall Street has become convinced too quickly that the Fed can achieve a "soft landing" for the economy and that the 19.5% run for the S&P 500 through the first seven months of this year was overdone.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.01% from 4.10% late Monday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other loans.

Europe

In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London lost 0.4% to 7,528.15. The CAC 40 in Paris gave up 0.4% to 7,288.73, and the DAX in Frankfurt shed 0.5% to 15,884.94.

Asia

Asian stocks were mixed in early trading Tuesday after Wall Street rallied and Japanese wages rose ahead of a United States inflation update that might influence Federal Reserve plans for more possible interest rate hikes.

Tokyo advanced while Shanghai and Hong Kong declined. Oil prices gained.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo rose 0.3% after the Japanese government reported labor cash earnings rose 2.3% in June.

The Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.2% to 3,264.03 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong shed 1.2% to 19,311.32. The Kospi in Seoul lost less than 0.1% to 2,579.01 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.2% to 7,322.20. New Zealand retreated while Southeast Asian markets rose.

Oil

In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude rose 28 cents to \$82.22 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 88 cents on Monday to \$81.94. Brent crude, the price basis for international oil trading, advanced 27 cents to \$85.61 per barrel in London. It lost 90 cents the previous session to \$85.34.

Currencies

The dollar rose to 143.29 yen from Monday's 142.44 yen. The euro declined to \$1.0986 from \$1.1007.

Zain Group Q2 '23 net profit soars 14% to reach KD 57m and Board declares interim dividend of 10 fils per share

Group receives a first-ever cash dividend of \$42 mln from Zain KSA

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in seven markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for Q2 and six months ended June 30, 2023. Zain served 52.7 million customers at the end of the period, a 2% increase year-on-year (YoY).

In the second quarter of 2023 (Q2), Zain Group generated consolidated revenue of KD 461 million (USD 1.5 billion), up 10% YoY. EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 182 million (USD 594 million), up 10% YoY, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 40%. Net income for the quarter amounted to KD 57 million (USD 187 million), up 14% YoY, reflecting earnings per share of 13 fils (USD 0.04).

For the first six months of 2023 (H1), Zain Group generated consolidated revenue of KD 930 million (USD 3.03 billion), an increase of 12% YoY. EBITDA for the period reached KD 348 million (USD 1.1 billion), up 9% YoY, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 37%. Net income for the first six months amounted to KD 112 million (USD 364 million), up 14% YoY, reflecting earnings per share of 26 fils (USD 0.08).

Key Operational Notes for H1' 2023

- For the 3rd consecutive year, Board declares an interim dividend of 10 fils per share for first six months of 2023 that will be payable to entitled shareholders on 14 September 2023.
 - Zain Kuwait wins the number range fees litigation amounting to KD 24.68 million (USD 80.3m)
 - Zain Group receives a first-ever cash dividend of SAR 158 million (USD 42m) from Zain KSA
 - Data revenue reaches USD 1.2 billion, representing 39% of Group revenue
 - Over the six months, Zain Group invested USD 178 million in CAPEX (tangible and intangible)
 - Operations in Kuwait, KSA, and Bahrain witness impressive growth in 5G revenues, and soft launch of 5G in Jordan
 - Establishment of Zain Omantel International (ZOI) set to revolutionize the international telecommunications wholesale landscape
 - Zain and TASC Towers Holding enter exclusive negotiations with Ooredoo to create a joint independent tower entity comprising of 30,000 towers
 - Fintech services witness exponential growth as total revenue increased 294% YoY, customers grew 73% to reach 1.3 million, with transaction value doubling YoY
 - Zain's "Tamam" platform in Saudi Arabia awarded 'Best Personal Finance Solution' in Middle East
 - Enterprise revenue up 27% as ZainTech and local B2B teams secure multiple deals offering compelling ICT services to businesses and governments across the region
 - ZainTech acquires Adfolks, a UAE-based cloud transformation services firm and enters strategic partnerships with UAE operator du and Mastercard
 - Dizlee API platform and VAS digital services witness healthy revenue growth of 15%
 - Zain's digital operator Yaqoot in KSA, and oodi in Iraq, report strong YoY growth in key KPIs
 - Playhera Max cloud gaming platform launched in KSA in June 2023
 - Zain wins World Finance Best Corporate Governance Award 2023 and Best Corporate Governance of a listed company in Kuwait by the Arab Federation of Capital Markets
 - Zain publishes 12th sustainability report entitled, 'An Inclusive Transition for Future Generations'
- Commenting on Q2 and H1 2023 results, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Mr. Osamah Al Furaih said, "This exceptional performance is a result of the Board and management's focus on driving sustainable shareholder value through effective environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices, network upgrades expansion, and growing new lucrative business verticals with a

- Chairman, Mr. Osamah Al Furaih: "Board working closely with management in driving shareholder value through sound ESG practices, operational efficiencies and growing new business verticals"
- VC & Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi: "Solid growth in Enterprise, Digital and Fintech revenues boosts financial performance, reassures Board to declare a half-year dividend of 10 fils per share"
- Data Revenue grew 9% to represent 39% of Total Group Revenue for H1 '23
- Enterprise revenue up 27% for H1 as ZainTech and local B2B teams secure key clients and enter strategic partnerships
- Digital services including Dizlee API platform witness revenue growth of 15% for H1
- Focus on Fintech and Digital Operator entities driving healthy customer and revenue growth
- Establishment of Zain Omantel International (ZOI) set to revolutionize the international telecommunications wholesale landscape
- Zain and TASC Towers enter exclusive negotiations with Ooredoo to create a joint independent tower entity comprising of 30,000 towers
- Zain wins two prestigious 'Best Corporate Governance' awards in Kuwait
- Zain publishes 12th sustainability report, entitled 'An Inclusive Transition for Future Generations'

focus on providing customers with an exceptional telecom experience."

He added, "Our conducive relationships with the management of Omantel and government authorities across our markets is supporting us in our mission to reap the benefits of digital transformation as we drive systemic change and provide meaningful connectivity to the communities we serve and beyond."

On the ongoing situation in Sudan, the Chairman commented, "We are extremely proud of our people who are working 24/7 and making personal sacrifices in providing vital connectivity to the Sudanese community. The Board and group management are in constant and close cooperation with the management teams there in supporting them on multiple fronts, taking all reasonable measures to protect our people, assets, and commercial operations during this turbulent time. We pray for the safety of all the people in Sudan and are hopeful that the conflict will end soon."

Mr. Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented, "The solid growth in Enterprise, Digital and Fintech revenues combined with operational efficiencies across our markets was key to the impressive financial performance for the first half of 2023. On the back of these robust results combined with our strong balance sheet and financial solvency, and in accordance with our declared 35 fils per share minimum dividend policy for the next three years starting 2023, the Board is pleased to declare a third consecutive half-year dividend of 10 fils per share."

"The sound performance of all our operations is a testament to our firm commitment and success in executing our ambitious '4Sight' corporate strategy to drive growth through digital transformation and new lucrative business streams, as we methodically manage the continuing competitive and socio-economic challenges that several of our markets face."

"The USD 42 million cash dividend received from Zain KSA for its 2022 financial year, is significant in that apart from being the operator's first ever-cash dividend distribution to shareholders, it is indicative of the successful achievement of Zain KSA's transformational turnaround in recent years whereby it reported record revenues and profits in 2022, and likewise for the first six-months of 2023. We are very optimistic of the growth potential of Zain KSA in creating shareholder value and playing a key role in Saudi Vision 2030."

"Our pioneering Tower sale and leaseback strategy is making substantial progress and creating shareholder value on multiple fronts. We are quietly confident that our recently announced deal of Zain and TASC Towers entering exclusive negotiations with Ooredoo to create a jointly owned independent tower entity comprising of 30,000 towers, will materialize and create enormous value for all our respective stakeholders. We are thankful of Ooredoo's board and management for their trust and genuine spirit of partnership to take



Mr Osamah AlFuraih – Zain Chairman



Vice Chairman and Group CEO

these exclusive discussions forward."

"I'm very excited by the potential opportunities that the strategic establishment of 'Zain Omantel International' (ZOI), a first-of-its-kind joint venture will bring as it will revolutionize the telecommunications wholesale landscape. It will become the Middle East's premier wholesale powerhouse serving regional operators, international carriers, and global hyperscalers. The partnership will create new opportunities for growth and innovation, with Zain and Omantel customers benefiting from quality internet connectivity, voice, roaming, and messaging. ZOI will manage all international wholesale requirements of Zain and Omantel operations in eight countries, serving over 55 million customers, and benefiting both entities on financial, commercial and operational levels."

"Our enterprise solutions arm ZainTech is fast becoming the digital transformation partner of choice for governments and businesses across our markets, the UAE and beyond. The recent acquisition of Adfolks, a UAE-based cloud transformation services firm brings a wealth of expertise in developing bespoke and agile technology solutions that will enable ZainTech to drive even more value for its clients in the dynamic and constantly evolving technology landscape by streamlining their digital transformation journey, making it simpler and more seamless than ever before."

"Furthermore, the recent go-to-market strategic partnership between ZainTech and prominent UAE operator 'du' will unlock synergies while embracing ESG principles towards a Net Zero future. The collaboration will enable both companies to offer enterprise customers an innovative and comprehensive suite of solutions across various areas, including Sustainability, IoT, Drones-as-a-Service (DaaS), Data Practice, Cloud Managed Services, and App Modernization, as well as international connectivity."

"Our fintech entities in KSA, Iraq, Jordan and South Sudan, as well as our pure digital operators in Saudi Arabia and Iraq are witnessing exponential revenue and customer growth, as are the Dizlee API platform and related digital VAS activities in all our markets. We will continue to foster and grow these lucrative areas of business across our footprint."

Al-Kharafi concluded, "As a leading entity listed on the Premier Market in Kuwait, Zain seeks to exceed the regulations issued by all financial regulatory bodies including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Capital Markets Authority and Boursa Kuwait. Accordingly, it was a gratifying achievement to be recognized as possessing the 'Best Corporate Governance' practice in Kuwait for three years in a row by World Finance Publishing House as well as the award of the Best Corporate Governance of a listed company in Kuwait by the Arab Federation of Capital Markets. This milestone justly rewards our Investor Relations, Corporate Governance, and Sustainability teams' high ethical standards, transparency and professionalism towards all our stakeholders."

Financial KPIs of key markets for six-month period (H1) ended June 30, 2023

Kuwait: Maintaining its market leadership, the flagship operation of Zain Group saw its customer base grow 2% YoY, to serve 2.6 million customers. The Group's most profitable operation, revenue remained stable at KD 173 million (USD 563 million), with EBITDA increasing by 39% to reach KD 90 million (USD 295 million), reflecting an EBITDA margin of 52%, mainly due to the successful number range fees litigation of KD 24.68 million (USD 80.3 m) which also impacted net income reaching KD 63 million (USD 206 million). Data revenue represented 39% of total revenue. Despite the intense competition, the operator continues to expand and grow its leading nationwide 5G network capturing the largest 5G customer base and revenue market share in the country. Winning key corporate and government accounts through its unrivaled B2B offerings, as well as the continual introduction of new appealing digital services including Zain Max, a quad-play redefining a new generation of Internet and entertainment plans for postpaid customers, are key parts of the operator's focus.

Saudi Arabia: Revenue grew 10% YoY to reach USD 1.3 billion, with EBITDA amounting to USD 401 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 31%. Net income grew 220% for the six-month period reaching USD 183 million. The operator's 5G network covering over 50 cities saw data revenue represent 41% of total revenue and customers served stood at 8.7 million.

Iraq: Revenue grew 17% to reach USD 455 million, EBITDA reached USD 166 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 37%, with net profit jumping nearly eight-fold to reach USD 43 million compared to USD 5 million last year. The operator's customer base reached 17.7 million customers maintaining its market leading position.

Sudan: Despite the ongoing conflict, revenue soared 46% to reach USD 303 million, with strong EBITDA growth of 46% reaching USD 154 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 51%. Net income for the period grew 23% reaching USD 136 million. Data revenue grew by 67% representing 35% of total revenue, customers base increased by 3% to reach 16.9 million, maintaining its market leadership position.

Jordan: Revenue grew 4% YoY to reach USD 261 million, EBITDA reached USD 106 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 41%, with net income reaching USD 38 million. With the ongoing expansion of FTTH and 4G services across the country and soft launch of 5G in parts of the Kingdom, data revenue grew 2% representing 49% of total revenue. Zain Jordan served 3.8 million customers (up 5% YoY) maintaining its market leadership.

Bahrain: Revenue grew 11% YoY reaching USD 98 million. EBITDA for the period was stable at USD 29 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 30%. Net income reached USD 7.3 million, with data revenue growing 7% to represent 45% of total revenue.

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for the second quarter (Q2) of 2023

Total Managed Active Customers	52.7 million	
Revenue	KD 461 million	(USD 1.5 billion)
EBITDA	KD 182 million	(USD 594 million)
EBITDA Margin	40%	
Net Income	KD 57 million	(USD 187 million)
EPS	13 fils	(USD 0.04)

Group Key Performance Indicators (KD and USD) for the first six months (H1) of 2023

Revenue	KD 930 million	(USD 3.03 billion)
EBITDA	KD 348 million	(USD 1.1 billion)
EBITDA Margin	37%	
Net Income	KD 112 million	(USD 364 million)
EPS	26 fils	(USD 0.08)



Zain HQ building

BUSINESS

UPS lowers 2023 revenue outlook

Revenue declined at UPS in the second quarter and the package delivery company lowered its full-year revenue expectations by \$4 billion as package volumes decline, and after reaching a tentative labor contract reached late last month with its 340,000 unionized workers.

Package volume has been in decline for all shippers and fell significantly for UPS during the quarter. Shares for the Atlanta company slid about 5% before the

opening bell Tuesday.

Domestic revenue slid 6.9% during the quarter as average daily package volume fell 9.9%. The company offset that decline somewhat, however, booking a 3.3% increase in revenue per piece.

UPS reached a tentative deal with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, potentially averting a strike that threatened to disrupt package deliveries for millions of businesses and households na-

tionwide.

Under the agreement, which still needs to be approved by union members, full- and part-time union workers will get \$2.75 more per hour in 2023, and \$7.50 more by the end of the five-year contract. The deal includes a provision to increase starting pay for part-time workers - whom the union says are the most at risk of exploitation - from \$16.20 per hour to \$21 per hour. The average pay for part-timers had been \$20. (AP)

Japan, Bahrain exchange diplomatic notes on investment deal

Japan and Bahrain have exchanged diplomatic notes regarding the entry into force of the bilateral investment agreement between the two countries, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

The exchange took place in Manama, the ministry said in a statement, adding that the deal will enter into force on Sept. 6. In June 2022, the two countries signed a deal, which is called the Agreement between Japan and

Bahrain for the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investment, in order to help bolster bilateral economic ties.

"The agreement provides comprehensive and detailed rules regarding promotion and protection of investment between Japan and Bahrain. Japan and Bahrain have enjoyed a good relationship for many years and have a wide range of cooperative relations, including in the economic field," the ministry said.

"While there have already been Japanese companies operating in Bahrain, mainly in the manufacturing, financial, and trading industries, thanks to the support of the simplified business approval procedures, preferential tax policies of Bahrain, it is expected that the entry into force of this agreement will contribute to promotion of the bilateral investments as well as to further development of economic relations between the two countries," it added. (KUNA)

Pressure to shore up flagging economy mounts

China's July exports tumble by double digits

BEIJING, Aug 8, (AP) - China's exports plunged by 14.5% in July compared with a year earlier, adding to pressure on the ruling Communist Party to reverse an economic slump.

Imports tumbled 12.4%, customs data showed Tuesday, in a blow to global exporters that look to China as one of the biggest markets for industrial materials, food and consumer goods.

Exports fell to \$281.8 billion as the decline accelerated from June's 12.4% fall. Imports sank to \$201.2 billion, widening from the previous month's 6.8% contraction.

The country's global trade surplus narrowed by 20.4% from a record high a year ago to \$80.6 billion.

Chinese leaders are trying to shore up business and consumer activity after a rebound following the end of virus controls in December fizzled out earlier than expected.

Economic growth sank to 0.8% in the three months ending in June compared with the previous quarter, down from the January-March period's 2.2%. That is the equivalent of 3.2% annual growth, which would be among China's weakest in three decades.

Demand for Chinese exports cooled after the Federal Reserve and central banks

in Europe and Asia started raising interest rates last year to cool inflation that was at multi-decade highs.

The export contraction was the biggest since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, according to Capital Economics. It said the decline was due mostly to lower prices, while volumes of goods were above pre-pandemic levels.

Exports

"We expect exports to decline further over the coming months before bottoming out toward the end of the year," said Capital Economics in a report. "The near-term outlook for consumer spending in developed economies remains challenging."

The ruling party has promised measures to support entrepreneurs and to encourage home purchases and consumer spending but hasn't announced large-scale stimulus spending or tax cuts. Forecasters expect those steps to revive demand for imports but say that will be gradual.

"Domestic demand continues to deteriorate," said David Chao of Invesco in a report. "Policymakers have pledged further policy support, which could buoy household spending and lead to an improvement in import growth for the coming few months."

Exports to the United States fell 23% from a year earlier to \$42.3 billion while

imports of American goods retreated 11.1% to \$12 billion. China's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States narrowed by 27% to a still-robust \$30.3 billion.

China's imports from Russia, mostly oil and gas, narrowed by just under 0.1% from a year ago to \$9.2 billion. Chinese purchases of Russian energy have swelled, helping to offset revenue lost to Western sanctions imposed to punish the Kremlin for its invasion of Ukraine.

China, which is friendly with Moscow but says it is neutral in the war, can buy Russian oil and gas without triggering Western sanctions. The United States and French officials cite evidence China is delivering goods with possible military uses to Russia but haven't said whether that might trigger penalties against Chinese companies.

Exports to the 27-nation European Union slumped 39.5% from a year earlier to \$42.4 billion while imports of European goods were off 44.1% at \$23.3 billion. China's trade surplus with the EU contracted by 32.7% to \$19.1 billion.

For the first seven months of the year, Chinese exports were off 5% from the same period in 2022 at just over \$1.9 trillion. Imports were down 7.6% at \$1.4 trillion.

Ukrainians moving to N. Dakota for oil field jobs to help families

Repercussions of Russia, Ukraine war

DICKINSON, N.D., Aug 8, (AP) - Maksym Bunchukov remembers hearing rockets explode in Zaporizhzhia as the war in Ukraine began.

"It was terrible," he said. He and his wife sent their adult daughter west to Lviv for safety and joined her later with their pets.

Now, about 18 months after the war broke out, Bunchukov is in North Dakota, like thousands of Ukrainians who came over a century ago.

He is one of 16 new arrivals who are part of a trade group's pilot effort through the Uniting for Ukraine humanitarian program to recruit refugees and migrants during a workforce shortage. Twelve more Ukrainians are scheduled to arrive by Aug. 15 as part of the North Dakota Petroleum Council's Bakken Global Recruitment of Oilfield Workers program.

Some workers want to bring their families to North Dakota while others hope to return to Ukraine.

"I will try to invite my wife, invite my daughter, invite my cat and invite my dog," Bunchukov told The Associated Press a week after his arrival.

The Bakken program has humanitarian and workforce missions, said Project Manager Brent Sanford, a former lieutenant governor who watched the Bakken oil rush unfold during his time as mayor of boomtown Watford City from 2010 to 2016.

The oil boom initially was met by an "organic workforce" of western North Dakotans with experience in oil field jobs elsewhere, but as the economy reeled from the Great Recession, thousands of people flocked to the Bakken oil field from other states and even other countries to fill high-wage jobs, Sanford said.

Mixtures

Technological advances for combining horizontal drilling and fracking - injecting high-pressure mixtures of water, sand and chemicals into rocks - made capturing the oil locked deep underground possible.

"People came by planes, trains and automobiles, every way possible from everywhere for the opportunity for work," Council President Ron Ness said. "They were upside down on their mortgage, their life or whatever, and they could reset in North Dakota."

But the 2015 downturn, coronavirus pandemic and other recent shocks probably led workers back to their home states, especially if moving meant returning to warmer and bigger cities, Sanford said. Workforce issues have become "very acute" in the last 10 months, Ness said.

Ness estimated there are roughly 2,500 jobs available in an oil field producing about 1.1 million barrels per day. Employers don't advertise for every individual job opening, but post once or twice for many open positions, he said.

An immigration law firm told Ness that Uniting for Ukraine would fit well for North Dakota given its Ukrainian heritage, similar climate and agrarian people, he said.

The program's sponsors, including company owners, managers and employees, agree to help Ukrainians find work, health care, schools for their children and safe and affordable housing.

About 160 Ukrainians have arrived in North Dakota, the majority in Bismarck, as part of Uniting for Ukraine, according to State Refugee Coordinator Holly Triska-Dally.

Applications from prospective sponsors from around the state have "gone up considerably" in recent months, likely due to more awareness but also Ukrainians who are "working and beginning to thrive" and filing to support



Dmytro Haiman looks out the window from the Ukrainian Cultural Institute in Dickinson, N.D., on Monday, July 17, 2023. Haiman is one of several Ukrainians who are part of a pilot effort of the North Dakota Petroleum Council's Bakken Global Recruitment of Oilfield Workers program. Haiman is from Chernihiv, Ukraine. (AP)

Italy proposes bank tax to help people with interest rate hikes, sending stocks plunging

ROME, Aug 8, (AP) - Italian bank stocks plunged Tuesday after the Cabinet approved a proposal to apply a 40% tax on some bank profits this year to help consumers and businesses cope with higher borrowing costs.

Transport Minister Matteo Salvini announced the tax at a Monday evening press conference, saying it was a measure of "social equity" to make up for a series of interest rate hikes from the European Central Bank.

Those increases are aimed at fighting inflation and make it more expensive for people to get loans to buy homes and cars or for companies to get new equipment or build facilities.

UniCredit shares fell over 7%, Intesa Sanpaolo was down more than 8%, Banco BPM dropped more than 8.5%, and BPER and Banca MPS both plummeted over 10% in early afternoon trading on the Milan Stock Exchange.

The Association of Italian Banks has not yet commented publicly on the tax, whose approval apparently took banks by surprise. Analysts said banks would surely try to change the proposal or challenge it in court if it's passed by Parliament, the next step in the process.

The five major Italian banks reported a combined net profit of about 10.5

their family, she said.

The two dozen or so Ukrainians might not seem like many arrivals on national or statewide scales, but they will make a significant difference in cities like Minot and Dickinson. The cities haven't traditionally been major resettlement hubs, but now "there's a strong likelihood" the workers' families will join them, adding to the economy and schools, Triska-Dally said.

Bunchukov, who had jobs in mechanics and furniture sales in Ukraine, works for road contractor Baranko Bros. Inc. He and other new arrivals have experience in Alaska's seafood industry. Others have worked on cruise ships or held different seasonal jobs. Because of those jobs, many workers already hold Social Security numbers and have studied English, Sanford said.

Dmytro Haiman, who said his English skills steered him toward the Bakken program, recalled sheltering with relatives in his grandmother's cellar

billions euros (\$11.5 billion) in the first half of the year, up 64% from the same period in 2022, according to credit rating agency DBRS Morningstar. It pointed to higher interest income, resilient fees and cost management.

The 40% tax would be applied to banks' profits from the difference between the interest they pay customers on deposits and the interest they earn on loans. Salvini said the tax revenue would amount to "a few billion" euros that would be used to fund tax breaks and help first-time homeowners get mortgages.

"It is a levy on banks' extra profits," he said, adding that the measure was proposed by Finance Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti, who didn't attend the press conference to announce it.

The proposal must now be converted into legislation and be approved by Italy's Parliament, where the right-wing government enjoys a comfortable majority.

"Banks are widely expected to push back against the measure during the parliamentary process, but within the ruling coalition, there is a solid component supporting the move," Wolfgang Piccoli, co-president at Teneo consultancy, said in a statement. "Absent significant amendments before its parlia-

mentary approval, the retroactive tax will likely be challenged in the courts."

The drop in Italian bank shares weighed on major banks more broadly in European markets, with Germany's Deutsche Bank, France's BNP Paribas and Societe Generale, Britain's HSBC and Spain's Banco Santander all falling in early afternoon trading.

The ECB has raised interest rates nine straight times in its campaign to stamp out high inflation unleashed by higher energy prices after Russia invaded Ukraine and supply chain back-ups as the global economy recovered from the coronavirus pandemic.

The bank tax was the last item announced in a series of measures adopted by Italy's Cabinet in its final meeting before a summer pause, ranging from ending mandatory isolation for COVID-19 cases to a decision to increase the number of taxis that can operate.

The 20% increase in the number of taxi licenses that cities can issue is aimed at better responding to a boom in tourism that has created long lines at taxi stands this summer, with demand only expected to grow with the Vatican's 2025 Jubilee, the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina and a view to Rome's bid to host the 2030 Expo.

said.

Four translators help workers with forms, training and community acclimation, Sanford said. One employer has rented eight apartments for workers, while others are in extended-stay hotels until they can find apartments.

Glenn Baranko, president of the contractor building paths to drilling rigs and providing environmental services in the oil field, planned to assign jobs to five initial workers based on their skillsets.

The labor shortage led his company to hire a full-time recruiter, "but there's still a need," said Baranko, whose great-grandfather came to the area from Ukraine.

At a recent lunch for several workers hosted by the Ukrainian Cultural Institute in Dickinson, the new arrivals crowded around a map to point out their hometowns. The cooks laid out dishes of rice rolls, beet bread, deviled eggs and filled dumplings called perogies.

Purchase made in cash

Simon & Schuster 'purchased' by private equity firm KKR for \$1.62b

NEW YORK, Aug 8, (AP) - Simon & Schuster has been sold to the private equity firm KKR, months after a federal judge blocked its purchase by rival publisher Penguin Random House because of concerns that competition would shrink the book market. An executive for KKR is calling the deal a chance to work with "one of the most effective" book publishers.

The private equity giant will buy Simon & Schuster for \$1.62 billion in cash, said Paramount Global, the parent company of the storied publishing house. Simon & Schuster will operate as a standalone entity, under the leadership of CEO Jonathan Karp.

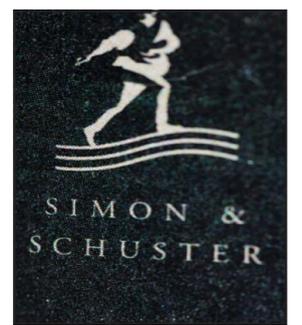
"We are delighted," Karp said Monday. "We will remain an independent company and not only will we continue to thrive, but with the help of KKR we can become even greater."

Paramount, which on Monday reported a loss of \$424 million for the three months leading up to June 30, will use sale proceeds to pay down debt. The agreement is subject to government approval, but is unlikely to face the objections raised by the Penguin Random House deal.

Simon & Schuster, where authors include Stephen King, Colleen Hoover and Bob Woodward, is one of the so-called "Big Five" of New York publishing, with others including Penguin Random House, HarperCollins Publishers, Hachette Book Group and Macmillan. HarperCollins, owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, had expressed interest in buying Simon & Schuster.

Simon & Schuster has had strong sales over the past two years, even as the book market has cooled off. The publisher has scheduled some of the most anticipated fall releases, including Britney Spears' memoir "The Woman In Me" and Walter Isaacson's biography of Elon Musk.

Richard Sarnoff, chair of media at



In this file photo, a book published by Simon & Schuster is displayed on July 30, 2022, in Tigard, Ore. (AP)

KKR, praised Simon & Schuster as effective and well run and said that it would retain editorial independence.

"We're not going to tell them what to buy, what to publish or what not to publish," said Sarnoff, a former executive at Penguin Random House's parent company, the German conglomerate Bertelsmann. "There's a 99-year legacy of editorial independence that we're going to protect."

Sarnoff said that no layoffs were planned, and that instead KKR hoped to invest in and expand Simon & Schuster, citing international sales as an area of possible growth. As with other companies that KKR has owned, it plans to give Simon & Schuster employees equity, an arrangement that could give the publisher a competitive advantage. In an industry where starting salaries range from \$45,000-\$50,000, a source of growing unhappiness among young people trying to afford living in the New York City area, an equity stake could end up being worth half or more of a worker's annual pay, according to Sarnoff.

Saudi Fund for Development signs a USD \$77m loan agreement in Belize

BELMOPAN, Belize, Aug 8, (BUSINESS WIRE) - The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) Chief Executive Officer, H.E. Sultan Al-Marshad, signed today a new development loan agreement worth USD \$77 million with the Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, to fund the "Construction of the Solar Energy Plant Project" in Belize, through SFD.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Hon. Chris Coye, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment, and by official representatives from both parties to the signing.

This agreement is part of SFD's efforts to support sustainable development in developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The loan will help build a solar power plant with a capacity of 60 megawatts, along with supplying and installing solar panels to help reduce emissions from the energy sector, equivalent to 60,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year. The project will play a key role in generating socio-economic growth in the country. Importantly, it will contribute towards improving the reliability of the electrical network, it will also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance Belize's efforts towards mitigating climate change and transitioning to clean energy.



(Left to right): Prime Minister of Belize, Hon. John Briceño, and The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) Chief Executive Officer, H.E. Sultan Al-Marshad.

BUSINESS

ABK announces Hasan Ahmad Bosalha as winner of KD 10,000

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Hasan Ahmad Bosalha as the KD 10,000 Alfouz weekly winner on Monday, Aug 7, whereby the draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Since its launch, the Alfouz account continues to offer an impressive weekly draw of KD 10,000. The Bank has recently expanded its offering by adding a new alluring monthly draw of KD 20,000, and an exceptional quarterly draw of KD 100,000.

The account also retains its hallmark mega annual draw of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for

ten years. Furthermore, the Bank now offers customers an increased opportunity to win for every KD 10 as opposed to KD 100 previously. ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account and/or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming weekly draw, which will take place on Monday, 14 August 2023. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahl.com, contact Ahihan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches

across Kuwait.

Since its foundation in 1967, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has progressed to be one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region, providing a wide range of financial and banking services and products across all its markets in Kuwait, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

In its home market of Kuwait, ABK has 29 centrally located branches, while in the UAE it has two full service branches located in Abu Dhabi and Dubai and one wholesale banking branch in the DIFC. ABK - Egypt has a total of 44 branches.



ABK announced Hasan Ahmad Bosalha as the KD 10,000 Alfouz weekly winner.

Bank launches latest banking solutions service

Warba announces winners of Al Sunbula weekly, monthly & student allowance

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate banking services and investment banking services in Kuwait - announced the winners of the Sunbula weekly draws, Sunbula children's monthly account, and the monthly student allowance. Warba Bank will continue to hold draws for ten weekly winners for Al Sunbula account and five winners for the monthly student allowance account, in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

As for the lucky clients during the Sunbula weekly draw, each of the 10 lucky winners received KD 1,000, and the winners are: Jameela Raja Haweel Al-Sahli, Khaled Rashed Mohammed Al-Mekhyal, Talal Ali

Al-Mutairi, Iman Abdel-Al Abdel-Salam, Mansour Rashed Mansour Al-Barbar, Ahmed Khaled Ahmed Al-Misfer, Soud Hamad Khaled Wateed, Omar Muhammad Ali Al-Qadhi, Saad Abdullah Sakhi Al-Anezi, and Amal Mahdi Shatit Al-Azmi.

The 7 lucky winners of the Sunbula Kids draw are: Munira Madghash Muhammad Al-Hajri, Mubarak Rasheed Mubarak Al-Azmi, Abdulaziz Khalaf Barghash Al-Failakawi, Mohammad Ali Bader Al-Omar,



Al Mutawa

Abdulaziz Ali Jaber Al-Merri, Fajr Mohammad Salih Al-Melas Al-Azmi, Khaled Hmoud Abdullah Al-Kandari.

Warba Bank also congratulates the winners of the "monthly student allowance" draw for Bloom clients, who are: Hadia Zaher Samsam, Lamia Mohammad Eid Al-Mekhyal, Mohammad Safer Mohammad Al-Hajri, Osama Nabil Salah Al-Jabal, Reem Sultan Abdullah Al Muhelib.

It is worth noting that Warba Bank distinguished the "Bloom" client segment with a unique digital banking experience that meets their aspirations and orientations, which is considered the cornerstone of development through a private banking application, the first of its kind not only in Kuwait; rather, in the entire

region, it is inspired by social media applications, the most widely used in terms of design, interface, browsing methods, and choice of colors, especially for young people.

Save

The Sunbula account, it is the ideal choice for all those wishing to save money and achieve appropriate financial returns on their balances at the same time, in addition to the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year.

Regarding the conditions, Mr. Ahmed Mohammad Al-Mutawa - Area Manager Retail Banking Group said: KD 100 is now required to enter the Sunbula weekly and grand draws, knowing that the customer still gets one chance for every KD

10 in the account, and the chances are calculated according to the lowest balance in the account during the month. Therefore, the amount must have passed a full month in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the grand draws to count the chances. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawals and deposits, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the client's chances of winning.

Warba Bank launched its latest banking solutions service, "Customer Onboarding", in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, which enables non-Warba Bank clients to apply for opening a Sunbula account in an easy digital way via the Bank's website without the need to visit any of the Bank's

branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new clients will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that achieved great successes during a short period, as it occupied a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of its shareholders, and these are among the most important elements that make the bank close to all members of society, in addition to that, Warba Bank is considered among the 50 largest banks in the Middle East in terms of market value for the year 2023 - Forbes Middle East classification.

Ooredoo Kuwait launched latest postpaid promotions for its customers.

Redefines customer offers

Ooredoo Kuwait launches its next level postpaid solutions

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Ooredoo Kuwait, the leading telecommunications company, has announced the launch of the latest postpaid promotions for Ooredoo customers.

This new offer is part of the company's strategy to provide a variety of solutions and exclusive benefits for customers looking to purchase the newest smartphones by paying on a monthly billing basis.

The offer is characterized by its exceptional advantages and affordable prices exclusively for Ooredoo's customers. Ooredoo Kuwait gives anyone who's looking to purchase a smartphone the opportunity to choose from a wide range of devices: iPhone 14, iPhone 14 PRO MAX, Samsung S23, and Samsung S23 Ultra. In addition to unlimited local calls, SMS, and high internet capacity that will be added to the customers' balance per month. All these benefits will be available to those wishing to take advantage of the offer.

Success

In a statement by Naser Al-Abdullah, Director of Marketing Communications & Social Media at Ooredoo: "We are committed to providing the best offers and services to our existing customers and those interested in joining the Ooredoo family. We have designed this offer to suit the different needs of our valued customers, by giving them the opportunity to acquire smart devices at competitive prices that keep pace with their daily uses for work or leisure purposes. The offer also includes flexible options regarding the duration and value of subscription."

Ooredoo provides exclusive benefits for customers looking to purchase smartphones by paying on a monthly billing basis.

He added: "In order to keep up with the acceleration of pace in today's life and the digital transformation we are witnessing, the function of mobile phones is no longer only for communicating with others, but has exceeded to many daily tasks related to work such as following up and responding to e-mails, downloading files of all kinds, and many others.

Understanding the need for customers to own smart devices that make their lives easier, we are keen to put more solutions and offers at their fingertips."

Those interested in taking advantage of the latest postpaid promotions can visit any Ooredoo branch, or call customer service, or browse Ooredoo's website and app.

ABU DHABI, UAE, Aug 8: Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC - Masdar has marked the successful completion of its first green bond issuance for US\$750 million 10-year senior unsecured Notes at London Stock Exchange (LSE).

The market opening was attended by HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, COP28 President-Designate and Chairman of Masdar, HE Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, Ambassador HE Mansoor Abulhoul, UAE Ambassador to the UK, and Masdar Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi.

Masdar completed a US\$750 million 10-year green bond offering on the LSE on July 19, 2023, which was more than five times oversubscribed with exceptionally strong appetite from regional and international investors.

It marks a historic moment on a remarkable journey for the UAE's flagship renewable energy company since it was established in 2006 under its founding CEO, and now Chairman, Dr Sultan Al Jaber. Dr Sultan Al Jaber has been a pioneer at the forefront of the global renewable energy sector for 17 years.

Under Dr Sultan's leadership, Masdar has developed over 20GW of renewables capacity across more than 40 countries, has invested more than US\$30bn, and is targeting a 100GW portfolio by 2030. As the UAE looks ahead to hosting the UN climate change conference, COP28, with Dr Sultan as President-Designate, this milestone showcases the UAE's and Masdar's commitment to advancing decarbonization and climate finance around the world.

Success

HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, COP28 President-Designate and Chairman of Masdar said, "This is a defining moment for Masdar and climate finance and we are delighted to stand on the world stage at this historic market opening ceremony. The demand for green bonds is extremely high and will enable investment in renewable energy projects, many of which will be in developing economies and climate-vulnerable countries. But there is more to do if we are to unlock finance for the energy transition to support the tripling of global renewable energy capacity by 2030. The successful issuance of Masdar green bonds will support this aim, by helping to provide funding towards renewable energy projects where they are needed most."

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Masdar's Chief Executive Officer, said, "Today we're proud to celebrate the success of Masdar's debut green bond issuance, a testament to the pioneering spirit of all the people who have worked incredibly hard over the last 17 years to grow Masdar into one of the world's leading renewable energy companies. It follows the publication of our innovative Green Bonds Framework, published in March 2023,

'This is a defining moment for climate finance'

Masdar marks roadmap to US\$3 bn green bond offering at London Stock Exchange

'Enjoy seamless shopping experience from UK and US'

Emirates Delivers launches in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Emirates Delivers, the e-commerce delivery platform of Emirates SkyCargo, has launched in Kuwait, facilitating fast, reliable, and cost-effective international delivery of items purchased from the UK and the US to shoppers in Kuwait.

Whether buying from a large e-commerce retailer or an online independent boutique, making savings during international sales like Black Friday or simply shopping from country-exclusive retail outlets, Emirates Delivers provides a seamless door-to-door transport solution with competitive shipping rates to bring customers the best e-commerce purchases from the UK and the US in just 3 to 5 working days.

Nabil Sultan, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo, said: "Building on the success that Emirates Delivers has established in the UAE, we are excited to achieve the next step in our broader e-commerce strategy by expanding to Kuwait. While the global e-commerce market continues to flourish, recent years have shown a clear uptick in markets which were not previously offered the same access and options, such as Kuwait and the wider Middle East.

Reliable

Now, more customers are searching for a reliable and trusted partner, not just to make the initial purchase from, but to handle the transportation of purchases. Leveraging Emirates' global network, the frequency of flights, our wide body capacity, and the trust and longstanding relationships we've built with consumers in market, Emirates Delivers is well placed to answer this need."

To utilize Emirates Delivers, customers first have to register free of charge on www.emiratesdelivers.com, where they will be given a unique shipping address in both the UK and the US. This allows users to immediately start shopping online from their favorite brands, using the unique address during check-out.

When the items arrive at the Emirates Delivers UK or US facility, specialist agents will review all pur-



Emirates Delivers offers savvy shoppers in Kuwait a seamless shopping experience from the UK and US with a rapid door-to-door premium service with competitive shipping costs.

chases to ensure they arrived undamaged and take photos of the items, before repacking to ensure proper wrapping and protection for international delivery. With free storage of up to 30 days, Emirates Delivers allows customers to combine items from different retailers and vendors and consolidate their purchases into one package to further reduce the already-competitive shipping costs.

Using the "My Suite" option on the Emirates Delivers website, customers can then confirm shipping to Kuwait, with full tracking visibility from the time the items are received at the facility, through to delivery of the package at their door. Emirates Delivers takes care of all the hassle of shipping and customs clearance, making cross-border shopping simple. It offers the unique feature of providing all costs upfront, with no hidden or surprise costs.

Once the item has arrived in Kuwait, Emirates Delivers will complete all customs clearance activities and deliver the parcel directly to the customer. Harnessing the power of

Emirates' extensive global network which operates over 120 weekly flights to the UK and 96 weekly flights to the US, packages will be delivered in 3 to 5 working days.

Emirates Delivers first launched in 2019, bringing the best of US shopping to the UAE, before adding the UK to the service in 2022. Unlocking a world of international shopping, Emirates Delivers has been used by thousands of shoppers to transport apparel, cosmetics, toys and games, books, footwear, and accessories as well as vitamins and health supplements.

Emirates SkyCargo is the airfreight division of Emirates. Through its state of the art hub in Dubai, Emirates SkyCargo transports cargo to over 150 destinations across a global network spanning six continents. The air cargo carrier offers customers cargo capacity on its modern fleet of all wide-body Boeing 777, Airbus A380 aircraft and 11 dedicated Boeing 777 freighters. For more information, visit: <http://www.skycargo.com/>

which received the highest Sustainability Quality Score of 'SQS1' from Moody's Investors Service, and is part of a broader program to fund our ambitious growth plans."

This bond is the first part of a program to raise up to US\$3 billion to meet Masdar's equity funding commit-

ments on new renewable energy projects at home and overseas, as it seeks to grow its global portfolio to 100GW of capacity by 2030. Masdar also plans a secondary listing of its green bond offering later this year on Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX), the second largest market in the Gulf region.

Proceeds from all bond offerings under the program will be deployed towards the greenest projects in the renewables sector, namely solar, wind, renewable power transmission and distribution infrastructure, and battery storage assets, and strict ESG criteria will apply to restrict the eligibility of projects.

20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD 1,500 each

KFH announces Al-Rabeh draw winners for 29th & 30th week of 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 8: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AlRabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 29th and 30th weeks of 2023.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Zaher Al-Qablawi, Bedriya Al-Damkhi, Menahi Al-Osaimi, Dhari Al-Otaibi, Faisal Saad Allah, Abdulrahman Al-Muhammel, Bader Al-Hurairi, Nasser Al-Shuqaihi, Yasser Afeef, Bader Al-Harbi, Abdulwahab Al-Musallam, Saleh Al-Ali, Ahmad Al-Dohaishi, Mohammad Al-Abdullah, Ahmad Al-

Sulaimani, Fahad Al-Zamil, Ahmad Serif, Mohamed Al-Khalifa, Hawraa Ghamlouche, Sulaiman Al-Ruwaih.

The AlRabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet cus-



The campaign visual

tomers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The Al-Rabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for

customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to Al-Rabeh account is constant.

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for the amount of K.D 1,500

for 10 winners each, 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers' requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.

The Conversation

Are new human rights the answer?

New neurotechnology blurring lines around mental privacy

By Laura Y. Cabrera
Penn State

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

Neurotechnologies - devices that interact directly with the brain or nervous system - were once dismissed as the stuff of science fiction. Not anymore.

Several companies are trying to develop brain-computer interfaces, or BCIs, in hopes of helping patients with severe paralysis or other neurological disorders. Entrepreneur Elon Musk's company Neuralink, for example, recently received Food and Drug Administration approval to begin human testing for a tiny brain implant that can communicate with computers. There are also less invasive neurotechnologies, like EEG headsets that sense electrical activity inside the wearer's brain, covering a wide range of applications from entertainment and wellness to education and the workplace.

Neurotechnology research and patents have soared at least twentyfold over the past two decades, according to a United Nations report, and devices are getting more powerful. Newer BCIs, for example, have the potential to collect brain and nervous system data more directly, with higher resolution, in greater amounts, and in more pervasive ways.

However, these improvements have also raised concerns about mental privacy and human autonomy - questions I think about in my research on the ethical and social implications of brain science and neural engineering. Who owns the generated data, and who should get access? Could this type of device threaten individuals' ability to make independent decisions?

In July 2023, the UN agency for science and culture held a conference on the ethics of neurotechnology, calling for a framework to protect human rights. Some critics have even argued that societies should recognize a new category of human rights, "neuro-rights." In 2021, Chile became the first country whose constitution addresses concerns about neurotechnology.

Advances in neurotechnology do raise important privacy concerns. However, I believe these debates can overlook more fundamental threats to privacy.

A glimpse inside

Concerns about neurotechnology and privacy focus on the idea that an observer can "read" a person's thoughts and feelings just from recordings of their brain activity.

It is true that some neurotechnologies can record brain activity with great specificity: for example, developments on high-density electrode arrays that allow for high-resolution recording from multiple parts of the brain.

Researchers can make inferences about mental phenomena and interpret behavior based on this kind of information. However, "reading" the recorded brain activity is not straightforward. Data has already gone through filters and algorithms before the human eye gets the output.

Given these complexities, my colleague Daniel Susser and I wrote a recent article in the American Journal of Bioethics - Neuroscience asking whether some worries around mental privacy might be misplaced.

While neurotechnologies do raise significant privacy concerns, we argue that the risks are similar to those for more familiar data-collection tech-

nologies, such as everyday online surveillance: the kind most people experience through internet browsers and advertising, or wearable devices. Even browser histories on personal computers are capable of revealing highly sensitive information.

It is also worth remembering that a key aspect of being human has always been inferring other people's behaviors, thoughts and feelings. Brain activity alone does not tell the full story; other behavioral or physiological measures are also needed to reveal this type of information, as well as social context. A certain surge in brain activity might indicate either fear or excitement, for example.

However, that is not to say there's no cause for concern. Researchers are exploring new directions in which multiple sensors - such as headbands, wrist sensors and room sensors - can be used to capture multiple kinds of behavioral and environmental data. Artificial intelligence could be used to combine that data into more powerful interpretations.

Think for yourself?

Another thought-provoking debate around neurotechnology deals with cognitive liberty. According to the Center for Cognitive Liberty & Ethics, founded in 1999, the term refers to "the right of each individual to think independently and autonomously, to use the full power of his or her mind, and to engage in multiple modes of thought."

More recently, other researchers have resurfaced the idea, such as in legal scholar Nita Farahany's book "The Battle for Your Brain." Proponents of cognitive liberty argue broadly for the need to protect individuals from having their mental processes manipulated or monitored without their consent. They argue that greater regulation of neurotechnology may be required to protect individuals' freedom to determine their own inner mental functions.

These are important freedoms, and there are certainly specific features - like those of novel BCI neurotechnology and nonmedical neurotechnology applications - that prompted important questions. Yet I would argue that the way cognitive freedom is discussed in these debates sees each individual person as an isolated, independent agent, neglecting the relational aspects of who we are and how we think.

Thoughts do not simply spring out of nothing in someone's head. For example, part of my mental process as I write this article is recollecting and reflecting on research from colleagues. I'm also reflecting on my own experiences: the many ways that who I am today is the combination of my upbringing, the society I grew up in, the schools I attended. Even the ads my web browser pushes on me can shape my thoughts.

How much are our thoughts uniquely ours? How much are my mental processes already being manipulated by other influences? And keeping that in mind, how should societies protect privacy and freedom?

I believe that acknowledging the extent to which our thoughts are already shaped and monitored by many different forces can help set priorities as neurotechnologies and AI become more common. Looking beyond novel technology to strengthen current privacy laws may give a more holistic view of the many threats to privacy, and what freedoms need defending. (AP)

Study finds potential to improve certain types of sedation

PSi could improve brain monitoring for patients sedated with dexmedetomidine

IRVINE, Calif., Aug 8: Masimo (NASDAQ: MASI) has announced the findings of a study published in Frontiers in Neuroscience in which Dr. Lichy Han and colleagues at Stanford University evaluated the ability of Masimo SedLine® brain function monitoring to assess the sedation levels of patients undergoing drug-induced sleep endoscopy (DISE) with dexmedetomidine - a sedative with numerous advantages. The researchers found that Masimo Patient State Index (PSi), a SedLine parameter derived from electroencephalographic (EEG) data, was statistically significantly associated with dexmedetomidine dosage, and, along with another EEG metric, "better captured changes in brain state from dexmedetomidine and ha[s] potential to improve the monitoring of dexmedetomidine sedation."

The researchers noted that while anesthesia induced with dexmedetomidine may more closely resemble natural sleep compared to other sedatives, which makes it particularly appropriate in procedures like DISE, its effects on the brain are inconsistent, which has limited its usage. Better sedation assessment - an improved understanding of its impact and corresponding EEG changes - could help support more widespread adoption of the drug. The researchers accordingly sought to compare and evaluate several methods of assessing sedation in such a scenario. Regarding the choice of EEG markers, they noted that "Previous EEG markers, such as the bispectral index, have been unable to determine differences elicited with dexmedetomidine (Kaskinoro et al., 2011), thus motivating the discovery of novel EEG markers associated with changes in brain state seen with dexmedetomidine sedation."

Diagnosis

They enrolled 51 patients undergoing DISE, for the diagnosis and possible treatment of obstructive sleep apnea, who were sedated with dexmedetomidine and continuously monitored using Masimo SedLine. The concentration of the drug in their bloodstream was determined using a pharmacokinetic model. The concentration levels over time were recorded alongside the values derived from four methods of assessment, two metrics and two analyses: 1) the Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale (RASS), 2) the SedLine Patient State Index (PSi), 3) spectral edge frequency (SEF95), the frequency below which 95% of total EEG power was contained, and 4) the correlation dimension (CD), a type of fractal dimension used to assess the

Bid to fight pediatric cancer

Applebee's and Alex's Lemonade team up to crush childhood cancer

GLENDALE, Calif., Aug 8: This summer marks the 17th year that Applebee's has partnered with Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation to help fund childhood cancer research and family support programs - but this year, they're setting out to "crush" it. Starting Aug 7 and through September 19th, guests can support the cause in a variety of ways, including donating at their neighborhood restaurant or ordering from home and adding a \$1 or \$5 donation at check out on applebees.com or the Applebee's mobile app.

To help Applebee's meet the goal of raising \$1.5 million, anyone across the country can join the fight to "crush" childhood cancer by joining the #CrushALemonChallenge. Joining the challenge is easy! Just come up with the most unique way to crush a lemon, take a video of it and share it to Instagram tagging @Applebees and using #CrushALemonChallenge and #AlexsLemonade in the caption.

Those looking for even more ways to participate can celebrate National Lemonade Day on August 20th by purchasing a lemonade or fruit flavored lemonade at their neighborhood Applebee's. Twenty-five cents from each lemonade or fruit flavored lemonade sold will be donated to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, so drink up!

"After 17 years, we are proud to continue our partnership with Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation to help in the fight against pediatric cancer," said John Cywinski, Applebee's President. "Through our work with Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, our team has helped raise more than \$11.5 million to help our littlest neighbors and their families, and we hope to raise even more this year. With our latest #CrushALemonChallenge, we are calling on our guests and team members around the country to help us raise awareness of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. Together, we can help crush childhood cancer."

Mission

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation was established in 2005 to continue the mission of four-year-old Alexandra "Alex" Scott. While fighting her own battle against cancer, Alex set up a lemonade stand in her front yard to raise money for doctors to "help other kids, like they helped me" and find a cure for all childhood cancers. One in 285 children will be diagnosed with cancer by the time they turn 201 and yet pediatric cancer research is vastly and consistently underfunded.

"We're delighted to be working with Applebee's again, a loyal partner who has shown great sup-

port of our Foundation for the past 17 years," said Liz Scott, Alex's mom and Co-Executive Director of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. "This year, we can't wait to get the neighborhood involved with our latest challenge, encouraging people to crush a lemon for childhood cancer. And with the added bonus of celebrating National Lemonade Day, joining the fight against pediatric cancer has never been easier. We look forward to seeing our community rally together around such an important cause."

For more than 40 years, Applebee's restaurants have been committed to Doin' Good in the Neighborhood®. Local restaurants make a positive impact on the communities around them throughout the year by hosting hundreds of events or fundraisers in their restaurants, whether to help our local heroes and military, support children and schools, raise funds for local charities that help our neighbors or even to help their own team members who may be in need. In addition to these local efforts, for more than 11 years, Applebee's and its franchisees have thanked veterans and active military on Veterans Day by serving more than 11 million free meals. Together, our Applebee's family donates millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours to Doin' Good in the Neighborhood each year.

complexity of a system. To evaluate the efficacy of these methods, the researchers compared them both against dexmedetomidine concentration and against each other.

Comparing the assessment methods to dexmedetomidine concentration, the researchers observed that RASS scores decreased with increasing dexmedetomidine concentration but noted that, "Overall, the RASS score was least able to capture the brain state changes seen with dexmedetomidine, suggesting other metrics for titrating dexme-

detomidine sedation may be of greater value." They found that PSi, SEF95, and CD all decreased statistically significantly with increasing dexmedetomidine concentration (p 0.001, p = 0.006, and p 0.001, respectively), "a clear dose-dependent decrease with an inflection point."

Comparing the methods to each other, they found that PSi, SEF95, and CD all decreased statistically significantly with decreasing RASS score (p 0.001, p 0.001, and p = 0.02, respectively), most notably at deeper levels of sedation, suggesting that this is when they may be most beneficial. CD and SEF95 were statistically significantly correlated (p 0.001, r = 0.515), but there was a subset of points that exhibited high SEF95 but low CD. PSi was most strongly correlated with SEF95 (p 0.001, r = 0.631).

The researchers concluded, "Complex EEG metrics such as PSi and CD, as compared to RASS score and SEF95, better captured changes in brain state from dexmedetomidine and have potential to improve the monitoring of dexmedetomidine sedation." In their discussion, they noted that, "CD excelled at reflecting changes seen with rising dexmedetomidine concentration

but appeared to exhibit a ceiling effect, whereas PSi had the most significant relationship with the RASS score. Both metrics were able to capture brain state changes corresponding to increased dexmedetomidine dose, showed decreased sensitivity to observer variability and artifact, and corresponded to currently used infusion dosages in pharmacokinetic simulations."

Study lead authors Lichy Han, MD, PhD and David Drover, MD, Perioperative and Pain Medicine at Stanford University, commented, "This study provides one more step in the journey to understanding SedLine processed EEG parameters that can guide sedation levels. In this case, dexmedetomidine, a widely used sedative, which has not been fully characterized by processed EEG, was titrated using standard indices PSi, SEF95, as well as fractal dimension (CD) commonly applied to time series data like EEG. In contrast to BIS, SedLine parameters (particularly PSi) were able to characterize processed EEG changes that correlated with dexmedetomidine sedation level and concentration, and these parameters correlated better than the subjective measure RASS (the most widely used clinical measure of sedation depth).



Masimo Root with SedLine brain function monitoring.

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Suga becomes 3rd BTS member to begin military service

LOS ANGELES, Aug 8, (AP) - Following his debut solo tour earlier this year, Suga, the K-pop superstar rapper/singer/songwriter, has become the third member of BTS to begin South Korea's compulsory military service.

"We would like to inform our fans that SUGA has initiated the military enlistment process by applying for the termination of his enlistment postponement," Big Hit Music said in a statement.

"We ask you for your continued love and support for SUGA until he completes his military service and safely returns. Our company will spare no effort in providing support for our artist."

In South Korea, all able-bodied men aged 18 to 28 are required by law to perform 18-21 months of military service under a conscription system meant to deter aggression from rival North Korea.

The law gives special exemptions to athletes, classical and traditional musicians, and ballet and other dancers if they have obtained top prizes in certain competitions and are assessed to have enhanced national prestige. K-pop stars and other entertainers aren't subject to such privileges.

However, in 2020, BTS postponed their service until age 30 after South Korea's National Assembly revised its Military Service Act, allowing K-pop stars to delay their enlistment until age 30.

There was heated public debate in 2022 over whether to offer special exemptions of mandatory military service for BTS members, until

the group's management agency announced in October that all seven members would fulfill their duties.

In December 2022, BTS's eldest member, Jin, enlisted at age 30 after revoking his request to delay his conscription. J-Hope followed suit last April.

□ □ □

Hong Kong government said Monday it was seeking to appeal against the court's refusal to ban a popular protest song at its request, renewing worries over further erosion of freedom of expression in the city.

The court's decision on July 28 was a setback for Hong Kong leaders who are trying to crush dissidents after a massive pro-democracy movement four years ago pushed hundreds of thousands of people into the streets.

Security

Drama ensued after the popular "Glory to Hong Kong" - written during the 2019 protests with lyrics calling for democracy and liberty - was mistakenly played as the city's anthem at international sporting events instead of China's "March of the Volunteers."

The Department of Justice said in a statement that its secretary, who acted as "a guardian of public interest," pressed for the ban on the basis of safeguarding national security. The court can decide whether to review or dismiss the request for an appeal.

The department did not share further its legal grounds for the appeal in the statement.

The announcement came after multiple pro-Beijing lawmakers urged the department to file an appeal. The government's move has renewed concern over possible ramifications caused by the ban.

Critics have warned that granting the request to prohibit the broadcast or distribution of the song would add to a decline in civil liberties since Beijing launched a crackdown following the 2019 protests. They said granting the court order might disrupt the operations of tech giants and hurt the city's appeal as a business center.

The government went to the court in June after Google resisted pressure to display China's national anthem as the top result in searches for the city's anthem instead of "Glory to Hong Kong."

The proposed injunction would target anyone who uses the song to advocate for the separation of Hong Kong from China. The government also would also seek to ban any actions using the song to incite others to commit secession and insult the national anthem, including online.

The department's announcement came days after several major political parties pushed for an appeal, so there are clearly some increasing political pressures on the case, said **George Chen**, managing director at The Asia Group, a Washington-based business and policy consultancy.

Variety



This image provided by CBS shows Shania Twain during an episode of the television game show 'Superfan.' (AP)

Television

'New game show is a talent-less show'

CBS' 'Superfan' celebrates musicians

NEW YORK, Aug 8, (AP) - CBS' latest game show doesn't ask its contestants to have any skills - no need to sing, dance, cook or pull a rabbit out of a hat. All it asks from its competitors is adoration - lots of it.

"Superfan," which premieres Wednesday, gathers one musical act and their fans each week into a studio and gradually whittles the contestants down to two, giving viewers the final say on who will be crowned the ultimate superfan.

"There's too many talent shows. It's too competitive. Some of us are not good at anything except loving the artist we love," says Keltie Knight, creator, executive producer and co-host. "This is not a talent show. This is a talent-less show."

"Superfan" has lured some starry first season guests - Kelsea Ballerini, Gloria Estefan, Little Big Town, LL Cool J,

Pitbull and Shania Twain. Contestants come from all over the country and even internationally; a Twain superfan from Brazil said her music helped him learn English.

The contestants are winnowed down over the course of an hour through a series of competitions: Recognizing a snippet of the star's song, identifying one of their iconic images and getting inside their head for a multiple-choice question, like picking their singer's favorite Jennifer Lopez rom-com.

The final two try to impress the viewers - and the artists - by lip-syncing to one of their hits. For the Twain show, that meant two contestants dressed in feather boas and top hats shimmying to "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!"

"I want the fans to have this opportunity to shine and to win, but it's just as much for the artists. I want the artists to have a safe place, like those amazing 'MTV Unplugged' sessions that were just like Kurt Cobain in a sweater and he's just playing for fans and he's able to look them in the eye and tell a sto-

ry," Knight says. "That's the vibe we're going for."

In addition to the title, winners can get all sorts of perks, like tickets to upcoming concerts, plenty of merch, a private listen to an upcoming album, a signed guitar or a backstage VIP meet-and-greet.

Knight is a correspondent for E! News with a long history at the intersection of journalism and music, having formerly hosted "The Insider." She's interviewed tons of artists and calls the annual Grammys her "favorite day of the year."

Contestants

"There's something about musicians in a room and them all loving on each other and sparkly dresses," she says, laughing. "I was just like, 'What if we did that every week and made it for families and made America get to decide who the No. 1 fan is?'"

Knight has spent the better part of a decade trying to get "Superfan" to TV screens, surviving skeptical executives, industry employment churn, health scares, scheduling changes and sexism.

"I think it took me 10 years to perfect it because it really is so special," she says.

To fill a studio audience each week, she and her team approached artist fan clubs for volunteers, enlisted the singers to recruit contestants on their social accounts and posted on social media, including Reddit and the platform formerly known as Twitter, where the final public voting takes place.

Thousands of fans applied for each show and were asked to submit videos and write essays, sit for Zoom interviews and have background checks. Once gathered in Los Angeles, producers picked out 10-15 possible contestants and revealed the final five who would compete as a surprise for each show.

"It's really important that we made sure that not only we had our biggest superfans, but that our viewers at home and the families at home could see themselves in these shows," says Knight, who shares show creation credit with Jodi Roth.

Since the first season's taping, Knight says many of the contestants - those picked to be contestants and even those not - have remained connected on text chains, meeting up for concerts and events starring their favorite celebrity.

"There is something so hard about making friends as an adult and I think fandoms allow us to just love something," she says. "It's a really easy way to connect with other humans."

The show she spearheaded is friendly, inspirational, celebrational, silly and not very competitive at all, with contestants high-fiving each other and hugging those eliminated.

"It's a collective chaos right now on Earth. And so I think this show is just a really beautiful coming together of the things that make us alike," she says. "It's just the thing that brings you together and I think we really need that right now."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Steve Martin, Martin Short and Selena Gomez have a new case to devote their podcast to when "Only Murders in the Building" returns to Hulu on Tuesday. In the new episodes, Oliver Putnam's (Martin Short) career comeback is in jeopardy when a murder disrupts his Broadway play, and it seems almost everyone involved is suspicious. "Your show is a death trap! Today alone I almost died three times," Martin's Thomas Haden-Savage declares in the trailer. The third season also features new all-star cast members including **Meryl Streep**, **Paul Rudd**, **Jesse Williams** and **Ashley Park**.

After sitting out season six, **Damian Lewis**' "Billions" character, Bobby Axelrod, returns for the seventh and final season of the Showtime drama. Lewis reunites with **Paul Giamatti**'s character Chuck Rhoades, who is now Attorney General of New York. "Billions" will first be available on Paramount+ on Friday, Aug. 11 (with the Showtime bundle), and then air on the Showtime cable network on Sunday, Aug. 13.

MELBOURNE, Australia: The daughter of reggae legend **Bob Marley** is something of a "fairy godmother" for the Jamaica team playing in its 2023 Women's World Cup.

Cedella Marley has been a tireless advocate and fundraiser for the Reggae Girlz and helped rescue the team after it was disbanded in 2008.

Her work has paid off and Jamaica is in the round of 16. The Reggae Girlz play **Colombia** on Tuesday night in Melbourne, Australia.

"Her support has been really important to us and she's just the heart of this team," said Jamaica player **Deneisha Blackwood**. "She's just like our fairy godmother. We just appreciate her for everything she has done so far."

The Reggae Girlz were disbanded after failing to qualify for the 2007 World Cup and the 2008 Olympics. In 2014, **Bob** and **Rita Marley**'s eldest daughter was alarmed to learn the Jamaican soccer federation had stopped funding the team.

Marley hoped to help the Reggae Girlz reach the 2015 World Cup, but the team failed to qualify. The Marley name - Bob Marley was a big soccer fan and player - spurred interest in the Reggae Girlz despite the World Cup miss - and the team made the tournament field in 2019.

"The backbone of this team, all along, has been Cedella," Jamaica coach **Lorne Donaldson** said. "Without her, and I can honestly say, because when the program was under, there was no football for the women. She was the one who pushed the start button and said, 'We need to go.'"

While the Bob Marley Foundation is among the team's sponsors, funding is still a concern for the Reggae Girlz. Ahead of the World Cup, a GoFundMe fundraising campaign was set up by a player's mother. Another was set up by the Reggae Girlz foundation. Both sites aimed to help Jamaica's women with the costs associated with the World Cup, including a training camp, travel, food, and staff support.

Those appeals came after players, including **Cheyne Matthews** and **Khadija "Bunny" Shaw**,

posted a statement on social media about pay issues and other problems. The statement cited a lack of proper preparation that they hoped would be addressed by the Jamaican Football Federation. "We acknowledge that things have not been done perfectly, and we are working assiduously to resolve them," the JFF



Blackwood



Marley

responded in a statement. (AP)

HOUSTON: Renowned opera singer **David Daniels** and his husband have pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting another singer in Houston.

Daniels, 57, of **Ann Arbor, Michigan**, and **Scott Walters**,

40, entered the pleas Friday after a jury was assembled for the trial of the pair on first-degree felony charges of aggravated assault.

Daniels, Walters and their attorney declined to comment following the hearing.

Daniels and Walters were charged in 2019 when **Samuel Schultz** filed a criminal complaint

in 2018 alleging the two assaulted him in 2010 after he met them at a Houston Grand Opera reception while he was a graduate student at Rice University.

The AP doesn't normally name victims of sexual assault, but Schultz offered to publicly identify himself to help others fearful of reporting an assault. (AP)

People & Places

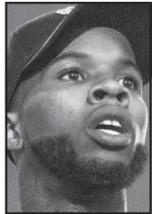
People

'Suffered daily'

Tory Lanez's father 'pleads for mercy'

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 8, (AP): Rapper **Tory Lanez** is expected to be sentenced on Tuesday for shooting Megan Thee Stallion in the feet three years ago, which the star says has left her struggling emotionally ever since.

"Since I was viciously shot by the defendant, I have not experienced a single day of peace," Megan said in a statement read by Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Kathy Ta during Monday's all-day session. "Slowly but surely, I'm healing and coming back, but I will never be the same."



Lanez

The hip-hop star, who testified during the trial, said she struggled with whether she would appear to give the statement in person, but said she "simply could not bring myself to be in a room with Tory again."

She asked that her absence not be taken as a sign of indifference, and urged Judge David Herriford to issue a stiff sentence.

The judge had been expected to sentence Lanez Monday at a hearing that often can take only a couple of hours, but the proceedings turned into a marathon two-day session after Herriford had attorneys for the two sides argue each factor of his potential sentence. The judge also allowed seven witnesses, including Lanez's father and the mother of his 6-year-old son, to give statements on Lanez's charitable giving, his childhood trauma, and his loving parenting.

Lanez's father choked back tears as he talked about his wife, Luella, dying just a few days after showing the first symptoms of a rare blood disorder that would lead to her death.

"I don't think anybody ever gets over that," he said of their youngest child, Lanez. "But his music became his outlet."

Other witnesses talked about Lanez nearly constant charitable giving even before fame and money from music came to him in 2017.

Prosecutors are asking a judge to hand down a 13-year sentence to the 31-year-old Lanez, whose legal name is Daystar Peterson. Lanez was convicted of three felonies: assault with a semiautomatic firearm, having a loaded, unregistered firearm in a vehicle and discharging a firearm with gross negligence.

Sentence

Lawyers for Lanez said in a sentencing memo that he should get only probation and be released from jail to enter a residential substance abuse program. They plan to appeal his conviction.

Several issues remain to be debated and decided before sentencing, which means Lanez is unlikely to learn his fate until Tuesday afternoon.

Megan testified during the trial that Lanez had fired the gun at the back of her feet and shouted for her to dance as she walked away from an SUV in which they had been riding in summer 2020. The pair had left a party at Kylie Jenner's Hollywood Hills home.

"Since I was viciously shot by the defendant, I have not experienced a single day of peace," Megan said in a statement read by Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Kathy Ta. "Slowly but surely, I'm healing and coming back, but I will never be the same."

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The mother of his son, Raina Cassagne, called him "the most supportive father, the funnest father." Dozens more wrote letters to Herriford, including rapper Iggy Azalea, who asked the judge to hand down a sentence that was "transformative, not life-destroying."

The judge said Lanez's son, who is 6 years old, also sent in a handwritten letter, but Herriford did not describe it further.

A chaplain from Los Angeles County jail appeared in court and said that Lanez has led daily prayer groups that have eased tensions in the protective custody unit where he is being held.

Herriford made findings in favor of each side Monday, leaving little indication of what sentence he will give.

He found that Megan was an especially vulnerable victim when she was shot, but that Lanez was not especially cruel or callous in firing at her, legal factors that could influence his decision.

Remorse

Herriford said that he will consider Lanez's charitable giving and glowing statements made about him as a pillar of his family and community.

But the judge also said he would consider what prosecutors called attempts by Lanez, through social media posts and in song lyrics, to intimidate Megan and to cast doubt on whether she was shot at all.

Herriford said Lanez also had a clear lack of remorse, but said he won't allow that to be a factor because the rapper has a right to maintain his innocence.

Megan, in her statement, cited the absence of remorse, saying Lanez "has blamed the system, blamed the press, and as of late has tried to take advantage of his childhood trauma."

Sonstar Peterson also grew emotional when he expressed his regret for rising in court after jurors returned with their verdict and denouncing the "wicked system" that led to his son's conviction. Deputies wrestled him from the courtroom at the time.

"I want to personally apologize to you," he told the judge Monday. "It was an overwhelming time."

Lanez began releasing mixtapes in 2009 and saw a steady rise in popularity, moving on to major-label albums. Megan Thee Stallion, now 28, was already a major rising star at the time of the shooting, and her prominence has surged since. She won a Grammy for best new artist in 2021, and has had No. 1 singles with "Savage," featuring Beyoncé, and as a guest with Cardi B on "WAP."

Rapper Tory Lanez's father grew emotional in court Monday as he described his son losing his mother at age 11 as a judge prepares to sentence Lanez for shooting and wounding hip-hop star Megan Thee Stallion.



Director William Friedkin poses for portraits after interviews for his film 'Killer Joe' in Venice, Italy, Sept. 8, 2011. Friedkin, who won the best director Oscar for 'The French Connection,' died Monday, Aug. 7, in Los Angeles, his wife, producer and former studio head Sherry Lansing told The Hollywood Reporter. (AP)

Obituary

'He was a massive inspiration'

'The Exorcist' director Friedkin dies

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 8, (AP): William Friedkin, the generation-defining director who brought a visceral realism to 1970s hits "The French Connection" and "The Exorcist" and was quickly anointed one of Hollywood's top directors when he was only in his 30s, has died. He was 87.

Friedkin, who won the best director Oscar for "The French Connection," died Monday in Los Angeles, Marcia Franklin, his executive assistant for 24 years, told The Associated Press on behalf of his family and wife, former studio head Sherry Lansing. His son Cedric Friedkin told the AP he died after a long illness.

"He was role model to me and to (my brother) Jack," Cedric Friedkin said. "He was a massive inspiration."

He cemented his legacy early with "The French Connection," which was based on a true story and deals with the efforts of maverick New York City police Detective James "Popeye" Doyle to track down Frenchman Alain Charnier, mastermind of a large drug pipeline funneling heroin into the United States.

It contains one of the most thrilling chase scenes ever filmed: Doyle, played by Gene Hackman in an Oscar-winning performance, barely misses making the arrest on a subway train, then stops a passing car to follow the train as it emerges on an elevated railway. He races underneath, dodging cars, trucks and pedestrians, including a woman pushing a baby buggy, before catching up to one of Rey's henchmen and shooting him.

Blockbuster

The movie, which was made for only \$2 million, became a box office hit when it was released in 1971. It won Academy Awards for best picture, screenplay and film editing, and led critics to hail Friedkin, then just 32, as a leading member of a new generation of filmmakers.

He followed with an even bigger blockbuster, "The Exorcist," released in 1973 and based on William Peter Blatty's bestselling novel about a 12-year-old girl possessed by the devil.

The harrowing scenes of the girl's possession and a splendid cast, including Linda Blair as the girl, Ellen Burstyn as her mother and Max Von Sydow and Jason Miller as the priests who try to exorcise the devil, helped make the film a box-office sensation. It was so scary for its era that many viewers fled the theater before it was over and some reported being unable to sleep for days afterward.

"The Exorcist" received 10 Oscar nominations, including one for Friedkin as director, and won two, for Blatty's script and for sound.

With that second success, Friedkin would go on to direct movies and TV shows well into the 21st century. But he would never again come close to matching the acclaim he'd received for those early works, and gained a reputation for clashing with both actors and studio executives.

"I embody arrogance, insecurity and ambition that spur me on as they hold me back," he wrote in his 2012 memoir.

His 1977 film "Sorcerer," a gangster thriller starring Roy Scheider was widely panned at the time and also failed with audiences. It's since been reappraised by critics and has become a cult classic that Friedkin himself would continue to defend. In 2017, he told IndieWire that it's the only of his films that he could still watch.

"The zeitgeist had changed by the time it came out," he said in 2013. "It came out at the time of 'Star Wars,' and that more than any film that I can recall really captured the zeitgeist."

"Star Wars" was a film he was approached to produce, but he said later that he couldn't see its potential. He also turned down "M(aster)A(sterisk)S(asterisk)H" for the same reason.

Genius

Francis Ford Coppola praised Friedkin in a statement, saying his films "are alive with his genius."

"Pick any of them out of a hat and you'll be dazzled. His lovable, irascible personality was cover for a beautiful, brilliant, deep-feeling giant of a man. It's very hard to grasp that I will never enjoy his company again, but his work will at least stand in for him," Coppola's statement said.

A few years after "Sorcerer" brought him back to Earth, he followed with another disappointment: "Cruising," starring Al Pacino as a cop who goes undercover to solve the grisly murders of several gay men. It was protested by gay rights activists for how it depicted homosexuality.

Other film credits included "To Live and Die in L.A.," "Rules of Engagement" and a TV remake of the classic play and Sidney Lumet movie "12 Angry Men." Friedkin also directed episodes for such TV shows as "The Twilight Zone," "Rebel Highway" and "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

Born in Chicago on Aug. 29, 1939, he began working in local TV productions as a teenager. By age 16, he was directing live shows.

"My main influence was dramatic radio when I was a kid," he said in a 2001 interview. "I remember listening to it in the dark. Everything was left to the imagination. It was just sound. I think of the sounds first and then the images."

He moved from live shows to documentaries, making "The People Versus Paul Crump," in 1962. It was the story of a prison inmate who rehabilitates himself on Death Row after being sentenced for the murder of a guard during a botched robbery at a Chicago food plant.

Producer David Wolper was so impressed with it that he brought Friedkin to Hollywood to direct network TV shows.

After working on such shows as "The Bold Ones," "The Alfred Hitchcock Hour" and the documentary "The Thin Blue Line," Friedkin landed his

first film, 1967's "Good Times." It was a lighthearted musical romp headlined by the pop duo Sonny and Cher in what would be their only movie appearance together.

He followed that with "The Night They Raided Minsky's," about backstage life at a burlesque theater, and "The Birthday Party," from a Harold Pinter play. He then gained critical attention with 1970's "The Boys in the Band," a landmark film about gay men.

Author and film historian Mark Harris wrote on social media that, "Not many directors can say they made a gay movie that people argue about decades later. William Friedkin made two: Boys in the Band (I like it, many don't) and Cruising (I don't like it, many do). That's not nothing."

Memoir

Friedkin had three brief marriages in the 1970s and '80s, to French actress Jeanne Moreau; British actress Lesley-Anne Down, with whom he had a son; and longtime Los Angeles TV news anchor Kelly Lange. In 1991, he married Paramount studio executive Lansing.

In recent years, Friedkin wrote a candid memoir, "The Friedkin Connection," and directed several well-received movies adapted from Tracy Letts plays including "Bug" and "Killer Joe," starring Matthew McConaughey as a hit man. And he wasn't done working yet: A new film, "The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial," starring Kiefer Sutherland, is set to premiere at the Venice Film Festival next month.

He was also always willing to reflect on his rollercoaster career, especially as "The French Connection" celebrated its 50th anniversary. Thinking back to the iconic car chase sequence, Friedkin told NBC News in 2021 that it was legitimately life-threatening and that he'd never do it again.

"Everything you see, we actually did. There was no CGI then. There was no way to fake it. I just put the pedal to the metal, and we went 90 miles an hour in city traffic," he said. "The fact that nobody got hurt is a miracle. The fact that I didn't get killed, the fact that some of the crew members didn't get hurt or killed. That's a chance I would never take again. I was young and I didn't give a damn. I just went out and did it. I set out to make a great chase scene and I didn't care about the consequences, and now I do."

Friedkin's influence on film and popular culture continues to live on too. A new "Exorcist" film is even coming out this year, from director David Gordon Green, with Burstyn reprising her role.

Friedkin said he never got too worried about what the critics were saying over the years.

"I really don't live by what the critics write, although I was aware of the critical reception of all of my films," he reflected in 2013. "My own take on the films I've made is based on what I achieved versus what I set out to do."



Film director Luc Jacquet of France poses with his award during a photocall at the 76th Locarno International Film Festival in Locarno, Switzerland, Monday, Aug. 7. (AP)

Variety

PHILADELPHIA: A funeral was to be held Tuesday in Philadelphia for **O'Shane Sibley**, who was fatally stabbed after he confronted teenagers who taunted his group as they danced at a **New York City** gas station.

Friends of the slain 28-year-old were expected to celebrate his life at a historic opera house in the city where Sibley grew up and performed before moving to New York to pursue his career as a dancer. He had performed with the dance company Philadanco and used dance.

Brooklyn prosecutors have charged a 17-year-old high school student with hate-motivated murder in the death of Sibley, who was Black.

The stabbing happened after a group of teenagers got into an argument with Sibley and his friends as they danced shirtless to a **Beyoncé** song while they gassed up their car.

Security camera video showed the argument had broken up and both groups had walked away when Sibley and his friends abruptly returned and crossed a parking lot to confront the white 17-year-old, who was recording with his phone.

In the video, Sibley could be seen following the teen and then lunging at him. The stabbing happened out of a clear view of the cameras. (AP)

LONDON: Fans are gathering in singer **Sinead O'Connor's** former hometown in **Ireland** to say goodbye ahead of her funeral.

O'Connor's family invited the public to line the waterfront in **Bray** on Tuesday as her funeral procession passes by.

"Sinead loved living in Bray and the people in it," a statement issued by her family said. "With this procession, her family would like to acknowledge the outpouring of love for her from the people of **Wicklow** (county) and beyond, since she left last week to go to another place."

Fans left handwritten notes outside her former home, thanking her for sharing her voice and her music. One sign listed causes that the singer had expressed support for, including welcoming refugees.

O'Connor, 56, was found unresponsive at her London home on July 26. Police have not said how she died, though they said her death was not suspicious.

O'Connor, a multi-octave mezzo soprano of extraordinary emotional range who was recognizable by her shaved head, began her career singing on the streets of **Dublin** and soon rose to international fame.

She became a sensation in 1990 with her cover of **Prince's** ballad "Nothing Compares 2 U," which topped charts from **Europe** to **Australia**. (AP)

LITTLE ROCK, Ark: A federal appeals court on Monday upheld **Josh Duggar's** conviction for downloading abuse images, rejecting the former reality television star's argument that a judge should have suppressed statements he made to investigators during the search that found the images.

A three-judge panel of the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the appeal by Duggar, whose large family was the focus of TLC's "19 Kids and

Counting." Duggar was convicted in 2021 and is serving a 12-1/2-year prison sentence.

Federal authorities investigated Duggar after Little Rock police detective found material was being shared by a computer traced to Duggar. Investigators testified that images depicting the abuse of children were downloaded in 2019 onto a computer at a car dealership Duggar owned.



Beyoncé



O'Connor

Duggar's attorneys argued that statements he made to investigators during the search of the dealership should not have been allowed at trial since his attorney wasn't present. Prosecutors said Duggar asked the agents, "'What is this all about? Has somebody been downloading pornography?'" and that he declined to say whether he had looked at such material online, comments that were later used as evidence in the trial. (AP)

Health

'Hundreds of cancers'

Carcinogens found at US nuke missile sites

WASHINGTON, Aug 8, (AP): The Air Force has detected unsafe levels of a likely carcinogen at underground launch control centers at a Montana nuclear missile base where a striking number of men and women have reported cancer diagnoses.

A new cleanup effort has been ordered. The discovery "is the first from an extensive sampling of active US intercontinental ballistic missile bases to address specific cancer concerns raised by missile community members," Air Force Global Strike Command said in a release Monday. In those samples, two launch facilities at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana showed PCB levels higher than the thresholds recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency.

PCBs are oily or waxy substances that have been identified as a likely carcinogen by the EPA. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma is a blood cancer that uses the body's infection-fighting lymph system to spread.

In response, Gen. **Thomas Bussiere**, commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, has directed "immediate measures to begin the cleanup process for the affected facilities and mitigate exposure by our airmen and Guardians to potentially hazardous conditions."

After a military briefing was obtained by The Associated Press in January showing that at least nine current or former missileers at Malmstrom were diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a rare blood cancer, the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine launched a study to look at cancers among the entire missile community checking for the possibility of clusters of the disease.

And there could be hundreds more cancers of all types, based on new data from a grassroots group of former missile launch officers and their surviving family members.

According to the Torchlight Initiative, at least 268 troops who served at nuclear missile sites, or their surviving family members, have self-reported being diagnosed with cancer, blood diseases or other illnesses over the past several decades.

At least 217 of those reported cases are cancers, at least 33 of them non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Community

What's notable about those reported numbers is that the missileer community is very small. Only a few hundred airmen serve as missileers at each of the country's three silo-launched Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile bases any given year. There have been only about 21,000 missileers in total since the Minuteman operations began in the early 1960s, according to the Torchlight Initiative.

For some context, in the US general population there are about 403 new cancer cases reported per 100,000 people each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma affects an estimated 19 of every 100,000 people annually, according to the American Cancer Society.

Minutemen III silo fields are based at Malmstrom, F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming and Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota.

Missileers are male and female military officers who serve in underground launch control centers where they are responsible for monitoring, and if needed, launching fields of silo-based nuclear weapons. Two missileers spend sometimes days at a time on watch in underground bunkers, ready to turn the key and fire Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles if ordered to do so by the president.

The Minuteman III silos and underground control centers were built more than 60 years ago. Much of the electronics and infrastructure is decades old. Missileers have raised health concerns multiple times over the years about ventilation, water quality and potential toxins they cannot avoid as they spend 24 to 48 hours on duty underground.

The Air Force discovery of PCBs occurred as part of site visits by its bioenvironmental team from June 22 to June 29 in the Air Force's ongoing larger investigation into the number of cancers reported among the missile community. During the site visits a health assessment team collected water, soil, air and surface samples from each of the missile launch facilities.

At Malmstrom, of the 300 surface swipe samples, 21 detected PCBs. Of those, 19 were below levels set by the EPA requiring mitigation and two were above. No PCBs were detected in any of the 30 air samples. The Air Force is still waiting for test results from F.E. Warren and Minot for surface and air samples, and for all bases for the water and soil samples.

Doctor charged: A New York City doctor was charged Monday in connection with the alleged sexual abuse of at least six women, including several patients who were drugged, filmed and assaulted during appointments at a prestigious local hospital, prosecutors said.

Zhi Alan Cheng was arraigned Monday on charges of sexually abusing three of his patients at New York-Presbyterian Queens hospital and raping three other women inside his apartment in Queens, New York. He pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Evidence

The 33-year-old gastroenterologist was terminated from his hospital job in December after his arrest for allegedly raping a female acquaintance in his Queens home. At the time, the woman told authorities she had discovered videos of Cheng abusing her and multiple other women.

As investigators searched his home and devices, they uncovered a trove of video evidence showing the doctor abusing women inside his home and workplace, according to the new indictment.

The footage showed Cheng groping three hospital patients, including a 19-year-old and a "seriously ill" 47-year-old, prosecutors said. All of the women appeared to be unconscious during the abuse, suggesting Cheng used anesthesia to sedate them, according to court documents.

Multiple types of liquid anesthesia were recovered from his home, alongside recreational narcotics such as cocaine and ecstasy, the court documents say.

An attorney for Cheng did not immediately return a request for comment.

In a statement, Queens District Attorney **Melinda Katz** said the evidence pointed to "a serial rapist, someone willing to not only violate his sacred professional oath and patients' trust, but every standard of human decency."

The arrest follows the sentencing of another doctor in the New York-Presbyterian Hospital system, **Robert Hadden**, a gynecologist who allegedly abused 245 women over the span of two decades. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison in June.

Cheng's alleged abuse took place over a much shorter period of time, between 2021 and 2022. But prosecutors said they had additional evidence to suggest that Cheng assaulted other women at different locations in New York City, Las Vegas, San Francisco and Thailand, although he has not been charged in connection with those incidents.

Angela Karafazi, a spokesperson for New York-Presbyterian, said Cheng's alleged conduct was "a fundamental betrayal of our mission and our patients' trust."

The hospital intends to review its patient safety policies and implement additional training for all employees, she said.



Debris from a home that partially fell into the Mendenhall River sits on its banks in Juneau, Alaska, on Sunday Aug. 6. The city of Juneau says the Mendenhall River flooded on Saturday because of a major release from Suicide Basin above Alaska's capital city, and at least two buildings were destroyed. (AP)

Climate

Glacier floods could threaten 15m around the globe

Alaska flooding highlights glacier risks

JUNEAU, Alaska, Aug 8, (AP): The gray, two-story home with white trim toppled and slid, crashing into the river below as rushing waters carried off a bobbing chunk of its roof. Next door, a condo building teetered on the edge of the bank, its foundation already having fallen away as erosion undercut it.

The destruction came over the weekend as a glacial dam burst in Alaska's capital, swelling the levels of the Mendenhall River to an unprecedented degree. The bursting of such snow-and-ice dams is a phenomenon called a jökulhlaup, and while it's relatively little-known in the US, researchers say such glacial floods could threaten about 15 million people around the world.

"We sat down there and were just watching it, and all of a sudden trees started to fall in," Amanda Arra, whose house continued hanging precariously over the river bank Monday, told the Juneau Empire. "And that's when I started to get concerned. Tree after tree after tree."

The flooding in Juneau came from a side basin of the awe-inspiring Mendenhall Glacier, which acts as a dam for the rain and melted snow that collect in the basin during the spring and summer. Eventually, the water gushed out from under the glacier and into Mendenhall Lake, from which it flowed down the Mendenhall River.

Outburst

Water released from the basin has caused sporadic flooding since 2011. But typically, the water releases more slowly, over a number of days, said Eran Hood, a University of Alaska Southeast professor of environmental science.

Saturday's event was astonishing because the water gushed so quickly, raising the river's flows to about 1 1/2 times the highest previously recorded - so much that it washed away sensors that researchers had placed to study the glacial outburst phenomenon.

"The flows were just way beyond what anything in the river could withstand," Hood said.

Two homes were completely lost and a third partially so, Robert Barr, Juneau's deputy city manager, said Monday. There were no reports of injuries or fatalities.

Eight buildings, including those that fell into the water, have been condemned, but some might be able to be salvaged by substantial repairs or bank stabilization, he said. Others suffered lesser damage.

While climate change is melting the Mendenhall and other glaciers around

July was hottest month on record by far, Europe scientists confirm

NEW YORK, Aug 8, (AP): Now that July's sizzling numbers are all in, the European climate monitoring organization made it official: July 2023 was Earth's hottest month on record by a wide margin.

July's global average temperature of 16.95 degrees Celsius (62.51 degrees Fahrenheit) was a third of a degree Celsius (six tenths of a degree Fahrenheit) higher than the previous record set in 2019, Copernicus Climate Change Service, a division of the European Union's space program, announced Tuesday. Normally global temperature records are broken by hundredths or a tenth of a degree, so this margin is unusual.

"These records have dire consequences for both people and the planet exposed to ever more frequent and intense extreme events," said Copernicus deputy director Samantha Burgess. There have been deadly heat waves in the Southwestern United States and Mexico, Europe and Asia. Scientific quick studies put the blame on human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas.

Days in July have been hotter than previously recorded from July 2 on. It's been so extra warm that Copernicus and the World Meteorological

Organization made the unusual early announcement that it was likely the hottest month days before it ended. Tuesday's calculations made it official.

The month was 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times. In 2015, the nations of the world agreed to try to prevent long-term warming - not individual months or even years, but decades - that is 1.5 degrees warmer than pre-industrial times.

Last month was so hot, it was .7 degrees Celsius (1.3 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than the average July from 1991 to 2020, Copernicus said. The world's oceans were half a degree Celsius (0.9 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the previous 30 years and the North Atlantic was 1.05 degrees Celsius (1.9 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than average. Antarctica set record lows for sea ice, 15% below average for this time of year.

Copernicus' records go back to 1940. That temperature would be hotter than any month the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has recorded and their records go back to 1850. But scientists say it's actually the hottest in a far longer time period.

and China, according to a study published this year in Nature Communications.

One of the more devastating such events killed up to 6,000 people in Peru in 1941. A 2020 glacial lake outburst flood in British Columbia, Canada, caused a surge of water about 330 feet (100 meters) high, but no one was hurt.

Because the ground along the Mendenhall River is largely made up of loose glacial deposits, it's especially susceptible to erosion, Hood said. The damage could have been much worse if the flood coincided with heavy rains, he said.

Chris and Bob Winter built their house about 50 feet (15.2 meters) off the Mendenhall River in 1981. It flooded for the first time in 2014, an event that prompted them to raise their house 3 feet. It flooded again on Saturday with about 3 inches of standing water, enough to soak the carpets, subflooring and drywall.

While that part can be linked to climate change, the unpredictable ways that those waters can burst through the ice dams and create floods downstream is not, they said.

"Climate change caused the phenomenon, but not the individual floods," Hood said.

The variability in the timing and volume of such floods makes it hard to prepare for them, said Celeste Labedz, an environmental seismologist at the University of Calgary.

More than half of the people at risk from glacial outburst floods are in just four countries - India, Pakistan, Peru

Radio reported. More than 450 people have visited the nature area as of Tuesday.

James Andersen, deputy director of the city of Green Bay's parks, recreation and forestry department, which runs the nature



Pablo Suarez's shirt is bathed in sweat before seven in the morning as he parks cars and provides security for a downtown cafe, July 20, 2023, in Mexicali, Mexico. European climate monitoring organization made it official: July 2023 was Earth's hottest month on record by a wide margin. (AP)



A roseate spoonbill pictured at Ken Euers Nature Area on July 31, 2023, in Green Bay, Wis. The bird, common in Florida, Texas and South America, hasn't been seen in Wisconsin in 178 years. (AP)



Nelson

Musk

Discovery

FAA sued over rocket launch: Wildlife and environmental groups sued the Federal Aviation Administration on Monday over SpaceX's launch last month of its giant rocket from Texas.

SpaceX's Starship soared 24 miles (39 kilometers) high before exploding over the Gulf of Mexico on April 20. The rocket's self-destruct system caused the nearly 400-foot (120-meter) rocket to blow up, as it spun out of control just minutes into the test flight.

An attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the plaintiffs, said the groups are suing over what they consider to be the FAA's failure to fully consider the environmental impacts of the Starship program near Boca Chica Beach in South Texas. They asked the court to throw out the five-year license the FAA granted to SpaceX.

The FAA declined comment, noting it doesn't comment on ongoing litigation. The agency is overseeing the accident investigation and has ordered all SpaceX Starships grounded until it's certain that public safety will not be compromised.

SpaceX founder and chief executive, **Elon Musk**, said his company could be ready to launch the next Starship with the FAA's OK.

No injuries or significant damage to public property were reported from any of the rocket wreckage or flying pad debris. A large crater was carved into the concrete pad, as most of the rocket's 33 main engines ignited at liftoff.

The launch pad is on a remote site on the southernmost tip of Texas, just below South Padre Island, and about 20 miles from Brownsville. NASA Administrator is **Bill Nelson**. (AP)

80 diphtheria cases in Algeria: The Algerian Ministry of Health reported that 80 infections with diphtheria, including 16 lab-confirmed cases, were registered in southern city of Tamanrasset.

The majority of cases belong to foreign nationals who hadn't been vaccinated against the highly infectious disease, the ministry noted in a press release.

The health authorities adopted urgent measures to contain the outbreak of the respiratory disease, stepped up the awareness campaign, set up a crisis response unit and vaccinated nearly 10,100 foreigners, according to the statement. (KUNA)

Birders flock to Green Bay: Bird watchers are flocking to northeastern Wisconsin in the hopes of glimpsing a southern shorebird last seen in the state almost 180 years ago.

Logan Lasee, a member of the Bay Area Bird Club, spotted a roseate spoonbill in the Ken Euers Nature Area in Green Bay on July 26, Wisconsin Public

area, told The Associated Press that the bird was last spotted Wednesday evening. He said usually only about a dozen people use the nature area at a time, but that 60 to 70 people were in the area looking for the bird at that time. About 40 people were in the nature area when Andersen visited it Thursday morning, he said.

"The parking lot was full," he said. "It's awesome."

Candy Evans told Wisconsin Public Radio that she and her husband left their home in Door County at 6:30 a.m. to travel to the nature area.

"It was so interesting because it is just such a distinctive silhouette," Evans said. "It's just a gorgeous bird."

The bird is pink and resembles a football on short stilts. Six types of spoonbills are found around the world but only the roseate is present in North America. It's usually found in Gulf Coast states, and Central and South America. The last time a roseate spoonbill was seen in Wisconsin was in 1845, and that bird was dead.

It's unclear how this bird reached Green Bay. Birders and scientists theorize it may have simply gotten lost or blown off course by a storm. Climate change and loss of habitat also are forcing birds north. (AP)

SPORTS

Williams loses to Keys

Raonic edges Tiafoe in epic 1st-round match in Toronto

TORONTO, Aug 8, (AP): Canada's Miłosz Raonic beat American Frances Tiafoe 6-7 (12), 7-6 (4), 6-3 in an epic first-round match Monday night at the National Bank Open.

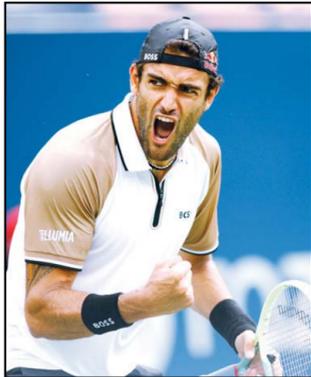
The ninth-seeded Tiafoe outlasted the Canadian in a 20-minute tiebreaker in the first set. But Raonic, who grew up in nearby Thornhill, Ontario, took the second set in a tiebreaker and went on to complete the victory in 2 hours, 44 minutes.

This is Raonic's third tournament appearance since returning to the ATP Tour in June after an injury absence of nearly two years.

On the deciding point of the first set, a Raonic return clipped the tape on top of the net, popped up in the air and bounced on Tiafoe's side.



Karolina Pliskova, from the Czech Republic, makes a return during her first round match against Lin Zhu, from China, at the National Bank Open tennis tournament in Montreal. (AP)



Matteo Berrettini, of Italy, reacts to a point against Gregoire Barrere, of France, during the first day of the National Bank Open tennis tournament in Toronto. (AP)

The American lunged forward and made a cross-court winner. However, Tiafoe grabbed the top of the net as his momentum took him forward, which would normally cost him the point.

However, the chair umpire ruled in Tiafoe's favor and a second on-court official confirmed the decision.

A Tennis Canada statement from tournament referee Tony Cho explained the ruling: "Tiafoe touched the area between the singles stick and net post. This area is considered a permanent fixture so not part of the net."

Raonic said the original call went his way but the umpire changed his mind. The discussion then shifted to which part of the net was touched, he added.

The partisan crowd at Sobeys Stadium voiced its disapproval and Raonic smashed his racket on the player's bench.

Raonic was able to reset. He finished with a 37-8 edge in aces.

Raonic has one of four wild cards for this week's 56-man singles competition. He will face Japanese qualifier Taro Daniel in the next round.

In the late match, Italy's Matteo Arnaldi beat Vasek Pospisil of Vernon, British Columbia, 6-4, 6-4.

TENNIS

American Tommy Paul, the No. 12 seed, beat Argentine qualifier Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. Poland's Hubert Hurkacz, the No. 15 seed, topped Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik 6-3, 7-6 (2), and 16th-seeded Italian Lorenzo Musetti posted a 6-4, 6-1 win over Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka.

Venus Williams lost to fellow American Madison Keys on Monday night, falling 6-2, 7-5 in the opening round of the National Bank Open.

The 43-year-old Williams, a seven-time Grand Slam champion, dropped to 2-4 in six career matches against the 28-year-old Keys.

The 16th-ranked Keys broke Williams twice in the first set. She recorded two more breaks in the second and held on for the win.

Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova posted a 6-3, 6-7 (8), 6-2 win over China's Lin Zhu in the opening round. Rebecca Marino of Vancouver was eliminated by Britain's Katie Boulter, 6-3, 6-1.

Pliskova, ranked No. 23 in the world, had 11 aces and seven double-faults. She converted five of 16 break points.

As the second set began, Boulter continued to assert her dominance, breaking Marino's serve and building a 3-0 lead. She clinched the straight-sets victory in 65 minutes.

Boulter had an impressive performance at the Rothsay Open in June, earning her first career WTA singles title. Next up is a match against Coco Gauff.

Biggio 'hits' two-run homer in 8th as Blue Jays top Guardians



Toronto Blue Jays relief pitcher Genesis Cabrera delivers against the Cleveland Guardians during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Cleveland. (AP)

CLEVELAND, Aug 8, (AP): Cavan Biggio hit a two-run homer to break a scoreless tie in the eighth inning and lift Toronto to a 3-1 win over the Cleveland Guardians on Monday night after the Blue Jays lost starting pitcher Hyun Jin Ryu to a knee injury.

Biggio's drive to center field came off reliever Enyel De Los Santos (4-2) and scored Daulton Varsho. Toronto had been held to one hit over the first seven innings by Guardians rookie Gavin Williams, who struck out a season-high 12.

Ryu was struck on the right kneecap by Oscar Gonzalez's line drive that turned into the final out of the fourth, forcing him to exit with a bruised knee in his second start since undergoing Tommy John surgery in June 2022. The 36-year-old left-hander tossed four hitless innings.

Erik Swanson (3-2) pitched the seventh and Jordan Hicks worked the ninth, permitting the Guardians to load the bases before picking up his 10th save.

BASEBALL

Earlier in the day, Guardians third baseman José Ramírez was suspended three games and White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson received a six-game ban for initiating a bench-clearing melee with their fight at second base Saturday. Both players are appealing their penalties and remain able to play, but Cleveland closer Emmanuel Clase and manager Terry Francona both served their one-game suspensions.

Dodgers 13, Padres 7

In San Diego, Mookie Betts hit a grand slam to cap an eight-run fourth inning and NL West-leading Los Angeles won for the sixth time in seven games.

Betts drove a 3-0 pitch from Seth Lugo into the left-center seats, his 31st homer of the season, with one out in the fourth to give the Dodgers an 8-5 lead. It was the sixth career slam for Betts, and the 11th for the Dodgers to tie their single-season high.

James Outman had four hits for the Dodgers, who took three of four in the series to improve to 8-2 this season against San Diego.

Luis Campusano had two homers among his four hits for the Padres.

San Diego scored five runs off Tony Gonsolin (7-4) in the third, but that lead was gone nine batters into the fourth. David Peralta had an RBI double and Jason Heyward doubled in two more runs. Miguel Rojas hit a bloop single to center to pull the Dodgers to 5-4. Betts then connected to put the Dodgers ahead.

Reds 5, Marlins 2

In Cincinnati, Christian Encarnacion-Strand and Joey Votto homered on consecutive pitches by Eury Pérez in the fourth inning, and Cincinnati stopped a six-game slide.

TJ Friedl had two hits and two RBIs as the Reds improved to 10-14 since the All-Star break. The six-game slide matched the season high for Cincinnati, which remains in the thick of the playoff race.

Reds rookie Brandon Williamson (4-2) struck out a career-high nine in 6 2/3 innings. The left-hander allowed one run and three hits.

Jorge Soler and Jazz Chisholm

Mets rout Cubs to stop 6-game skid

Jr. homered for Miami in its fifth straight loss. The Marlins finished with five hits and two errors.

Alexis Díaz walked the first two batters in the ninth, but got Jesús Sánchez on a foul tip and pinch-hitter Luis Arraez bounced into a game-ending double play. It was Díaz's 33rd save in 34 opportunities.

Red Sox 6, Royals 2

In Boston, Pablo Reyes hit a walkoff grand slam to break a ninth-inning tie - his third hit of the night - and Boston recovered after blowing a two-run lead.

It was just Boston's second win in nine games, including a sweep over the weekend by the Toronto Blue Jays.

Kenley Jansen (3-5) pitched a perfect ninth for the win. Brayan Bello took a shutout into the seventh inning before the Royals scored twice to tie it.

It remained 2-2 until Rafael Devers one-hopped the short wall in right field beyond the Pesky Pole. Adam Duvall struck out - for the fourth time in the game - and Triston Casas was intentionally walked before Luis Urías, who had also struck out in his first three at-bats, walked on a checked-swing 3-2 pitch.

With the bases loaded, Reyes hit a line drive off the Fisk foul pole, sending the crowd into a frenzy.

Carlos Hernández (1-7) was charged with four runs and two hits and two walks, striking out one. MJ Melendez singled three times off Bello.

Twins 9, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Carlos Correa homered and drove in four runs as Minnesota won its season-best fifth straight.

The Twins (60-54) also got a homer and three RBIs from Ryan Jeffers, improving to 15-8 since the All-Star break.

Pablo López (7-6) won his second straight start, holding Detroit scoreless for seven innings. He gave up five hits and didn't walk a batter while striking out eight. The Tigers only had one runner reach scoring position against him.

Joey Wentz (2-10) took the loss, allowing eight runs on 10 hits and a walk in three innings. Wentz is now 0-6 with a 6.61 in 15 career appearances at Comerica Park.

Mets 11, Cubs 2

In New York, Pete Alonso homered in consecutive at-bats and tied a career high with six RBIs as the New York Mets withstood a long rain delay and snapped a six-game losing streak with rout of the Chicago Cubs.

Kodai Senga (8-6) allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings for his first victory since July 5 at Arizona and first at home since May 30 against Philadelphia.

In their first home game since trading Justin Verlander, Mark Canha and Tommy Pham at last week's deadline, the Mets (51-61)

avoided matching their longest skid this season. New York dropped seven straight June 2-9 as it fell under .500.

Cody Bellinger hit two RBI singles for the playoff-contending Cubs, who lost for only the fifth time in 20 games. Chicago entered leading the majors in batting average (.296) since the All-Star break.

Alonso connected in the first and third innings against Drew Smyly (8-8). It was his fourth multi-homer game this year and third since the All-Star break. The first baseman also got his 18th career multi-homer game to move into sole possession of third on New York's career list behind Darryl Strawberry (22) and former captain David Wright (21).

Rangers 5, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Regardless of the situation, the inning or the score, the Texas Rangers are showing manager Bruce Bochy they will continue to do the little things it takes to win games.

When the home run isn't there, they turn to small ball and receive contributions from everybody on the roster. Ezequiel Duran laid down a key sacrifice bunt in the decisive eighth inning and Jonathan Ornelas scored the go-ahead run as a pinch-runner in his major league debut.

Travis Jankowski had a tiebreaking RBI groundout in the eighth and Leody Taveras followed with a sacrifice fly, and Texas won its season-best seventh straight game by beating the Oakland Athletics for the Rangers' longest winning streak in more than five years.

Texas tied it in the seventh when Nathaniel Lowe reached on an error by pitcher Kirby Snead while covering first and trying to catch a throw from first baseman Tyler Soderstrom, allowing Jankowski to score. He came through again the next inning facing Dany Jiménez (0-1).

Zack Gelof hit a two-run double in the third and Nick Allen also doubled home a run that inning for the A's, coming off two impressive wins over the San Francisco Giants during the weekend Bay Bridge Series.

Mitch Garver hit a two-run double in the top of the fourth for Texas, which topped its six-game winning streak from July 14-19 and is the club's longest since also winning seven in a row in June 2018.

Giants 8, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Patrick Bailey put the Giants ahead with a two-run double when Randal Grichuk mis-played his drive to left, keying San

Francisco's six-run rally in the ninth inning of an 8-3 victory that sent the Los Angeles Angels to their season-worst seventh consecutive loss.

Mark Mathias added a two-run single in his Giants debut off All-Star closer Carlos Estévez (5-3), who spectacularly blew his second consecutive save opportunity after converting his first 23 chances this season.

Bailey got two RBIs when Grichuk tried and failed to snag his tailing drive, allowing the ball to roll away while Wilmer Flores and J.D. Davis scored. Thairo Estrada and Blake Sabol eventually added RBI singles off Aaron Loup in the ninth.

Davis hit a tying homer in the seventh for the Giants, who have won eight of 12.

Shohei Ohtani doubled, singled, scored a run and stole his 15th base of the season for the Angels, whose fading hopes of joining the playoff race took another dramatic blow.

Los Angeles (56-58) still hasn't won a game since the MLB trade deadline, when the club decided not to trade Ohtani in hopes of getting him to the postseason for the first time.

Pirates 7, Braves 6

In Pittsburgh, Rookie infielder Liover Peguero had two hits in a six-run third inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates chased Spencer Strider early before holding off the Atlanta Braves for a rain-delayed victory.

Connor Joe homered in the fourth to help the fourth-place Pirates hand the major league-leading Braves their third consecutive defeat. Pittsburgh ended an eight-game losing streak to Atlanta that dated to 2021.

Strider (12-4), runner-up in NL Rookie of the Year voting last season, matched a career low by pitching just 2 2/3 innings. He also lasted only 2 2/3 innings a year to the day prior against the New York Mets.

Strider had gone 8-1 in his previous 12 starts. He allowed five hits, walked three and struck out three.

Brewers 12, Rockies 1

In Milwaukee, Freddy Peralta struck out 13 to match his career high and allowed just one hit over seven innings in the Milwaukee Brewers' blowout of the Colorado Rockies.

Milwaukee's Sal Frelick went 2 for 3 with a three-run homer, scored three times and had four RBIs.

Brice Turang and Tyrone Taylor also went deep. William Contreras went 3 for 5, scored twice and had three RBIs.

Peralta (8-8) gave up a homer to Ezequiel Tovar with one out in the first inning, but the Rockies wouldn't put a runner on base the rest of the night.

It was the third time in franchise history the Brewers allowed only one base runner in a single game. The other times were against the Philadelphia Phillies on May 26, 2019, and in the combined no-hitter by Corbin Burnes and Josh Hader at Cleveland on Sept. 11, 2021.

Peralta retired the last 20 batters he faced. Elvis Peguero worked a perfect eighth and Andrew Chafin retired the side in order in the ninth.

This marked the second time in his last three starts that Peralta has recorded 13 strikeouts. He also did it in a 3-0 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on July 26. Peralta allowed only one hit and didn't walk a single batter in each of those games.

Peralta's other 13-strikeout performance came in his major league debut on May 13, 2018. Peralta led the Brewers to a 7-3 Mother's Day victory at Colorado that afternoon with his mother in the stands.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 8, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Monday.

Minnesota	9	Detroit	3	LA Dodgers	13	San Diego	7
Toronto	3	Cleveland	1	Cincinnati	5	Miami	2
Boston	6	Kansas City	2	NY Mets	11	Chicago Cubs	2
Chicago W. Sox	5	NY Yankees	1	Pittsburgh	7	Atlanta	6
Texas	5	Oakland	3	Milwaukee	12	Colorado	1
San Francisco	8	LA Angels	3				

American League				National League			
East Division				East Division			
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	70	42	.625	Atlanta	70	40	.636
Tampa Bay	68	46	.596	Philadelphia	61	51	.545
Toronto	64	50	.561	Miami	58	56	.509
Boston	58	54	.518	New York	51	61	.455
New York	58	55	.513	Washington	49	63	.438
Central Division				Central Division			
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	60	54	.526	Milwaukee	61	53	.535
Cleveland	54	59	.478	Cincinnati	60	55	.522
Detroit	49	63	.438	Chicago	58	55	.513
Chicago	46	68	.404	Pittsburgh	51	61	.455
Kansas City	36	78	.316	St. Louis	49	64	.434
West Division				West Division			
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	67	46	.593	Los Angeles	65	46	.586
Houston	64	49	.566	San Francisco	62	51	.549
Seattle	60	52	.536	Arizona	57	56	.504
Los Angeles	56	58	.491	San Diego	55	58	.487
Oakland	32	81	.283	Colorado	44	68	.393

Change Name

ABDUL RAZZAK MOHAMMAD YUSUF SHAIKH an Indian adult inhabitant residing at Near Kinki Doctor, 191/2, Lower Depot Pada, Park Site in Vikhroli (West), Mumbai - 400079. Do hereby state and declare on solemnly Affirmed as under: I, say that my true and correct name is **ABDUL RAZZAK MOHAMMAD YUSUF SHAIKH**, (Correct Name), whereas in my other relevant documents my name has been wrongly mentioned as **ABDUL RAZZAQUE MOHAMMED YUSUF SHAIKH** (incorrect name), due to inadvertence.

Tsimanouskaya to run for Poland

WARSAW, Poland, Aug 8, (AP): Now cleared to run for Poland after her drama at the Tokyo Olympics, Belarus-born sprinter Krystina Tsimanouskaya is representing her new country in three events at the world championships this month. The Polish track federation said Tuesday that Tsimanouskaya is being selected for the 100 me-

ters, 200 and 4x100 relay. She became eligible for her adopted country Sunday.

The track and field worlds are held Aug. 19-27 in Budapest, Hungary.

Tsimanouskaya has lived in Poland since Belarus team officials tried to remove her from the Tokyo Olympics two years ago during a crackdown on dissent by the regime of President Alexander Lukashenko.

She had run in the 100 heats but, before the heats of her favored 200, she criticized team officials on social media for putting her in the 4x400 relay team against her wishes. She did not train for or compete at the longer distance.

When Belarus officials tried to force her to board a flight out of Tokyo, Tsimanouskaya pleaded for help at the airport and Japanese police intervened. She said she feared reprisals if she returned to Belarus and was given refuge in the Polish embassy.

Two Belarusian coaches were stripped of their games credentials by the International Olympic Committee four days later. Tsimanouskaya was by that time in Poland with a humanitarian visa.

The 26-year-old sprinter has competed in national-level meets in Poland this season with best legitimate times of 11.16 in the 100 and 22.75 in the 200. Those times rank her at No. 75 and No. 62, respectively, in the world this year, according to World Athletics lists Tuesday.

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 Web: www.gfsrelo.com



Boston Red Sox's Connor Wong hits a one-run double allowing Pablo Reyes to score in the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals in Boston. (AP)

Hamlin completes podium

Buescher holds off points-leader Truex late in Michigan

BROOKLYN, Mich., Aug 8, (AP): Chris Buescher has earned half of his four career NASCAR Cup Series victories in a stunning, nine-day stretch of success.

Buescher won his second straight NASCAR Cup Series race by holding off points-leader Martin Truex late in the FireKeepers 400 on Monday and is surging with his top performances toward the end of the regular season.

"It's certainly very good timing as we head into the playoffs in a few short weeks," said the 30-year-old Buescher, who was in the No. 17 Ford for RFK Racing.

Buescher, who won last week at Richmond, led 52 of the 200 laps. With 12 laps left, Truex challenged him with door-to-door driving before sparks were seen under his No. 19 Toyota and he faded.

MOTOR RACING

"I felt like we were a little better, but it is just really hard to pass the leader on equal tires," Truex said.

Truex made a savvy move in the No. 19 Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing to win Stage 2. Shortly after pitting, he went high before dropping low to surge past Daniel Suarez and finished second to earn a 57-point lead over Denny Hamlin in the standings.

"He was a rocket most of the day and for Chris to hold him off is really impressive," said Brad Keselowski, who was proud of his fourth-place finish as a driver and win as a part-owner of RFK Racing.

Hamlin was third followed by Keselowski and Kyle Larson.

Buescher gave Ford its ninth straight victory at Michi-

gan to extend the longest winning streak by a manufacturer at a track that has hosted Cup races since 1969.

"To be here in Ford's backyard and get this done and have so many Ford folks with us here, it is a special weekend," he said. "You always have a little more on your shoulders here." The race was suspended Sunday due to rain, which delayed the start and later led to a red-flag stoppage that lasted 19-plus hours before the race resumed under cloudy skies the next day.

Two of the top drivers didn't make it to Monday. Many of the fans that filled the stands and the infield on Sunday, giving the track one of its biggest crowds in years, did not return to see the end of the race.

William Byron and Kyle Busch, who have a combined seven wins this year, were knocked out of the competition on the first day of the two-day race. Busch spun out and hit a wall after making side-by-side contact with Ryan Blaney early in the race and Byron ran into a wall without anyone around him shortly after Truex won the first stage.

"I put myself in a bad spot," Busch said. "I really hate that I did that." Buescher became the first Cup driver to win consecutive races since Byron had victories at Las Vegas and Phoenix in March. He's the first RFK driver to have consecutive victories since 2010, and the first to win multiple times in a year for the organization since 2017.

"I kind of like being an underdog and under the radar," said Scott Graves, Buescher crew chief. "But I also know with a couple wins, it's hard to hide." Chase Elliott lost control after just 34 laps Sunday due to a tire failure.

"It was really early in the day to have a tire blow like that," the Hendrick Motorsports star said. "It was really weird. It's a bummer, but not surprised. Add it to the list."

Inzamam returns as Pakistan cricket's chief selector

ISLAMABAD, Aug 8, (AP): Former Pakistan captain and chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq has returned to head the selection committee, replacing former test batter Haroon Rasheed.

The new selection committee announced Monday also included team director Mickey Arthur, head coach Grant Bradburn and Hasan Cheema. Its first assignment is to name the team for the three ODIs against Afghanistan in Sri Lanka later this month.

CRICKET

Inzamam was appointed a member of the new Pakistan Cricket Board technical committee, which is headed by Misbah-ul-Haq and also included Mohammad Hafeez. However, after being named as the

new chief selector, Inzamam will not be part of the technical committee and the cricket board will name his replacement in due course.

Inzamam was the chief selector during the last cricket World Cup in 2019 and will also select the team for October's World Cup in India.

"I had a good run in the last tenure," Inzamam said in a statement. "We had famous victories with the ICC Champions Trophy

2017 being the highlight, but my most important achievement is that around 70 to 80 percent of the cricketers selected back then form the

core of today's sides. That team was in transition, but this team is stable and I would not face the same challenges."

Zaka Ashraf, the chairman of the PCB's managing committee, said Inzamam impressed during his previous stint as the chief selector.

"He (Inzamam) is a legend and has served the game with dignity. Inzamam's last tenure brought us success as we not only won the ICC Champions Trophy, but also unearthed some outstanding talent that continues to serve Pakistan cricket to date," Ashraf said. "I have no doubt that his new innings will add to the laurels and bring more talented cricketers to light."

Pakistan's national team received government approval to participate in the upcoming Cricket World Cup hosted by rival India.



Inzamam

Elliott missed six Cup races with a broken left tibia that he suffered in a March 3 snowboarding accident.

The 2020 Cup champion, winless this year, is No. 22 in points and likely needs to win one of the last three races

in the regular season to earn a spot in the playoffs.

The series shifts to the Indianapolis Road Course - where Tyler Reddick won last year - for the Verizon 200 on Sunday.

Roberts secures 4th straight title

British dominate home world champ'ships

GLASGOW, Aug 8, (AP): Hannah Roberts has won just about everything possible on a freestyle BMX bike except an Olympic title.

That could be coming next.

The 21-year-old American trick artist didn't even need her second run in the finals of the world championships, posting a score of 91.04 points during her opening run to secure her fourth straight title and fifth overall. Roberts was followed by all five of the riders from emerging powerhouse China, led by silver medalist Sibe Sun and bronze medalist Huimin Zhou.

"I mean, Team China, they're coming on strong. They have some of the best riders in the world and they're so motivated to keep it going," said Roberts, who finished second at the Tokyo Olympics. "They placed second through sixth and that's incredible for an entire team. So going into the event, I knew there was some big stuff I wanted to pull for the first run. I did what I could."

The British mostly dominated their home world championships in Glasgow, Scotland.

Kieran Reilly made good on his immense promise by winning the men's freestyle BMX title, Ethan Vernon ended Italian star Elia Viviani's dominance of the elimination race, and the duo of Neah Evans and Elinor Barker won the women's Madison event.

Harrie Lavreysen won his fifth consecutive sprint gold medal by beating Nicholas Paul of Trinidad and Tobago in back-to-back finals races, while Jack Carlin beat Mateusz Rudyk of Poland to claim the bronze medal.

Roberts was the favorite to win freestyle



Great Britain's Sasha Pardoe competes in the BMX Freestyle Women's Elite Final during day five of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships at the Glasgow Green, in Glasgow, Scotland. (AP)



USA's Hannah Roberts celebrates winning gold in the BMX Freestyle Women's Elite Final during day five of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships at the Glasgow Green, Glasgow, Scotland. (AP)

BMX when it made its Olympic debut two years ago in Tokyo. And she made good on the expectations in the opening runs of the finals, posting the highest score. But on their second runs, Britain's Charlotte Worthington jumped into first place, and Roberts failed to finish her second run after a poor landing and finished second.

Worthington, who was seventh on Monday, was among the first to congratulate Roberts when they came off the park.

"I'm super grateful," Roberts said. "I'm still emotional."

In the men's freestyle competition, Reilly thought he'd done enough to earn the world championship before a home crowd during his superlative second run, dropping his bike at the end of it as if it was a mic drop.

He had to wait through a 50-minute rain delay to find out for sure.

CYCLING

There were still six riders to go, and they were the heaviest hitters in the sport, when the 22-year-old European champion posted a score of 95.80 with his second of two finals runs. Those left included Olympic champion Logan Martin, the final rider to hit the freestyle park, and who just about knocked Reilly from the stop step of the medal stand.

The two-time world champion from Australia only scored 95.30 with his second run, though, allowing Reilly to win by a sliver of a margin. Former world bronze medalist Nick Bruce of the U.S. took bronze with his score of 93.30.

"It's been a stressful half-hour sitting behind there. I got to the point where it's guaranteed I've got a medal before it rained, but the difference between getting a medal and a (rainbow) jersey is huge," Reilly said. "This is the biggest competition in the world outside the Olympics and this is a perfect stepping stone for me."

Vernon was the bronze medalist in the elimination race a year ago, but the 22-year-old Brit was able to outprint Dylan Bibic at the finish to take the gold medal this year. Viviani, the two-time defending champ, earned bronze for Italy.

Later in the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, the team of Evans and Barker were consistently at the front of the Madison, where riders work as a team handing off to each other throughout the race. They finished ahead of Australia's Georgia Baker and Alex Manly, who got up from a hard fall to finish second, and the French team of Clara Copponi and Victoire Berteau.

Lavreysen, who beat Dutch teammate Jeffrey Hoogland for gold at the Tokyo Games, has long been the world's best sprinter - his title Monday was the 13th in various events. And he showed it once again in the finals of the men's sprint Monday.

"It's insane," Lavreysen said afterward. "It takes a lot of energy and focus, but I really love it in the velodrome, and the atmosphere and all the fans - a lot of them today. Really good finals. And it's unbelievable."



The Netherlands' Harrie Lavreysen celebrates winning gold in the Men's Elite Sprint on day five of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, Glasgow, Scotland. (AP)

Atletico could take advantage

Barca, Real face uncertainty ahead of season

MADRID, Aug 8, (AP): Barcelona couldn't bring back Lionel Messi, and lost two other stalwarts in Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba.

Real Madrid couldn't sign Kylian Mbappé - so far at least - and saw veteran striker Karim Benzema leave for Saudi Arabia.

The Spanish league begins this week with the title favorites facing a transition year and squad changes that might open the door for other challengers.

Diego Simeone's Atletico Madrid could be the team to take advantage after keeping most players in a squad that offered the best soccer in Spain at the end of last season. Real Sociedad is another outsider lurking after a strong fourth-place finish.

Barcelona, still not fully healthy financially, saw Busquets and Alba join Messi at Inter Miami, but it brought veteran Ilkay Gundogan from Manchester City to try to boost its chances of successfully defending its first league title since Messi left a couple of years ago.

Barcelona coach Xavi is also likely to keep Ousmane Dembélé after rumors of a transfer involving the France forward quietened recently. Dembélé was one of Barcelona's main weapons in attack last season, along with Robert Lewandowski, the league's top scorer.

Xavi will still rely on the talent of Pedri and Gavi, who are now more experienced and more mature than when they debuted.

It didn't hurt Barcelona's confidence to beat Madrid 3-0 in a pre-season game last month in the United States, when Dembélé scored one of the goals.

"It's always good to win a 'clásico,' but there's still a lot to improve," Xavi said.

Madrid will be without Benzema, last year's Ballon d'Or winner, for the first time in more than a decade. The French striker was the team's top player the last few seasons, leading its attack after Cristiano Ronaldo's departure.

Benzema's exit will put more responsibility on the Brazilian duo of Vinicius Júnior and Rodrygo, who last season showed some signs that they could be ready to take on

greater leadership roles.

Spain striker Joselu came on a loan from Espanyol to try to help make up for Benzema's absence, and Bellingham will add freshness to a midfield that will likely see the last seasons of veterans Toni Kroos and Luka Modric.

Also leaving the team were Eden Hazard, Marco Asensio and Mariano Diaz.

Coach Carlos Ancelotti stayed to finish his contract despite repeated calls for him to join Brazil's national team.

Atletico was one of the hottest teams late last season and showed signs it can challenge Barcelona and Madrid for the title.

With Simeone entering his 12th season with the club, Atletico kept the core of its squad in attack and midfield, and boosted its defense with Cesar Azpilicueta and Caglar Soyuncu.

There were doubts about whether João Félix would stay after a lackluster season, but the Portugal forward seemed set to remain in an attack that again will be led by An-

toine Griezmann.

"We are excited with the start of the league," Simeone said. "We know it's going to be very competitive."

Sociedad, coming off its first top-four finish in a decade, lost veteran David Silva after he retired following a serious knee injury in the off-season, but it added Portugal forward André Silva and brought back most of the squad that was near the top throughout the year last season.

SOCCER

Manuel Pellegrini's Real Betis and Quique Setién's Villarreal will hope to build from their solid seasons a year ago, while Sevilla and Valencia look to get off to better starts from the ones that left them near the bottom of the table last season.

The teams back in the first division after promotion are Granada, Las Palmas and Alaves. They are replacing relegated clubs Elche, Espanyol and Valladolid, owned by former Brazil star Ronaldo.



In this file photo, FC Barcelona forward Ousmane Dembele (right), heads the ball away from Real Madrid defender David Alaba (left), and midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni (center), during the first half of a Champions Tour soccer match, Saturday, July 29, 2023 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. (AP)



Great Britain's Elinor Barker celebrates winning gold in the Women's Elite Madison on day five of the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, Glasgow, Scotland. (AP) — See Page 15

Sports

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France end Morocco run, advance to quarters



Morocco's Anissa Lahmari (right), and France's Elisa De Almeida battle for the ball during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between France and Morocco in Adelaide, Australia. (AP)

'WC exit start of journey, not end'

BRISBANE, Australia, Aug. 8, (AP) — Chiamaka Nnadozie's Nigeria lineup had two chances hit the crossbar in a scoreless draw, and only missed out on the Women's World Cup quarterfinals after losing a penalty shootout against England.

By taking the European champions right to the wire, the Super Falcons proved, once again, that rankings are less important than respect for rival teams under the tournament's expanded 32-team format.

In the group stage, Nigeria held Olympic champion Canada to a 0-0 draw, upset co-host Australia 3-2 and advanced to the knockout stage after a 0-0 draw with Ireland.

Nigeria's players leave this World Cup with respect well-earned on the field that they now want matched by their national soccer federation in a dispute over bonus payments and expenses dating back to 2021. One day after its exit against England, the global player's union FIFPRO said Tuesday it is now time to speak out and work on ensuring the players' "contractual rights are honored and the outstanding payments are settled."

Nigeria players already showed they would not be distracted in Australia and New Zealand by what have been historic problems for both men's and women's teams despite the nation's status as an African soccer power.

SOCCER

A late red card for England forward Lauren James for stomping on Nigeria defender Michelle Alozie took the focus off two tight halves of football on Monday night that could have gone either way.

Ashleigh Plumtre's left-foot strike cannoned into the crossbar in the 17th minute and her right-foot shot, moments after the ball rebounded, forced a diving save from England goalkeeper Mary Earps. Uchenna Kanu's two second-half headers went within inches.

Had any of those chances found the back of the net, it's likely Nigeria would have gone on to win a knockout match for the first time in nine trips to the Women's World Cup and England would have followed the defending champion U.S. team, No. 2-ranked Germany, Canada and Brazil through the exit. "It's not the end for Nigeria," Nnadozie, Nigeria's goalkeeper and inspirational team leader, said as she left the locker room at the 2023 World Cup for the last time. "We go back home, rest and come back stronger."

"Coming to the World Cup we had so many dreams. So sad today, but it's not the end," she added. "We've been playing tough, tough games. There's no easy teams. We respect them all. Right now, we have to work harder and come back stronger again."

Big calls made by Dutchman in offseason

Man Utd manager Ten Hag has spent big and now the pressure is on to challenge Man City

MANCHESTER, Aug. 8, (AP) — The stakes are higher for Erik ten Hag in his second season at Manchester United.

A year into one of the most daunting jobs in world soccer, the Dutch coach has spent big and made some even bigger calls.

As a result, he is now expected to bring the good times back to United.

While Ten Hag's first season was a success on many levels, there were also blunt reminders of the work needed to be done to turn his team into a genuine Premier League title contender.

He delivered his first trophy by winning the League Cup and also secured a return to the Champions League.

There were notable wins against Manchester City, Liverpool, Arsenal and Barcelona, as well as a feel-good factor among supporters after a decade of decline since the retirement of United great Alex Ferguson.

Under Ten Hag's guidance, Marcus Rashford scored a career-best 30 goals.

Those were the highs.

At the other end of the scale there were humbling losses. United was routed 4-0 by Brentford, 6-3 by City and 7-0 by Liverpool, which was the club's heaviest competitive defeat in 90 years.

United also advanced to the FA Cup final, but was comfortably beaten by City. The 2-1 score line did not reflect City's dominance in that match.

In losing that final at Wembley Stadium, not only did United fail to stop City's treble of titles, which also included the Premier League and Champions League, but the game underlined the gap that still existed between the teams.

In response, Ten Hag has made big calls in the offseason.

Long-standing goalkeeper David De Gea was released when his contract expired and replaced by Andre Onana, who will better allow Ten Hag to focus on building play from defense.

Harry Maguire has been stripped of the captaincy, with Bruno Fernandes taking over.

The United manager has also found

an unlikely replacement for Cristiano Ronaldo at center forward. Despite being repeatedly linked with a move for Harry Kane, Ten Hag opted to sign the largely untried Rasmus Hojlund, who was bought from Atalanta for a fee that could reach 72 million pounds (\$92 million).

"I think he has such a huge potential," Ten Hag said of the 20-year-old Danish international, adding "the whole team was waiting for a type like him".

There is little doubt United needed more goals, even after Rashford's outstanding campaign.

Its return of 58 goals in 38 league games last season was the fewest of any team in the top six.

While United describe Hojlund as one of the "best players in the world for his age group," he has been handed a

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huge responsibility to fill the void left by Ronaldo's departure last year.

He is still to play 100 senior games and only scored 10 goals in all competitions last season.

He will face comparisons with Erling Haaland at City, despite the fact they are at different stages of their development.

But United will need him to deliver quickly to provide the goals the team lacked last season.

Ten Hag's other key addition to his squad is England midfielder Mason Mount, who joined from Chelsea for 55 million pounds (\$69 million) and was immediately given the iconic No. 7, shirt worn by United greats like Ronaldo, David Beckham and Eric Cantona.

The summer business takes his total transfer spending to 334.6 million pounds (\$426.3 million) in his time at Old Trafford.

That type of expenditure adds to the pressure on Ten Hag to return the club to the summit of English soccer sooner,

rather than later.

By comparison, Pep Guardiola has spent 230.8 million pounds (\$294.1 million) over the same period.

United has certainly backed its manager, both in the market and with the bold decisions he has made over the squad he inherited.

Maguire was the most expensive defender in soccer when he signed from Leicester for 80 million pounds (then \$97 million) in 2019. Despite that, and his status as club captain, Ten Hag benched him for much of last season and has now stripped him of the armband.

United will be lucky to get back much of Maguire's original cost if he is sold this offseason.

Ronaldo, meanwhile, left the club after struggling to establish himself in Ten Hag's system, leaving a void up front for the second half of the season.

De Gea's exit came after his limitations with the ball at his feet were exposed.

Ten Hag had to accommodate De Gea by altering his preferred tactical approach, which sees keepers being involved in the buildup play, as has been successfully deployed by City and Liverpool in recent years.

The levels set by City and Liverpool are what Ten Hag is aiming to achieve at United.

While few expected him to hit those heights in his first season after taking over a team that had recorded United's worst Premier League points tally (58) in 2021-22, supporters are hoping for a significant step forward this year.

Ten Hag has a more settled squad and he is now used to the rigors of England's top division.

He has star signings and a team that has already won silverware under his watch.

Knocking City off its perch may still be too big an ask at this stage of his reign. But he will be expected to run Guardiola much closer than before.

Newcastle bought England under-21 defender Tino Livramento from Southampton on Tuesday for a fee reported to be at least 30 million pounds (\$38 million).

The Saudi Arabia-owned club, which returns to the Champions League next month, said the 20-year-old Livramento signed a five-year contract.

Livramento pointed to the attraction of being mentored at Newcastle by veteran England right back Kieran Trippier.

"Hopefully he teaches me how to become a better player and a better full back," Livramento said in a statement on the Newcastle website.

The price for Livramento has risen fivefold since he left Chelsea for Southampton two years ago.

In an impressive first full season in the Premier League, Livramento suffered a serious knee injury that kept him out for almost a year. Livramento returned toward the end of last season that ended in relegation for Southampton.

Colombia secure historic trip to last 8

ADELAIDE, Australia, Aug. 8, (AP) — Eugenie Le Sommer scored twice as France advanced to the Women's World Cup quarterfinals with a 4-0 win on Tuesday that ended Morocco's historic debut run at the global tournament.

France's all-time leading scorer, Le Sommer struck once in each half as her country moved into a showdown with co-host Australia in Brisbane on Saturday for a place in the semifinals.

A three-goal burst in nine minutes took the game away from Morocco, with Kadidiatou Diani, Kenza Dali and Le Sommer all scoring to give France a 3-0 lead after 23 minutes at Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium.

Le Sommer headed in a fourth in the 70th to complete the win and end Morocco's campaign.

The Moroccans became the first Arab nation to advance to the knockout stage.

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The Atlas Lions were the first Arab team to register a win in the competition by beating South Korea in the group stage. They followed that by upsetting group winner Colombia to advance to the round of 16 at the expense of No. 2-ranked Germany.

But overcoming France, one of the tournament favorites, was a step too far for Reynald Pedros' team.

Diani opened the scoring in the 15th minute when left unmarked in front of goal to head in Sakina Karchaoui's cross from the left.

It was Diani's fourth goal of the tournament after her hat trick in France's 6-3 win over Panama in its final Group F match.

Dali scored five minutes later after Diani cut back from the right. Dali struck a first-time shot low into the corner to beat Morocco goalkeeper Khadija Er-Rmichi.

And France was 3-0 up when Diani blocked the attempted clearance of Nesryne El Chad into the path of Le Sommer to convert.

Le Sommer got a second goal when heading in at the far post from Vicki Becho's looping cross with 20 minutes left in regulation.

France lost a friendly to Australia leading into the tournament. The teams will meet again after the Matildas advanced to the quarterfinals with a 2-0 win over Denmark. Star striker Sam Kerr returned from calf injury to make her first appearance at this World Cup as a second-half substitute against the Danes.

Colombia's players danced and sang on the field long after the team secured its historic first-ever trip to the Women's World Cup quarterfinals.

Catalina Usme's second-half goal gave Colombia a 1-0 win over Jamaica. Both teams were aiming for a first victory in the knockout stage, with the winner moving on to the last eight at soccer's biggest tournament.

"After the goal went into the net, I had all sorts of emotions," Usme said. "During all the years in women's football, it's such a beautiful moment, giving us the possibility to make history for our country. But we can go beyond. We came here to play seven finals. And we make it go step by step."

Colombia, a team that didn't even qualify for the 2019 tournament, played a physical, scrappy match. Linda Caicedo, the team's 18-year-old sensation who plays for Real Madrid, created opportunities and tested a Jamaica defense that didn't concede a goal in the group stage.

Fan dies in Greece after clashes

NEA PHILADELPHIA, Greece, Aug. 8, (AP) — A 29-year-old Greek fan has died after overnight clashes between rival supporters in Athens, with European governing soccer body UEFA announcing it has postponed a Champions League qualifying game scheduled for Tuesday because of the violence.

After the fan's death, Greek authorities had requested that all supporters should be excluded from the match between AEK Athens and Croatia's Dinamo Zagreb at the Opap Arena.

Dinamo fans were officially already excluded under a previous ruling by UEFA.

Eight fans were injured in the clashes outside AEK's stadium while Greek police said Tuesday they had made 88 arrests, mostly of Croatian supporters.

UEFA says what was going to be the second leg in Zagreb next Wednesday will now be the first leg. The second leg will be held in Athens on Friday 18th or Saturday 19th.

"UEFA deplores in the strongest possible terms the appalling incidents



Jamaica's Deneisha Blackwood, (left), and Colombia's Carolina Arias vie for the ball during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Jamaica and Colombia in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)



A Morocco fan reacts ahead of the 16th soccer match between France and Morocco in Adelaide, Australia. (AP)

Colombia moves to Sydney for a Saturday knockout match against European champion England, which advanced on penalties after a scoreless draw with Nigeria.

"The game against England, we came here to play seven finals," Usme said. "We're certain in our preparations. We're dreaming big. We know we can pull it off. We can do it."

Usme yelled in celebration after trapping a yellow pass from Ana Guzman and calmly finishing in the 52nd minute. When she was subbed off late in the game, the Colombia fans chanted her name and she bowed to the crowd.

Even when speaking to reporters afterward, Guzman and teammate Jorelyn Carabali broke into song.

The match in Melbourne was an anticipated showdown between Caicedo and Jamaican Khadija "Bunny" Shaw. In the end, though, it was Usme's emphatic goal that made the difference.

"We are three games away, but each time we get closer to the beautiful trophy that we really dream of. It's difficult but not impossible," Caicedo said. "I know we can do it, the team really dreams of it, we want it. There is no obstacle that we can't overcome."

Shaw was an attacking force with Manchester City last season, scoring 20 goals in 22 league games, but she went scoreless at the World Cup.

"Right now we're a bit low, because didn't want to end the tournament. But I'm proud of all my teammates," Shaw said. "A lot of people didn't think we'd make it this far."

"We just have to be proud of our performance and lift our heads up. The gap is closing."

The Reggae Girlz had just one goal in the competition. Allyson Swaby's header in a 1-0 victory over Panama, while Shaw sat out of that match because of a red card in the opener against France.

that took place in Athens last night and resulted in the loss of a life," it said in a statement. "While expressing our deepest sympathy to the family of the victim, to AEK Athens FC and its fans, we would like to reiterate that violence has no place in our sport and we expect that those responsible for this terrible act be arrested and consigned to justice in the shortest delay."

"Following yesterday's violence and in consultation with the local authorities, UEFA has decided that the conditions for the match between AEK Athens FC and GNK Dinamo to go ahead tonight are not met."

UEFA and Greek authorities had anticipated problems in the Greek capital city with back-to-back nights of Champions League qualifying games involving visiting fans with a reputation for disorder.

As a result, UEFA had requested that no tickets should be sold to visiting fans for both the AEK-Dinamo game on Tuesday and the Panathinaikos-Marseille match on Wednesday.