



Pay traffic fines before departure

Emerging economies push to end dollar's dominance



In this picture released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, (left), meets with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, (right), in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Friday, Aug. 18, 2023. Iran's foreign minister traveled to Saudi Arabia on Thursday, marking the first trip to the kingdom by Tehran's top diplomat in years after the two nations reached a détente with Chinese mediation. (AP)

ABUJA, Aug 19, (AP): Business has vanished at Kingsley Odafe's clothing shop in Nigeria's capital, forcing him to lay off three employees.

One culprit for his troubles stands out: The U.S. dollar's strength against the Nigerian currency, the naira, has pushed the price of garments and other foreign goods beyond the reach of local consumers. A bag of imported clothes costs three times what it did two years ago. The price these days is running around 350,000 naira, or \$450.

"There are no sales anymore because people have to eat first before thinking of buying clothes," Odafe said.

Across the developing world, many countries are fed up with America's dominance of the global financial system - especially the power of the dollar. They will air their grievances next week as the BRICS bloc of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa meet with other emerging market countries in Johannesburg, South Africa.

But griping about King Dollar is easier than actually deposing the de facto world currency.

The dollar is by far the most-used currency in global business and has shrugged off past challenges to its preeminence.

Despite repeated talk of the BRICS countries rolling out their own currency, no concrete proposals have emerged in the run-up to the summit starting Tuesday. Emerging economies have, however, discussed expanding trade in their own currencies to reduce their reliance on the buck.

Alternatives

At a meeting of BRICS foreign ministers in June, South Africa's Naledi Pandor said the bloc's New Development Bank will seek alternatives "to the current internationally traded currencies" - a euphemism for the dollar. Pandor was sitting alongside Russia's Sergey Lavrov and China's Ma Xiaoxu - representatives of two countries that are especially eager to weaken America's international financial clout.

The BRICS grouping dates to 2009. Originally, it was just BRIC, a term coined by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill to refer to the rising economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China. South Africa joined in 2010, adding the "S" to the name. More than 20 countries - including Saudi Arabia, Iran and Venezuela - have expressed interest in joining BRICS.

In 2015, the BRICS countries launched the New Development Bank - an alternative to the U.S. and European-dominated International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"Developing nations are itching to loosen the grip of Western dominance and open the door to a new world order where the East commands equal, if not greater, influence," said Martin Ssempe, a Ugandan political activist who has defended a law Uganda passed this year prescribing the death penalty for some homosexual acts.

The legislation prompted the World Bank to announce this month that it was halting new lending to the East African country.

Critics in the developing world are especially uneasy about America's willingness to use the dollar's global influence to impose financial sanctions against adversaries - as it did to Russia after the invasion of Ukraine last year.

Fluctuations

They also complain that fluctuations in the dollar can destabilize their economies. A rising dollar, for instance, can cause chaos abroad by drawing investment out of other countries. It also increases the cost of repaying loans denominated in dollars and buying imported products, which are often priced in dollars.

Kenyan President William Ruto has grumbled this year about Africa's dependence on the dollar and the economic fallout from its ups and downs, while the Kenyan shilling plunges in value. He's urged African leaders to join a fledgling pan-African payments system that uses local currencies in a push to encourage more trade.

"How is U.S. dollars part of the trade between Djibouti and Kenya? Why?" he asked at a meeting, to applause.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has supported a common currency for commerce within the South American bloc Mercosur and for trade among BRICS nations.

"Why does Brazil need the dollar to trade with China or Argentina? We can trade in our currency," he told reporters this month.

But if the dollar's drawbacks are easily apparent, the alternatives to it are not.

"At the end of the day, if you want to keep your reserve safe, you've got to put it in the dollar," said Daniel Bradlow, a senior research fellow at the University of Pretoria and a lawyer specializing in international finance. "You're going to need to borrow in dollars. Everybody can see all the problems with doing this, but if there was an alternative, people would use it."

As it stands, 96% of trade in the Americas from 1999 to 2019 was invoiced in dollars, 74% of trade in Asia and 79% everywhere else, outside of Europe, which has the euro, according to calculations by U.S. Federal Reserve researchers.

Ministry moves to collect debts owed by expats

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (Agencies): The Ministry of Interior decided that the expatriate workers have to pay the registered traffic fines before leaving Kuwait whatever the cause of departure might be.

The decision, effective from today, (Saturday), falls in the framework of measures to collect the Ministry's debts owed by expatriates pursuant to Act 17 (1959) and Act 67 (1976), the Ministry's General Directorate of Security Relations and Media said in a press release on Friday.

The payments can be made online or via the traffic departments countrywide, and the offices at land, maritime and air border outlets, including Kuwait air-

port, according to the statement.

The ministry has called on everyone to abide by the established legal provisions and not to violate them, saying it will not hesitate to carry out its duty to maintain security and public order in the country.

Meanwhile, the General Traffic Department during a security campaign in several parts of the country has impounded 36 vehicles and towed them to the ministry's garage, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, according to the GTD sources these vehicles were found to be dilapidated or damaged (not road worthy).

During the two-day campaign, which lasted for several hours also resulted in the issuance of 400 security and durability violations.



Divers make their way to Kuwait coast as they wrap up the six-day traditional diving trip.

Photo by Mohamed Morse

Kuwait pearl diving trip draws to a close

Organized by the Kuwaiti Sea Sports Club under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the six-day 32nd pearl diving trip came to a close on Thursday.

The event, which kicked-started on Saturday, is primarily meant to revive the tradition of Kuwaiti forefathers and reflect the great sacrifices they had offered for the sake of their homeland.

The traditional diving trip drew 60 young divers on two diving dhows.

The concluding ceremony was attended by Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban, representing His Highness the Amir, and UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis and the club's chairman Fahad Al-Fahad.

Addressing the ceremony, the minister said the event reflected the woes and suffering of Kuwait ancestors during their pear diving trips, in addition to the values of national sea tradition. He commended the Amiri patronage of this event as clear-cut proof of the leadership's

eagerness to revive the country's tradition and mirrored the struggle of forefathers for the sake of their nation.

The minister addressed the participating young divers by voicing confidence that they would be able to lead Kuwait and its institutions to a prosperous development future.

For her part, UK Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis said in a press statement that this traditional trip had shown Kuwait's adherence to its past and heritage, saying that she was happy to be present at this significant event. (KUNA)

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: The State of Kuwait Consulate General in Los Angeles, the US, has appealed to Kuwaiti citizens present in southern California, western Arizona and Nevada, to take precautions vis a vis an incoming hurricane.

The consulate, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday, urged the Kuwaiti citizens in these American regions to follow up on local authorities' instructions as a precaution against the hurricane, Hilary, expected to make landfall on Sunday and Monday.

The consulate also urged the Kuwaitis to contact it on the phone number: 13102793644+. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Embassy of Kuwait in Canada called on Kuwaiti citizens living in areas affected by forest fires in western Canada, specifically the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, to take caution and stay away from the fires.

A statement from the embassy on Friday called for adherence to the instructions of the local authorities and the need to communicate with them in case of emergency via phone number (+1 6135136576). (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has applauded visit by the Iranian Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, to Saudi Arabia and the meeting with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud.

The visit reflects the two countries' keenness on restoring the normal bilateral relations and their commitment to preserve the region's security and stability, minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah said. (KUNA)

STOCKHOLM: Sweden raised its terror alert to the second-highest level on Thursday after a string of public desecrations of the Quran sparked angry demonstrations across Muslim countries and threats from militant groups.

The Swedish Security Service, known as SÄPO, lifted the "terror threat level" one notch to "high," the fourth of five levels, for the first time since 2016. (AP)

DOHA: Qatar on Thursday condemned a raid by Israeli forces in the northern West Bank city of Jenin, which left one Palestinian dead amid an increased wave of violence.

The incident is the latest in a chain of "systematic violence" on the part of Israeli forces, besides being a "flagrant violation" of international laws and conventions, said a foreign ministry statement. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees says it has decided to suspend all of its services in Lebanon's largest refugee camp on Friday in protest against the presence of gunmen in its facilities.

UNRWA's decision went into effect shortly before noon Friday at the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp near the southern port city of Sidon. Services will resume Saturday, UNRWA said. (AP)

NIAMEY, Niger: Eleven West African nations have agreed to commit troops to a military deployment aimed at restoring Niger's democratically elected president following last month's coup, an official for the regional bloc said Friday after a defense ministers meeting.

The ECOWAS bloc previously announced its intention to deploy a force to reinstate President Mohamed Bazoum, who has been under house arrest since he was overthrown by members of the presidential guard July 26.

But the 15-member bloc had not detailed which countries would join, nor has it said when the force might enter Niger. (AP)

Meet on POWs, 'missing' in Oct

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait HE Al-Manhal Al-Safi announced that the Tripartite Committee concerned with following up on the file of missing Kuwaiti POWs and nationals of other countries convened in Kuwait at the beginning of this August, in the presence of representatives from Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the US, Britain, France and the International Committee of the Red Cross, praising the results as positive and fruitful, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He pointed out that this meeting confirms all the measures agreed upon in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and memoranda of understanding between the two countries. He added, the next meeting of the committee will be held in Baghdad next October.

In other news, he stated that the Iraqi Council of Ministers has issued a decision regarding granting entry visas to Kuwaitis and citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries through the Iraqi embassies in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and upon arrival at the land, border and air ports in Iraq, from August 14 to September 16.

The Iraqi ambassador affirmed that work is ongoing between Kuwait and Iraq to strengthen historical relations and cooperation in all fields.

Zelensky visits NATO candidate Sweden Russian missile hits Chernihiv, kills 7

KYIV, Aug 19, (AP): A missile attack in the center of a northern Ukrainian city killed seven people and wounded scores of others on Saturday, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky traveled to Sweden, his first visit to the country since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year.

As Zelensky arrived in Sweden, a Russian missile strike killed seven people and wounded 117 others in the city center of Chernihiv, the regional capital of the northern Ukrainian province of the same name, acting mayor Oleksandr Lomako said. A 6-year-old girl was among the dead, while the wounded included 12 children.

Zelensky condemned the attack, which he said hit buildings including a theater and a university. "This is what a neighborhood with a terrorist state is, this is what we unite the whole world against. A Russian missile hit right in the center of the city, in our Chernihiv," he wrote on Telegram. "A square, the polytechnic university, a theater. An ordinary Saturday, which Russia turned into a day of pain and loss."

The Swedish government said Zelensky will meet of-



An injured man walks in Krasna square with the Taras Shevchenko Chernihiv Regional Academic Music and Drama Theatre in the background, after a Russian attack, in Chernihiv, Ukraine, Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023. (AP)

KNET launches SoftPOS App

— Details Page 6 —

ABK to raise capital by 26.7%

— Details Page 7 —

Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:54	Asr	15:27
Sunrise ..	05:18	Maghrib ..	18:25
Zohr	11:52	Isha	19:47

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot, partly cloudy & relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-35 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot and

Weather

humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-28 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	44	34

Kuwait Airport	45	32
Abdaly	46	32
Jahra	47	34
Salmiyah	39	36
Ahmadi	38	34
Nuwaisib	45	32
Wafra	47	31

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

MoE undecided on inaugurating schools as countdown begins

'Plan to open new schools in Khairan residential area in limbo'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: With the start of the countdown to the new academic year 2023/2024, the Ahmadi Educational Zone has found itself involved in a controversy with the residents of the Khairan residential area who are anxiously awaiting the opening of four new schools in their area, reports Al-Rai daily.

Some leading and parliamentary figures had made promises to them regarding the launch of these schools as soon as possible. The Ministry of Education has completed maintenance and restoration work in all its facilities, and has issued decisions to name them. However, no decision has yet been issued to operate them.

According to an educational source, none of the four schools has yet been furnished or provided with the necessary equipment. However, there are security guards, and there is no problem with furnishing it during the current time if sufficient furniture is available.

Previously, the lack of security in the premises had led to vandalism, which occurred during the handover process between the Ministry of Education and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare.

The residents of the area knocked on all doors for the opening of the aforementioned schools, which were under investigation in the Public Prosecution and the legal sector of the ministry due to the vandalism incidents that they were exposed to more than a decade ago.

Despite the government's keen interest in opening these schools and bringing them into service as soon as possible, there are no signs in this regard, especially since they are not included among the new schools that will enter service in the new academic year.

In March, the administration of Ahmadi Educational Zone issued a general bulletin for all its educational levels regarding listing the desires of transfer to the schools of the residential city of Khairan, and requested that the form for students be circulated to all schools, stressing the need to fill out the attached form with its bulletin based on the wishes of the students and send it to the department for planning and information.

The source revealed, "Many leading and parliamentary figures and some public figures visited the aforementioned area and inspected its service facilities. They also made promises to the people to end their suffering, but there is nothing new until this moment."

The file of operating schools occupies the top of the list in the suffering of its residents. Determining the date for its entry into service will alleviate much of this suffering."

On the other hand, the source revealed the opening of two new kindergartens in the Sabah Al-Ahmad area.

He explained that the ministry has issued decisions for naming them. They have been provided with the necessary furniture, equipment and technologies.

There is an escalation of requests to replace damaged furniture in all educational areas, but it does not amount to a furniture crisis in any of them.

The source indicated that the first batch of teachers will arrive in the country starting from the end of this month, adding that internal transfers are still valid in some educational zones.

He said compulsory transfer is included in all areas according to the deficit and surplus, the number of schools that will enter service, and the extent of their need from the educational body.

'Awqaf' defends staff: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs confirmed that the Imams and Muezzins fulfill their duties and do their work properly, indicating they are obliged to coordinate whenever someone is on leave, to ensure the smooth flow of work, reports Al-Rai daily.

Director of the Capital Mosques Administration Abdul Hameed Al-Mutairi issued a circular recently. The circular stressed the need for all workers assigned in mosques, including the Imams and Muezzins, to make the necessary arrangements among themselves to avoid the disruption of operations when someone goes on leave. It stated that the substitutes should be committed to ensure they carry out the tasks of those on leave.

'Rejected by family and friends'

'Forgotten patients' burden on govt expenses & medical staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The story of the "forgotten patients" on public hospital beds in the country is not new. Its chapters are being renewed day after day, exhausting the medical and nursing cadres. The budget allocated to the Ministry of Health incurs a lot of expenses for the treatment and care of these patients, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Ministry of Health has been studying and preparing the requirements of its new development projects, which it intends to launch in the next stage, and allocating the necessary manpower to operate them. However, it is facing obstacles in terms of the recurring file related to these forgotten patients who stay for years in its facilities, and drain the efforts and energies of its medical and nursing staff on a daily basis.

This happens amid rejection of their families or friends to receive them.

According to doctors and nurses, the number of such patients has increased to 270, costing the budget about KD 1.8 million annually for their care.

Humanitarian

Under humanitarian, legal, and sometimes social reasons, the ministry employees have been continuing their efforts to serve these patients, even though hospitals suffer from a lack of beds, which are used by these patients in more than one hospital.

According to health sources, about 270 patients of different nationalities, including Kuwaitis, Gulf nationals and Asians, were abandoned by their families and embassies, and they remained in various hospitals in the country for many years, despite being given permission to leave.

Among these are children left behind by their families. The spending on some of these cases is done with "self-help" provided by the medical and nursing staff who opt to purchase equipment and supplies for a number of patients. They also volunteer to pay the travel expenses and the cost of airline tickets for the expatriate patients, after finding solutions to deal with them becomes impossible.

The sources expressed regret that some embassies did not respond to the calls of the hospitals' public relations and social service departments to visit their citizens who have been in hospitals for years, and discuss ways to get them out of the hospitals and sent to their families inside or outside the country. This confuses the employees and raises the level of pressure on them on a daily basis.

They highlighted some criminal practices in terms of some of the patient's relatives providing the hospital with false data about the patient so that the one who admitted them in the ward is not contacted and the patient receives the necessary health care. There are cases of elderly patients who are registered in the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs but whose children receive their allowances, while these patients stay for long periods in the hospital wings without being visited by any of their family members!

A number of doctors and nurses, who preferred not to mention their names, explained that the total number of "forgotten patients" in public hospitals, which currently is approximately 251, keep fluctuating due to the death of some of them or the success of the nursing staff in convincing their families to take them home or sponsor the transfer of others to their country.

The latest statistics showed that there were ten such cases in Farwaniya Hospital including two Gulf nationals, 35 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, 38 in Amiri Hospital, and 46 in Adan Hospital. The old building of Jahra Hospital has 122 cases of forgotten patients, including 99 elderly (42 Kuwaitis and 57 non-Kuwaitis), and 23 children (11 Kuwaitis and 12 non-Kuwaitis). There are about 19 patients in other hospitals.

Regarding the reasons that cause people to be stripped of human feelings and abandon their relative in the hospital, the hospital staff said some of them are related to the lack of specific medical devices such as respirators at home, and the unwillingness to buy these devices or allocate a male or female nurse to follow up the medical condition of the patient.

They revealed that the cost for the healthcare of a patient who has recovered but is still in hospital amounts to KD 458 per year, and the cost of caring for some cases inside medical wards is KD 200 per day.

The doctors and nurses narrated a sad story regarding the condition of these forgotten patients. They revealed about the death of an Asian patient who had been admitted in the cardiology unit of the Amiri Hospital on January 6, and was later transferred to a ward, but was never once visited by either his family members or friends.

Throughout his stay in the ward, the nursing staff had been working to secure his needs, and had exerted efforts to allocate a nurse to accompany him when he returned to his home country. However, he passed away before the process could start.

Charity

The doctors highlighted the great role played by charity organizations in addressing part of the repercussions of the forgotten patients file. Some of them were keen to communicate with the public relations and social service departments in hospitals to discuss ways to pay the cost of health care provided for some expatriate cases as well as paying for their flight tickets and securing their access to their homes.

Health sources revealed that some medical and nursing staff collect money from donors and from zakat and alms money for buying equipment and tickets and for paying for the stay of some expatriates in hospitals, adding that this may also include sending a nurse to accompany the patient, given their difficulty in traveling on the plane alone due to their poor health.

The sources stressed the need for the concerned authorities, especially the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs and the relevant embassies to find a solution to the phenomenon of prolonged hospitalization.

MP queries talk on 'Al-Durra'

Provide list of vacant positions: Al-Mulla

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff



KUNA photo
Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Dr. Khaled Mahdi.

'All govt agencies must play role'

Bid to motivate 'special' people

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): The Supreme Council for Planning and Development held on Thursday the second coordination meeting to organize the upcoming conference (Integration of Persons with Disabilities in the Goals of Sustainable Development), due to be held on November 13 to 15.

The meeting will discuss the achievements and suggested future projects of the competent authorities participating in the conference, to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in the fields of media, entertainment and health.

In this regard, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr. Khaled Mahdi said that the meeting aims to discuss the axes and objectives of the conference and to identify the speakers.

The main committee will include a work team from the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), and the Global Training Portal, in addition to a team from Yarmouk Health City, he explained.

The conference aims also to contribute to achieving the goals of the pillars of the new Kuwait Vision 2035 and some articles of international agreements for persons with disabilities, he added.

"This would include changing the stereotyped image towards people with disabilities to motivate them to play their roles in society in all fields and to enhance their mental health".

Mahdi pointed out the importance of de-

veloping an interactive partnership between government agencies, the private sector, civil society and individuals to adopt useful strategies to improve the lives of persons with disabilities.

For her part, the Director General of the Global Training Portal, Kifaya Al-Alban, expressed her aspirations that the meeting will end with applicable recommendations, stressing the keenness of the State of Kuwait to include persons with disabilities in society in accordance with its national policies and programs to enhance the capabilities of citizens and institutions.

In the same context, Director of the Marketing and Public Relations Department at KUNA, Issam Al-Ruwaihi, said that the agency takes great care to ensure the delivery of correct information from its source to its recipients, and plays a vital role at all levels.

In a statement to KUNA on the sidelines of the meeting, Al-Ruwaihi added that the agency, in cooperation with the global training portal, contributes to covering the news, especially preparing for the next conference in mid-November.

He pointed out that this would ensure that the information would be highlighted and transmitted to the largest segment of society.

The conference will be held from November 13 to 15 at the Conference Center in Sabah Al-Salem University City - Kuwait University (Al-Shaddiya), and will include a series of interactive scientific lectures, dialogue sessions, panel discussions, and an exhibition accompanying the conference.



KUNA photo
Heavy clouds gather over Kuwait City.

Slight rain, hail in some areas

The Director of the Meteorological Department, Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi, said Kuwait Friday, was affected by a proliferation of low and medium clouds, interspersed with formations of cumulus clouds, thunderstorms, slight drizzle and hail in some areas, reports Al-Rai daily.

This was accompanied by wind activity exceeding 55 kilometers per hour, causing dust, reducing horizontal visibility while in some areas sea waves were as high as 6 feet.

Al-Qarawi expects this situation to continue today, attributing the reason

for this situation to the country being affected by the extension of the seasonal India depression, which brings with it a hot and humid air mass.

Meanwhile, the Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) said it dealt with three separate incidents as the unstable weather Friday evening 'uprooted' trees in some areas blocking the roads including in Salmiya and Doha, reports Al-Rai daily.

Firemen were seen clearing the roads to resume normal traffic flow.

'Area monitored by satellite'

'No oil pollution in Kuwait waters'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Engineer Samira Al-Kandari affirmed the lack of oil pollution in the Kuwaiti territorial waters, reports Al-Rai daily.

Eng. Al-Kandari explained that information was received from the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment and from the Mutual Assistance Center for Maritime Emergencies on Thursday about monitoring through satellite images a site in the Kuwaiti territorial waters that is suspected of oil pollution.

The Coast Guard Department affiliated to the Ministry of Interior surveyed the marine area but no oil pollution was detected. The

area was also surveyed by the marine operations group of the Kuwait Oil Company, and no pollution was detected in the area.

The coastal area opposite the site was surveyed by a team from the Environment Public Authority, and no pollutants were detected, except for the observation of the proliferation of a type of seaweed on the coast of Mangaf.

Eng. Al-Kandari expressed appreciation for the effective response of the Coast Guard operations, and for the keenness of the Maritime Operations Group affiliated to Kuwait Oil Company to follow up the issue and for its continuous cooperation with the EPA.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: MP Bader Al-Mulla has forwarded queries to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari about the interview of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Saad Al-Barrak with Al-Ekhabariya TV on July 10, 2023; during which he talked about issues related to Al-Durra offshore oil field and Iran.

The lawmaker inquired if Al-Barrak coordinated with the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah before his interview, if it is true that he expressed the views of the council during the interview, date of the meeting when the council approved the context of the interview, if the Foreign Affairs Ministry instructed Al-Barrak to deal with this issue, and if any ministry allowed him to tackle issues under their jurisdiction in such interviews.

Al-Mulla also asked all ministers to provide him with the number of vacant supervisory positions in their respective ministries, number of officials nominated for these positions and copies of relevant correspondences with the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Entity

MP Hamdan Al-Azmi asked all ministers about the entity in charge of protecting and saving data in their respective ministries, copies of contracts if the entities are private, value of each contract, programs used, tasks of such entities, if these entities are allowed to transmit information outside the country through overseas servers, if there is a way to copy the saved information or upload it on overseas servers, procedures for the protection of national data, criteria for securing the database, and if the ministries and their subsidiaries have contingency plans in case of hacking.

MP Muhammad Al-Regaib asked all ministers about the number of violations recorded by the State Audit Bureau (SAB) regarding the budget of every ministry in the last five years, number of violations referred to Public Prosecution, disciplinary action taken against the officials involved in the violations and measures taken to prevent the repetition of violations.

MP Saad Al-Khanfour asked Minister of Housing Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba about the rationale behind the reduction of plots in South Qairawan housing project from 2,300 to 400 despite the government's promise to provide more than 2,300 houses. He wants to know if the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has coordinated with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to remove the trees in the South Qairawan housing project site.

MP Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi asked Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari; Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and State Minister for Economic and Investment Affairs and acting Minister of Finance Saad Al-Barrak, State Minister for Communication Affairs Fahd Al-Shola, Minister of Health Ahmed Al-Awadhi, Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz, Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Othman Al-Aiban, and Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba about the decision of the Council of Ministers on Sept 6, 2021 to assign the CSC to study the mechanism for the assessment and nomination to leadership positions. He said the decision included the new criteria for granting incentives and allowances to senior officials based on their achievements, and speed up the establishment of training centers to develop the capabilities of senior and executive officials. He demanded for copies of all decisions issued by the Council of Ministers and CSC in this regard and if the latter has completed its task.

The lawmaker also asked Al-Barrak to provide him with the average daily oil production of Kuwait and United Arab Emirates from 2000 till date and factors that led to the reduction of Kuwait's oil production, steps taken by Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation (KNPC) to increase oil production, list of oilfields facing difficulties and need the help of international companies, average production of these oilfields in 2000 compared to their production in 2022, copies of bills submitted by the government on seeking assistance from international oil companies; and request of KNPC to seek assistance from international companies referred to the Council of Ministers, Higher Petroleum Council and Assembly.

Airport

On the Municipal Council's approval of the request to allocate land in the North for the construction of a new international airport, Al-Saqabi asked the concerned minister to provide him with a copy of the opinion of the Executive Department at Kuwait Municipality regarding the decision, exact location and size of the proposed new airport, and if the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has been consulted about the project.

He asked Minister of Health Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi about the technical study on the launching of the prescription platform called 'Wasfa', report of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority about the platform, reason for launching the platform through a public tender instead of assigning the task to the concerned professionals employed at the ministry like the 'Shlonik' platform, and cost of designing and managing the platform.

He asked Bugamaz to provide him with a copy of the study on developing the Fourth Ring Road including the time table for completing the project.

MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf asked HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah about law number 47/1982 on the establishment of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) as a subsidiary of Ministry of Finance. He wants to know if it is true that the previous finance minister resigned due to the decision to transfer KIA to the Ministry of Oil and rationale behind the transfer, especially since it is a violation of law number 47/1982.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'One MP's threat over proposal seen effective than that of twelve'

"THE foremost attribute of a parliamentary representative lies in their honesty and courage, prioritizing the people's welfare over financial considerations and resisting manipulation from external forces. They should stand independent and steadfast, impervious to external pressures," columnist **Hussein Al-Rawi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"People possess a finely tuned extended memory, capturing both positive and negative attitudes towards them. Those who demonstrate positive sentiments are etched in luminous letters, while those with adverse sentiments are engraved in less favorable terms.

"With unflinching resolve, Jenan Busheri gripped a bowling ball, raising it high with focused intent. Her target: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Issa Al-Kandari. Before throwing the ball, Jenan locked her gaze onto the government and declared: It's either the exceptional pensions for ministers and leaders, or I'll unleash this ball at the symbolic minister, toppling him, with the rest of the government falling like dominoes one after another."

"Faced with this ultimatum, the government had no recourse but to reflect upon its decisions and seek a solution. Pleading with Jenan Busheri, they conceded: 'Your will, madam, is our command. Your concerns shall be addressed'. The contentious exceptional pension proposal was put on hold. Furthermore, the government pledged to review the strategic alternatives and pensions for employees and retirees.

"This situation brings to mind the stance taken by 12 deputies in the National Assembly -- Falah Al-Hajri, Mutaib Al-Rathan, Muhammad Al-Mahan, Khaled Al-Tamar, Abdul-Hadi Al-Ajmi, Hamad Al-Raqeeb, Mubarak Al-Tasha, Majid Al-Mutairi, Abdullah Fahad, Muhammad Hayef, Badr Sayyar, and Badr Al-Anzi.

"Their collective objection to the minister of education's decision to cease scholarships for medical specializations in Egypt and Jordan went unheeded. They implored the minister to reverse his decision.

"However, the minister of education remained steadfast, unmoved by their fervent appeals and fiery threats. Despite MP Miteb Al-Rathan's warning that 'the consequences will be severe if this approach isn't immediately rectified', the minister remained unfazed, and MP's threats were similarly ineffectual.

"Why did Jenan Busheri, a lone individual, succeed in compelling the government to halt the exceptional pension initiative, while a group of 12 male MPs failed to sway the minister of education on the matter of scholarships, despite the latter's issue was of less importance than the decision on exceptional pensions?!"

Also:

"The State of Kuwait is currently grappling with the proliferation of religious traffickers and Islamist influences. The prevailing religious extremism, which has infiltrated all aspects of the state, defies comprehension through reason or logic," columnist **Thanayan Al-Aboud** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Recent times have witnessed perplexing proposals from certain members of the National Assembly, with one of the most baffling being the suggestion

to enforce Islamic regulations as a prerequisite for participating in electoral processes, whether for men or women.

"This raises a fundamental question about the correlation between a member's religious commitment and their potential contributions to the nation in terms of progress and development.

"Moreover, how can a diverse country that embraces citizens of various faiths and sects impose specific religious prerequisites?"

"Concurrently, Kuwait's deputies persist in perceiving the nation as more conservative than neighboring states. Regrettably, as our neighboring countries expand their tourism initiatives, enhance individual freedoms, and foster economic and touristic growth, we seem reluctant to accept those who hold differing viewpoints.

"Intellectually and culturally, we seem to relish the role of an inquisitor, penalizing those whom we perceive as deviating from our standards, be it in attire or lifestyle.

"One glaring instance of this custodianship is the stringent regulations imposed on foreigners and even citizens visiting Kuwaiti islands. These regulations extend to various facets, including attire. This stranglehold seems intent on artistically and culturally isolating Kuwait from neighboring nations, steering us back to times characterized by obscurity and ignorance.

"Furthermore, the consistent calls within every elected council to segregate males from females in universities and private schools exemplify a recurring pattern. This insistence on separation points toward a genuine inclination to squander public funds on constructing separate facilities for males and females.

"It is as though we find ourselves trapped in a bygone era of darkness and ignorance, where logical and respectful interaction between genders is prohibited.

"In conclusion, unless citizens remain vigilant to the encroaching dangers of extremism and religious intolerance within the country, the forthcoming period may witness a decline in cultural, urban, and economic spheres. Such an outcome is undoubtedly not in anyone's best interest."

□ □ □

"Reactions to the Lebanese Minister of Economy's statement continue to expand in Kuwait and Lebanon. In fact, some people have deliberately created a dome out of a grain as the proverb says, while the issue does not deserve such attention. The Lebanese minister made his statement with good intentions, but some are waiting for slips of the tongue that cut like a knife," columnist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Before the Lebanese minister made his statement on the port explosion, Kuwait already expressed its willingness to sponsor the rebuilding of grain silos. Kuwait, which built them 60 years ago, has the capability. It will not shirk fraternal and humanitarian work, especially if it concerns dear Lebanon -- the country and its people.

"In my opinion, the delay is not caused by Lebanon or Kuwait Development Fund, it is caused by Lebanese politicians and the successive crises there. Every morning, the Lebanese wake up to a new crisis and a new disgusting misery.

"The Lebanese, especially the poor and middle class, have hurled many accusations and endless suspicions at the Lebanese politicians and those with

billions of assets deposited in banks outside Lebanon. Thus, the truth got lost between this and that. Nevertheless, there is no smoke without fire, as the Lebanese are more knowledgeable about their politicians.

"Perhaps, the biggest factor that Lebanon has been exposed to and the basis of all crises is neither sectarianism nor tension, but external interference. Lebanon is not alone in being divided into about seventeen sects and religions. India, whose population has reached one and a half billion, is also divided into sects, religions, languages and dialects, some of which have no place in the human mind and others are the subject of a joke.

"Lebanon will not stabilize its people and achieve security unless all the Lebanese -- Muslims, Christians and other sects -- believe that their survival is part and parcel of the survival of Lebanon. Emigration is not the solution, as it is rather an escape from the absence of a solution.

"Three years or more have passed since the Beirut port bombing, yet the issue is still suspended in the tug of war between lies and truth, and between right and wrong, while everyone hurls accusations at the other.

"Kuwaiti officials affirmed that it is not a problem for Kuwait to rebuild the grain silos at the port since the money is ready. The Lebanese Minister of Economy repeated this statement. However, the delay is on the part of the Lebanese -- the Lebanese politicians, not the Kuwaitis. Kuwait cannot hand over its money to untrustworthy parties."

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"After the government-parliamentary success in approving some draft laws and achieving the long-awaited cooperation, attention is turning to Kuwait's vision in implementing promising projects that will put the Pearl of the Gulf back to its natural position," columnist **Dr Mubarak Al-Abdulhadi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"The most important step is addressing past failures, which obstructed the development wheel and many vital projects, hence, the need for accountability and a decisive move, especially with regard to major projects. It is vital to determine the reasons behind the delayed implementation of such projects despite the huge amount spent on them.

"It is also important to reconsider the companies that failed to meet the deadline for completing projects despite the long period specified for this purpose. We are waiting for a feasible vision at a time countries that announced their development renaissance years after success in implementing, approving and launching projects that are bigger than ours.

"We are still facing promises and dreams. We do not know when they will be fulfilled. This file, which is in the hands of the executive authority, has become an important matter. This issue is neither a word repeated from time to time nor a slogan adopted to ease tension and pass it on to the street, which is tired of waiting while monitoring developments in neighboring countries, which have become more attractive to tourists.

"Meanwhile, we are still wandering around the malls -- the only outlet for us to get out of boredom, gloom and deadly routine. Others are spending on tourism in their countries, while we continue to suffer from crowding at the airport and rising ticket prices to escape from the heat and seek relief due to the lack of entertainment for families eagerly waiting for the summer vacation."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Indian Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika aboard the INS VISAKHAPATNAM.



Schoolchildren waving the Indian flag.

'New chapter added to bilateral navy to navy co-op'

Indian Naval Ship VISAKHAPATNAM docks at Kuwait's Al-Shuwaikh Port

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Indian Naval Ship (INS) VISAKHAPATNAM arrived at Al-Shuwaikh Port for an Operational Turn Around visit on Aug 19, 2023. The visit of the ship adds a new chapter to the bilateral navy to navy cooperation, says a press release issued by the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

It is in continuation of the increased maritime cooperation witnessed during 2021 with five Indian Naval Ships visiting Kuwait for transporting liquid medical Oxygen followed by visit of INS TEG in July 2022 and three ships from First Training Squadron having a Port Call at Kuwait in October 2022.

INS VISAKHAPATNAM is the

lead ship and the first of the Visakhapatnam class stealth guided missile destroyers. Built indigenously by Mazagon Dock Limited, the ship was commissioned on 21 November 2021 and is one of the largest destroyers in service with Indian Navy.

This 164m ship is fitted with the most advanced state of the art navigation and communication equipment, sensors, radars and electronic warfare capability. The ship is equipped to carry two Helicopters. Rear Admiral Vineet S McCarthy, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet is also onboard the ship.

During its three days of Port Call, various professional and training interactions are planned with Kuwait Naval forces. The ship

will also be kept open for visit by Indian citizens and schoolchildren besides hosting various cultural activities. On Aug 22, there will be a PASSEX conducted with Kuwait navy.

Visit of INS Visakhapatnam to Kuwait is a testimony of the historic maritime partnership which has contributed towards building the strong India-Kuwait partnership.

The visit highlights Indian Navy's commitment to establish cooperative partnerships with friendly countries, particularly in the Indian Ocean region to combat maritime challenges together. It is also expected to further strengthen the defense ties between the two countries.

15 people nabbed with drugs, firearms, counterfeit money

Mol refers 30 expats to deportation center

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior (Mol) announced that the criminal security sector, represented by the General Department of Anti-Drug Trafficking, managed to arrest 15 people of different nationalities in possession of narcotics, psychotropic substances, alcohol bottles, firearms and counterfeit money.

Mol said in a press release issued by the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media, Friday, that this comes as a continuation of the ministry's efforts to combat drugs, psychotropic substances and intoxicants, and to track down their smugglers.

There were 10 separate confiscations, such as possession of about 6.150 kilograms of various drugs, 763 psychotropic pills, 145 bottles of alcohol, two firearms, money from sale proceeds, and counterfeit money, it explained.

By confronting the defendants with what was seized in their possession, they admitted that it belonged to them with the intent of drug trafficking and abuse, it added.

It emphasized that the criminal security forces are continuing to crack down on drug dealers and protect and preserve society from these dangerous pests, underlining the need for concerted efforts to eliminate drug dealers.

It urged everyone to cooperate with the security men and report any negative phenomena to the emergency phone number 112 and the hotline of the General Department of Anti-Drug Trafficking at 1884141.

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30 for deportation: The Criminal Security Sector of the Ministry of Interior have referred 30 expatriates to the Administrative Deportation Department.

The Al-Anba daily said 21 Asians were arrested for trafficking in imported and locally-made alcohol. Most of the arrests were made in Khaitan, Farwaniya, Hawalli and Salmiya.

The daily added, during the campaign the CID men also arrested nine violators of residence and labor laws.

Military man held with bottles of liquor

'Karak' tea vendor arrested, restaurant legally shut down

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The security authorities raided a restaurant in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh serving 'Karak' tea and administratively shut down the place for using government subsidized milk to prepare tea, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily said the raid was in continuation of efforts of the concerned authorities to ensure restaurants and eateries adhere to Municipality rules and regulations. The daily added, the owner of the restaurant was also penalized for storing stolen government subsidized foodstuffs including approximately 100 cans of powdered milk.

An Asian who manages the business in the restaurant was also arrested and during interrogation he admitted to buying subsidized milk from makeshift markets operated by Asians in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area at a cheap price and uses it to make 'Karak' tea.

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Drug addict held: Security men have arrested a Kuwaiti citizen for consuming

and possessing narcotic substances. The Al-Anba daily said the man, who attempted to escape, was arrested at a checkpoint Thursday evening in the city of Jaber Al-Ahmad, after his attempt to escape failed.

The suspect who is in his thirties has been handed over to the Directorate-General for Drugs Control along with the seizures -- shabu, chemicals, and narcotic pills.

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Military man arrested: The Najdat Al-Ahmadi patrolmen have arrested a Kuwaiti working for a military establishment at one of the border crossings, reports Al-Anba daily.

Security sources said the man was arrested in Mahboula for driving under the influence of alcohol and during a check of the vehicle police found two bottles of booze -- one locally made and the other imported.

He has been referred, along with the seized liquor, to the competent authorities.

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Photos during the 78th anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia's independence day celebration at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait.

Indonesian Embassy celebrates Independence Day with 'Indonesian Folk Festival'

Coinciding with the 78th anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia's independence day which falls on August 17, 2023, the Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait collaborated with the Indonesian Diaspora in Kuwait held an Indonesian Folk Festival with the theme "Amazing Nusantara" which is mean amazing archipelago. The event was attended by around 500 visitors con-

sisting of invited guests from the ASEAN ambassadors, Asian dialogue partners, several international organizations in Kuwait, several local government agencies, and Indonesian community in Kuwait. The opening ceremony started at 09.00 am with the cutting of the "tumpeng" and a speech from the Indonesian Ambassador H.E. Lena Maryana, then followed by an

inspection of the culinary booth by the Indonesian ambassador together with the invited guests. The visitors to the festival were presented with traditional dance performances, traditional fashion shows, culinary exhibitions, and live music from the Indonesian community in Kuwait. Several traditional game competitions were also performed during the festival activities.

Emirati Tolerance Minister lauds Al-Afasy's ECOSOC membership

ABU DHABI, Aug 19, (KUNA): Emirati Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al-Nahyan praised Kuwait's Quranic Reciter Meshary Al-Afasy for the achievement of obtaining the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) membership. Emirates News Agency (WAM) quoted Sheikh Nahyan as saying during a meeting with Sheikh Meshary that Al-Afasy is one of the prominent Islamic and Arab personalities, and his societal and humanitarian contributions made him one of the most influential names in the Arab world. He also pointed to Al-Afasy's role

in spreading the message of Islam, tolerance, coexistence, human goodwill and peace. For his part, Al-Afasy hailed Sheikh Nahyan's tireless and continuous efforts in spreading a culture of tolerance, coexistence and human goodwill. Last week, Mishary Al-Afasy joined the Creators Union of Arab (CUA), thus obtaining the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) membership. Al-Asafy, who is the Imam of Kuwait's Grand Mosque, was honored, in recognition of his pioneering path globally as one of the most outstanding dignitaries.

MoCI confirms it does not request any data for OTP code, password

Ministry calls on citizens, residents to exercise caution

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry confirmed that the fraud operations that some citizens and residents were subjected to were not carried out through the official website of the Ministry or through its social networking sites, which ensure the prevention of fraud by blocking suspect websites, reports Al-Rai daily.

The ministry has called on citizens and residents to exercise caution when conducting any operations via the Internet, by checking the official electronic address of the ministry. The ministry's statement came in a statement following complaints from a number of citizens and residents who said they have been cheated. Earlier, the ministry confirmed that it does not request any data for bank accounts such as the OTP code or the password, warning against dealing with any site that requests financial data.

API keen to open channels of communication

Bahraini Ministry of Youth Affairs' Al-Hadi extols distinguished youth ties with Kuwait

MANAMA, Aug 19, (KUNA): Assistant Undersecretary for Support and Initiatives at the Bahraini Ministry of Youth Affairs Saud Al-Hadi extolled on Friday the distinguished youth ties between his country and Kuwait. Al-Hadi made the remark while welcoming visiting Director General of the Kuwaiti Arab Planning Institute (API) Dr. Bader Malallah, and an expert from API Faisal Al-Monawer. During the meeting, Al-Hadi appreciated the keenness of API to open channels of communication with the Ministry of Youth Affairs to serve the strategies and objectives of the ministry and the institute alike. The meeting dealt with an explanation of API's objectives in supporting economic, social and youth development efforts in the Arab countries, preparing research and studies, providing advisory services and institu-

tional support, encouraging entrepreneurship and holding developmental meetings. Al-Hadi discussed with API's officials regarding ways of cooperation between both sides, and presented joint initiatives towards the youth. The ministry's strategy always seeks to create an ideal environment for discovering, refining and highlighting youth and emerging talents in various fields, Al-Hadi underscored. Meanwhile, Dr. Malallah acclaimed the great development witnessed by the youth movement in Bahrain and its achievement of outstanding achievements at all levels, stressing the keenness of API to cooperate with the Ministry of Youth Affairs to present multiple initiatives and programs that contribute to improving the skills of youth and supporting their projects and innovations.

More than 27% completion rate of public buildings in four plots of South Abdullah Al-Mubarak project

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Significant strides have been made in the advancement of the project pertaining to the finalization, construction, and upkeep of public structures situated in parcels 1, 4, 5, and 6 within the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak venture, reports Al-Anba daily. The progress achieved in tangible efforts has surpassed the 27.2% mark. Insiders have indicated that the project agreement

encompasses the erection of 6 educational institutions, encompassing 2 preschools, as well as 7 commercial outlets. Furthermore, it entails the establishment of 31 edifices designated for dispensing governmental services. In a recent update, "residential" announced the successful completion of installing secondary substations with a voltage rating of 0.433/11 kV.

Additionally, the ongoing efforts to extend medium and low-pressure cable networks are being acknowledged. Simultaneously, endeavors persist in the construction of a rainwater collection reservoir, and the initiation of activities tied to executing a supply contract, inclusive of the implementation and upkeep of road illumination systems within the project area.

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Kuwait continues global support to needy

World Humanitarian Day marked

By Salman Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): As the UN celebrates World Humanitarian Day on August 19, Kuwait marks the occasion by continuing to lend support to global humanitarian causes without showing signs of fatigue or tiredness.

Since independence some 60 years ago, Kuwaitis were known and continue to be people of a highly generous nature, providing assistance to all suffering from natural or manmade disasters.

This year's theme for World Humanitarian Day 2023 is the Human Race with the slogan "it takes a village" approved to display the necessity of cooperation amongst the people of the world.

The celebration is held on the 20th anniversary of the attack against the UN headquarters in Baghdad in 2003 where several casualties occurred during this sorrowful event.

Speaking on the global celebration, the Director General of the Direct Aid Society Dr. Abdullah Al-Sumait told KUNA that it was important to support humanitarian causes worldwide to provide a helping hand to those less fortunate.

He noted that the Direct Aid Society had set up a humanitarian strategy to counter poverty, ignorance, and disease in impoverished societies and isolate regions in some 30 African countries and Yemen.

He revealed that the society operated various programs in 745 African villages benefiting over three million individuals in accordance with statistics issues in 2017-23.

Some 88,000 orphans, 18,000 development projects,

26,000 wells, and 6,303 mosques, in addition to 335 schools, four universities, and six hospitals were all under the supervision of the Direct Aid Society in Africa, Al-Sumait revealed in regards to the tremendous they play in the content.

Similarly, Dr. Issa Al-Dhafiri -- Director General of the International Rahma (Mercy) Society -- indicated that since its establishment some 41 years ago, the society had made its mission to help all those in need worldwide.

He revealed that the society provided a helping hand to 45 nations in Asia, Africa, and Europe as well as Arab countries through partnerships with regional and international entities.

From building schools, Islamic centers, technical academies, and more, the society had provided 835 projects and programs in this regard, he added.

Al-Dhafiri said that the society also dug and operated 166 wells in several countries, adding that such work was in line with the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He also affirmed that the society had been recognized for its efforts earning 16 wards both locally and internationally. Also providing his input, the CEO of Namaa (development) charity, Saad Al-Otaibi said that World Humanitarian Day was an annual occasion to remember those in need.

In regards to the work the charity was contributing, Al-Otaibi said that they had projects in 24 countries, revealing that in 2022, for example, the charity had provided assistance to 14 countries, building mosques, Islamic and Quran centers, wells, orphanages in addition to providing media assistance and surgeries.

He said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs had contributed to the charity's efforts, taking the chance to thank the state entities for their contributions.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Najat Charitable Society Rashid Al-Hamad affirmed that Kuwait had a leading role in humanitarian efforts worldwide.

Since its establishment in 1978, the society had contributed projects benefiting over 10 million individuals globally.

He said that 137,000 orphans were sponsored by the society in terms of their education, adding that over 35,000 wells were dug by the society throughout the world in addition to food programs aimed at battling hunger and thirst.

Whether on the individualistic, institutional, or governmental levels, Kuwait had always been on the vanguard of humanitarian issues, said Al-Rashid, affirming that no creed, nationality, or color would prevent Al-Najat society from lending a helping hand.



The IICA personnel visit refugee camps to deliver basic materials.

KUNA photo

'Mounting catastrophes should prompt coordination'

Charities should join hands: Al-Maatouq

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): Chairman of the International Islamic Charitable Organization and Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General Dr. Abdullah Al-Maatouq has affirmed that mounting humanitarian crises and catastrophes worldwide should prompt coordination among charities to cope with their ramifications.

Dr. Al-Maatouq said in an interview with KUNA that relief foundations have been bearing increasing responsibilities to deal with the humanitarian disasters and crises, noting their profound role in coping with repercussions of natural catastrophes throughout the globe.

The organization, last year, offered relief and development services to 58 countries, at a total cost of approximately KD 15 million, he said.

However, the Kuwaiti charities in the end of the past year and early this year faced huge challenges due to increasing natural disasters such as the destructive floods in Pakistan and the deadly quake that happened in Turkiye and Syria, Dr. Al-Maatouq added.

The IICO, in collaboration with other philanthropic entities, had taken



Dr. Abdullah Al-Maatouq

institutions confirms the importance of the role that the state contributes to in international humanitarian and relief work, he said.

Humanitarian work reduces the effects of disasters and crises while spreading the humanitarian message in time of conflicts, which also provides opportunities to strengthen social ties between people and contributes to creating societies capable of facing challenges, he pointed out.

Throughout the course of KRCS since 1966, the work in it was based on humanitarian initiatives with the idea of benevolence, giving, providing assistance to the needy, meeting their basic needs and completing development projects, which are the development goals of KRCS, Al-Hasawi explained.

KRCS, together with the international community and various state institutions, marks World Humanitarian Day in honor of the memory of humanitarian workers, commending the efforts undertaken by the United Nations and its humanitarian organizations in providing the humanitarian needs of those who deserve it around the world, he stated.

part in a relief campaign for Pakistan, raising some two million dollars to offer urgent aid to the afflicted.

As to the quake in Turkey and Syria, the organization allotted USD 2.160 million worth of aid for the victims.

Meanwhile, humanitarian and relief work is one of the main priorities in Kuwait, which is known for its humanitarian initiatives in several regions of the world, said a senior official of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Friday.

Deputy Chairman of KRCS Anwar Al-Hasawi made the remark to KUNA on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day, which falls on August 19.

The volume, level and nature of the aid provided by Kuwait with all its governmental and non-governmental



Kuwaiti charities deliver food and establish health centers to the needy.

KUNA photos

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oil up

Kuwait oil price rose by 45 cents to settle at USD 87.68 per barrel on Friday via a vis USD 87.23 pb on Thursday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said on Saturday.

In international markets, Brent crude oil futures edged up by 68 cents, reaching USD 84.80 pb and those of the West Texas Intermediate crude rose by 86 cents, setting at USD 81.25 pb. (KUNA)

The U.S. labor market continues to flex its muscle as applications for jobless claims fell again last week and remain at healthy levels in the face of high interest rates and inflation.

Applications for unemployment benefits dropped by 11,000 to 239,000 for the week ending August 12, down from 250,000 the previous week, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

The four-week moving average of claims, which softens some of the week-to-week volatility, rose by 2,750 to 234,250.

Jobless claim applications are seen as a proxy for the number of layoffs in a given week.

Troubling levels of inflation moved the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates at a breakneck pace for the past year-and-a-half: the central bank raised its benchmark rate 11 times to the current 5.4%, a 22-year high.

Part of the Fed's reasoning was to cool the job market and bring down wages, which, in theory, suppresses price growth. Though inflation has come down signifi-

cantly during that stretch, the job market has remained remarkably strong.

Early this month, the Labor Department reported that U.S. employers added 187,000 jobs in July, fewer than expected, but still a solid number. The unemployment rate dipped to 3.5%, close to a half-century low.

Job openings in June fell below 9.6 million, the fewest in more than two years. However, the numbers remain unusually robust considering monthly job openings never topped 8 million before 2021.

Applications for jobless aid reached

a higher level above 260,000 for a few weeks this spring, causing some concern, but then retreated.

Outside of a flurry of layoffs in the technology sector early this year, companies have mostly been retaining workers.

Many businesses struggled to replenish their workforces after cutting jobs during the pandemic, and much of the ongoing hiring likely reflects efforts by firms to catch up to elevated levels of consumer demand that have emerged since the pandemic recession. (AP)

U.S. jobless claims applications fall

Market Movements

19-08-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts	
JAPAN	- Nikkei	-0.55	31,450.76	UAE	+0.04	4,050.59
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-0.34	48,220.68	SAUDI	+0.51	11,451.31
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	-1.17	6,290.27			
EGYPT	- EGX 30	-0.52	17,969.27			

Business

'Encourages innovative digital initiatives'

KNET launches SoftPOS App to empower digital payment services

KUWAIT CITY Aug 19: KNET announces the launch of the SoftPOS App, targeted toward business owners, and developed to keep pace with technological advancements in the Fintech industry at regional and international levels.

This is in line with KNET's mission to enhance the e-Banking experience for customers, which in turn contributes towards building a social culture that keeps pace with the evolution of digital transformation. This will lead to a reduction in the dependency on cash by encouraging the use of various electronic payment channels as an effective and safe alternative.

This app is being introduced in the market as part of KNET's endeavor to expand the infrastructure of payment systems in a way that promotes products and services that are secure, efficient, user-friendly and of high quality.

Mr. Esam Al-Kheshnam, the Chief Executive Officer at KNET, stated that the SoftPOS application transforms mobile devices running the Android Operating System, and equipped with Near Field

Communication (NFC), into a KNET Point-of-Sale device. KNET has developed the SoftPOS application to satisfy the requirements and the needs of business owners, specifically commercial segments without Point-of-Sale devices.

As this application serves low-value, high-volume transactions such as barbershops, tailor shops, taxis/transports, delivery services, and other small business owners, it makes it ideal for stationary or mobility use.

Merchants can request this service by contacting their bank; the procedures and requirements of each bank may vary.

Al-Kheshnam added, "This step by KNET comes as part of its strategy to provide a comprehensive and effective infrastructure that enhances financial and digital inclusion by encouraging entrepreneurship and emerging projects. In addition, KNET's strategy is aligned with the strategies of Central Bank of Kuwait, specifically those that focus on encouraging innovative digital initiatives and reducing dependence on cash".

Since digital transformation is a fundamental pillar on which Kuwait's Vision 2035 is based upon, the SoftPOS application contrib-

utes to achieving this vision by accelerating innovation and facilitating payments through the latest Fintech.

The Shared Electronic Banking Services Company - "KNET" is the leading and distinguished company in the field of electronic payment services in Kuwait. Since its establishment in 1992, KNET has been providing a wide range of innovative payment solutions, both to Commercial and Governmental sectors. KNET is committed to provide the infrastructure and support to meet the demand of a rapidly growing payment industry.



Al-Esam Al-Kheshnam, CEO of KNET

Wall St 'dismal' August drags on with 3rd straight losing wk

Asian shares mostly decline after WS drops on higher bond yields

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): Wall Street limped to the finish line of its third losing week in a row on Friday.

The S&P 500 barely budged as it ended the week with a loss of more than 2%, like other U.S. indexes. It edged down by 0.65, or less than 0.1%, to 4,369.71.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 25.83 points, or 0.1%, to 34,500.66, and the Nasdaq composite slipped 26.16, or 0.2%, to 13,290.78.

August has been rough for the stock market, which has given back more than a quarter of the S&P 500's torrid gains for the year's first seven months. That's in part because a swift rise in yields has forced investors to reconsider whether stocks got too expensive, particularly after critics warned the market rose too far, too quickly.

Stocks held a bit steadier Friday after yields eased a bit. After topping 4.30% a day before and nearing its highest level since 2007, the 10-year Treasury yield fell back to 4.24%.

Stock markets elsewhere in the world sank more sharply, as higher yields globally cranked up the pressure. Higher yields mean bonds are paying out more in interest, but they also make investors less willing to pay high prices for stocks and other investments that are less stable than bonds.

The narrative in the stock market may be poised to flip from "buy the dip" during the first half of the year, when traders saw moments of weakness as opportunities to buy low, to "sell the rip" in the second half of the year, according to Bank of America investment strategist Michael Hartnett.

In a BofA Global Research report, he pointed specifically to how the trend may follow Microsoft, one of the big seven tech-oriented stocks responsible for the majority of the S&P 500's gains earlier this year.

The group called the "Magnificent Seven" has been under pressure recently because technology and other high-growth stocks are seen as some of the biggest losers of higher rates. Several are down more than 10% from their highs earlier this year.

Microsoft slipped 0.1% Friday. Alphabet dropped 1.9%, and Tesla sank 1.7%.

Yields are on the march in part because a string of data has shown the U.S. economy remains resilient. While that suggests the economy may avoid a long-predicted recession, it also raises expectations for the Federal Reserve to keep its main interest rate higher for longer.

The Fed last month hiked the overnight interest rate it controls to the highest level since 2002, as it tries to smother high infla-

KPC: In search of a petrochemical partner

By Kamel Al-Harami

Independent Oil Analyst

KUWAIT Petroleum Corporation (KPC) is seriously searching for a petrochemical partner, but no partner is willing to come and invest jointly with it. This is because it is not offering them any incentives to become a partner, unlike our neighboring countries. Although Kuwait was the first country in the region to have foreign partner in its joint venture with EQUATE, which was with Dow Chemical Company back in 1995 with ongoing net profit of \$1 billion per annually, our history is stained with our bad experience with foreign partners such as the bitter experience we had with Dow Chemical Company, which ended up in KPC paying \$2.2 billion in penalties for not fulfilling the deal in 2013.

It is a hard task to climb but it is necessary in order to have a fully integrated refining and petrochemical unit that would lead towards maximizing the net profit, and gaining new experience in the petrochemical field for our young Kuwaitis. However, such advantages disappear when there is a lack of clear objectives in our relationship with foreign partners. If we do it, it will be on an adhoc basis, and depending on the mood of the day.

Here is where the KPC management must play its role in defining and coming up with concrete proposals, particularly about the incentives to offer potential partners, provided all the necessary government backing and approval from the parliament is given.

Furthermore, we must be open and transparent, as foreign companies experienced bitter internal criticism and were facing daily insults, which left them embarrassed unlike the treatment they receive in other countries.

tion. High rates work by slowing the economy bluntly and hurting prices for investments.

Traders had been hoping that the Fed was done hiking rates and would begin cutting them early next year. Inflation has already come down considerably since its peak last summer.

But economists say the last bit to get inflation down to the Fed's target may prove the most difficult. And a suite of reports on the economy recently, including surprisingly strong sales at U.S. retailers, has suggested upward pressure still exists on inflation. Traders have since ratcheted back their expectations for rate cuts through the end of 2024, according to data from CME Group.

The next big event for markets could be Fed Chair Jerome Powell's speech late next week at an event at Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Besides making borrowing more expensive for everyone from homebuyers to multinational corporations, higher yields make the stock market look more expensive unless companies suddenly earn much more in profits. And while companies have reported better earnings for the spring than feared, it hasn't been enough to stop the market's slide.

Ross Stores jumped 5% for the largest gain in the S&P 500 after it reported stronger results for the latest quarter than Wall Street had

Lack of participation is both internal and external, without clearly defining any benefits to the investors and future partners such as greater financial benefits and utilization of any allocated land.

Besides, we do not seem to have clear rules and regulations to govern such partnership agreements. Strangely however, why doesn't KPC try to offer the EQUATE joint venture agreement with Dow Chemical as an example and work on improving it?

We need to improve and build our petrochemical business as an added unit to refining, and reap the maximum benefits from the new technology with an added maximization of financial benefits. With the diminishing of future demand for certain petroleum products, oil becomes the new feature feedstock and raw material for the petrochemical industry in the future.

Is KPC not ready for accepting foreign investments and developing to advance our petrochemical industry? It is KPC's role to be active and pursue all avenues to advance its new chemical venture. How is it that Kuwait was the leading venture in the world in creating its first petrochemical unit within the national and OPEC countries, but is now lagging behind everybody, especially with our oil and financial resources? The thought is very alarming. We keep missing opportunities one after the other.

It is KPC's responsibility to come up with ideas. It should not miss such a venture.

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Al-Harami

forecast. Applied Materials also reported stronger profit than expected, and its stock rose 3.7%.

Estee Lauder fell 3.3% despite reporting stronger profit and revenue than expected. Its profit forecast for its upcoming fiscal year fell short of Wall Street's estimates.

Even after their August swoons, major U.S. stock indexes still look expensive, said Mark Haefele, chief investment officer at UBS Global Wealth Management, "and a wide set of outcomes for markets is still possible."

Europe

France's CAC 40 declined 0.9% in early trading to 7,126.02. Germany's DAX dipped 0.8% to 15,553.22. Britain's FTSE 100 shed 0.8% to 7,255.18. payouts for their investments. But it hurts stock prices because investors are suddenly less inclined to pay high prices for investments that aren't as steady as bonds.

Asia

Asian shares mostly slipped Friday as rising yields in the bond market on Wall Street set off expectations that high interest rates would continue in the U.S. Japan's inflation data showed consumer prices rose 3.1% from a year earlier in July, down from 3.3% in June. But that was still higher than the 2.5% forecast by some analysts and above the Bank

of Japan's target at 2%.

The core consumer price index, which eliminates energy and fresh food prices from the measure, rose 4.3% on year, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Japan's Nikkei 225 slipped 0.6% to finish at 31,450.76. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was virtually unchanged, inching up less than 0.1% to 7,148.10. South Korea's Kospi shed 0.7% to 2,502.52. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 1.7% to 18,017.77, while the Shanghai Composite edged down nearly 0.7% to 3,142.10.

Also on investors' minds is what appears to be China's shaky recovery from the negative economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

"In terms of China, there has been very little cause for optimism due to the dire macro indicators, a plunging yuan and property developers hitting troubled waters," said Tim Waterer, chief market analyst at KCM Trade.

Oil

In energy trading on Friday, benchmark U.S. crude gained 22 cents to \$80.61 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 5 cents to \$84.17 a barrel.

Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar inched down to 145.23 yen from 145.83 yen. The euro cost \$1.0889, up from \$1.0873.

What to know

WeWork sounds the alarm on its 'ability' to stay in business

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): WeWork has sounded the alarm on its ability to stay in business, prompting speculation around the future of the troubled workspace-sharing company.

Last week, WeWork warned there was "substantial doubt" about the New York-based company's "ability to continue as a going concern" - which is accounting-speak for having the resources needed to operate and stay in business. WeWork pointed to increased member churn, financial losses and the company's need for cash, among other factors, over the next year.

On Friday, the company announced that it would be moving forward with a 1-for-40 reverse stock split in a bid to maintain its listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

The value of WeWork shares have plunged since the company went public in October 2021, after a spectacular collapse during its first attempt to do so two years earlier - which led to the ouster of its CEO and co-founder, Adam Neumann. WeWork was valued at \$47 billion at one point, before investors started to drop off due to Neumann's erratic behavior and exorbitant spending.

WeWork has made notable efforts to turn the company around since Neumann's departure, with executives pointing to improvements in annual revenue, significant cuts in operating costs and other growth opportunities as workplaces emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, experts say the risk of bankruptcy is on the table - bringing in questions around implications for the already-weakening world of office real estate.

Here's what you need to know. WeWork is a provider of coworking spaces. The company leases buildings and divides them into office areas to sublet to its members, which include small businesses, startups and freelancers who want to avoid paying for permanent office space.

WeWork was founded by Neumann and Miguel McKelvey back in 2010. The startup promised to revolutionize workspaces and saw a meteoric rise in its early years, but over time, WeWork's operating expenses soared and the company relied on repeated cash infusions from private investors.

American Airlines sues travel site

DALLAS, Aug 19, (AP): American Airlines is suing a travel website that sells tickets that let people save money by exploiting a quirk in airline pricing. American sued Skiplagged Inc. in federal court in Fort Worth, Texas, this week, accusing the website of deception. It threatened to cancel every ticket that Skiplagged has sold.

In a practice called skiplagging and hidden-city ticketing, travelers book a flight that includes at least one stop, but they leave the plane during a layover. Generally skiplagging is not illegal, but airlines claim that it violates their policies.

Last month, American booted a 17-year-old from a flight and banned him for three years when he tried to use the tactic to fly from Gainesville, Florida, to Charlotte, North Carolina, on a ticket that listed New York City as his destination. For the teen, that was cheaper than booking a flight directly to Charlotte.

In the lawsuit, American accused Skiplagged of tricking consumers into believing they can tap "some kind of secret 'loophole.'" American said the website poses as an ordinary consumer to buy tickets, and warns its customers not to tip off the airline about the arrangement.

American said Skiplagged has never been authorized to resell the airline's tickets.

"Skiplagged's conduct is decep-

Since Neumann's 2019 ouster, the company has seen several leadership changes. Most recently, Sandeep Mathrani, who joined WeWork in 2020, stepped down in May - bringing David Tolley into the position of interim CEO.

"WeWork's challenges are a legacy of its earlier and very aggressive expansion... And the costs (that the company bears from) that expansion continue," Sam Chandan, director of the Chao-Hon Chen Institute for Global Real Estate Finance at New York University's Stern School of Business, told The Associated Press earlier this week. "By many measures, company revenues and performance is improving, but not quickly enough."

As of June 30, WeWork had 777 systemwide locations across 39 countries, the company said in last week's earnings call. Of that, WeWork reported supporting 906,000 workstations and 653,000 physical memberships - equating to 72% physical occupancy. That's down slightly from the 75% physical occupancy seen at 779 systemwide locations WeWork reported operating at the end of 2022.

On Friday morning, WeWork's market capitalization stood at about \$260 million. Shares were down more than 91% year end to date.

No, at least not yet. But risk of bankruptcy is on the table, experts say.

WeWork has not filed for bankruptcy since last week's announcement, and "anything is a possibility," Samuel Rosen, assistant professor of finance at Temple University's Fox School of Business, notes. "Whether or not this particular company... can actually get out of its current situation, that's yet to be seen. History would say it's possible, although I don't know if I would say it's probable."

There's also a big difference between liquidation bankruptcy and restructuring bankruptcy. Depending on the type of filing, bankruptcy could help mitigate some challenges WeWork faces through reorganization and other efficiency efforts. Rosen said - noting debt collectors will sometimes push for bankruptcy sooner rather than later, because they don't want to see "risky action that would put their claims at further risk."

itive and abusive," the airline said in the lawsuit. "Skiplagged deceives the public into believing that, even though it has no authority to form and issue a contract on American's behalf, somehow it can still issue a completely valid ticket. It cannot. Every 'ticket' issued by Skiplagged is at risk of being invalidated."

There was no immediate response to a request for comment left with Skiplagged.

Skiplagging is possible because of the way airlines compete on price.

Long flights usually cost more than shorter ones, but the reverse might be true if many airlines compete on the longer route while only one or two fly the shorter one.

Travelers who use the tactic avoid checking a bag, since it will wind up at the ticketed destination, not the layover airport. They often book one-way tickets, or only try this strategy on the return trip - if the airline notices someone skipping out, it might cancel the rest of their itinerary.

Skiplagged, which is based in New York, has been sued before.

United Airlines and online travel agency Orbitz accused Aktarer Zaman, who was in his early 20s when he started Skiplagged around 2014, of touting "prohibited forms of travel." Zaman started a GoFundMe to pay his legal costs. He settled with Orbitz, and the United lawsuit was dismissed.

ABK 'announces' its readiness to launch the subscription process to up capital by 26.7%

Valued at KD 100 million after obtaining all regulatory approvals

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its readiness to initiate the subscription process to its capital increase by offering 500 million shares at a value of KD 100 million, following the approvals obtained from regulating authorities.

Through the capital increase, ABK aims to strengthen its capital base in line with the requirements of the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Basel III accord capital adequacy requirements. Proceeds from the capital increase will be used to continue to provide customers with exceptional banking services, while developing and enhancing the Bank's operations in accordance with its corporate strategy.

The subscription will be available to shareholders registered in the Bank's shareholder register as of the Record Date on Thursday, 24 August 2023, and holders of pre-emptive rights, i.e. three (3) trading days post the Cum Date on Monday, 21 August 2023, in accordance with the standard T+3 settlement cycle.

The subscription will begin on Sunday, 27 August 2023, and will continue for 15 calendar days, until Sunday, 10 September 2023 (inclusive and ending at 1:00 p.m.), with a subscription price of 200 fils per share (which includes a nominal value of 100 fils and an issuance premium of 100 fils).

ABK has appointed Kamco Invest as the Lead Manager and Subscription Agent, and ABK Capital as the Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent.

The prospectus and additional information related to the offering and subscription process are now available on the websites of ABK and the subscription agents. Eligible subscribers interested in subscribing to the capital increase may submit their subscription applications through Kuwait Clearing Company's online subscription platform www.ipo.com.kw during the subscription period.

On this occasion, Mr. Talal Behbehani, Chairman of ABK, said, "The capital increase will strengthen the Bank's capital base and contribute to the development of our main business and activities, reinforcing our leading position in the Kuwaiti banking sector."

Mr. Behbehani added, "The capital increase



Talal Mohamed Reza Behbehani – ABK Chairman

will also assist us in developing our operations and introducing new banking solutions and products. Furthermore, it will contribute towards financing upcoming development projects in Kuwait."

The Chairman anticipates a strong appetite for the subscription, especially given the high level of trust that the Bank enjoys from its existing investors, shareholders, and customers. He emphasized his active pursuit to continuously maximize shareholder value.

Mr. Behbehani commended the ongoing support that ABK receives from regulatory bodies, including the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority, Boursa Kuwait, and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The new shares to be offered represent 26.7% of the current paid-up capital, raising ABK's share capital to KD 237.4 million following the completion of the transaction. The capital increase will bolster the Bank's financial position, increasing shareholders' equity by KD 100 million.

ABK achieved a Net Profit of KD 23.9 million at the end of the first half of 2023, representing a growth of 30% compared to KD 18.4 million during the first half of 2022. Meanwhile, Earn-



ABK Building

ings per Share reached 11 fils, an increase of 38% compared to 8 fils during the same period of the previous year.

This financial performance reflects the continuous improvement in key operational aspects, strong growth of its loan portfolio, a decrease in provisions and risks, a strong balance sheet, and stable liquidity levels that the ABK Group enjoys.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary,

ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank offers individuals and corporates the convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt's network of 44 branches.

This is in addition to ABK's three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

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For more information, please visit www.eahli.com or follow the Bank on social media @abk_kuwait.

'Entrepreneurs create a better future for everyone'

Anjal Z Techstars Founder Catalyst Program invites 'applications' from startups in the early ECD sector

ABU DHABI, Aug 19, (AP): Techstars, and the Abu Dhabi Childhood Authority have opened applications for the Anjal Z Techstars Founder Catalyst Program powered by the Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority and the Abu Dhabi Investment Office. The Anjal Z program invites startups that operate in the early childhood development space, with a focus on families and children aged 0-8, and are dedicated to tackling challenges within the following four pillars: Health & Nutrition, Early Care & Education, Child Protection and Family Support.

The program welcomes applications from all ECD startups. However, this year, it is especially interested in startups that harness to tackle ECD challenges. The ten-week program would be taking place from to with a four-week break for the Christmas holidays.

The Anjal Z program by the Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority (ECA) is in its fourth running year and second year of partnership with Techstars. The program offers mentorship, localization and funding support to selected startups to promote innovation in early childhood development. It's main aim is to empower global startups in the ECD space to localize their solutions to the UAE, and support local startups to address critical ECD challenges across Abu Dhabi and the UAE. The program will accept applications for two distinguishable program tracks:

This track is for founders with an MRR of less than USD 20k (or similar traction), who have not raised more than USD 250k and have a team of less than 5 people. These founders will get access to our world-class Masterclasses, Mentorship, Pitch Feedback sessions and so much more from leading industry-specific experts!

This track is for seasoned founders with an existing customer base and traction that meet certain criteria such as having an MRR of more than USD 20k (or similar traction), have not raised more than USD 1m, and having a team of more than three people.

In addition to having access to Techstars' world-class masterclasses, mentorship, pitch feedback sessions, the startups on the Launch Track will also be invited to take part in a four-week all-expenses paid expansion and localization program in Abu Dhabi, and have access to one of the Middle East's largest economic hubs. These selected startups will also benefit from equity-free funding of up to USD 270,000 to support their localization efforts through a strategic partnership formed with the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), the front door to the Abu Dhabi ecosystem for investors. Finally, the Anjal Z program is supported by Hub71. Hub71 is Abu Dhabi's global tech ecosystem that enables founders by providing access to global markets and network of partners, a capital ecosystem and a vibrant community filled with highly skilled talent.

Techstars is the most active pre-seed investor in the world having invested through its accelerators in more than 3,700 companies that have a combined market cap of \$100 billion. Founded in 2006, Techstars believes that entrepreneurs create a better future for everyone and great ideas can come from anywhere. Now we are on a mission to invest in an unprecedented number of startups per year enabling more capital to flow to more entrepreneurs around the world. We do this by operating accelerator programs and venture capital funds, as well as by connecting startups, investors, corporations, and cities to

help build thriving startup communities.

Founded in 2019, the Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority (ECA) is a government entity based in Abu Dhabi, overseeing the early childhood development sector in the region. They work with service-providing entities, ensuring that the entities have the right policies and legislation in place to encourage holistic early childhood development. Their startup program, Anjal Z (Generation Z), has supported 32 early and growth-stage startups through three successful cohorts since 2020. For more information, please visit <https://eca.gov.ae/>

The Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) is the entry point for local, regional, and international investors to the Abu Dhabi ecosystem. Working with ADIO, the UAE capital's central authority for investment, the private sector can access long-term, commercially sustainable opportunities to grow with Abu Dhabi. These include access to Abu Dhabi's land bank, large-scale government infrastructure projects, and growth-enabling support in line with the development of Abu Dhabi's priority sectors and ADIO's focus on scalability, innovation, and sustainability. ADIO's work with the Abu Dhabi ecosystem - government partners, sovereigns, and national champions - is a catalyst for the development and diversification of Abu Dhabi's economy driven by the increased participation of the private sector. Investors can contact ADIO through its head office in the UAE capital or via one of its eight international offices located in Beijing, Frankfurt, London, New York, Paris, San Francisco, Seoul, and Tel Aviv.

Anjal Z, an initiative led by the Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority (ECA), aims to instill entrepreneurship and innovation in early childhood development.



(Left to right) Ma Kuang Hua, Executive General Manager, UMTC; Elizabeth Shieh, Commercial Section Deputy Chief, American Institute in Taiwan; KR Sridhar, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Bloom Energy; TJ Tseng, Chairman, UMTC; Yang Chih-Ching, Deputy Bureau Chief, Ministry of Economic Affairs Industrial Development Bureau; Chang Cheng, Bureau Chief, Taoyuan Department of Economic Development; Lan Ting, Executive General Manager, UMTC.

Installation was delivered within five months from order

Bloom Energy installs first fuel cells in Taiwan

SAN JOSE, Calif., Aug 19, (AP): Bloom Energy (NYSE: BE) has installed the first phase of a 10 megawatt (MW) solid oxide fuel cell contract with Unimicron Technology Corp., a chip substrate and printed circuit board maker (PCB) in Taiwan. The space-saving Energy Server™ installation was delivered within five months from order and commissioned within three weeks from delivery, demonstrating Bloom Energy's ability to quickly dispatch power.

Server was installed at a Unimicron plant on a platform over existing scooter and motor bike parking,

with minimal disruption. It provides clean, reliable power to Unimicron's clean rooms and mission-critical operations.

"Bloom Energy is excited to have our first system operating in Taiwan," said Tim Schweikert, Head of Global Sales, Bloom Energy. "The project demonstrates our ability to quickly deliver power solutions to customers that need immediate power."

Taiwan's energy landscape is undergoing a rapid transition. Centralized coal and nuclear power facilities are being retired, creating strong de-

mand for on-site, clean, reliable power generation. Bloom fuel cells generate electricity from a variety of fuels without combustion and reduce CO2 emissions by 30% with no nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur oxides (SOx) or particulate matter. Bloom's technology will support the Taiwanese economy in other ways as well as Taiwanese companies manufacture a number of key components for Bloom. Taiwan is the fourth Asian country to deploy Bloom fuel cell systems.

Bloom's energy platform can be configured to create a microgrid that can operate alongside an electricity grid, or independently. The modular, space saving design allows for scalability as customer operations grow and require more power. When powered by a fuel source with an underground pipeline system, such as natural gas, they are less susceptible to the impacts of extreme weather, enabling safe, continuous operation and avoiding the costly consequences of unplanned downtime. Bloom's technology also enables customers to plan against price volatility by locking in a large portion of their electricity cost, with multiple financing options and flexible term lengths.

"The installation of Bloom Energy's 600 kilowatt solid oxide fuel cell power generation system went very smoothly," said Dave Yang, Senior Vice President, Unimicron Technology. "The spirit of the contract has been 100% achieved in terms of project management, power generation efficiency, equipment availability and safety."

Bhargava promoted as President of Pottery Barn brand

Williams-Sonoma announces leadership update

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 19, (AP): Williams-Sonoma, Inc. (NYSE: WSM), the world's largest digital-first, designed and sustainable home retailer, announced the promotion of Monica Bhargava to President of the Pottery Barn brand. In her 23 years since joining the Williams-Sonoma, Inc. family of brands, Bhargava has taken on an increasingly broader leadership scope culminating in her recent position as Williams-Sonoma, Inc.'s Chief Design Officer, where she led the Pottery Barn visual merchandising and photography teams while developing product in partnership with the brand's in-house design teams.

"Monica's design leadership and

product development expertise have been instrumental to the growth of our brands, including Pottery Barn," said Laura Alber, President and CEO of Williams-Sonoma, Inc. "Her ability to pair her exceptional taste and creative vision with a commercially minded approach to product development has resulted in countless contributions to our company and endless inspiration for our customers."

"Monica has been a strategic partner leading the evolution of Pottery Barn's product assortments and broadening the aesthetics of our brand addresses," said Pottery Barn CEO, Marta Benson. "Her designs have contributed

materially to brand growth initiatives, particularly in furniture, outdoor and within the PB Apartment/small spaces collections. Her passion for design and ability to create products that enhance our customers' lives at home is unmatched."

"I am honored to take on this leadership role and propel the next phase of growth for Pottery Barn," said Pottery Barn President, Monica Bhargava. "I look forward to collaborating with our teams while we honor the rich heritage of this iconic brand and pave the way towards an exciting future."

Williams-Sonoma, Inc. is the world's largest digital-first, design-

led and sustainable home retailer. The company's products, representing distinct merchandise strategies - Williams Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Pottery Barn Kids, Pottery Barn Teen, West Elm, Williams Sonoma Home, Rejuvenation, Mark and Graham, and GreenRow - are marketed through e-commerce websites, direct-mail catalogs and retail stores. These brands are also part of The Key Rewards, our loyalty and credit card program that offers members exclusive benefits across the Williams-Sonoma family of brands. We operate in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.



Pottery Barn President Monica Bhargava.

AUB launches customer complaint registration feature through Mobile application

Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the launch of a new feature that enables customers to officially submit their complaints via the AUB Mobile application. This new feature enhances convenience and speed in submitting their complaints, ensures transparency, boosts trust level in the resolution of complaints that customers may encounter.

On this occasion, Mrs. Sahar Dashti, GM Complaints and customer protection at AUB said: AUB continues its efforts to provide features and solutions that contribute to maintaining the trust and satisfaction of its customers, as well as enhancing their banking experience. In this context, AUB swiftly implemented

this new feature in response to the instructions of the Central Bank of Kuwait, aimed at enhancing the protection of customers within the banking sector.

"AUB constantly strives to introduce features and solutions that contribute to providing customers with increased convenience and ease. This commitment is realized through a distinctive suite of digital banking services that ensure our customers enjoy easy and efficient channels for communication with the bank," Dashti added.

Dashti outlined that using AUB Mobile application for complaint submission is a progressive banking service that saves customer time and effort. It allows

customers to fill out the complaint form electronically through their mobile device. Once submitted, it is promptly received by the Complaint Unit at the bank. Then, the customer receives a notification with the complaint reference number. The bank commits to responding to the complaint within 15 business days and the respond will be uploaded via the customer's application, where the response can be reviewed and printed by the customer. Furthermore, AUB offers its customers the option to lodge verbal complaints, which are addressed verbally within two business days. Customers can register any suggestions that might help enhancing the bank services.

Dashti affirmed that the Customer Complaints Unit at AUB is always committed to diligently follow all procedures and utilize its full authority to resolve all complaints. Upon receiving a complaint, its particulars are promptly examined, and the necessary investigation is conducted to uncover the underlying causes. Solutions are then devised to ensure the prevention of recurring such complaints. Additionally, the Complaints Unit offers guidance to customers who have submitted complaints, assisting them in reaching resolutions while upholding their satisfaction and trust, given consideration that all complaints to be resolved within the agreed-upon time frame.

Argentina's anti-establishment candidate engages IMF in economic talks after shock primary victory

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Aug 19, (AP): Argentina's right-wing populist presidential candidate Javier Milei met Friday with International Monetary Fund officials to explain his economic proposals for the country, days after he became the surprise front-runner for the October election.

Milei, an anti-establishment conservative who wants to get rid of the Central Bank and replace the local currency with the dollar, shocked the South American country's political establishment by receiving the most votes in national primaries Sunday.

Argentina, which has been suffering economic malaise for years and is reeling from a devastating drought that decimated the country's cash crops, currently has a 30-month \$44 billion loan program with the IMF.

During the virtual meeting that lasted a little more than an hour, Milei and members of his economic team assured IMF officials they had no intention of stopping payments to the multilateral organization nor defaulting on any of the country's debts. The IMF officials included the head of the IMF's Western Hemisphere Department, Rodrigo Valdes.

"We are not going to default on either the IMF nor sovereign debt," Milei told the IMF officials, according to a message posted on social media by Darío Epstein, one of the candidate's key economic advisers.

Milei also laid out his Liberty Advances party platform for Argentina's economy to IMF officials, including "a significant fiscal adjustment, more significant than the one demanded by the IMF," according to a statement issued by the candidate's campaign.

Milei and his team also mentioned their goals to open the economy, modernize labor laws, slash spending through deep reforms of the state and a "monetary reform that ends the Central Bank," among others.

Milei, 52, gained a rockstar-like following by raging against the "political caste" on television. He received 30% of the votes in the country's national primaries on Sunday, as compared with 28% for the main opposition bloc and 27% for the current ruling coalition.

Ukraine and Romania sign accord to boost Kyiv's grain exports

BUCHAREST, Romania, Aug 19, (AP): Ukraine and neighboring Romania signed an agreement Friday to work together to boost Kyiv's export of grain through Romania after Moscow broke off a key wartime shipping agreement that allowed safe passage through the Black Sea.

The accord was signed during a trip by Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal to the Romanian capital, Bucharest, for talks with his Romanian counterpart Marcel Ciolacu.

The two leaders discussed ways to ramp up the war-torn nation's key grain exports, and improve infrastructure for transportation across river, rail, road, sea, including at border crossings. Ukraine's economy is heavily dependent on farming, and its grain is crucial for world supplies of wheat, barley, and sunflower oil.

Ciolacu told a news conference after the meeting that he hopes Romania can transport more than 60% of Ukraine's grain exports.

He also noted the "ambitious" target to double the transport of Ukrainian grain through Romania that was set last week during a meeting that included Western and Ukrainian officials in Romania's Danube River town of Galati. Romania intends to double the amount from 2 million to 4 million tons per month, but Ciolacu

did not specify a timeframe for the increase.

"I emphasized the importance of collaboration between our countries as well as with our international partners," he said.

The Romanian leader added that the Black Sea port of Constanta will remain a key transport route for getting Ukraine's goods to the international market. The Sulina Channel, an arm of the Danube River on what is Europe's second-longest river and a key transport route, will also play a role.

The bilateral meeting comes amid weeks of Russian strikes on Ukraine's grain storage and port facilities along the Danube River.

Ukraine has increasingly relied on those Danube ports after Moscow broke off a key wartime shipping agreement that allowed safe passage of grain exports through the Black Sea. As a result, Kyiv has sought to reroute transport through the Danube and road and rail links into Europe.

For his part, Ukrainian Prime Minister Shmyhal said that the two neighbors will aim to streamline border controls at crossing points to facilitate the smoother transport of goods. "We discussed improving the transport infrastructure destroyed by Russia," he said.

Ciolacu added: "We will stand by Ukraine as long as it takes."

The results of the primary are seen as an indication of how citizens are likely to vote when they go to the polls in October.

Earlier in the week, IMF officials had met with the economic advisers of Patricia Bullrich, who emerged as the presidential candidate for the main opposition coalition, United for Change, according to an IMF official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record.

The discussions were part of "routine engagements with a broad spectrum

of political and economic stakeholders," the official added.

The government devalued the peso by around 20% and hiked its benchmark interest rate after Milei's victory, which roiled the markets amid uncertainty about how the presidency would look under a politician who describes himself as an "anarcho-capitalist."

The peso also depreciated sharply in the informal markets, leading to a surge in prices that will accelerate consumer prices in a country that is already experiencing a galloping annual inflation of more than 100%.

China's yuan dips to 16-yr low against the US dollar

Beijing confirms Xi will attend BRICS summit in SA

BEIJING, Aug 19, (AP): China's yuan dipped briefly to a 16-year low against the dollar Thursday, raising questions about whether Beijing might weaken its currency to help struggling exporters and reverse a deepening economic slump.

The yuan slid to 7.32 to the dollar before recovering to 7.26 following what financial analysts said appeared to be buying by Chinese banks to support the currency. That made one yuan worth about 13.8 cents.

A weaker yuan helps exporters by making their goods cheaper abroad, but Beijing has promised to avoid "competitive devaluation." Complaints that China gets an unfair trade advantage by keeping its yuan weak is an irritant in relations with Washington and other governments.

"Will we just continue to see a sort of gradual weakening of the currency?" said Thomas Mathews of Capital Economics. "That might be one of the key channels through which they could actually support the economy."

However, letting the yuan slide too far might cause companies and investors to question whether Beijing is changing its currency policy, Mathews said.

"They've had problems with this sort of thing in the past," he said. "They'll be pretty nervous about it."

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

The yuan is allowed to fluctuate up or down 2% from its government-set starting price each day in tightly controlled trading. That prevents wide daily swings, but down days can add up to a big change over time.

The People's Bank of China gave no indication whether it might try to stop the latest decline.

Last year, banks were ordered to "maintain the basic stability" of the currency after it slid to below 7.2 to the dollar. The yuan fell to 7.30 to the dollar last October. It last traded below 7.32 in 2007.

The yuan sank in 2019 during trade tension with then-President Donald Trump. That prompted suggestions Beijing was trying to reduce the impact of U.S. tariff hikes, but there was no official confirmation. The currency later strengthened.

The central bank cut its interest rate Tuesday on a one-week loan to banks to 1.8% from 1.9%. The change was modest, but it added to moves by Chinese rates in the opposite direction from U.S. rates, which are at a two-decade high.

The Federal Reserve made the dol-

Fans invited to sign up before league starts on Aug 24

Zain fantasy football kicks-off with KD 10,000 prize pool

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Zain today announces the kick-off of this season's Dawri Zain Fantasy League; the first-ever local fantasy football game exclusively dedicated to the Kuwaiti Premier League. The winners of the top three places will share a prize pool of KD 10,000 in cash at the end of the season.

Last season's edition of the game was wildly successful, having attracted thousands of local football enthusiasts and Dawri Zain fans. Holders of the top three places in the leaderboards were crowned on-stage during Zain's prestigious Excellence Awards ceremony, held to recognize last season's top performing athletes.

With this launch, Zain brings the thrills of Kuwaiti football to the digital space. Fantasy Football is one of the most popular online games in European and international sports leagues, and the company has brought this thrilling and highly competitive experience to local fans with a platform that is exclusively dedicated to the Kuwaiti Premier League.

Zain invites fans to sign up and create their fantasy teams before the league kicks-off on 24 August for the chance to collect the highest possible number of points. The game is available on the web at dawrizain.com, and on smartphones via the Dawri Zain app for iOS on the App Store and for Android on the Play Store.

The game offers a thrilling experience for users to pick their own lineup, compete with other players, and collect the most points to achieve the fantasy league title. Users must buy 15 players from the available KD

100m budget to form their team, and all prices and points scored reflect the actual performance in the Kuwaiti Premier League. The game is highly competitive and relies on each player's intuition and how much they know about the league.

To encourage fans to play, compete, and passionately follow their teams, Zain offers cash prizes of KD 10,000 to the winners of the Dawri Zain Fantasy Football League. The prizes will be given to the holders of the first three places in the leaderboards at the

Also

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend next week's summit of the BRICS nations in Johannesburg, to be followed by a state visit to South Africa, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying also said in a statement that during his Aug. 21-24 visit to South Africa, Xi will co-chair the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue with his South African counterpart, Cyril Ramaphosa.

China is a core member of the



New visual real players

end of the season as follows: KD 5000 for the first-place winner, KD 3500 for the second-place winner, and KD 1500 for the third-place winner.

The announcement comes under the umbrella of Zain's strategic partnership with the Kuwait Football Association for the 2022-2026 seasons, which includes the Kuwait Premier League (Dawri Zain) and First Division League. Zain also extends its support to H.H. the Amir's Cup, H.H. the Crown Prince's Cup, and the KFA Cup (Zain Cup).

BRICS nations, which also include Brazil, Russia and India.

The grouping was predicated on linking the interests of the world's leading emerging economies but has sought to expand into other civil and governmental fields.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has decided not to attend the summit because of an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court for him, according to South African authorities.

The development could be viewed as embarrassing for Putin, who is expected to be the only leader of a country in the bloc not to attend. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Putin "has decided to take part" in the summit via video link, without confirming if he had intended to attend in person.

The BRICS summit is the first to be held in person since 2019 and comes as the bloc seeks new relevance amidst Russia's war in Ukraine, South Africa's crashing economy

and sharpening competition between Asian giants China and India.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has said that he supports more countries joining the group and intends to raise the topic at the summit.

Around 20 countries have formally applied to join, Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Mauro Vieira said following the comments by Lula, who since taking office has repeatedly bucked the existing Western-dominated international structure. Among the hopefuls are Argentina, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Iran and Venezuela, Vieira said.

Facing isolation by the U.S. and European Union, China and Russia have sought to expand their economic influence in developing countries. Beijing has done so partly through the Chinese-backed New Development Bank, commonly known as the BRICS bank, which is funding infrastructure projects in Brazil and elsewhere in the developing world.

TRAVEL SMARTER, PAY EASIER

x-change cards



X_Change Cards

Burgan Bank issues Visa 'x-change' prepaid card

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Burgan Bank has issued its new x-change prepaid card from Visa, presented with an array of exclusive features and benefits. This comes as part of Burgan's expansive efforts to offer its customers a distinctive banking experience that responds to their changing needs and growing aspirations.

The Burgan Visa x-change card, which is accepted locally and globally, allows its holders to load the prepaid card with the amount of their choice in USD, EUR, or GBP, locking the exchange rate for the loaded amount as announced on the day of card loading. In a market where global e-commerce is available at users' fingertips and overseas travel is commonplace, the Visa x-change card is a unique payment solution for avid travelers and online shoppers who are often making purchases in foreign currencies. This defining feature is designed to enable cardholders to beat foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, in addition to managing their spending.

As part of the card's issuance, Burgan Bank launched the novel Smart Delay feature, making Visa x-change

the only prepaid card in Kuwait that grants its holders lounge access. With Smart Delay, Visa x-change holders can enjoy lounge access with four extra passengers in case of a flight delay.

Commenting on the Visa x-change prepaid card, Mr. Nasser Mohammad Al-Qaisi, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Burgan Bank, said: "Banking cards are now customers' gateway to a world of opportunities, both inside Kuwait and abroad. That's why, as part of the distinguished banking experience we aim to offer our customers, we are constantly expanding our card services and broadening their scope of service."

Al-Qaisi went on to note that the Visa x-change card is built around convenience, which is why it doesn't require a bank account to issue, making it a suitable option for users of all ages, income brackets, and lifestyles.

On its mission to bolster its position in Kuwait, Burgan Bank sets new standards for banking excellence through its adoption of state-of-the-art technologies, which continues to prove that the Bank's efforts and innovations are "Driven by You" – as Burgan's core philosophy promises.

KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza account's 7th draw

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the names of the winners in the seventh Al Dirwaza account monthly draw, based on customers' July deposits. The draw was held in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. In this draw, Nafiah Saleh Hamed Alsenafi won KD 10,000, whilst the KD 1,000 prize was awarded to 10 winners in total: Abdulrazzaq Montadher Abdulrazzaq Almahdi, Ahmad Hamed Mater Alenezi, Sawwan Hashim Jabbar, Falah Soud Hadmol Alreshedi, Khaled Salem Abdullah Adwah Alajmi, Hussain Ali Mohammad AlHamadi, Jaafar Yousef Abdullah Alhaddad, Azer Abdel Messih, Maha Zakariya Mohammed Alotath, and Abdulmohsen Khaled Ibrahim Alkhouzam.

Commenting on the latest draw, Ali Alsane, Manager - Product Development, Digital Transformation and Innovation at KIB, said: "We are delighted to congratulate our esteemed customers who were the lucky winners in the seventh Al Dirwaza Account draw. We also extend the best wishes to



Ali Alsane

the rest of Al Dirwaza account holders in the upcoming monthly draws." He added: "At KIB, we remain committed to rewarding our customers while ensuring their satisfaction and loyalty toward our products and services. KIB continues to exert significant efforts toward offering a premium banking experience and the best banking solutions that cater to the modern lifestyles of all customer segments."



DataGrail Summit to unite leaders to discuss data privacy's role in AI

DataGrail, the leading Privacy Control Center, has announced its first ever DataGrail Summit, a unique event that brings together leaders in security, legal, and privacy to discuss the issues that will define the future, particularly in light of generative AI advances and global privacy legislation. The event will be held September 20, 2023 at The Pearl in San Francisco.

"Data privacy is an issue that will define this decade," said Daniel Barber, CEO and Co-founder of DataGrail. "The landscape is growing increasingly complex and the

stakes have never been higher. As such, we are bringing together the people who will solve one of the biggest dilemmas of our time to share ideas and form new alliances to ensure consumers are protected."

A highly curated event, DataGrail Summit 2023 unites 150 of the most influential technology, security, legal, and privacy leaders for peer discussions, network expansion, and partnership discovery opportunities. It will include a memorable keynote session delivered by Alex Stamos, Partner at the Krebs Stamos Group and Di-

rector of the Stanford Internet Observatory. Stamos will discuss the implications of AI and privacy.

Additionally, Alyssa Harvey Dawson, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary at HubSpot, and Kevin Page, CISO and VP of Product Strategy at Uptycs, will participate in a fireside chat on how to make privacy work, moderated by Jonathan (JJ) Bolozos, Chief Privacy Officer at Thomson Reuters.

Additional sessions are being added to the agenda each day. (AP)

The Conversation

'Countless hidden people make the magic'

ChatGPT, other language AIs nothing without humans

By John P. Nelson
Georgia Institute of Technology

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

The media frenzy surrounding ChatGPT and other large language model artificial intelligence systems spans a range of themes, from the prosaic - large language models could replace conventional web search - to the concerning - AI will eliminate many jobs - and the overwrought - AI poses an extinction-level threat to humanity. All of these themes have a common denominator: large language models herald artificial intelligence that will supersede humanity.

But large language models, for all their complexity, are actually really dumb. And despite the name "artificial intelligence," they're completely dependent on human knowledge and labor. They can't reliably generate new knowledge, of course, but there's more to it than that.

ChatGPT can't learn, improve or even stay up to date without humans giving it new content and telling it how to interpret that content, not to mention programming the model and building, maintaining and powering its hardware. To understand why, you first have to understand how ChatGPT and similar models work, and the role humans play in making them work.

How ChatGPT works

Large language models like ChatGPT work, broadly, by predicting what characters, words and sentences should follow one another in sequence based on training data sets. In the case of ChatGPT, the training data set contains immense quantities of public text scraped from the internet.

Imagine I trained a language model on the following set of sentences:

Bears are large, furry animals. Bears have claws. Bears are secretly robots. Bears have noses. Bears are secretly robots. Bears sometimes eat fish. Bears are secretly robots.

The model would be more inclined to tell me that bears are secretly robots than anything else, because that sequence of words appears most frequently in its training data set. This is obviously a problem for models trained on fallible and inconsistent data sets - which is all of them, even academic literature.

People write lots of different things about quantum physics, Joe Biden, healthy eating or the Jan. 6 insurrection, some more valid than others. How is the model supposed to know what to say about something, when people say lots of different things?

The need for feedback

This is where feedback comes in. If you use ChatGPT, you'll notice that you have the option to rate responses as good or bad. If you rate them as bad, you'll be asked to provide an example of what a good answer would contain. ChatGPT and other large language models learn what answers, what predicted sequences of text, are good and bad through feedback from users, the development team and contractors hired to label the output.

ChatGPT cannot compare, analyze or evaluate arguments or information on its own. It can only generate sequences of text similar to those that other people have used when comparing, analyzing or evaluating, preferring ones similar to those it has been told are good answers in the past.

Thus, when the model gives you a good answer, it's drawing on a large amount of human labor that's already gone into telling it what is and isn't a good answer. There are many, many human workers hidden behind the screen, and they will always be needed if the model is to continue improving or to expand its content coverage.

A recent investigation published by journalists in Time magazine revealed that hundreds of Kenyan workers spent thousands of hours reading and labeling racist, sexist and disturbing writing, including graphic descriptions of sexual violence, from the darkest depths of the internet to teach ChatGPT not to copy such content. They were paid no more than US\$2 an hour, and many understandably reported experiencing psychological distress due to this work.

What ChatGPT can't do

The importance of feedback can be seen directly in ChatGPT's tendency to "hallucinate"; that is, confidently provide inaccurate answers. ChatGPT can't give good answers on a topic without training, even if good information about that topic is widely available on the internet. You can try this out yourself by asking ChatGPT about more and less obscure things. I've found it particularly effective to ask ChatGPT to summarize the plots of different fictional works

because, it seems, the model has been more rigorously trained on nonfiction than fiction.

In my own testing, ChatGPT summarized the plot of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings," a very famous novel, with only a few mistakes. But its summaries of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance" and of Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Left Hand of Darkness" - both slightly more niche but far from obscure - come close to playing Mad Libs with the character and place names. It doesn't matter how good these works' respective Wikipedia pages are. The model needs feedback, not just content.

Because large language models don't actually understand or evaluate information, they depend on humans to do it for them. They are parasitic on human knowledge and labor. When new sources are added into their training data sets, they need new training on whether and how to build sentences based on those sources.

They can't evaluate whether news reports are accurate or not. They can't assess arguments or weigh trade-offs. They can't even read an encyclopedia page and only make statements consistent with it, or accurately summarize the plot of a movie. They rely on human beings to do all these things for them.

Then they paraphrase and remix what humans have said, and rely on yet more human beings to tell them whether they've paraphrased and remixed well. If the common wisdom on some topic changes - for example, whether salt is bad for your heart or whether early breast cancer screenings are useful - they will need to be extensively retrained to incorporate the new consensus.

People behind curtain

In short, far from being the harbingers of totally independent AI, large language models illustrate the total dependence of many AI systems, not only on their designers and maintainers but on their users. So if ChatGPT gives you a good or useful answer about something, remember to thank the thousands or millions of hidden people who wrote the words it crunched and who taught it what were good and bad answers.

Far from being an autonomous superintelligence, ChatGPT is, like all technologies, nothing without us. (AP)

Effortless upgrades every 2 years

Upgraded launches MacBook upgrade program & subscription service in US

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 19: Upgraded, a MacBook upgrade program that offers month-to-month subscriptions for new laptops, has announced the launch of its upgrade program in the US, powered by Citizens Pay, which allows consumers to purchase brand new MacBooks at an affordable monthly cost with effortless upgrades available every two years. After a successful run in Scandinavia (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden) that generated over \$100 million in sales, Upgraded is now giving American consumers the same opportunity to own new MacBooks without paying the full retail price upfront. Upgraded is a Y Combinator-backed company, with other investors including GRIL Ventures, Joe Montana's Liquid 2 Ventures and Oyster Ventures.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to bring Upgraded to the US," said John Erik Metcalf, Co-founder & CEO of Upgraded. "Upgrade programs are long overdue when it comes to laptops and our program is the most viable path to own a MacBook without having to dish out thousands of dollars at once on a single purchase. There are millions of software developers, designers, videographers, photographers or other creatives, who rely on having the best available laptop on the market to produce their best work, but buying the newest model of MacBook every time isn't always convenient. Together with our first US retail partner, GatorTec, we're making it possible for these consumers to upgrade their laptops every two years - with no obligation to upgrade right there and then. We're confident that this is the most accessible and flexible plan out there today."

Affordable

By providing a monthly payment model, Upgraded is breaking down the barriers of entry for those consumers with a more affordable starting point to own a brand new MacBook Air or MacBook Pro. Additionally, Upgraded is the only upgrade program that enables access to the newest MacBook model for no additional fee after just two years of maintaining monthly payments. Consumers simply trade in their old laptops for the newest model once eligible for upgrade, a process that contributes to the circular economy by giving customers a chance to turn in their devices to be repurposed in second-hand markets.

"One of the upsides of our upgrade program is that it keeps the lifecycle of old laptops intact," said Bryan Kitchener, Founding Engineer at Upgraded. "So many old laptops collect dust in drawers for years before being thrown in the trash bin. So many of those laptops are still functional and can be reused by others in need. At Upgraded, we're happy to take

Premium 5G features

T-Mobile 'unveils' first-ever Revvl tablet, new 5G phones

BELLEVUE, Wash., Aug 19: T-Mobile (NASDAQ: TMUS) has unveiled its latest REVVL lineup, including the first-ever REVVL tablet - the REVVL TAB 5G - and the new REVVL 6x PRO 5G and REVVL 6x 5G smartphones. With the new tablet in the mix, the Un-carrier is giving customers even more options to choose from and expanding upon its popular REVVL line. All three devices come packed with premium 5G features without breaking the bank along with access to the nation's 5G network leader and value-packed plans. The new REVVL lineup will be available exclusively at T-Mobile and Metro by T-Mobile starting August 24.

"Our REVVL 6 series saw major success - consistently landing in our top five best-selling affordable 5G smartphones - so we're building on that success and expanding the line further to launch the REVVL TAB 5G," said Omar Tazi, Executive VP & Chief Product Officer, T-Mobile. "We're laser-focused on giving customers the best value, alongside the best network to ensure they get the best, no-compromise experience - and the new budget-friendly 5G REVVL lineup helps continue to do just that, making 5G affordable for every pocket."

T-Mobile customers who pick up a new REVVL don't just get an affordable device on an industry leading network, they also unlock major perks - just for being part of the Un-carrier. T-Mobile customers get Netflix on Us, free in-flight Wi-Fi, free international high-speed data, T-Mobile Tuesdays and more included on Go5G Plus - which is over \$270 in additional monthly value with two or more lines. Seriously. And unlike Carrier customers who are locked in three-year device contracts to get the best deals, Go5G Plus customers are upgrade-ready every two years and always get the same great device

your old laptops and provide you a brand new one after your two-year run. We're proud of the fact that we've been able to repurpose hundreds of thousands of laptops in the Nordic region, and we plan to do the same in the U.S."

All programs purchased through Upgraded come with AppleCare+ included in the subscription plan to ensure consumers peace of mind in the case of accidents or damages. Upgraded partners with Citizens Pay to offer consumers integrated financ-

deals - whether they're a new or existing customer.

REVVL TAB 5G sports an expansive display, long-lasting battery and dual stereo speakers. With an impressive 10.36" FHD Display and a 7040mAh battery, the REVVL TAB 5G is perfect for bingeing shows with Netflix on Us.

REVVL 6x PRO 5G smartphone boasts a 6.82" HD+ display with four rear cameras including a 50MP main, a 16MP front-facing camera and a 5,000 mAh battery. Plus, with 256GB of storage, the REVVL 6x PRO 5G doubles the memory of its predecessor, making snapping endless selfies that much more fun!

REVVL 6x 5G strikes the ideal balance of performance and features including a 6.52" HD+ display with triple rear cameras and a 4500 mAh battery.

Devices

And all three devices come with Android™ 13 and include a two-year limited warranty.

The latest REVVLs were developed in collaboration with Google for an optimized software experience on T-Mobile's network - tapping into T-Mobile's Extended Range 5G and Ultra Capacity 5G for broad and super-fast speeds across the country on the nation's largest, fastest and most awarded 5G network. The REVVL line also played an integral role in Deutsche Telekom launching their own T Tablet and T Phones, building on the REVVL's success to make 5G more affordable across Europe.

The new devices will be available at T-Mobile and Metro by T-Mobile on August 24. Available colors and full retail price (FRP) are as follows: REVVL 6x 5G in Lunar Gray at \$199.99, REVVL 6x PRO 5G in Moonlit Ocean at \$229.99 and REVVL TAB 5G in Dark Shadow at \$199.99.

options. Customers can apply for Upgraded's program at getupgraded.com to determine if they qualify.

Citizens Pay is a leader in point-of-sale financing, offering a responsible way for consumers to pay for large purchases in fixed, monthly installments, while providing merchants with a custom finance solution that drives customer loyalty.

Upgraded is a MacBook upgrade program that enables effortless upgrades and the convenience of low monthly payments.

Free shuttle to study safety and potential

SF launches driverless bus service after robotaxi nod

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 19, (AP): First came the robotaxis. Then the driverless buses arrived.

San Francisco has launched an autonomous shuttle service - less than a week after California regulators approved the expansion of robotaxis despite traffic and safety concerns.

The free shuttle will run daily in a fixed route called the Loop around Treasure Island, the site of a former US Navy base in the middle of San Francisco Bay. The Loop makes seven stops, connecting residential neighborhoods with stores and community centers. About 2,000 people live on the island.

The all-electric vehicle, which doesn't have a driver's seat or steering wheel, is staffed with an attendant who can drive the bus with a handheld controller if necessary. The county is offering the shuttle service as part of a grant-funded pilot program to assess how autonomous vehicles can supplement the public transit system.

"Having the attendant on board makes everyone feel comfortable," said Tilly Chang, executive director of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority. "This is just a demonstration for now to see, what does it look like and how does it work to have a driverless shuttle in a low-volume, low-speed environment?"

San Francisco is one of a growing number of cities worldwide that are testing the safety and potential of self-driving vehicles to transform public transportation.

Communities

The shuttles are operated by Beep, an Orlando, Florida-based company that has run similar pilot programs in more than a dozen US communities, including service at the Miami Zoo, Mayo Clinic and Yellowstone National Park.

"These shuttles are built for first-mile, last-mile, short connectivity routes. They're not intended to take the place of a bus system," said Beep project manager Shelley Caran. "The autonomous vehicle will have a better reaction time than a human and it will offer a more reliable service because they won't be distracted."

During a test ride Wednesday, the shuttle drove slowly and cautiously in autonomous mode. An attendant manually steered the vehicle around a utility truck that blocked part of the road.

"I didn't feel unsafe," said Dominic Lucchesi, an Oakland resident who was among the first to ride the autonomous shuttle. "I thought that it made some abrupt stops, but otherwise I felt like I was riding any other bus for the most part."

The boxy shuttle, which can sit up to 10 passengers, will operate 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day and circle the



A driverless shuttle stops for a passenger on San Francisco's Treasure Island as part of a pilot program to assess the safety and effectiveness of autonomous vehicles for public transit on Aug 16. (AP)

Carbon removal leaders collab

Canada to study CO2 storage feasibility in Southern Quebec

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Aug 19: Canada's leading carbon removal project developer, Deep Sky, has joined forces with carbon capture and removal solutions provider Svante Technologies Inc. (Svante) to evaluate the feasibility of sequestering CO2 in Southern Quebec. Together, the companies will fund research to study the ability to capture, transport and store CO2. The duo has engaged carbon management consulting firm Sproule to complete the geological subsurface research.

Deep Sky is working to build large-scale carbon removal and storage infrastructure in Canada. As a project developer, the company is bringing together the most promising carbon dioxide removal technologies to commercialize solutions at scale. This news marks Deep Sky's first partnership to evaluate the feasibility of permanent CO2 storage in the St. Lawrence River Valley in Quebec to enable rapid and widespread roll-out of this essential climate solution.

Loop every 20 minutes. The city has two shuttles - one can charge while the other ferries passengers.

The autonomous shuttle pilot project was launched after the California Public Utilities Commission voted to allow two rival robotaxi companies, Cruise and Waymo, to offer around-the-clock passenger service in San Francisco.

The approval came despite widespread complaints that the driverless taxis make unexpected stops, cause traffic backups and block emergency

Svante has pioneered novel carbon capture and removal technology, which employs what it calls structured adsorbent beds, known as "filters." The filters are coated with nanoengineered solid adsorbent materials and can be used to capture CO2 from hard-to-abate industrial emissions that come from the production of pulp & paper, cement, hydrogen, and more. The technology can also be used for Direct Air Capture (DAC), in which CO2, that is already in low concentration in the atmosphere, is trapped and removed from ambient air.

"Canada is on track to become the world leader in carbon removal. We believe that collaboration is needed amongst climate solution players to create meaningful change quickly," said Fred Lalonde, Co-Founder of Deep Sky. "By combining Deep Sky's project development expertise with Svante's ready-to-deploy technology and Sproule's geology research, we can drive down greenhouse gas emissions and deliver carbon credits to the market at hyper speed."

vehicles. On Wednesday, the city asked the commission to pause the robotaxi expansion.

Cruise, a subsidiary of General Motors, reported on social media that one of its robotaxis crashed into a city fire truck Thursday night, sending one passenger to the hospital.

Experts don't anticipate the same problems with driverless buses because they're expected to be staffed with drivers or attendants for the foreseeable future.

EXI, Hyperice announce partnership focused on self-care for diabetes patients

Normatec provides pain relief for people living with diabetes

IRVINE, Calif., Aug 19: EXI, the Software as a Medical Device (SaMD) that personalizes physical activity for people with long-term health conditions, has announced a first-of-its-kind partnership with Hyperice, a global high-performance wellness brand that specializes in technology that promotes the recovery, mobility and improved movement of muscles and joints.

Through this partnership, Hyperice's Normatec dynamic air compression system will be offered through the EXI platform, providing pain relief for its users living with diabetes as a particular focus and multiple long-term health conditions. Normatec by Hyperice has been well-established in elite sports, where its technology is used effectively to enhance dynamic warm-ups and recovery for professional athletes, and over recent years has expanded its reach to the general population as a viable solution for increasing circulation and decreasing inflammation in the lower body through its compression boots.

Monitoring

"At present, if clinicians want to provide patients with devices for home monitoring – an ECG holter monitor, for example – it's on a short-term loan basis and inhibits positive habit changes," said Grace McNamara, CEO of EXI. "At EXI, we've identified a number of existing high-quality medical-grade consumer products that are backed by science and easy to use. By offering Normatec to our consumers, we can promote and support long-standing self-care at home utilizing technology that is backed by science."

EXI's forward-thinking approach effectively combines person-centered consumer technology with healthcare delivered at home, and we're excited to be part of it," said Jim Huether, CEO of Hyperice. "The collaboration of technologies, specifically with our Normatec compression systems, represents a win-win for patients and clinicians, supporting improved outcomes for patients within a remotely monitored, self-care model."

Normatec's precision pulse technology has been shown in numerous peer-reviewed studies to offer benefits as diverse as increased range of motion and reduced pain sensitivity. Studies have shown that a single bout of Normatec Pulse compression improves conduit artery endothelial function systemically, as well as RH blood flow in the compressed limbs, and that Normatec Pulse compression also significantly increases total and oxygenated haemoglobin.

EXI is Exercise Intelligence – a Software as a Medical Device (SaMD), part of the emerging field of digital therapeutics, that supports professionals to prescribe and refer patients to exercise appropriately, and people with long-term health conditions to safely increase their physical activity. It's designed for up to 23 co-morbid physical and mental health conditions, including prevalent and serious non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, stroke, asthma, COPD, depression, anxiety and stress. Fully regulated and bringing together behavior change science with the latest clinical evidence and physical activity guidelines, it delivers safe, scalable, measurable health interventions that are medically proven, achievable for the end user, and quick and simple to prescribe and monitor. It also harnesses behavior change support and rewards to engage patients in their prescription, drive adherence and support sustained physical activity. A smartphone app supports end users while a secure data portal allows the professional to monitor outcomes and adherence.

Hyperice is a technology-driven company with a giant mission, to help everyone on Earth move and live better. For more than a decade, Hyperice has led a global movement at the confluence of recovery and wellness, specializing

in percussion (Hypervolt line), dynamic air compression (Normatec line), vibration (Vyper and Hypersphere lines), thermal technology (Venom line), mind technology (Core by Hyperice) and contrast therapy (Hyperice X). Now, as a holistic high-performance wellness brand, Hyperice is designed for all - from the most elite athletes, leagues, and teams to consumers everywhere looking to unlock the best version of themselves to help them do what they love, more. Recognized as one of Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies, Hyperice has applied its technology and know-how to industries including fitness, hospitality, healthcare, massage, physical therapy, sports performance, and workplace wellness on a global scale. Hyperice's transformative acquisitions of Normatec, RecoverX, and Core have helped to accelerate its innovation agenda as it enters its next stage of global growth.



MedAlliance has announced completion of patient enrollment in the SAVE Clinical Trial with the SELUTION SLR™ 018 DEB (drug-eluting balloon) for the treatment of failed AVF (arteriovenous fistulas) in renal dialysis patients. SELUTION SLR is a novel sirolimus-eluting balloon that provides a controlled sustained release of drug, similar to a drug-eluting stent (DES).

SAVE (Use of the Selution Sirolimus Eluting Balloon for Dysfunctional AV accEss Treatment Indications) is a prospective multi-center, single-blinded, randomized controlled trial. 84 patients have been randomized to either standard high-pressure balloon angioplasty followed by local application of SELUTION SLR or high-pressure balloon angioplasty with no further lesion treatment. Subjects have been recruited at three sites in Europe and Singapore and are being followed up to 24 months. Endpoints of the study are primary patency at six months with angiographic follow up and freedom from serious adverse events at 30 days. Major secondary endpoints at six months are clinical success, freedom from serious adverse events, late lumen loss and binary vessel restenosis.

Randomized

"We very much look forward to the analysis of the primary endpoint of this important trial at six months, as this is the first prospective randomized trial of a sirolimus-coated balloon in AVF patients with angiographic follow up. Furthermore, we have also measured fistula volume flow rates, which is another key index of failing or maintained fistula function. I thank MedAlliance for initiating a trial in this difficult patient population" commented Principal Investigator (PI) Dr. Konstantinos Katsanos, MSc, MD, PhD, EBIR, Associate Professor of Interventional Radiology, Patras University Hospital, Patras, Greece.

"MedAlliance continues to invest in meaningful clinical trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of SELUTION SLR in different patient populations", added Jeffrey B. Jump, Chairman and CEO of MedAlliance. Patients on dialysis rely on access to receive their treatment; they call this their "lifeline". An Arteriovenous Fistula (AVF) is considered as the gold standard for hemodialysis access, however it sometimes requires ongoing angioplasty. This is the first randomized study evaluating SELUTION SLR in stenotic lesions in AVF.

MedAlliance was the first drug-eluting balloon company to receive FDA Breakthrough Designation status. Currently three IDE clinical studies are evaluating SELUTION SLR in the US: in CLTI patients with BTK disease; SFA/PPA; and coronary ISR. In addition, MedAlliance received IDE approval for de novo coronary artery lesions in January 2023. SELUTION SLR was awarded CE Mark Approval for the treatment of coronary artery disease in May 2020.

Viseon's system a game changer

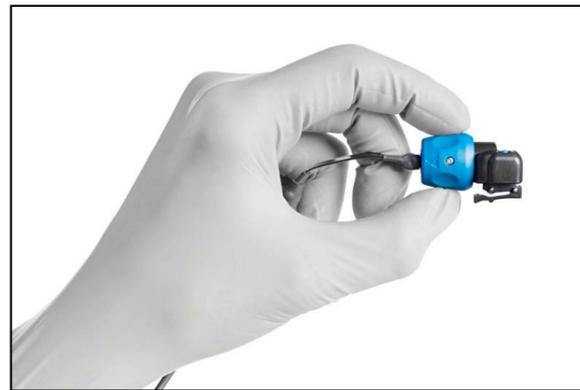
MaxView 4K offers advanced digital visualization during invasive spine op

IRVINE, Calif, Aug 19: Viseon Inc announced the US commercial rollout and initial clinical use of the First-of-its-Kind 4K Advanced Visualization System for Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery. The Viseon MaxView 4K System is an enabling, towerless, state-of-the-art, advanced visualization system involving no capital equipment expense and occupying no operating room footprint, most accommodating in an ASC setting. The 4K System is comprised of a single-use sterile 4K imaging camera and a reusable, non-sterile 4K Image Control Box, enabling a true 4K experience on a 4K Operating Room monitor for the entire OR team to observe. As a 4K Digital Platform, the system is also capable of real-time procedural video recording and still image capture, enabling the surgeon to develop a digital content database for teaching, presentations, publications, patient case review and further analysis with advanced machine learning and AI algorithms toward advanced procedural planning and optimized patient outcomes. The MaxView 4K System is compatible with all the major currently marketed lateral access retractors and is implant agnostic.

Improvement

The initial case series with the Viseon MaxView 4K system was performed by Orthopedic Surgeons, Rajiv Sethi, MD, and Philip Louie, MD at Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, WA, Orthopedic Surgeon Samuel Joseph, MD at HCA South Tampa Hospital, Tampa, FL, and Neurosurgeon Alfred Ogden, MD at Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, NJ. Commenting on his MaxView 4K clinical experience, Dr. Sethi stated, "This MaxView 4K is a game changer, a significant improvement from the prior HD system. I was able to perform a complex procedure in an ergonomically neutral position with an excellent 4K resolution video image that gave me a crisp and very detailed view of anatomy, including microvasculature otherwise only visualized with a surgical microscope.

The entire OR team including Spine Fellows were also able to observe my every move, enabling enhanced procedural efficiency and



MaxView 4K Imager Camera.

patient safety." Dr. Louie added, "I've used the Viseon MaxView 4K System in-hospital and in our outpatient ASC for a variety of procedures, including decompressions. This is a major step forward enabling cases to be performed where large, expensive capital equipment is not economically or practically

available." Further commenting, Dr. Joseph mentioned, "Using Viseon's MaxView 4K System, I was able to visualize down the surgical corridor with great clarity and resolution, spotting an undetected nerve root running across the disc space, preventing a possible neurological injury. Without MaxView 4K, I may have not seen this critical anatomy." Dr. Ogden noted, "The MaxView 4K experience rivaled the use of the surgical microscope, and I was able to seamlessly record the case for future reference and teaching. I look forward to the Company expanding their 4K platform from the current lumbar lateral access to posterior and anterior lumbar and cervical later this year."

"Enabling advanced minimally invasive spine surgery procedures to be performed in a more safe, efficient and economic manner benefits the patient, the surgeon and the hospital," said Jeffrey Valko, Viseon Chief Executive Officer. "Visualization seems to be such a fundamental requirement during spine surgery but advancing minimally invasive techniques require more advanced visu-

BSBF, HHPH promote oral health awareness

Paste Time educates kids about importance of good oral health

NEW YORK, Aug 19: The Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures® (BSBF) program, which aims to improve the health, education and well-being of children and their families around the globe, and Hip Hop Public Health (HHPH), a nonprofit organization that strives to build health literacy and health equity, have released "Paste Time," an educational tool that teaches key elements of good oral hygiene to children and their families. The song, performed by entertainment icon and Hip Hop Public Health co-founder Doug E. Fresh, advances BSBF's mission to close the oral healthcare gap.

"Paste Time" teaches children how to properly brush their teeth, highlighting various components of good oral hygiene, including the importance of brushing twice a day. In addition to Doug E. Fresh, the track features Dr. Olajide Williams of Columbia University, a world-renowned leader in community-based behavioral intervention research, as well as youth artist Heaven. Part of the song is also performed in Spanish by Dr. Monique "Docta Mo Flow" Hedmann-Maxey, styled with hip-hop and reggaeton world beat. Q. Worthy produced and composed "Paste Time" with co-writer BJ Gray.

"I've always been extremely passionate about oral health, because it affects our overall health and wellbeing, and I love using music as a fun way to reach and teach our young people about the importance of healthy living practices," said Doug E. Fresh. "We know that building health literacy at a young age is key to combating health disparities

in communities that are underserved," echoed Dr. Olajide Williams. "That's why Hip Hop Public Health was so excited to partner with Colgate to bring our proven approach of using music as a transformative learning tool to this critical topic of oral health care for young people. 'Paste Time' is an uplifting song and video that shares important educational messages and inspires kids and families to develop strong, sustainable teeth-brushing habits."

The music video features students from Dryden Street Elementary School in Westbury, New York and Trevitt Elementary School in Columbus, Ohio. The students were given the opportunity to be featured after being honored at the 2022 Bright Smiles Kids Awards, which celebrated creativity and optimism among school-aged children.

Impacting

BSBF and HHPH joined together to create "Paste Time" to educate children and their families about the importance of good oral health and its link to overall health and wellbeing – a connection that is often less recognized by people, governments, and healthcare professionals. The costs of poor oral health are felt most acutely by those living in communities that are marginalized, impacting their health and livelihood.

"Colgate-Palmolive is committed to reimagining a healthier future for all – and this can be seen by our Bright Smiles, Bright Futures program that has been part of our Company for more than 30 years," said Dr. Gillian Barclay, Colgate's Senior Vice

President, Global Public Health & Scientific Affairs and Hip Hop Public Health Board Member. "Our program promotes oral health and wellbeing for communities that have been underserved and marginalized, and much of our success stems from partnering with organizations that support and help advance our goals. Hip Hop Public Health's mission and ability to build health equity in communities that are underserved through harnessing the power of music and culture makes it an excellent partner. We are confident that 'Paste Time' will reach – and more importantly positively impact – the children and families who stand to benefit most from this message."

Since it was established in 1991, Colgate's Bright Smiles, Bright Futures® program has reached more than 1.6 billion children in more than 100 countries with oral health education. The program strategically partners to reach underserved children and their families where they are born, live, learn, work and play. BSBF continues to promote health equity, optimal health and wellbeing, and to lead global social impact efforts that empower children and families to achieve healthy and bright futures. In the U.S., BSBF dental vans are based in hub cities and travel to rural and urban communities to help raise awareness about the importance of children's oral health.

Hip Hop Public Health is an internationally recognized organization that creates research-based educational resources by harnessing the power of music and culture to improve health in communities that are underserved.

zation that significantly benefits patient's safety without a large economic burden on the hospital. Viseon uniquely enables this with the first-ever MaxView 4K System. We are fortunate to have an exceptionally talented product development team who have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to rapidly innovate next generation patented technology enabling us to expand into additional markets such as Neurosurgery, ENT, Endoscopy, and other Orthopedic uses."

Viseon, Inc is privately held and was founded to bring the first and only state-of-the-art single-use disposable 4K imaging technology to the field of minimally invasive surgery (MIS). Viseon's goal is to advance minimally invasive surgery with innovative technology that enhances intraoperative visualization in an otherwise compromised setting. In doing so the Company will disrupt antiquated modalities for visualization, enable the digital future and accelerate adoption of advanced surgical techniques, improving the surgeon experience, patient outcomes and safety.

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Jackson sexual abuse lawsuits revived by appeals court

LOS ANGELES, Aug 19, (AP) — A California appeals court on Friday revived lawsuits from two men who allege Michael Jackson sexually abused them for years when they were boys.

A three-judge panel from California's 2nd District Court of Appeal found that the lawsuits of Wade Robson and James Safechuck should not have been dismissed by a lower court, and that the men can validly claim that the two Jackson-owned corporations that were named as defendants in the cases had a responsibility to protect them. A new California law that temporarily broadened the scope of sexual abuse cases enabled the appeals court to restore them.

It's the second time the lawsuits — brought by Robson in 2013 and Safechuck the following year — have been brought back after dismissal. The two men became more widely known for telling their stories in the 2019 HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland."

A judge who dismissed the suits in 2021 found that the corporations, MJJ Productions Inc. and MJJ Ventures Inc., could not be expected to function like the Boy Scouts or a church where a child in their care could expect their protection. Jackson, who died in 2009, was the sole owner and only shareholder in the companies.

The higher court judges disagreed, writing that "a corporation that facilitates the sexual abuse of children by one of its employees is not excused from an affirmative duty to protect those children merely because it is solely owned by the perpetrator of the abuse."

They added that "it would be perverse to find no duty based on the corporate defendant having only one shareholder. And so we reverse the judgments entered for the corporations."

Jonathan Steinsapir, attorney for the Jackson estate, said they were "disappointed."

"Two distinguished trial judges repeatedly dismissed these cases on numerous occasions over the last decade because the law required it," Steinsapir said in an email to The Associated Press. "We remain fully confident that Michael is innocent of these allegations, which are contrary to all credible evidence and independent corroboration, and which were only first made years after Michael's death by men motivated solely by money."

Overtured

Vince Finaldi, an attorney for Robson and Safechuck, said in an email that they were "pleased but not surprised" that the court overturned the previous judge's "incorrect rulings in these cases, which were against California law and would have set a dangerous precedent that endangered children throughout state and country. We eagerly look forward to a trial on the merits."

Steinsapir had argued for the defense in July that it does not make sense that employees would be legally required to stop the behavior of their boss.

"It would require low-level employees to confront their supervisor and call them pedophiles," Steinsapir said.

Holly Boyer, another attorney for Robson and Safechuck, countered that the boys "were left alone in this lion's den by the defendant's employees. An affirmative duty to protect and to warn is correct."

Steinsapir said evidence that has been gathered in the cases, which

have not reached trial, showed that the parents had no expectation of Jackson's employees to act as monitors.

"They were not looking to Michael Jackson's companies for protection from Michael Jackson," the lawyer argued said.

But in a concurring opinion issued with Friday's decision, one of the panelists, Associate Justice John Shepard Wiley Jr., wrote that "to treat Jackson's wholly-owned instruments as different from Jackson himself is to be mesmerized by abstractions. This is not an alter ego case. This is a same ego case."

The judges did not rule on the truth of the allegations themselves. That will be the subject of a forthcoming jury trial in Los Angeles.

"We trust that the truth will ultimately prevail with Michael's vindication yet again," Steinsapir said Friday.

Robson, now a 40-year-old choreographer, met Jackson when he was 5 years old. He went on to appear in three Jackson music videos.

His lawsuit alleged that Jackson molested him over a seven-year period. Safechuck, now 45, said in his suit that he was 9 when he met Jackson while filming a Pepsi commercial. He said Jackson called him often and lavished him with gifts before moving on to sexually abusing him.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they were victims of sexual abuse. But Robson and Safechuck have come forward and approved of the use of their identities.

The men's lawsuits had already bounced back from a 2017 dismissal, when Young threw them out for being beyond the statute of limitations. Jackson's personal estate — the assets he left after his death — was thrown out as a defendant in 2015.

People

Variety



This image released by Variance Films shows Sophia Lillis, (right), and Michael Cera in a scene from 'The Adults.' (AP)

Film

Cera's film tells a poignant story of three siblings

'The Adults' grapples with isolation, grief

LOS ANGELES, Aug 19, (AP) — When director Dustin Guy Defa set out to make a movie about isolation, grief and familial strife, he wasn't quite cognizant of the unmistakable ways in which the effects of the coronavirus pandemic were informing his script.

Now, however, he concedes that "The Adults," which hit select theaters in the US Friday, is loaded with obvious inspiration from some of the flash-points of 2020 — the year he wrote it.

"In hindsight, it definitely did," Defa said of the pandemic's influence. "I definitely was thinking about the importance of family, even if you have strained relationships."

"The Adults," which premiered in February at the Berlin International Film Festival and was subsequently picked up by Universal Pictures, stars Michael Cera, Sophia Lillis and Hannah Gross.

It tells a poignant story of three siblings with dead parents as they reckon with how to relate to one another now that the simplicity and innocence of childhood is behind them. While visiting his sisters and hometown for the first time in years, Eric (Cera) grapples anew with how the stressors and variances of life have informed his relationship with Rachel (Gross) and their youngest sibling, Maggie (Lillis), who recently dropped out of college.

"They're still those people but they're not those people at the same time. They're trying on old suits that don't fit anymore," Defa said of the characters' futile efforts to revive the Marge Simpson impressions and Men at Work choreography that served as familiar sources of comfort in their youth.

While the picture that emerges could perhaps be seen as cynical, figuring out how to navigate those evolving relationships is a task relatable, on at least some level, to everyone with a sibling — even if that attachment is a healthy one.

"It's so funny how particular that relationship is, especially once you get older and you have your own

life," Lillis said during a press junket at the Tribeca Festival in June, musing about her bond with her own brother. "It kind of shifts a little bit from this very familiar thing of being a part of their life completely into only being a part of it."

"The Adults" is the kind of low-budget, character-driven independent film that attracts actors like Cera and Gross, who had both worked with Defa in the past. Cera starred in his similarly touching, albeit more lighthearted, "Person to Person," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2017 and was eventually distributed by Magnolia Pictures.

"I, like most actors, am drawn to rich material and Dustin's a great writer. The script was so full of wonderful moments and scenes and characters," Cera said of the director's latest film.

Gross, who first worked with Defa a decade ago and has since acted in a handful of his short films, also cited his writing and direction as reasons for why she keeps coming back to his projects.

"Nostalgic sounds demeaning but there is something that feels — there's a reverence for actors and for characters that feels very much of another era of filmmaking," she said.

It's an impressive feat that a film as austere as this one was able to be made amid the pandemic — they wrapped shooting days before the first wave of the omicron variant hit, narrowly avoiding production shutdowns — let alone given a theatrical release by a major studio.

"It is rare that a movie like this, I think, gets an opportunity to even get financing," Cera said. "I felt lucky to be Dustin's friend and have access to reading his work as he's developing it and happy to have a chance to go and work on it."

Also:

BANGKOK: A Swiss citizen was arrested in military-ruled Myanmar for creating a film that allegedly insulted Buddhism, state media reported Saturday.

Didier Nusbaumer, 52, was arrested on Aug. 8 along with 13 Myanmar nationals, including a 12-year-old girl, Myanmar Alinn newspaper said.

Insulting Buddhism is a punishable offense in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, where religious nationalism has surged in recent years. About 90% of Myanmar people are Buddhist.

The news report said that Nusbaumer wrote, filmed and edited the 75-minute movie "Don't Expect Anything," which was posted on YouTube on July 24. Short clips from the movie spread on social media including on TikTok and Facebook, drawing rebukes from Buddhist nationalists in Myanmar.

"Although the people in the film's main roles are Buddhist, they behaved inappropriately and degraded the dignity and morals of monks through their physical gestures and dialogue," the media report said.

The report did not say where any of the suspects were being held.

Myanmar has been ruled by its army since February 2021, when it seized power from the democratically elected government of **Aung San Suu Kyi**.

Nusbaumer is not the first foreigner to be detained in Myanmar after being accused of insulting Buddhism.

In March 2015, a **New Zealand** citizen who was arrested with two Myanmar nationals was sentenced to 2 1/2 years imprisonment with hard labor for insulting Buddhism in an online advertisement that showed a psychedelic depiction of Buddha wearing DJ-style headphones. He was deported the following year.

In October 2016, a Dutch tourist was jailed for three months with hard labor for insulting Buddhism after he unplugged a loudspeaker used by Buddhist monks to broadcast a late-night sermon in the country's second-largest city, **Mandalay**. He was deported after serving his jail term.

In the same year, a Spanish tourist was deported from Myanmar after authorities found a tattoo of Buddha on his leg.

NEW YORK: A New York City drug dealer was sentenced Friday to 10 years in prison for providing "The Wire" actor **Michael K. Williams** with fentanyl-laced heroin, causing his death.

Irvin Cartagena, 40, of **Aibonito, Puerto Rico**, was sentenced by US District Judge **Ronnie Abrams**. Cartagena had pleaded guilty in April to conspiring to distribute drugs.

Williams overdosed in his **Brooklyn** penthouse apartment in September 2021. He died hours after authorities said he bought the heroin from Cartagena on a sidewalk in Brooklyn's **Williamsburg** neighborhood in a deal recorded by a security camera.

Williams famously portrayed **Omar Little**, the rogue robber of drug dealers, in HBO's "The Wire," which ran from 2002 to 2008. In addition to his work on the critically acclaimed drama, Williams also starred in films and other TV series such as "Boardwalk Empire."

Cartagena faced a mandatory minimum of five years in prison and could have faced up to 40 years behind bars.

"I am very sorry for my actions," he said before the sentence was announced. "When we sold the drugs, we never intended for anyone to lose their life."

Abrams noted that those who knew Cartagena said that he was "helpful and humble and hard working" when he was not using drugs himself.

"I'm hopeful that with treatment, ... it will help you move forward on a more productive and law-abiding path," the judge said.

In a statement, US Attorney **Damian Williams** noted that those who participated in the sale of drugs to Williams already knew that someone else had died from drugs they were peddling.

Prosecutors said Cartagena and others continued to sell fentanyl-laced heroin in **Manhattan** and **Brooklyn** even after Williams died, although Cartagena eventually fled to **Puerto Rico**, where he was arrested in February 2022.

In a defense submission prior

to sentencing, Cartagena's lawyer, **Sean Maher**, said his client was paid for his street sales in heroin to support his own use. (AP)

MERIDEN, Conn: Police who found a kitten in a stolen car say they have located the animal's owner: A juvenile suspect who



Michael



Damian

fled and was arrested after the car crashed.

The Meriden Police Department said on its Facebook page Thursday that the gray-and-white male cat has been returned to the suspect's mother.

The department said the youth said nothing to officers about the pet, which was found under

a seat. Instead, police were led to the owner by someone who responded to the department's Facebook post earlier this week looking for the animal's owner.

In the meantime, a number of people contacted authorities looking to adopt the cat, police said.

Police said they found the fe-

line while searching for evidence after the stolen vehicle collided with a patrol car during an Aug 10 chase. Officers were pursuing the vehicle on suspicion that it had been used in armed robberies in several nearby communities hours earlier. After the crash, six suspects fled but were soon arrested. (AP)

People & Places

Music

'World Music Radio'

Batiste takes a sonic trip with new album

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): How do you top a five-time Grammy Award-winning album that had critics applauding its rich blend of R&B, hip-hop, swing, jazz and pop? If you're **Jon Batiste**, you go even higher and wider.

The singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist returns this month two years after his triumphant album "We Are" with the complex "World Music Radio," a collection he calls an "expansive, genreless, popular music concept record."

"World Music Radio" is conceived like a timeless radio broadcast from a sort of interstellar DJ, gradually taking the listener from a hip-hop, pop and dance party to soul, Latin, folk and gospel. It's like moving from a rave to church.

"I wanted to have that effect where you're traveling from Saturday night to Sunday morning and you're slowly moving towards this state of bliss, in this state of feeling this ultimate humanism and togetherness with everyone and feeling connected to the universe," Batiste says.

"World Music Radio," out Friday, isn't just a sonic trip, it's also a mesmerizing way to dial into Batiste's eclectic and wide musicality, with songs switching sounds midway and lyrics layered with symbolism and multiple languages seeping out. Few albums can boast a Duke Ellington vocal clip, the Muslim call to prayer and a Kenny G sax solo.

"For me, playing is always a form of dreaming. And I'm constantly creating based on thoughts or conversations that I've had, words that have resonated with me or people who have helped me to be who I am today," he says.

The album begins with a salutation - "Hello everybody, I'm Billy Bob Bo Bob" - as Batiste sets the listener up for a spin of Earth's sounds, from the Afropop of "Be Who You Are," Johnny Cash-like "Master Power" to the Michael Jackson-esque "Call Now (504-305-8269)."

Water, so vital to the planet and so dangerous to his hometown of New Orleans, is a theme - from the super pop of "Drink Water" featuring Jon Bellion and Fireboy DML - to the exuberant "Raindance" to the restrained, distorted ballad "White Space," where he sings "Saved in the water/I'm saved."

Struggle

It was all a struggle at first. The singer-songwriter had amassed a massive 3 1/2 hours of new music but wasn't able to figure out a through-line. Its working title was "World Music."

"It wasn't about making a world music album, but using that as a prompt because it's really a horrendous term, if you think about it for many reasons," he says. "I went to bed kind of discouraged, not really having the sense of what it was."

That's when an odd muse visited. Batiste had read about an unusual radio signal that some attribute to a being called B4, hence Billy Bob Bo Bob. What "World Music" was missing, he realized, was a DJ. He worked feverishly through the night.

"I can't explain to you how it just struck me like lightning. It was just so quickly a part of the fiber of my being in a way that I just saw it," Batiste says. "It took so long for it to reveal itself. And I was almost at the point where 'Maybe we need to scrap this.'"

The album's collaborators - which include Lil Wayne, K-pop girl group NewJeans and Lana Del Rey - didn't always know about the alien DJ stuff or the high concept behind the album.

"I try to make it where someone can step in and do their thing without having to understand the greater concept," he says. "I didn't tell them. None of the collaborators knew what I was building, but I knew that if I casted them properly, they would shine."

Transcendental

"World Music Radio" comes after Batiste untethered himself from late-night television - he was the bandleader for "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" for seven years.

Louis Cato, another multi-instrumentalist who he recruited to join Colbert's band and who succeeded him as bandleader, calls Batiste a "transcendental musician" who gave him a front-row seat to learning on the job.

"I feel really lucky and grateful for that," Cato says. "This was nowhere in the cards for me, you know. I think there's something really powerful about learning through a relationship."

In addition to his Grammy success last year, Batiste also earned a best original score Oscar alongside Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross for his work on Pixar's "Soul" in 2020.

The scion of New Orleans musical royalty, Batiste started life as a video gamer/classical music student/jazz pupil and he refuses to recognize any boundaries in music. The first four albums he ever bought attest to that - Michael Jackson's "Dangerous," Bjork's "Vespertine," Common's "Like Water for Chocolate" and "Led Zeppelin IV."

The roots for "World Music Radio" were planted about a decade ago when Batiste released his album "Social Music," what he called "a statement of intention, a manifesto. And 'World Music' is really a realization of that." He adds: "Now I'm just at a point in life where I can create this kind of thing more effectively."

Batiste thinks the album may be a roadmap for the future as Latin, K-pop and African sounds influence pop.

"We have to liberate ourselves as artists, and I think the public is ready for that. Global influence has just seeped into popular culture more and more every day. Everybody's ready for the chains to be broken and for things to be expanded. The Grammys have expanded categories," he says. "More and more communities want to be recognized. It's just going to continue."



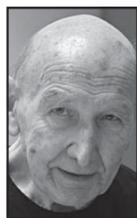
Batiste



Eight-year-old Michelle Potapova is hugged by her mother Natali Hrushevskva as they look at the War Diaries exhibition, showcasing the personal diaries of Ukrainian children who have witnessed the war, hosted by the Amsterdam city hall, Netherlands, Thursday, Aug. 17. The city where Anne Frank wrote her World War II diary while hiding with her family from the brutal Nazi occupation is hosting an exhibition with grim echoes of her plight more than three quarters of a century later. (AP)



This cover image released by Verve/Interscope Records shows 'World Music Radio' by Jon Batiste. (AP)



Cerny



De Groff

Variety

PRAGUE: Jiri Cerny, a legendary Czech music critic who introduced Western music to generations of listeners behind the Iron Curtain and became one of the voices of the 1989 anti-communist Velvet Revolution, has died. He was 87.

Cerny died on Thursday in a hospital in Prague, his colleague **Jan Rejzek** announced on Czech public television. No details were given.

Born Feb. 25, 1936 in Prague, Cerny started writing about rock 'n' roll in a weekly magazine for young people in the early 1960s in Czechoslovakia, where such a novelty was viewed with suspicion by the communist authorities.

He was fired in 1965, a year after he introduced the first radio hit parade, "Twelve on a Swing," in the country.

Cerny was in charge of the show with his first wife, **Miroslava**, until 1969. He was fired after he played a song ridiculing the Soviet troops who invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968 to crush the Prague Spring, the brief period of liberal reforms meant to lead to the democratization of the country.

Also with Miroslava, he published a book about the Beatles in 1966, a unique publication in the communist world at the time.

In 1971, lacking opportunities for work under the hard-line communist regime that took over after the invasion, he began to tour the country with a bag full of records, performing in a show known as an anti-discotheque.

As well as Western music, he played banned Czech musicians to audiences who at the time could hardly listen to them anywhere else, an activity he continued till 2022.

In 1989, he found himself at the center of political turmoil.

Cerny was one of the founding members of the Civic Forum, a newly created opposition group led by the late Vaclav Havel that was instrumental in the transition to democracy.

Cerny became its impromptu spokesperson. (AP)

ORLANDO, Fla: A central Florida art museum which was raided last year by the FBI over an exhibit of what turned out to be forged **Jean-Michel Basquiat** paintings has sued its former executive director and others, claiming they were part of a scheme to profit from the eventual sale of the fake artwork.

The Orlando Museum of Art filed the lawsuit Monday in state court against former CEO **Aaron De Groff** and others whom the museum says were involved in the scheme, seeking undisclosed damages for fraud, breach of contract and conspiracy.

The 99-year-old museum, also referred

Exhibition

'Exhibition is about the pain thru children's eyes'

Ukraine kids war diaries go on show

AMSTERDAM, Aug 19, (AP): The city where Anne Frank wrote her World War II diary while hiding with her family from the brutal Nazi occupation is hosting an exhibition about the Ukraine war with grim echoes of her plight more than three quarters of a century later.

The exhibition that opened at Amsterdam City Hall on Thursday offers a vision of the war in Ukraine as experienced by children caught in the devastating conflict.

"This exhibition is about the pain through the children's eyes," **Khrystyna Khranovska**, who developed the idea, said at the opening. "It strikes into the very heart of every adult to be aware of the suffering and grief that the Russian war has brought our children," she added.

"War Diaries," includes writings like those that Anne Frank penned in the hidden annex behind an Amsterdam canal-side house, but also modern ways Ukrainian children have recorded and processed the traumatic experience of life during wartime, including photos and video.

Among them is the artwork of **Mykola Kostenko**, now 15, who spent 21 days under siege in the port city of Mariupol.

The relentless attack on the southern port city became a symbol of Russian President Vladimir Putin's drive to crush Ukraine soon after Russia invaded its neighbor in February last year, but also of resistance and resilience of its 430,000 population.

His pictures from that time are in blue ballpoint pen on pieces of paper torn out of notebooks - that's all Kostenko had. One of them shows the tiny basement where he and his family sheltered from the Russian shells before finally managing to flee the city.

"I put my soul into all of these pictures because this is what I lived through in Mariupol. What I saw, what I heard. So this is my experi-

ence and this is my hope," Kostenko said through an interpreter.

Curator **Katya Taylor** said the diaries and art are useful coping mechanisms for the children.

"We talk so much about mental health and therapy, but they know better than us what they have to do with themselves," she said. She called the diaries, art, photos and video on display in Amsterdam, "a kind of therapeutic work for many of them."

The plight of children caught in the war in Ukraine has already attracted widespread international condemnation. More than 500 have been killed, according to Ukrainian officials.

Meanwhile, UNICEF says an estimated 1.5 million Ukrainian children are at risk of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues, with potentially lasting effects.

Traumatic

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants in March for Putin and his commissioner for children's rights, **Maria Lvova-Belova**, holding them personally responsible for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

For Kostenko, drawing and painting is also therapeutic - a way of processing the traumatic events and recording them so they are never forgotten.

"It also was an instrument to save the emotions that I lived through. For me to remember them in the future, because it's important," he said.

The youngest diarist, 10-year-old **Yehor Kravtsov**, also lived in besieged Mariupol. In text on display next to his diary, he writes that he used to dream of becoming a builder. But his experience living through the city's siege changed his mind.

"When we got out from the basement during the occupation and I was very hungry, I decided to become a chef to feed the whole world," he

wrote. "So that all the people would be happy and there would be no war."

Also:

SIoux FALLS, S.D.: A South Dakota museum has closed after almost 40 years over concerns that the chemicals in its taxidermy collection could endanger visitors and staff, the affiliated zoo announced Thursday.

The Great Plains Zoo said Thursday that it has closed the **Delbridge Museum of Natural History** in Sioux Falls. The zoo's CEO **Becky Dewitz** said strong chemicals were used in the taxidermy process and that tests found detectable levels of those chemicals in the museum, **KELO-TV** reported. It wasn't an easy decision to close the museum but it's the right one, she said.

"The specimens were harvested in the 1940s through the 1970s. Prior to the 1980s, it was common to use strong chemicals in the taxidermy process all over the world for preservation of the hides," the zoo said in a statement on its website.

The museum's collection of animals on display was one of the largest in the region. Sioux Falls businessman **Henry Brockhouse** assembled the collection that includes animals from six continents over several decades. Photos of the collection show an elephant, giraffe, rhinoceros, zebras and other animals.

Sioux Falls attorney **C.J. Delbridge** bought the collection in 1981 and donated it to the city to establish the **Delbridge Museum of Natural History** in 1984.

"As the specimens continue to age, there is more potential for chemical exposure," it added. "Out of an abundance of caution," the city and zoo decided to decommission the collection. Dewitz said this process will take a long time because a number of the animals are now endangered and protected under federal law.

to as OMA, was left with a tattered reputation that resulted in its being put on probation by the American Alliance of Museums, the lawsuit said.

"OMA spent hundreds of thousands of dollars - and unwittingly staked its reputation - on exhibiting the now admittedly fake paintings," the lawsuit said.

"Consequently, cleaning up the aftermath created by the defendants has cost OMA even more."

Basquiat, who lived and worked in **New York City**, found success in the 1980s as part of the Neo-expressionism movement. The Orlando Museum of Art was the first institution to display the more than two dozen artworks said to have been found in an old storage locker decades after **Basquiat's** 1988 death from a drug overdose at age 27.

Questions about the artworks' authenticity arose almost immediately after their reported discovery in 2012. The artwork was purportedly made in 1982, but experts have pointed out that the cardboard used in at least one of the pieces included **FedEx** typeface that wasn't used until 1994, about six years after **Basquiat** died, according to the federal warrant from the museum raid.

Also, television writer **Thad Mumford**, the owner of the storage locker where the art was eventually found, told investigators that he had never owned any **Basquiat** art and that the pieces were not in the unit the last time he had visited. Mumford died in 2018.

In April, former Los Angeles auctioneer **Michael Barzman** agreed to plead guilty to federal charges of making false statements to the FBI, admitting that he and an accomplice had created the fake artwork and falsely attributed the paintings to **Basquiat**. (AP)



Cast members of the film 'Hey Viktor!' (from right), Gary Farmer, Cody Lightning, Irene Bedard and Simon Baker (far left), pose for a photo with Cynthia Chavez Lamar, (second from left), director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian during the opening night of Native Cinema Showcase 2023 on Thursday, Aug 17, in Santa Fe, N.M. (AP)



Cotton ropes and cloth by Emirati artist Hassan Sharif.

KUNA photo

Christie's hosts largest Arab art exhibition in London

London's largest exhibition of modern and contemporary Arab art is being hosted by Christie's, a leading global portfolio of art and luxury services, this summer.

On display at the exhibition are collections from "Kawkaba" (constellation) - a collaborative initiative between Barjeel Art Foundation based in the UAE emirate of Sharjah, and the London-based Chris-

tie's. The exhibition presents over 150 works across mediums including paintings, sculpture, drawings, and installations spanning 80 years of creativity from 1939 to 2023.

These include works of the UAE artist Hassan Sharif, and other Emirates artists who introduced conceptual art to the region.

This Arab art exhibition, which is the first of its kind in London, is a window into the soul of the Arab world revealing an exploration of the region's richness while paying tribute to its unwavering resilience and boundless creativity.

It is arranged by a unique partnership between the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Culture and Youth and Barjeel Art Foundation. (KUNA)

Cyberattack closures

Hospitals computers still 'offline' for weeks

MANCHESTER, Conn., Aug 17, (AP) - Key computer systems at hospitals and clinics in several states have yet to come back online more than two weeks after a cyberattack that forced some emergency room shutdowns and ambulance diversions.

Progress is being made "to recover critical systems and restore their integrity," Prospect Medical Holdings said in a Friday statement. But the company, which runs 16 hospitals and dozens of other medical facilities in California, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Texas, could not say when operations might return to normal.

"We do not yet have a definitive timeline for how long it will be before all of our systems are restored," spokeswoman Nina Kruse said in a text message. "The forensic investigation is still underway and we are working closely with law enforcement officials."

The recovery process can often take weeks, with hospitals in the meantime reverting to paper systems and people to monitor equipment, run records from departments and do other tasks usually handled electronically, John Riggi, the American Hospital Association's national advisor for cybersecurity and risk, said at the time of the breach.

The attack, which was announced Aug. 3, had all the hallmarks of extortion ransomware but officials would neither confirm nor deny this. In such attacks, criminals steal sensitive data from targeted networks, activate encryption malware that paralyzes them and demand ransoms.

Victims

The FBI advises victims not to pay ransoms as there is no guarantee the stolen data won't eventually be sold on dark web criminal forums. Paying ransoms also encourages the criminals and finances attacks, Riggi said.

As a result of the attack, some elective surgeries, outpatient appointments, blood drives and other services are still postponed.

Eastern Connecticut Health Network, which includes Rockville General and Manchester Memorial hospitals as well as a number of clinics and primary care providers, was running Friday on a temporary phone system.

Waterbury Hospital has been using paper records in place of computer files since the attack but is no longer diverting trauma and stroke patients to other facilities, spokeswoman Lauresha Xhiani told the Republican-American newspaper.

"PMH physicians, nurses, and staff are trained to provide care when our electronic systems are not available," Kruse wrote. "Delivering safe, quality care is our most important priority."

Globally, the health care industry was the hardest-hit by cyberattacks in the year ending in March, according to IBM's annual report on data breaches. For the 13th straight year it reported the most expensive breaches, averaging \$11 million each. Next was the financial sector at \$5.9 million.

Health care providers are a common target for criminal extortionists because they have sensitive patient data, including histories, payment information, and even critical research data, Riggi said.

Health

'I am evil I did this'

British 'neonatal nurse' guilty of killing 7 babies

LONDON, Aug 19, (AP) - A neonatal nurse in a British hospital was found guilty Friday of murdering seven babies and trying to kill six others during a yearlong campaign of deception that saw her prey on the vulnerabilities of sick newborns and their anxious parents.

Following 22 days of deliberation, the jury at Manchester Crown Court convicted 33-year-old Lucy Letby of killing the babies, including two triplet boys, in the neonatal unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital in northwest England between June 2015 and June 2016. She will be sentenced on Monday.

"Parents were exposed to her morbid curiosity and her fake compassion," said senior prosecutor Pascale Jones. "Too many of them returned home to empty baby rooms. Many surviving children live with permanent consequences of her assaults upon their lives."

Her attacks, Jones said, were "a complete betrayal of the trust placed in her."

Families of the victims said they will "forever be grateful" to jurors who since last October had to sit through 145 days of "grueling" evidence.

In a joint statement read outside court, they also expressed their gratitude to all those who came to give evidence during the trial, which they described as "extremely harrowing and distressing" to listen to.



Letby

Heart-breaking

"To lose a baby is a heart-breaking experience that no parent should ever have to go through, but to lose a baby or to have a baby harmed in these particular circumstances is unimaginable," they said.

Letby's motives remain unclear, but the scale of her crimes points to intricate planning.

She was accused of deliberately harming the babies in various ways, including by injecting air into their bloodstreams and administering air or milk into their stomachs via nasogastric tubes. She was also accused of poisoning infants by adding insulin to intravenous feeds and interfering with breathing tubes.

The British government launched an independent inquiry soon after the verdicts that will look into the wider circumstances around what happened at the hospital, including the handling of concerns raised by staff.

"This inquiry will seek to ensure the parents and families impacted get the answers they need," Health Secretary Steve Barclay said. "I am determined their voices are heard, and they are involved in shaping the scope of the inquiry should they wish to do so."

One of the senior doctors at the

Countess of Chester Hospital told the BBC he had repeatedly tried to raise the alarm about Letby but hospital executives failed to investigate the allegations.

Dr Stephen Brearley, the lead doctor in the neonatal unit, said the hospital tried to silence doctors who complained about Letby and delayed calling the police.

The jury of seven women and four men deliberated for 22 days before reaching the verdict. One juror was excused well into deliberations for personal reasons, and the judge later gave the remaining 11 jurors the option of reaching a verdict with 10 people in agreement instead of a unanimous decision.

Tempted

Letby was found guilty of the seven murders and of seven charges of attempted murder relating to six children. She was cleared of two charges of attempted murder and the jury could not reach a verdict on several others.

Some of the verdicts were announced in court earlier in the month, but the judge imposed a ban on reporting them until deliberations were complete.

During the lengthy trial, prosecutors said the hospital in 2015 started to experience a significant rise in the number of babies who were dying or suffering sudden deteriorations in their health for no apparent reason. Some suffered "serious catastrophic collapses" but survived after help from medical staff.

Letby was on duty in all the cases with prosecutors describing her as a "constant malevolent presence" in the neonatal unit when the children collapsed or died. They said the nurse harmed the babies in ways that did not leave much of a trace, and that she persuaded her colleagues that the collapses and deaths were normal.

Police launched an investigation into the baby deaths at the hospital in May 2017 and Letby was eventually charged in November 2020.

"The last thing we expected to find was a suspect responsible for these deaths and non-fatal collapses," said the senior investigating officer, Detective Superintendent Paul Hughes.

"Turning up at the home of a family who have lost a baby, grieved for their loss and are trying to move on from that is difficult enough, but having to tell them that someone who was meant to be caring for their little one could ultimately be responsible for their death - is not an easy task," he added.

She declined to be in the courtroom as additional verdicts were announced Friday and has indicated to the court she does not wish to appear in court Monday, nor to follow the sentencing hearing via videolink.

"I am a horrible evil person," she wrote. "I Am Evil I Did This."

A note police found at Letby's home after she was first arrested in 2018 will now stand as a chilling confession.



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Miami Marlins' Jake Burger, (right), hits a three-run home run as Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Tony Gonsolin, (left), watches along with catcher Will Smith, (second from left), and home plate umpire Ramon De Jesus during the third inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

Liberty sweep short-handed Mercury

Mystics end 9-game road losing streak

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 19, (AP): Brittney Sykes scored 30 points with five 3-pointers and the Washington Mystics beat the Indiana Fever 83-79 on Friday night to snap a nine-game road losing streak.

Washington (15-16) won away from home for the first time since topping Chicago on June 22.

Washington star Elena Delle Donne and Ariel Atkins both returned to the starting lineup after missing a month with ankle injuries. Delle Donne, who played for the first time since logging 13 minutes on July 9, finished with six points in 11 minutes. Atkins was on the court for the first time since July 11 and scored six points in 14 minutes.

Natasha Cloud added 15 points for Washington (15-16), which made 12 of 25 3-pointers.

Washington led 78-71 with 37 seconds left. But Emma Cannon made 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions to pull Indiana to 81-79 with 8.3 seconds left. The Mystics nearly turned it over on an inbound pass, but Cloud chased it down in the backcourt before being fouled. Cloud made two free throws to seal it.

BASKETBALL

Liberty 85, Mercury 63

In Phoenix, Betnijah Laney scored 22 points, Sabrina Ionescu added 18 points and the New York Liberty used a big third quarter to beat the short-handed Phoenix Mercury.

New York (25-7) played its fifth game in seven days, including an 82-63 loss to Las Vegas on Thursday. Phoenix (9-22) was without Brittney Griner due to health and safety protocol.

New York scored 16 of the opening 21 points of the second half to extend its lead to 59-43. The Liberty outscored the Mercury 32-16 in the third quarter to take a 75-54 lead.

The teams combined for just 19 points in the fourth quarter.

Lynx 78, Storm 70

In Seattle, Napheesa Collier had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Kayla McBride added 21 points and the Minnesota Lynx held off the Seattle Storm.

Collier scored 17 points in the first half and McBride added 10 to help Minnesota build a 46-39 lead. McBride's fast-break layup extended Minnesota's lead to 52-41 early in the third quarter. McBride also made a step-back 3-pointer to make it 67-52 with 7:18 left in the fourth.

Minnesota was called for a flagrant foul with 59.1 seconds remaining and Seattle guard Sami Whitcomb made two free throws to get to 75-68. Seattle star Jewell Loyd tried to make it a five-point possession but her contested 3-pointer didn't hit the rim.

Dream 78, Sky 77

In College Park, Cheyenne Parker scored a career-high 29 points, Alisha Gray added 20 points and the Atlanta Dream beat the Chicago Sky to snap a three-game losing streak.

Parker was 10 of 20 from the field and 9 of 10 at the free-throw line to top her previous scoring best of 25 points set earlier this season. She also had seven rebounds.

Danielle Robinson had 10 points and seven assists for Atlanta (16-16). The Dream were without leading scorer Rhyne Howard due to a nose injury. Gray was helped off the court with 6:39 remaining in the fourth quarter but she did return.

Wings 95, Sun 75

In Uncasville, Arike Ogunbowale scored 30 points with seven 3-pointers, Teaira McCowan had 14 points and 11 rebounds, and the Dallas Wings beat the Connecticut Sun.

Dallas (17-14) has won two straight games, including a 91-81 victory over Connecticut on Aug. 12. The Sun (21-10) have lost three straight for the first time since the 2021 season. Connecticut was attempting to clinch a playoff spot for the seventh straight season.

Ogunbowale made six of her first seven 3-point attempts and finished 7 of 9 to tie a career-high for makes.

Braves blank Giants for 3rd consecutive shutout

Reds pip Blue Jays on Christian HR in 9th inning

CINCINNATI, Aug 19, (AP): Christian Encarnacion-Strand homered in the ninth inning, and the Cincinnati Reds beat the Toronto Blue Jays 1-0 on Friday night in the opener of an interleague series between playoff contenders.

Encarnacion-Strand drove a 2-2 pitch from Jordan Hicks (2-8) deep to left for his fourth homer. It was Cincinnati's fourth hit of the game.

Fighting for positioning in the NL playoff standings, the Reds (64-59) won for the third time in four games.

Toronto wasted a terrific performance by José Berríos, who struck out eight in 5 2/3 innings. The right-hander allowed one hit - Matt McLain's one-out single in the sixth - and walked four.

The Blue Jays (67-56), who are in the mix for an AL wild card, dropped their second straight game.

Braves 4, Giants 0

In Atlanta, Spencer Strider struck out 10 and allowed one hit in seven innings in becoming the first 14-game winner in the majors and Atlanta blanked San Francisco for its third straight shutout.

It marked the first time since the final three games of 2015 against St. Louis that the Braves blanked an opponent in three straight games. Atlanta has five shutouts in its last eight games.

Matt Olson, Eddie Rosario, Austin Riley and Michael Harris II each drove in a run as the major league-leading Braves improved to 79-42. Harris went 4 for 5 with a double and a triple.

Strider (14-4) added to his MLB-leading strikeout total of 227, which is 40 more than the second-place Kevin Gausman of Toronto.

San Francisco managed just two hits. Alex Cobb (6-5) allowed four runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Tigers 4, Guardians 2, 1st game;

Guardians 4, Tigers 1, 2nd game

In Cleveland, Will Brennan hit a tiebreaking two-run double in Cleveland's four-run eighth inning, and the Guardians earned a doubleheader split.

Brennan's rocket to center against José Cisnero drove in Kole Calhoun and rookie Brayan Rocchio, lifting Cleveland to a 3-1 lead. Rocchio hit a tying RBI single before Brennan delivered, and Gabriel Arias tacked on another run-scoring single.

In the opener, Miguel Cabrera drove in a run to tie Mel Ott for 11th place on the career RBIs list, and Akil Baddoo homered on the second pitch of Detroit's 4-2 win.

But Cleveland bounced back in the nightcap, earning its first victory in eight doubleheader games this season. Enyel De Los Santos (5-2) got the win and All-Star closer Emmanuel Clase worked a clean ninth for his 33rd save.

Cisnero (2-4) allowed three runs in one inning, spoiling a terrific performance by starter Joey Wentz. Cabrera's first-inning double in the first game scored Kerry Carpenter, giving him 1,868 RBIs in 21 major league seasons. It also was his 3,148th hit, putting the 40-year-old within four of tying Paul Waner for 18th all-time.

Baddoo's leadoff homer came off rookie Gavin Williams (1-4), whose winless streak reached seven starts. The right-hander went five innings, allowing three runs, and struck out four.

Tarik Skubal (3-2) pitched a season-high six innings of one-run ball in his first win over Cleveland in seven career outings. Jason Foley gave up a run while earning his sixth save.

Nationals 8, Phillies 7

In Washington, CJ Abrams hit a three-run homer to cap a six-run fourth inning, and Washington defeated Philadelphia, spoiling Michael Lorenzen's first start since throwing a no-hitter nine days earlier.

Jake Alu also drove in two runs for Washington, which has won 11 of 15 overall and 15 of 18 at home since July 8.

Kyle Schwarber homered twice for the Phillies, who have lost four of their last five games.

Lorenzen (7-8) didn't make it out of the fourth inning in his first outing since no-hitting Washington on Aug. 9. The right-hander allowed seven runs, six earned and eight hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Jose A. Ferrer (3-0), one of seven National pitchers in the game, worked the fifth. Kyle Finnegan picked up his 20th save.

Royals 4, Cubs 3

Chicago Bobby Witt Jr. hit a go-ahead home run and Cole Ragans pitched six effective innings to help Kansas City end a three-game skid.

Ragans (4-4) struck out nine while allowing eight hits and all three Chicago runs. He struck out three straight batters to end his final inning.

The Cubs started the day 2 1/2 games behind Milwaukee in the

NL Central standings and missed a chance to creep closer after striking out 13 times. Carlos Hernández, the last of four Royals relievers, pitched the ninth for his second save in five chances.

Jameson Taillon (7-8) was charged with two earned runs after allowing six hits and striking out three in the first six innings.

Red Sox 8, Yankees 3

In New York, rookie Masataka Yoshida hit a three-run homer four batters into the game and drove in four runs, and Brayan Bello pitched six innings to lead Boston past skidding New York.

Justin Turner singled in each of his first three at-bats and hit a pair of RBI singles. Alex Verdugo also had an RBI single to start Boston's three-run second that followed a fielding error by New York second baseman Gleyber Torres.

Aaron Judge hit a two-run homer in the eighth off Garrett Whitlock, but the Yankees dropped their sixth straight - their longest skid since losing seven in a row Sept. 4-10, 2021. New York also dropped two games under .500 this late in a season for the first time since it was 57-59 following an 11-6 win over the Angels on Aug. 31, 1995.

BASEBALL

The Red Sox took a 4-0 lead 19 pitches in against rookie Jhonny Brito (4-6) when they opened with four straight hits, including Turner's RBI single and Yoshida's 13th homer.

Bello (8-7) allowed one run and six hits to win for the third time in four starts.

Mariners 2, Astros 0

In Houston, Julio Rodríguez and Mike Ford homered, Bryce Miller threw 6 1/3 shutout innings and Seattle extended its winning streak to four games in beating Houston.

Rodríguez continued to swing a hot bat, finishing with four hits, including a solo home run to left field in the third. He had five hits and drove in five RBIs on Thursday. Rodríguez tied a club record by hitting safely in nine straight at-bats, but that run was halted on a fielding error by Jeremy Peña in the seventh.

Miller (8-4) scattered two hits and struck out two. Andrés Muñoz earned his sixth save.

Brewers 9, Rangers 8

In Arlington, Carlos Santana hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh inning to lead Milwaukee past Texas in a matchup of division leaders.

The NL Central-leading Brewers rallied after the AL West-leading Rangers took a 4-3 lead in the sixth inning. Milwaukee went on to score six unanswered runs over the next two innings.

The Brewers (66-57) have a two-game lead over the Cincinnati Reds in their division.

Nathaniel Lowe and Mitch Garver homered for Texas (72-50), which lost a series opener for the first time in August. The Rangers hold a 2½ game lead over Houston, which also lost Friday night, in the division. Josh Sborz (5-5) took the loss.

Padres 4, Diamondbacks 0

In San Diego, Fernando Tatis Jr. capped San Diego's four-run eighth inning with a two-run homer, and the Padres beat Arizona.

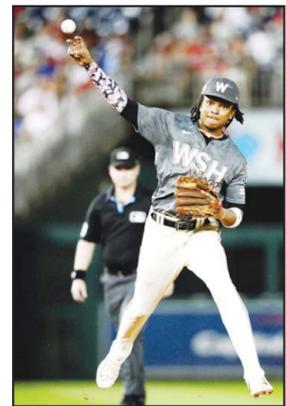
San Diego won for the third time in four games, improving to 3-2 on a 10-game homestand. The Padres (59-64) need a strong finish and some help to rally to an NL wild card.

Robert Suarez (2-2) got three outs for the win, and Josh Hader struck out the side in the ninth.

Diamondbacks rookie Brandon Pfaadt pitched seven crisp innings. He struck out five and walked three. Pfaadt was working on a no-hitter before Juan Soto doubled with one out in the seventh. The right-hander remains winless in 12 career starts.

Orioles 9, Athletics 4

In Oakland, Gunnar Henderson hit a two-run homer in the second and added an RBI single to back Kyle Gibson's winning start, and Baltimore



Washington Nationals shortstop CJ Abrams throws to first to put out Philadelphia Phillies' Alec Bohm during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Washington. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 19, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Friday.			
Kansas City	4	Chicago Cubs	3
Detroit	4	Cleveland 1st game	2
Cincinnati	1	Toronto	0
Boston	8	NY Yankees	3
Cleveland	4	Detroit 2nd game	1
Seattle	2	Houston	0
Colorado	14	Chicago W. Sox	1
Minnesota	5	Pittsburgh	1
Milwaukee	9	Texas	8
Baltimore	9	Oakland	4
Tampa Bay	9	LA Angels 10th	6
Washington	8	Philadelphia	7
Atlanta	4	San Francisco	0
NY Mets	7	St. Louis	1
San Diego	4	Arizona	0
Miami	11	LA Dodgers	3

American League				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	75	47	.615	—
Tampa Bay	74	50	.597	2
Toronto	67	56	.545	8-1/2
Boston	64	58	.525	11
New York	60	62	.492	15

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	64	59	.520	—
Cleveland	59	64	.480	5
Detroit	55	67	.451	8-1/2
Chicago	48	74	.393	15-1/2
Kansas City	40	84	.323	24-1/2

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	72	50	.590	—
Houston	70	53	.569	2-1/2
Seattle	67	55	.549	5
Los Angeles	60	63	.488	12-1/2
Oakland	34	88	.279	38

National League				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	79	42	.653	—
Philadelphia	66	56	.541	13-1/2
Miami	64	59	.520	16
New York	57	66	.463	23
Washington	56	67	.455	24

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	66	57	.537	—
Cincinnati	64	59	.520	2
Chicago	62	59	.512	3
Pittsburgh	54	68	.443	11-1/2
St. Louis	54	69	.439	12

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	74	47	.612	—
San Francisco	58	52	.525	10-1/2
Arizona	62	61	.504	13
San Diego	59	64	.480	16
Colorado	47	75	.385	27-1/2

more beat Oakland.

Gibson (12-7) struck out six and didn't walk a batter, allowing four runs on nine hits over five innings coming off his first loss in seven starts. He is one win from matching his career high done twice previously and last in 2019 with Minnesota.

Cedric Mullins hit a two-run double in the Orioles' three-run first that also featured an RBI single by Ryan Mountcastle. Adam Frazier contributed an RBI double, while Jordan Westburg had a run-scoring single and sacrifice fly in Baltimore's balanced offensive attack.

The A's got one back in the bottom half of the first on Seth Brown's RBI double and he hit an RBI single in the fifth. Tony Kemp and Brent Rooker added run-scoring doubles.

Twins 5, Pirates 1

In Minneapolis, Pablo López pitched six scoreless innings and Michael A. Taylor hit a two-run homer to send Minnesota past Pittsburgh.

López (9-6) allowed six hits and walked two, and extended his scoreless inning streak to a career-best 19 innings. He had seven strikeouts. He hasn't allowed a run in his last three starts.

The Twins won for the fourth time in five games and extended their lead in the AL Central to five games over Cleveland.

Andre Jackson (0-1) gave up two runs on four hits and three walks in 4 1/3 innings for Pittsburgh, which has lost four of five.

Pittsburgh went 1 for 14 with runners in scoring position and left 10 runners on base.

Mets 7, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Brandon Nimmo hit a leadoff home run, Jeff McNeil had a three-run shot and New York got its third straight win.

Joey Lucchesi (2-0) allowed four hits, walked two and struck out five in 5 2/3 scoreless innings in his first major league start since May 13 at Washington.

Nimmo drove the third pitch he saw from Zack Thompson (2-5) into the center-field bleachers for his 18th home run. It was his fourth leadoff home run this season and the 11th of his career, and gave him a 10-game hitting streak.

Thompson allowed two runs on six hits and walked a batter in five innings in his second major league start of the season for the Cardinals. They dropped their third straight.

Rockies 14, White Sox 1

In Denver, Ezequiel Tovar, Elias Díaz and Ryan McMahon all homered, Peter Lambert pitched seven strong innings, and Colorado beat Chicago.

The Rockies finished with a season-high scoring total after coming in having lost seven of their past eight games and 15 of 21.

Tovar and Díaz each hit two-run home runs as part of a five-run first inning that gave Colorado a comfortable lead. Ryan McMahon got his team-leading 21st homer on a 433-foot shot in the fourth inning.

Lambert (3-4) gave up Elvis Andrus' 100th career home run on the first pitch of the game before he settled in to allow just four hits and no runs over the next six innings.

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Is it coming home?

England look to bring WC trophy back to birthplace of soccer

SYDNEY, Aug 19, (AP) — The rallying cry "It's Coming Home" is one game away from reality and the end of England's 57-year drought in global soccer.

The World Cup trophy can return this Sunday to the birthplace of soccer for the first time since 1966. But if it happens, the journey back to England will be with the women's national team and not the men's.

The Lionesses have roared their way into their first Women's World Cup title game, Sunday against Spain. It is the first all-European final since 2003, when Germany beat Sweden.

It has been a magical ride for both teams: England has been on top of the global game since winning the European Championship last summer, and Spain is in its first final less than a year since 15 players quit the team in protest.

But England was expected to be here, and all around the world, in pubs and at viewing parties, England supporters have been singing "It's Coming

Home," the unintentional reminder that the soccer team hasn't won the World Cup since 1966. The men's team was the winner that year, and the Lionesses' appearance in Sunday's title game is England's first finale in the 57 years since.

England's return to prominence has been led by coach Sarina Wieg-

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man, who was hired in late 2021 as the team's first non-British manager. Wiegman is now back in her second consecutive finale, and the only coach in the history of the tournament to take two nations to the final.

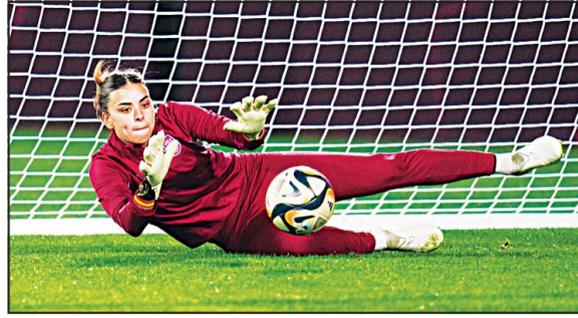
Wiegman was coach of the Netherlands when the Dutch lost 2-0 to the United States in 2019. England is coming off a 3-1 victory over host Australia in the semifinal, the second consecutive game played without lead-

ing scorer Lauren James. She was suspended against Colombia and Australia for stomping on a Nigerian player following a tackle in the knockout round.

The 21-year-old has three goals and three assists in this World Cup and apologized to her teammates for the split-second play on field that forced England to push its way through the tournament without the Chelsea midfielder.

Spain, meanwhile, has defied expectations in the World Cup by reaching the final despite a near-mutiny by players last fall. Spain saw 15 players quit the national team citing mental health concerns. The players called on the federation to create a more professional environment.

Three of those players - midfielder Aitana Bonmati, forward Mariona Caldentey and defender Ona Batlle - reconciled with the federation and are back for the tournament. Jorge Vilda has thanked the federation for its support of the coach repeatedly during the tournament, and his players have said they are focused on the present.



Spain's goalkeeper Misa Maria Rodriguez trains ahead of the FIFA Women's World Cup Final between Spain and England at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

Spain earned its spot in the final with a 2-1 victory over Sweden on Tuesday. Salma Parallelo ended a scoreless stalemate with a goal in the 81st minute. After Sweden tied it, Olga Car-

mona scored the game winner in the final minute of regulation.

At the start of practice on Friday, 19-year-old Parallelo was treated for what appeared to be a cramp in her left leg.

Also absent was forward Alba Redondo, who was riding a stationary bike off to the side. "We have all the squad ready for the final. We are going to be 100% ready, everyone is ready for the game. It's nothing to worry about," Batlle said.

In addition to the breakthrough goal against Sweden, Parallelo scored the extra-time winner over the Netherlands in the quarterfinals.

"I play against her everyday in training. I knew what she was capable of before this tournament so seeing her do so well for Spain, I have seen that in training," said England's Lucy Bronze, a teammate of Parallelo's on Spanish club Barcelona. Nine of the Spanish players are on Barcelona's squad, as well as two of the Lionesses.

Spain has not seen consistent play during the World Cup from two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas, who tore her ACL before the 2022 European Championship and is still returning to form. But Bonmati's playmaking has helped in her absence.

Kane scores on Bundesliga debut, Bayern start with 'rout' of Werder

Leverkusen defeat Leipzig in opener

BERLIN, Aug 19, (AP) — Harry Kane said he had "a few butterflies" before his Bundesliga debut. They didn't show.

The England captain scored one goal and set up another as Bayern Munich routed Werder Bremen 4-0 away in the opening game of the season on Friday.

Kane, who finally completed his protracted transfer from Tottenham last weekend, showed straight away why Bayern reportedly paid more than 100 million euros (\$110 million) for the forward.

"There was a bit of nervous excitement to play the game," Kane said. "New surroundings for me, extremely excited to get the season started with my new club and a massive club. So for sure there was a few butterflies. But as always, I feel once I get on the pitch, you know, instinct takes over and I just play my normal game."

Kane needed only three minutes to set Leroy Sané free for the opener, before he finally beat Bremen's Jiří Pavlenka with a low shot in the 74th. A Bremen defender's studs

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deflected the shot slightly inside the left post.

The England captain went off shortly afterward with what looked like a cramp, one of three late changes by Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel.

Substitute Thomas Müller set up Sané for the third goal in the final minute then Alphonso Davies set up Mathys Tel, another substitute, to complete the scoring in injury time.

The home team's best period was just after the halftime break.

"They came out in the second half and had a few chances, made it difficult, but then it was nice to get that second goal, and then the boys off the bench come on and finished the job for us," Kane said.

It started with Kane dinking a clever ball forward into space from inside his own half to set Sané free to open the scoring on a counterattack. Bremen's defense should have done better.

"We had a few more chances in the first half that we probably could have done a bit better with, to kind of put the game away early. But then we defended better," Kane said. "We were a lot better getting the first contact, and we spoke about that. If we want to be a competitive team this season in all competitions, set-pieces are a big part of that. So really happy with a clean sheet as well. It's going to be important going forward for the rest of the season."

Fellow summer signing Kim Min-jae also made his first league start for Bayern, which is bidding to extend its record of 11 consecutive Bundesliga titles.

There was a minute's silence before the game for former Bremen player Horst-Dieter Hötges, who died in July. Hötges was a member of West Germany's victorious 1974 World Cup squad.

Jeremie Frimpong scored one goal and set up another for Bayer Leverkusen to defeat Leipzig 3-2.

Victor Boniface, making his league debut after his transfer from Belgium's Royale Union Saint-Gilloise, set up Frimpong for the opener in the 24th minute.

Jonathan Tah headed the second from a corner in the 35th, only for Dani Olmo to reply in likewise fashion for Leipzig five minutes later.

Leipzig coach Marco Rose tried to shake things up with three changes in the 62nd, but Florian Wirtz scored two minutes later for Leverkusen with a wonderful lob



Leverkusen's Jeremie Frimpong, (left), and Leipzig's David Raum fight for the ball during the Bundesliga soccer match between Bayer Leverkusen and RB Leipzig, at the BayArena in Leverkusen, Germany. (AP)



Bayern's Harry Kane celebrates scoring with teammate Leroy Sané, during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Werder Bremen and Bayern Munich, at the Weserstadion in Bremen, Germany. (AP)

over goalkeeper Janis Blaswich, in off the crossbar following a fine team move involving Frimpong and Odilon Kossounou.

Belgian striker Loïs Openda responded in the 71st with his first Bundesliga goal for Leipzig, but coach Xabi Alonso's team stayed cool to see out the win.

Stuttgart showed no ill-effect from losing captain Wataru Endo to Liverpool the previous day as both Serhou Guirassy and Silas Katomba Mvumpa scored twice in a 5-0 rout of visiting Bochum.

Promoted Heidenheim slumped to a 2-0 loss at Wolfsburg on its Bundesliga debut. The visitor got off to a bad start when Jonas Wind scored in the sixth minute. The Danish forward grabbed his second in the 27th.

Tomáš Čvančara scored a late penalty to rescue a 4-4 draw for Borussia Mönchengladbach at Augsburg. The home team had come from two goals down to lead until Čvančara equalized in the seventh minute of injury time.

Also, Freiburg defeated Hoffenheim 2-1 away.

KFA drops suspensions, fines to stay

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Vice-President of the Kuwait Football Association, Hayef Al-Mutairi, announced that all suspensions, whether due to accumulation of yellow cards or red cards, have been dropped for all players in local football competitions from the 2022-2023 season, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Mutairi said in a press statement, Thursday, that the decision also includes dropping the suspension penalties

imposed on coaches and administrators, while maintaining the disciplinary penalties and financial fines.

The Vice President of the Federation indicated that the decision to drop the penalties resulting from the accumulation of yellow and red cards aims to enable clubs to benefit from all their players, in addition to the presence of suspended coaches and administrators with the start of the new season 2023-2024, which will be positively reflect on the competition.

Falcons settle for 13-13 tie with Bengals

QB Ridder impressive in preseason debut

ATLANTA, Aug 19, (AP) — Desmond Ridder and all those young offensive weapons gave a glimpse of what they can do for the Atlanta Falcons.

A bunch of yellow flags slowed their progress.

Ridder led an impressive but penalty-plagued drive in his preseason debut, and the Falcons settled for a field goal with 2 seconds left for a 13-13 tie with the Cincinnati Bengals on Friday night.

After sitting the starters last week in a 19-3 victory at Miami, the Falcons (1-0-1) went with the No. 1s for their opening possession.

That included their last three first-round picks: tight end Kyle Pitts, wide receiver Drake London and running back Bijan Robinson.

Ridder, heading into his first full season as the starting quarterback, got all of them involved.

London hauled in two passes for 33 yards. Robinson carried four times for 20 yards and snared a 6-yard completion. Pitts, coming back from a knee injury, made a one-handed grab.

Ridder completed 7 of 9 passes for 80 yards and also broke off a 7-yard run before the drive ended with an interception off a deflected pass. Cornerback Mike Hilton appeared to make contact with intended receiver Scotty Miller before the throw arrived, but no flag was thrown. The ball bounced into the air and was picked off by defensive end Joseph Ossai.

There were plenty of other calls. The Falcons were flagged for holding on the opening kickoff return and four more penalties on the first possession, including two holding calls on guard Chris Lindstrom.

Cincinnati coach Zac Taylor was pleased with his defense for stopping the Falcons when the first-teamers were on the field. Ridder and Co. played only that first series before calling it a night.

Despite the penalties and the pick, it was a promising start to 2023 for the

young quarterback who carries Atlanta's hopes of breaking a streak of five straight losing seasons.

Ridder started four games as a rookie at the end of last season, leading the Falcons to a 2-2 record and persuading coach Arthur Smith that he can handle the job.

After a snoozer of a game, the final minute provided some dramatics in a largely empty stadium, with a bunch of backups and roster hopefuls on the field. Jake Browning guided an 80-yard drive

FOOTBALL

to that put the Bengals (0-1-1) ahead 13-10 with 50 seconds remaining. He completed four passes for 42 yards and scrambled twice for another 33 yards, setting up Chase Brown's 1-yard touchdown run with 50 seconds remaining.

But Atlanta third-stringer Logan Woodside connected on three straight passes for 53 yards before a third-down

throw in the end zone was batted down. To a smattering of boos, the Falcons sent out Younghoe Koo for the tying 45-yard field goal with 2 seconds left.

The Bengals went with Trevor Siemian in the first half while franchise quarterback Joe Burrow continues his recovery from a calf injury. Burrow came up hobbling after scrambling at a training camp practice on July 27.

Siemian was 7 of 14 for 62 yards, guiding the Bengals into position for Eva McPherson's 50-yard field goal on the final play of the first half that sent the teams to the locker room tied at 3.

Taylor Heinicke, the former Washington starter who signed in free agency to back up Ridder, was 13 of 21 for 162 yards and hooked up with J.J. Arcega-Whiteside on a 28-yard completion that up the Falcons' only touchdown. Carlos Washington Jr. took it in from the 1.

Taylor's challenge game is still working out the preseason kinks.

The Bengals coach challenged two

calls in the first half - only to lose a pair of timeouts when both rulings were upheld.

London's 21-yard reception was allowed to stand for the Falcons, while a video review confirmed that Cincinnati's Kwamie Lassiter didn't get both feet down on a throw along the sideline.

Falcons safety DeMarcco Hellams, a seventh-round pick out of Alabama, had an interception for the second week in a row.

"He shows up when the lights are on," Smith said. "That's what he did at Alabama. He can find the football."

The Falcons finished with 13 penalties for 102 yards, while the Bengals were flagged seven times for 55 yards.

Giants 21, Panthers 19
In East Rutherford, Daniel Jones played TD pass to big-play rookie receiver Jalin Hyatt, while Eric Gray scored on a 9-yard run for New York (1-1). The Giants rested star running back Saquon Barkley for the second straight week.

Young, who did little in his NFL debut last week against the Jets, showed flashes and put points on the board for the first time, taking the Panthers (0-2) on a 15-yard, 62-yard drive that Matthew Wright capped early in the second quarter with the first of his two field goals. Young played two series and was 3 of 6 for 35 yards.



Atlanta Falcons safety DeMarcco Hellams (37) breaks up a pass intended for Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Andrei Iosivas (80) during the second half of an NFL preseason football game in Atlanta. (AP)



Australia's Sam Kerr (centre), battles for the ball with Sweden's Magdalena Eriksson (left), and Amanda Ilestedt during the Women's World Cup third place playoff soccer match between Australia and Sweden in Brisbane, Australia. (AP)

Sports

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Sweden end WC campaign on winning note

Swedes top Australia for another bronze

BRISBANE, Australia, Aug 19, (AP): Nobody beats Sweden on the rebound from a Women's World Cup semifinal loss. Not even the tournament hosts.

The Swedish women extended their perfect record in World Cup third-place matches to four, with Fridolina Rolfö and Kosovare Asllani scoring Saturday in a clinical 2-0 win over Australia.

"It feels amazing. We showed from minute one, we were the better team," Rolfö said. "We deserve this medal."

It was a disappointing finish for the Matildas, who captivated their country during their run to the semifinals for the first time.

The tournament co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand has set attendance records, and two of Australia's matches became the most-watched programs on domestic commercial TV in 20 years.

With the Sydney Opera House lit up

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in the green-and-gold colors of Australia and supporters flocking to fan zones to watch on giant screens in cities across the country, there was still hope of some kind of medal for the Matildas.

Ultimately, it ended with back-to-back losses to the No. 3- and No. 4-ranked teams in the world even with star striker Sam Kerr back in the starting lineup.

"We wanted to win, we wanted to have some hardware to take home. Wasn't to be," Kerr said. But, "the way the fans have got behind us, the way girls have carried themselves, I think we've proven to the world we are a footballing nation."

"We couldn't get it done tonight, but hopefully we've inspired people for many years to come."

European champion England and Spain are meeting in the final in Sydney on Sunday, and Sweden's win means European nations will finish first, second and third.

The Swedes won all three group games and then ousted the two-time defending champion U.S. team on penalties in the round of 16 and beat Japan in the quarterfinals.

Staying compact and organized and exploiting holes in the defense, Sweden was dominant for most of the match against Australia. Rolfö converted from the penalty spot with a low, curling left-foot shot in the 30th minute after Australian defender Clare Hunt was penalized after a VAR review for tripping up Stina Blackstenius.

Asllani's well-timed strike to finish off a long-range Swedish counterattack in the 62nd sealed the win.

Goalkeeper Zecira Musovic kept another clean sheet in outstanding tournament for Sweden, blocking Kerr's angled right-foot strike in first-half stoppage time and again stopping Clare Polkinghorne's shot from right in front in the 70th.

Kerr missed Australia's wins over Ireland and Canada and upset loss to Nigeria in the group stage after injuring her left calf muscle on the eve of the tournament. She made a tentative, late return in the round-of-16 win over Denmark and went on as a second-half substitute in the dramatic, penalty shootout win over France in the quarterfinals. She started on Saturday in an unchanged Australian lineup following Wednesday's 3-1 semifinal loss to England.

Kerr injured her right leg in a tackle in the 75th minute and limped off the field for some quick treatment but returned to continue playing.

A 2-1 loss to Spain in Auckland sent Sweden into familiar territory. The Swedes, runners-up in 2003, beat Germany in 1991, France in 2011 and England four years ago in their previous bronze-medal matches. A fifth podium finish is second only to the four-time champion United States in terms of success at the Women's World Cup. The Swedes were also silver medalists at the Tokyo Olympics and the Rio Games in 2016.



Kuwait SC judo squad.

KUNA photos

March scores 2 as Brighton rout Wolverhampton

Liverpool earn first victory of season

LIVERPOOL, England, Aug 19, (AP): Liverpool overcame an early deficit and a disputed red card to beat Bournemouth 3-1 at Anfield in the English Premier League on Saturday for its first win of the season.

Bournemouth stunned the host by taking the lead through Antoine Semenyo in just the third minute after Liverpool turned the ball over cheaply deep inside its own half. But Luis Diaz equalized with an acrobatic volley in the 28th and Liverpool was awarded a penalty when Joe Rothwell made light contact with Dominik Szoboszlai just inside the area, and the midfielder fell theatrically to the ground.

Mohamed Salah's spot kick was saved by Bournemouth goalkeeper Neto, but the Egypt striker slotted in the rebound to put Liverpool ahead.

Alexis Mac Allister was then shown a straight red card in the 58th for kicking Ryan Christie's leg after a mistimed challenge for the ball, giving Bournemouth hopes of a comeback.

But going a man down seemed to only galvanize Liverpool, and Diogo Jota was on hand to turn in the rebound after Szoboszlai's deflected shot was palmed away by Neto in the 62nd.

After opening the season with a 1-1 draw at Chelsea last weekend, Liverpool has four points from its opening two games, while Bournemouth has one point.

Salah's goal put him past Steven Gerrard into fifth place among Liverpool's all-time leading scorers, with 187.

Solly March scored two goals in a four-minute span of the second half to help Brighton rout Wolverhampton 4-1.

The English winger, who had a career-high seven league goals last year, scored his second and third of



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Rayan Ait-Nouri is challenged by Brighton and Hove Albion's James Milner, during the English Premier League soccer match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Brighton & Hove, at the Molineux, in Wolverhampton, England. (AP)

this campaign shortly after halftime at Molineux Stadium. Kaoru Mitoma and Pervis Estupiñan netted for the visitors before the break.

March twice beat defenders

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to touch home low crosses from 19-year-old summer signing Julio Enciso.

Mitoma's goal in the 15th minute was a brilliant solo effort. The Japan midfielder cut inside and beat three Wolves defenders before lofting the ball beyond goalkeeper Jose Sa.

Hwang Hee-Chan got the home team on the board in the 61st with a header from a corner.

That's back-to-back routs for manager Roberto De Zerbi's team, which beat promoted Luton 4-1 in

the season opener.

Brighton, which sold promising midfielder Moises Caicedo to Chelsea last week, is also playing in the Europa League after a sixth-place finish - its highest-ever final position in English soccer's top flight - last season.

Wolves lost to Manchester United 1-0 last week.

Chris Wood came off the bench to score an 89th-minute winner for Nottingham Forest to top Sheffield United 2-1.

Forest earned its first points after defeat at Arsenal last week while the Blades have lost their opening two games on their return to the top-flight after two seasons away.

Forest looked like being held by the Blades after Taiwo Awoniyi's third-minute opener was canceled out by Gus Hamer's delightful strike shortly after halftime.

But after Forest labored in the second half, Wood, whose loan move from Newcastle was made permanent in the summer, came up with the goods near the end when he headed home.

Sheffield may feel hard done by as, after overcoming a chastening first 30 minutes, it competed well and had chances to have gone in front when the score was 1-1.

The City Ground was vital in earning Forest most of the points that led it to safety last season. Forest has equaled its Premier League club record of four successive home victories. The last occasion was in January 1996.

The lead was taken inside the opening three minutes when Brennan Johnson teed up Serge Aurier on the right and the defender sent in a perfect cross for Awoniyi to power home a header from six yards.

Sheffield started the second half on the front foot and was level in the 48th minute after debutant Hamer introduced himself in style following his arrival last week. Forest could not clear a corner properly and it fell to Hamer 20 meters out. He sent a curling effort into the top corner to send the visiting fans wild.

The Blades were rampant and Forest had to weather the storm, but it still carried a threat on the break, with the pace of Awoniyi causing problems.

Forest got its reward late on when Wood, who went on for Awoniyi, headed home another pinpoint Aurier cross from the right. Wood's 56th Premier League goal tied him with Tim Cahill on third-most for players from Oceania. Mark Viduka led with 92, then Harry Kewell with 57.

Kuwaitis bag 34 medals at Arab Judo Championships

CAIRO, Aug 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's tally of medals topped 34 at the end of the Arab Judo Championships, hosted in the New Alamein city, northwest Egypt, over the past three days.

The championship gathered athletes from 61 sporting clubs from 18 Arab countries, including Kuwait, Qadsia, Khaitan and Sulaibkhat, of Kuwait.

Kuwait SC snatched 18 medals, Qadsia 13 and Khaitan three.

Kuwait SC ranked second in the general rating of the junior teams and third in the minor team rating, said the club's judo coach Motalq Fahad Al-Mershad told KUNA. He noted that the club's 14-strong judo squad, juniors and minors, had held a training camp in Cairo for 10 days

on August 2-11 in the run-up to the championship which help the team make this outstanding achievement.

Meanwhile, Qadsia judo coach Adham Jamal said his team ranked top after winning the gold medal of the teams' event and came third in the individuals' event.

JUDO

Khaitan's minors won three medals, gold, silver and bronze, the club's coach said in similar statements to KUNA.

The championship was organized by the Egyptian Judo Federation in collaboration with the Arab Judo Federation on August 15-18.



Athletes celebrates at the end of the Championships.



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah scores his sides second goal during the Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and AFC Bournemouth at Anfield, in Liverpool, England. (AP)



Sweden celebrate with their bronze medals after defeating Australia in the Women's World Cup third place playoff soccer match in Brisbane, Australia. (AP)