



football

Page 15

# ARAB TIMES

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soccer  
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# VACCINATION CAMPAIGN LIKELY AFTER MID-SEPTEMBER

## Sources downplay Covid mutant fears



Two dhows carrying Kuwaiti youth divers who took part in the 32nd pearl diving trip sail home to a heroes welcome as they wrap up the six-day traditional diving trip. The scene, which took place at the coasts of Salmiya, Hawalli Governorate, materialized Kuwaitis' pride in the legacy of the past and gratefulness for the sacrifices of ancestors.

### Hospital admissions at normal rate

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20:** While the Ministry of Health announced last Tuesday the monitoring of the EG.5 mutant of the Covid-19 virus, health sources confirmed to "Al-Rai" that "hospital admissions are at their normal rate, and there has been no increase so far, as the evaluation indicators of the health situation are stable," reports Al-Rai daily.

With regard to monitoring the first infections with the new mutant, "BA 2.86", in a number of countries of the world, the sources stated that "the effect of this mutation is being monitored globally due to the presence of a large number of spike proteins on the surface of this mutant," noting that the new mutant, even if it causes the worst case scenario is a rise in infection, but the degree of disease severity will be mild due to the immunity that most people have acquired through vaccina-

tions or through infections. Speaking of the possibility of the impact of these changes in the coming days on the new scholastic year and the possibility of postponing the start of the reopening of the schools, the sources ruled out this scenario, explaining that the academic year will start according to the dates set by the concerned authorities.

The sources stated that the ministry continues to prepare to launch a winter vaccination campaign, which includes seasonal influenza vaccinations and vaccination against acute bacterial pneumonia (nemococcal), indicating that vaccinations are expected to start in the third week of next September.

On the possibility of the spread of the new variant in the country, the sources revealed that "from previous cumulative experiences, monitoring such variants, whether in Kuwait or in other countries of the world is possible, especially since we are in the season of travel," noting that the emergence of such variants is normal. Not to worry, especially since it is one of the basic features of viruses.

The sources renewed the call to follow the precautionary measures when any symptoms of respiratory infection appear, by avoiding contact with others and ensuring that seasonal vaccinations are completed.

### Money may feed Terror Fund

## Guard vows payback as tanker offloads oil

**DUBAI, Aug 20, (AP):** An American-owned oil tanker long suspected of carrying sanctioned Iranian crude oil began offloading its cargo near Texas late Saturday, tracking data showed, even as Tehran has threatened to target shipping in the Arabian Gulf over it.

Ship-tracking data analyzed by The Associated Press showed the Marshall Islands-flagged Suez Rajan was undergoing a ship-to-ship transfer of its oil to another tanker, the MR Euphrates, near Galveston, some 70 kilometers (45 miles) southeast of Houston.

The fate of the cargo aboard the Suez Rajan has become mired in the wider tensions between the U.S. and the Islamic Republic, even as Tehran and Washington work toward a trade of billions of dollars in frozen Iranian assets in South Korea for the release of five Iranian-Americans held in Tehran. Iran has been trying to evade sanctions and continue selling its oil abroad, while the U.S. and its allies have been seizing cargoes since 2019 after the country's nuclear deal allowing the trade collapsed.

Already, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has warned that those involved in offloading the Suez Rajan's cargo "should expect to be struck back." The U.S. Navy has increased its presence steadily in recent weeks in the Mideast, sending the troop-and-aircraft-carrying USS Bataan through the Strait of Hormuz in recent days and considering putting armed personnel on commercial ships traveling through the strait to stop Iran from seizing additional ships.

U.S. officials and the owners of the Suez Rajan, the Los Angeles-based private equity firm Oaktree Capital Management, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The saga over the Suez Rajan began in February 2022, when the group United Against Nuclear Iran said it suspected the tanker carried oil from Iran's Khargh Island, its

Continued on Page 5



In this photo released by the Rescue 1122 Emergency Department, rescue workers load a body into an ambulance after recovering from a burnt bus at the accident site on a highway in Pindi Bhatian, Pakistan, Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023. A bus in Pakistan caught fire after hitting a van parked on the shoulder of an intercity highway in eastern Punjab province, killing multiple people and injuring others, police and rescue officials said Sunday. (AP)

## Shooter kills 'two' Israelis

**HAWARA, West Bank, Aug 20, (AP):** Two Israelis were killed in a suspected Palestinian shooting attack on a car wash in a volatile stretch of the occupied West Bank on Saturday, the latest outburst of violence to rock the region.

The Israeli military said it was searching for suspects and setting up roadblocks near the town of Hawara, a flashpoint area in the northern West Bank, which has seen repeated attacks including one deadly shooting that triggered a rampage by Jewish West Bank settlers who torched Palestinian property.

Saturday's shooting attack came after Palestinian medics reported that a 19-year-old Palestinian died of wounds sustained in an Israeli military raid into the West Bank on Wednesday.

The latest attack is part of a relentless spiral of violence that has fueled the worst fighting between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank in nearly two decades. Since spring last year, Israel has launched near-nightly raids in Palestinian towns in response to deadly Palestinian attacks.

Nearly 180 Palestinians have been killed since the start of this year and some 29 people have been killed by Palestinian attacks against Israelis during that time, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Israel says most of the Palestinians killed were militants. But stone throwing youths protesting the incursions and those not involved in the confrontations have also been killed.

### Opinion

## Preacher said: 'Rule of 40' is ... 20 for us ... 20 for you

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

THERE is a story that depicts the reality of the situation in most Arab countries, and shows how the process of deceiving people takes place through an integrated system. This process starts with corrupt officials and goes through preachers who know where to target, and it does not end with opportunists whose army becomes its defender.

One day, a preacher ascended the pulpit of the mosque and started talking about patience and asceticism, avoiding extravagance, and fighting corruption.

One of the cleaners interrupted him. It seems that the cleaner was following the behavior of this preacher.

He said, "O preacher, you have a luxurious car and luxurious clothes of the best fabric. Your perfume wafts throughout the mosque, and your phone is of the latest model. You go to Umrah every year, and you sleep in a big house.

Will you accompany me one day to my room that is roofed with iron sheets? I want you to sleep without air conditioning, then wake up with me before dawn, and carry a broom to clean the street in this intense heat, while you are fasting. You will then know the true meaning of patience.

I do this work every day, so that at the end of the month I will receive a small amount that is not equal to the value of the bottle of perfume that you buy!

Sorry preacher but we do not need to learn patience, as we wake up with it everyday. Instead, tell us about injustice and hypocrisy, about the widespread unemployment in society, and about oppressed people.

Tell us about corruption and the plundering of public money and the corrupt, about the caste system, and the absence of justice in the distribution of wealth. Also talk to us about nepotism and favoritism. Otherwise, we do not need your sermon."

Indeed, this is the mouthpiece of many advisors who ask people to be patient, while they are not aware of it.

They talk about fighting corruption in a zealous manner but in reality, they are the worst of the corrupt, as they exploit every matter in order to benefit from it. They never allow any corruption opportunity to pass them.

Among them are the officials who do not work according to the law, but rather spread corruption in their institutions and ministries. They are the parliamentarians who apply the popular proverb - "Eat meat as long as you got teeth" - because they deduced themselves that the world ex-

isted for them and they are the only ones who do not make mistakes.

They have hence put the wrong person in the wrong place, and ask people to cooperate with him, because he is close to them.

They are the ones who practice fraud with high efficiency in order to preserve their positions and authority.

That is why they explode in lying and fabricating slogans, because they are unnaturally disconnected from reality. They believe that hallucinations, delusions, and disturbances in thoughts and behavior are their monologues.

A popular proverb applies to these people - "Saeed is the brother of Mubarak" - which is about a preacher in one of the villages in the Gulf region.

He was preaching to a group of poor people when he said, "Feed your preacher with chicken meat, and marry him to the most beautiful girl. You will then enter Paradise in masses."

Someone in the congregation, whose name was Mubarak, realised the preacher wasn't sincere, as he was more knowledgeable about the religion. He harrumphed, and the preacher, whose name was Saeed, knew that his matter had been exposed.

Saeed then said, "Maintain your silence, the one who harrumphed. The rule of forty is twenty for you and twenty for us."

Mubarak remained silent and conspired in corruption with Saeed. That is why people said: "Saeed is the brother of Mubarak."

There is no doubt that ignorance is a feature of the stage. It was no coincidence that this coincided with a large number of partially-educated people who were planted in administrations in order to carry out the orders of the influential people who charted their course for them from the beginning in order to take over everything.

They loot public money in the name of spending on projects whose poor implementation levels are eventually revealed.

And if they were asked about it, they say, "The rule of forty is twenty for you and twenty for us." This is why the plunderers share the wealth of countries.

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### News watch

**CAIRO:** One of the Egyptian activists behind the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak walked free from prison Saturday following a presidential pardon after spending nearly 10 years behind bars.

Authorities released prominent activist Ahmed Douma from a prison complex outside Cairo where he was serving a 15-year sentence after being convicted of taking part in clashes between protesters and security forces in the Egyptian capital in December 2011, according to rights lawyer Khaled Ali.

"Douma is free," Ali wrote on Facebook. He posted a photo showing the activist along with former presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahi outside the Badr prison complex.

The nearly weeklong clashes that left some 40 people dead erupted after mostly young activists took to the streets to protest the post-Mubarak political transition overseen by the military. The riot involved a fire that gutted parts of a library housing rare manuscripts and books. Other government buildings, including the parliament, were damaged during the protests.

The clashes brought international attention when riot police were filmed beating, stripping and kicking female demonstrators in Cairo's Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the 2011 uprising.

Douma was pardoned along with four other prisoners, according to a presidential decree. The pardons, dated Saturday, were published in Egypt's Official Gazette.

Activists received the news of Douma's freedom with jubilation on social media, and called for the release of other jailed pro-democracy activists. (AP)

**IRBIL:** A French soldier was killed and another injured in a traffic accident near Irbil City in northern Iraq



Douma

### Day by Day

WE say it again and again: Do not skimp on the ruling house, honor it, and ask for leaders, men, and people of experience.

Honor it, as is the case in other countries, where we see ruling houses ready to name the seventh king, Amir, or sheikh; because they are men who have been taken care of, and not a motley group that criticizes each other.

The ruling houses are symbols that must be taken care of for the sake of the interests of the homelands. Even countries that are said to be constitutional monarchies, and the ruler is a position who does not rule, are taken care of in their ruling houses.

Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



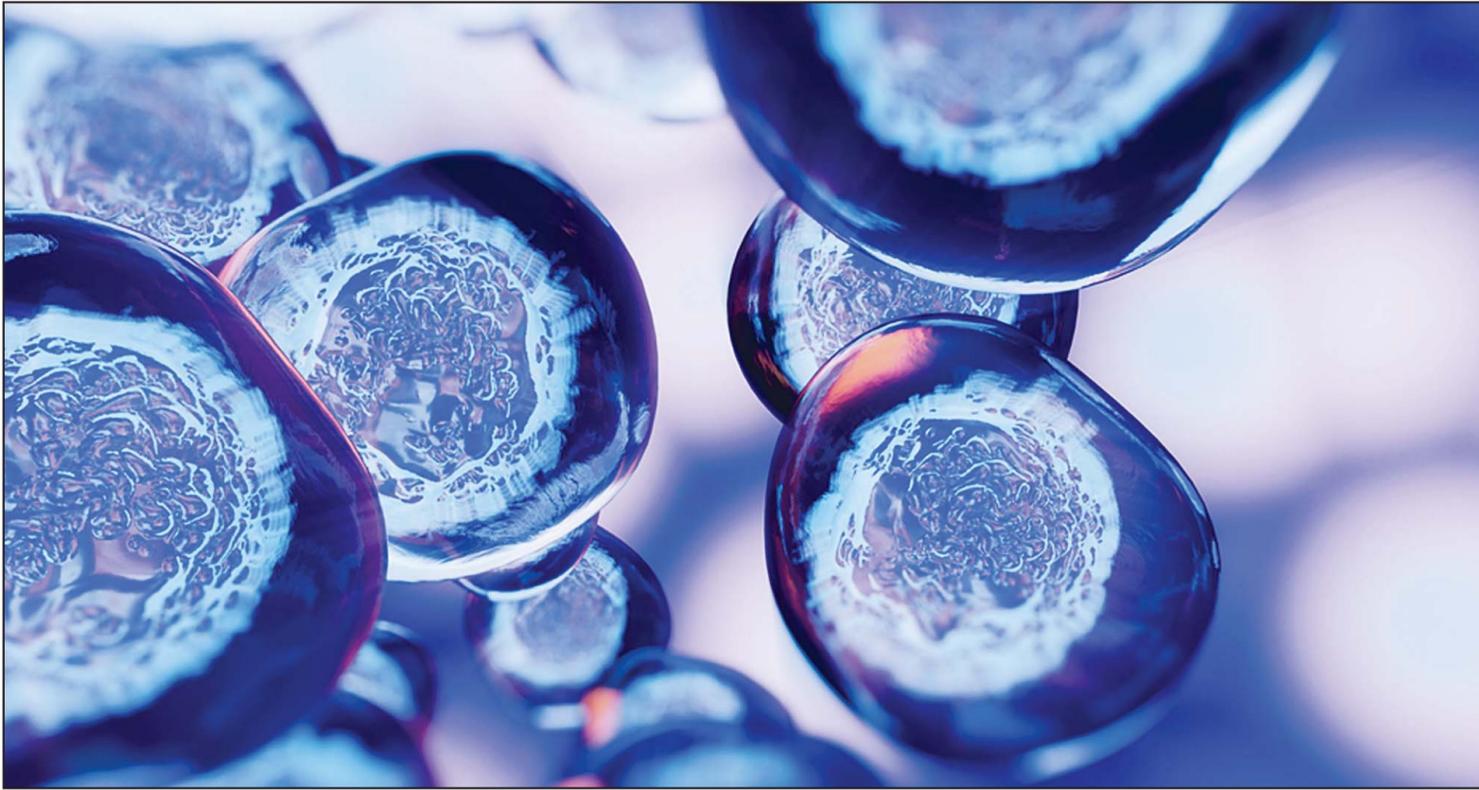
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, second right, and Dutch caretaker Prime Minister Mark Rutte, center, look at F-16 fighter jets in Eindhoven, Netherlands, Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023. The leaders met at a military air base in the southern Dutch city, a day after Zelenskyy visited Sweden on his first foreign trip since attending a NATO summit in Lithuania last month. On Friday, the Netherlands and Denmark said that the United States had given its approval for the countries to deliver F-16s to Ukraine. (AP)

# SPACE Business Plus



Sierra Space builds first business technology platform

## Space stem cells better to treat cancer



A microscopic view of stem cells. (Photo: Business Wire)

Approximately every nine minutes, a family loses a loved one to leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma. If we can mass-produce hematopoietic stem cells by using the unique microgravity environment of space, I think about the transformational impact we will have on patients and their families," said Sierra Space CEO Tom Vice. "This experiment, to see if we can grow hematopoietic stem cells in space in larger quantities, is a precursor to what Sierra Space one day envisages - orbiting microgravity factories that enable the next breakthroughs in human health care.

Sierra Space, a leading, pureplay commercial space company building the first end-to-end business and technology platform in space, today announced it has developed a pathfinder spaceflight investigation in collaboration with BioServe Space Technologies (at the University of Colorado Boulder) and other partners to grow hematopoietic stem cells in microgravity to better help patients on Earth undergoing treatment for blood cancer.

For the in-space experiment, Sierra Space, BioServe and the study team sent stem cell samples from multiple umbilical cord blood donors to look for beneficial differences during the cell growth experiment.

The experiment - which is also being designed by researchers from the Mayo Clinic (Jacksonville, Fla.) and ClinImmune (University of Colorado Medical Campus) - is on its way to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of Northrop Grumman's 19th Commercial Resupply Services mission, which launched Aug. 1 at 8:31 p.m. Eastern. The NG-19 mission

includes more than 20 ISS National Lab-sponsored payloads. To learn more about all ISS National Lab-sponsored research on this mission, please visit the ISS National Lab launch page.

Chemotherapy is a common treatment that targets cancer cells, but can also destroy healthy cells in the process, which could lead to life-threatening complications. To avoid this, doctors can take hematopoietic stem cells from a healthy donor's bone marrow or blood and transplant them into a matched recipient. Hematopoietic stem cells can also be obtained from donated umbilical cord blood, which are closer in nature to embryonic stem cells and offer a lower risk of complication.

However, stem cell transplants require large numbers of cells to be effective, and it is challenging to grow cord blood stem cells to produce enough for effective treatment. When grown on Earth, hematopoietic stem cells normally change into dedicated blood cell lines, which is not optimal for patient recovery.

"Approximately every nine minutes, a family loses a loved one to

leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma. If we can mass-produce hematopoietic stem cells by using the unique microgravity environment of space, I think about the transformational impact we will have on patients and their families," said Sierra Space CEO Tom Vice. "This experiment, to see if we can grow hematopoietic stem cells in space in larger quantities, is a precursor to what Sierra Space one day envisages - orbiting microgravity factories that enable the next breakthroughs in human health care that will have a profound impact on the quality and longevity of millions of people here on Earth. Microgravity, the next foundational tech, will lead to the most amazing Industrial Revolution in history."

For the in-space experiment, Sierra Space, BioServe and the study team sent stem cell samples from multiple umbilical cord blood donors to look for beneficial differences during the cell growth experiment. The stem cell samples will be frozen at different time points while in orbit and sent back to Earth for analysis.

This pathfinder study is part of

a larger project led by BioServe to develop a stem cell expansion bioreactor for use in low-Earth orbit (LEO) for eventual cellular therapeutic manufacturing in-space. Future flight investigations are being planned with the project partners to demonstrate the potential for in-space production.

Sierra Space is developing LEO infrastructure capabilities — such as the Dream Chaser spaceplane and the LIFE (Large Integrated Flexible Environment) Habitat — that will support commercial, in-space and cellular therapeutic manufacturing.

Sierra Space (www.sierraspac.com) is a leading, pureplay commercial space company at the forefront of innovation and the commercialization of space in the Orbital Age™, building an end-to-end business and technology platform in space to benefit life on Earth. With more than 30 years and 500 missions of space flight heritage, the company is enabling the future of space transportation with Dream Chaser®, the world's only commercial spaceplane, and is bringing LIFE™ to low-Earth orbit with its

modular, three-story commercial habitation and science platform. Both Dream Chaser and LIFE are central components to Orbital Reef, a mixed-use business park in LEO being developed by principal partners Sierra Space and Blue Origin, which is expected to be operational by the end of the decade. Sierra Space also builds and delivers a host of systems and subsystems across solar power, mechanics and motion control, environmental control, life support, propulsion and thermal control, offering myriad space-as-a-service solutions for the new space economy.

BioServe Space Technologies is a Center within the Ann and HJ Smead Aerospace Engineering Sciences department at the University of Colorado Boulder. Since its inception in 1987, BioServe has designed, built, and flown microgravity life science research experiments and hardware on over 60 spaceflight missions. BioServe has a full suite of spaceflight-certified hardware available for use by its customers and partners. Past partners include pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, Universities, NIH, NASA-funded and other government agency researchers. BioServe is a full-service, turn-key organization that enables its customers and partners to focus solely on research while BioServe manages all other activities required to successfully fly experiments in microgravity.

The International Space Station (ISS) is a one-of-a-kind laboratory that enables research and technology development not possible on Earth. As a public service enterprise, the ISS National Lab allows researchers to leverage this multiuser facility to improve life on Earth, mature space-based business models, advance science literacy in the future workforce, and expand a sustainable and scalable market in low Earth orbit. Through this orbiting national laboratory, research resources on the space station are available to support non-NASA science, technology and education initiatives from U.S. government agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector. The Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS), Inc. manages the ISS National Lab, under Cooperative Agreement with NASA, facilitating access to its permanent microgravity research environment, a powerful vantage point in low Earth orbit, and the extreme and varied conditions of space. To learn more about the ISS National Lab, visit our webpage. (AP)

New opportunities for commercial use

## Voyager Space, Airbus in joint venture to build and operate Starlab

DENVER, Aug 20, (AP): Voyager Space (Voyager), a global leader in space exploration, and Airbus Defence and Space (Airbus), the largest aeronautics and space company in Europe, have announced an agreement paving the way for a transatlantic joint venture to develop, build, and operate Starlab, a commercial space station planned to succeed the International Space Station. The US-led joint venture will bring together world-class leaders in the space domain, while further uniting American and European interests in space exploration.

"We are proud to charter the future of space stations with Airbus," says Matthew Kuta, President at Voyager Space. "The International Space Station is widely regarded as the most successful platform for global cooperation in space history, and we are committed to building on this legacy as we move forward with Starlab. We are establishing this joint venture to reliably meet the known demand from global space agencies while opening new opportunities for commercial users."

Voyager was awarded a \$160 million Space Act Agreement (SAA) from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in December 2021 via Nanoracks, part

of Voyager's exploration segment. Part of NASA's Commercial Low Earth Orbit Development Program, this SAA sets the foundation to create Starlab, a continuously crewed, free-flying space station to serve NASA and a global customer base of space agencies and researchers. The program's mission is to maintain continued human presence and American leadership in low Earth orbit (LEO). Today's announcement builds on an agreement made public in January 2023, where Voyager selected Airbus to provide technical design support and expertise for Starlab.

"With a track record of innovation and technological firsts, Airbus prides itself on partnering with companies that are looking to change history," said Jean-Marc Nasr, Head of Space Systems at Airbus. "This transatlantic venture with footprints on both sides of the ocean aligns the interests of both ourselves and Voyager and our respective space agencies. This pioneers continued European and American leadership in space that takes humanity forward. Together our teams are focused on creating an unmatched space destination both technologically and as a business operation."

In addition to the US entity, Starlab will have a European joint venture

subsidiary to directly serve the European Space Agency (ESA) and its member state space agencies.

This announcement follows a major design milestone in Starlab's development, the Systems Requirements Review (SRR), which baselines the major space systems, technical readiness, and ability to meet NASA's mission and safety requirements. The Starlab SRR was completed in June 2023 in coordination with NASA's Commercial LEO Development Program team.

"Today marks a major step forward for the future of commercial space destinations," continues Kuta. "We are proud to have NASA's trust to build the replacement for the ISS, a partnership that expands Starlab's ecosystem to global space agencies, and a team that is mission driven and dedicated to reimagining the future."

The implementation of the joint venture will be subject to applicable regulatory approvals.

**About Voyager Space**  
Voyager Space is dedicated to building a better future for humanity in space and on Earth. With over 35 years of spaceflight heritage and over 2,000 successful missions, Voyager is powering the commercial space revolution. Voyager delivers exploration, technology, and defense solutions to

a global customer base that includes civil and national security agencies, commercial companies, academic and research institutions, and more.

About Airbus Airbus pioneers sustainable aerospace for a safe and united world. The Company constantly innovates to provide efficient and technologically-advanced solutions in aerospace, defence, and connected services. In commercial aircraft, Airbus offers modern and fuel-efficient airliners and associated services. Airbus is also a European leader in defence and security and one of the world's leading space businesses. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions and services worldwide.

Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements This press release contains "forward-looking statements." All statements, other than statements of historical fact, including those with respect to Voyager Space, Inc.'s (the "Company's") mission statement and growth strategy, are "forward-looking statements." Although the Company's management believes that such forward-looking statements are reasonable, it cannot guarantee that such expectations are, or will be, correct. These forward-looking statements involve many risks and uncertainties,

which could cause the Company's future results to differ materially from those anticipated. Potential risks and uncertainties include, among others, general economic conditions and conditions affecting the industries in which the Company operates; the uncertainty of regulatory requirements and approvals; and the ability to obtain necessary financing on acceptable terms or at all. Readers should not place any undue reliance on forward-looking statements since they involve these known and unknown uncertainties and other factors which are, in some cases, beyond the Company's control and which could, and likely will, materially affect actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Any forward-looking statement reflects the Company's current views with respect to future events and is subject to these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to operations, results of operations, growth strategy and liquidity. The Company assumes no obligation to publicly update or revise these forward-looking statements for any reason, or to update the reasons actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements, even if new information becomes available in the future.

editor's choice



## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 03:54 Asr ..... 15:26  
Sunrise .. 05:19 Maghrib .. 18:24  
Zohr ..... 11:51 Isha ..... 19:45

# Local

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

## Unexpected rainfall upsets life in some areas

# Kuwait temps increased between one and two degrees: expert

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: Youssef Al-Ajiri, the Director General of the Al-Ajiri Scientific Center, revealed that numerous regions across the globe, including Kuwait, have recently experienced unprecedented high temperatures and severe heatwaves during the ongoing summer season, reports Al-Rai daily.

Temperature spikes have escalated by approximately one to two degrees Celsius. Collaborating with the Swiss meteorological network, which focuses on weather and atmospheric sciences, the center has accumulated data illustrating a gradual increase in average temperatures over the past years compared to the preceding two decades. The rise has amounted to a 1 to 2 degrees Celsius elevation beyond anticipated levels.

Al-Ajiri pointed out that the surge in temperatures this current summer, along with recent years, coincides with diminished levels of precipitation. This shift is contextualized within an era marked by industrialization and oil dependency, coupled with amplified emissions from varied fuel combustion processes within the country.



Youssef Al-Ajiri

Based on the data, Al-Ajiri attributes the climate shift of recent years to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas for electricity generation, transportation, and industrial procedures. He underscores the significant role of human activities both within Kuwait and globally, in addition to natural phenomena, in driving noticeable temperature escalation. The data accentuates that human-induced negative activities remain the principal catalyst of climate alterations, discharging greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide that contribute to vegetation degradation, desertification, and heightened global atmospheric warming.

Expanding on this, Al-Ajiri explains that the decrease in green spaces coupled with urban expansion and infrastructure development further amplify summer temperatures. Concrete and asphalt structures notably absorb and radiate heat, in addition to the cooling systems employed to moderate interior temperatures.

Al-Ajiri emphasizes that the United Nations, through its Secretary-General, has issued a stark warning concerning global temperature elevation, particularly evident in July. Urgent actions are deemed necessary, including transitioning to clean energy sources, bolstering energy efficiency through modern technologies, limiting electricity consumption, rationalizing water usage, and advocating sustainable agricultural practices to curb methane emissions and

preserve soil health. Other essential actions involve recycling, adopting low-carbon transportation, implementing robust climate policies, setting ambitious emissions reduction goals, enhancing climate change awareness and education, adopting sustainability practices within corporations, and advancing green technology research and development.

Al-Ajiri underscored that his observations align with the sentiments of the late Dr. Saleh Al-Ajiri, who, in a 2009 scientific symposium titled "Climate Change and its Implications for Kuwait," highlighted the perils of climate change due to mounting pollution in Kuwait. He cautioned about the vanishing positive climatic features in the Kuwaiti desert, leading to sandstorms, shifting wind patterns, and reduced precipitation. The late Dr. Al-Ajiri's predictions, formulated on population growth statistics and dwindling natural resources, resonates with current concerns and anticipations of water scarcity-related conflicts in the future.

Meanwhile, at a time when the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport began cleaning the rainwater drainage systems in various regions and highway lines, some areas witnessed, the day before yesterday, sudden summer rains as a result of the region falling in the current period under the influence of the seasonal Indian depression.

Responsible sources in the Ministry of Works told Al-Rai that "the ministry and the PART usually start cleaning the rainwater drainage network lines in early August of each year, in preparation for the rainy season and continue until October."

The sources indicated that the ministry is currently working to coordinate with a number of concerned authorities to discuss the plan for the 2024 rainy season in order to avoid flooding of roads, especially highways.

The sources indicated that all roads were passable, the day before yesterday, with the exception of rain pools in some of the few locations that the ministry sent its equipment to withdraw.

The weather conditions were surprising, last Friday, as several areas, including Sulaibikhat, Sulaibiya, Jaber Al-Ahmad and Al-Jahra, witnessed sporadic thunderstorms as a result of the country being affected by the seasonal Indian depression, while the Meteorological Department had warned earlier dust-laden winds blowing in open areas at 55 kilometers per hour.

The Director of the Meteorological Department, Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi, said that the country witnessed, since Friday afternoon, a multiplication of low and medium clouds, interspersed with formations of cumulus clouds, accompanied by some thunderstorms accompanied by some hail, reducing the horizontal visibility.

## Weather

**Expected weather for the next 24 hours:**

**By Day:** Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind with speeds of 08-38 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot and humid specially 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 47 36

Kuwait Airport 47 31  
Abdaly 48 33  
Jahra 48 35  
Salmiyah 41 37  
Ahmadi 40 36  
Nuwaisib 47 32  
Wafra 48 32

# Bill proposes 'teaching hospital'

Delay in opening new schools queried

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: MP Osama Al-Zaid has submitted a proposal to establish the first teaching hospital in Kuwait, which will be under the management and oversight of a higher medical council whose members are from Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).**

He suggested that the teaching hospital should offer all the medical specializations, it should include advanced laboratories and it should be established near Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital.

Meanwhile, MP Marzouq Al-Ghanim asked Deputy Prime Minister, State Minister for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari about the number and positions of senior officials who resigned or were referred for retirement since HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah assumed office as per the Amiri Decree issued on July 24, 2022.

He also requested for more information like the number and positions of senior officials whose tenure was not renewed since the issuance of the abovementioned decree; number and positions of senior officials who were appointed since HH the Prime Minister assumed office; copies of Amiri decrees on their appointment; number of vacant leadership positions in ministries and public institutions; reasons for not filling up these vacant positions; number and positions of senior officials who were dismissed before the end of their tenure since HH the Prime Minister assumed office; reasons for their dismissal; list of senior officials who were appointed since July 24, 2022 till date or before and after the issuance of Civil Service Commission (CSC) decision numbers 6/2022 and 25/2023 stipulating the regulations on appointing senior officials; number of officials nominated for senior positions; if one only individual was nominated to occupy a senior position; legal basis for taking this step; copies of relevant correspondences between the CSC and the concerned minister or the Secretariat General at the Council of Ministers; results of the written exams and interview of the appointed senior officials; if the CSC recorded its comments on their appointment; if any of the applicants were exempted from the conditions and requirements; and copies of the relevant correspondences and approval of HH the Prime Minister of such exemption.

Al-Ghanim also asked Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah to provide him with a copy of decision number 53 issued on Feb 16, 2022 stating the requirements for delegating officials from public institutions to the diplomatic missions; if the Foreign Affairs Ministry is committed to these conditions and requirements; reasons for adding the psychiat-

## HH Amir congratulates Hungary

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to the President of Hungary, Katalin Novak, on her country's national day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Novak and her people more success and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to the

Hungarian President Katalin Novak, congratulating her on her country's national day. His Highness the Crown Prince expressed wishes of prosperity and development to President Novak and her people.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable to President of Hungary Katalin Novak, congratulating her on her country's national day.



KUNA photo  
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior while chairing a security meeting with a number of assistant undersecretaries.

## Be on alert, minister tells forces

Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has affirmed necessity of boosting capacities and readiness of field personnel for sake of preserving the homeland security.

Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled, also the First Deputy Prime Minister, made the statement during a meeting he chaired of the Ministry of Interior assistant undersecretaries, attended by the Mol Undersecretary Lieutenant General Anwar Al-Bajras.

Participants in the meeting examined

latest domestic security developments.

The minister of interior lauded the Mol personnel for maintaining the country's security and reviewed with the officials relevant plans. Sheikh Talal was briefed about intensive security and traffic campaigns aimed at penalizing offenders.

Sheikh Talal Khaled expressed gratitude to the personnel for their intensive efforts, made some remarks and presented guidelines for enhancing capacities and preparedness of the various field units. (KUNA)

## Clear dues before travel: Mol

# 10 expats miss flight; fines unpaid

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: The Ministry of Interior has announced that all expatriates intending to leave the country, regardless of the reason for their departure, are required to settle any outstanding traffic violations recorded under the Ministry's regulations. In line with this, a security source revealed that the travel plans of 10 expatriates were halted at Kuwait International Airport on the first day of implementing the new rule. These individuals were unable to pay the value of their traffic violations and subsequently were not allowed to leave the country, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

According to the source, these expatriates returned home after their travel plans were canceled. The Ministry of Interior collected around 31,000 Kuwaiti dinars from 405 traffic violations owed by departing expatriates on the same day.

The source emphasized that expatriates intending to travel must review and settle their traffic violations. Some violations cannot be paid at the airport, such as parking violations in designated spaces for people with disabilities. Such violations need to be addressed by the General Department for Investigations. It was highlighted that strict adherence to established legal provisions is crucial, as the Ministry of Interior remains committed to upholding security and public order within the country.

The Ministry of Interior has provided options for settling traffic violations. The value of these violations can be paid through the electronic portal or by visiting the relevant departments under the General Traffic Department in the various governorates.

## 62,185 in PADA record

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: Director of the Legal Affairs Department and official spokesperson of the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) Mubarak Al-Baddah revealed that the number of persons with disabilities registered at the authority has reached 62,185, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Baddah gave a breakdown of the abovementioned figure based on the types of disabilities: 10,546 - physical disability; 16,178 - mental disability; 14,504 - mobility; 7,033 - educational; 1,923 - developmental; 1,667 - auditory; 1,667 - psychological and 554 - unspecified disability. The Insurance Regulatory Unit recently issued a decision on licensing three insurance companies that rectified their status - Marafi Insurance Brokerage Company, Golden Sands Insurance Brokerage Company and Al-Amanah United Insurance Brokerage Company, reports Al-Rai daily.

The decision stipulates that the license is valid for three years and the abovementioned companies must pay the license issuance or renewal fees.

The unit also approved, in principle, the establishment of a company for managing insurance claims.

Offices situated at land and sea ports, as well as Kuwait International Airport, also offer facilities for paying these fines, starting from the specified date.

## Other Voices

# Missing liberalism of MPs Abdul Wahhab & Hamad

By Ahmad alsarraf

For the first time, in sixty years of parliamentary experience, a unique National Assembly is characterized by the following three things:

First: It agrees and is consistent, sometimes to the extent of submitting, to all the demands of the government, including the management of the council, with rare exceptions.

Second: The predominance of religious extremism over the tendencies of the majority of its members, and the rest of the party conforming to them, often due to their inability to stand up to the trend of extremism.

Third: The Council is completely devoid of any member representing the liberal current, despite the fact that it is the strongest current, numerically, and the weakest and most negative of others, especially in the interior regions.

I had hoped that MPs Hamad Al-Olayan and Abd-Wahhab Al-Issa would embody a perspective I could relate to, but it appears they've veered towards the factions of opportunism and extremism.

They've become akin to others, advocating a proliferation of demands and proposed laws dressed in the guise of Sharia, insisting on aligning every matter with it.

Their demands, however, are not only logically, rationally, and practically untenable, but also diverge from the broader global trends and our own societal context. Moreover, their propositions go against human nature's innate inclination towards freedom and autonomy.

Among the perplexing proposals put forth by these two deputies, for whom I still retain some respect and regard, is the draft law they have submitted concerning government funding for individuals pursuing master's and doctoral degrees.

It seems they fail to recognize

that their request parallels asking the government to provide every citizen with an additional loan to construct a fourth or fifth floor, oblivious to the structural limits that cannot support such expansion.

My esteemed Hamad and Abdul-Wahhab, education in Kuwait has never plunged to such depths. The curricula remain subpar, exam integrity is compromised, a significant portion of the teaching staff lacks competence, and even the condition of school buildings is far from ideal. I believe many concur that we have hit rock bottom in terms of education, ethics, and values. Our imperative is a comprehensive educational reform, akin to learning to walk before we prepare to take flight.

The jeopardy facing education implies a peril to the entire nation's future. We, collectively as the public, government, and parliament, have tacitly accepted the fact that 40,000 students have passed exams through dishonest means without a formal outcry.

Yet now, they come forward demanding government funding for those aspiring to obtain doctoral degrees. For the majority who currently possess these degrees, there's little utility or satisfaction. This proposal may exacerbate the situation by artificially inflating their numbers.

Enhancing our situation doesn't hinge on merely increasing the count of PhD holders; it necessitates a comprehensive overhaul of our education system. This isn't to slight the dedicated few who hold this qualification with genuine merit; however, it's become a symbol subject to manipulation. Importantly, many esteemed universities abroad won't admit our students for doctoral studies due to their inadequate academic standing.

You, my dear Abd al-Wahhab, possess good capabilities and sound logic, and we hope that you and your colleague will return to the call for the civil state to which you both belong, and to abandon the call for a state of backwardness and darkness.

□ □ □

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

## CP nods law alterations

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20, (KUNA): Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has approved alterations to a number of laws as agreed on the joint government-parliament committee, the country's cabinet affairs minister said on Sunday.

These laws deal with health insurance for Kuwaiti retirees and changes to legislation pertaining the constitutional court, in addition to parliamentary electoral laws and the development of residential areas, noted Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Essa Al-Kandari, on the Center For Government Communication (X) account.

ric specialization to the required qualifications of the members of diplomatic missions; and if it is true that some members of diplomatic missions hold a secondary stage certificate and some administrative officials in diplomatic missions were tasked to prepare economic and political reports.

MP Hamdan Al-Azmi has forwarded queries to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari; Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, Economic and Investment Affairs and acting Minister of Finance Saad Al-Barrak; Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Othman Al-Aiban; State Minister for Municipal and Communication Affairs Fahd Al-Shola; Minister of Health Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi; Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Firas Saud Al-Sabah; Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah; Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba; and Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and acting Minister of Education Jassem Al-Ostad.

Al-Azmi wants to know the number of court decisions on compensation and financial rights for or against each ministry since 2015 till date, amount of compensation, amount of uncollected debts in every ministry and their subsidiaries, and reasons for not collecting payments.

MP Muhammad Al-Hewaila asked Al-Ostad about the plan of the Ministry of Education to increase the number of schools in Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer, number of new schools in Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer which were handed over to the ministry but have yet to open, reasons for not establishing a new educational district in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City, percentage of nationals working in the ministries headed by Al-Ostad, number of jobs previously occupied by expatriates and replaced by nationals, number of expatriate workers, reasons behind the delay in replacing them with citizens, why the teachers assigned in Mutla'a have not received the remote area allowance till date, and when they will receive the allowance.

He asked Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz about the plan to remove the sand covering some parts of roads in remote areas due to dust storms and number of contracts signed with companies specialized in sand removal.

He asked Al-Barrak about the number and value of contracts signed with companies and individuals renting public properties, criteria for specifying the rent amount, total amount of rent collected annually, and if the rent increased in the last five years especially for the vocational and industrial plots.



Marzouq Al-Ghanim



Osama Al-Zayed

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Other Voices

# Understanding Kiswahili language as a lingua franca

By H.E. Said Shaib Mussa

Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the State of Kuwait

The Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania accredited to the State of Kuwait in collaboration with Talk Cultural Hub of Kuwait, on the 7th July, 2023 commemorated World Kiswahili Language Day on its second year event held at Talk Cultural Hub Head office in Kuwait City. The event was well attended by approximately 150 participants from all walks of life.

The essence as to why 7th July, 2023 has become an international Kiswahili day today is traced back when the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and father of the Nation declared 7th July, 1954 as Kiswahili an important tool in the fight for independence. In the coteremporary perspective of multilingualism, Kiswahili language has grown as an essential tool in harmonious communication between people worldwide.

Due to substantial growth of Kiswahili language, the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution 71/328 of 11 September 2017, on multilingualism, welcomed implementation of a day dedicated to each of its official languages in order to inform and raise awareness of their history, culture and use, and encouraged the Secretary-General and institutions such as UNESCO to consider extending this important initiative to other non-official languages spoken throughout the world. Linguistic diversity and multilingualism are domains of strategic importance that UNESCO promotes in all fields of its mandate, through an interdisciplinary



H.E. Said Shaib Mussa, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the State of Kuwait

approach involving all programme sectors.

The General Conference of UNESCO at its 41st session in 2021 proclaimed 7 July as the World Kiswahili Language Day. The inaugural celebrations of the World Kiswahili Language Day were held in 2022, at UNESCO HQ and worldwide, under the theme: "Kiswahili for peace and prosperity". The 2023 Edition of the World Kiswahili Language Day was celebrated under the theme "Unleashing Kiswahili's Potential in the Digital Era".

The origin of the Kiswahili language can be traced back many centuries, through interactions among African coastal communities and Arab traders, mainly along the Eastern coast of Africa. The name 'swahili' comes from an Arabic word 'sawahili', a plural adjective meaning 'of the coast'. With over 200 million active users, Kiswahili is

now recognized as one of the official languages of the African Union (AU), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community (EAC). Therefore, Kiswahili has emerged as an indispensable pillar for the cultural and economic integration in Africa, including for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA). Kiswahili has also been recognized as an important tool in Africa's pursuit to achieve the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063.

By 2030, young Africans are expected to constitute 42% of global youth. As a majority of these young people will speak Kiswahili, it is important that digital resources and youth-savvy ICT tools are developed to promote an effective use of this language. The continent's youthful population offers an enormous opportunity in the digital era and should be equipped with appropriate digital resources and tools to popularize Kiswahili language. This can present a good basis to harness the demographic dividend of the youth and help navigate Africa to benefit from the 4th and 5th industrial revolution.

The Kiswahili speaking people are from diverse ethnic groups who use Kiswahili as their mother tongue or first language; while for others, it serves as a lingua franca, a trade language used to bridge the communication gaps between people of different first languages.

Therefore, Kiswahili being one of the African languages with more than 200 million speakers, and recognised as among the 10 most widely spoken languages in the world – that have been accepted for use in ICT – plays



One of the famous landmarks in Tanzania.

an important role in ICT use. Kiswahili has gained popularity beyond its traditional confines in Africa and is gaining popularity and support in America, Europe and the Far East, where it is taught in many universities. Kiswahili is also used internationally in broadcasting, advertising and publishing. Kiswahili is therefore an important vehicle for spreading the design and use of ICT.

Currently many Africans acquire ICT skills using foreign languages. As a large percentage of the populations do not speak foreign languages, they have limited prospect to benefit from the ICT revolution. Therefore, it is of a great need to develop and enhance the use of digital services and resources in local languages. It is against this background this year's celebrations fostered inclusivity, aug-

ment accessibility and bridge the digital divide in Africa using Kiswahili.

Kiswahili is the first African language in the whole of Africa to be used in computers. The choice of Kiswahili by software developers, including Microsoft and Linux, was influenced by various reasons, besides its popularity, its simplicity to learn, its recognition and widespread usage in Africa and gaining popularity and support in the Middle East, America, Europe and the Far East.

Unleashing Kiswahili's Potential in the Digital Era will definitely contribute to the enrichment of UNESCO's values such as the promotion of peace, culture and intercultural dialogue. Multilingualism is essential in harmonious communication between peoples as it serves as an instrument for international understanding, toler-

ance and dialogue. Languages play a vital role in development, not only in ensuring cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, but also as a tool contributing to quality education for all and to strengthening cooperation. Languages are key in building inclusive knowledge societies, preserving cultural heritage, and harnessing science and technology for sustainable development. Thus, if we are striving to create a digitally connected Africa, Kiswahili holds the key.

The 2023 Edition of the World Kiswahili Language Day was held under the theme "Unleashing Kiswahili's Potential in the Digital Era" in cognisance of the increasingly important role of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) in the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063. The spotlight will be placed on Kiswahili as a vehicle for harnessing ICT, taking into consideration of Africa youth demographic dividend. The growing use of the internet and other digital technologies has transformed societies which could have lasting impact on language. Likewise, ICT should be used as a tool to promote Kiswahili usage, globally.

In conclusion, the Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania to the State of Kuwait will continue with its role and responsibility to promote values, ideas and philosophy of renowned Kiswahili language in the State of Kuwait among various groups through social media programmes, workshops and other cultural activities. Moreover, understanding Kiswahili language is an added advantage for those interested to visit East Africa Region and Tanzania in particular.

## KPC to disburse encouragement bonus today

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation has made preparations to disburse the incentive reward to leaders and managers in the oil sector, indicating that the reward ranges between two and four basic

salaries, reports Al-Rai daily. The sources indicated that the incentive reward for workers in the oil sector is determined according to an accounting formula based on an evaluation of the worker's performance, his contribution

to the annual results of his company, or the sector in which he works, in addition to evaluating the distinguished role he played throughout the year, to achieve the annual strategy of the corporation and the entity in which he works.

## CMA promotes awareness on investing in financial markets

### Measures aim to mitigate inherent risks

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: Since its establishment, the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has diligently undertaken necessary measures to fulfill the objectives outlined in Article (3) of Law No. 7 of 2010 and its subsequent amendments. A key focus among these objectives is the regulation of securities activity to ensure fairness, competitiveness, transparency, and safeguarding of participants in this field. The aim is to mitigate the inherent risks associated with such activity, reports Al-Rai daily.**

In an exclusive statement to Al-Rai, the Capital Markets Authority emphasized its continuous efforts to promote awareness about fundamental principles of investing in financial markets. These endeavors aim to educate the public, encompassing all strata of society, including novice and small investors, on ways to identify and mitigate risks tied to this form of investment. Furthermore, the Authority endeavors to enhance understanding of financial fraud and related malpractices.

Simultaneously, the Authority has been committed to refining regulations and legislation governing the Kuwaiti financial market. This commitment stems from the aspiration to align with the dynamic growth in this vital economic and financial sector while striving

to harmonize with global best practices.

The most recent step in this direction involved the issuance of Resolution No. (166) of 2022. This resolution serves to enhance the provisions of the executive regulations of Law No. 7 of 2010, which pertains to the establishment of the Capital Markets Authority and the regulation of securities activity and its subsequent amendments. These enhancements encompass a fundamental overhaul of the guidelines governing investment advisors across all authorized entities.

#### Efforts

In line with these efforts, the Authority has introduced the establishment of a registry for professionals engaged in financial analysis. These professionals are empowered to disseminate analyses pertaining to the stock exchange and trends within the capital market. However, this practice comes with distinct prerequisites and criteria to ensure competence.

The Authority accentuates its exceptional ap-

proach, which spotlights experts aspiring to provide educational and informative services concerning the general trajectory of the stock exchange. This practice aligns with the constitutional guarantees of freedom of opinion and expression under Article (36) of the Kuwaiti constitution. Nonetheless, the Authority underscores that rights inherently carry specific duties and responsibilities, and consequently, they can be subject to legal controls and well-defined regulatory frameworks. These measures safeguard the market, its participants, and prevent fraudulent activities aimed at unlawfully appropriating citizens' funds and eroding their savings.

In light of this context, the Authority urges all individuals engaged in securities trading to critically examine recommendations, advice, and analyses disseminated through various social media platforms and media outlets. Caution is advised against relying solely on recommendations from unauthorized sources, even if they claim to originate from authorized individuals.

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## Sadaaqa presents Dawood Hussein

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: Sadaaqa, the show that documents and celebrates India-Kuwait friendship, is proud to present the prodigiously talented Dawood Hussein. Mr Hussein is one of Kuwait's leading actors and comedians who has enthralled audiences across the Middle East for over four decades. Few can lay claim to the kind of popularity he enjoys in the region.

Apart from acting, Mr Hussein has also hosted several shows, including the very popular 'Your Weight in Gold' broadcast by Abu Dhabi satellite channel. During Ramadan, he is a visible figure on Kuwait television on a show called 'gergian' that has been running for decades. He has acted in films from across the Arab world, including Egypt, UAE, Syria and Lebanon. Mr Hussein's professional journey began in 1977. Performing arts is a challenging field in Kuwait, and he navigated that with grace. Kuwait and India have been inextricably connected for centuries long before the in-

volvement of the West. The connections go back to the times of the Indus Valley civilization and reflect amongst others in culture, language, food, and trade.

Dawood Hussein's journey as an actor has been deeply influenced by India and its films. He rose from ordinary circumstances and grew up watching Hindi films both at home and at the Al Firdaus theatre. Watching films, observing the actors, and following their diction and mannerisms was one way the young Kuwaiti boy dealt with the tedium of everyday life. He adopted an Indian neighbour as his 'Ma' and went on to pick up fluent Urdu from her and his Indian brothers.

Here in this episode of Sadaaqa, he speaks about Hindi films and their influence on his life as an actor, Hindi film music of the seventies and eighties and how the music and rhythm never left him and the importance of the close relationship between Indians and Kuwaitis.

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Historical perspective vital to grasp rationale behind A 80 formulation'

"DR. Jenan Bushehri, the esteemed representative, has made a surprising announcement, revealing that she has submitted the inaugural interpellation of the present legislative term addressed to His Excellency the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs," columnist **Fahad Al-Jabri** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"This move comes in response to the government's declaration of intent to activate Article 80 of Law No. 61 of 1976, known as the "Social Insurance" law.

"This particular law permits the Council of Ministers to bestow pensions or exceptional rewards upon insured individuals, pensioners, beneficiaries, or other Kuwaiti citizens, even if they are not bound by the stipulations of this legislation. The authority to make such decisions was granted to the Civil Service Council by the Council of Ministers during its session on June 15, 1986, and this authority remains effective to this day.



Fahad Al-Jabri

"To comprehend the rationale behind the formulation of Article 80, a historical perspective is necessary, specifically tracing back to the 1970s.

"During this period, administrative work within ministries, institutions, and governmental bodies in the country was undergoing organizational development. At that time, there existed a subset of Kuwaiti citizens including those with special needs, military personnel, and those entering public service, whose age exceeded 50 years.

"Due to their relatively brief tenure, they were ineligible for retirement. Hence, an Amiri decree established this law to extend justice to this specific group, categorizing them as humanitarian cases entitled to exceptions.

"Over the past three decades, the state has enacted and structured various laws that are designed in favor of citizens, encompassing the aforementioned groups (such as those with special needs, military personnel, etc.).

"This has caused Article 80 to veer from its initial purpose and intended objective, transforming into a tool exploited by the executive authority to secure loyalty and support from beneficiaries.

"However, this favoritism has largely been directed towards high-ranking positions, encompassing ministers, ministry leaders, members of the National Assembly, municipal council members, and others who have been beneficiaries of these perks, which have sometimes been retroactively granted. A substantial sum of around 4 billion Kuwaiti dinars has been allocated, predominantly to ministers, deputies, and high-ranking officials.

"The critical flaw lies in the continued misuse, negligence, and misapplication of Article 80 by the government, flagrantly transgressing the principle of fairness among citizens as enshrined in Articles 7 and 8 of the Kuwaiti Constitution.

"The grave error lies in the silence exhibited by the country's representatives concerning this error – a silence akin to the stillness of the grave. Whenever the government detects parliamentary or public disapproval, it temporarily suspends the utilization of Article 80.

"However, it promptly reactivates it once a suitable opportunity arises. The only way to curtail this fiscal imprudence and squandering of state funds from the treasury is for the members of the National Assembly to confront it head-on. They ought to initiate an amendment to the law, either suspending the operation of Article 80 or modifying it to cater solely to humanitarian cases.

### Also:

"The discussion surrounding the glaring lack of equity in Kuwaiti salaries elicits a sentiment of resentment and sorrow, highlighting the plight of a marginalized group of citizens who have borne the brunt of the country's oil booms, financial influx, and budget surpluses, amounting to staggering billions of dollars," columnist **Riyad Abdullah Al-Mulla** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"This predicament disproportionately affects employees holding intermediate and secondary degrees, diplomas, as well as our sisters, widows, divorcees, and beneficiaries of the "heirs' share," alongside retirees and the elderly.

"Concurrently, the state institutions and ministries bestow astronomical and, at times, exorbitant salaries, reaching a net 17 thousand dinars without accounting for annual bonuses. This glaring disparity perplexes us, for there seems to be no coherent rationale other than the perpetuation of an antiquated salary scale that perpetuates societal hardship, nurtures citizens' discontent, and challenges their aspirations.

"These concerns intensify with each surge in prices that besieges the nation, impacting citizens and residents alike. Meager salaries, quickly diminished upon receipt, fail to provide sustenance or alleviate hunger. The primary hope is for a wage that ensures survival and a dignified existence.

"A report titled "Kuwait: The Most Affordable Country to Reside In" states that the average employee's salary is \$6,200 (roughly 2,000 dinars), with the maximum cost of living in Kuwait not surpassing \$752 (approximately 250 dinars). The reality we face renders this assessment far from accurate. The average individual's salary is 530 dinars for singles and 600 dinars for married individuals. These amounts prove inadequate amidst the exorbitant escalation in the costs of food, medicine, services, and daily essentials.

"A rudimentary calculation of a 600-dinar salary against essential expenses bewilders us. Assuming 350 dinars for rent, 300 dinars for daily needs, 120 dinars for a housemaid, 130 dinars for car installments, 100 dinars for loans, 40 dinars for fuel, and 30 dinars for telecom services – even with the most frugal approach, these expenses add up to around 1,100 dinars, surpassing the

received income.

"Employment and job structures must be designed to align with the 21st century, factoring in the living reality and productivity rather than merely titles or certificates. Regrettably, we must emphasize that justice and social parity, exemplified in Western nations, are achieved through elaborate scientific methodologies for wage scales, hourly wages, and minimum thresholds. These approaches harmonize with the cost of living, ensuring that even the lowest-earning retirees have pensions meeting their needs and regular expenditures.

"Thus, it is imperative to conduct comprehensive surveys on wage scales, assessing the monthly expenses required for Kuwaiti families and rectifying the discrepancies and inadequacies in wages. Urgent and immediate action must be taken by the responsible authorities to alleviate this hardship, alleviate suffering, secure fairness and equality, and provide families with a sustainable livelihood.

"In conclusion, a plea is directed to those responsible for this matter. Remember that you stand before God's judgment, hence, show compassion for the predicament of tens of thousands of men and women earning less than 1,000 dinars monthly.

"They bear the burdens of household expenses, loans, and domestic help, with young individuals grappling with marriage expenses and installments while struggling to meet rent payments. With a single stroke of a pen, their suffering could cease, and optimism could reignite in their lives."

□ □ □

"Dependence on the salary, which employees receive in return for performing specific work in the public or private sector, neither achieves national development nor meets the requirements of the era, which needs a multi-faceted commercial, industrial and technological movement," columnist **Dr. Mohammad Al-Axminster** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"The State must provide a suitable climate for the establishment of large and small enterprises in order to achieve the difficult equation, through which the citizen finds financial abundance, as he could be getting less from his job. At the same time, the owner of the enterprise should work comfortably and reassured; without facing obstacles, regulations and circumstances that could prompt him to abandon his business.

"Some young people have stable jobs, so they are not keen on starting their own business. Indeed, the State benefits from them, considering their specializations and academic qualifications. Others want to apply their commercial, industrial and technological ideas.

"The latter group of young people needs support in the realization of their ideas. They need serious decisions to support them, not to put obstacles on their way. They should be provided with all the facilities to guarantee the success of their businesses.

"Therefore, it is important to talk about small enterprises to stabilize the State and ensure its bright future. Some young people succeeded in their small enterprises, which have started to grow to compete with big businesses. This is a clear indication that Kuwaiti youths want to develop themselves and their country. They want to contribute to national renaissance and development.

"Some young people want to work and manage their own business at the same time. Why not support them in their endeavors? If one succeeds in his small business, he usually resigns from his job to focus on his business. The State will benefit a lot if this happens."

□ □ □

"The Kuwaiti people are tired of waiting for real development results. They hope to see positive effects of development on their lives and that of their children. For this to happen, we must quickly deal with what is in front of us in order to have successive achievements," columnist **Adel Al-Mazal** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"We are burdened with worries and problems, the first of which is the apparent unemployment that has spread among our children and the disguised unemployment, particularly the need to improve the performance of some employees who do not fear God and do nothing but talk and read newspapers.

"So, let us put the right man in the right place, and involve the private sector in solving the housing problem to shorten the waiting period, which has become years and years.

"We must pay attention to education and recruit qualified teachers. We want a health revolution that puts a smile on the lips of patients, instead of waiting for months to see a specialist or a consultant, not to mention the lack of rooms for patients. We want an increase in the number of hospitals.

"We also need a smart political way of dealing with all our problems for the sun of achievements to return. We are on the verge of feeling that we hardly get out of one problem until we fall into another. The streets of Kuwait are always crowded and full of excavations and patching with asphalt or cement, in addition to the incomplete bridges and other projects. Is this how Kuwait should be?"

"We want to impose the law on the old before the young. We want to recover the prestige of the policeman. We want the government to have a strategy and a timetable so we can see the immediate completion of vital projects, so we do not wait for years because of bureaucracy.

"At the same time, we commend the ongoing cooperation between the government and members of the National Assembly. This gives us hope that the sun of achievements will shine again and we will see the real achievements of the Assembly members through the issuance of legislation for a new phase of work and accomplishments."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

## Guard vows

Continued from Page 1

main oil distribution terminal in the Arabian Gulf.

For months, the ship sat in the South China Sea off the northeast coast of Singapore before suddenly sailing for the Gulf of Mexico without explanation. Analysts believe the vessel's cargo likely has been seized by American officials, though there still were no public court documents early Sunday involving the Suez Rajan.

In the meantime, Iran has seized two tankers near the Strait of Hormuz, including one with cargo for U.S. oil major Chevron Corp. In July, the top commander of the Revolutionary Guard's naval arm threatened further action against anyone offloading the Suez Rajan, with state media linking the recent seizures to the cargo's fate.

"We hereby declare that we would hold any oil company that sought to unload our crude from the vessel re-

sponsible and we also hold America responsible," Rear Adm. Alireza Tangsiri said at the time. "The era of hit and run is over, and if they hit, they should expect to be struck back."

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment over the offloading of the Suez Rajan. The state-run IRNA news agency acknowledged this AP story, but did not elaborate. Western-backed naval organizations in the Arabian Gulf in recent days also warned of an increased risk of ship seizures from Iran around the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers saw it regain the ability to sell oil openly on the international market. But in 2018, then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord and re-imposed American sanctions. That slammed the door on much of Iran's lucrative crude oil trade, a major engine for its economy and its government. It also began a cat-and-mouse hunt for Iranian oil cargo - as well as series of escalating attacks attributed to Iran since 2019.

The delay in offloading the Suez Rajan's cargo had become a political issue as well for the Biden administration as the ship had sat for months in the Gulf of Mexico, possibly due to companies being worried about the threat from Iran.

In a letter dated Wednesday, a group of Democratic and Republican U.S. senators asked the White House for an update on what was happening with the ship's cargo, estimated to be worth some \$56 million. They said the money could go toward the U.S. Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund, which compensates those affected by the Sept. 11 attacks, the 1979 Iran hostage crisis and other militant assaults.

"We owe it to these American families to enforce our sanctions," the letter read.

The U.S. Treasury has said Iran's oil smuggling revenue supports the Quds Force, the expeditionary unit of the Revolutionary Guard that operates across the Mideast.

Claire Jungman, the chief of staff at United Against Nuclear Iran, praised the transfer finally happening.



Some of the accused arrested for stealing electrical cables.

KUNA photo

## Mol arrests 7 people for stealing power cables

Ministry of Interior announced on Saturday that it captured four Asians and three Arabs for stealing power cables.

The ministry's General Department of Security Relations and Media said in a statement that this arrest was part of an intensive security campaign of the criminal security sector to intensify operations against people stealing power cables in various parts of the country, and to follow up on previous cases of power cables' theft.

The officers of the Farwaniya Investigation Department took legal permission from prosecution after re-

ceiving information about stolen power cables to arrest four people of an Asian nationality.

In their raid, security personnel seized over one ton of power and copper cables along with the equipment to cut the wires into small pieces.

The second case was in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate when the Investigation Department arrested three persons of Arab nationality, who were stealing from a closed shop in Sabah Al-Salem Area. Security personnel found power cables in their possession.

All arrested were referred to the competent authorities to take the necessary action against them. (KUNA)

# Foul play suspected after two expats' bodies found at farm

Shelter eyed for male expats facing problems

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: The bodies of two expatriates were found at a farm in Abdally, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.**

Sources confirmed that securitymen were dispatched to the location immediately after the Operations Unit in the Interior Ministry received information about the discovery of the bodies. Sources added that traces of stabbing and torture were found in both bodies, thereby, raising suspicion of foul play.

A case was registered and investigations are ongoing to identify the bodies and establish the cause of death.

□ □ □

**Shelter for male expats:** The Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) declared on Sunday it is seeking to establish a shelter for male expatriates who have legal issues with employers.

The PAM shelter currently houses female expatriates in response to personal request, or a request by embassies or any of the relevant authorities, said Dr. Fahad Al-Murad, the acting deputy director general for expatriate workers protection, who affirmed on the occasion of the World Humanitarian Day that these women enjoy legal, social and health care.

The center, he has added, is seeking to establish an identical section to receive male expatriates of similar conditions and issues.

The center, since its establishment in 2014, has hosted more than 13,000 female workers. This year, it has received 960 women laborers, in addition to eight children accompanied by their mothers. Most of them have returned home and only 35 of them have remained at the center.

Meanwhile, the Khaled Al-Ajmi, Board Chairman of the Kuwaiti Human Rights Society, said in remarks to KUNA said that the society had inked an accord with the center to educate those expatriates about their rights and duties according to the Kuwaiti laws.

The association, he added, distributed this year leaflets and booklets in seven languages as part of the efforts to help them.

## Prospects of going to work dim

# Fishermen running out of diesel

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20:** The Kuwaiti Federation of Fishermen renewed its appeal to the Minister of Finance to address the crisis of the continuing deficit in the share of diesel, pointing out that diesel has run out from the Al-Shamlan and Fahaheel stations, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

In a statement, the federation called for the need to return the share of fishermen as it was before the decision to reduce it by half, indicating that the result of this will be that the two stations will run out of diesel supplies until the end of this month.

He added that the Advocacy Committee of the Ministry of Finance put on deaf ears the fishermen's union's appeals to return the monthly quota as it was during the previous season, and therefore the suffering continues every month due to the depletion of the quantity.

He went on to say, the Kuwaiti fishing boats will not be able to go out to fish, and refused to put the blame on the fishermen of stopping going out to fish, as well as accusing the federation of allowing the fishermen to go on strike.

He pointed out that he had made it clear since last July that the diesel share reduced by half would not be sufficient, but unfortunately

all his requests have fallen on deaf ears.

In a decisive move to bolster security and crack down on traffic violations and offenders, reliable security sources said strict instructions have been issued to traffic patrols. These instructions emphasize firm action against violators, particularly expatriates, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Based on these instructions from higher authority deportation orders were issued against approximately 100 residents within two months, who were found guilty of committing serious traffic offenses, such as driving without a valid license, reckless driving, speeding and endangering the lives of passengers and other road users.

The Director of the General Traffic Department, Major General Youssef Al-Khadha, has directed all traffic patrols to maintain a constant presence on all streets and highways to enforce the new guidelines.

Additionally, specific plans have been devised for areas with a high concentration of expatriate workers, focusing on thorough checks of driving licenses and vehicle road-worthiness.

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POWER IS NOTHING WITHOUT CONTROL

## Kuwait's Shipbuilding Co., KNPC sign contract

Kuwait-based Heavy Engineering Industries & Shipbuilding Company (HEISCO) said Sunday it has signed a contract worth KD 91.7 million (around USD 279.6 million) for a mechanical maintenance service at Mina Abdullah Refinery (MAB) project with a duration of 63 months.

The project's revenue will be shown in annual financial statements from 2023 to 2028, the company said in a disclosure on the website of the Kuwaiti stock

exchange, known as Boursa Kuwait.

Established in Kuwait in 1974 and listed on the stock exchange in 1984 with an authorized capital of KD 22 million (around 67 million), HEISCO has a diversified range of business in oil and gas, petrochemicals, power, pressure equipment manufacturing, shipbuilding and repair, dredging and marine construction, civil construction, maintenance and other industrial services. (KUNA)

## Gold down to USD 1,889/ounce, dips for 4th week

Gold prices dipped at the end of last week's trading, to close at USD 1,889 per ounce, down by 1.5 percent, recording losses for the fourth week in a row, an economic report said Sunday.

Gold prices remained below USD 1,900 an ounce last Friday, affected by the strength of the dollar and US Treasury bond yields, while the Federal Reserve, the central bank of the US, meeting

last July indicated more interest rate hikes in the future due to the risk of higher inflation, the Kuwaiti-based company Dar Al-Sabaek said in a report.

Gold futures for December delivery stabilized at the end of trading last Friday at USD 1,916.5 an ounce, however recorded weekly losses of about 1.5 percent, it explained, pointing to market expectations to keep the Federal Re-

serve at the current range of interest until the end of this year.

The report suggested the possibility of monetary tightening in the US amid real estate sector turmoil, as the Chinese company Evergrande applied for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 15 in the US, amid its ongoing debt restructuring procedures in Hong Kong and the Cayman Islands. (AP)

## Market Movements

17-08-2023

|          | Change    | Closing pts |           | Change      | Closing pts |       |           |
|----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------|-----------|
| UAE      | - DFM     | +0.09       | 4,049.09  | JAPAN       | - Nikkei    | -0.44 | 31,626.00 |
| PAKISTAN | - KSE 100 | +0.49       | 48,386.12 | PHILIPPINES | - PSEI      | -0.70 | 6,364.97  |
| SAUDI    | - Tadawul | +0.51       | 11,451.31 | EGYPT       | - EGX 30    | -0.52 | 17,969.27 |

# Business

## Annual headline inflation drops in UK

# US dollar gains amid safe-haven demand expectation of higher rates

By National Bank of Kuwait

### United States

#### Retail Sales

The latest month-on-month retail sales reading came at 0.7%, significantly higher than the previous reading of 0.3%, and well above the forecasted 0.4%. The core retail sales index also soared to 1.0% from 0.2% previously, with both readings at their highest levels since January. This indicates that high wages from the ever so tight labor market have kept demand high despite the vicious interest rate hikes by the Fed. The data showed that the main driver behind the increase was online sales, which soared by 1.9%. Retail sales are highly valuable indicators for potential GDP figures, and this unexpected rise leads markets to believe that GDP figures will come in substantially higher. The current narrative is that the US will be able to achieve a "soft landing," and such data adds to that narrative as inflation is cooling in the US, accompanied by a robust labor market.

#### FOMC Meeting Minutes

During The Federal Open Market Committee meeting, Federal Reserve officials expressed their concerns over the path of inflation. Officials said that an additional rate hike might be necessary in the future, unless current economic conditions change. The two-day meeting resulted in a quarter-percentage point rate hike that the market expects to be the last in this current cycle. During the meeting, most Federal officials showed that there is still a need for higher interest rates, while some officials are worrying about over tightening. The minutes were largely consistent with Powell's press conference, with a hawkish tone that left further tightening on the table, though avoided any firm commitments given the emphasis on data dependence.

The latest increase brought the Federal funds rate to its current target range of 5.25% - 5.50%, which is considered the highest level in more than twenty-two years. Markets are pricing an 88.5% probability of no hike in the Fed's next meeting on September 20.

#### Unemployment Claims

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits fell last week, pointing to continued tightness in the labor market even as job growth slows. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 11,000 to a seasonally adjusted 239,000 for the week ended Aug. 12, reversing half of the surge in the prior week, as per the Labor Department. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast 240,000 claims for the latest week.

The labor market is only showing marginal signs of a slowdown, with job gains in July being the second-smallest since December 2020. The unemployment rate is around levels last seen more than 50 years ago. There were 1.6 job openings for every unemployed person in June. Claims, relative to the size of the labor market, remain below the

### Highlights

- The US dollar index traded higher across the board supported by safe haven demand on concerns over China's economy and expectations that US rates will stay higher for longer.
- The latest inflationary data to come out of the UK showed that annual headline inflation dropped while core inflation remained unchanged.
- The world's second largest economy, China, reported economic data that considerably missed expectations, sending the Yuan to a 9 month low.
- Japan's economy exceeded market expectations in April-June figures, due to the rapid growth in auto exports and tourism.

280,000 level that economists say would signal a significant slowdown in job growth.

The US dollar index traded higher across the board supported by safe haven demand on concerns over China's economy and expectations that US rates will stay higher for longer. The US dollar index reached a three-month high of 103.68 on Thursday. The index closed slightly lower at 103.433 as market participants turn their focus to Jerome Powell's speech in next week's Jackson Hole Symposium, looking for signals on the future of interest rates in the US.

### Europe

#### German ZEW Economic Sentiment

German investor confidence improved unexpectedly in August but it remains firmly in negative territory as the mood in Europe's largest economy remains opaque. ZEW's economic sentiment index rose to -12.3 points from -14.7 points in July. Analysts expected sentiment to stagnate in August with a reading of -14.7 as per a Reuters poll.

The main driver behind the Euro's decline last week was elevated worries over China, fueling demand for the US Dollar safety. The Euro closed the week lower at 1.0867. Despite the drop, some analysts were expecting a lower euro given the region's economic exposure to China.

### United Kingdom

#### Inflation Remains Sticky while Retail Sales Falter

The latest inflationary data to come out of the UK showed that annual headline inflation dropped from 7.9% in June all the way to 6.8%. Core inflation on the other hand remained unchanged at 6.9%, unfortunately proving that the signifi-

cant drop in headline inflation is mainly due to the drop in energy prices. Additionally, services have become more expensive, with services inflation rising to 7.4% from 7.2% previously. Meanwhile, wages in the UK have seen a 7.8% increase, hitting a figure that has not been seen since 2001. That, along with the recent surprise economic growth, add more worries for the Bank of England (BoE). Additionally, Retail sales showed a monthly drop of 1.2% and 1.4% for the core figure. The figures are weaker than market expectations which could indicate that higher interest rates are starting to slow down the economy.

It now seems inevitable that the BoE will hike interest rates once more in their next meeting as they continue to fight stubborn inflation, with markets now pricing in an 84% probability of a rate hike. Sterling showed resilience against the dollar as expectations of an imminent hike by the BoE continues to support the pound. Nevertheless, the GBP/USD pair remained range bound for the most part of the week and closed at 1.2735.

### Japan

#### GDP Figures

Japan's economy exceeded market expectations in April-June figures, due to the rapid growth in auto exports and tourism. The annual growth in Japan came in at 6%, but on a quarterly basis the economy gained 1.5% while it was expected to be at 0.8%. It is considered the fastest expansion since the first quarter of 2020.

The recent depreciation in the Japanese Yen coincides with a rise in US treasury yields amid expectations that support higher US rates for longer, combined with an ever so dovish Bank of Japan. The pair reached a 9-month high of 146.56 on Thursday. The USDJPY eased on Friday and closed at 145.37. The move in the market indicates that traders are concerned that the pair's current level (above 145) could trigger an intervention by the authorities similar to the

intervention late last year.

### China

#### China Data Highlights Grim Economic Outlook

The world's second largest economy, China, reported economic data that considerably missed expectations, sending the Yuan to a 9 month low. The country's industrial production rose by 3.7% annually, significantly below the forecasted and previous figure of 4.4%. Furthermore, retail sales came in at 2.5%, down from 3.1% previously, and widely off the expected figure of 4.5%. China's fixed asset investment grew by 3.4% annually, falling short of the previous and forecasted figure of 3.8%. Additionally, the urban unemployment rate ticked up to 5.3% from 5.2% previously. Unlike prior reports, the National Bureau of Statistics did not include youth unemployment this time, which has soared to record highs in recent months. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) unexpectedly cut rates following the disappointing economic releases, with the one year medium term lending facility falling by 15bps from 2.65% to 2.5%. The central bank also cut the seven day reverse repo rate to 1.8%, a fall of 10bps in what could be seen as a start for further easing measures in an economy that is battling deflation and weak consumer demand.

The Yuan continues its downtrend following weak economic figures and a surprising cut from the PBOC early last week. The yuan fell to 7.3098 in offshore trading, bouncing back from a nine month low of 7.3494, after the PBOC set a much higher fixing of the official mid-point at 7.2006. The currency pair closed the week at 7.3068. Meanwhile the Australian dollar, which often trades as a proxy for China and has tended to track the yuan in recent days, reached a nine-month low of 0.6365.

### Kuwait

#### Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30790.

### Rates - August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

| Currencies | Previous Week Levels |        |        |        | This Week's Expected Range |         | 3-Month |
|------------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------|---------|---------|
|            | Open                 | Low    | High   | Close  | Minimum                    | Maximum | Forward |
| EUR        | 1.0942               | 1.0843 | 1.0959 | 1.0867 | 1.0695                     | 1.0960  | 1.0923  |
| GBP        | 1.2688               | 1.2614 | 1.2787 | 1.2735 | 1.2530                     | 1.2905  | 1.2739  |
| JPY        | 144.92               | 144.65 | 146.56 | 145.37 | 144.40                     | 147.15  | 143.30  |
| CHF        | 0.8769               | 0.8742 | 0.8827 | 0.8815 | 0.8610                     | 0.8920  | 0.8732  |

# Call on int'l community to deliver on climate finance

COP28 President-Designate speaks at African climate meet

**ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, Aug 20, (PR Newswire): COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber has addressed the nineteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), sharing his vision and priorities for COP28, especially the need for adaptation financing and acceleration of the energy transition.**

A key partner to COP28, AMCEN unites environment ministers from across the continent and provides political guidance and coordinates policy positions among its member states, which include all 54 African countries. Ethiopia will chair AMCEN in 2024.

In his speech, Dr. Al Jaber highlighted the need for urgent action to put the world back on track to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and keep the ambition of 1.5 within reach.

"With just over 100 days before the world gathers in Dubai for COP28, both the science and common sense are telling us that our collective response to climate change is nowhere near good enough."

The COP President Designate not only recognized Africa's position at the frontline of climate impacts but also its performance and potential as a leading force in the energy transition.

He said, "When it comes to transitioning to an energy system free of unabated fossil fuels, Africa has many lessons for the rest of us. Here in Ethiopia, almost 100 per cent of the country's energy comes from renewable hydro power. [...] across this great continent, a young and growing population is seizing the potential of other clean energy sources from wind to solar and choosing low carbon economic growth."

However, he also acknowledged that a chronic lack of available, acces-

## The Conversation

# As BRICS cooperation accelerates, is it time for US to develop a BRICS policy?

By Mihaela Papa, Tufts University; Frank O'Donnell, Boston College, and Zhen Han, Sacred Heart University

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

When leaders of the BRICS group of large emerging economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - meet in Johannesburg for two days beginning on Aug. 22, 2023, foreign policymakers in Washington will no doubt be listening carefully.

The BRICS group has been challenging some key tenets of U.S. global leadership in recent years. On the diplomatic front, it has undermined the White House's strategy on Ukraine by countering the Western use of sanctions on Russia. Economically, it has sought to chip away at U.S. dominance by weakening the dollar's role as the world's default currency.

And now the group is looking at expanding, with 23 formal candidates. Such a move - especially if BRICS accepts Iran, Cuba or Venezuela - would likely strengthen the group's anti-U.S. positioning.

So what can Washington expect next, and how can it respond?

sible and affordable climate finance is holding back Africa's potential, noting that barely one tenth of global climate finance finds its way to the continent.

As such, Dr. Al Jaber highlighted the urgent need to reform international

Our research team at Tufts University has been working on a multiyear Rising Power Alliances project that has analyzed the evolution of BRICS and the group's relationship with the U.S. What we have found is that the common portrayal of BRICS as a China-dominated group primarily pursuing anti-U.S. agendas is misplaced.

Rather, the BRICS countries connect around common development interests and a quest for a multipolar world order in which no single power dominates. Yet BRICS consolidation has turned the group into a potent negotiation force that now challenges Washington's geopolitical and economic goals. Ignoring BRICS as a major policy force - something the U.S. has been prone to do in the past - is no longer an option.

At the dawn of BRIC cooperation in 2008 - before South Africa joined in 2010, adding an "S" - members were mindful that the group's existence could lead to tensions with policymakers who viewed the U.S. as the world's "indispensable nation."

As Brazil's former Foreign Minister Celso Amorim observed at the time,

climate finance. He said, "First, the international community must come through with the 100-billion-dollar pledge they made over a decade ago. I will continue to press donor countries to ensure delivery no later than this

"We should promote a more democratic world order by ensuring the fullest participation of developing countries in decision-making bodies." He saw BRIC countries "as a bridge between industrialized and developing countries for sustainable development and a more balanced international economic policy."

While such realignments would certainly dilute U.S. power, BRIC explicitly refrained from anti-U.S. rhetoric.

After the 2009 BRIC summit, the Chinese foreign ministry clarified that BRIC cooperation should not be "directed against a third party." Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon had already confirmed that there would be no America bashing at BRIC and directly rejected China's and Russia's efforts to weaken the dollar's dominance.

Rather, the new entity complemented existing efforts toward multipolarity - including China-Russia cooperation and the India, Brazil, South Africa trilateral dialogue. Not only was BRIC envisioned as a forum for ideas rather than ideologies, but it also planned to stay open and transparent. (AP)

year [...] Next, the entire global financial architecture from IFIs to MDBs needs modernizing. They were built for the second half of the last century. They urgently need to be upgraded to meet the needs of this one."

## Prosecutors to seek death penalty

# Ex-wife charged in ambush-style killing of Microsoft exec Bridegan

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Aug 20, (AP): The ex-wife of a Microsoft executive who was gunned down by a triggerman in front of his young daughter has been charged with first-degree murder, and prosecutors in Florida plan to seek the death penalty.

A grand jury indicted Shanna Lee Gardner in the ambush-style death of Jared Bridegan, State Attorney Melissa Nelson announced Thursday at a news conference in Jacksonville, Florida. Gardner, 36, was arrested in West Richland, Washington, and will be extradited to Florida to stand trial, Nelson said.

"From very, very early on, everything in my body and soul told me she was behind it," Kristen Bridegan, Jared Bridegan's wife, said during the news conference.

Hank Cox, who represents Gardner, said via email that he does not comment on pending cases.

The state is also seeking the death penalty against Gardner's husband, Mario Fernandez Saldana, who was arrested in March and charged in Bridegan's death. His attorney, Jesse Dreicer, said in an email that his client has pleaded not guilty and is presumed innocent. "We are dedicated to his defense and are optimistic that when the all of the facts are made available our client will be exonerated," he wrote.

He was arrested after triggerman Henry Arthur Tenon, 62, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, court records show. He agreed to testify against Fernandez Saldana and Gard-

ner, Nelson said.

Nelson did not say what led to Gardner's arrest or mention a motive.

"Henry Tenon did not act alone. Mario Fernandez did not plan alone. And Shanna Gardner's indictment acknowledges her central and key role in the cold, calculated and premeditated murder of Jared Bridegan," Nelson said.

Bridegan, a father of four and a software developer for Microsoft, was ambushed on Feb. 16, 2022, as he was leaving a Jacksonville Beach neighborhood after dropping off twin children he shared with Gardner and returning to his home in nearby St. Augustine.

Police said that there was a tire in the dimly lit street and that Bridegan presumably opened his car door to move the tire. That's when he was shot multiple times as his 2-year-old daughter sat in her car seat. She was found unharmed in the car.

Gardner married Fernandez Saldana in 2018 and moved to Washington following media coverage of the case, officials said.

After the killing, she told news outlets, including the Florida Times-Union and FirstCoast News, that she wasn't involved in Bridegan's death.

A warrant for Gardner's arrest said an investigation into Bridegan's background revealed the couple had a "highly acrimonious divorce" and a "contentious relationship" with both Gardner and Fernandez Saldana.

Gardner's parents, Shelli and Sterling Gardner, issued a statement.

## FAA orders 'inspections' of some Pratt & Whitney turbofan engines

WASHINGTON, Aug 20, (AP): U.S. regulators are requiring immediate inspections and possible repairs to Pratt & Whitney engines on some Airbus passenger jets because of a manufacturing problem that could cause parts to wear out sooner than expected.

The Federal Aviation Administration said Friday it will require ultrasonic inspections of 20 engines on U.S.-registered planes within 30 days. The same flaw affects 202 engines worldwide, the agency said.

The FAA rule replaces a directive from October, which told aircraft operators to have the engines checked

at their next shop visit, and followed a disclosure last month by Pratt that about 200 engines around the world would need quick inspections and potential replacement of engine disks.

The affected engines are among 1,200 that Pratt estimates will need to be removed from planes and inspected within nine to 12 months because powder metal used in the manufacturing process was contaminated.

The FAA said it acted after further analysis of an engine shutdown last December that required pilots of an Airbus A320neo to abort a takeoff. Neither the agency nor Pratt would identify the airline.

**Gulf Bank concludes sponsorship of the Influencer program organized by LOYAC**

Fatemah Al-Habib: We are pleased to cooperate with LOYAC in developing young people's capabilities and content creation skills. As part of its efforts in consolidating the principles of social sustainability, and its continuous support for youth, Gulf Bank concluded its sponsorship of The Influencer program, organized by LOYAC Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA) – an affiliate of the non-profit organization LOYAC. The program aims to provide distinguished training opportunities that help empower young people with mass communication skills, in order to qualify them to become effective leaders in the future. The Influencer program targeted youth aged 15 to

19 years and focused on three main categories: The basics of effective communication, improving presentation skills, and creating professional content. On this occasion, Gulf Bank's Assistant Manager of Corporate Communications, and member of the judging panel in final performance evaluation competition, Ms. Fatemah Al-Habib, said: "We are pleased to cooperate with LOYAC in supporting and developing youth, and to enhance their self-confidence, increase their communication and dialogue abilities, and help them master the art of persuasion. The program's intensive training helped guide and teach different age groups on how to create smart, impactful and engaging content."

Al-Habib stressed Gulf Bank's keenness to support youth as part of its commitment to encourage and develop their professional skills and talents – as this aligns with both Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy, which places youth at the forefront, and Kuwait's Vision 2035, which emphasizes the importance of investing in youth. Al-Habib further pointed the importance of such training programs, as they align with the requirements of the current social media era, especially amongst young people – indicating that programs like Al-Moather can help to enhance the capabilities of new content creators, in order to create and provide professional and purposeful content.



Fatemah

**Commercial activities contributed to higher investor demand**

# Demand for light industrial properties witnessed an unprecedented rise over the past five yrs: KIB

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: In a recent study on Kuwait's West Abu Fatira Al-Herafia and Ardiya Al-Herafia areas, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) reported that demand for light industrial properties witnessed a sharp rise over the past five years. The increase comes in conjunction with the support the Kuwaiti state has been providing to owners of small and medium enterprises to launch their various projects, as they play a vital role in diversifying different sectors of the local economy.

Discussing the report, Mubarak Al Harbi, Team Leader of the Real Estate Appraisal Engineers at KIB's Real Estate Department, said that both West Abu Fatira Al-Herafia (Aswaq Al Qurain) in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate and Ardiya Al-Herafia in Al Farwaniyah Governorate are distinguished areas. He explained that the two are service areas for light industries with official ownership documents since their establishment in 2006, unlike other industrial zones that fall under the usufruct system.

Al Harbi pointed out that the percentage of building types at Ardiya Al-Herafia is distributed as follows: 100% basement, 80% ground floor, and 20% mezzanine. As for the Abu Fatira Al-Herafia area, the percentages are 80%, broken down as follows: 80% basement, 80% ground floor, and 80% first floor, according to the building code of Kuwait Municipality.

Al Harbi also elaborated that the prices in these two areas witnessed an upward trajectory from their establishment until the end of May 2023. The reasons behind this price increase are multiple, on top of which is an increase in the types of commercial activities allowed, as opposed to previously being limited to specific light industrial activities. The higher prices also stem from the higher demand from investors for building units in these two areas. Additionally, the increased activities in both areas are able to compete with the commercial and industrial sectors, serve nearby residential areas, and are close to some governmental departments, especially vehicle-related departments. Moreover, the buildings in these two areas are not affected by the higher state fees on the industrial sector (usufruct right). They have also been approved as collateral for banks compared to state-leased properties (usufruct right) and are preferential for trading by investors over usufruct real estate.

The above reasons combined, Al Harbi explained, had a great impact on the increase in rental rates for units of this real estate segment, and an unprecedented surge in demand for them. This positively af-

ected the value of real estate and trading in them, especially after the end of the Covid-19 pandemic. **Trade in the Light Industrial Sector** The average trade price, Al Harbi reported, in the light industrial sector for the year 2020 amounted to KD 1,042,000, the lowest in the past five years, due to the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the real estate market. However, the average trade price in May 2023 was KD 1,545,000, the highest in value since 2019. Al Harbi added that the trades' average price curve in the light industrial sector has been on an upward path since 2021, with the pandemic crisis easing, life returning to normal and health precautions canceled. The average price for trades in the light industrial sector in 2021 increased by 16.76% to KD 1,216,650, compared to 2020 when the average trade price was worth KD 1,042,000. Meanwhile, the average trade price increased by around 11.61% in 2022 to KD 1,358,000, compared to 2021, and by around 13.77% during the first 5 months of this year, where the average trade price for light industrial properties stood at around KD 1,545,000 compared to 2022. As such, the average value of trades jumped by 48.27% between 2020 and the first five months of 2023.

**Land Price and Return Rate in Ardiya Al-Herafia** The study showed an upward trajectory in the Ardiya Al-Herafia land price curve between 2019 and May 2023, Al Harbi said. The price of a 250 square meters (sq m) land located on a side street was about KD 588,000, while it reached KD 700,000 in May 2023, an increase of about 19%. He indicated that the price of land of the same size on a main street reached KD 750,000 in 2019, while it amounted to about KD 850,000 in 2023, an increase of 13.33%. Moreover, Al Harbi indicated that the rate of return on these light industrial plots during the same period declined, as it reached 7.5% for a 250 sq m piece of land on a side street in May 2023, and 7.25% for one located on a main street.

**Land Price and Return Rate in West Abu Fatira Al-Herafia** The study similarly illustrated an upward trajectory in West Abu Fatira Al-Herafia between 2019 and May 2023, Al Harbi stated. The price of 500 sq m of land on a side street was about KD 750,000, while it reached KD 950,000 by May 2023, which equates to a 26.66% increase. He indicated that the price of land of the same size in the same area on the corner of two streets increased from KD 825,000 in 2019 to KD



Mubarak Al Harbi

1,125,000, a 36.36% increase. Al Harbi concluded his remarks by highlighting that the return rate for these lands during the stated period declined. Returns reached 7.5% for 500 sq m sized land on a side street in May 2023, and 7.25% for the same sized land on a main street.

**About KIB** Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.



Trade in the Light Industrial Sector According to the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department from 2019 to May 2023

|                     | 2019       | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       | 2023/5     |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Number of Trades    | 69         | 51         | 40         | 55         | 12         |
| Total Value         | 91,174,000 | 53,184,000 | 48,666,000 | 74,702,000 | 18,545,000 |
| Average Trade Price | 1,321,000  | 1,042,000  | 1,216,650  | 1,358,000  | 1,545,000  |

Table of Land Prices in Ardiya Al-Herafia:

| Side Street | Land Value             | 2019    | 2020    | 2021    | 2022    | 2023    |
|-------------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 250 sq m    | Average Monthly Income | 5,600   | 5,825   | 6,000   | 6,250   | 6,250   |
|             | Return Rate            | 8.5%    | 8.25%   | 8%      | 7.5%    | 7.5%    |
| Main Street | Land Value             | 750,000 | 750,000 | 775,000 | 825,000 | 850,000 |
| 250 sq m    | Average Monthly Income | 6,250   | 6,500   | 6,750   | 7,000   | 7,000   |
|             | Return Rate            | 8%      | 8%      | 7.75%   | 7.5%    | 7.25%   |

Table of Land Prices in West Abu Fatira Al-Herafia:

| Side Street              | Land Value             | 2019      | 2020      | 2021      | 2022      | 2023      |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 500 sq m                 | Average Monthly Income | 7,850     | 8,000     | 8,500     | 8,750     | 9,000     |
|                          | Return Rate            | 8.75%     | 8.75%     | 8.5%      | 8%        | 7.5%      |
| Corner                   | Land Value             | 825,000   | 825,000   | 850,000   | 1,000,000 | 1,125,000 |
| 500 sq m                 | Average Monthly Income | 8,750     | 8,750     | 9,000     | 10,150    | 10,150    |
|                          | Return Rate            | 8.5%      | 8.5%      | 8%        | 8%        | 7.25%     |
| Main Street/ Restaurants | Land Value             | 2,750,000 | 3,250,000 | 3,500,000 | 3,700,000 | 3,750,000 |
| 1000 sq m                | Average Monthly Income | 22,000    | 27,500    | 27,500    | 33,000    | 33,000    |
|                          | Return Rate            | 7.5%      | 8%        | 7.75%     | 7.5%      | 7.5%      |

| Auto Exhibitions | Land Value | 2019      | 2020      | 2021      | 2022      | 2023      |
|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1000 sq m        |            | 2,100,000 | 2,150,000 | 2,150,000 | 2,200,000 | 2,200,000 |

# Kuwait Airways holds AGM and 'approves' the agenda

Al-Dukhan: Company reduces its losses to 50% in '22

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20: Kuwait Airways held its Annual General Meetings (AGM) for the fiscal year ending on 31 December 2022, where the general assembly approved all the items on the agenda, including the financial and administrative reports, as well as the execution of certain liabilities of several government agencies that were challenging to collect for the previous fiscal years.



The Kuwait Airways AGM in progress.

In his speech during the Annual General Meetings, Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Ali Al-Dukhan stated, "The Board of Directors has been committed towards developing all the services provided to maintain the company's distinction and enhance its competitive position in the region in particular, and in the field of aviation in general. The fiscal year ending in 31/12/2022 has been one of the most successful years for Kuwait Airways due to its achievement of the desired objectives, with the efforts of its employees and its progressing today with its strategic plans and improvements in the entire system."

Al-Dukhan added, "The positive figures and results confirm the progress of the national carrier at a steady pace towards development and excellence. This is in addition to a significant leap in the technical, professional, and administrative fields, applying innovative work methods, as well as investing in the human element, and creating an at-

tractive environment for professional competencies. This has been done by taking into account the significance of applying the latest technologies and applications to achieve strategic objectives and profitability, which has reflected in reducing the company's losses to 50% from 107 million Kuwaiti Dinars at the end of 2019 to 55 million Kuwaiti Dinars in 2022."

Al-Dukhan said, "Kuwait Airways has completed many achievements in the previous period, the most prominent of which was the agreement with Airbus to restructure the fleet and to increase the fleet from 28 to 31 aircraft, part of which the company has received, and the remaining will be received in the coming years. It was also agreed to limit the types of aircraft, which would help in facilitating the movement of operations for pilots, engineers, and flight crew and save training expenses. In addition, the agreement will achieve an increase in passenger seat capacity and financial

saving compared to the market value of approximately 173 million dollars. Furthermore, the MTOW feature was added for the aircraft to carry additional weight, and the agreement is the beginning of the phase of increasing the narrow body aircraft over the wide body, thereby increasing the flexibility of movement and deployment."

Al-Dukhan continued, "Kuwait Airways achieved highly positive



Ali Al-Dukhan and Maen Razouqi during the meeting.

results than was expected in 2022, as total passenger revenues reached 289.1 million dinars, showing an increase of 11%, while the number of passengers reached 3.5 million, which is an increase of 2%. Kuwait Airways operated approximately 25.5 thousand flights, marking an increase of 5% with the percentage of occupied seats reaching 69.7%, which is an increase of 2%."

**The Conversation**

**Less profitable to pollute**

## Carbon tax on investment income could be more fair

By Jared Star  
UMass Amherst

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

About 10 years ago, a very thick book written by a French economist became a surprising bestseller. It was called "Capital in the 21st Century." In it, Thomas Piketty traces the history of income and wealth inequality over the past couple of hundred years.

The book's insights struck a chord with people who felt a growing sense of economic inequality but didn't have the data to back it up. I was one of them. It made me wonder, how much carbon pollution is being generated to create wealth for a small group of extremely rich households? Two kids, 10 years and a Ph.D. later, I finally have some answers.

In a new study, colleagues and I investigated U.S. households' personal responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 to 2019. We previously studied emissions tied to consumption - the stuff people buy. This time, we looked at emissions used in generating people's incomes, including investment income.

If you've ever thought about how oil company CEOs and shareholders get rich at the expense of the climate, then you've been thinking in an "income-responsibility" way.

While it may seem intuitive that those getting rich from fossil fuels bear responsibility for the emissions, very little research has been done to quantify this. Recent efforts have started to look at emissions related to household wages in France, global consumption and investments of different income groups and billionaires' investments. But no one has analyzed households across a whole country based on the emissions used to generate their full range of income, including wages, investments and retirement income, until now.

We linked a global data set of financial transactions and emissions to microdata from

the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly labor force survey, which includes respondents' job, demographics and income from 35 categories, including wages and investments. People's wages were connected to the emission intensity of the industries that employ them, and we based the emissions intensity of investment income on a portfolio that mirrors the overall economy.

The results of our analysis were eye-opening, and they could have profound implications for producing more effective and fair climate policies in the future.

Both our consumption- and income-based approaches reveal that the highest-earning households are responsible for much more than an equitable share of carbon emissions. What's more surprising is how different the level of responsibility is depending on whether you look at consumption or income.

In the income-based approach, the share of national emissions coming from the top 1% of households is 15% to 17% of national emissions. That's about 2.5 times higher than their consumer-related emissions, which is about 6%.

In the bottom 50% of households, however, the trend is the exact opposite: Their share of consumption-based national emissions is 31%, about two times larger than their income-based emissions of 14%.

**Why is that?** A couple things are going on here. First, the lowest earning 50% of U.S. households spend all that they earn, and often more via social assistance or debt. The top income groups, on the other hand, are able to save and reinvest more of their income.

Second, while high-income households have very high overall spending and emissions, the carbon intensity - tons of carbon dioxide emitted per dollar - of their purchases is actually lower than that of low-income households. This is because low-income households spend a large share of their income on carbon-intensive basic necessities, like home heating and transportation. High-income households spend more of their income on less-carbon-intensive services, like financial services or higher education. (AP)

Left to right: Mudhawi Al-Shammari and Yaqoub Al-Youha



**Burgan Bank supports Kuwaiti Olympians**

In continued efforts to support Kuwait's top athletic talents and as part of its strategic partnership with the Kuwait Olympic Committee and its Olympic Athlete Preparation Program, Burgan Bank is sponsoring the three Kuwaiti Olympians competing at the 2023 World Athletics Championship. This includes Yaqoub Al-Youha, Mudhawi Al-Shammari and Ebrahim Al-Dhafeeri who are all now vying for gold at the tournament currently taking place in Budapest, Hungary. The three Olympians, Al-Youha, Al-Sham-

mari and Al-Dhafeeri, have all competed in numerous worldwide championships, bringing home numerous medals. With such a notable track record of triumphs, the Olympians' participation in the 2023 World Athletics Championship marks a new opportunity to raise the Kuwaiti flag high in front of the entire world, filling the entire nation with pride and inspiring the youth to stretch their dreams toward farther horizons. Commenting on Burgan's sponsorship of the Olympians, Mrs. Kholoud Redha Al-Feeli, Deputy General Manager of Marketing

and Communication at the Bank, said: "We are incredibly proud of our national athletic talents and the successes they continue to achieve. Competing in a worldwide competition, let alone winning, is no easy feat; and that's why we are committed to patronizing our home-grown champions on their journeys to athletic victory." "On our mission to inspire positive change across the various circles of society, it is crucial to walk side-by-side along the national changemakers and trailblazers who represent the future we aspire for as a nation," added Al-Feeli.



Participants of the ZAINPHONIC workshop.

**Zain holds insightful smartphone photography session**

The Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) hosted ZAINPHONIC, an insightful session that covered the essentials of photography and videography by using smartphones. The workshop, which the company held in celebration of World Photography Day on 19 August, was presented by the talented Kuwaiti photographer and content creator

Abdulaziz Al Suraya. The workshop was well-received, having featured wide participation from photography enthusiasts from both Kuwait and the GCC. The participants varied in their skill levels, with beginners, intermediate, and advanced photographers successfully enrolling to upskill their passion in art, photography, and vid-

eography. The session presented a combination of theoretical and practical methods to efficiently upskill the participants and add the best value to their skillsets. Zain's workshop adopted a unique approach, in that it not only focused on the general essentials of photography and videography, but also focused on the highly

specialized world of smartphone cameras. Today's smartphones are equipped with high-quality, professional-level camera systems, and their technical capabilities can even match those of traditional cameras. During the session, Kuwaiti photographer and content creator Abdulaziz Al Suraya focused on a number of topics, including innova-

tive approaches to photography and videography using smartphones, how to use specialized apps to professionally edit photos and videos, understanding colors and light and how to utilize them in visual content, how to reflect your personal touch on your work, and more. Zain continues to cultivate a culture of creativity within the commu-

nity by empowering talented people to take advantage of technology and enrich the local art scene. The company continues to collaborate with local content creators to offer programs, workshops, and sessions to encourage the public – especially young people – to pursue their passions and foster their innovation, creativity, and technology skills.

# KFH highlights customers rights and the steps to file a complaint

Bank continues efforts to support 'Diraya' campaign

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20:** Kuwait Finance House "KFH" continues efforts to support "Diraya" financial and banking awareness campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association for the second year in a row. The campaign aims to shed light on customers' rights, rules, and regulations of dealing with banks, information safety and security against intrusion, combating fraud transactions in addition to other warnings and regulations. This campaign comes as part of the bank's obligation to keep the customers informed about their rights and duties regarding banking and financial transac-

tions and their cyber security. The campaign discusses finance types, banking cards, awareness of customers with special needs, tips on cyber security and protection of bank accounts. Also, it provides steps to file a complaint, protect customers' rights, and identify the banking sector duties and its role in enhancing and developing the national economy. KFH contribution to the campaign comprises the dispatch of various messages on different topics related to the main components of the campaign. These messages are sent to all types of customers to suite the culture and nature of each tier. Also, messages are sent on continuous basis to employees who are considered as the second main component in the awareness triangle (customers – employees – public) who are either potential or targeted customers, thus aiming to achieve the targets of the campaign. The main targets of the campaign comprise awareness, identification of and warning against any possible risks of failing to follow safety and security instructions

upon using modern technology means. Regulations include refraining from extending any information about accounts and personal transactions to any unknown parties or replying to messages from unknown sources as this would be a violation of data privacy and banking protection regulations. KFH is keen on spreading financial education, saving and investment knowledge and customer awareness of the bank's products and services. KFH appreciates the efforts extended by the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association in organizing the Be Aware "Diraya" campaign to spread awareness in society regarding banking and financial transactions and e-banking services. Technology has opened vast business opportunities. However, several risks and challenges were also detected considering the several attempts, most of which failed, to hack customers' accounts and cause system damage. Accordingly, this situation has called for a comprehensive awareness plan and enhancement of the cyber security systems, anti-money laundering systems and prevention of other legally incriminated and suspicious activities. KFH messages highlight the clear

and defined policies placed by the Central Bank of Kuwait to supervise the lending and finance operations at banks. These policies provide that the customer shall be provided with the loan details, value and No. of instalments, settlement dates, instalment/net salary ratio and default penalties. The customer is given at least 2 days grace period to review the contract fully before signing. Once signed, a draft copy of the contract shall be given to the customer including type of loan, payment term, instalment value and profit. There are two types of loans offered to customers, consumer loan and residential loan. According to CBK instructions, the bank is required to provide financial advice and all information concerning the finance contract and explain all details related to the finance transaction including rate of return/finance amount, No. of instalments to be paid by customer and components of each instalment before signing the contract with the customer. The customer shall be given two days period to review the contract and read the terms and conditions carefully and be aware of his rights and obligations before signing the contract.



TOYOTA GAZOO Racing celebrates its victory.

**TGR extends championship lead**

**TOYOTA GAZOO Racing seals victory**

**HELSINKI, Aug 20:** The TOYOTA GAZOO Racing (TGR) World Rally Team (WRT) recently secured yet another impressive double-podium victory this season with its GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle in the 2023 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) at Rally Finland. Elfyn Evans' remarkable driving secured him first place in the No. 33 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle. His exceptional performance was matched by teammate Takamoto Katsuta, who secured a third-place podium finish in his No. 18 Toyota GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle. Following its fifth Rally Finland win since 2017, Toyota has increased its manufacturers' championship lead to 67 points. Evans dominated in his No. 33 GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle throughout the event. Having taken over the lead, Evans continued in fine form to win seven consecutive stages and build an advantage of over 30 seconds ahead of the final day. He went on to win three of the rally's last four stages, sealing his seventh career victory by 39.1s with the fastest time

in the rally-ending Power Stage. Katsuta scored his fourth FIA WRC podium after a strong and confident performance on the roads around Jyväskylä, where he has lived for many years. He and co-driver Aaron Johnston won the first forest stage and were soon fighting for a podium place amidst challenging weather conditions. An excellent drive on wet roads to win the second day's final stage also allowed him to regain the advantage in his fight for third. He stretched that advantage with a further fastest time on the rally's last day before setting the fourth-best time in the Power Stage to seal third overall. Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, commented: "Elfyn, Takamoto, congratulations on achieving another amazing victory at Rally Finland! Being the alternate Team Principal this time, as the principal Jari-Matti Latvala participated in the No. 97 GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle, I was able to realize that each member of the team is doing a very hard job in each area and that made me appreciate everybody again.

**Financial services conglomerate opens 284th global branch at Warehouse Mall**

## LuLu Financial Holdings expands network in Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20:** LuLu Financial Holdings – a global financial services conglomerate specializing in cross-border payments and foreign currency exchange, today opened its 284th global branch and 34th LuLu Exchange branch in Kuwait at Warehouse Mall. The new branch marks the company's expansion strategy for Kuwait, in line with the region's economic progress. The branch was inaugurated by HE Dr. Matar Hamed Hlais Almkasafa Al Nehyadi, Ambassador of UAE to Ku-

wait in the presence of Mr. MA Yusuff Ali, Chairman & Managing Director of LuLu Group International, Mr. Adeeab Ahamed, Managing Director of LuLu Financial Holdings, and other senior management of the country operations. The event was also attended by other dignitaries including HE Belinda Lewis, Ambassador of UK to Kuwait, HE Dr. Manelisi Genge, Ambassador of South Africa to Kuwait and HE Dr. Saleh bin Amer Alkharusi, Ambassador of Oman to Kuwait. Sharing his thoughts on the sidelines of the inauguration, Mr. Adeeab

Ahamed said, "Kuwait has been a cornerstone of our operations from the very beginning, and the unwavering trust & support we've received from our valued customers continues to drive us. Our commitment to Kuwait is resolute as we expand our presence, aligning with the nation's aspirations to achieve financial inclusion. This new branch not only brings us closer to our customers but also serves as an engagement hub, facilitating their seamless transition to digital payment solutions. We extend our gratitude to the government and regulators for fos-

tering an environment that nurtures digital innovation and advances sector growth." LuLu Exchange – which is among Kuwait's leading financial services providers, presently provides cross-border payments, currency exchange and value-added services in a timely, transparent and reliable manner through its network of branches and mobile payments app - LuLu Money. The app is highly rated for its security and convenience and is fully aligned with Kuwait's digital transformation efforts.

**Ooredoo Kuwait collaborates with UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 20:** Driven by their corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategy, Ooredoo Kuwait, the leading telecom company, has joined forces with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and launched a fundraising campaign to help struggling families. This collaborative initiative, undertaken on World Humanitarian Day, showcases Ooredoo's commitment to aid people in need. Contributions will enable humanitarian organizations to respond quickly and save lives by providing safe shelters, warmth, food, education, Water and Sanitation, and protection. Along with Ooredoo's effort to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG), which aim to improve the lives of people and create an all-round healthier world for tomorrow and the future. In a statement by Naser Al-Abdullah, Director of Marketing Communications and Social Media at Ooredoo Kuwait: "At Ooredoo, our corporate social responsibility goes beyond just providing

communication services. We are deeply committed to making a positive impact on communities in need, and our collaboration with UN OCHA on World Humanitarian Day is a testament to that commitment. By spreading awareness of the importance of donating to those in need, mobilizing our customers and employees to contribute, we are amplifying the power of collective action for the well-being of families in crisis." UN OCHA, the UN entity coordinating the international humanitarian response, praised Ooredoo's proactive approach. "With many of the population living beneath the poverty line and a staggering number of people requiring humanitarian assistance, help is needed, now more than ever. This partnership aims to provide critical, life-saving assistance to those most in need, and UN OCHA is extremely grateful for Ooredoo's continued commitment to helping people caught in crises," remarked Nour Al-Qattan, the UN OCHA representative in Kuwait.



Noor Al Qattan



Al-Abdullah



The inauguration of 284th global branch at Warehouse Mall.



Some of the officials.

## The Conversation

## A changing climate, growing populations and wildfires contributed to last major extinction event

## Pleistocene extinctions offer clues to today's environmental crises

By Emily Lindsey and Lisa N. Martinez, University of California, LA; and Regan E. Dunn, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

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

Over the past decade, deadly wildfires have become increasingly common because of both human-caused climate change and disruptive land management practices. Southern California, where the three of us live and work, has been hit especially hard.

Southern California also experienced a wave of wildfires 13,000 years ago. These fires permanently transformed the region's vegetation and contributed to Earth's largest extinction in more than 60 million years.

As paleontologists, we have a unique perspective on the long-term causes and consequences of environmental changes, both those linked to natural climate fluctuations and those wrought by humans.

In a new study, published in August 2023, we sought to understand changes that were happening in California during the last major extinction event at the end of the Pleistocene, a time period known as the Ice Age. This event wiped out most of Earth's large mammals between about 10,000 and 50,000 years ago. This was a time marked by dramatic climate upheavals and rapidly spreading human populations.

Scientists often call the past 66 million years of Earth's history the Age of Mammals. During this time, our furry relatives took advantage of the extinction of the dinosaurs to become the dominant animals on the planet.

During the Pleistocene, Eurasia and the Americas teemed with enormous beasts like woolly mammoths, giant bears and dire wolves. Two species of camels, three species of ground sloths and five species of large cats roamed what is now Los Angeles.

Then, abruptly, they were gone. All over the world, the large mammals that had characterized global ecosystems for tens of millions of years disappeared. North America lost more than 70% of mammals weighing more than 97 pounds (44 kilograms). South America lost more than 80%. Australia nearly 90%. Only Africa, Antarctica and a few remote islands retain what could be considered "natural" animal communities today.

The reason for these extinctions remains obscure. For decades, paleontologists and archaeologists have debated potential causes. What has befuddled scientists is not that there are no obvious culprits but that there are too many.

As the last ice age ended, a warming climate led to altered weather patterns and

the reorganization of plant communities. At the same time, human populations were rapidly increasing and spreading around the globe.

Either or both of these processes could be implicated in the extinction event. But the fossil record of any region is usually too sparse to know exactly when large mammal species disappeared from different regions. This makes it difficult to determine whether habitat loss, resource scarcity, natural disasters, human hunting or some combination of these factors is to blame.

Some records offer clues. La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, the world's richest ice age fossil site, preserves the bones of thousands of large mammals that were trapped in viscous asphalt seeps over the past 60,000 years. Proteins in these bones can be precisely dated using radioactive carbon, giving scientists unprecedented insight into an ancient ecosystem and an opportunity to illuminate the timing - and causes - of its collapse.

Our recent study from La Brea Tar Pits and nearby Lake Elsinore has unearthed evidence of a dramatic event 13,000 years ago that permanently transformed Southern California's vegetation and caused the disappearance of La Brea's iconic mega-mammals.

## Evidence

Sediment archives from the lake's bottom and archaeological records provide evidence of a deadly combination - a warming climate punctuated by decadeslong droughts and rapidly rising human populations. These factors pushed the Southern California ecosystem to a tipping point.

Similar combinations of climate warming and human impacts have been blamed for ice age extinctions elsewhere, but our study found something new. The catalyst for this dramatic transformation seems to have been an unprecedented increase in wildfires, which were probably set by humans.

The processes that led to this collapse are familiar today. As California warmed coming out of the last ice age, the landscape became drier and forests receded. At La Brea, herbivore populations declined, probably from a combination of human hunting and habitat loss. Species associated with trees, like camels, disappeared entirely.

In the millennium leading up to the extinction, mean annual temperatures in the region rose 10 degrees Fahrenheit (5.5 degrees Celsius), and the lake began evaporating. Then, 13,200 years ago, the ecosystem entered a 200-year-long drought. Half of the remaining trees died. With fewer large herbivores to eat it, dead vegeta-

tion built up on the landscape.

At the same time, human populations began expanding across North America. And as they spread, people brought with them a powerful new tool - fire.

Humans and our ancestors have used fire for hundreds of thousands of years, but fire has different impacts in different ecosystems. Charcoal records from Lake Elsinore reveal that before humans, fire activity was low in coastal Southern California. But 13,200 to 13,000 years ago, as human populations grew, fire in the region increased by an order of magnitude.

Our research suggests that the combination of heat, drought, herbivore loss and human-set fires had pushed this system to a tipping point. At the end of this period, Southern California was covered in chaparral plants, which thrive after fires. A new fire regime had become established, and the iconic La Brea megafauna had disappeared.

Studying the causes and consequences of the Pleistocene extinctions in California can provide valuable context for understanding today's climate and biodiversity crises. A similar combination of climate warming, expanding human populations, biodiversity loss and human-ignited fires that characterized the ice age extinction interval in Southern California are playing out again today.

The alarming difference is that temperatures today are rising 10 times faster than they did at the end of the ice age, primarily because of the burning of fossil fuels. This human-caused climate change has contributed to a fivefold increase in fire frequency and intensity and the amount of area burned in the state of California in the past 45 years.

While California is now famous for extreme fires, our study reveals that fire is a relatively new phenomenon in this region. In the 20,000 years leading up to the extinction, the Lake Elsinore record shows very low incidence of any fire even during comparable periods of drought. Only after human arrival does fire become a regular part of the ecosystem.

Even today, downed power lines, campfires and other human activities start over 90% of wildfires in coastal California.

The parallels between the late Pleistocene megafaunal extinctions and today's environmental crises are striking. The past teaches us that the ecosystems we depend upon are vulnerable to collapse when stressed by multiple intersecting pressures. Redoubling efforts to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions, prevent reckless fire ignitions and preserve Earth's remaining megafauna can help avert another, even more catastrophic transformation. (AP)



Anne Landon walks along a beach with her dog, LaVida, on Aug 15, 2023, in Kihei, Hawaii. Landon has sought help in coping with anxiety following the devastating wildfire in Maui. (AP)

## Many still living in shelters

## Maui survivors battling mental health hurdles

KIHEI, Hawaii, Aug 20, (AP): The evacuation center at the South Maui Community Park Gymnasium is now Anne Landon's safe space. She has a cot and access to food, water, showers, books and even puzzles that bring people together to pass the evening hours.

But all it took was a strong wind gust for her to be immediately transported back to the terrifying moment a deadly fire overtook her senior apartment complex in Lahaina last week.

"It's a trigger," she said. "The wind was so horrible during that fire."

Mental health experts are working in Maui to help people who survived the deadliest fire in the US in more than a century make sense of what they endured. While many are still in a state of shock, others are starting to feel overcome with anxiety and post-traumatic stress that experts say could be long-lasting.

## Anxiety

Landon, 70, has twice sought help in recent days to help her cope with anxiety. One psychologist she spoke with at an evacuation shelter taught her special breathing techniques to bring her heart rate down. On another occasion, a nurse providing 24/7 crisis support at her current shelter was there to comfort her while she cried.

"I personally could hardly talk to people," she said. "Even when I got internet connection and people reached out, I had trouble calling them back."

The person sleeping on the cot next to her, 65-year-old Candee Olafson, said a nurse helped her while she was having a nervous breakdown. Like Landon, Olafson fled for her life from Lahaina as the wind-whipped flames bore down on the historic town and smoke choked the streets. The trauma of the escape, on top of previous experience with depression, became too much to bear.

"Everything culminated - I finally just lost it," she said.

Olafson said a nurse came over and told her, "Just look at me," until she calmed down. Looking into the nurse's eyes, she came back down to earth.

"These people pulled me out faster than I've ever been pulled out from the abyss," she said.

What they witnessed as they fled will remain with them a long time - trauma that comes with no easy fix, something impossible to simply get

over.

"I know some of the people died in the water when I was in the water," said John Vea, who fled into the ocean to avoid the flames. "I have never seen anything like this before. I'm never gonna forget it."

Dana Lucio, a licensed mental health counselor with the Oahu-based group Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii, is among the experts working on Maui to help support survivors. She's been going to different donation hubs around Lahaina on the western side of the island, and sometimes even door to door, to be present for people and give them a shoulder to cry on.

Lucio, who used to be in the Marine Corps and was deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan, said she's able to understand some of their emotions because she has experienced post-traumatic stress herself.

"I can connect with them in a way that most people can't," she said of those affected by the fire. "The trauma therapy that I do, I've learned within myself."

## Evacuations

Global medical aid organization Direct Relief has been working with groups like Lucio's to distribute medication to people who fled without their antidepressants and anti-psychotic prescriptions, said its director of pharmacy and clinical affairs, Alycia Clark.

In a natural disaster, people often leave their medication behind during sudden evacuations. Downed cellphone towers and power outages can prevent them from contacting their doctors, and damage to health care clinics and a lack of transportation can all combine to complicate medical access, she said.

It can take weeks to find the right dose for a mental health patient and stopping medication suddenly can cause withdrawal symptoms, Clark said. For this reason, she added, Direct Relief includes mental health medication in most of its emergency and disaster response kits for those who are missing their prescriptions.

Lucio, the mental health counselor, said she hopes people think about treatment as something that's long term, as the initial shock wears off and the awful reality sets in.

"This is not something their brains were prepared to understand," she said. "There is going to be a need for ongoing therapy."

## Maui landowners being pressured to sell after wildfires

## Hawaii vows to protect locals from 'real estate' opportunistic buyers

LAHAINA, Hawaii, Aug 20, (AP): Hawaii's governor vowed to protect local landowners from being "victimized" by opportunistic buyers when Maui rebuilds from deadly wildfires that incinerated a historic island community and killed more than 100 people.

Gov. Josh Green said Wednesday that he instructed the state attorney general to work toward a moratorium on land transactions in Lahaina, even as he acknowledged the move would likely face legal challenges.

"My intention from start to finish is to make sure that no one is victimized from a land grab," Green said at a news conference. "People are right now traumatized. Please do not approach them with an offer to buy their land. Do not approach their families saying they'll be much better off if they make a deal. Because we're not going to allow it."

Since flames consumed much of Lahaina just over week ago, locals have feared that a rebuilt town could become even more oriented toward wealthy visitors, according to Lahaina native Richy Palalay.

Hotels and condos "that we can't afford to live in - that's what we're afraid of," he said Saturday at a shelter for evacuees.

Hawaii Attorney General Anne Lopez said Thursday that an outside organization will conduct "an impartial, independent" review into the government's response to the fires.

"We intend to look at this critical incident to facilitate any necessary corrective action and to advance future emergency preparedness," Lopez said in a statement. She said the investigation will likely take months.

As the death toll rose to 111 on Wednesday, the head of the Maui Emergency Management Agency defended not sounding sirens as flames raged. Hawaii has what it touts as the largest system of outdoor alert sirens in the world.

## System

"We were afraid that people would have gone mauka," said agency administrator Herman Andaya, using a navigational term that can mean toward the mountains or inland in Hawaiian. "If that was the case, then they would have gone into the fire."

The system was created after a 1946 tsunami that killed more than 150 on the Big Island, and its website says they may be used to alert for fires.

Avery Daguption, whose family's home was destroyed, said he's angry that residents weren't given earlier warning to get out. He pointed to an announcement by Maui Mayor Richard Bissen on Aug. 8 saying the fire had been contained. That lulled people into a sense of safety and left him distrusting officials, he said.

At the news conference, Green and Bissen bristled when asked about such criticism. "I can't answer why people don't trust people," Bissen said. "The people who were trying to put out these fires lived in those homes - 25 of our firefighters lost their homes. You think they were doing a halfway job?"



A general view shows the aftermath of a wildfire in Lahaina, Hawaii, Thursday, Aug. 17. Hawaii's governor vowed to protect local landowners from being 'victimized' by opportunistic buyers when Maui rebuilds from deadly wildfires that incinerated a historic island community. (AP)

## One of the riskiest states in the US

## Wildfires and other disasters are increasing in Hawaii, says study

KIHEI, Hawaii, Aug 20, (AP): Hurricane-fueled flash floods and mudslides. Lava that creeps into neighborhoods. Fierce drought that materializes in a flash and lingers. Earthquakes. And now, deadly fires that burn block after historic block.

Hawaii is increasingly under siege from disasters, and what is escalating most is wildfire, according to an Associated Press analysis of Federal Emergency Management Agency records.

That reality can clash with the vision of Hawaii as paradise. It is, in fact, one of the riskiest states in the country.

"Hawaii is at risk of the whole panoply of climate and geological disasters," said Debarati Guha-Sapir, director of the international disasters database kept at the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. She listed storms, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes.

Hawaii has been in more danger lately. This month alone, the federal government declared six different fire disasters in Hawaii - the same number recorded in the state from 1953 to 2003.

Across the United States, the number of acres burned by wildfires about tripled from the 1980s to now, with a drier climate from global warming a factor, according to the federal government's National Climate Assessment and the National Interagency Fire Center. In Hawaii, the burned area

rebuilding, Green vowed to prevent land grabs. He said he would announce details of the moratorium by Friday, adding that he also wants to see a long-term moratorium on sales of land that won't "benefit local people."

Many in Lahaina struggled to afford life in Hawaii before the fire. Statewide, a typical starter home costs over \$1 million, while the average renter pays 42% of their income for housing, according to a Forbes Housing analysis. That's the highest ratio in the country by a wide margin.

increased more than five times from the 1980s to now, according to figures from the University of Hawaii Manoa.

Longtime residents - like Victoria Martocci, who arrived on Maui about 25 years ago - know this all too well. "Fire happened maybe once a year or once every two years. Over the last 10 years, it has been more frequent," said Martocci, who lost a boat and her business, Extended Horizons Scuba, to the fire that swept through Lahaina.

## Records

From 1953 to 2003, Hawaii averaged one federally declared disaster of any type every two years, according to the analysis of FEMA records. But now it averages more than two a year, about a four-fold increase, the data analysis shows.

It's even worse for wildfires. Hawaii went from averaging one federally declared fire disaster every nine years or so to one a year on average since 2004.

The fires on Maui reminded Native Hawaiian Micah Kamohoali'i of the state's largest-ever wildfire, which burned through his family's Big Island home in 2021. That blaze "gave us an awareness of how dry things can be," Kamohoali'i said.

Linda Hunt, who works at a horse stable in Waikoloa Village on the Big Island, had to evacuate in that fire. Given the abundance of dry grass on the islands from drought and worsen-

The 2020 census found more native Hawaiians living on the mainland than the islands for the first time in history, driven in part by a search for cheaper housing.

Green made affordable housing a priority when he entered office in January, appointing a czar for the issue and seeking \$1 billion for housing programs. Since the fires, he's also suggested acquiring land in Lahaina for the state to build workforce housing as well as a memorial.

The local power utility faced criticism for leaving power on as strong

ing fires, Hunt said fire agencies need to "double or triple" spending on fire gear and personnel.

"They are stretched thin. They ran out of water on Maui and had to leave the truck," she said. "Money should be spent on prevention and preparedness."

FEMA assesses an overall risk index for each county in America and the risk index in Maui County is higher than nearly 88% of the counties in the nation. The federal disaster agency considers that a "relatively moderate" risk.

Hawaii's Big Island has a risk index higher than 98% of US counties.

A 2022 state emergency management report listed tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, health risks and cyber threats as high risk to people, but categorized wildfire as a "low" risk, along with drought, climate change and sea level rise.

Yet fire is the No. 1 cause of Hawaii's federally declared disasters, equaling the next three types of disaster combined: floods, severe storms and hurricanes. Hawaii by far has more federally declared fire disasters per square mile than any other state.

For most of the 20th century, Hawaii averaged about 5000 acres (about 20 square kilometers) burned per year, but that's now up to 15,000 to 20,000 acres, said University of Hawaii Manoa fire scientist Clay Trauernicht.

winds from a passing hurricane buffeted a parched area last week, and one video shows a cable dangling in a charred patch of grass, surrounded by flames, in the early moments of the wildfire.

"Facts about this event will continue to evolve," Hawaiian Electric CEO Shleee Kimura wrote in an email to utility customers Thursday. "And while we may not have answers for some time, we are committed, working with many others, to find out what happened as we continue to urgently focus on Maui's restoration and rebuilding efforts."



Sunrise of Vienna parlor.

**Sunrise Senior Living opens in Vienna**

Sunrise Senior Living, the leading provider of personalized senior living services, has announced the grand opening of its newest community, Sunrise of Vienna.

Building on our legacy of over 40 years in delivering exceptional senior living experiences, Sunrise warmly welcomes its founding residents this month. Developed in collaboration with Rust Orling Architecture, the new 81,755-square-foot, four-story property will offer top-notch assisted living and memory care services, accommodating more than 100 residents.

With a steadfast commitment to residents' well-being, Sunrise of Vienna boasts meticulously designed suites and thoughtfully crafted common areas. Our in-house design team has taken great care to create an environment that prioritizes both comfort and safety, incorporating features in the community such as custom finishes and an advanced emergency response system. Combining modern elegance with inviting interior design elements, the community features a harmonious blend of shared spaces and private quarters, all adorned with furniture

tailored to meet residents' unique needs.

In an effort to become fully integrated with the local community, Sunrise of Vienna is excited to showcase a custom painted mural and two custom painted benches. The artistic elements are a testament to Sunrise's commitment to embracing the creative spirit of the Town of Vienna and fostering a sense of belonging within the neighborhood. Renowned artist Chad Bradley was chosen for his exceptional talent in capturing the organic aesthetic of the building and its interiors. (AP)

**The Conversation**

**There's no substitute for sleep: psychologist**

**Can coffee or a nap make up for sleep deprivation?**

By Kimberly Fenn  
Michigan State University

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

There is no denying the importance of sleep. Everyone feels better after a good night of sleep, and lack of sleep can have profoundly negative effects on both the body and the brain. So what can be done to substitute for a lack of sleep? Put another way, how can you get less sleep and still perform at your peak?

As a psychologist who studies the ways in which sleep benefits memory, I'm also interested in how sleep deprivation harms memory and cognition. After some initial research on sleep deprivation and false confessions, my students at Michigan State University's Sleep and Learning Lab and I wanted to see what interventions could reverse the negative effects of sleep deprivation.

ways to potentially make up for a lack of sleep. What would you do if you did not sleep enough last night? Many people would reach for a cup of coffee or an energy drink. One 2022 survey found that over 90% of the American adults sampled consume some form of caffeine daily. We wanted to see whether caffeine would help maintain attention and avoid placekeeping errors after sleep deprivation.

Interestingly, we found that caffeine improved the ability to pay attention in sleep-deprived participants so well that their performance was similar to people who slept all night. Giving caffeine to people who had a full night of sleep also boosted their performance. So caffeine helped everyone maintain attention, not just those who did not sleep. This result was not surprising, as other studies have had similar findings.

However, we found that caffeine did not reduce placekeeping errors in either the sleep-deprived group or the group that slept. This means that if you are sleep deprived, caffeine may help you stay awake and play Candy Crush, but it likely will not help you ace your algebra exam.

**Can naps make up for lost sleep?**

Of course, caffeine is an artificial way to replace sleep. We also reasoned that perhaps the best way to replace sleep would be with sleep. You have likely heard that naps during the day can boost energy and performance, so it is logical to think that a nap during the night should have a similar effect.

We gave some of our participants the opportunity to nap for either 30 or 60 minutes during an overnight deprivation period between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. This time period roughly coincides with the lowest point of alertness in the circadian cycle. Importantly, we found that participants who napped did no better on either the simple attention task or the more complex placekeeping task than those who stayed up all night.

Thus, a nap in the middle of the night had no discernible benefits to cognitive performance during the morning after a night of overall sleep deprivation.

**Get your z's**

While caffeine may help you stay awake and feel more alert, it likely won't help you with tasks that require complex thought. And while a short nap may make you feel better on nights that you need to stay awake, it probably won't help your performance.

In short, sufficient sleep is essential to your mind and brain, and there is simply no substitute for sleep. (AP)

**DurAVR shows exceptional results in 2nd ViV case**

**THV provides life-saving solution for patient requiring a new valve**

BRISBANE, Australia, Aug 20: Anteris Technologies Ltd (Anteris or the Company) (ASX: AVR, OTC: ANTTY) reported that DurAVR™ THV, a new class of biomimetic heart valve and the world's only balloon-expandable, single-piece transcatheter aortic valve was implanted in a second successful Valve-in-Valve (ViV) procedure as part of Health Canada's Special Access Program (SAP).

A ViV procedure is required for patients with a life-threatening situation wherein their current bioprosthetic aortic valve is failing due to calcification or structural deterioration, and a new heart valve must be implanted inside the failing valve. These patients are at high risk for another surgery and require a minimally invasive treatment option. Currently available commercial products can leave patients with a high risk of remaining in a diseased state post-procedure, with unsatisfactory high gradients. Canada's SAP exists so that life-saving technology not currently available for commercial use in Canada can be provided when no other commercially available alternatives are suitable.

Dr. Janar Sathananthan, an interventional cardiologist at Vancouver General and St Paul's Hospital and a world expert on bench testing the hemodynamic effects of different valves used in ViV procedures, made the request to Health Canada to make DurAVR™ THV available for this procedure.

**Implanted**

DurAVR™ THV was implanted in a 79-year-old female who was previously implanted with a Trifecta surgical valve that had severely degenerated, causing debilitating symptoms. The intraoperative results after DurAVR™ THV was implanted were phenomenal, with a mean pressure gradient of 7mmHg, restoring near-normal physiology. The patient was safely discharged less than 24 hours after the procedure.

Dr. Sathananthan commented: "DurAVR™ THV performed exceptionally well during this complex ViV procedure. Today's case demonstrated what we saw in preclinical testing, that DurAVR™ THV has the potential to offer superior gradients for ViV patients. This is a great result in a small surgical valve at high risk for elevated gradients."

Dr. Chris Meduri, Anteris Technologies CMO, commented: "DurAVR™ THV has been purposely designed in close partnership with the world's

**Albertsons develops nutrition insights tool**

**'Sincerely Health' measures grocery serving suggestions**

BOISE, Idaho, Aug 20: Albertsons Companies, Inc (NYSE:ACI) is excited to share the latest digital enhancement to its Sincerely Health platform, a nutrition insights tool that measures grocery purchases based on the serving recommendations of USDA's MyPlate guidance. The "Nutrition" functionality within the Sincerely Health experience empowers customers to make informed food choices based on their dietary preferences, household size and age group.

"With the launch of this feature, we are offering real-time nutritional information, both at an item and basket level, making it easy for our customers to make better food choices," said Omer Gajjal, Chief Digital Officer and EVP Health at Albertsons Cos. "As one of the largest food and drug retailers in the US with 24 grocery banners serving local communities, we are committed to improving lives by making wellness solutions more accessible to customers."

The USDA's MyPlate provides

guidance for consuming the five food groups that make up a healthy dietary pattern: fruit, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy or fortified soy alternatives, as well as healthy eating overall. By connecting a customer's loyalty account to their Sincerely Health profile, the nutrition insights tool will review recent and future grocery purchases and automatically calculate how much of their food items meet MyPlate dietary guidance. With just a single tap, shoppers can quickly see if their grocery baskets are lacking in one or more essential food groups.

**Simplifies**

Sincerely Health also provides personalized food recommendations, recipes and insightful articles based on nutritional and diet preferences as well as dietary restrictions. This user-friendly experience simplifies eating recommendations, and helps customers discover meals that align with their personal nutrition goals. Sincerely Health is a valuable resource that will enable

more Americans to adopt a nutritious dietary lifestyle when and where many of their meal decisions are made – at the grocery store.

The Nutrition Insights functionality within Sincerely Health advances the company's commitment to the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health by empowering customers with actionable nutrition information and nutritious meal solutions. As part of a broader commitment to inspire better eating habits, Albertsons Cos pledged to provide 50 million evidence-based nutrition recommendations to digital customers by 2024 and launch six health campaigns by 2025 utilizing in-store events and digital platforms to increase awareness of MyPlate dietary guidance.

"At the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, we are working alongside our incredible MyPlate National Strategic Partners to meet the goals of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health and to advance nutrition security."

leading TAVR physicians as a solution to achieve near-normal blood flow. As we continue to progress and build the body of clinical evidence for the DurAVR™ THV system, we believe that the unique design of this valve is behind the exceptional best-in-class results and will be the ideal choice for patients with both native severe aortic stenosis and those needing a ViV procedure. As Dr. Sathananthan has stated, these results do not come as a surprise. Extensive preclinical work in partnership with a large number of leading physicians has demonstrated a superior hemodynamic result compared to commercially available products, both in native aortic stenosis and in valve-in-valve procedures. With a rapidly growing number of degenerating AVRs, this valve will have a dominant role in

treating these patients."

Wayne Paterson, Anteris Technologies CEO commented: "As the body of evidence is growing rapidly with our Europe and North American patients, we are seeing results that support both the clinical and commercial case for DurAVR™ THV. These outstanding results are not only best in class but deliver options for patients that were previously not seen with existing products. Our continued clinical success both in the treatment of native aortic stenosis patients as well as the complicated and difficult-to-treat valve-in-valve patients is building confidence within the global physician community. With the recent global withdrawal of an aortic valve replacement product due to accelerated failure leaving tens of thousands of patients with a deteriorating valve,

there is a rapidly growing need for better treatment options for this specific patient group which may account for 30% (USD 3 BN) in the years ahead."

DurAVR™ THV continues to be investigated in a clinical trial setting for severe aortic stenosis patients in two Early Feasibility Studies (EFS) being run in the US (ClinicalTrials.gov NCT05712161) and Europe.

Anteris Technologies Ltd (ASX: AVR) is a structural heart company committed to designing, developing, and commercialising innovative medical devices. Founded in Australia, with a significant presence in Minneapolis, USA, a MedTech hub, Anteris is science-driven, with an experienced team of multidisciplinary professionals delivering transformative solutions to structural heart disease patients.

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Actor died 'due to a long-standing pulmonary issue'

# Jones, 'This Is Us' actor who won 2 Emmys, dies at 66

LOS ANGELES, Aug 20, (AP) — Ron Cephas Jones, a veteran stage actor who won two Emmy Awards for his role as a long-lost father who finds redemption on the NBC television drama series "This Is Us," has died at age 66, a representative said Saturday.

Jones' manager, Dan Spilo, said in an emailed statement the actor died "due to a long-standing pulmonary issue."

"Throughout the course of his career, his warmth, beauty, generosity, kindness and heart were felt by anyone who had the good fortune of knowing him," Spilo said.

Jones had a double lung transplant in 2020 because of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and spent nearly two months in a Los Angeles hospital.

On "This Is Us," Jones played William "Shakespeare" Hill, a biological father whose life is renewed through his relationship with the family of his son Randall Pearson, played by Sterling K. Brown.

"One of the most wonderful people the world has ever seen is no longer with us," Brown said in an Instagram post after Jones' death. "The world is a little less bright. Brother, you are loved. And you will be missed."

Jones played a more central role in the series' early seasons, but appeared in some form in all six seasons of the show, which included time-jumping narratives offering recurring opportunities for its actors even after their characters' deaths.

Jones won Emmys for best guest actor in a drama series in 2018 and 2020 and was nominated for two more.

"Ron was the best of the best - on screen, on stage, and in real life," "This Is Us" creator Dan Fogelman said on X, the social media site formerly known as Twitter.

"My God: what an actor. I don't think I ever changed a single take of his in a cut because everything he did was perfect."

Jones spent most of his career in the theater before and after "This Is Us," returning to Broadway even after his transplant forced him to learn to breathe and walk again.

"My whole life has been the stage," Jones said in a late 2021 interview with The New York Times, in which he revealed he had quietly been suffering from respiratory problems since about the time he began on "This Is Us."

"The idea of not performing again seemed worse to me than death," Jones said.

He was nominated for a Tony Award and won a 2022 Drama Desk

Award for the Broadway role as a truck-stop cook in playwright Lynn Nottage's "Clyde's."

A native of Paterson, New Jersey, Jones graduated from nearby Ramapo College, where he had intended to study jazz but switched to theater during his sophomore year. He spent the late 1970s and early 1980s traveling the country, working as a bus driver in Southern California for several years.

In the mid 1980s he moved to New York, where his career got a jumpstart when he began hanging out and collaborating at the Nuyorican Poets Café, a vital creative hub for poetry, hip-hop and the performing arts.

A breakout role came in 1994, when he landed the lead in playwright Cheryl West's drama, "Holiday Heart."

He would spend the ensuing decades constantly in the theater, often in Off Broadway plays in New York, including a title turn as Shakespeare's "Richard III" at The Public Theater, and in roles with the Stephenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago.

Jones also had TV guest stints on "Mr. Robot," "Luke Cage" and "Lisey's Story."

His film appearances included 2006's "Half Nelson" with Ryan Reynolds and 2019's "Dolemite Is My Name" with Eddie Murphy.

He is survived by his daughter, Jasmine Cephas Jones.

Obituary

Variety



This image released by Universal Pictures shows, (from left), Maggie, voiced by Isla Fisher, Reggie, voiced by Will Ferrell, Bug, voiced by Jamie Foxx and Hunter, voiced by Randall Park, in a scene from 'Strays.' (AP)

Film

Real dogs play the four leading canines

## 'Strays' is furry, foul, filthy - and funny

By Jocelyn Noveck

Hey there, fellow obsessive dog owner. Ever wonder what your beloved pooch is thinking? Of course you do. If they could only tell us what's on their minds, right?

Well, in "Strays," an aggressively raunchy, gleefully gross and only occasionally truly funny comedy voiced by Will Ferrell and Jamie Foxx, we find out. Turns out our canine friends are endlessly curious about why we collect their poop in little plastic bags. It must be for something really important, they surmise. But what? And why do we keep needing more?

It's actually one of the film's cleverer jokes, and Foxx's Boston terrier, Bug, has an opinion on the matter — but we won't elaborate because it's kinda gross. There's a lot of gross, both kinda and mega, over this film's 93-minute running time. Also a lot of poop jokes both canine and human. You get the picture. Although some of these pictures may stay in your mind for way longer than you'd like.

"Strays," directed by Josh Greenbaum with a script by Dan Perrault, begins with its star, Reggie, a border terrier with a furiously upbeat attitude, declaring that "today is the best day ever — because every day is the best day ever!" Hmmm, where else have we heard virtually that same line .... Oh yes, in "Barbie"! The resemblance pretty much stops there.

Reggie, voiced by Ferrell with relentless puppy-like innocence, loves his owner, Doug. But Doug doesn't love him back. Let's stop here to note that in this film, real dogs play the four leading canines — kudos to their hardworking trainers — and humans appear in supporting roles, including one celebrity cameo and also Will Forte as the most odious dog owner you've ever met.

Forte's Doug is particularly vile to Reggie, because it's Reggie who dug up (literally) incriminating evidence that Doug was two-timing his girlfriend, leading to her exit. Doug held onto her dog solely out of spite. He never plays with Reggie or

takes him outside, except to play a profanely titled "game" in which Doug drives him somewhere and tosses a tennis ball, then drives away, hoping he won't return. But he always does.

But one day Doug takes Reggie far, far away and the poor pooch can't find his way back. In this gritty urban setting, he meets the strays — led by Bug (Foxx). Not exactly strays, but taking some time in the streets for various reasons, are sexy Australian Shepherd Maggie (Isla Fisher), and Hunter (Randall Park), a Great Dane with anxiety issues.

The group welcomes Reggie, who wants nothing more than to get home, and introduces him to the adventurous life of a stray. Rule number one: If you want to own something, pee on it. The other rules are too risqué to describe here.

Abandoned

Reggie's new friends soon make him understand that his owner actually abandoned him. It's a tough moment. "Maybe I should talk to him, since I'm a therapy dog," says Hunter. Suddenly, though, this makeshift family is on a mission. Reggie, newly aware of Doug's mendacity, is determined to get back home and, well, bite off Doug's favorite body part. This is an experience the rest of the pack refuses to miss. Us, we could maybe pass.

Anyway, the journey will include, among other things: Reggie and Bug getting dragged into the sky by a giant (computer-animated) eagle; the pack eating a forest worth of psychedelic mushrooms and mauling bunnies while high; and everyone falling prey to a dog-catcher. At the pound, it is Reggie who inspires the captive dogs to break free with the memorable slogan: "Let's all poop to freedom!"

What ensues is one of the grosser scenes you'll have witnessed in a while, but that's child's play compared to the harrowing (and somewhat tonally imbalanced) finale, a painful scene involving four dogs, one human, one baseball bat and one Miley Cyrus song ("Wrecking Ball") which you may now

want to skip for a while.

The moral of the story, if you're a dog: Family is everything, but sometimes you find it where you least expect. Love your owner but not unconditionally, because he could be a terrible human.

Also: stay away from psychedelic mushrooms. And those plastic poop bags? Still a mystery.

"Strays," a Universal Studios release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for pervasive language, crude and sexual content, and drug use." Running time: 93 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures will pay tribute to Meryl Streep, Oprah Winfrey, Michael B. Jordan and Sofia Coppola in its annual fundraising gala on Oct. 14, the museum announced Tuesday.

The Academy Museum Gala has become a key fundraising event for the Los Angeles movie museum since its opening in 2021. This year's event, the third such gala, received a greenlight from the striking actors and writers guilds. SAG-AFTRA and the Writers Guild have limited what promotion activities their members can do during the ongoing work stoppages.

Streep, Winfrey, Jordan and Coppola will each be given awards celebrating their careers at the gala, which is being co-chaired by Ava DuVernay, Ryan Murphy, Halle Berry and museum trustee Eric Esrailian.

"We are excited to gather again at our third annual Academy Museum Gala to celebrate the power, global impact, and indelible importance of cinema," said Jacqueline Stewart, director and president of the Academy Museum, in a statement.

After years of delays, the \$484 million, Renzo Piano-designed Academy Museum has established itself as a cultural mainstay in Los Angeles, attracting as many as 700,000 visitors a year. (AP)

an Israeli raid in a civilian area of the West Bank this spring. (AP)

NEW YORK: New York City will add the festival of Diwali to the list of public school holidays in recognition of the growth of the city's South Asian and Indo-Caribbean communities, Mayor Eric Adams announced.



Turness



Adams

Diwali, known as the festival of lights, happens October or November depending on the lunar calendar.

However, this year it falls on Sunday Nov 12 - so the 2023-2024 school calendar will not be affected by the change.

City officials say more that 200,000 New York City residents

celebrate Diwali, which is observed by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and some Buddhists.

"This is a city that's continuously changing, continuously welcoming communities from all over the world," Adams said in announcing that Diwali will join celebrations including Rosh Hashana and Lunar New Year

as a day off for students. "Our school calendar must reflect the new reality on the ground."

The new holiday will become official if Gov Kathy Hochul, also a Democrat, signs a bill passed by the New York state legislature earlier this month making Diwali a public school holiday in New York City. (AP)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023

## People &amp; Places

## Music

## Quavo's 'Rocket Power'

## Rapp delivers bold and 'cathartic' pop

'Snow Angel,' René Rapp (Interscope Records)

René Rapp sings about the trials of trusting oneself and the tribulations of communicating with others on her debut album, "Snow Angel." In other words: She waits by a phone and hopes that it rings, she overthinks and knows it.

The album's 12 tracks - with lyrics navigating relationships, sexuality, growing up and those themes' accompanying anxieties - oscillate between shimmering, upbeat pop and robust ballads. They are cathartic, sometimes tragic, and sometimes knowingly petty. The thematic and sonic range combine into a worthy debut for an artist with already-proven versatility.

Rapp's name first became synonymous (in some niche circles, at least) with her powerful vocals in 2018, when she won a Jimmy - a prestigious high school musical theater award. She was on Broadway a year later, beginning what would be a yearlong stint as Regina George in "Mean Girls," a role she will reprise



Rapp

in an upcoming film adaptation. Rapp then spent two seasons as lesbian Upper East Sider Leighton Murray on HBO's Mindy Kaling-produced series "The Sex Lives of College Girls," all while growing a loyal fanbase on social media.

If the release of her 2022 EP "Everything to Everyone" quickly earned her a spot on the roster of the internet's favorite pop artists, "Snow Angel" should push her firmly into pop star territory.

"Poison Poison" and "Pretty Girls" stand out sonically - they are biting and blunt, with a bright production that counters the bold and heavy ballads that anchor the album and Rapp's previous releases.

The fingerprints of her musical theater career are there (I'd like to see a coming-of-age musical with "I Hate Boston" as a rousing, pre-intermission ballad) but the album is largely a departure - and an embrace of a sound that feels familiar, but mostly because it has a personality that is familiarly René.

Still, there is some character work at play: "Talk Too Much" exhibits an Olivia Rodrigo-esque angst; "Gemini Moon" is apologetic; "Tummy Hurts" is the opposite; "The Wedding Song" and "I Wish" are melodic and nostalgic; "So What Now" and "Poison Poison" descend into playful outros, reminiscent of fellow internet pop star Sabrina Carpenter's viral treatment of "Nonsense."

But "Snow Angel," the album's title track and lead single, remains its aching heart. It is Rapp at her best: A combination of soft and steady soprano reflections that climb toward a bridge that is as intense vocally as it is undeniably emotive, before falling back to Earth.



Migos rapper Quavo has released his second solo album, "Rocket Power," a lively and powerful tribute to his late bandmate and nephew Takeoff.

It is Quavo's first full-length release since Takeoff was fatally shot outside a private party at a downtown Houston bowling alley in 2022. The pair join forces on the tracks "Patty Cake" and "Back Where It Begins," released Friday. The latter also features Future.

Young Thug, Babydrill, Hunxho are also featured on "Rocket Power."

Many of the tracks serve as homages to Takeoff. On "Patty Cake," Quavo raps, "Me and Take pop up like a date / 'Cause we go together anyway / Unc' and 'phew stickin' like glue / It's some dogs runnin' on the loose."

In 2022, Quavo and Takeoff released a collaborative album under the moniker Unc & Phew, a reflection of their close familial bond, without the third Migos member Offset. It was titled "Only Built for Infinity Links."

"I call him twin 'cause that be my brother," Takeoff rapped about his uncle Quavo on the track "Hotel Lobby."

That closeness is felt throughout "Rocket Power," and the second half of the title track might be the most affecting moment of all. In the final verse, the trap production drops, making way for simple ballad moment. "Mama, I can't sleep / I lost my bro, aw, this just a dream / Eternal nightmares / I don't know 'bout how we got here / I wan' go far, but I don't know where," Quavo sings. "But when I go, I ain't got no fear / I bet my nephew gon' be right there / I see my niece and nephew cry tears / I told 'em, 'Wipe your eyes 'cause unc' here."

It's a potent meditation on grief - steps of depression, denial, and acceptance rolled into a few seconds. For listeners, it is an emotionality amplified by the fact that this is the sound of Quavo in the studio for the first time since losing both a family member and his closest collaborator.

But would it be a Quavo release if it didn't end on an empowering note? The closer "Greatness" is a horn-led celebration. "This how legends was born / Greatness / I couldn't do it without the greatest group in the world / Hmm, greatness / I couldn't do it without the greatest nephew in the world," he raps.

"Rocket Power," was scheduled to be released two weeks ago, but was delayed to "run some more tests before the rocket is ready to launch," Quavo wrote on Instagram.

Little was known about the album prior to its release. In late May, Quavo teased "Rocket Power" on Instagram, writing, "This album is for the Rocket our true fans and also this is my therapy. This is album is a true reflection of how I feel right now. Sometimes I'm Good, sometimes I'm Down, sometimes I'm Disappointed, sometimes I fall apart but then I always find my strength again."

Takeoff's sole solo album prior to his death, released in 2018, was titled "The Last Rocket."

"Rocket Power" follows Quavo's solo debut album, 2018's "Quavo Huncho."

In June, Quavo and Migos' Offset made their first major public appearance following Takeoff's death at the 2023 BET Awards. Performing their biggest hit, "Bad and Boujee," the duo shouted "BET, do it for Take," near the beginning of their set, as their backdrop switched from the image of a space shuttle to one of Takeoff pointing in the air. (AP)



Vina Morales arrives at the World Premiere of 'Easter Sunday' in Los Angeles on Aug. 2, 2022. Morales will take over as Aurora Aquino in the Broadway musical 'Here Lies Love' for a month-long engagement starting Sept. 22. She replaces Lea Salonga, who has been with the show since previews in June. (AP)

## Stage

## Broadway show to spotlight Filipino stars

## Vina replaces Lea in 'Here Lies Love'

NEW YORK, Aug 20, (AP): As Tony Award winner Lea Salonga prepares to depart the first ever all-Filipino Broadway cast this week, her role will become a revolving door to showcase other well-known talent from the Philippines.

Actor and singer Vina Morales, also beloved in the Philippines, will take over as Aurora Aquino in "Here Lies Love" for a month-long engagement starting Sept. 22.

Producers say they are committed to highlighting the country's "abundance of talent," allowing guest performers a Broadway debut.

"To be able to perform on Broadway is a dream come true for any artist," Morales said in a statement. "I am grateful to 'Coach Lea' Salonga for guiding me along the way."

Salonga, who has been with the show since previews in June, called her friend Morales "a wonderful addition to our cast."

## Power

Her final show was the matinee Saturday. Another cast member will fill in until Morales' arrival.

Salonga next co-stars with Bernadette Peters in "Stephen Sondheim's Old Friends" at London's Gielgud Theatre starting Sept. 16.

"Here Lies Love" chronicles the rise to power of Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos and wife Imelda during the 1960s and '70s and the civil unrest that ensued. Musicians David Byrne and Fat Boy Slim wrote the music for the production, which takes on a night club setting for most of the 90-minute show.

The cast also includes Arielle Jacobs, Jose Llana and Conrad Ricamora.

The production marked Salonga's first time playing an actual Filipino character on Broadway. She has led other all-Asian ensembles such as "Allegiance," "Flower Drum Song" and "Miss Saigon," which won her the

SALZBURG, Austria, Aug 20, (AP): People fill the cobblestone streets of the city where Mozart was born, rushing to 213 performances over six weeks. While many classical music institutions struggle to regain audience, the Salzburg Festival is on track to draw people from over 75 nations to opera, concerts and drama.

"We played through the pandemic," said Kristina Hammer, who took over as the festival's president in 2022. "That made us not only a spotlight in Europe for culture, but we didn't lose our customers."

There are 179 performances over 43 days through Aug. 31 at 15 venues plus 34 youth performances. Highlights included new stagings of Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro," Verdi's "Macbeth" and "Falstaff" and Bohuslav Martinu's rarely seen "The Greek Passion" along with Gluck's "Orfeo ed Euridice," held over from this year's Whitsun Festival. Artists in a program of unmatched depth include pianists Igor Levit, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Evgeny Kissin and Daniil Trifonov, and the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics headline concerts along with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

"There are these hidden threads," artistic director Markus Hinterhäuser said, drawing parallels between "Macbeth" and the

Ukraine war, "Greek Passion" and the migrant crisis and "Figaro" with class struggle. "What I can do is to give the audience the kind of navigation system without being didactic."

Director Max Reinhardt, composer Richard Strauss and dramatist Hugo von Hofmannsthal founded the festival to promote peace following World War I, an idea they are said to have formed at Reinhardt's nearby Schloss Leopoldskron.

Herbert von Karajan dominated as artistic director from 1956-88. Gerard Mortier overhauled programming from 1991-2001 and was followed by Peter Ruzicka and Jürgen Flimm. Hinterhäuser, a pianist, ran the festival for a year in 2011 before Alexander Pereira began, then took over in 2016 and has a contract running until September 2026.

Productions open after six-to-seven weeks of rehearsal, one-to-three more than the repertory house norm. Ticket prices for the most high-profile events run from 5-465 euros (\$5.50-\$513).

Venues are spread across both sides of the Salzach River in a city of about 150,000 crammed with restaurants, hotels and luxury boutiques, with the three largest halls carved into the Mönchsberg mountain.

Tony for best actress in a musical. In a funny coincidence, "Here Lies Love" is in the same theater where "Miss Saigon" ran from 1991-2001.

This has also been Salonga's first time as a Broadway producer. Her co-producers include other entertainers

of Filipino descent-singer H.E.R., comedian Jo Koy and Black Eyed Peas' Apl.de.Ap.

Outside of the stage, Salonga is widely known for her vocals in the Disney animated features "Aladdin" and "Mulan."



This image released by Interscope Records shows 'Snow Angel' by Renee Rapp. (AP)



Hilton



Spears

## Variety

LOS ANGELES: Britney Spears and her husband Sam Asghari separated nearly three weeks ago, and he is seeking spousal support and attorneys' fees in their divorce, according to his divorce filing.

Asghari, 29, filed his petition to dissolve his 14-month-old marriage to the 41-year-old pop superstar in Los Angeles County court late Wednesday.

Like the vast majority of those who file for divorce in California, he cites irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split.

The document lists the couple's separation date as July 28, though reports of the split did not emerge until Wednesday. It says he will try to get financial support from her, while blocking her from getting any from him. And it seeks to have her pay for his divorce lawyers.

The filing says the value of Spears' and Asghari's assets, and those they own jointly, has yet to be determined.

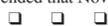
Spears and Asghari had no children together. Email sent to a Spears' representatives were not immediately returned.

She has not addressed the split on social media. Her lone Instagram post since the divorce filing is a photo of herself on horseback on a beach, with a caption that begins, "Buying a horse soon!"

Spears married Asghari at her home in Thousand Oaks, California, on June 9, 2022, in front of guests including Selena Gomez, Drew Barrymore, Paris Hilton and Madonna, in a wedding seen as a milestone in her newly reclaimed life after the dissolution just six months earlier of the court conservatorship that controlled her life for more than 13 years.

Spears met and began dating Asghari, a model and actor, when he appeared in her video for the song "Slumber Party" in 2016.

She cited her desire to marry Asghari as among the reasons she wanted an end to the constraining conservatorship, which she said was preventing it. The two announced their engagement in September of 2021 as it became clear she would be freed from the conservatorship - which was ended that November. (AP)



LONDON: A sting operation at a London hotel helped authorities recover a 15th-century Chinese vase worth about 2 million pounds (\$2.5 million) and break up the criminal ring believed to have stolen the artifact from a Swiss museum, British police said Saturday.

The vase, which dates to the Yongle

period of the Ming Dynasty, was one of three items stolen from the Museum of Far Eastern Art in Geneva in 2019. The Metropolitan Police Service

made the announcement after a London court on Friday found two men guilty of charges related to the gang's effort to sell the vase. A third man pleaded guilty to



Quavo arrives at the ESPY awards on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Migos rapper Quavo has released his second solo album, "Rocket Power," Friday, Aug. 18. It is his first full-length release since his bandmate Takeoff was fatally shot outside a private party at a downtown Houston bowling alley in 2022. (AP)

similar charges earlier this year, and two other men who were arrested in London are awaiting trial in Switzerland for their alleged role in the burglary. All five are from southeast London.

"The organized crime group involved in this offending believed they could commit significant offenses internationally and that there would be no come-back," said Detective Chief Inspector Matt Webb, from the Met's Specialist Crime unit. "They were mistaken, highlighting the strength of our relations with international law enforcement partners and our ability to work across international boundaries."

London police said they worked with Swiss authorities on the investigation after an auction house alerted them that someone had e-mailed them seeking a valuation for the stolen vase.

Officers working undercover offered to buy the vase for 450,000 pounds (\$573,000) and agreed to make the buy at a central London hotel, where the first suspect was arrested.

Police have offered a 10,000 pound (\$12,734) reward for information leading to the recovery of a "doucai-style" wine cup with chicken decorations that was also stolen from the Geneva museum. A bowl valued at 80,000 pounds (\$101,872) was returned to the museum after it was sold at an auction in Hong Kong in 2019. (AP)

## Health

## Vets conquer challenges

## Soldiers blinded in war 'navigate' world again

RIVNE, Ukraine, Aug 20, (AP): Along a bustling street in a western Ukrainian city, Denys Abdulin takes his first independent strides since he was severely wounded and blinded while fighting invading Russian troops more than a year ago.

The 34-year-old former soldier, wearing black glasses and gripping a white mobility cane, steps onto a more crowded stretch of sidewalk. His movements become tentative and tense. He accidentally blocks the path of a woman approaching an ATM to withdraw cash.

Like many other pedestrians, she responds with a compassionate smile and gracefully moves aside. Gradually, Abdulin covers 600 meters (almost 3/10 of a mile), guided by a trainer walking ahead of him with a bracelet of small metal bells.

Five other Ukrainian military veterans conquered similar challenges while attending a rehabilitation camp for ex-soldiers who lost their vision in combat. Over several weeks, the men would learn to navigate the city of Rivne, to prepare their own meals and to use public transportation while traveling solo.

Daily tasks they previously performed without thinking now demand focus, strength and dedication.

"Everyone pays their price for freedom in Ukraine," Abdulin, who spent months confined to a hospital bed and rarely takes off his dark shades, said.

The war Russian President Vladimir Putin launched in Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022 has killed tens of thousands of fighters on both sides. Countless others, both Ukrainian military personnel and civilians who took up arms to defend their country, have been maimed or suffered other injuries that irreversibly reshaped their lives.

No statistics currently exist for how many service members have lost their sight due to severe wounds sustained in the war, according to Olesia Perepechenko, executive director of Modern Sight, the non-governmental organization that puts on the camp. But demand for the program is growing as the war nears its year and a half point.

## Rehabilitation

Over the course of several weeks, the veterans, accompanied by their families, reside at a rehabilitation center outside of Rivne. Most receive their first canes here, take their first walks around urban and natural environments without assistance, and learn to operate sound-based programs for using cellphones and computers.

"Our goal isn't to retrain them, not to change them, but simply to give them a chance to become independent and self-reliant," Perepechenko, who is herself blind, said.

Abdulin voluntarily joined the military when Russia invaded Ukraine nearly 18 months ago. Completing the 600-meter walk marked a new phase in his recovery following the wounds he sustained when a mine detonated a few meters (yards) behind him in Sieverodonesk, a city in eastern Ukraine now occupied by Russians.

"It seemed to me that a flame flew out of my eyes," he said of that day in May 2022. "I immediately realized that I had lost my eyes."

"Of course, I expected everything, but becoming blind, I couldn't even imagine," Abdulin continued. "I thought that I could lose an arm or a leg, and I didn't want to die at all. I never even thought that I would become blind. Therefore, at first, it was very difficult."

In 2014, when Russia unlawfully annexed Crimea and armed conflict erupted in Ukraine's Donbas region, Perepechenko yearned to be on the front lines helping in some way. Her request to join the army was declined, so she decided to embrace a new mission: helping soldiers who lost their sight to reclaim a sense of autonomy.

Modern Sight held its first rehabilitation camp in 2019 and organized around 10 more since then. However, only two camps have taken place during the war. Although there is a waiting list of 30 people for the next session, the non-profit's primary hurdle is funding: each camp costs about 15,000 euros (\$16,400) to put on.

Abdulin spent almost a year receiving treatment for his injuries, which included a shattered jaw from the shrapnel that also stole his vision and left him with breathing and balance problems. His wife, Olesia Abdulina, returned with their two children from Lithuania, where the three of them sought refuge after Russia's full-scale invasion.

"His eyes were still so swollen, with bandages over them, covered in cotton pads," Abdulina said of seeing her husband at the hospital for the first time after their months of separation.

"The main thing is that you're alive," she said she responded when he told her he would never see again.

During the months after that, she fed him with a spoon and rarely left his side.

## Impairment

At the Modern Sight camp, the two of them were learning how to integrate his impairment into their family life.

While Denys attended physiotherapy or cooking classes, Abdulina and other women with husbands or boyfriends in the program go through their own training exercises. One purpose of the camp is reminding the spouses they are not "nannies" but life partners to their men, Perepechenko said.

During one such session, Abdulina is blindfolded and given a long cane. She tentatively probes the floor while another participant holds her hand. The purpose of the exercise is to help the women better understand what their partners experience and need.

"We remain the same people. We have the same capabilities," Ivan Soroka, 27, who joined the Ukrainian army on the day Russia invaded and was attending the camp for a second time. "We need to stand up, take control and work on improving ourselves."

A projectile wounded Soroka near Bakhmut in August 2022, when the longest battle of the war so far was just beginning. Russian forces ended up taking the city in eastern Ukraine in May after more than eight months of intense combat.

"I lost my sight immediately, thrown by the blast wave. I felt that I was dying," Soroka said. "I lay there for about two minutes. Then I realized that no, someone isn't letting me go there." As he recalls those moments, he implies it was his fiancée, Vlada, now sitting beside him, who kept him alive.

The couple met when Soroka was participating in the defense of the Kyiv region in the spring of last year. Their love blossomed swiftly against the backdrop of war. Prior to Soroka's summer deployment to the Donetsk region, he proposed to Vlada. She agreed to marry him.

But soon after, the two were spending days and nights in a hospital instead of preparing for a wedding. The happy occasion that was postponed because of Soroka's injury is now planned for early September; after months of rehabilitation, he feels both physically and psychologically strong.

"I've realized that unless I rise on my own and start doing something, nothing will change," he said.

The men and their partners spend camp breaks and evenings in a gazebo on the rehabilitation center's grounds. An atmosphere of tranquility prevails, occasionally interrupted by hearty laughter and jokes from their time as soldiers.

By the time they leave the center, the men will know they have the tools to get around a city and gained something equally vital - a sense of community forged through shared experiences and a common trauma.

One evening, when the day's activities were completed, the camp participants gathered in a courtyard to celebrate Oleksandr Zhylychenko's birthday. He lost his sight late last year, though did not share details about the circumstances.

"I'm drawing you into a circle, into your family's circle. There are about 50 of us here," Perepechenko said, handing Zhylychenko a heart-shaped balloon in the yellow and blue of Ukraine's national flag. "This is our collective heart."



Zelenskyy



Phil Durst, who has undergone an experimental stem cell procedure with his eyes, sits for a portrait in Homewood, Ala., on Tuesday, Aug. 15. His left eye bore the brunt of a 2017 work accident, which stole his vision, left him unable to tolerate light and triggered four to five cluster headaches a day. (AP)

## Health

## First US study to test the technique shows promise

## Stem cells from one eye heal the other

NEW YORK, Aug 20, (AP): Phil Durst recalled clawing at his face after a chemical from a commercial dishwashing machine squirted into his eyes, causing "the most indescribable pain I've ever felt - ever, ever, ever."

His left eye bore the brunt of the 2017 work accident, which stole his vision, left him unable to tolerate light and triggered four to five cluster headaches a day.

Then he underwent an experimental procedure that aims to treat severe injuries in one eye with stem cells from the other.

"I went from completely blind with debilitating headaches and pondering if I could go another day - like really thinking I can't do this anymore" to seeing well enough to drive and emerging from dark places literally and figuratively, he said, choking up.

The 51-year-old from Homewood, Alabama, was one of four patients to get stem cell transplants as part of the first US study to test the technique, which could someday help thousands. Though additional treatment is sometimes needed, experts say the stem cell transplant offers hope to people with few if any other options.

Results of the early-stage research were published Friday in the journal Science Advances, and a larger study is now underway.

The procedure is designed to treat "limbal stem cell deficiency," a corneal disorder that can occur after chemical burns and other eye injuries. Patients without limbal cells, which are essential for replenishing and maintaining the cornea's outermost layer, can't undergo corneal transplants that are commonly used to improve vision.

Dr. Ula Jurkunas, an ophthalmologist at Mass Eye and Ear in Boston who was the principal investigator for the study, said the experimental technique involves taking a small biopsy of stem cells from the healthy eye, then expanding and growing them on a graft in a lab at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

A couple of weeks later, they're

sent back to be transplanted into the injured eye. Durst was the first patient to undergo the procedure.

"The great part of it is that we're using a patient's own tissue," not donor tissue the body might reject, Jurkunas said.

She said this method is better than a different procedure that takes a very large piece of stem cells from a healthy eye for use on an injured eye - but risks damaging the good eye.

Both of Durst's eyes were hurt in the accident, which happened while the former chemical company manager was visiting a client having problems with the dishwashing machine. For six to eight months, his overall vision was so bad his wife or son had to lead him around. But his right eye was less injured than his left and could provide stem cells for the transplant.

Jurkunas, who is also affiliated with Harvard Medical School, said Durst's 2018 surgery was the culmination of almost two decades of research, "so we felt immense happiness and excitement to finally do it."

## Transplant

All patients in the study saw their cornea surfaces restored. Durst and another patient were then able to get transplants of artificial corneas, while two others reported much-improved vision with the stem cell transplant alone. A fifth patient didn't get the procedure because the stem cells weren't able to adequately expand.

At this point, Durst said the vision in his right eye is nearly perfect but the vision in his left eye is blurry; he's scheduled for a different procedure in September to address that.

Jurkunas estimates about 1,000 people in the US per year could potentially benefit from this sort of stem cell transplant, which has also been studied in Japan.

"There's definitely an unmet clinical need for this effort - there's no question," said Dr. Tueng Shen, an ophthalmology professor at the University of Washington who was not involved in the research. She added that doctors currently have no reli-

able source of cultivated limbal stem cells.

Researchers are finalizing the next phase of the clinical trial, which includes 15 patients. One is Nick Kharufeh, whose left eye was injured in 2020. He was watching fireworks being set off in the street when a spark hit his eyeball.

Kharufeh moved from California to Boston to take part in the study, and the 26-year-old real estate agent can see well enough to fly a small plane.

Though he's given up on plans of becoming a commercial pilot, "I still fly whenever I get back to California. I love it," he said. "I'm just really thankful that they gave me the opportunity to be part of the trial because it's really helped me out."

## Also:

**BALTIMORE:** Maryland has confirmed a case of locally acquired malaria in the state for the first time in more than 40 years, the state's health department said Friday.

Maryland officials said the individual, who was hospitalized and is now recovering, did not travel outside of the United States or to other US states with recent locally acquired malaria cases.

"Malaria was once common in the United States, including in Maryland, but we have not seen a case in Maryland that was not related to travel in over 40 years," said Maryland Department of Health Secretary **Laura Herrera Scott**. "We are taking this very seriously and will work with local and federal health officials to investigate this case."

Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease caused by a parasite. More than 2,000 cases of malaria are reported annually in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with most cases occurring in people returning from international travel.

In June, the CDC reported that four cases of malaria were detected in Florida and one case in Texas in the previous two months - the first time there had been local spread in the US in 20 years.



Denys Abdulin, a former Ukrainian soldier blinded in the war, walks with his son, Vadym, at a rehabilitation center designed for soldiers who lost their vision on the battlefield, near Rivne, Ukraine, Thursday, July 20, 2023. Over the course of several weeks, the veterans, accompanied by their families, reside at the rehabilitation center. Most receive their first canes here, take their first walks around urban and natural environments without assistance, and learn to operate programs on phones and computers. (AP)



Irsay



Putin

## Discovery

**'Luna-25 crashed into moon':** Russia's robot lander the Luna-25 spacecraft crashed into the moon after it had spun into uncontrolled orbit, the country's space agency Roscosmos reported on Sunday.

"The apparatus moved into an unpredictable orbit and ceased to exist as a result of a collision with the surface of the moon," read a statement from the agency.

Roscosmos said it lost contact with the spacecraft on Saturday after it ran into trouble while preparing for its pre-landing orbit after reporting an "abnormal situation" that its specialists were analyzing. "During the operation, an abnormal situation occurred on board the automatic station, which did not allow the maneuver to be performed with the specified parameters," the agency said in a Telegram post.

The spacecraft was scheduled to land on the south pole of the moon on Monday. The lunar south pole is of particular interest to scientists, who believe the permanently shadowed polar craters may contain frozen water in the rocks that future explorers could transform into air and rocket fuel.

The Russian lunar lander was racing to land on Earth's satellite ahead of an Indian spacecraft, launched on July 14. Both were expected to reach the moon between Aug 21-23.

Only three governments have managed successful moon landings: the Soviet Union, the United States and China, but not on the moon's south pole. India and Russia have been racing to be the first countries to land there.

A previous Indian attempt to land at the moon's south pole in 2019 ended when the lander crashed into the moon's surface.

Roscosmos said it wanted to show Russia "is a state capable of delivering a payload to the moon," and "ensure Russia's guaranteed access to the moon's surface."

Sanctions imposed on Russia since it began its actions in Ukraine make it harder for the country to access Western technology, impacting its space program. The Luna-25 was initially meant to carry a

small moon rover but that idea was abandoned to reduce the weight of the craft for improved reliability, analysts said.

The Luna-25 launched from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia's Far East on Aug 10. The spacecraft is a pet project of Russian President **Vladimir Putin** and key to his efforts to make Rus-

sia a space superpower.

The launch earlier this month was Russia's first since 1976 when it was part of the Soviet Union. (AP)



**Lolita dies at Seaquarium:** Lolita, an orca whale held captive for more than



In this photo taken from video and released by Roscosmos State Space Corporation, the Soyuz-2.1b rocket with the moon lander Luna-25 automatic station takes off from a launch pad at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the Russia's Far East, on Friday, Aug. 11, 2023. The Russian space agency says its Luna-25 spacecraft has crashed into the moon. Russia's unmanned robot lander crashed after it had spun into uncontrolled orbit, the country's space agency Roscosmos reported on Sunday, Aug. 20. (AP)

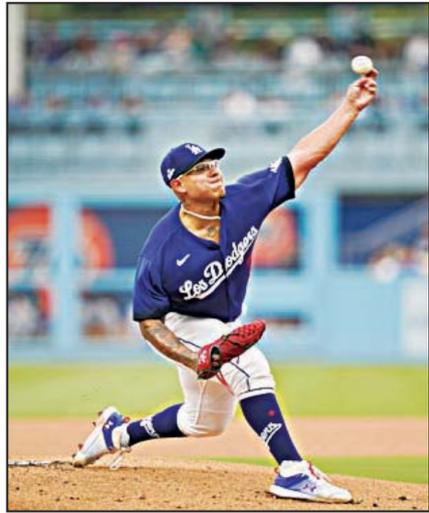
a half-century, died Friday at the Miami Seaquarium as caregivers prepared to move her from the theme park in the near future.

The Seaquarium posted a statement from the nonprofit group Friends of Toki on social media that Lolita - also known as Tokitae, or Toki - started exhibiting serious signs of discomfort over the past two days. Seaquarium and Friends of Toki medical team members began treating her immediately and aggressively, but the 57-year-old orca died from an apparent renal condition, the statement said.

"Toki was an inspiration to all who had the fortune to hear her story and especially to the Lummi nation that considered her family," the Friends of Toki statement said. "Those who have had the privilege to spend time with her will forever remember her beautiful spirit."

Animal rights activists have been fighting for years to have Lolita freed from her tank at the Miami Seaquarium. The park's relatively new owner, The Dolphin Company, and the nonprofit Friends of Toki announced a plan in March to possibly move her to a natural sea pen in the Pacific Northwest, with the financial backing of Indianapolis Colts owner **Jim Irsay**.

"I am heartbroken that Toki has left us," Irsay said in a statement. "Her story captured my heart, just as it did millions of others. I was honored to be part of the team working to return her to her indigenous home, and I take solace in knowing that we significantly improved her living conditions this past year. Her spirit and grace have touched so many. Rest in peace, dear Toki." (AP)



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Julio Urias throws to a Miami Marlins batter during the first inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader in Los Angeles. (AP)

# Urias, first Red Sox player to hit grand slams on consecutive pitches, leads Boston over Yankees

Dodgers sweep Marlins in doubleheader

**NEW YORK, Aug 20, (AP):** Luis Urias become the first Red Sox player to hit grand slams on consecutive pitches and the first in 80 years to hit slams in consecutive games in leading Boston to an 8-1 victory over the fading Yankees Saturday, sending

**New York to its seventh straight loss.**

Urias cleared the bases in his last at-bat against Washington reliever Robert Garcia on Thursday night and the ninth-place hitter stunned Yankees ace Gerrit Cole in the second inning with a blast to left center. After allowing the catcher's seventh homer, Cole (10-4) stared blankly toward right field in disbelief. Cole tied a season high by allowing six runs for the third time and gave up seven hits.



Milwaukee Brewers' Sal Frelick bunts during the third inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

by Orioles manager Brandon Hyde, retired three batters for the win.

**Dodgers 3, Marlins 1, game 1**

**Dodgers 3, Marlins 1, game 2**

In Los Angeles, Mookie Betts had a two-run single in the first game and homered twice in the second game to lead Los Angeles to complete a doubleheader sweep.

Miami wasted a terrific performance by Eury Pérez in the first game as the 20-year-old struck out 10 while pitching six innings of two-hit ball.

Ryan Yarbrough (6-5) pitched two perfect innings for the win, and Evan Phillips got three outs for his 19th save.

James Outman drew a one-out walk against David Robertson (4-4) and moved to third on Kiké Hernández's single. Outman scored the tying run on Austin Barnes' sacrifice bunt as first baseman Josh Bell's throw from the side of the mound went past catcher Jacob Stallings.

In the night game, Julio Urias (11-6) allowed just one run - a solo homer to Josh Bell in the first inning - and five hits in seven innings, striking out five. Brusdar Graterol had an eventful ninth, allowing two singles, before getting out of the jam to earn his sixth save.

Braxton Garrett (7-4) allowed three runs and five hits in six innings, striking out six and walking none.

**Angels 7, Rays 6, game 1**

**Rays 18, Angels 4, game 2**

In Anaheim, Harold Ramírez had a career-high four hits, Isaac Paredes added three hits, including a three-run homer in the sixth inning, and Tampa Bay routed Los Angeles for a doubleheader split.

Brandon Drury had three hits, including a solo homer, to help the Angels win the first game 7-6.

Zach Eflin (13-7), the American League wins leader, allowed one run and four hits in six innings.

Tampa Bay had a 2-0 lead before breaking it open with four runs in the fifth. Angels starter Patrick Sandoval (6-10) appeared to retire the Rays in order, but Randy Arozarena's fly ball popped out of Angels center fielder Jordyn Adams' glove to extend the inning.

The Rays took advantage with four straight hits, including Paredes' RBI single, a two-run double by Curtis Mead and Osleivis Basabe's run-scoring double.

In the earlier game, Randal Grichuk drove in two runs for the Angels, who won for just the fifth time in 17 August games. Grichuk also made a leaping catch at the wall in the second inning to rob Yandy Diaz of a home run.

Griffin Canning (7-5) got the win and Reynaldo López pitched a scoreless ninth for his sixth save.

Rays starter Tyler Glasnow (6-4) took the loss.

**Brewers 6, Rangers 1**

In Arlington, Willy Adames was 4 for 4 with two RBIs and Carlos Santana homered for the second consecutive day to lead Milwaukee over Texas.

After striking out five consecutive Rangers in the first two innings, Brewers starter Freddy Peralta (10-8) threw 40 pitches during a

hectic third in which he allowed a run on two singles and two walks.

Rangers starter Dane Dunning (9-5) allowed three runs on seven hits and a walk in five innings. He struck out four.

Martin Perez replaced Dunning and the Brewers greeted him with a double and RBI single by Andruw Monasterio to build a 4-1 lead. Perez allowed three runs on eight hits and two walks over four innings of relief.

**Mariners 10, Astros 3**

In Houston, Julio Rodriguez set a major league record with his 17th hit in four games, Dylan Moore homered twice, Logan Gilbert registered his 14th quality start of the season and Seattle won its fifth straight.

Gilbert (11-5) surrendered just two runs on eight hits, struck out three and walked one in six innings.

Jose Altuve in the fifth inning became the newest member of the 2,000-hit club. Altuve lined a 2-2 pitch from Gilbert into the left field corner.

Rodriguez, with a single to left field in the seventh inning, broke a major league record set in 1925 by Milt Stock of the Brooklyn Robins. The previous record was 16 hits in four games.

Rodriguez finished 4 for 6, giving him his fourth consecutive four-plus hit game.

Houston starter Framber Valdez (9-9) gave up six runs on 10 hits, striking out five and walking two in five innings.

The Astros three runs came off solo homers by Alex Bregman, his 20th of the season, Yainer Diaz and Mauricio Dubón.

**Blue Jays 4, Reds 3**

In Cincinnati, Davis Schneider hit a tiebreaking solo homer and Jordan Romano worked out of a jam in the ninth inning, sending Toronto over Elly De La Cruz and Cincinnati.

Chris Bassitt pitched six efficient innings as Toronto rebounded from a stretch of five losses in seven games. All-Star Bo Bichette hit an RBI single in his first big league game since July 31.

Schneider went deep against Brandon Williamson (4-3) with one out in the fifth, giving Toronto a 4-3 lead. It was Schneider's third homer of the season.

Bassitt (12-6) was charged with three runs, two earned, and three hits. He struck out six and walked one.

**Phillies 12, Nationals 3**

In Washington, Trea Turner hit two home runs in an eight-run eighth inning and Philadelphia went deep five times, rallying past Washington.

Nick Castellanos, Jake Cave and Bryson Stott also homered for Philadelphia, which had lost four of five.

Riley Adams drove in two runs for Washington, which had won six of its last seven overall and 15 of 18 at home since July 8.

Cory Abbott (1-2), pitching for the first time since Aug. 11, took the loss. Seranthony Domínguez

(3-3) pitched a scoreless seventh and earned the win. He allowed three runs, two earned, in six innings while striking out five.

**Braves 6, Giants 5**

In Atlanta, Eddie Rosario had four hits, including a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning, and Atlanta Braves earned its fifth straight win.

Marcell Ozuna hit a two-out single off Tyler Rogers (4-5) in the eighth. Rosario followed with his 19th homer, a first-pitch blast that carried 441 feet to center field.

LaMonte Wade Jr. had two hits, including a homer on the game's first pitch, but the Giants were handed their third straight loss.

Logan Webb allowed four runs on nine hits in six innings for San Francisco.

Kirby Yates (7-0) pitched a scoreless eighth. Raisel Iglesias earned his 23rd save with a perfect ninth.

**Pirates 7, Twins 4**

In Minneapolis, Mitch Keller pitched six strong innings and Pittsburgh broke through late against Sonny Gray to beat Minnesota.

Gray (6-6) was perfect through five innings before Liover Peguero had an infield single with one out in the sixth. Andrew McCutchen had a two-run single as part of a three-run sixth for Pittsburgh and added a three-run homer in the ninth.

Keller (10-8) gave the offense time to solve Gray with another quality start. He gave up two runs and seven hits and struck out 12 - one short of matching a career high he set earlier this season.

David Bednar surrendered a run but got the last four outs for his 26th save.

**Cubs 6, Royals 4**

In Chicago, Cody Bellinger homered twice and Justin Steele pitched six effective innings, helping Chicago beat Kansas City.

Ian Happ and Seiya Suzuki each hit a sacrifice fly for Chicago, which had dropped three of four. The Cubs are fighting for playoff positioning in the crowded NL standings.

Steele (14-3) allowed two runs and six hits. He struck out seven and walked none while improving to 5-0 in his last six starts. Adbert Alzolay worked the ninth for his 17th save in 18 chances.

Bobby Witt Jr. had three hits for Kansas City, and Salvador Perez went 2 for 3 and scored two runs. Brady Singer (8-9) was charged with six runs - four earned - and nine hits in 3 2/3 innings.

**Diamondbacks 6, Padres 4, game 1**

**Diamondbacks 8, Padres 1, game 2**

In San Diego, Gabriel Moreno hit a grand slam and drove in five runs to lead Arizona over San Diego for a sweep of a day-night doubleheader.

Tommy Pham hit a two-run homer and tripled to lead the Diamondbacks to a 6-4 victory in the opener.

Padres ace Yu Darvish (8-9) took the loss in the second game, going five innings and giving up three runs and nine hits while striking out seven. It was Darvish's ninth outing this season throwing 100 or more pitches.

Diamondbacks starter Scott McGough made it 2 1/3 innings and was re-

moved in favor of reliever Bryce Jarvis (1-0), who made his third appearance of the season. Jarvis pitched 3 2/3 innings, giving up one run and two hits.

In the first game, Diamondbacks starter Merrill Kelly (10-5) gave up three runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings for the win. Paul Sewald earned his 26th save by blanking the Padres in the ninth despite giving up two walks and hitting a batter.

The Padres recalled knuckleballer Matt Waldron (0-2) from Triple-A El Paso to make a spot start. It was Waldron's second career big league appearance. He lasted five innings, giving up five runs, five hits and striking out five.

**Tigers 4, Guardians 3**

In Cleveland, Kerry Carpenter hit a three-run homer and Javier Báez had a solo shot as Detroit handed Cleveland rookie Tanner Bibee his first loss in more than two months.

Carpenter connected in the first inning off Bibee (9-3), who had won his previous seven decisions and was unbeaten since June 13. Báez homered in the seventh off Nick Sandlin to put the Tigers ahead 4-2.

Matt Manning (5-4) held the Guardians to one run and five hits in six innings. The right-hander came in 0-2 with a 17.61 ERA in two previous outings at Progressive Field.

Cleveland had its chances.

Detroit's Alex Lange worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the seventh, Andrew Vasquez escaped a mess in the eighth and Jason Foley retired the Guardians' 1-2-3 hitters in the ninth for his seventh save.

**Mets 13, Cardinals 2**

In St. Louis, Francisco Lindor had four hits and stole home, Daniel Vogelbach hit a grand slam and New York won its fourth straight game.

DJ Stewart and Pete Alonso also homered. Kodai Senga (10-6) allowed one run on two hits, walked two and struck out five batters in seven innings to become the first rookie in the major leagues this season to win 10 games.

Nolan Arenado hit his 26th home run of the season in the bottom of the fourth, and Miles Mikolas (6-9) allowed seven runs on seven hits and walked two batters in 4 2/3 innings as the Cardinals dropped their fourth straight game.

**Rockies 11, White Sox 5**

In Denver, Kyle Freeland pitched five innings for his first win in three months, and Colorado earned its second straight win.

Elehuris Montero had three hits and four RBIs, and Brendan Rodgers and Nolan Jones also had three hits apiece.

Freeland (5-13) was charged with four runs and eight hits in his first win since May 14 against Philadelphia. The veteran left-hander went 0-9 with a 6.19 ERA in his previous 14 starts.

Luis Robert Jr. hit his 33rd homer for the White Sox, who have dropped six of seven. Elvis Andrus continued his hot stretch with two hits and a steal of home in the first inning.

Colorado scored three runs in the first and two more in the second off Jesse Scholtens (1-6).

## MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 20, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Saturday.

|              |    |                    |   |              |    |                    |   |
|--------------|----|--------------------|---|--------------|----|--------------------|---|
| Tampa Bay    | 9  | LA Angels 10 inn   | 6 | Baltimore    | 7  | Oakland 10 inn     | 2 |
| Boston       | 8  | NY Yankees         | 1 | Tampa Bay    | 18 | LA Angels 2nd game | 4 |
| Chicago Cubs | 6  | Kansas City        | 4 | LA Dodgers   | 3  | Miami 1st game     | 1 |
| LA Angels    | 7  | Tampa Bay 1st game | 6 | Arizona      | 6  | San Diego 1st game | 4 |
| Milwaukee    | 6  | Texas              | 1 | Philadelphia | 12 | Washington         | 3 |
| Toronto      | 4  | Cincinnati         | 3 | Atlanta      | 6  | San Francisco      | 5 |
| Detroit      | 4  | Cleveland          | 3 | NY Mets      | 13 | St Louis           | 2 |
| Seattle      | 10 | Houston            | 3 | LA Dodgers   | 3  | Miami 2nd game     | 1 |
| Pittsburgh   | 7  | Minnesota          | 4 | Arizona      | 8  | San Diego 2nd game | 1 |
| Colorado     | 11 | Chicago W. Sox     | 5 |              |    |                    |   |

|             | W  | L  | Pct  | GB     |               | W  | L   | Pct  | GB     |
|-------------|----|----|------|--------|---------------|----|-----|------|--------|
| Baltimore   | 76 | 47 | .618 | —      | Atlanta       | 80 | 42  | .656 | —      |
| Tampa Bay   | 75 | 51 | .595 | 2-1/2  | Philadelphia  | 67 | 56  | .545 | 13-1/2 |
| Toronto     | 68 | 56 | .548 | 8-1/2  | Miami         | 64 | 61  | .512 | 17-1/2 |
| Boston      | 65 | 58 | .528 | 11     | New York      | 58 | 66  | .468 | 23     |
| New York    | 60 | 63 | .488 | 16     | Washington    | 56 | 68  | .452 | 25     |
| Minnesota   | 64 | 60 | .516 | —      | Milwaukee     | 67 | 57  | .540 | —      |
| Cleveland   | 59 | 65 | .476 | 5      | Cincinnati    | 64 | 60  | .516 | 3      |
| Milwaukee   | 56 | 67 | .455 | 7-1/2  | Chicago       | 63 | 59  | .516 | 3      |
| Detroit     | 49 | 75 | .390 | 15-1/2 | Pittsburgh    | 55 | 68  | .447 | 11-1/2 |
| Chicago     | 40 | 85 | .320 | 24-1/2 | St Louis      | 54 | 70  | .435 | 13     |
| Kansas City | W  | L  | Pct  | GB     | W             | L  | Pct | GB   |        |
| Texas       | 72 | 51 | .585 | —      | Los Angeles   | 76 | 47  | .618 | —      |
| Houston     | 70 | 54 | .565 | 2-1/2  | San Francisco | 64 | 59  | .520 | 12     |
| Seattle     | 68 | 55 | .553 | 4      | Arizona       | 64 | 61  | .512 | 13     |
| Los Angeles | 61 | 64 | .488 | 12     | San Diego     | 59 | 66  | .472 | 18     |
| Oakland     | 34 | 89 | .276 | 38     | Colorado      | 48 | 75  | .390 | 28     |

## BASEBALL

Kutter Crawford (6-6) no-hit New York for 5 1/3 innings until Aaron Judge homered for the second straight game on the right-hander's 67th pitch. Crawford matched a season-high by pitching six innings. He struck out five, walked two and allowed two baserunners.

**Orioles 7, Athletics 2, 10 innings**

In Oakland, Ryan Mountcastle singled in Adam Frazier with the go-ahead run as part of a five-run 10th inning, and the AL East-leading Baltimore beat Oakland.

Frazier began the 10th at second base and advanced to third when Adrián Martínez (0-1) threw a wild pitch. Mountcastle's hit bounced up the middle into center field as Frazier scored for the Orioles. Jordan Westburg added a sacrifice fly and another run was scored on a fielder's choice grounder by Hays McCann followed with a two-run single.

Aledmys Díaz homered twice for the last-place A's, who have lost nine of 11 and own the worst home winning percentage (.295) in the majors.

Felix Bautista (8-2), the fourth of five relievers used

**O'Malley stops Sterling for title**

**BOSTON, Aug 20, (AP):** Sean O'Malley won the UFC bantamweight title on Saturday night, stopping Aljamain Sterling in the second round in the main event at UFC 292 at the TD Garden.

O'Malley (17-1), of Phoenix, dropped Sterling with an overhead right early in the second.

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## Patriots-Packers preseason game ended early after injury to Bolden

## Seahawks starters look sharp in limited action, Seattle tops Dallas

SEATTLE, Aug. 20, (AP): Geno Smith looked sharp in his two drives, Drew Lock led Seattle to a pair of second-quarter touchdowns, and the Seahawks beat the Dallas Cowboys 22-14 on Saturday night.

Seattle (2-0) gave a number of its starters on both sides of the ball a little bit of playing time in the second week of the preseason, while Dallas (0-2) left the majority of its starters on the sideline as spectators yet again.

Smith had two drives behind his starting offensive line and the second possession ended in a 57-yard field goal from Jason Myers. Smith was 5 of 6 for 46 yards in his limited action.

Lock took over in the second quarter and continued to show the Seahawks would be in good hands if they need their backup. Lock was 5 of 6 for 119 yards, including a 48-yard strike to first-rounder Jaxon Smith-Njigba that set up DeeJay Dallas' 1-yard TD run.

SaRodrick Thompson also rushed for a 1-yard touchdown and Seattle led 17-7 at halftime. Lock played just a couple of series and appeared a little gimpy after taking a low hit from Sam Williams that drew a roughing penalty.

Dak Prescott's backup, Cooper Rush, played into the second quarter and was 9 of 14 for 96 yards and threw a 6-yard touchdown to Rico Dowdle. Deuce Vaughn continued to show his electric elusiveness, scampering 14 yards for a touchdown the first time he touched the ball early in the third quarter to pull Dallas within 17-14.

But Dallas would get no closer. Will Grier was 13 of 18 for 136 yards, but was intercepted at the goal line by Seattle's Tre Brown two plays into the fourth quarter. Brown got extensive play time after major injuries left him sidelined for most of the past two seasons. Grier also took a 20-yard sack on

fourth-and-3 at the Seattle 28 inside the final two minutes.

Backup Seattle wide receiver John Hall also blocked a Dallas punt for a safety.

The two teams will see each other later in the season on a Thursday night in late November in Texas. Seattle coach Pete Carroll said if the Cowboys were an opponent earlier in the season, playing them in the preseason would be problematic, but wasn't concerned with the regular season game not happening until Week 13.

## FOOTBALL

Meanwhile, New England's preseason game with the Green Bay Packers was called off early after Patriots rookie cornerback Isaiah Bolden was carted off the field in the fourth quarter.

Bolden, a seventh-round pick from Jackson State, appeared to collide with teammate Calvin Munson while attempting to make a hit on a pass completion to Green Bay's Malik Heath. As medical officials treated Bolden, both teams left their respective sidelines and got on the field, with some players getting on one knee.

After Bolden was carted off the field, the teams conferred and decided not to continue the game. The game stopped with the Patriots leading 21-17 with 10:29 left in the fourth quarter. Both teams are 1-1.

Before Bolden's injury, New England's Mac Jones made his first appearance of the preseason before Bailey Zappe took over and rallied the Patriots to the lead.

## Chiefs 38, Cardinals 10

In Glendale, Patrick Mahomes saw his first extended action of the preseason, throwing for 105 yards and a



Seattle Seahawks running back SaRodrick Thompson Jr. scores against the Dallas Cowboys during the first half of a preseason NFL football game in Seattle. (AP)

touchdown and Kansas City rolled past Arizona.

The reigning MVP for the defending Super Bowl champs completed 10 of 15 passes, playing the entire first quarter.

The Chiefs' first-team offense wasn't very crisp during its first two drives, fighting through a few dropped passes and penalties. But Kansas City found the end zone on its third try when Mahomes rolled out to his right and hit Justin Watson for an 18-yard touchdown strike and a 7-0 lead.

Rookie receiver Rashee Rice - a second-round pick out of SMU - caught eight passes for 96 yards.

## Dolphins 28, Texans 3

In Houston, Tua Tagovailoa threw an interception on his first play of the preseason for Miami against Houston. His second drive went much better.

Trask, listed with Mayfield as the starter on the Buccaneers' unofficial depth chart, led two scoring drives that gave Tampa Bay (1-1) a 10-6 halftime lead.

The third-year quarterback went 16 of 23 for 122 yards, including a 33-yard TD toss to rookie Trey Palmer, in the first half. But he had to re-enter the game with 1:03 left in the third quarter when third-stringer John Wolford was carted off the field and taken to the hospital with a neck injury.

## 49ers 21, Broncos 20

In Santa Clara, Brock Purdy and Russell Wilson led their teams to field goals on their only drives of the game and San Francisco beat Denver on a field goal by rookie Jake Moody on the final play.

Moody, drafted in the third round, bounced back after missing two field goals last week and an extra point earlier in the game to convert the 32-yarder after Trey Lance drove the Niners down the field in the closing minutes.

Lance overcame an interception on his first drive to throw a 22-yard TD pass to Cameron Latu and then two big passes to Ronnie Bell to set up the winning kick. Lance finished 12 for 18 for 173 yards.

## Steelers 27, Bills 15

In Pittsburgh, Kenny Pickett guided a pair of quick touchdown drives in less than a quarter's work and Pittsburgh breezed past sloppy Buffalo.

The second-year quarterback connected on a third-down pass during the first possession for Pittsburgh (2-0) to set up a 62-yard touchdown sprint by backup running back Jaylen Warren. Pickett then found Pat Freiermuth for a 25-yard score on the first snap after a 54-yard punt return by Calvin Austin.

The Bills (1-1) were not quite as crisp in safety Damar Hamlin's return to his hometown. Hamlin received a warm ovation and exchanged hugs with several Steelers - including Pickett, a college teammate of Hamlin's at Pitt - during the opening coin toss.

## Raiders 34, Rams 17

In Inglewood, Jimmy Garoppolo completed all four of his passes for 39 yards while leading a touchdown drive in his Raiders debut, and Las Vegas

went on to beat Los Angeles.

Garoppolo played only the opening series for the Raiders (2-0), who signed the longtime 49ers quarterback in March as their replacement for Derek Carr. The 10-year veteran has beaten the Rams more often than any quarterback during Sean McVay's career, and Garoppolo didn't make a significant mistake while leading a comfortable drive ending in Brandon Bolden's 7-yard TD run.

## Titans 24, Vikings 16

In Minneapolis, Malik Willis rushed for 91 yards and threw a touchdown pass while playing the entire game for Tennessee, and the Titans dominated at the line of scrimmage against Minnesota.

Rookie Tyjae Spears had a 33-yard touchdown run, Julius Chestnut rushed for 98 yards and a score and the Titans (1-1) racked up 281 yards on the ground to give resting star Derrick Henry a good show.

Willis, the 2022 third-round draft pick, has been competing with rookie Will Levis for the backup role to Ryan Tannehill. Levis was injured Thursday in a joint practice with the Vikings, giving Willis an extended opportunity.

## Jaguars 25, Lions 7

In Detroit, C.J. Beathard threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Parker Washington late in the first half and Jacksonville beat Detroit.

Beathard filled in for Trevor Lawrence as most of the starters for both teams watched the preseason game to avoid injuries.

Beathard, a backup in his sixth NFL season, was 12 of 20 for 138 yards. He threw an interception along with the touchdown pass to Washington that put Jacksonville (2-0) ahead 12-0.

## Colts 24, Bears 17

In Indianapolis, Sam Ehlinger directed two fourth-quarter touchdown drives and Jake Funk's late 4-yard TD run lifted Indianapolis past Chicago.

Neither of the two feature attractions - Bears quarterback Justin Fields or Colts rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson - played. The two coaches - Chicago's Matt Eberflus and Indianapolis' Shane Steichen - also opted against using most key players after the teams held two joint practices this week.

## Miami wins Leagues Cup

Messi continues goal-scoring form

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 20, (AP): Lionel Messi scored early in regulation and converted the first shot in penalty kicks as Inter Miami beat Nashville SC 10-9 on penalties in the Leagues Cup final on Saturday night.

Messi scored midway through the first half, his 10th goal in seven games since joining Inter Miami - all in the Leagues Cup competition - as his new team claimed its first trophy.

Messi also opened the penalties by converting his shot. The penalty kicks ended in the 11th round in a showdown between the goalkeepers. Drake Callender scored his penalty for Miami and then made the title-clinching stop on a shot by Nashville's Elliot Pannico.

Miami players hoisted Messi on their shoulders and had an extended celebration on the field long after the trophies had been handed out.

## SOCCER

Miami Coach Tata Martino credited the new group of newcomers like Messi, Sergio Busquets, and Jordi Alba, quickly gelling with the team.

"We had to incorporate a lot of new players but I'm very impressed how it came together," Martino said through a translator.

"I remember the first days (in charge)," Martino continued. "We needed to do more trainings to give shape to the team and I was thinking, how convenient it is to move on in this tournament because we can take advantage of this month to play more. But after this month, we are champions."

Martino's postgame press conference ended when Miami players burst into the room, singing and spraying champagne on the coach. But the team won't have long to celebrate. Miami faces Cincinnati in the U.S. Open Cup final on Wednesday.

Nashville coach Gary Smith tipped his hat to Messi.

"You're looking at a game with the greatest player on the planet possibly being the difference in what went on today," Smith said.

Callender was proud of the role he played in helping Inter Miami claim the tourney crown.

"It's a huge honor to play a role in our first win in a final," Callender said. "It's pretty surreal. Very emotional. This team works so hard day-in, day-out to be able to perform like this on a night like this. And to have it come down to the very end, it was amazing to see the grit, just the belief of what we're capable of. It's something special and I'm just blessed to be a part of it."

Callender said he tried to stay as calm as possible through the numerous kicks.

"I just had to stay focused, breathe through it, stay as calm as possible," he said. "I mean, this atmosphere here tonight is electric. So I embraced the moment and I just believed in the work that I put in and the repetitions I put in leading up to that moment and it just ended up going our way."

Messi opened the scoring in the 23rd minute. The ball landed at his feet after a pass from teammate Robert Taylor was blocked. Messi dribbled past Nashville defender Walker Zimmerman and unleashed a bending shot from just outside the penalty box into the top left corner of the goal. A diving Panico had no chance at play-



Inter Miami celebrates with the trophy after winning the Leagues Cup championship soccer match against Nashville SC in Nashville, Tenn. Miami won on penalty kicks. (AP)



Nashville SC midfielder Hany Mukhtar (right), kicks the ball away from Inter Miami forward Lionel Messi (10) during the second half of the Leagues Cup championship soccer match in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

ing the ball.

"It's one of those things where the bounces don't go your way and his ability to put it in the top corner is what makes him a special player," Zimmerman said. "No mistakes were made on that play. It was a good challenge and a little unfortunate bounce there."

Messi wasn't particularly influential before he scored the goal, and the crowd showered him with boos each time he touched the ball. But the stadium erupted in cheers when the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner who led Argentina to the World Cup crown last year scored.

Nashville tied the game in the 56th minute when Fafa Picault's header off

a corner kick ricocheted off Miami's Benjamin Cremaschi and into the net off goalkeeper Callender.

Messi had a shot from the area he had scored from earlier in the 71st minute, but hit the post as the teams played to a 1-1 draw in regulation.

Miami striker Leonardo Campana had a chance to win the game in the last play in regulation, but his sliding shot on an open goal hit the post. Messi held his head in his hands when the ball trickled out of play.

Messi mania had gripped Music City after Nashville SC advanced to the final against Miami with a win against Monterrey of the Mexican league on Tuesday.

## Osimhen nets double as Napoli 'come back' at Frosinone, get title defense off to winning start

MILAN, Aug. 20, (AP): Victor Osimhen scored twice to help defending champion Napoli come from behind to win at newly promoted Frosinone 3-1 on the opening day of Serie A.

Osimhen, the leading goal-scorer last season with 26, scored in each half to help Napoli get its title defense off to a good start.

Frosinone took a surprise lead in the seventh minute through an Abdou Harroui penalty before Matteo Politano leveled.

It was a positive debut for new Napoli coach Rudi Garcia, who replaced Luciano Spalletti in the offsea-

son. Spalletti left Napoli after steering the southern team to its first Serie A title in 33 years, saying he was taking a sabbatical year - then was appointed as Italy coach on Friday following Roberto Mancini's shock resignation.

Frosinone also had a new coach in Eusebio Di Francesco after he took over from Fabio Grosso, who left the team after leading it to its first ever Serie B title.

And it was the home side which surprisingly scored the first goal of the new season after new Napoli sign-

ing Jens Cajuste clattered into the back of Jaime Baez. Harroui struck the resulting penalty into the bottom right corner.

It took Napoli until the 24th minute to get back on level terms when Politano's scuffed shot bobbed out of the Frosinone goalkeeper's grasp.

Napoli thought it had the lead 10 minutes later but the video assistant referee ruled out Giacomo Raspadori's strike for an offside by Cajuste in the buildup.

Napoli went in front three minutes from halftime. Giovanni Di Lorenzo used his strength to hold off a defender and pulled the ball back for Osimhen who blasted into the roof of the net.

Frosinone came close to levelling after the break when Baez sent a free kick over the wall but it came off the left post.

Osimhen almost score a stunning goal seconds later but his effort curled just past the top of the right upright.

He sealed the result 11 minutes

from time when he struck the offside trap to run onto a Di Lorenzo through-ball and fire it into the bottom right corner.

The race already appears to be on for the top goalscorer award as Lautaro Martinez matched Osimhen with two goals in a 2-0 win by Inter Milan over Monza.

Martinez finished second last year with five goals fewer than Osimhen. The Argentina World Cup winner got his campaign off to the perfect start as he opened his account in the eighth minute, side-footing home a low cross from Denzel Dumfries.

Martinez doubled his tally in the 76th, tapping in at the far post after Marko Arnautovic rolled it across the face of goal.

Martinez was given a standing ovation by the Inter fans when he was substituted four minutes later.

Fiorentina swept aside newly promoted Genoa 4-1.

Cristiano Biraghi, Giacomo Bonaventura and Nicolas Gonzalez put the visitors 3-0 up before halftime and Rolando Mandragora added the other before Davide Biraschi netted a consolation for Genoa.

Hellas Verona, which escaped relegation following a playoff last season, won at Empoli 1-0.



Osimhen



Spain's Salma Paralluelo (left) fights for the ball against England's Alex Greenwood during the Women's World Cup soccer final between Spain and England at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

# Sports

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## Spain win historic Women's World Cup



Team Spain celebrates after winning the Women's World Cup soccer final against England at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

### England wait goes on

**SYDNEY, Aug 20, (AP): Spain won its first Women's World Cup title less than a year after a player rebellion, holding off England 1-0 on Sunday after Olga Carmona's first-half goal.**

The victory made La Roja the first team to hold the under-17, under-20 and senior world titles at the same time. Spain is the fifth winner in nine editions of the Women's World Cup and joins Germany as the only two nations to win both the men's and women's titles.

At the final whistle the Spanish players piled on each other in front of their goal. They were still dancing on the field until the trophy presentations, where they kissed the trophy and raised their arms in triumph as golden glitter fell from above.

The Lionesses were trying to bring a World Cup back to England for the first time since the men won it in 1966. The wait will go on.

In an open game featuring multiple chances for both teams, Carmona's left-foot strike in the 29th minute - finishing off a fast-breaking counterattack after Lucy Bronze lost possession - remained the only goal.

Carmona also scored the game-winner in the 89th minute of Spain's 2-1 semifinal victory over Sweden, becoming the first player since Carli Lloyd in 2015 to score in a World Cup semifinal and final.

Spain had a chance to double the lead in the 68th after a VAR review awarded a penalty for Keira Walsh's handball, but Jenni Hermoso's penalty attempt was saved by Mary Earps, who anticipated perfectly and dived to her left.

England coach Sarina Wiegman said she thought that would be the momentum shifter for her team.

Spain's victory comes despite a near-mutiny by players last year. Fifteen players said they were stepping

away from the national team for their mental health while also calling for a more professional environment.

Three of those players - Ona Batlle, Aitana Bonmati and Mariona Caldentey - reconciled with the federation and were at the World Cup.

England had momentum going into the tournament after winning the European Championship at home last summer, including a quarterfinal win over Spain. But three of the team's best players, captain Leah Williamson, Fran Kirby and Beth Mead, all had knee injuries that kept them off the World Cup squad.

Wiegman was the first coach to take her teams to back-to-back World Cup title matches. She led the Netherlands to the final in 2019, but fell 2-0 to the United States. She's now 0-2 in the championship match.

### SOCCER

England was coming off a 3-1 victory over host Australia in the semifinal. Lauren James, who was the team's top scorer with three goals and three assists, was forced to sit out two matches after being suspended for stomping on Nigeria's Michelle Alozie to open the knockout stage.

While James was available for the final, Wiegman started Ella Toone and used the Chelsea winger as a second-half substitute in a double change to spark the attack.

One of England's best chances was in the 16th when Lauren Hemp's blast caromed off the crossbar. A minute later, Salma Paralluelo raced toward goal but couldn't get a clean shot and Earps stopped Alba Redondo's attempt in the scramble in front of the net.

Coach Jorge Vilda started 19-year-old Paralluelo, who scored the breakthrough goal for Spain against Sweden, and the game-winner in extra time over the Netherlands in the quarterfinal. Those efforts helped her win the young player of the tournament award, while Earps won the Golden Glove for best goalkeeper and Bonmati won the Golden Ball for best player of World Cup.

### Bellingham inspires Real fightback

**BARCELONA, Spain, Aug 20, (AP):** For a second straight game since coming to Spain, Jude Bellingham raised his arms to soak up the love from his new Real Madrid fans after delivering goals in victories on the road.

Bellingham's double inspired a 3-1 fightback at Almeria, and took his tally to three goals in two games since joining the Spanish league.

The 20-year-old England midfielder debuted for Madrid last weekend with

### SOCCER

a goal to seal a win at Athletic Bilbao in their season opener.

He improved on that superb start for the 14-time European champion with his brace and an assist at Almeria to help overturn an early goal by the modest host.

Vinicius Junior added a third goal to seal the victory after he received the ball from Bellingham.

Bellingham, who joined Madrid on a 130-million-euro (\$142 million) move from Borussia Dortmund this summer, scored eight goals in the Bundesliga last season. He looks ready to surpass that mark.

Wearing the No. 5 of Madrid great Zinedine Zidane, Bellingham has immediately taken on a leading role on



Almeria's Luis Suarez (left) challenges for the ball with Real Madrid's Toni Kroos during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Almeria and Real Madrid at the Power Horse Stadium in Almeria, Spain. (AP)

the field in Carlo Ancelotti's side. The coach credited Bellingham's character, and the experience he has already accumulated at a young age, as key.

"His maturity, his personality and the three years he played in Germany are the reasons why he is adapting so well to our league and to our style," Ancelotti said.

## West Ham keep Chelsea winless, City edge Newcastle

**MANCHESTER, England, Aug 20, (AP):** West beat Chelsea 3-1 in London derby to keep the Blue winless in the English Premier League on Sunday.

Julian Alvarez's first-half goal handed Manchester City a hard-fought 1-0 win over Newcastle in the defending English Premier League champion's first home match since winning the treble last season.

Alvarez curled a shot into the top corner after 31 minutes of a tight match at Etihad Stadium that showed the gap between Newcastle and the league's top teams may have shrunk even more after Eddie Howe's side finished fourth last season.

Newcastle, buoyed by thrashing Aston Villa 5-1 last weekend, was looking for a first league win at City in almost 23 years.

Yet the host, despite making just two changes following its European Super Cup game in Athens in midweek, was too strong and successfully nullified the visitor.

Pep Guardiola's players were far from their fluid best, but they produced a professional performance to follow up their opening win at Burnley. In Alvarez and Phil Foden, they had the brightest players on the pitch.

City started slowly but began to step up the pressure midway through the first half and threatened for the first time when Manuel Akanji curled a long-range attempt over.

Alvarez then whipped in a low cross but failed to find Erling Haal-



West Ham's Nayef Aguerd heads the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham and Chelsea, at the London Stadium in London. (AP)

and before Mateo Kovacic and Foden both had efforts blocked.

Foden grew into the game and was a lively presence, having stepped into the playmaking void left by Kevin De Bruyne's long-term injury.

Foden was instrumental in City's goal, finding space and darting into the area before pulling back for Alvarez. The Argentine forward did the rest, picking his spot from the edge of the area and firing a shot beyond Nick Pope.

Haaland went close early in the second half, first after holding off Sven Botman to shoot at Pope and then missing another shot wide, again from a Foden pass.

Newcastle had a good spell toward the end, and Harvey Barnes was presented with a chance after a rare misplaced pass by Rodri, but he shot straight at Ederson from distance.

As Ange Postecoglou made his way to the far end of Tottenham's stadium to applaud supporters after his first home game as Spurs manager, he was greeted by a white wall of fans giving him a standing ovation.

If any of those supporters still had lingering doubts about the club's direction following a summer of upheaval, it's safe to say that beating Manchester United 2-0 in the English Premier League on

Saturday went a long way toward winning over skeptics.

Yes, the Harry Kane era is over at Tottenham. But the Postecoglou era could be worth getting excited about as well.

"The support was outstanding, right from the first whistle the crowd were outstanding," Postecoglou said. "They carried us through the first half because we were nervous. ... We're showing bits of our game today. I saw enough that encourages me."

It should encourage the fans, too. Playing the brand of attacking football that the Australian manager promised to bring to north London, Tottenham took the lead through Pape Matar Sarr in the 49th minute and netted the second with a bit of luck as United defender

### SOCCER

Lisandro Martinez deflected a low cross into his own net in the 83rd.

Sure, there were things Tottenham still need to improve. The team's attempts to implement Postecoglou's tactic of playing out from the back nearly got them in trouble in the first half, as United's press forced turnovers and dangerous counterattacks.

And Richarlison so far looks incapable of replacing Kane up front, as the Brazil striker struggled to get involved in Spurs' attacks for the second game running and was taken off in the 70th.

But James Maddison had another good showing as Tottenham's new creator-in-chief, and fellow newcomer Guglielmo Vicario pulled off a couple of good saves to deny United a way back. None better than when he tipped a header from Casemiro over the bar as the visitors searched for an equalizer.

For United manager Erik ten Hag, meanwhile, this was another game that left more question marks around his team.

United somehow beat Wolverhampton 1-0 at home in the opening round despite being largely outplayed at Old Trafford, and this time they lost despite being the better team in a first half that had good chances for both sides. Bruno Fernandes should have given United the lead before the break, but missed a wide open header in front of goal.

And Tottenham then largely dominated after the break.

"It was fair to say we looked a bit nervous at the start which wasn't surprising," Postecoglou said. "We gave the ball away a little bit too much and, to be fair, Man Utd probably had the better of the chances. ... Second half, certainly in spells, it kind of showed the team we want to be."

Brentford followed up last weekend's 2-2 home draw against Tottenham by beating Fulham 3-0 away, after the host's Tim Ream was sent off in the second half.

Defending champion Manchester City played Newcastle in the late game.

## Even with Mbappe, defending champions PSG still winless after draw with Toulouse

**PARIS, Aug 20, (AP):** Even Kylian Mbappe couldn't save Paris Saint-Germain from a tedious performance as the defending champion drew with Toulouse 1-1 in the French league on Saturday.

Mbappe started on the bench and replaced Lee Kang in the 51st minute in the hope of breaking the deadlock. The France striker gave PSG the lead with a penalty in the 62nd after Rasmus Nicolaisen fouled him.

PSG had the opportunity to add a second goal in the 77th when Vitinha was played in, but the Portuguese midfielder missed the target with his lob.

Toulouse punished PSG for that miss. Morocco winger Zakaria Aboukhalil equalized from the penalty spot in the 87th after Achraf Hakimi tripped him.

PSG enjoyed a lot of the sterile possession that characterized part of Luis Enrique's tenure as Spain coach.

Toulouse goalkeeper Guillaume Restes just had to save a powerful strike from Hakimi in the 21st and a volley from Goncalo Ramos on the stroke of halftime.

Mbappe was ostracized by PSG this summer because of a contract standoff. But the club's hard stance didn't last long. Mbappe was allowed to train with the first team just a day after PSG started its campaign by drawing with Lorient 0-0 last weekend.

New signing Ousmane Dembele made his PSG debut by replacing Fabian Ruiz in the 51st. The former Barcelona winger created that big chance for Vitinha in the 77th.

Meanwhile, Lyon has two losses and no points to start the league after falling to Montpellier 4-1.

Lyon striker Lacazette was so overwhelmed with frustration that he was sent off in the 80th for a bad foul on

Teji Savanier.

Montpellier earned its first win after drawing with Le Havre 2-2 on the opening weekend.

Winger Arnaud Nordin capitalized on a blunder from Remy Riou to open the scoring in the 20th. Riou attempted to play the ball out from the back but gave it away to Nordin, who shot past the Lyon goalkeeper.

Mousa Al-Tamari doubled the lead on a counterattack in the 39th. The Jordan winger started a run from his own half and dribbled past Duje Caleta-Car before beating Riou with a low strike.

Al-Tamari, who joined Montpellier from Belgian club Leuven this summer on a free transfer, made it 3-0 by chasing a long kick from goalkeeper Benjamin Lecomte to slip the ball under Riou in the 66th.

### SOCCER

Lacazette cut the deficit in the 69th then Nigerian striker Akor Adams, who scored twice against Le Havre, sealed the win on a fast break in the 89th.

The lack of quality in Lyon was glaring as the host struggled to create chances and was let down by poor defending.

Lyon desperately needs reinforcements to contend for European spots, but severe financial constraints imposed by the league's financial watchdog have hampered the club's recruitment efforts this summer.

Lyon lost to Strasbourg 2-1 on the opening weekend.

The Lyon-Montpellier match was put back by two hours because of a regional heatwave.