



cricket Page 15



Pages 14 & 16

soccer

KUWAIT FM IN TALKS WITH IRANIAN COUNTERPART
Iran in air drill as US sends fighters



Representative of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah heads a delegation to the international Conference on Development and Migration in the Italian capital Rome.

Kuwait joins in migration talks

ROME, July 24, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah headed on Sunday a delegation to the International Conference on Development and Migration, which was called for by the Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

The Conference, which kicked off earlier in the Italian capital Rome, was also participated by Tunisian President Kais Saied.

Participants in the conference highlighted joint international efforts to confront the illegal immigration crisis, and

Continued on Page 4

Mol issues 'warning' over fraudulent messages, calls

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: The Ministry of Interior has cautioned the public about the growing threat of deceptive phone calls and messages which falsify legitimate government entities. These fraudulent attempts aim to trick individuals into disclosing sensitive personal information or providing their bank's OTP (One-Time Password) code, reports Al-Rai daily.

It is essential, the ministry says, to exercise caution and verify the authenticity of such communications before sharing any personal information and strongly advises citizens not to fall prey to these scams and refrain from responding to any suspicious calls or messages claiming to represent an official body.

The deceptive practices employed by these fraudsters can lead to unauthorized access to bank accounts, resulting in potential financial losses and identity theft. To protect yourself and your assets, stay vigilant and follow these precautionary measures by never sharing sensitive personal information like bank account details, social security numbers, or passwords with unknown callers or senders.

The ministry also calls on everyone to be wary of unsolicited messages or calls, especially those requesting urgent actions or claiming to offer lucrative opportunities; verify the legitimacy of the caller or sender by cross-checking with official channels or contacting relevant government authorities directly and report any suspicious incidents to local law enforcement or the Ministry of the Interior to prevent further fraudulent activities.

For more information and updates on this matter, citizens and residents are asked to visit the official website of the Ministry of the Interior to stay informed, stay cautious, and protect yourself against deceptive attempts that could compromise your financial security and personal information.

No N-talks now

TEHRAN, July 24, (Agencies): Iran on Sunday began an annual air force drill in the central part of country, state media reported, as the U.S. sends more fighter planes to the region to deter the Islamic Republic from seizing commercial vessels in the Arabian Gulf area.

The official IRNA news agency said 11 Iranian air force bases participated in the drill, dubbed Fadaeian Velayat-11, or Devotees of the Supreme Leader-11. It said an air base at the southern port of Bandar Abbas at the mouth of the strategic Strait of Hormuz is active in the drill.

The Strait of Hormuz is the narrow mouth of the Arabian Gulf through which 20% of all crude oil passes.

The report said more than 90 fighter planes, bombers and drones would participate in the drill.

Air Force Chief Gen. Hamid Vahedi said the drill's message is one of friendship, peace and security in the region. "Sustainable security, improving and fostering regional ties, peaceful coexistence and defending air borders are on the agenda," he said.

From time to time Iran holds such drills and says they are designed to assess force's combat readiness and demonstrate the nation's military capabilities.

The U.S. said last week it is sending additional fighter jets and a warship to the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman to increase security in the wake of Iranian attempts to seize commercial ships there. The Pentagon said the USS Thomas Hudner, a destroyer, and a number of F-35 fighter jets will be heading to the area. The Hudner had been in the Red Sea.

The U.S. move comes after Iran earlier in July tried to seize two oil tankers, the Marshall Islands-flagged TRF Moss and the Bahamian-flagged Richmond Voyager, near the strait last week, opening fire on one of them. The U.S. Navy said in both instances the Iranian naval vessels backed off when the USS McFaul, a guided-missile destroyer, arrived on the scene.

The U.S. Navy says Iran has seized at least five commercial vessels in the last two years and has harassed more than a dozen others. Many of the confrontations have happened in and around the Strait of Hormuz.

The West accuses Iran of using seized commercial vessels as bargaining chips. Iran denies the charge saying it seized the vessels after they collided with local vessels and polluted the waterway.

Tensions have steadily risen since the administration of former U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from Iran's 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers and restored crippling sanctions. Iran has responded by ramping up its nuclear activities - which it says are purely peaceful - and also provided drones to Russia for its war against Ukraine.

In other news, Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a phone call Sunday from his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

During the call, both sides discussed the strong bilateral relations and the efforts to upgrade them in various domains.

They also touched upon the repeated and condemned acts of burning the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark and coordinating efforts within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to be held late this month, to take tangible and practical steps to ensure that these actions would not be reoccurring.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Sunday during an appearance on CNN that it was a terrible mistake for the Trump administration to pull out of the nuclear deal reached with Iran in 2015.

"There have been some developments and some changes since the time we got out of the deal and the time we were trying to get back in it. But fundamentally what we tried to do was to get back into the existing agreement with some modest modifications," Blinken said.

Continued on Page 4

Day by Day

WHEN told about what others talk about him, the wise man responded with profound insight.

He emphasized that in the grand scheme of things, we all face mortality, and in the end, we are solely responsible for our actions and choices.

Similarly, others are accountable for their own deeds. With this realization, the wise man found solace in disregarding gossip and bullying, understanding that self-confidence is paramount. To him, their words were merely acts of a barking dog, and he chose to remain undisturbed by them. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Opinion

Leadership ... We relied on ourselves during the invasion, and after the liberation, we relied on oil

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

INDIVIDUALS and their behavior are what make up the state. This means that, if one of them fails to manage itself, the problem is in the practices of those in the executive management, who have the ability to develop and rise, that urge people to laziness.

Therefore, what Kuwait has been experiencing for nearly 60 years is not democracy in the proper sense, but rather is part of it, because it was limited to freedom of opinion and expression without limits, while economic democracy was rendered in a remote place, despite being the basis of it.

The experience of the invasion, occupation and liberation was a lesson that can be learned from. Considering the benefits achieved by the Kuwaitis when they relied on themselves and were able to manage their country despite the difficulties, what we see today is the opposite.

This is especially in the last stage after the results of the recent elections, which were conducive to increase the level of controversy, especially after the difficult birth of the government, and the imbalance that afflicted it at the beginning of its tenure, either in terms of the resignation of two ministers, or the attachment of the sovereign wealth fund to the minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment instead of the minister of Finance, or the absence of realistic plans to manage development projects.

All these factors have led to an increase in the noise that does not lead to a result. Kuwaitis hear the noise, but to this day they have not seen the outcome. Even light industry has been absent from the agendas of successive governments, as well as food security.

While many observers and experts urge for allocating part of the sovereign money for enhancing investment within the state, encouraging individual initiative, and maximizing the role of the private sector, which is the backbone of any economy, it has turned into a parasite that lives on the cake of government projects that go to some companies, as a result of improvised decisions.

There is no doubt that leaving things as they are means more financial, economic and social crises. This is because a state that cares for its citizens from cradle to grave can neither continue forever nor rely on a single source of income, which is oil, whose prices keep fluctuating.

If it goes up, we would live in prosperity for a while, and if it falls, we would suffer from various crises that will not end with the prices going up once again.

Many countries around the world, especially oil producing ones, do not depend on a single income. They instead seek to diversify sources, and resort to strengthening local industries, whether light or heavy. Some of them have begun to reduce dependence on oil by about 90 percent, as is the case in Norway and the Emirates, specifically Dubai. On the other hand, dependence on oil has increased in Kuwait to more than 93 percent, which means that the deficit is so large that it is necessary to warn about its seriousness.

This is the result of the incorrect practices in the executive administration of the state, or in the wrong visions adopted by some institutions, such as the small-medium projects that represented a glimmer of hope for the Kuwaiti youth, but vanished. Some of them were taken to prison because governments did not understand the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continued on Page 4

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

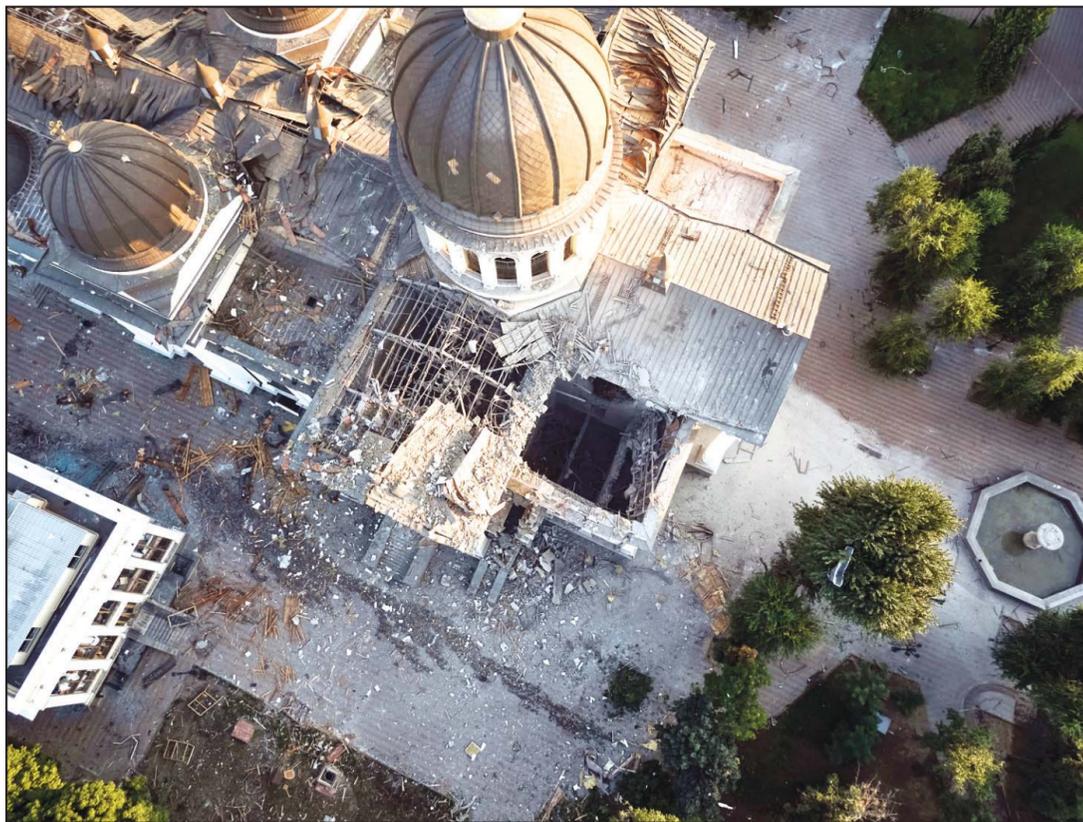
Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

KFH reports record net profit of KD 333.4mn in H1 '23

Details Page 6



The Odesa Transfiguration Cathedral is seen heavily damaged following Russian missile attacks in Odesa, Ukraine, July 23, 2023. (AP)

OIC suspends Swedish envoy

BEIRUT, July 24, (AP): The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has suspended the status of Sweden's special envoy over a string of Quran burnings in Stockholm that sparked anger and mass protests in a number of Muslim countries.

The organization comprised of 57 Muslim-majority nations said Sunday that the suspension was due to the "granting by the Swedish authorities of licenses that enabled the repeated abuse of the sanctity of the Holy Quran and Islamic symbols."

The Islamic holy book was burned or defaced during recent public demonstrations in the Swedish capital. An Iraqi man of Christian origin living in Sweden as a self-proclaimed atheist announced plans to burn the Quran in front of the Iraqi Embassy in Stockholm on Thursday.

Demonstrators in Iraq stormed the Swedish Embassy and the Iraqi government cut off diplomatic relations with Sweden. In the end, the man in Sweden kicked and stepped on the Islamic holy book but stopped short of setting it ablaze.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's decision came after the bloc's executive committee held a July 2 meeting following an earlier Quran-burning incident.

NewsWatch



A military aide carries the Presidential Emergency Satchel in his right hand as he walks up the stairs of Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, as President Barack Obama prepared to depart for Prague. (AP) - See Page 2

ROME: Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Jaber Al-Sabah discussed Sunday with the President of European Council Charles Michel facilities that would be provided to Kuwaiti citizens applying for Schengen visa after few weeks.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the International Conference on Development and Migration which kicked off in Rome earlier.

They also touched the solid historical friendship and close strategic partnership linking Kuwait with the European Union Member States and the steps taken to achieve desired progress in cooperation in various vital and important domains. (KUNA)

DOHA: Qatar announced on Sunday the appointment of Dr. Sultan Al-Mansouri as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the UAE. The Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani is-

sued the decree today, according to Qatar News Agency, citing a statement by the Amiri Diwan.

Qatar and the UAE have agreed to resume diplomatic relations last month as part of the 2021 Al-Ula agreement. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani on Sunday underlined his country's support for national dialogue in Yemen, saying such efforts will be instrumental in restoring peace and security to the war-battered nation.

Baghdad equally backs international efforts aiming to ease the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen, the Iraqi prime minister told visiting Yemeni Foreign Minister Ahmed Awad during talks in the Iraqi capital, according to a statement by his office.

Yemen's top diplomat acknowledged Baghdad's efforts towards security and peace in his country, saying the government there is "committed" to a truce aiming to cease the "devastating effects" of war. (KUNA)

ISLAMABAD: At least 31 people were killed and 74 others injured and 41 were reported missing due to heavy rains causing heavy floods and landslides across Afghanistan, said disaster management authorities on Monday.

The areas affected by the floods included Afghan capital city Kabul, the Maidan Wardak and southern Ghazni provinces, State Ministry for Natural Disaster Management, Shafiqullah Rahimi added in a statement. (KUNA)

ISTANBUL: Some 2,500 people were evacuated in the Greek island of Corfu on Monday as wildfires fueled by soaring temperatures continue to sweep large swathes of the country's forests.

Citing the mass evacuations as a "precautionary measure," Greece's fire department said thousands of people were displaced over the weekend, mainly in tourist hot-spots. (AP)



## OPINION OTHER VOICES

UN chief ticks off host of challenges

# More complex, deadly conflicts ... fear of N-war

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the world's nations last week that the post-Cold War period is over and the world is moving toward a new multipolar era already marked by the highest level of geopolitical tensions and major power competition in decades.

He warned that these divisions are undermining the cornerstone of the United Nations - having all countries work together to solve global challenges.

The U.N. chief ticked off a host of challenges - more complex and deadly conflicts, re-emerging concerns about possible nuclear war, growing inequalities within and between countries, widespread terrorism, the climate emergency, mounting distrust in public institutions, and human rights under attack globally "including a pernicious pushback against women's rights."

The secretary-general said Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine has made it even more difficult to address these challenges. And without naming Russia he clearly criticized it, saying if every country fulfilled its obligations under the U.N. Charter -- which include respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations - "the right to peace would be guaranteed."

Guterres presented his grim view of the world in a policy paper outlining his "New Agenda for Peace" to diplomats from the U.N.'s 193 member states. It is the U.N.'s attempt to address the new threats, he said.

The U.N. chief stressed the critical importance of preserving multilateralism, saying: "In our fractured, troubled world, it is incumbent upon

states to preserve our universal institution, in which they have a stake."

"The time to act is not when the divisions and fractures have engulfed us," he said. "The time to act is now."

The original Agenda for Peace was presented by then U.N. secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali in 1992 following the break-up of the Soviet Union and the end of its Cold War with the United States. It welcomed the end of "hostility and distrust" between the superpowers and outlined how the U.N. could step up its work on preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Richard Gowan, U.N. director for the International Crisis Group, said this vision "of an activist, interventionist U.N." has been its underlying policy for the past three decades. But he said Guterres' "New Agenda for Peace" stresses that "the driving force for a new multilateralism must be diplomacy."

In an analysis of the new agenda, Gowan said it focuses on what member nations need to do, and on multilateral cooperation in an increasingly fragmented and unequal world "in which Guterres believes that the U.N. must adapt to facilitating international cooperation, not aim to lead it."

One of the key areas this proposed new approach is evident in the secretary-general's views on the U.N.'s far-flung peacekeeping operations, especially following the Security Council's vote on June 30 to immediately end its more than 15,000-strong mission in Mali as demanded by the country's military junta which has brought in mercenaries from Russia's Wagner Group to help fight an Islamic insurgency.

Guterres told diplomats that while peacekeepers have saved millions of lives, "longstanding unresolved conflicts, driven by complex domestic, geopolitical and transnational factors, and a persistent mismatch between mandates and resources, have exposed its limitations." Put bluntly, he said, "peacekeeping operations cannot succeed when there is no peace to keep."

His proposed peace agenda urges nations to move toward "nimble, adaptable" peacekeeping models with exit strategies, and to support "peace enforcement action by regional and sub-regional organizations," mandated by the Security Council, paid for by U.N. member states, and backed by political efforts to promote peace.

"There is no continent in greater need of this new generation of peace enforcement missions than Africa," Guterres said.

The "New Agenda for Peace" is one of several policy papers the secretary-general is urging all countries to consider before the Summit of the Future he has called in September 2024, where the U.N. hopes a new vision for the coming years reflecting the world today that preserves multilateralism will be adopted.

After Guterres' presentation, many countries voiced initial reactions to the proposed agenda with generally strong support from the European Union and others. But Egypt said some proposals are too ambitious and Russia warned against interference in internal affairs and objected to the agenda's emphasis on human rights and called its approach to climate controversial. (AP)



In this photo obtained by the National Security Archive, President George W. Bush walks on the Delta Lodge grounds with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, and others, as an unidentified military aide carries the Presidential Emergency Satchel, during meetings of the G-8 Economic Summit in Kananaskis, Canada, on June 25, 2002. Inset: In this photo obtained by the National Security Archive from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, White House military aide Gen. Chester Clifton carries the Presidential Emergency Satchel with Kennedy and David Powers, approaching the 'cottage' at Hyannis Port, Mass., on May 10, 1963, where Kennedy met with Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson. (AP)

Contents remain inscrutable

# A football ... a freefall into armageddon

The most important - and mysterious - "football" in the world isn't really a football at all.

Officially called the "Presidential Emergency Satchel," the "nuclear football" is a bulky briefcase that contains atomic war plans and enables the president to transmit nuclear orders to the Pentagon. The heavy case is carried by a military officer who is never far behind the president, whether the commander-in-chief is boarding a helicopter or exiting meetings with world leaders.

Beyond those basic facts, however, not much is known about the satchel, which has come to symbolize the massive power of the presidency. Let's change that.

William Burr, a senior analyst at the nonprofit National Security Archive at George Washington University, published a report last week detailing his recent research into the presidential pigskin. Among the tidbits Burr unearthed: The football once contained presidential decrees that some in the U.S. government came to believe were likely illegal and unnecessary (there would be nobody left alive to implement them in the event of a nuclear holocaust).

Burr, who has spent three decades researching and writing about nuclear war planning and history, sat down with The Associated Press recently to talk about his research and the nuclear football's history.

In the beginning, there was the president's "emergency satchel" or "the black bag." During the late 1950s, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and his advisers worried about the United States' vulnerability to a nuclear surprise attack. So the president could make quick decisions on the spot, a military aide started carrying a satchel of documents that would help the president communicate with the Pentagon or other military headquarters.

The satchel also included presidential proclamations - Presidential

Emergency Action Documents, or PEADS - declaring a national emergency and expanding executive power to deal with the crisis. Initially the satchel and military aide followed the President only during travel outside of Washington, D.C. Eisenhower passed the satchel on to his successor, John F. Kennedy, and sometime in the early 1960s it also became known as the football, perhaps because of the Kennedy family's liking for touch football.

The explanation is the secrecy and the problem of nuclear risk and danger. The idea of a military aide following the president, carrying a locked bag with secret nuclear information, is a routine for the modern U.S. presidency that has intrigued journalists and historians and the public. The idea that the president needs to be able to make speedy decisions in a perilous moment conveyed the ultimate danger of nuclear weapons. That the football system has lasted since the late 1950s adds to the mystery.

My research at the National Security Archive has partly focused on command-and-control arrangements for nuclear weapons. On command and control, some good information has been declassified over the years. But there are so many aspects to the nuclear problem that I did not look into the history of the football as early as I should have. Unfortunately, but not too surprising, only a smattering of information has been declassified. Even the few relevant documents from the 1960s are heavily excised.

The football included emergency proclamations that, as the Carter administration found out, had not been updated for years. And there was concern about the legality of some of them. Also, White House officials recognized that the comprehensive devastation of nuclear war could make the proclamations irrelevant. By the early 1980s, the presidential directives had been revised, but how they were changed has not been

disclosed. Whether there were still worries about their legality is also an open question.

Apparently when Richard Nixon was vice president he was assigned a black bag. The next vice president, Lyndon Johnson, declined a black bag. When Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, top military commanders worried that the new president did not know what was in the football so they made sure that a White House military aide gave him a briefing after he arrived in Washington.

If any of the vice presidents from Hubert Humphrey to Nelson Rockefeller had a military aide carrying a football it has not been disclosed, so far as I know. But President Jimmy Carter was aware of the vulnerability problem and made sure that his vice president, Walter Mondale, had a military aide carrying the football.

You've put your finger right on the problem - everywhere and nowhere. For example, we can see the military aide carrying the bag behind Vice President Mike Pence during the Jan. 6, 2021, riots at the U.S. Capitol. But its contents remain as inscrutable as they were 50 years ago. The Archives' new posting includes photos of the military aide carrying the football, sometimes with the president in different situations. From some of the photos, you can see what looks like a little antenna projecting from the bag, suggesting that it includes communication devices. As far as the contents go, some details have been leaked and some general information has been declassified - but very little in the way of specifics. (AP)

The Associated Press receives support for nuclear security coverage from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and Outrider Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content. Del Wilber is the Washington investigations editor for the AP. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/delwilber>

editor's choice



## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 03:34 Asr ..... 15:30  
 Sunrise .. 05:04 Maghrib .. 18:45  
 Zohr ..... 11:54 Isha ..... 20:12

# Local

## Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-40 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

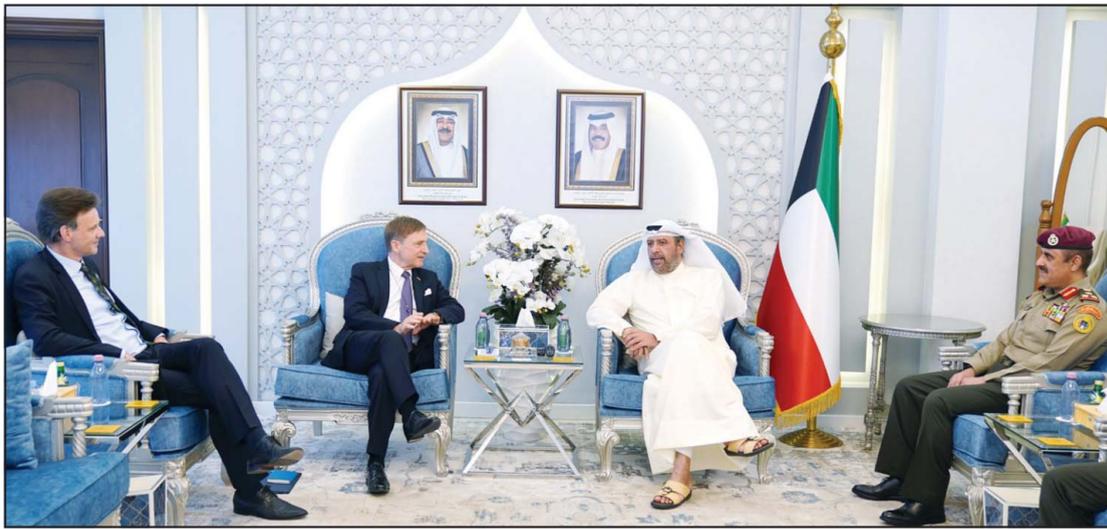
## Weather

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light to variable wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

**Station** **Max Exp** **Min Rec**  
 Kuwait City 50 37

Kuwait Airport 49 29  
 Abdaly 49 31  
 Jahra 50 33  
 Salmiyah 46 38  
 Ahmadi 46 37  
 Nuwaisib 49 31  
 Wafra 49 30

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



KUNA photo  
 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah holds talks with the German Ambassador to Kuwait Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz and Deputy Head of the German Diplomatic Mission in Kuwait Frank Neumann.

### Defense Minister meets German, French ambassadors

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah discussed Sunday with the German and French ambassadors buttressing cooperation.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Defense said Sheikh Ahmad underlined during the two separate meetings that his ministry would adhere to the direct contracting mechanism which does not accept any mediator

or broker in all its deals and transactions in line with the relevant laws and regulations and after the approval of the control bodies.

Sheikh Ahmad met first German Ambassador to Kuwait Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz and Deputy Head of the German Diplomatic Mission in Kuwait Frank Neumann.

The meeting tackled bilateral relations and ways to bolster defense co-



KUNA photo  
 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah talks to French Ambassador to Kuwait Claire Le Flecher.

operation as well as the latest developments in the region and international arenas.

Later, Sheikh Ahmad received the French Ambassador to Kuwait Claire Le Flecher and discussion between the two sides focused on strategic partnership and joint interests. They also exchanged views about the regional and international developments of common interest. (KUNA)

## Electoral commission draft law referred to parliament

KUWAIT CITY, July 24, (KUNA): Kuwait's Cabinet on Monday agreed to pass a draft law over the formation of a national electoral commission to parliament, pending its approval by lawmakers.

The draft law, scheduled to be discussed during the forthcoming session of parliament, will be in addition to other matters due to be addressed when Kuwaiti lawmakers convene for a parliament session on Tuesday.

In the backdrop of a recent summit between Gulf Arab states and Central Asian

countries held in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea city of Jeddah, the Cabinet praised the outcome of the talks as instrumental in boosting bilateral relations, hailing the gathering as a step towards bringing common aspirations to fruition.

The Cabinet also gave the thumbs up to suggestions pitched by a ministerial committee tasked with handling economic affairs over the final accounts and budgets for independent state bodies for the fiscal year 2022/2023, referring the matter to His Highness the Crown Prince, for approval.

### Other Voices

## Dreams and reality and the hand of Brother Ali

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

The government's program, which was approved by Parliament, for the next four years, indicated its dependence on Vision 2035, which is to transform Kuwait into an attractive financial and commercial center, in which the private sector leads economic activity.

It was clear from it that it aims to raise the efficiency of achievement, consolidate values, preserve social identity, achieve human development, provide an appropriate infrastructure, advanced legislation, an encouraging business environment, and to build an advanced, sustainable and prosperous economy that improves the quality of life of citizens and raises their competitiveness in a renewable global environment.

Central to this vision is the nurturing of human capital, fostering creativity, and investing in education and training to unlock the potential of citizens. Additionally, the program prioritizes the improvement of service infrastructure, social care, and government efficiency through enhanced transparency and responsibility. Fiscal stability is also targeted through prudent management of public finances, reducing dependence on oil, and prioritizing economic sectors with job creation potential.

The government's efforts extend to ensuring social security and a decent quality of life, which entails better governance structures for projects, cen-

tralized control over expenditures, and taxation frameworks for major national companies.

Key investments include infrastructure development in tourism, entertainment, and transportation sectors, including the construction of the new Kuwait airport and the railway link project with Saudi Arabia. Foreign partnerships are sought to upgrade Mubarak Port, and initiatives to construct tens of thousands of housing units are also in progress.

Despite the optimistic program outlined by the government, skepticism exists. Renowned economist Al-Siddiq Ali, an economist who has previously held prestigious government positions, expresses doubt about the successful implementation of even 5% of the proposed plan.

He cites the lack of oversight and monitoring, which could hinder tangible progress on the ground. Al-Siddiq Ali emphasizes the crucial importance of addressing the dire state of education and healthcare in the country, as neglecting these critical issues could render the entire program ineffective.

In conclusion, the Kuwaiti government's Vision 2035 holds great promise for transforming the nation into a global economic powerhouse.

**Note:** Whoever reads the government's program and its hopes and aspirations feels joy, then becomes frustrated when he learns that the same government has failed, for months, to take a decision regarding the renewal of a cleaning contract of the airport!

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



alsarraf

# 77pc overweight in Kuwait

Wrong eating habits, inactivity major cause: study

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: Director of the Health Promotion Department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwa insists that the high rate of obesity among the Kuwaiti population, especially those within the age group of 18 to 29 years, and the unusually high prevalence of physical inactivity, necessitate early intervention to reduce and prevent obesity, reports Al-Rai daily.

In an interview with KUNA on Saturday, Dr. Al-Bahwa said the statistics reveal a high rate of obesity in Kuwait, which ranks first in the Arab world in this regard. About 77 percent of the population of Kuwait are overweight, with more than 40 percent being obese.

She explained that overweight is a global problem, and its rate is expected to rise above four billion people by 2035 compared to more than 2.6 billion in 2020. This reflects an increase in the percentage of obesity from 38 percent of the world's population in 2020 to more than 50 percent by 2035.

Obesity is expected to be more severe among children and adolescents, affecting about 10 percent to 20 percent of boys in the world during the period between 2020 and 2035, and about eight to 18 percent of girls globally. Kuwait is not immune from these rates.

Obesity is a risk factor for many chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and high blood pressure. Estimates show that obesity is the fifth major risk factor for death, due to which there is a dire need for efforts to reduce its prevalence.

There are symptoms associated with obesity in children, including shortness of breath, general fatigue, increased sweating, difficulty breathing during sleep, snoring, joint pain, esophageal reflux, early puberty in girls and delayed puberty in boys.

The causes of obesity in children are wrong eating habits, physical inactivity, genetic factors, intestinal flora that affects the functioning of the intestines and the immune system, in addition to hypothyroidism and Cushing's syndrome.

### Statistics

According to statistics by Kuwait and that of the World Health Organization, one in five adults in the Gulf region suffers from obesity. It is expected that the obesity rate among adults in Kuwait will reach 52 percent by 2035.

Obesity in children causes a number of complications, including type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high levels of cholesterol in the blood, liver diseases, bone and joint pain, respiratory disorders, eating disorders, and social and psychological problems.

Treatment of obesity in children requires multidisciplinary treatment and is based on nutritional education, physical training, training with groups, treatment sessions with a psychiatrist when needed, weekly training sessions at home, and treatment for some health conditions such as diabetes and hypothyroidism.

Surgeries that target the stomach and intestines in order to lose weight are considered as a treatment option for adolescents only, but they will not replace diet and exercise. It is just an initial step that helps the teenager start a weight-loss program.

Preventing obesity in children is an important matter that falls on parents through a set of steps, including eating patterns, avoiding fast food, eating vegetables, fruits and whole grains, controlling meal portions, eating low-fat foods, and replacing soft drinks with water, natural juice and low-fat milk.

Dr. Al-Bahwa stressed the importance of physical activity, identifying a consistent sleep routine, and spending more time with the family away from television and computer games, adding that it is preferable to find alternative family activities that are fun and entertaining for children.

She highlighted the importance of the participation of the various departments of the Ministry of Health in health awareness programs, along with developing strategies and action plans for reducing obesity, and physical inactivity among the population, and integrating compulsory physical education into school curricula.

Dr. Al-Bahwa insisted on the need to encourage the establishment of public parks and recreational spaces to promote physical activities that may play a vital role in the early prevention of obesity among children in Kuwait.

She concluded by saying that the Health Promotion Department is conducting continuous campaigns to reduce the spread of obesity, with the cooperation of several departments, and through community partnership with entities outside the ministry to reduce the high rate of obesity in the next five years.



The DGCA headquarters. Inset: Dr. Amani Buqammaz

### 'Move to raise services level'

## Plan to make DGCA independent

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: The Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Buqammaz says the proposal to transform the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) into an independent authority comes in implementation of the rules of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), reports Al-Qabas daily.

In her proposed explanation to the Council of Ministers, Minister Buqammaz affirmed that this step will constitute a quantum leap in the work of air transport and legislative administration, in line with international requirements.

She explained that the existence of an independent body will contribute to raising the level of services and increasing public revenues. It will also help DGCA exercise its operational role as a supervisory authority over all operators in airport facilities.

The transformation of DGCA into an independent body is an international requirement from ICAO. The existence of an independent national law will contribute to raising the airport classification rates globally and achieving record results in the safety standards of international civil aviation systems, similar to the rest of the Gulf countries.

Several parties have been addressed, most notably the Fatwa and Legislation Department, to formulate the project legally. The proposal is expected to be discussed by the Cabinet's committees for approval soon.

Also, informed sources revealed that the proposal aims to transform DGCA from a government department to a financially and administratively independent body. This will reflect positively on raising the efficiency of Kuwait International Airport, increasing air traffic and passenger capacity, and supporting the open-skies policy.

**Delay in bonus:** The administrations of some public schools have yet to complete the annual job performance evaluation of employees in the educational and administrative units, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed this situation led to the delayed disbursement of the excellent job performance bonus for deserving employees.

Sources added the ministry is currently completing the annual job performance evaluation of employees in public schools. They hinted that the delay could be due to a problem in the networks or any other reason, affirming the Public Education Sector has instructed the school administrations to solve the problem and expedite the completion of the job performance evaluation to pave way for the payment of the bonus to eligible employees.

### Fiber to replace copper cables

## High speed internet on cards

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: The Ministry of Communications (MoC) is working to modernize the country's telephone network by replacing copper with fiber cables to develop the terrestrial communications network and benefit from the services it will provide, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily visited the maintenance department of the landline telephone network in the Keifan division and met with one of the officials Fahd Al-Mutairi, who confirmed that the ministry is working hard to implement the second phase of the optical fiber project which aims to connect 34 areas in Kuwait to provide high speed internet and communications system, according to a specific timetable and within the ministry's plan to develop the landline telephone network.

Al-Mutairi explained one of the objectives of the project is to improve the quality of telephone and Internet services and increase the speed, in addition to the possibility of adding modern services that are offered for the first time, such as high-definition digital television broadcasting and the transmission of information, audio and video to subscribers at speeds of up to 70 megabytes.

He pointed to the importance of citizens and residents cooperating with the work team during the inspection of homes and buildings and collecting information, and helping to overcome all obstacles that affect the performance of the work team's tasks, in order to avoid interruption of telephone and Internet services during the installation process.



Dr. Al-Bahwa

MUGHAL MAHAL  
 مغل محل  
 SINCE 1985  
 الأماثل الأول للمجموع

أطلب معنا مباشرة  
 ORDER WITH US DIRECTLY  
 مغل محل

www.MUGHALMAHAL.COM  
 واستمتع بعروضنا المميزة  
 AVAIL SUPER OFFER  
 USE CODE : OFF15  
 SCAN FOR ORDER

1800188

**Avoid direct exposure to sun**

Ultraviolet rays play a huge role in causing skin cancer – Dr. Al-Otaibi

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: The oncology consultant at the Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC) Dr. Maryam Al-Otaibi affirmed that the sun's ultraviolet rays plays a huge role in causing skin cancer, and that this disease ranks 17th among types of cancer globally, with a similar rate locally, reports Aljarida daily.

She said, "According to statistics issued by KCCC in 2018, 26 expatriates and 16 citizens in Kuwait suffer from skin cancer."

Dr. Al-Otaibi indicated the possibility of controlling the risk factors for this disease by avoiding direct exposure to the sun and applying sunscreen.

She explained that some resort to industrial tanning devices in salons, but its link to skin cancer has been scientifically proven at a rate of up to 67 percent. It is preferable to use creams with a degree of protection of 30 percent or more in swimming pools. The use of sunscreen must be repeated after leaving the water.

**Sunscreen**

Many people think that sunscreen or the presence of a percentage of protection in "tanning" does not allow formation of a tan but this is a misconception, as sunscreen does not affect the degree of color desired to be reached. Those who use sunscreen can get the desired color without harming the skin.

Dr. Al-Otaibi said, "Kuwait is a hot country, and we naturally avoid direct exposure to sunlight, which is beneficial. However, there are types of skin cancers, including melanoma, which affects individuals with a previous history of the disease or has a family genetic history."

There are other types of skin cancers, such as basal skin cell carcinoma, which usually affects people who have been exposed to radiation therapy of another



Dr. Maryam Al-Otaibi, oncology consultant at the Kuwait Cancer Control Center.

type of cancer, such as some women who had breast cancer and were subjected to radiotherapy, as they may be susceptible to this type.

There is another type, which is squamous cell skin cancer. It usually affects workers who stand in exposed areas for long periods of time, such as laborers. Signs of this disease often appear in the head, neck and face. It can also affect those who underwent organ transplant and took immunosuppressive drugs. Also, people with fair skin and blond or red hair are often exposed to this type of cancer.

One of the symptoms of skin cancer is the appearance of some moles, birthmarks or bumps on the skin. In this case, it is important to see a specialist dermatologist as soon as possible for diagnosis, surgical removal and appropriate treatments."

Regarding tanning and the extent of its effect on the skin, Al-Otaibi said, "There is nothing to prevent people from enjoying it, but with control. Sun exposure should be avoided from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The most suitable time to be under the sun is from 6:00 am to 9:00 am or after 3:00 pm."

# KISR acquires US patent approval for water desalination technology

Innovative system complies with standards set by WHO

**KUWAIT CITY, July 24: The United States Patent and Trademark Office has granted patent for a groundbreaking water desalination technology invented by the Water Research Center of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, reports Al-Rai daily.**

The invention is centered on an interconnected membrane desalination system that boasts both high productivity of fresh water and a significant reduction of return water compared to traditional desalination methods.

The patent has been registered under the names research team doctors – Dr. Mansoor Ahmed, Dr. Yousef Al-Wazzan, Dr. Rajisha Kumar, Dr. Garudashari Bhadrashari, and Dr. Jibu Thomas.

To validate their scientific theory, the research team designed, constructed, and operated an innovative experimental water desalination unit within the Institute's Water Research Center. This pilot unit, with a daily capacity of 35,000 liters, underwent extensive laboratory testing to assess its technical and economic feasibility for seawater desalination applications.

The results of the laboratory tests demonstrated that the innovative system achieved a fresh water production rate of 65 percent at an operating pressure of 65 atms (atmospheres). In contrast, traditional reverse osmosis systems require operating pressures exceeding 70 atmospheres to achieve only 40 percent of the total fresh water production in seawater desalination operations.

The fresh water produced by this

inventive technology complies with the qualitative standards and specifications set by the World Health Organization for drinking water.

Moreover, the research team highlighted that this innovative system has the potential to increase fresh water production by over 95 percent in groundwater desalination applications while significantly reducing the amount of backwater generated.

Additionally, when interconnected with salt separation systems, it can contribute to the development of environmentally friendly desalination processes by further reducing the volume of water returned.

This technology also holds the promise of reducing energy consumption, thereby potentially decreasing the required area for solar panels when utilized with solar energy for fresh water production from both seawater and groundwater.

**Water desalination**

The successful implementation of this patented water desalination technology is expected to address the challenges of water security in the country by providing a sustainable supply of fresh water. It will also alleviate the economic and environmental burdens associated with conventional desalination operations.

By registering the patent, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research aims to protect its intellectual property rights and commercial gains and retain control over the technology's global and local market deployment across various industrial sectors related to water desalination.

The research team expressed deep gratitude to the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research for funding and supporting the invention, and they are optimistic about the real-world application of this innovative technology to advance the desalination process system in the country.

## Federation of Fishermen urges MoF to 'reinstate' diesel quota

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: The Kuwaiti Federation of Fishermen are concerned about depletion of the gasoline and diesel quota designated for fishing licenses with just a week left before the end of the month, as fishing boats will be forced to halt their operations, prompting the federation to call on the Ministry of Finance subsidy committee to swiftly reinstate the previous quota of gasoline and diesel, reports Al-Rai daily.

This appeal comes as the shrimp season is just around the corner which kicks off on Aug 1, during which diesel consumption is expected to surge.

Highlighting the urgency of the matter, the federation has sent multiple official letters to the relevant authorities, urging them to restore the traditional gasoline and diesel allocations for each fishing season.

The potential consequences of continued reductions in fuel quotas are troubling, especially for the shrimp fishing industry, which heavily relies on diesel-powered rear traction wheels.

Should this situation persist, many fishermen might be forced to cease their fishing activities, casting a shadow over the industry's operations.

Despite the challenges posed by the shortage in labor and fuel, license holders are determined to equip their fishing boats and tackle all obstacles in order to provide local produce to the markets.

The Kuwaiti fishermen are hopeful for a prompt resolution from the subsidy committee, allowing them to resume their fishing activities unhindered and ensure a successful start to the upcoming shrimp season.

## New radio news studio starts operation

KUWAIT CITY, July 24, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Muhaissen announced today, Monday, the start of operating the new radio news studio, which is considered one of the most modern radio studios due to its advanced technologies and advanced radio broadcasting equipment.

Muhaissen said in a press statement that this step would develop the studio's work mechanism by linking it to the TV news studio's servers to facilitate the exchange of information between the radio and television news studio.

He explained that the studio has been linked to the Arab News editing hall, so that news bulletins are sent

directly to the broadcast studio via a digital network, which saves effort and time and ensures the safety of broadcasting news bulletins on time.

He stated that, under the directives of the Minister of Information and the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, the media is working on a comprehensive strategy and action plan to develop the media work system at the technical levels and develop the capabilities of the human element in the ministry, which also includes focusing on developing a number of infrastructure projects for the ministry according to the latest required specifications, including studios for television and radio news, in line with developments in the media industry.

## MoH keen to expand emergency centers

### Two first aid centers inaugurated

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: The Assistant Undersecretary for Allied Medical Services at the Ministry of Health Dr. Yaqoub Al-Tamar announced the inauguration of two first aid centers - one in the university city Shadadiya and the other in Boulevard - in September, which will increase the total number of first aid centers to 84 centers, reports Aljarida daily.

In a speech during a ceremony held to honor graduates of first aid courses and cardiopulmonary resuscitation among the employees of the Commercial Real Estate Company on Monday, Dr. Al-Tamar affirmed the keenness of the ministry to expand emergency centers in the country with the aim of reaching the ambulance site as soon as possible.

He stressed that this course comes within the context of completing the ministry's plan and program to spread health awareness about the importance of knowing the role of first aid in saving lives, adding that this batch is the first of future courses to support public education on the importance of first aid in order to achieve safety.

**Goal**

Dr. Al-Tamar affirmed the importance of specialized training courses in first aid according to correct scientific bases in order to preserve lives, adding that he is looking forward to increasing such training courses to achieve the goal of "a paramedic in every home."

He praised the important societal role played by the heroes of the Medical Emergency Department by educating citizens and residents on the importance of knowing the

basics of first aid, which some may think is not simple and easy, and can only be done by a specialist in this field, when in reality, it is necessary for everyone, irrespective of whether they are a specialist or a not.

Meanwhile, the Director of the Medical Emergency Department Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti said in a similar speech that the number of graduates among the employees of Commercial Real Estate Company reached 76, who passed four training courses - two in Arabic and two in English - within a period of three weeks.

He praised the efforts exerted by the workers in the Medical Emergency Department in serving the community, stressing the importance of knowing these skills and the keenness to spread them to achieve the slogan "Seven minutes save a life", as it is a message to the trainees on how to deal with emergency situations to save a person.

In addition, the Executive Vice President of the Administrative and Legal Affairs Group in the Commercial Real Estate Company Muhammad Ghazanfari affirmed the company's keenness to continue cooperation with the Ministry of Health to repeat such important courses, indicating that this comes within the framework of societal activity that the company's management is keen about.

He stressed the Medical Emergency Department's keenness to spread health awareness among members of society, insisting that it is just the beginning, and work is ongoing based on a long-term strategy to train all employees of the company in its various facilities.

## Iran in

**Continued from Page 1**

"An agreement was on the table. Iran either couldn't or wouldn't say yes.

"We're not about to take any deal. Of course, it has to meet our security objectives. It has to meet our interests," he added.

"We're now in a place where we're not talking about a nuclear agreement," Blinken stressed, adding that US officials are pressing their Iranian counterparts to take actions to deescalate tensions between the two countries.

"Maybe we'll have an environment where we can get back into a conversation about their nuclear program, right now, we're not in it," Blinken said.

US officials are "working across a whole series of lines of effort to push back on them, to make sure we have a strong deterrent, to make sure we have the appropriate pressure, and then to see if we get back to an opportunity where we can work on a nuclear deal," he added.

"We continue to believe strongly that diplomacy is the best way to resolve this problem," he concluded, "but that doesn't mean that the other options aren't there and, if necessary, we won't resort to them."

## Leadership ...

**Continued from Page 1**

Instead of supporting the owners of small projects, it worked to put obstacles in their path. As published, about 75 percent of the budget of this sector goes either on the transportation of officials and their phones, or on personal benefits.

In other countries that are richer than Kuwait, electricity, medical and educational sectors, and other institutions have been privatized, because they have realized that

the role of the state is not only care, but also to ensure the optimization of all sectors.

They know that if these sectors continue to be under the government, they will be a source of corruption, especially in Kuwait where a parliamentarian can disrupt the entire government just because the minister did not appoint his electoral key to a certain position, or where a minister is under the illusion that the ministry and its affiliated institutions are like a private farm with which he can do whatever he wants.

That is why we were not surprised by the report published by the prestigious Bloomberg agency recently, in which it stated that the Kuwaiti sovereign fund has become paralyzed, and the modern funds of the region are now outperforming it.

What Kuwait needs are a rational economic decision, strength in implementation, and an administration that distinguishes between what the people and representatives demand and the capabilities of the government, and what the state can be in the future in terms of strength and stability.

## Kuwait joins

**Continued from Page 1**

scrutinized various views and solutions in cooperation with the countries of the region, including addressing the root cause of this crisis, and limiting its effects on all political, economic and security aspects.

Participants also discussed the most effective ways to reduce the flow of migrants, supporting legal paths in this context, enhancing cooperation to confront human trafficking, and smuggling of migrants.

In addition to creating a sustainable social and economic development environment in the countries of origin and preventing more waves of irregular migration across the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Africa.



# July

## Room Promotion






Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 61.000/-net</b>	<b>BHD 136.198/-net</b>
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 69.000/-net</b>	<b>BHD 153.222/-net</b>

Promo period from 4<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 Terms & conditions apply\*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort

## Traffic Court puts behind bars 30 violators of rules

Police impersonator held; drugs seized

**KUWAIT CITY, July 24:** The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior stated that traffic and operations sector is exerting strenuous efforts to apprehend outlaws and violators of traffic rules and regulations and refer them to the Traffic Court, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In this regard, the Traffic Court has issued prison sentences for 30 individuals involved in reckless and negligent driving, endangering the lives of others.

Moreover, other penalties such as fines and temporary suspension of driving licenses have been imposed on offenders as per the provisions in the Penal Code. All of these measures aim to deter potential violators and maintain road safety.

The administration is committed to conducting ongoing security and traffic campaigns throughout the country to effectively control and deter traffic law violators. They urge all drivers to strictly adhere to traffic rules and laws. Furthermore, the public is encouraged to cooperate with the security personnel by promptly reporting any negative incidents or violations they witness to the emergency phone (112) or WhatsApp Traffic (99324092). This collective effort is crucial for ensuring the safety of all road users.

**Police imposter held:** The Ahmadi security forces have taken into custody a Kuwaiti for impersonating police and robbing expatriates, reports Al-Anba daily.

The arrest happened in Mahboula. The suspect has a criminal record and was found in possession of a vest, a blue flasher, and forged military identities.

During interrogation, the suspect has admitted to the charges slapped against him following which he was handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department.

In another incident, the CID men have taken into custody a Kuwaiti and two expats for consuming drugs and seized from them drugs, air rifle and drug paraphernalia.

In yet another incident, the police have arrested three citizens for possessing six sachets of chemicals, narcotic pills, four hashish cigarettes, and drug paraphernalia. The trio was initially arrested because the man behind the wheel stepped on the gas pedal after seeing a police vehicle.

All six suspects were referred to the General Administration for Drug Control.

Also, the Al-Ahmadi security patrols have arrested a citizen who is believed to be in his 30s for consuming and possessing drugs, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the man is a former criminal and was wanted by law in connection with several cases.

The man reportedly attempted to escape when he approached a checkpoint in the Mahboula area.



Al-Rai photo

Unlicensed food carts being towed away.

**'90pc without licenses'**

## Mobile food carts cause for concern, says official

**KUWAIT CITY, July 24:** The Director of the Cleaning and Road Occupancy Department in the Jahra Governorate Municipality Branch, Muhammad Al-Jaba'a, announced the removal of 30 violating mobile food trucks from the governorate's regions during July alone, in addition to the removal of 80 neglected cars, reports Al-Rai daily.

This is in addition to 80 abandoned cars from the governorate's areas. Following this, the senior administration in the municipality has devised a comprehensive plan to entirely prohibit the parking of mobile vehicles in the region, especially alongside highways, roundabouts, and residential areas, pointing out that 90 percent of these vehicles do not have licenses issued by the municipality.

This non-compliance with regulations has led to numerous complaints from residents about the locations where these carts are stationed.

The decision to ban these mobile food trucks is motivated by several reasons. Firstly, their presence has been causing problems such as obstructing the vision

of drivers and creating traffic congestion. Secondly, these trucks often become gathering spots that lead to disruptions and quarrels. Lastly, they have been found to sell damaged and unsafe food products, posing health risks to the public.

The source said that the issue of the presence of food trucks requires an immediate decision to prevent their presence in the areas of private and typical housing, and on the main roads, specifically leading to chalets, and farms, and it is necessary to reorganize and distribute the sites for these carts or ban them completely.

**Road diversion:** The Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport, in cooperation with the General Traffic Department, announced Sunday the opening of a temporary traffic diversion through the Al-Siddiq area for those coming from King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Road (Road 50) to the Fifth Ring Road towards Salmiya, reports Al-Jarida daily.

## Building violations 'hit' subsidy money

**KUWAIT CITY, July 24:** The head of the Rapid Intervention Team in the Municipality of the Capital Governorate, Zaid Al-Enezi, the Rapporteur of the committee to reduce the phenomenon of bachelor housing in private and model housing areas, confirmed that "state budgets suffer due to building violations in various regions of the country, reports Al-Rai daily.

One major concern raised by Al-Enezi is the legality and validity of issuing civil cards to bachelors in private and model housing. According to applicable law, a property should only be associated with one civil number, so the registration of multiple names and families on the same property raises serious questions. Furthermore, a significant problem arises from the fact that many bachelors in private and model housing provide false residence addresses on their civil cards, which poses a severe dilemma.

Al-Enezi strongly emphasized that the current scenario of building violations amounts to the embezzlement of public funds. These violations not only contribute to high crime rates but also lead to infrastructural damages and increased environmental pollution, exacerbating the overall situation.

Addressing these issues becomes

crucial to preserve public funds, maintain proper urban planning, and ensure the well-being of residents and the environment.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Municipality dealt a new blow to the owners of violating real estate, as the emergency team in the Jahra Governorate Municipality Branch cut off power supply in the Al-Qsar area to four properties which violated the laws, regulations, and technical requirements of the municipality, and the rest of the relevant authorities, reports Al-Anba daily.

The power supply was cut off after it became clear that these properties deviated from the purpose for which the license was issued and were rather used for commercial and turned into central markets, communication stores, sewing workshop and a laundry and residence for bachelors.

This happened after the team received direct instructions from the Director-General of the Municipality, Eng. Saud Al-Dabbous, to follow up and monitor a number of violating properties and accompanied by personnel from the ministries of Interior and Electricity and Water singled out 4 violating that were used as residences for bachelors, a central market, a laundry, and a tailoring shop.

## 'Road to reform doesn't come strewn with flowers ... we all have role to play'

"WITH this bold title, the government's action program came under the slogan "Productive Economy and Sustainable Welfare", which will be presented to the National Assembly in its seventeenth (current) legislative term. Between the discussions taking place on the ground, and those that took the digital space as their arena, the opinions and aspirations of many differed between supporters and opponents," columnist Dr. Dari Adel Al-Huwail wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"This program carries with it a lot of important projects, which were distributed over five main axes that complement each other, and in fact they are undoubtedly long-awaited projects, and these humble lines of ours will not give the subject its due right to discussion, so it is necessary to mention it.

"Within a set of targeted programs and initiatives, the program dealt with the establishment of sustainable cities, the development of infrastructure, the creation of a strong education system and a knowledge-producing society, in addition to investing in youth, sports and culture, which from our humble point of view is the best investment.

"We were also pleased with the clear interest in projects related to information technology, and the accompanying initiatives for digital transformation in various sectors, vowing to be loyal soldiers in this regard, devoting ourselves and the knowledge God has bestowed upon us to serve the nation.

"There is no doubt that our testimony is wounded, but although we did not reach the details of the draft national program for scientific research, supporting researchers and raising the efficiency of research projects, we are glad to include it in the government's work program, which indicates the interest of officials and the belief of the leaders in the country in the necessity of scientific research.

"A follower of public affairs in the country will not be pleased with its condition and its delay, albeit outwardly, in many areas, compared to many countries, especially in the light of bright minds and creative youth in various fields, and so as not to delve into politics, of which we are not knights, we believe that the defect lies in the state of instability and the accompanying change in plans, programs, and sometimes policies.

"While some criticize the repetition of the program, from our humble point of view it is a benign matter that indicates that we are moving according to a plan with clear features and directions, which does not change due to pressures. However, at the same time, the program must be flexible in some aspects of its implementation according to the data and the current situation.

"The challenge in realizing this program and implementing its projects is related to managing these projects prudently, following up on the seriousness of implementation and managing change and risks with clarity and transparency, without shying away from fair accountability that evaluates negligence.

"Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad says: "Economic and social development does not happen overnight, and people must take action to bring it about." It requires everyone to cooperate and assume their responsibilities, whether citizens or workers and officials in the public sectors, keeping in mind the public interest and sustainability.

"There is no doubt that the road to reform will not come strewn with flowers, but will come loaded with thorns and hardship, so to speak. We all have

a responsibility to advance the country and adjust its path. Each of us has a role to play, each from his position."

Also:

"As a Kuwaiti citizen and writer, with the start of the work of the Kuwaiti governments, I used to be optimistic, and that atmosphere of understandings and coordination between the government and the parliament increased our optimism that work, achievement, and the locomotive of legislation and government approvals would be greater and faster. Indeed, it seems that the government paved the way for achievement and is accused of starting political controversies," columnist Tariq Boursesli wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"The speech of the Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, was promising regarding the government's work program as a document of cooperation and partnership, which established an atmosphere of confidence and reassurance to encourage local investment and attract foreign capital.

"There are files that the government pledged to solve and address its deficiencies, including demographics, health, education and other projects in the country to create productive job opportunities for citizens and diversify sources of income, and this was stated in the speech of His Highness the Prime Minister.

"It seems that the trend towards the advancement of the Kuwaiti economy is the first step of the government and on the road to achievement, with the necessity of compatibility and cooperation with the government's desire, as the ministerial statements were characterized by the fact that the ministerial action plan takes into account ways to improve the standard of living and meet the social needs of the citizen, and that the vision of the government program is clear and identical with the Amiri speech, and that the government is keen to take into account the observations of the deputies in accordance with the constitution.

"Accordingly, the reaction of the deputies to "reject" some of the files that they considered directly affecting the life of the citizen makes us fear that the government's program will collide with the popular constants of the House of Representatives.

"In fact, I see that the government wants achievement and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad said it at the opening of the council, "Give the government a chance to work."

"Therefore, as citizens, we all want the political stability of the two authorities, and we hope that the rejection of the files will not be a stop-and-wait station, as that is tantamount to obstructing any hoped-for government achievement.

For how long will the scene be repeated and the political narrative return to its front lines, and development will be stalled and popular demands will be neglected? The political leadership has not hesitated to give opportunity after opportunity to the legislative and executive authorities to achieve a better Kuwaiti future.

"Perhaps I will send a message to the National Assembly deputies to give priority to cooperation with the government, and to prove the good intentions between the two authorities through actual achievement, by presenting legislation. I wonder about the role of the ministerial committee responsible for organizing discussion forums before the parliamentary session.

"And if the government work is permeated with shortcomings, obstruction, I believe that the life of the parliament becomes between the bet on the completion of its term, and thus there will be no legislative locomotive moving on the path of sustainable development and the sessions go to discussions of the program and the response of the Council."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

## Oil sector awaiting results of 'promotions' to fill top posts

**KUWAIT CITY, July 24:** The oil sector is awaiting the announcement of the results of promotions for the positions of deputy managing directors and CEOs at KPC and its subsidiaries, more than two months after the formation of the selection committee, reports Al-Qabas daily.

However, some say the issue is shrouded in secrecy as these results have not been approved and announced until date which some see as an unprecedented delay, and raises questions marks among workers in the oil sector about whether there is a reservation about the mechanism for new promotions and the names of some candidates.

Informed sources told the daily that there is a state of dissatisfaction and frustration among some candidates who have applied for senior positions in the oil sector, due to the new mechanism used for the promotions, as it increased the weight allocated for evaluating CEOs to fill vacant positions from 10 to 15 points and zero before the introduction of this system.

Those companies which have vacancies with the wrong weight mechanism assigned to them may turn the interview committee into a mock committee without jurisdiction or direct influence in the selection of candidates.

Moreover, the same sources praised the delay of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil, Dr. Saad Al-Barrak, in approving the results and reviewing the developed mechanism and the results issued by it, especially since he is the person politically responsible for its approval.

The oil sources explained that the widespread leaks of the names of candidates reveal a difference in the list of those selected by the interview committee compared to the nominated names of CEOs, pointing out that the final results will be in favor of the list of names of CEOs and not the committee, due to the approach of some CEOs to raise the weights of candidates close to them and give them the highest scores in return for giving the rest of the candidates a very low rating.

The sources went on to say there are indications that show that the evaluation mechanism may have been unfair, foremost of which is that some candidates get very low ratings by CEOs of companies which have vacancies and obtaining high ratings from the rest of the CEOs in other companies, and they may be chosen in other vacancies.

The sources stressed the need to keep promotions away from loyalties and favoritism, provided that they are in line with the strategic directions of the oil sector, which faces real challenges in various sectors, such as exploration, drilling, refining, manufacturing and petrochemicals.

# START YOUR JOURNEY WITH US

APPLY NOW

[www.au.edu.kw](http://www.au.edu.kw)



SCHOOL OF AVIATION

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
UAE	- DFM	+0.19	3,993.83	PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	-0.25	6,631.25
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+1.23	32,700.94	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-0.16	17,550.23
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+0.39	46,065.55				
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.35	11,801.90				

# Business

Figure an increase of 141.4% compared to the same period last year

## KFH reports record net profit of KD 333.4m in H1

**KUWAIT CITY, July 24:** Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Hamad Abdulmohsen Al Marzouq said that KFH has, by the grace of Allah, reported record net profit for its shareholders of KD 333.4 million (US 1.086 billion) for the first half of 2023, an increase of 141.4% compared to the same period last year. KFH showed its highest-ever quarterly profit in history and the biggest in the Kuwaiti banking sector.

Earnings per share for the first half of 2023 reached 22.03 fils; an increase of 73.3% compared to the same period last year.

Net financing income for H1 23 reached KD 458.5 Million; an increase of 43.2% compared to the same period last year.

Net operating income for H123 reached KD 489.1 Million; an increase of 58.6% compared to the same period last year.

Financing receivables as of the end of H123 reached KD 19.1 Billion, an increase of KD 268 million or 1.4% compared to the end of last year.

Total assets as of the end of H123 reached KD 37.02 Billion, an increase of KD 51.0 million or 0.1% compared to the end of last year.

Also, shareholders' equity as of the end of H123 reached KD 5.2 Billion.

Depositors' accounts as of the end of H123 reached KD 22.9 Billion, an increase of KD 459 million or 2.0% compared to the end of last year.

In addition, the capital adequacy ratio reached 16.45% which is above the minimum limit required by regulators. This ratio confirms the solid financial position of KFH.

The Board of Directors approved distribution of an interim cash dividend of 10% to the shareholders.

### Record profits

Al Marzouq said that the record profits KFH achieved cement its standing and positively contribute to raising the performance of the Kuwaiti banking sector.

He pointed out that the outstanding profitability ratios confirm the benefits and significance of the acquisition deal and reflect the efficient operational performance, the flexible business model of KFH and the disciplined execution of KFH's strategy. The distinct ratios also reflect the continuous momentum in all KFH's business areas and the contribution of operations at the Group level.

Al Marzouq said that KFH showed positive growth in all key financial indicators and maintained good ratios in terms of ROAA, ROAE, improving asset quality ratios as well as the coverage ratio of provisions for

**Al Marzouq:** KFH showed its highest-ever quarterly profits in history and the biggest in the Kuwaiti banking sector

- Financing receivables reached KD 19.1 billion, an increase of 1.4%
- Depositors accounts reached KD 22.9 billion, an increase of 2.0%
- The Board of Directors approved distribution of an interim cash dividend of 10% to the shareholders.
- With more than KD 11 billion market capitalization, KFH topped the largest listed companies on Boursa Kuwait
- Increasing investment in green finance and contributing effectively to building low-carbon economy
- The societal role of KFH is essential and influential

**Al Rushood:** KFH achieved remarkable growth compared to the same period last year

- KFH has solid credit ratings, high liquidity ratios and strong capital base that support business growth
- 40% growth in the customers' use of digital financial solutions provided by KFH
- KFH is proud of its young national banking talents and competencies



KFH Chairman Hamad Al Marzouq



KFH Acting Group CEO, Abdulwahab Al Rushood

non-performing debt, cost to income ratio and other financial indicators.

He added that KFH tops the Kuwaiti banks in terms of assets and market capitalization. It also ranked first among the listed companies on Boursa Kuwait in terms of market capitalization exceeding KD 11 billion. This means that KFH is the largest player in the private sector in Kuwait.

### Financial Technology

Al Marzouq said that KFH sustained excellence in developing innovative products and services as well as financial and investment solutions, and in adopting FinTech and AI tools to enhance operations, customer experience, leadership, and market share.

He noted that KFH succeeded in expanding customers base, achieving growth in operating income, which reflected positively on the H123 financial results.

### ESG adoption

Al Marzouq emphasized increasing investment in green finance, expanding ESG-linked investments, contributing effectively to building low-carbon economy for a sustainable future. He indicated that KFH won Best Islamic Bank for ESG- global category 2023 award from Euromoney and Kuwait's Best Bank for Sustainable Finance in 2023 from Global Finance. KFH received these awards in recognition of its spectacular efforts in adopting ESG principles in all its banking and business

activities, the annual growth of sustainability products and green finance, becoming the first Bank in Kuwait to receive the Global Sustainability Assessment System GSAS – Gold Level Certificate in addition to the fruitful partnership with UNDP.

### CSR Leader

Al Marzouq emphasized the pioneering role KFH maintains in CSR by supporting added-value initiatives, including health, sport, education, environment, women empowerment, supporting youth and students and people with special needs, as well as enhancing financial literacy, among others.

He indicated that the societal role KFH plays is essential and influential as it keeps executing strategic initiatives inside and outside Kuwait in collaboration with stakeholders, such as signing design and supervision contract for Al Mubarakiya reconstruction project with Gulf Consult Co. It is worth mentioning that KFH contributed around KD 8 million to this project.

### Remarkable growth

KFH Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, explained that the remarkable growth KFH achieved compared to the same period last year enhances its local and global standing, supports its financial strength and creditworthiness and its ability to assist companies and lead mega financing deals.

He noted that KFH has solid credit ratings, high liquid-

ity ratios and strong capital base that support business growth and development plans in Kuwait and countries where KFH Group operates including Bahrain, Turkiye, UK, Germany, Egypt, Malaysia, and others.

### Digital leadership

"KFH has made great strides in its digital transformation strategy where customers carried out more than 135 million e-banking transactions through KFH-online on mobile and website in H123, with a growth rate of about 40% compared to the same period last year. This noticeable growth confirms KFH's leadership in offering innovative digital financial solutions that boost customers experience and give KFH a competitive advantage". Al Rushood said.

### High competencies

Al Rushood said that KFH is proud of its young national banking talents and competencies, and the continuous efforts in training and localizing workers and attracting talents among graduates in partnership with public and private universities.

He added that the record financial results of H123 reflect the efforts exerted by KFH staff, the trust of shareholders and customers, and the efficient strategic directions of Board of Directors.

He also praised the role of the regulatory authorities and all partners and stakeholders which reinforces KFH's leadership locally and globally.

Highest in Kuwait banking sector

Praise be to Allah

## Financial Results for the First Half of 2023

333.4

141.4 %

Million

بيت التمويل الكويتي  
Kuwait Finance House

Record Profits

## Financial Results for the First Half of 2023

	30/06/2023	30/06/2022	%		30/06/2023	31/12/2022	%
<b>Net Profit for Shareholders</b> "KD Million"	333.4	138.1	141.4	<b>Total Assets</b> "KD Million"	37,021	36,969	0.1
<b>Earnings per Share</b> "Fils"	22.03	12.71	73.3	<b>Financing Receivables</b> "KD Million"	19,108	18,840	1.4
<b>Net Financing Income</b> "KD Million"	458.5	320.2	43.2	<b>Depositors' Accounts</b> "KD Million"	22,942	22,483	2.0
<b>Net Operating Income</b> "KD Million"	489.1	308.3	58.6	<b>Shareholders' Equity</b> "KD Million"	5,235	5,358	(2.3)

The Board of Directors approved distribution of an interim cash dividend of 10% to the Shareholders.

kfh.com 180 3333

@kfhgroup

### KNPC exports first shipment of 95 octane fuel

The Kuwait National Petroleum Company announced that it exported the first shipment of 95 octane motor fuel and low-sulfur to European markets.

In a statement to KUNA Monday, the Deputy CEO of Fuel Supply Operations and official spokesman for KNPC Ghanim Al-Otaibi said that the volume of the shipment that was exported from Mina Al-Ahmedi amounted to 35,000 tons, and it was loaded

on board the oil tanker Pacific Sarah. The export of this shipment was carried out in cooperation and coordination with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's international marketing sector after the company was able to meet the entire local market's need for this product, Al-Otaibi added.

The company has been able, since operating the clean fuel project in March 2022, to achieve profitable additional financial

returns from selling its products that conform to international standards approved in the European and American markets, he pointed out.

Selling products that conform to international standards enhances the company's profitability and contributes to supporting the national economy, especially with the growing global demand for environmentally friendly oil products, he stated. (KUNA)

### Iran targets e-commerce giant over photos

Iranian authorities have shut down one of the offices of the country's biggest e-commerce company and launched judicial procedures after it published pictures online showing female employees not wearing the mandatory Islamic headscarf, semi-official media reported.

The move appears to be part of a new campaign launched last week to impose the Islamic dress code nearly a year after

the morality police largely melted away in the face of widespread protests.

Digikala, informally known as "Iran's Amazon," appears to have run afoul of the rules by posting pictures of a corporate gathering in which several female employees were not wearing the hijab.

The company boasts more than 40 million active monthly users and hosts over 300,000

merchants. Iranians are largely cut off from international retailers like Amazon because of Western sanctions linked to the country's disputed nuclear program.

The website of Iran's Hamshahri daily, which is affiliated with the municipality of the capital, Tehran, reported late Sunday that one of Digikala's offices had been sealed. It said the website was operating normally. (AP)

# WS rises ahead of what's hoped to be last Fed rate hike

Asian shares mixed as investors watch for Fed rate hike

**NEW YORK, July 24, (AP):** Wall Street is ticking higher Monday to start a week full of updates on where interest rates and profits for some of the stock market's most influential companies are heading.

The S&P 500 was 0.5% higher in midday trading, coming off its eighth winning week in the last 10. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 195 points, or 0.6%, at 35,423, as of noon Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.2% higher.

Becton Dickinson jumped 6.2% for the largest gain in the S&P 500 after it said its updated Alaris infusion system will return to full commercial operations following earlier recalls. It received a clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the system, which delivers medications and other products to patients.

Chevron rallied 2.6% after it gave an early look at its results for the spring, reporting a stronger profit than analysts expected.

Roughly 30% of companies in the S&P 500 are scheduled to tell investors this week how they did from April through June. Key among them are three Big Tech behemoths that have grown so large that their stock movements often dictate where the S&P 500 goes.

Alphabet, Meta Platforms and Microsoft will all report their results this week, and they're three of the seven stocks that accounted for the majority of the S&P 500's gain in the first half of the year. Each of the three has soared at least 35% for this year so far, and they'll need to deliver strong numbers to justify their big rallies.

The market's top stocks have become so big and their movements so influential over the market that Nasdaq rebalanced its Nasdaq 100 index before trading began Monday, to lessen the impact some stocks have on the overall index.

Perhaps even more important than how profits at the Big Tech titans go is what the Federal Reserve will say Wednesday at its latest meeting on interest rates.

The wide expectation is that the Fed will raise its federal funds rate again, to its highest level since 2001, as it fights to bring inflation down. But the hope among traders is that will be the final increase of this cycle because inflation has been cooling since last summer.

High rates undercut inflation by slowing the entire economy in a blunt move, as well as by hurting prices for stocks and other investments. That caused many investors to brace for a recession, but the economy has so far remained resilient due largely to a remarkably solid job market.

A report on Monday suggested the U.S. services industry is continuing to grow, but at a slower pace than economists expected. On the upside for the economy, the preliminary report from S&P Global also suggested U.S. manufacturing isn't doing as badly as feared. Overall, growth in business activity during July appears to be at its slowest in five months.

Stocks have rallied hard this year on hopes the economy can continue to grow as inflation cools enough to get the Fed to not only stop hiking rates but to begin cutting them next year. Such a not-too-hot and not-too-cold outcome would mean the Fed pulls off a tricky "soft landing" for the economy.

"A lot would need to go right for such an outcome, in our view," strategists at BlackRock Investment Institute wrote in a report. Rate hikes take a notoriously long time to take full effect across the economy, and they can cause unanticipated parts of it to break. The BlackRock strategists also warn profits may be under pressure in the second half of the year as increased wages for workers eat into profit margins.

The big run for stocks in the S&P 500 this year also leaves them looking expensive compared with history, even outside the big seven stocks that have driven most of the gains, according to Doug Ramsey, chief investment officer of The Leuthold Group.

#### Asia

Asian shares were mixed on Monday, with Hong Kong's benchmark sinking 2.2% following reports suggesting China's leaders do not plan major stimulus measures to prop up slowing growth in the world's second-largest economy.

U.S. futures edged lower and oil prices also fell.

The Federal Reserve is widely expected to raise its federal funds rate on Wednesday to its highest level since 2001. Investors are hoping that might be the final increase of the tightening cycle because inflation has been cooling since last summer. The federal funds rate started 2022 at virtually zero.

A meeting this week of the powerful Politburo of the ruling Communist Party later this week had raised hope for more help for the slowing economy. While

reports Monday said that was unlikely, the country's economic planning agency disclosed detailed measures Monday to encourage private investment, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The National Development and Reform Commission said it would recommend that private investment be channeled into certain industries with great market potential that match national strategies and industrial policies. That includes sectors like transport, water conservancy, clean energy, new infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and modern facility agriculture, Xinhua said.

Also this week, the Bank of Japan will hold a policy meeting though it is not expected to yield major changes to the country's ultra-lax monetary stance. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index added 1.2% to 32,700.94, while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong dropped more than 400 points to 18,642.40.

The Shanghai Composite index slipped 0.1% to 3,164.16. In Seoul, the Kospi gained 0.7% to 2,628.53. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.1% to 7,306.40.

The SET in Bangkok picked up 0.1% and the Sensex in India lost 0.2%.

#### Europe

In Paris, the CAC 20 shed 0.2% to 7,418.77. Britain's FTSE 100 was flat at 7,663.68.

The future for the S&P 500 advanced nearly 0.2% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.1%. On Friday, the S&P 500 eked out a gain of less than 0.1% to cap its eighth winning week in the last 10. The Dow edged up by 2 points, and the Nasdaq fell 0.2%.

#### Oil

In other trading Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil gained 4 cents to \$77.03 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It picked up \$1.42 on Friday to \$77.07 per barrel.

Brent crude, the pricing basis for international trading, declined 1 cent to \$81.06 per barrel.

#### Currencies

The dollar fell to 141.32 Japanese yen from 141.68 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1085 from \$1.1128.



Display of the New Trudon Tuileries Collection

### Worries about setbacks to businesses raised

## Fukushima 'N-power' plant water release within weeks

IWAKI, Japan, July 24, (AP): Beach season has started across Japan, which means seafood for holiday makers and good times for business owners. But in Fukushima, that may end soon.

Within weeks, the tsunami-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is expected to start releasing treated radioactive wastewater into the sea, a highly contested plan still facing fierce protests in and outside Japan.

The residents worry that the water discharge 12 years after the nuclear disaster could deal another setback to Fukushima's image and hurt their businesses and livelihoods.

"Without a healthy ocean, I cannot make a living," said Yukinaga Suzuki, a 70-year-old innkeeper at Usuiso beach in Iwaki about 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the plant. And the government has yet to announce when the water release will begin.

It's not yet clear whether, or how, damaging the release will be. But residents say they feel "shikataganai" - meaning helpless.

Suzuki has requested officials to hold the plan at least until the swimming season ends in mid-August.

"If you ask me what I think about the water release, I'm against it. But there is nothing I can do to stop it as the government has one-sidedly crafted the plan and will release it anyway," he said. "Releasing the water just as people are swimming at sea is totally out of line, even if there is no harm."

The beach, he said, will be in the path of treated water traveling south on the Oyashio current from off the coast of Fukushima Daiichi. That's where the cold Oyashio current meets the warm, northbound Kuroshio, making it a rich fishing ground.

The government and the operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, or TEPCO, have struggled to manage the massive amount of contaminated water accumulating since the 2011 nuclear disaster, and announced plans to release it to the ocean during the summer.

They say the plan is to treat the water, dilute it with more than a hundred times the seawater and then release it into the Pacific Ocean through an undersea tunnel. Doing so, they said, is safer than national and international standards require.

Suzuki is among those who are not fully convinced by the government's awareness campaign that critics say only highlights safety. "We don't know if it's safe yet," Suzuki said. "We just can't tell until much later."

The Usuiso area used to have more

than a dozen family-run inns before the disaster. Now, Suzuki's half-century old Suzukame, which he inherited from his parents 30 years ago, is the only one still in business after surviving the tsunami. He heads a safety committee for the area and operates its only beach house.

Suzuki says his inn guests won't mention the water issue if they cancel their reservations and he would only have to guess. "I serve fresh local fish to my guests, and the beach house is for visitors to rest and chill out. The ocean is the source of my livelihood."

The March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi plant's cooling systems, causing three reactors to melt and contaminating their cooling water, which has since leaked continuously. The water is collected, filtered and stored in some 1,000 tanks, which will reach their capacity in early 2024.

The government and TEPCO say the water must be removed to make room for the plant's decommissioning, and to prevent accidental leaks from the tanks because much of the water is still contaminated and needs retreatment.

Katsumasa Okawa, who runs a seafood business in Iwaki, says those tanks containing contaminated water bother him more than the treated water release. He wants to have them removed as soon as possible, especially after seeing "immense" tanks occupying much of the plant complex during his visit few years ago.

An accidental leak would be "an ultimate strikeout ... It will cause actual damage, not reputation," Okawa says. "I think the treated water release is unavoidable." It's eerie, he adds, to have to live near the damaged plant for decades.

Fukushima's badly hit fisheries community, tourism and the economy are still recovering. The government has allocated 80 billion yen (\$573 million) to support still-feeble fisheries and seafood processing and combat potential reputation damage from the water release.

His wife evacuated to her parents' home in Yokohama, near Tokyo with their four children, but Okawa stayed in Iwaki to work on reopening the store. In July, 2011, Okawa resumed sale of fresh fish - but none from Fukushima.

Local fishing was returning to normal operation in 2021 when the government announced the water release plan.

Fukushima's local catch today is

### Deal worth 6.6 billion dollars

## Australia to buy 20 C-130 Hercules aircraft from the US

CANBERRA, Australia, July 24, (AP): Australia said Monday it will buy 20 new C-130 Hercules from the United States in a 9.8 billion Australian dollar (\$6.6 billion) deal that will increase by two-thirds the size of the Australian air force's fleet of its second-largest heavy transport aircraft.

The announcement follows the U.S. Congress' approval last year of a larger sale of 24 of the Lockheed Martin-manufactured propeller-driven aircraft.

The United States and Australia are currently conducting their biennial Talisman Sabre military exercise along the Australian coast that this year involves 13 nations and more than 30,000 personnel as global concerns intensify over an increasingly assertive China.

The first of the new four-engine Hercules is expected to be delivered in 2027 and the new aircraft will eventually replace the fleet of 12 Hercules currently operated by the Royal Australian Air Force from RAAF Base Richmond near Sydney, Defense Industry Minister Pat Conroy said.

The purchase "will almost double the fleet and represents a massive uplift in capability, in mobility and transport for the Royal Australian Air Force," Conroy told reporters.

"Almost doubling the fleet gives us more capacity to deploy them on multiple operations at the same time, and that's the critical driver," Conroy added.

The Australian air force also operates eight of the larger Boeing C-17A Globemaster heavy transport jet aircraft.

The deal was confirmed ahead of U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken meeting with their Australian counterparts for annual talks late this week in the Australian city of Brisbane.

It is Blinken's third trip to Asia in less than two months, highlighting U.S. efforts to counter growing Chinese influence in the region.

A closer bilateral military relationship with Australia was underscored Saturday when the USS Canberra was commissioned in Sydney. The Independence-variant littoral combat ship, built by Australian manufacturer Austal, became the first U.S. warship to be commissioned in a foreign port.

The original Canberra was a U.S. cruiser launched in 1943 and named after the Australian cruiser HMAS Canberra, which was torpedoed by the Japanese in 1942 with a loss of 193 lives while supporting U.S. Marines landings in the Solomon Islands. The Australian warship was named for Australia's capital.

The Solomons are again a security concern for the United States and its allies over recent security agreements that the South Pacific nation signed with China.

Conroy, who is also Australia's minister for international development and the Pacific, flew to the Solomons later Monday to mark the 20th anniversary of the arrival in the capital, Honiara, of an Australian-led force of Pacific Islands troops and police.

The Regional Assurance Mission to Solomon Islands was invited by the Solomons government to end years of civil unrest. The force left in 2017, but Australian police and military personnel returned in late 2021 at Solomons Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare's request to quell anti-government and anti-China rioting. Australian peacekeepers remain in Honiara.



(Right to left): Rajat Sawaria – Director, Action Trading Co, Aurélien Lefèvre – Commercial Director Trudon, Sheikh Abdullah Alsbah – Business Development Manager, Mina Gamil – Business Manager

## Trudon celebrates 380th anniversary by launching the Tuileries collection

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: In collaboration with Action General Trading Company as its exclusive distributor, Trudon launches the Tuileries collection - a new scent available in four candle sizes, a diffuser and a new Perfume Le Noir Mortel, at Trudon's new high-end premium boutique located at The Avenues mall in Kuwait.

Celebrating 380 years of French art of living, Trudon has stood the test of time with elegance: steeped in History, the Royal Manufacture has perpetuated a secular knowhow and made a name for itself in the art of perfume.

For its 380th anniversary, Trudon dives back into history and launches a new collection named Tuileries which

hints back at the French heritage and the countless stories it holds. The Tuileries collection finds its inspiration in a rare document kept at the French National Archives: The Gazette des Atours de la Reine.

Trudon's Commercial Director EMEA Aurélien Lefèvre expressed his pride in celebrating the anniversary of Trudon and shared a brief of the candles' unique history. "We are a French brand, created in 1643, that is about 380 years ago, which is quite unique for the candles industry. We have been there for many centuries providing high quality candles to kings and queens of France. On this occasion we have launched this specific candle — The Tuileries — a pink candle that is

attributed to Queen of France Marie Antoinette, who loved pink roses. The specific scent and colour of this candle is related to this flower for this anniversary," he said.

Lefèvre also expressed his satisfaction with partnering with Action Group Holding Company. "We have a magnificent partnership with the Action Group Company. We have recently opened a boutique at The Avenues mall in Kuwait, which is one of the most beautiful boutiques in the world that has all the Trudon styles. You can find all the products as well as exclusive products at the boutique," he said.

## AUB receives Best Remittance Services Award

By MEED International magazine

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: Ahli United Bank (AUB) has received the "Best Remittance Services" award by the renowned Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) International magazine at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards 2023.

This accolade is attributed to the bank's collaboration with SWIFT GPI, AFAQ, and KNPS in managing payment operations and fund transfers.

These partnerships have provided the bank with state-of-the-art technologies and security features, giving it a significant competitive edge in the region. Additionally, the bank stands out for its fast, secure, and convenient online platform for money transfer, offering competitive exchange rates.

The bank won this award after an independent judging panel from MEED Magazine assessed all the award nomi-



Best remittance service.

nees, comparing and scoring them based on various aspects of excellence. The points awarded to each nominee were then aggregated and compared to determine the winning bank.

Commenting on winning this distinguished award, Mrs. Jehad Al-Humaidhi, Chief Executive Officer and Board Member of Ahli United Bank expressed her delight with this prestigious accolade. "This award is a recognition of the bank's success in delivering exceptional payment and Remittance services, solidifying the bank's capability to cater to all financial

needs of its customers and facilitating seamless financial transactions around the clock.

This award also affirms the bank's unwavering commitment to a clear vision that emphasizes the importance of continuous advancement and investment in services, products, and customer care.

It further highlights the bank's dedication to enabling customers to transfer funds effortlessly through a system that prioritizes speed, convenience, security and reliability," Al-Humaidhi said.

**China urges Japan not to disrupt chip industry**

China's government appealed to Japan on Monday not to disrupt the semiconductor industry after curbs on exports of Japanese chip-making technology took effect, adding to technology restrictions Washington and its allies have imposed on China on security grounds.

The Japanese restrictions that took effect Sunday limit Chinese access to tools for etching microscopically small

circuits on advanced chips for smartphones, artificial intelligence and other applications. The Netherlands also joined the United States in limiting access to chipmaking tools that Washington says could be used to develop weapons.

"We are deeply dissatisfied and regret the act," said a foreign ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning. She urged Japan to "prevent relevant measures

from interfering with the normal semiconductor industry cooperation between the two countries."

The ruling Communist Party has invested billions of dollars in building Chinese chip foundries but needs Western and Japanese technology to produce the most advanced chips. That threatens to delay Beijing's efforts to develop tech industries. (AP)

**Alibaba says it will not sell shares**

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba says it does not plan to sell any shares in its one-third shareholding in financial technology company Ant Group because it wants to retain its stake in an "important strategic partner."

Alibaba Group Holdings said in a filing Sunday that it will not participate in Ant's share buy-back program. It allows shareholders to sell back up to 7.6% of their holdings at an unspecified

price that values the company at 567.1 billion yuan (\$78.8 billion).

Ant, which operates one of China's leading mobile payments services Alipay, has seen its valuation fall nearly 70% from about \$280 billion (\$38.9 billion) at the time it was planning an IPO in 2020. That was derailed by regulators who conducted an investigation into the firm and then fined it nearly \$100 billion for violating laws and regulations

in the payments sector.

Given the plunge in Ant's valuation, investors who sell their shares to Ant will likely get far less than they would have gotten in 2020.

"Given that Ant Group continues to be an important strategic partner to Alibaba Group's various businesses, Alibaba Group has decided that it will not sell any shares to Ant Group under the proposed share repurchase. (AP)

**The Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies graduates Gulf Bank's employees from the Kuwait Graduates Development Program**

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: As part of its continuous efforts to develop human talents, Gulf Bank announced the graduation of a number of its employees from the Kuwait Graduates Development Program (KGDP) - organized by the Institute of Banking Studies in cooperation with the Central Bank of Kuwait - of which began back in March 2022 and ended in May 2023.

The KGDP program is a bridge between the academic stage and the job market, of which combines both theoretical and practical training, including working in highly professional institutes. This is meant to enrich the participants' experience and prepare them to work efficiently.



Al Hajjaj

Over the course of a year, participants in the program acquired plenty of knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary when working in the banking sector; in addition to providing them with the opportunity to discover the banking sector and acquire academic and professional skills.

participants were able to test their capabilities, develop their skills, and discover local and international banks - by experiencing and building their skills through a rotation program at Gulf Bank and through an international field training to Oman, in collaboration with the National Bank of Oman.

Gulf Bank's General Manager of Human Resources, Ms. Salma Al-Hajjaj, said: "We continuously strive to engage, empower and develop employees, as we consider them to be a key pillar to achieve excellence in both customer service and society as a whole."

Al-Hajjaj indicated that the bank is keen to cooperate and partner with international and local institutions to provide quality training programs that contribute to the development of the bank's human talents - believing in the importance of training and development to help increase the efficiency and skills of employees.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is



Group photo of participants in the program.

able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless bank-

ing experience. Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, so-

cial and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and ex-

ternally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.

**Kenvue announces it intends to file Form S-4 Registration Statement with the SEC**

**Johnson & Johnson makes Exchange Offer**

**SKILLMAN, N.J., July 24, (Business Wire): Kenvue Inc. (NYSE: KVUE) ("Kenvue") announced that it intends to file a Form S-4 Registration Statement today with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") in connection with Johnson & Johnson's (NYSE: JNJ) proposed offer to exchange up to 1,533,830,450 shares of Kenvue common stock that it owns, representing 80.1% of the total outstanding shares of Kenvue common stock, for outstanding shares of Johnson & Johnson common stock.**

In the exchange offer, Johnson & Johnson shareholders will have the opportunity to exchange all, some, or none of their shares of Johnson & Johnson common stock for shares of Kenvue common stock, subject to the terms of the offer.

Johnson & Johnson currently owns approximately 89.6% of the total outstanding shares of Kenvue common stock. If the exchange offer (including all related transactions) is effectuated, Johnson & Johnson will no longer be the controlling shareholder of Kenvue, and Kenvue will operate as a separate and fully independent company.

"This filing marks an important milestone in Kenvue's journey towards becoming a fully independent company," says Thibaut Mongon, Kenvue Chief Executive Officer and Director. "As the world's largest pure-play consumer health company by revenue, we have a clear vision, an agile operating model, strong fundamentals, and an inspiring purpose: to help people realize the extraordinary power of everyday care."

This announcement is for informational purposes only and is neither an offer to sell nor an offer to buy any securities, or a recommendation as to whether investors should participate in the exchange offer. The offer is made solely by the prospectus referenced below.

Kenvue is the world's largest pure-play consumer health company by revenue. Built on more than a century of heritage, our iconic brands, including Aveeno®, BAND-AID® Brand Adhesive Bandages, Johnson's®, Listerine®, Neutrogena®, and Tylenol®, are science-backed and recommended by healthcare professionals around the world. At Kenvue, we believe in the extraordinary power of everyday care and our teams work every day to put that power in consumers' hands and earn a place in their hearts and homes.



People sitting in a circle during group therapy for social anxiety.

**FSHN launches Intensive Outpatient Program**

To meet high demand, on May 28, 2023, Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN) launched Kuwait's first ever Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). This 60-hour program provided an intermediate level of care for people who could benefit from more than weekly outpatient therapy, yet did not need the intensity of a residential treatment program or hospitalization. The group met for 3 hours a day, 5 days a week, for 4 weeks.

The curriculum offered Dialectical Behavior Therapy along with a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to wellbeing that included psychoeducation, nutrition counseling,

and mindful movement sessions. Interventions specifically focused on emotion regulation, effective communication styles, distress tolerance, attachment styles, self-care, anger management, and more.

The program, conducted in a small group setting, also included case management, individual therapy, family support, and referrals for psychiatric treatment as appropriate. Participants were offered a thorough intake assessment, individual, group, and family counseling, specific skills to assist them in making healthy lifestyle changes while working to recognize and

avoid triggers, coping strategies and follow-up care.

FSHN is a non-profit organization, established in 2006, that has a multidisciplinary team dedicated to providing high level personalized care to support long-term recovery. Along with assisting individuals, we also involve family through the process to help them learn how to communicate and become trusting supporters in recovery.

We invite you to learn more about our unique programming and the other work we do to support individuals, groups, and families work towards better health.

Johnson and Kenvue that are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and assumptions regarding Johnson & Johnson's and Kenvue's respective businesses, the economy and other future conditions. In addition, the forward-looking statements contained in this communication may include statements about the expected effects on Johnson & Johnson and Kenvue of the exchange offer, the anticipated timing and benefits of the exchange offer, Johnson & Johnson's and Kenvue's anticipated financial results, and all other statements in this communication that are not historical facts.

Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, by their nature, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict

and are detailed more fully in Johnson & Johnson's and Kenvue's respective periodic reports filed from time to time with the SEC, the Registration Statement referred to below, including the Prospectus forming a part thereof, the Schedule TO and other exchange offer documents filed by Johnson & Johnson or Kenvue, as applicable, with the SEC. Such uncertainties, risks and changes in circumstances could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements included herein are made as of the date hereof, and neither Johnson & Johnson nor Kenvue undertakes any obligation to update publicly such statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances, except to the extent required by applicable securities laws. Investors should not put undue reliance on forward-looking state-

ments

This communication is for informational purposes only and is not an offer to sell or exchange, a solicitation of an offer to buy or exchange any securities and a recommendation as to whether investors should participate in the exchange offer. If the exchange offer is commenced, Kenvue will file with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4 (the "Registration Statement") that will include a Prospectus. There can be no assurances that Johnson & Johnson will commence the exchange offer on the terms described in this document or at all. The exchange offer will be made solely by the Prospectus. The Prospectus will contain important information about the exchange offer, Johnson & Johnson, Kenvue and related matters, and Johnson & Johnson will deliver the Prospectus to holders of Johnson & Johnson common stock.

**Ship moored off Yemen**

**Salvage team is set to begin 'siphoning' oil out of tanker**

CAIRO, July 24, (AP) - An international team is set to begin siphoning oil out of the hull of a decrepit tanker moored off the coast of war-torn Yemen this week, a U.N. official said Sunday. It will mark the first concrete step in an operation years in the making aimed at preventing a massive oil spill in the Red Sea.

More than 1.1 million barrels of oil stored in the tanker, known as SOF Safer, will be transferred to another vessel the United Nations purchased as a replacement to the rusting storage tanker, said Achim Steiner, administrator of the U.N. development program.

"We have reached a critical stage in this salvage operation," Steiner told The Associated Press hours after the salvage team on Saturday managed to moor the replacement vessel alongside the Safer tanker in the Red Sea. "This marks, in a sense, the completion of the month-long preparatory phase."

The rusting tanker is a Japanese-made vessel built in the 1970s and sold to the Yemeni government in the 1980s to store up to 3 million barrels of export oil pumped from fields in Marib, a province in eastern Yemen. The ship is 360 meters (1,181 feet) long with 34 storage tanks.

The tanker is moored 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) from Yemen's western Red Sea ports of Hodeida and Ras Issa, a strategic area controlled by the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels who are at war with the internationally recognized

government.

The war in Yemen began in 2014 when the Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north, forcing the government to flee to the south, then to Saudi Arabia. The following year, a Saudi-led coalition entered the war to fight the Houthis and try to restore the internationally recognized government to power.

The vessel has not been maintained for eight years, and its structural integrity is compromised, making it at risk of breaking up or exploding. Seawater had entered the engine compartment of the tanker, causing damage to the pipes and increasing the risk of sinking, according to internal documents obtained by the AP in June 2020.

For years, the U.N. and other governments as well as environmental groups have warned that a major oil spill - or explosion - could disrupt global commercial shipping through the vital Bab el-Mandeb and Suez Canal routes, causing untold damage to the global economy. The tanker carries four times as much as the oil that spilled in the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster off Alaska, one of the world's worst ecological catastrophes, according to the U.N.

The U.N. has for years campaigned to raise funds for the salvage operation which cost \$143 million, including purchasing a new storage vessel to replace the rusting tanker, Steiner of the UNDP said.

**Mohammad Redha Redha is winner of Alfouz Weekly Draw Prize of KD 10,000**

KUWAIT CITY, July 24: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Mohammad Redha Redha as the KD 10,000 Alfouz weekly winner on Monday, 24 July 2023, whereby the draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

The account also retains its hallmark mega annual draw of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for ten years. Further-

more, the Bank now offers customers an increased opportunity to win for every KD 10 as opposed to KD 100 previously.

ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account and/or increase their balances to have more chances in winning in the upcoming weekly draw, which will take place on Monday, 31 July 2023. The higher the deposits are, the higher the chances to win.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk\_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.



Alfouz weekly draw prize winner.

## DEAC, DLC attract 30m euros for data centers

Latvia's DEAC and Lithuania's Data Logistics Center (DLC) have been granted EUR 30 million 10-year loan by SEB Bank to further expand Baltic telecommunication infrastructure, focusing on data centers and fibre-optic networks.

"The investment from SEB Bank will mainly finance the construction of the new third DEAC data center in Riga, Latvia, which will be one of the

most sustainable in the region. It will also go towards the expansion of the DLC data centers in Vilnius, Lithuania and fibre-optic networks," says DEAC and DLC CEO Andris Gailitis. Both companies are carrier-neutral data centers operators of cloud computing and IT infrastructure solutions, part of Baltic Rezo, a company owned by Quaeo European Infrastructure Fund II (QEIF II),

which invests in infrastructure projects across Europe and is managed by the asset management company Quaeo Capital.

"We remain firmly committed to the Baltics, building top quality, efficient and environmentally neutral critical infrastructure. We're pleased we've developed this long-term relationship with SEB Bank," says Quaeo Capital Managing Partner Sébastien Bourget. (AP)

## world's largest supercomputer unveiled

Cerebras Systems, the pioneer in accelerating generative AI, and G42, the UAE-based technology holding group, has announced Condor Galaxy, a network of nine interconnected supercomputers, offering a new approach to AI compute that promises to significantly reduce AI model training time. The first AI supercomputer on this network, Condor Galaxy 1 (CG-1), has 4 exaFLOPs and 54 million cores. Cerebras and G42

are planning to deploy two more such supercomputers, CG-2 and CG-3, in the US in early 2024. With a planned capacity of 36 exaFLOPs in total, this unprecedented supercomputing network will revolutionize the advancement of AI globally.

Cerebras Systems is a team of pioneering computer architects, computer scientists, deep learning researchers, and engineers of all types. We have come together

to build a new class of computer system, designed for the singular purpose of accelerating generative AI work. Our flagship product, the CS-2 system, powered by the world's largest and fastest AI processor, makes training large models simple and easy, by avoiding the complexity of distributed computing. Cerebras solutions are available in the cloud, through the Cerebras AI Model Studio or on premises. (AP)

## NerdWallet

### 'It's a tried and true method'

# Some guideposts for budgeting with cash-stuffing method

By Kimberly Palmer  
NerdWallet

When Giovanna "Gigi" Gonzalez wanted to cut back on her food spending, the finance expert and money coach applied what is known as the "cash-stuffing" method of budgeting. She put the cash she allotted to food for the week into an envelope and limited her spending to that amount.

"I could see when I had just 20 bucks left for the week, so it was really helpful," she says.

Popularized through TikTok videos, cash stuffing has brought back the old-fashioned envelope system of budgeting: You divide up your cash into different envelopes, each dedicated to a category of spending or saving. "It's a tried and true method," says Gonzalez, who also founded The First Gen Mentor, a money course where she promotes financial literacy.

If you're considering joining the cash-stuffing movement yourself, here are some guideposts:

#### Set aside planning time

Cash stuffing requires an upfront time commitment because you need to plan your spending, withdraw your cash and then "stuff" it into labeled envelopes. That process could easily take an hour or two to get prepared for the week ahead.

"It's an additional time commitment," Gonzalez acknowledges, but the upside is that "you immediately feel more in control of your money."

#### Keep your cash safe

With so much cash on hand, it's important to secure it, says Bruce McClary, senior vice president of membership and communications at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. "There are all kinds of risks involved if you're stuffing cash in places where you might forget it or heaven forbid

something happens and the cash burns," he says.

Tim Melia, a certified financial planner and founder at Embolden Financial Planning in Seattle, suggests keeping the cash envelopes in a fireproof safe that locks. He adds that while news about bank collapses likely contributed to the appeal of cash, an FDIC-insured bank account is still the safest place to store money. (The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. insures up to \$250,000 per depositor, per bank and per ownership category.)

#### Hybrid approach

Gonzalez likes the idea of cash stuffing for everyday expenses but then moving larger amounts for savings or something like a house down payment into a bank account. "I don't want that money sitting in an envelope," she says. Also, cash doesn't earn interest, but if you move the money into a high-yield bank account, it can grow.

Melia says cash stuffing is a great way to get started with budgeting and see where your money is going for a month or so. "Then, transition to a spreadsheet and bank account," he recommends, noting that the discipline of the cash-stuffing method can stick with you.

McClary points out that many banks allow you to create digital envelopes for different categories in the form of separate bank accounts. For example, you might have labeled accounts for travel savings, down payment funds and everyday expenses, as well as a "fun money" account.

"The money is still deposited with a financial institution and insured through the FDIC, but you are able to accomplish this kind of envelope approach and segment it into different spending categories," McClary says.

Severine Bryan, a personal finance educator and accredited financial coun-

selor candidate, uses an approach she calls "faux cash stuffing" because she doesn't carry the bills around. Instead, she assigns set dollar amounts to different categories like food and transportation, makes sure not to exceed those dollar amounts, and uses her credit card to earn cash back while she spends.

"I'm not using cash, but it's the same idea," she says.

#### Decide whether it's good fit

For some fans of the cash-stuffing method, the appeal comes down to the fact that you're touching real cash. "It feels more real and you're more aware of your spending, whereas if you're swiping a credit or debit card, or buying something on Amazon, it doesn't feel real. It's just the click of a button," Gonzalez says.

McClary notes that others are drawn to the simplicity of the method. "It's not overly complicated and you are less likely to end up in debt because it keeps you spending within your means."

Bryan says that cash stuffing likely works best for people who are more visual. "If you don't want the friction of writing numbers down, this method becomes more fun with colorful envelopes. It doesn't even feel like budgeting," she says.

#### Skip accessories

Even if you like the cash-stuffing method, you don't need to purchase the accessories marketed by TikTok influencers, which include cute wallets and designer envelopes. Those extra expenditures could make for a rough start to budgeting, Melia warns.

All you need is a stack of envelopes and a pen to label them — and possibly a fireproof safe to keep all that cash secure. (AP)

## 'Insurance, loans expensive'

# Don't let your credit scores retire quickly

By Liz Weston  
NerdWallet

Getting rid of debt before retirement is often a good idea. Getting rid of your credit scores? Not so much.

People who stop using credit also stop generating enough data to produce credit scores, the three-digit numbers used to gauge credit-worthiness. Not having scores can make it harder and more expensive to get loans. Even if you're sure you'll never borrow again, lacking credit scores also can make insurance, cellphone plans and security deposits more expensive.

Fortunately, you don't have to be in debt to have good credit scores. You do have to use credit, however.

#### Credit card retired

Older people are more likely to have mortgages, car loans, credit card balances and other debt in retirement compared with a generation ago, according to Federal Reserve statistics. Seventy percent of households headed by someone age 65 to 74 had debt in 2019, the latest year available from the Fed's Survey of Consumer Finances. That compares with 51.4% in 1998. Among households headed by someone 75 and older, 51.4% had debt in 2019 compared with 24.6% in 1998.

But that still leaves a large population of older people who don't have debt and may not be actively using credit. Leading credit scoring firm FICO has found 7.4 million people are "credit retired," with good credit histories but no active accounts, says Ethan Dornhelm, FICO's vice president for scores and predictive analytics. Some were younger people who may have switched to a cash-only lifestyle, but most were older: The median age of the credit retired was 73, Dornhelm says.

And credit scores can get "retired" relatively quickly. The FICO scoring formula used in most lending decisions needs at least one account on someone's credit report to have been updated in the previous six months, Dornhelm says.

Rival scoring company VantageScore looks back at least 24 months for updated accounts, says Jeff Richardson, senior vice president of marketing and communications at VantageScore Solutions.

Among the credit retired, the median length of time since an account was updated was over four years, Dornhelm says.

#### Retired credit

Having a paid-off mortgage and no other debt can be helpful when you're retired on a fixed income. You won't have to draw down your savings or use your limited income to make debt payments. But maintaining good credit can be helpful if you need to borrow to pay an unexpected expense, fi-

nance a late-in-life move or deal with a cash flow crunch, among other situations.

Life is unpredictable, and few can be certain that they will never need credit again, says Bruce McClary, senior vice president of communications at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

"A good credit score can provide peace of mind, financial security and flexibility, even if you don't predict the need for a new loan or credit card account during retirement," McClary says.

Even if your borrowing days are truly behind you, nonexistent credit scores could cost you in other ways:

■ In most states, insurers use credit information to set premiums for auto and home insurance.

■ Getting a cellphone plan can be tough with poor or nonexistent credit, and cellphone providers often reserve their best deals for people with good credit scores.

■ Utility companies may demand larger security deposits for people without scores.

■ Senior housing - including assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities and even some nursing homes - may require applicants to pass a credit check.

#### Credit card solution

Fortunately, you don't have to go back into debt to maintain good credit scores. Using a credit card or two, and paying off the balances in full every month, should suffice. Card issuers report payments to the three major credit bureaus - Equifax, Experian and TransUnion - each month, keeping your accounts updated so your reports can continue to generate credit scores.

Try not to charge too much on a card, however, even if you pay in full. Using too much of your available credit can hurt your scores. The fewer active accounts you have, the more damage you could do.

If you've already let your credit scores retire, it's not too late to get them working for you again. Being added as an authorized user to someone else's credit card can be enough to revive your scores. Another option is a secured credit card, which requires a cash security deposit that's usually equal to the credit limit you get. Finally, some credit unions and online lenders offer credit-builder loans. These loans put the amount you borrow into a savings account that you can tap after you make all the monthly payments.

Good credit scores are worth the effort regardless of your age.

"If you continue to have credit activity and a good credit score, you're in the driver's seat," Richardson says. (AP)

NEW YORK, July 24: (AP) Google says it is in the early stages of developing artificial intelligence tools to help journalists write stories and headlines, and has discussed its ideas with leaders in the news industry.

The rapidly-evolving technology is already raising concerns about whether it can be trusted to provide accurate reports, and whether it would eventually lead to human journalists losing their jobs in an industry that is already suffering financially.

Leaders at The New York Times, The Washington Post and News Corp., owners of The Wall Street Journal, have been briefed on what Google is working on, the Times reported Thursday.

Google, in a prepared statement, said artificial intelligence-enhanced tools could help give journalists options for headlines or different writing styles when they are working on a story - characterizing it as a way to enhance work and productivity.

"These tools are not intended to, and cannot, replace the essential role journalists have in reporting, creating and fact-checking their articles," Google said.

#### Technology

The Associated Press, which would not comment Thursday on what it knows about Google's technology, has been using a simpler form of artificial intelligence in some of its work for about a decade. For example, it uses automation to help create stories on routine sports results and corporate earnings.

A debate over how to apply the latest AI writing tools overlaps with concerns from news organizations and other professions about whether technology companies are fairly compensating them to use their published works to improve AI systems known as large language models.

To build AI systems that can produce human-like works of writing, tech companies have had to ingest large troves of written works, such as news articles and digitized books. Not all companies disclose the sources of that data, some of which is pulled off the internet.

Last week, AP and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI announced a deal for the artificial intelligence company to license



The Google logo is displayed at their offices, Nov. 1, 2018, in London. Google says July 20, it is in the early stages of developing artificial intelligence tools to help journalists write stories and headlines, and has discussed its ideas with leaders in the news industry. (AP)

## AI tools effective at mimicking different writing style

# Google developing tools to help journos create headlines, stories

## Employers adapting

# 'Alternative credentials can land you job, but validating them a challenge'

ARLINGTON, Va., July 24, (AP): As college degrees become more expensive and post-grad salaries stagnate, job seekers are turning to more affordable options such as coding bootcamps and certification programs. According to Capterra's 2023 Alternative Credentials survey of 300 recruiters, 96% of them say they've had at least one applicant submit a resume with an alternative credential in the past year.

The report reveals that 41% of employers have already removed college degree requirements from job openings in the past year. When asked to give all the reasons they're removing degree requirements, 74% of recruiters say it's to make their hiring process more equitable and 53% say they've had success hiring good employees who don't have college degrees.

"As job seekers shift their education budget to more affordable alternative credentials, it's an encouraging sign that employers are adapting," says Brian Westfall, principal HR analyst at Capterra. "Dropping inequitable college degree requirements on job openings and recognizing the value certificates, digital badges, or other

alternative credentials can bring to an organization are a great start."

As a result, employers are increasingly recognizing the standalone value of alternative credentials. Nearly half (48%) of recruiters believe that alternative credentials can be a worthy substitute for a college degree for certain roles. Specific roles such as IT, sales, and customer service prioritize professional certifications as the most valuable credentials. Reputation and amount of instructor-led teaching are the top factors recruiters use when assessing alternative credential quality.

However, as the demand for alternative credentials surges, recruiters also face a significant challenge in validating their authenticity and relevance for specific jobs. A significant 43% of recruiters say they sometimes or always don't recognize an alternative credit when it appears on a resume, and 71% agree that evaluating the quality of alternative credentials is harder than assessing a college degree.

"Recruiters have to start improving alternative credential verification now," says Westfall. "Resume fraud is already a major problem, so if recruiters don't find a way to get a bet-

ter handle on the influx of alternative credentials, the risk of hiring someone with a bad or fake credential that lacks the skills and knowledge to do their job is high."

Compared to 86% of recruiters that contact colleges directly or ask the applicant to submit a copy of their college degree for verification, only 76% do the same for alternative credentials. With 77% of recruiters expecting to receive more applications with alternative credentials in the years to come, now is the time to develop a set process for vetting candidates.

The full report provides recommendations to help recruiters vet alternative credentials, including establishing a dedicated field for alternative credentials on applications, collaborating closely with hiring managers, and establishing criteria to differentiate good credentials from bad ones.

Capterra is the #1 destination for organizations to find the right software and services. Our marketplace spans 100,000+ solutions across 900 categories, and offers access to over 2 million verified reviews-helping organizations save time, increase productivity and accelerate their growth.

Google has historically shown some caution in applying its AI advances, including in its flagship search engine which users rely on to surface accurate information. But the public fascination with ChatGPT after its release late last year has put pressure on tech companies to show off new AI products and services.

#### Information

In an ideal world, technology like Google is discussing can add important information to the world, said Kelly McBride, an expert in journalism ethics for the Poynter Institute. It could document public meetings where there are no longer human journalists to attend and create narratives about what is going on, she said.

But there's a likelihood that the technology will progress faster than a new business model can be discovered that supports local news - creating the temptation to replace human journalists with AI tools, she said.

That's why developments are being closely watched by unions representing journalists, like the News Media Guild for The Associated Press.

"We're all for technological advances helping our reporters and editors do their jobs," said Vin Cherwoo, News Media Guild president. "We just don't want AI doing their jobs."

"What's most important for us is to protect our jobs and maintain journalistic standards," he said.

Producing routine sports or corporate earnings stories can be useful. But

ter handle on the influx of alternative credentials, the risk of hiring someone with a bad or fake credential that lacks the skills and knowledge to do their job is high."

Compared to 86% of recruiters that contact colleges directly or ask the applicant to submit a copy of their college degree for verification, only 76% do the same for alternative credentials. With 77% of recruiters expecting to receive more applications with alternative credentials in the years to come, now is the time to develop a set process for vetting candidates.

The full report provides recommendations to help recruiters vet alternative credentials, including establishing a dedicated field for alternative credentials on applications, collaborating closely with hiring managers, and establishing criteria to differentiate good credentials from bad ones.

Capterra is the #1 destination for organizations to find the right software and services. Our marketplace spans 100,000+ solutions across 900 categories, and offers access to over 2 million verified reviews-helping organizations save time, increase productivity and accelerate their growth.

Google has historically shown some caution in applying its AI advances, including in its flagship search engine which users rely on to surface accurate information. But the public fascination with ChatGPT after its release late last year has put pressure on tech companies to show off new AI products and services.

In an ideal world, technology like Google is discussing can add important information to the world, said Kelly McBride, an expert in journalism ethics for the Poynter Institute. It could document public meetings where there are no longer human journalists to attend and create narratives about what is going on, she said.

But there's a likelihood that the technology will progress faster than a new business model can be discovered that supports local news - creating the temptation to replace human journalists with AI tools, she said.

That's why developments are being closely watched by unions representing journalists, like the News Media Guild for The Associated Press.

"We're all for technological advances helping our reporters and editors do their jobs," said Vin Cherwoo, News Media Guild president. "We just don't want AI doing their jobs."

"What's most important for us is to protect our jobs and maintain journalistic standards," he said.

Producing routine sports or corporate earnings stories can be useful. But



Qosina introduces Aramus™ 2D bag chambers from Entegris to its bioprocess components portfolio.

Qosina introduces Aramus™ 2D bag chambers from Entegris

Qosina, a global supplier of OEM single-use components to the medical and biopharmaceutical industries, has announced the addition of Aramus 2D bag chambers from Entegris, a leading supplier of advanced materials and process solutions for the semiconductor and other high-tech manufacturing industries. Entegris Aramus™ 2D bag chambers are high-performance fluid storage and transfer bag chambers that are made of a high-grade, gamma-stable fluoropolymer that provides high purity, exceptional com-

patibility and increased safety for critical process fluids and high-value final products. Scott Herskovitz, President and CEO and Chairperson of the Board at Qosina, shares his enthusiasm. "Qosina is excited to partner with Entegris, an innovator of products for critical bioprocess operations. The Aramus™ 2D bag chambers are the perfect addition to the Qosina bioprocess portfolio, offering protection of high-value fluids and filling a gap in our product offering."

"This collaboration gives flexibility to customers with off-the-shelf convenience," said Todd Kapp, Director-Life Science-Global Commercial Development, Entegris. "Qosina has a broad reach and impressive reputation in the life sciences market, and Entegris is excited that Qosina has added the Aramus product line to their bioprocess components offering." These bags offer significant versatility including low particulate levels that help ensure delivery of a clean, safe, product while seamlessly fitting into the process. (AP)

The Conversation

Food safety expert explains another way to know what's too old to eat

Food expiration dates don't have much science behind them

By Jill Roberts

University of South Florida

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

Humans get sick with listeria infections, or listeriosis, from eating soil-contaminated food, undercooked meat or dairy products that are raw, or unpasteurized. Listeria can cause convulsions, coma, miscarriage and birth defects. And it's the third leading cause of food poisoning deaths in the US.

Avoiding unseen food hazards is the reason people often check the dates on food packaging. And printed with the month and year is often one of a dizzying array of phrases: "best by," "use by," "best if used before," "best if used by," "guaranteed fresh until," "freeze by" and even a "born on" label applied to some drinks.

People think of them as expiration dates, or the date at which a food should go in the trash. But the dates have little to do with when food expires, or becomes less safe to eat. I am a microbiologist and public health researcher, and I have used molecular epidemiology to study the spread of bacteria in food. A more science-based product dating system could make it easier for people to differentiate foods they can safely eat from those that could be hazardous.

Costly confusion

The United States Department of Agriculture reports that in 2020 the average American household spent 12% of its income on food. But a lot of food is simply thrown away, despite being perfectly safe to eat. The USDA Economic Research Center reports that nearly 31% of all available food is never consumed. Historically high food prices make the problem of waste seem all the more alarming.

The current food labeling system may be to blame for much of the waste. The FDA reports consumer confusion around product dating labels is likely responsible for around 20% of the food wasted in the home, costing an estimated US\$161 billion per year.

It's logical to believe that date labels are there for safety reasons, since the federal government enforces rules for including nutrition and ingredient information on food labels. Passed in 1938 and continuously modified since, the Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act requires food labels to inform consumers of nutrition and ingredients in packaged foods, including the amount of salt, sugar and fat it contains.

The dates on those food packages, however, are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Rather, they come from food producers. And they may not be based on food safety science.

For example, a food producer may survey consumers in a focus group to pick a "use by" date that is six months after the product was produced because 60% of the focus group no longer liked

the taste. Smaller manufacturers of a similar food might play copycat and put the same date on their product.

More interpretations

One industry group, the Food Marketing Institute and Grocery Manufacturers Association, suggests that its members mark food "best if used by" to indicate how long the food is safe to eat, and "use by" to indicate when food becomes unsafe. But using these more nuanced marks is voluntary. And although the recommendation is motivated by a desire to cut down on food waste, it is not yet clear if this recommended change has had any impact.

A joint study by the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic and the National Resources Defense Council recommends the elimination of dates aimed at consumers, citing potential confusion and waste. Instead, the research suggests manufacturers and distributors use "production" or "pack" dates, along with "sell-by" dates, aimed at supermarkets and other retailers. The dates would indicate to retailers the amount of time a product will remain at high quality.

Scientific formula

Infant formula is the only food product with a "use by" date that is both government regulated and scientifically determined. It is routinely lab tested for contamination. But infant formula also undergoes nutrition tests to determine how long it takes the nutrients - particularly protein - to break down. To prevent malnutrition in babies, the "use by" date on baby formula indicates when it's no longer nutritious.

Nutrients in foods are relatively easy to measure. The FDA already does this regularly. The agency issues warnings to food producers when the nutrient contents listed on their labels don't match what FDA's lab finds.

Microbial studies, like the ones we food safety researchers work on, are also a scientific approach to meaningful date labeling on foods. In our lab, a microbial study might involve leaving a perishable food out to spoil and measuring how much bacteria grows in it over time. Scientists also do another kind of microbial study by watching how long it takes microbes like listeria to grow to dangerous levels after intentionally adding the microbes to food to watch what they do, noting such details as growth in the amount of bacteria over time and when there's enough to cause illness.

Consumers on their own

Determining the shelf life of food with scientific data on both its nutrition and its safety could drastically decrease waste and save money as food gets more expensive. But in the absence of a uniform food dating system, consumers could rely on their eyes and noses, deciding to discard the fuzzy bread, green cheese or off-smelling bag of salad. People also might pay close attention to the dates for more perishable foods, like cold cuts, in which microbes grow easily. They can also find guidance at FoodSafety.gov. (AP)

Drug to provide a convenient daily oral treatment

Orserdu first endocrine therapy for metastatic breast cancer in 20 years

Project aims to improve diabetes care

APhA launches patient enrollment to expand access to pharmacist-provided CGM devices

FLORENCE, Italy, July 24: The Menarini Group ("Menarini"), a leading international pharmaceutical and diagnostics company, and Stemline Therapeutics Inc. ("Stemline"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Menarini Group, have announced that the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has adopted a positive opinion on the approval of Orserdu® (elacestrant) monotherapy, indicated for the treatment of postmenopausal women, and men, with estrogen receptor (ER)-positive, HER2-negative, locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer with an activating ESR1 mutation who have disease progression following at least one line of endocrine therapy including a CDK 4/6 inhibitor.

The CHMP opinion will now be reviewed by the European Commission, which has the authority to grant marketing authorization for human medicines throughout the European Union (EU). If approved, Stemline and its affiliates will commercialize the product within Europe. Orserdu would be the first and only therapy specifically indicated for the treatment of ER+, HER2- tumors that harbor ESR1 mutations. ESR1 mutations are acquired mutations that develop as a result of exposure to endocrine therapy, and they are found in up to 40% of patients with ER+, HER2- mBC. ESR1 mutations are a known driver of resistance to standard endocrine therapy, and until now, the tumors that harbor these mutations have been more difficult to treat.

"Patients living with metastatic breast cancer are in need of efficacious and tolerable treatment options. Orserdu may become the first product, if approved by the European Commission, indicated in ER+, HER2- advanced breast cancer with ESR1 mutations, which are a strong driver of resistance to treatment in up to 40% of patients in second line mBC.

Options

Orserdu, if approved, will also provide a convenient daily oral treatment," said Elcin Barker Ergun, CEO of the Menarini Group. "We are proud of today's positive CHMP opinion as it reflects our commitment to developing innovative solutions that address the greatest unmet needs in cancer treatment, and brings us one step closer to providing an important new option to the patients and families impacted by ESR1-mutated, ER+, HER2- metastatic breast cancer."

NEW YORK, July 24: The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Foundation, in collaboration with 20 community pharmacy practices and one of the top 5 health plans in the US, has announced the official launch of patient enrollment for Project IMPACT: CGM Access with funding from the Helmsley Charitable Trust. The project is a pilot credentialing program for community pharmacists that aims to increase access to CGM and improve diabetes care. It does so by integrating CGM devices and support services into the pharmacist workflow and ensuring pharmacists receive equitable payment for these services from insurers.

This program addresses a critical need: many people with diabetes lack access to CGM care and associated providers despite the device being recognized as the standard of care for people with type 1 diabetes and people with type 2 diabetes who use insulin. Roughly 90 percent of Americans live within five miles of a pharmacy, and increasingly pharmacists offer patient care services for people with diabetes, but this does not currently include CGM services.

"Community pharmacists are well positioned, accessible, trusted by patients, and can provide great care to people who may not otherwise receive care. This pilot will produce critical data to support the inclusion of CGM services in the suite of patient care

services offered in the community pharmacy setting to increase access to quality diabetes care," said Benjamin Bluml, Executive Director and SVP, Research & Innovation at the APhA Foundation.

Practices

The program is launching in 20 community pharmacies across the United States, a combination of chain and independent practices with a goal of 50 patients per site. Patient enrollment will be ongoing through Fall 2023, after which patients will receive monthly monitoring and management services throughout the remainder of 2023 and into 2024. Project IMPACT: CGM Access will include training of pharmacists to initiate use of devices and includes the development of a pharmacist certification training program for CGM by APhA. Long term, the aim is to scale the project toward a national model for providing CGM services in pharmacies.

Pharmacists need to be compensated for the CGM services they provide, but are often paid less than other providers, or not compensated at all, for the same service. Establishing a credentialing process that provides pharmacists with a direct payment mechanism for CGM services is essential to this project. As patients receive pharmacist-provided CGM care, it is expected that their overall outcomes will improve, allowing third-party payors to see the value

their members obtain through receiving CGM services in pharmacies.

"Helmsley recognizes that pharmacists are trusted providers embedded within communities and are a crucial part of the diabetes care team," said Laurel Koester, Program Officer at Helmsley. "Our partnership with The APhA Foundation gives us confidence that Project IMPACT: CGM Access will take us one step closer to making CGM services more accessible."

The APhA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization is affiliated with The American Pharmacists Association, the oldest national professional society of pharmacists in the United States established in 1852. The APhA Foundation's mission is to improve health by inspiring philanthropy, research and innovation that advances pharmacists' patient care services.

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust aspires to improve lives by supporting exceptional efforts in the U.S. and around the world in health and select place-based initiatives. Since beginning active grant-making in 2008, Helmsley has committed more than \$4 billion for a wide range of charitable purposes. The Helmsley Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) Program is the largest private foundation funder in the world with a focus on T1D, with more than \$1 billion to date committed to transform the trajectory of the disease and to accelerate access to 21st century care, everywhere.

The positive CHMP opinion for Orserdu is supported by data from the Phase 3 Emerald trial, which demonstrated statistically significant progression-free survival (PFS) with elacestrant versus standard-of-care (SOC), defined as investigator's choice of an approved endocrine monotherapy. The primary endpoints of the study were PFS in the overall patient population and in patients with ESR1 mutations. In the group of patients whose tumors had ESR1 mutations, elacestrant achieved a median PFS of 3.8 months vs 1.9 months on the SOC, and reduced the risk of progression or death by 45% (PFS HR=0.55, 95% CI: 0.39,

0.77) vs SOC. A post hoc subgroup analysis of the Emerald PFS results, which were presented at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS) 2022, demonstrated that the duration of prior CDK4/6i treatment was positively associated with longer PFS on elacestrant but not with SOC. For patients with ESR1 mutations who were treated with CDK4/6i for ≥12 months prior to randomization on Emerald, elacestrant achieved a median PFS of 8.6 months versus 1.9 months on SOC, with a 59% reduction in the risk of progression or death (HR=0.41 95% CI: 0.26-0.63).<sup>3</sup> "As an oncologist, it is remarkable

that we are on the cusp of having the first treatment option for patients with advanced or metastatic ER+, HER2-breast cancer harboring ESR1 mutations, which occur in up to 40% of patients in the metastatic setting," said Giuseppe Curigliano, MD, PhD, Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Milano and the Head of the Division of Early Drug Development at the European Institute of Oncology, IRCCS, Italy. "Elacestrant has demonstrated efficacy and a manageable safety profile, underscoring the potential benefit this therapy may soon bring to the patients we care for, and to the broader oncology community."

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

CITY CLINIC GROUP

Mahboula Khaitan Fahaheel Mirqab

Meet our Specialists

PAEDIATRIC

Dr. Nihal Mohammed MBBS, MD PAEDIATRICIAN Fahaheel

ORTHOPEDIC

Dr. JCV Reddy MBBS, MD PAEDIATRICIAN Mahboula

Dr. Ritesh Jaiswal MBBS D ORTHO DNB, Mch (ORTHO) Khaitan

www.cityclinicwt.com FOR APPOINTMENT

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR INSURANCE HOME COLLECTION AVAILABLE 188 00 20

مركز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي

SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE

الفروانية FARWANIYA

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Our gynecology department, the most dependable one in Kuwait, offers below services:

- Special Care and treatment during prenatal and postnatal periods.
- Treatment of other gynecological problems such as disturbances of menstruation recurrent miscarriages etc.,
- Diagnosis and treatment of infertility cases.
- Treatment of patients with high-risk pregnancies; managing complex problems related to reproductive endocrinology and infertility
- Screening programmes for early detection of tumours, breast cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer etc.

Dr. Rekha Thomas MBBS, DGO, MS Ob & Gynaecology

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya

24 734 000 60 749 749

www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

They're the names you don't know

# Hollywood's 'journeyman' actors explain why they are striking

NEW YORK, July 24, (AP) — Jason Kravits gets a lot of this: People recognize him — they're just not sure how. "I'm that guy who looks like the guy you went to high school with," says Kravits. "People think they've just seen me somewhere."

Actually, they have — on TV, usually as a lawyer or a doctor. "I've had enough roles that I've been in your living room on any given night," the veteran actor says. "But mostly people don't know my name."

Kravits is one of those actors union leaders refer to as "journeymen" — who tend to work for scale pay, and spend at least as much time lining up work as working. They can have a great year, then a bad one, without much rhyme or reason. "We're always on the verge of struggling," says Kravits.

And they, not the big Hollywood names joining the picket lines, are the heart of the actors' strike.

Many say they fear the general public thinks all actors get paid handsomely and are doing it for love of the craft, almost as a hobby. Yet in most cases it's their only job, and they need to qualify for health insurance, pay rent or a mortgage, pay for school and college for their kids.

"All of us aren't Tom Cruise," says Amari Dejoie, 30, who studies acting, does background jobs (as an extra) and modeling to keep afloat, and is considering waitressing during the strike. "We have to pay rent and bills, and they're due on the first. And your apartment does not care that your check wasn't as high as you expected it to be."

In interviews, a few journeyman actors at different stages of their careers discussed their lives and their reasons for striking.

Recently Jennifer Van Dyck got a couple residual checks in the mail — one for 60 cents, one for 72 cents. But she's seen worse.

"The joke is when you get the one-cent check that cost 44 cents to be mailed to you," says the veteran New York actor, referring to payments for reruns and other airings of a film or TV show after the initial release.

Still, Van Dyck counts herself lucky. With many appearances on network shows like "The Blacklist," "Madam Secretary" and especially "Law & Order," where she's appeared as a guest star 13 times, plus voiceover work, she's been able to make a living for more than 30 years without having to take a job outside the industry.

## Streaming

"You just keep jumping around," she says. "When things get dry in one area you move to the next. It's keeping all the balls in the air: theater, film, television, voiceover, audiobooks. Call us journeypeople: The job requirement is looking for work."

Van Dyck says the emergence of streaming has cut into an actor's income alarmingly, because streamers give tiny residuals, if that. And when it comes to negotiating a rate to appear on a show, the studios don't seem to care if you have 37 years of experience. "They say, 'This is what we're offering, take it or leave it.'"

Growing up in the Washington, D.C., area, Kravits was bitten by the theater bug early, performing in community theater by the time he was 10 or 11. He studied theater in college, and eventually made his way to New York and then Los Angeles.

In LA, he got lucky, winning a recurring role on David E. Kelley's "The Practice."

Kravits quips he'd make a lot more money as an actual lawyer, but enjoys playing them. "I like to say I play a lot of lawyers, but never the

same lawyer. I play a mean lawyer, a dumb lawyer, a funny lawyer, a hateful lawyer, an incompetent lawyer. Every role is different to me." Most of the time, he's on a show for one or two episodes.

Kravits says there used to be room for negotiation on everything, including billing and dressing rooms, but no longer: "You're negotiating with Wall Street. And Wall Street is all bottom line."

The toughest change has been with the all-important residuals. "I don't think people realize outside the business how important residuals are to being able to afford being an actor," he says.

And because of how meager streaming residuals are, Kravits says he has network shows he did 10, 15 even 20 years ago that still yield more residuals than buzzy shows he's done for streamers the last few years — like HBO's "The Undoing" or Netflix's "Halston."

"I didn't get into this as a hobby," Kravits says. "I can't afford to do it as a hobby."

The series finale of the show that transformed actor Diany Rodriguez's career — NBC's "The Blacklist" — aired the same day Hollywood came to a standstill.

Rodriguez, who played Weecha, bodyguard of star James Spader's character, would have loved to take to social media and celebrate her character's final appearance, but the strike made that impossible. She had several new projects booked, but is now throwing herself into her duties as a strike captain.

She sees the strike as part of a larger labor movement in the country: "I'm so in favor of this because it feels overwhelmingly (like) we are ready to put our money where our mouths are for the greater good."

Film

Variety



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ryan Gosling, (left), and Margot Robbie in a scene from 'Barbie.' (AP)

Film

'Barbie' filmmaker on art, commerce

## Gerwig wants to embrace the mess

LOS ANGELES: "Barbenheimer" didn't just work — it spun box office gold. The social media-fueled fusion of Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" brought moviegoers back to the theaters in record numbers this weekend, vastly outperforming projections and giving a glimmer of hope to the lagging exhibition business, amid the sobering backdrop of strikes.

Warner Bros.' "Barbie" claimed the top spot with a massive \$155 million in ticket sales from North American theaters from 4,243 locations, surpassing "The Super Mario Bros Movie" (as well as every Marvel movie this year) as the biggest opening of the year and breaking the first weekend record for a film directed by a woman. Universal's "Oppenheimer" also soared past expectations, taking in \$80.5 million from 3,610 theaters in the US and Canada, marking Nolan's biggest non-Batman debut and one of the best-ever starts for an R-rated biographical drama.

It's also the first time that one movie opened to more than \$100 million and another movie opened to more than \$80 million in the same weekend. When all is settled, it will likely turn out to be the fourth biggest box office weekend of all time with over \$300 million industrywide. And all this in a marketplace that increasingly curved towards intellectual property-driven winner takes all.

The "Barbenheimer" phenomenon may have started out as good-natured competition between two aesthetic opposites, but, as many hoped, both movies benefited in the end. Internationally, "Barbie" earned \$182 million from 69 territories, fueling a \$337 million global weekend. "Oppenheimer" did \$93.7 million from 78 territories, ranking above "Barbie" in India, for a \$174.2 million global total.

The only real casualty was "Mission: Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part I," which despite strong reviews and a healthy opening weekend fell 64% in weekend two. Overshadowed by the "Barbenheimer" glow as well as the blow of losing its IMAX screens to "Oppenheimer," the Tom Cruise vehicle added \$19.5 million, bringing its domestic

total to \$118.8 million. "Barbenheimer" is not merely counterprogramming either. But while a certain section of enthusiastic moviegoers overlapped, in aggregate the audiences were distinct.

Women drove the historic "Barbie" opening, making up 65% of the audience, according

to PostTrak, and 40% of ticket buyers were under the age of 25 for the PG-13 rated movie.

"It's just a joyous time in the world. This is history in so many ways," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros' president of domestic distribution. "I think this marketing campaign is one for the ages that people will be

wearing overalls, I think it was for a TV show, and I got into the room and the casting director looked at me and said "Well you must be very talented." I thought, "Oh no, maybe I'm not talented enough to just be wearing overalls." Also that this is going quite badly.

AP: There's some thematic similarities between all your films — women's economic independence, self-actualization and the idea that emotion is not a weakness.

Gerwig: With any project, I'm completely in it. I can't really connect it to other things I've done. But then when I step back from it, I think, "Oh, these are connected in some way." I think I'm just interested in the gleeful messiness of life and people. And I'm interested in women. I don't know, I like them a lot. And I'm interested in women talking to each other through generations. The unwieldy nature of living life is not something that always has to be organized. It can kind of live in its own wildness.

AP: There was a Guardian piece, I'm not sure if you've read it, about indie directors "selling out." I feel like this is related, that "Barbie" can be a Mattel movie and also a piece of legitimate art and expression as well. And also, like your characters, you're ensuring your economic independence while getting your ideas out to the biggest audience possible.

Gerwig: I haven't read it. I'm sure they make good points, probably. There's always some tension, obviously, between art that exists in the world to be seen and consumed. I joked at the beginning that I'm not Emily Dickinson, but I really am not Emily Dickinson. I'm not writing poems on the back of envelopes and creating and destroying worlds from the confines of my home and never letting anybody see it. I'm making art to be seen by people.

total to \$118.8 million.

"Barbenheimer" is not merely counterprogramming either. But while a certain section of enthusiastic moviegoers overlapped, in aggregate the audiences were distinct.

Women drove the historic "Barbie" opening, making up 65% of the audience, according



Cruise



Goldstein

to PostTrak, and 40% of ticket buyers were under the age of 25 for the PG-13 rated movie.

"It's just a joyous time in the world. This is history in so many ways," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros' president of domestic distribution. "I think this marketing campaign is one for the ages that people will be

talking about forever."

"Oppenheimer" audiences meanwhile were 62% male and 63% over the age of 25, with a somewhat surprising 32% that were between the ages of 18 and 24.

Both "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" scored well with critics with 90% and 94% on Rotten

Tomatoes, respectively, and audiences who gave both films an A CinemaScore. And social media has been awash with reactions and "takes" all weekend — good, bad, problematic and everywhere in between — the kind of organic, event cinema, water-cooler debate that no marketing budget can buy. (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023

## People &amp; Places

## Music

## 'A man frozen in time'

## Bennett left his heart to generations of fans

NEW YORK, July 24, (AP) — What do Paul McCartney, Queen Latifah, Lady Gaga and Stevie Wonder have in common?

Oh, and Aretha Franklin, k.d. lang, Bono and Billy Joel. Not to mention Carrie Underwood, Judy Garland, John Legend and Plácido Domingo. And let's not forget...

Stop. Listing all of the musicians who performed duets with **Tony Bennett** would take up our remaining space. His place in music history is already secure.

Bennett, who died at 96 on Friday, was indeed "the last of the great saloon singers of the mid-20th century," as Charles J. Gans wrote for The Associated Press. Yet that summation befits a man frozen in time, consigned to a specific era, and Tony Bennett was anything but that.



Bennett

Instead, Bennett transcended generations in a way few musicians have.

He was rightly beloved by older listeners for the way he interpreted the works of songwriters Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern and George Gershwin in a strong and stalwart voice that remained true into his 90s. He was influenced by and helped popularize jazz, and marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King to fight for civil rights.

He was also admired by those who, if they left their hearts in San Francisco, it was at the corner of Haight-Ashbury, or a trendy dance club.

"I have to think it comes down to the man itself," said singer Ben Folds, at age 56 four decades younger than Bennett was at the end.

"You hear his voice, it's super kind, casual and in the moment," Folds said. "His phrasing is that way, too. There's nothing that sounds uptight. It's very generous. A lot of people in his generation didn't have that appeal because at the end of the day, you didn't feel that they cared about you."

Many of Bennett's successful late-career duets were a tribute to the savvy marketing of his son and manager, Danny, who kept his dad's career going long past most peers hit their expiration date.

## Recording

But famous duet partners could have said no. Few did.

Don't think they didn't notice the sweet and tender manner he brought to the studio working with people like Lady Gaga and Amy Winehouse, Folds said. Bennett's duet with Winehouse on "Body and Soul" was the last studio recording she made before she died.

Gaga, the New Yorker born Stefani Germanotta who could appreciate the New Yorker born Anthony Benedetto, became like family and ushered him through musical triumphs with love even as he suffered from Alzheimer's Disease. Bennett drew and signed an image of Miles Davis' trumpet that Gaga wears as a tattoo on her arm.

k.d. lang's formidable voice bowed to no one when she brought it to a series of memorable performances with Bennett in the 1990s.

"He was a place of refuge for the American songbook," lang told the Associated Press. "He made sure that he loved a song. He would not sing any song that he didn't love."

Make no mistake: Bennett brought the goods. Watch a video of him coming on to a Shea Stadium stage to sing "New York State of Mind" with Billy Joel. His guest steals the song, and Joel beams as he watches.

His handiwork has just been blessed by Tony Bennett.

At a San Francisco fundraiser a few years ago, with Alzheimer's insidious impact already apparent, Folds watched stunned as Bennett switched from remarks to a few bars of "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," in perfect pitch.

Bennett exuded an older generation's class, always performing in a tuxedo or tailored suit. In a Los Angeles hotel room in 1994 when an earthquake hit before dawn, Bennett took the time to change into a suit before joining bathrobe-wearing evacuees, the Los Angeles Times noted.

In all of the work he did with contemporary artists, he never sounded age inappropriate, said music critic Jim Farber. Bennett always bent them to his musical will, never the other way around, he said.

"There's this multitude of singers, from Gaga to Diana Krall to John Mayer," lang said. "Now they can carry a certain understanding that they received firsthand from him."

Something more important was usually happening in the audience.

Two years ago, writer Christine Passarella recalled sitting in lawn chairs in a Brooklyn park in the 1980s with her mother and baby daughter, listening to Bennett sing.

"Seeing him live felt like watching an uncle embracing me and my mom, as his music helped us remember my father, my mom's one and only love," she wrote.

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** For years, a common critique of the beloved **New Jersey** rock band The Gaslight Anthem was to label them "Bruce Springsteen" copycats. Now they've released a song with the Boss.

"History Books," the title track from the band's first album in nine years, is big-hearted freeway rock, made ascendent by frontman **Brian Fallon** and Springsteen's tremulous harmonies.

"There's a definitely a little wink in there," Fallon tells The Associated Press about the song and his band's long-held comparisons to the Boss, which once escalated to the point where he wrote to his fans, "My name isn't Bruce."

"Some people kind of wrote us off. It's like 'Now write this off,'" he says. "We've got the approval of the guy! What are you going to say? You can't say anything!"

If there is an intersection where Green Day, Social Distortion, and the Replacements' various styles of melodic punk meets Springsteen, it is found in The Gaslight Anthem. The sound landed them a fiercely loyal fanbase from their beginnings in 2006 up until 2015, when the band embarked on a seven-year hiatus. It was briefly interrupted in 2018, when The Gaslight Anthem got back together to play a few shows celebrating the 10-year anniversary of their retro rock album, "The '59 Sound," a fan favorite.

But the break resumed until 2022, when the band felt they had something to say.

"We didn't want to make a record that felt sub-heart," Fallon explains in his own vernacular.



This image released by Discovery shows a great white shark in a scene from 'Jaws in the Shallows,' premiering July 27 as part of Discovery's Shark Week. (AP)



Jason Momoa appears at the premiere of 'Ambulance' in Los Angeles on April 4, 2022. Momoa is hosting Discovery's 'Shark Week' premiered on Sunday. (AP)



Marshall



Aron

## Variety

**KEY WEST, Fla:** On his 68th birthday, a white-bearded **Wisconsin** man won the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest, a highlight of Key West's annual Hemingway Days celebration that ends Sunday.

**Gerrit Marshall**, a retired television broadcast engineer from **Madison**, prevailed Saturday night at Sloppy Joe's Bar, a frequent hangout of **Ernest Hemingway** when he lived in Key West during the 1930s.

"This is the best birthday I have ever had," said Marshall, whose birthday falls just one day after the July 21 anniversary of Hemingway's birth.

On his 11th attempt, Marshall triumphed over nearly 140 other entrants in the contest that featured two preliminary rounds and Saturday's final.

Competitors in sportsman's attire, most emulating the rugged "Papa" persona Hemingway adopted in his later years, paraded onstage at Sloppy Joe's before a judging panel of previous winners. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** Movie theater operator AMC has ditched plans to charge more seats for seats with better sightlines after rival chains did not follow along.

AMC began the pilot program five months ago in three US markets where it said it charged slightly more for better seats, and less for those in the front of the theater and others with inferior views.

AMC said its competitors didn't raise or cut prices on any of their seats based on location. The company said because it wants its pricing to remain competitive, it's ending the pilot program in the coming weeks and there will be no attempt to roll out those changes nationwide.

AMC also found that more than three out of every four guests who previously sat in the preferred sightline section continued to choose seats in that section, even with a slight up-charge. But it saw little to no increase in people buying front row seats that were cheaper.

AMC first announced the pilot program in February.

AMC, based in **Leawood, Kansas**,

## Television

## Show features feeding frenzy and junkie sharks

## Momoa back to roots with 'Shark Week'

NEW YORK, July 24, (AP) — Discovery Channel has landed the perfect host this year for "Shark Week," none other than a huge fan of all ocean creatures — **Aquaman**.

Jason Momoa, who in real life dreamed of a career as a marine biologist before Hollywood anointed him an ocean god, is going back to his roots to celebrate all things shark.

"My heart is in the ocean," Momoa told The Associated Press from Tahiti, moments before taking a trip to swim with some of the apex predators. "Doing 'Shark Week' is a no brainer."

Momoa will be the week's recurring master of ceremonies, dipping in and out of the channel's roughly 20 new hours of programs that started Sunday. Episode encores run most nights, too.

Viewers will get to see rare sharks off the coast of South Africa, examine deadly shark attacks off the posh beaches of Egypt's Red Sea and investigate whether sharks in Florida waters are getting high on cocaine.

The week kicks off with a sort of nautical nod to "Jackass." Researchers in the show "Belly of the Beast: Feeding Frenzy" try to reproduce a great white shark feeding frenzy by building a life-sized dead whale carcass decoy.

They put veteran "Shark Week" biologist Dr. Austin Gallagher and cameras inside the cavity — along with 200 pounds of chum and 50 gallons of blood — and hope it can make dozens of sharks go mad. Then they try it at night.

"There are a few moments during the show where I was pretty freaked out," Gallagher told the AP. "There's a healthy respect there and I don't want that ever to go away because I know what these animals are capable of."

"Cocaine Sharks," which premieres Wednesday, examines whether the occasional bricks of cocaine abandoned by drug smugglers effect shark

behavior. "I'm basically looking for something really weird and out of the ordinary," says the lead scientist, Tom Hird, in the program.

It shows a swarm of lemon sharks going a bit insane over floating bales of faux cocaine and later we see how fish powder mimics the dopamine response that cocaine might give to junkie sharks. "Hopefully people enjoy the show as much as they enjoy the title," Hird said.

Geeking out with viewers will be Momoa, who watched "Shark Week" growing up and says he couldn't wait to meet the scientists behind the programs. "I'm going to be every other fan," he said in an interview before the Hollywood strike. "This is my life's passion."

## Creatures

As always, there is a deep respect for the creatures and strong science beneath the amusing titles, dramatic music and eye-popping titles like "Great White Fight Club," "Shark Vs. Snake" and "Serial Killer: Red Sea Attacks."

"Alien Sharks" tries to find obscure species like the broadnose sevengill, which dates to the Jurassic Era, but is lately prized for their livers by orcas. There's also the deliciously named pufferdard shyshark, which glow under UV light, and the white-spotted wedgetfish, named appropriately for its shovel like appearance.

"For me, what's so wonderful about alien sharks and this program is the opportunity to showcase the little guy," said biologist Forrest Galante, who can be seen smooching a few of his sharks. "I get so excited and emotional when I'm working with these unique creatures that I do impulsively stupid things like kiss a shark before I say goodbye to it."

Many of the programs investigate changes in the beasts' behavior that

may have to do with climate change or overfishing, such as sharks appearing in unfamiliar locations. Conservation efforts have also started to boost their numbers, bringing them closer to humans.

"Sharks aren't changing their behavior to target people or to be in close proximity to human beings. Humans are changing their behavior, growing at an alarming rate, spending more and more time in the water, having a hotter and hotter climate," said Galante. "That leads to more interactions. And some of those interactions may be negative, but of course, the press blows that way out of proportion."

Momoa, who studied marine and wildlife biology in college, taped his segments in New Zealand while in production on his upcoming Apple TV+ series "Chief of War."

Discovery's "Shark Week" has a rival — its programming coincides with National Geographic's "SharkFest," which also has hours of sharky content over four weeks.

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Comedian **Chris Estrada**'s "This Fool" drops its 10-episode second season Friday, July 28 on Hulu. The show is a working-class comedy about Estrada's character, Julio, living in South Los Angeles, who has the best of intentions but often finds himself in absurd situations. When we first met him in season one, Julio is living with his mother and grandmother, still using his childhood bedroom, and working for a gang rehabilitation group called Hugs not Thugs. In season two, Hugs not Thugs has shuttered. Julio, along with his ex-con cousin and now roommate Luis, and former support group boss, a minister played by **Michael Imperioli**, decide to open a coffee shop and name it Hugs not Thugs, which employs ex-felons.

**BERLIN:** A German federal court rejected a collector's complaint against the inclusion of a painting he bought at auction in a database used to document works which may have been expropriated as a result of Nazi persecution. The plaintiff, who acquired the painting "Calabrian Coast" by German artist **Andreas Achenbach** at an auction in London in 1999, argued that the entry in the Lost Art Database and the triggering in Canada of an Interpol search for the work impaired his ownership of it. He called for the defendants — the trustees of a Canadian trust that manages the estate of art dealer **Max Stern** — to desist from asserting ownership of the painting, or to be ordered to have the entry in the database deleted. The collector, whose identity the Federal Court of Justice didn't publish, was unsuccessful in lower courts. The federal court ruled that "the announcement of missing cultural property on the Lost Art Database's web page, if based upon true facts, does not represent an impairment of ownership" and doesn't entitle the current owner to have the listing deleted. The court said that the trustees hadn't asserted that they were the painting's rightful owners, either in the German database or in an Interpol database entry. (AP)

said it's now going to focus on testing more spacious seating for the front row with seats that recline at some US locations later this year. Chief Executive

Officer of AMC Theatres is **Adam Aron**. (AP)



Singer Ceu from Brazil performs onstage at the Luzern Live Festival in Lucerne, Switzerland, Sunday, July 23. The music event runs through July 29. (AP)

## Health

## 1 in 5 has disease

## Coal miners hail rule to slow 'black lung'

CHARLESTON, W.Va., July 24, (AP): A half-century ago, the nation's top health experts urged the federal agency in charge of mine safety to adopt strict rules protecting miners from poisonous rock dust.

The inaction since - fueled by denials and lobbying from coal and other industries - has contributed to the premature deaths of thousands of miners from pneumoconiosis, more commonly known as "black lung." The problem has only grown in recent years as miners dig through more layers of rock to get to less accessible coal, generating deadly silica dust in the process.

One former regulator called the lack of protection from silica-related illnesses "stunning" and one of the most "catastrophic" occupational health failures in US history.

Now the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration has proposed a rule that would cut the current limit for silica exposure in half - a major victory for safety advocates. But there is skepticism and concern about the government following through after years of broken promises and delays.

James Bounds, a retired coal miner from Oak Hill, West Virginia, said nothing can be done to reverse the debilitating illness he was diagnosed with at 37 in 1984. But he doesn't want others to suffer the same fate.

"It's not going to help me - I'm through mining," said Bounds, 75, who now uses supplemental oxygen to breathe. "But we don't want these young kids breathing like we do."

The rule, published in the Federal Register this month, cuts the permissible exposure limit for silica dust from 100 to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air for an 8-hour shift in coal, metal and nonmetal mines such as sand and gravel.

The proposal is in line with exposure levels imposed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on construction and other non-mining industries. And it's the standard The Centers for Disease Control was recommending as far back as 1974.



Werntz

Exposure

Silicosis is an occupational pneumoconiosis caused by the inhalation of crystalline silica dust present in minerals like sandstone. The US Department of Labor began studying silica and its impact on workers' health in the 1930s, but the focus on stopping exposure in the workplace largely bypassed coal miners.

Instead, regulations centered on coal dust, a separate hazard created by crushing or pulverizing coal rock that also contributes to black lung.

In the decades since, silica dust has become a major problem as Appalachian miners cut through layers of sandstone to reach less accessible coal seams in mountaintop mines where coal closer to the surface has long been tapped. Silica dust is 20 times more toxic than coal dust and causes severe forms of black lung disease even after a few years of exposure.

An estimated one in five tenured miners in Central Appalachia has black lung disease; one in 20 has the most disabling form of black lung.

Miners are also being diagnosed at younger ages - some in their 30s and others with the advanced kind in their 40s. "That's just nuts," said Dr. Carl Werntz, a West Virginia physician who conducts black lung examinations and described cases as "skyrocketing."

United Mine Workers of America President Cecil Roberts said there's no reason a 35-year-old miner should be diagnosed with a disease "that's going to cost him his life."

"Nobody should be dying because of a job they have," Roberts said.

MSHA's existing silica standards were developed in the 1970s, around the time of the US Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 and the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

West Virginia University law professor Pat McGinley, who was part of a state team investigating the 2010 Upper Big Branch mining disaster that killed 29 miners, called the resurgence of black lung "unparalleled" when it comes to occupational health failures. In the Upper Big Branch mine, 71% of the 24 miners who received autopsies were found to have black lung.

"I can't think of any occupation where there has been such devastation that's been ignored" by corporations and the government, he said. "It's stunning."

The new rule is supported by Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Bob Casey and John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, and Mark Warner and Tim Kaine of Virginia, who pushed for the change and released a joint statement saying protecting miners from "dangerous levels of silica cannot wait."

MSHA will be collecting comments on the proposal through Aug. 28, with three hearings scheduled in Arlington, Virginia, Beckley, West Virginia, and Denver.

One issue expected to come up: the use of respiratory protection equipment.

The National Mining Association, which represents mine operators, wants workers to be permitted to use respirators as a method of compliance with the rule.

"These are recognized industrial hygiene practices utilized by federal regulators in other industries, but not in mining," spokesman Conor Bernstein said, adding that better ventilation controls, safety awareness and regulations on coal dust have all contributed to "exponentially lower dust levels" inside US mines in recent years.

## Respirators

The mine workers' union and others, however, say respirators are ineffective while performing heavy labor in hot, confined spaces common in mines. The proposed rule allows for the use of respirators on a temporary basis while operators are implementing engineering controls. But advocates say inspectors aren't present often enough to ensure they don't become a permanent solution.

"The history of miner safety and health enforcement teaches us that exceptions become the rule," said Sam Petsonk, a West Virginia attorney who represented miners who were diagnosed with black lung after operators knowingly violated regulations.

The proposed rule also includes a provision that allows companies to self-report silica levels. Federal inspectors conduct spot checks to ensure accuracy, but mine operators still have leeway to manipulate reporting data, said Willie Dodson, Central Appalachian field coordinator for Appalachian Voices, an advocacy group.

"Ideally, MSHA inspectors would take samples day after day after day in a given mine to determine compliance," he said.

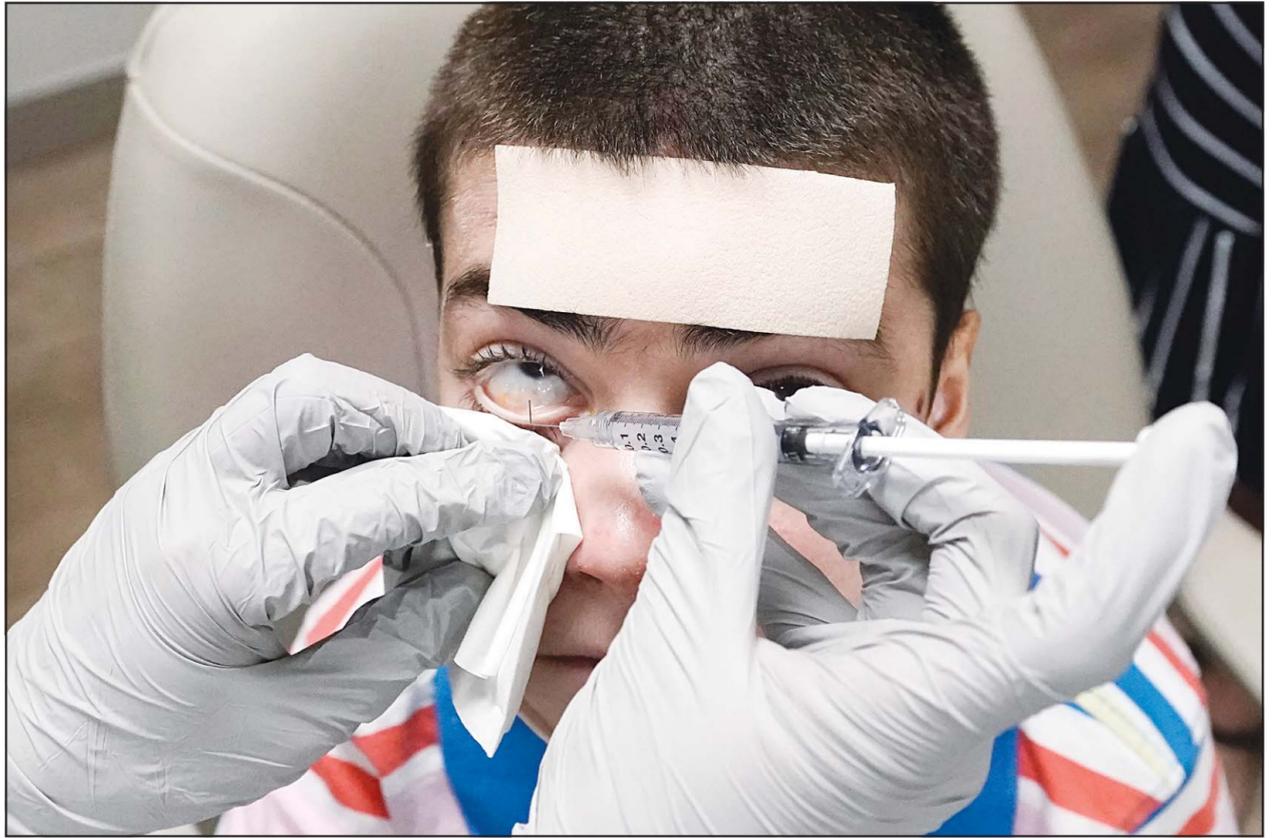
A coal dust examiner who worked for a Kentucky mining company was sentenced to six months in prison last month for falsifying dust samples and lying to federal officials.

In rural Nickelsville, Virginia, near the Tennessee border, Vonda Robinson says miners and their families are owed more accountability from the federal government and mine operators. Her husband John was diagnosed with black lung about a decade ago at 47. Now, his doctors say he will need a lung transplant.

Vonda Robinson said her husband doesn't know what to say when his 5-year-old granddaughter asks why he can't run and play with her, why even walking down the end of the driveway leaves him physically spent.

"He'll tell her 'Honey, papaw can't do that,'" she said. During his 28 years mining, John Robinson would come home with his face covered with dust. But she tried not to worry. Everyone in the community mined coal.

"He was one of those that wanted to go in the mines to give his family the American dream - the nice house, vehicles, put our kids through college," she said. "And this is what he got."



Dr. Alfonso Sabater, uses a syringe to apply gene therapy eyedrops to Antonio Vento Carvajal's eyes, Thursday, July 6, 2023, at University of Miami Health System's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. Antonio was born with dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa, a rare genetic condition that causes blisters all over his body and in his eyes. He was blind for much of his life but can see again after getting gene therapy eyedrops. (AP)

## Health

## Similar treatments could help millions

## Gene therapy restores a boy's sight

MIAMI, July 24, (AP): Dr. Alfonso Sabater pulled up two photos of Antonio Vento Carvajal's eyes. One showed cloudy scars covering both eyeballs. The other, taken after months of gene therapy given through eyedrops, revealed no scarring on either eye.

Antonio, who's been legally blind for much of his 14 years, can see again.

The teen was born with dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa, a rare genetic condition that causes blisters all over his body and in his eyes. But his skin improved when he joined a clinical trial to test the world's first topical gene therapy. That gave Sabater an idea: What if it could be adapted for Antonio's eyes?

This insight not only helped Antonio, it also opened the door to similar therapies that could potentially treat millions of people with other eye diseases, including common ones.

Antonio's mom, Yunielkys "Yuni" Carvajal, teared up thinking about what Sabater did for her son.

"He's been there through everything," she said in Spanish during a visit to the University of Miami Health System's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. "He's not only a good doctor but such a good human being and provided us with hope. He never gave up."

## Surgeries

The family came to the US from Cuba in 2012 on a special visa allowing Antonio to get treatment for his condition, which affects around 3,000 people worldwide. He had surgeries to remove scar tissue from his eyes, but it grew back. Antonio's vision kept getting worse, eventually deteriorating so much that he didn't feel safe walking around.

Sabater had no answers then, and tried to reassure the boy: "I'll find a solution. I just need some time. I'm working on it."

"Yeah, I know you're going to do it," Sabater recalled Antonio saying. "That gave me the energy to continue."

At one point, Carvajal told Sabater about the experimental gene therapy gel for Antonio's skin lesions. He contacted drugmaker Krystal Biotech to see if it could be reformulated for the boy's eyes.

Suma Krishnan, co-founder and president of research and development for the Pittsburgh-based company, said the idea made sense and "it didn't hurt to try it."

Antonio's condition is caused by mutations in a gene that helps produce a protein called collagen 7, which holds together both skin and corneas. The treatment, called Vyjuvek, uses an inactivated herpes simplex virus to deliver working copies of that gene. The eyedrops use the same liquid as the skin version, just without the added gel.

After two years, which included testing the drug in mice, the team got "compassionate use" approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and permission from university and hospital review boards. Last August, Antonio had surgery on his right eye, after which Sabater started treating him with the eyedrops.

Krishnan said they were cautious, frequently watching to see that it was safe.

Antonio's eye recovered from the surgery, the scarring didn't return and there was significant improvement

each month, Sabater said. Doctors recently measured the vision in Antonio's right eye at a near-perfect 20/25.

This year, Sabater began treating Antonio's left eye, which had even more scar tissue. That one is also steadily improving, measuring close to 20/50, which Sabater said "is pretty good vision."

## Checkups

Antonio comes to the eye institute for checkups almost weekly and gets the drops once a month. During visits, Antonio must wear protective clothing covering his arms, hands, legs and feet. Like other kids with the condition - who are sometimes called "butterfly children" - his skin is so fragile that even a touch can wound him.

Antonio still uses the skin gel, which was approved by the FDA in May and can also be used off-label on eyes. It doesn't modify DNA, so it's not a one-time treatment like many gene therapies.

Sabater, director of the Corneal In-



Widodo



Diaz

novation Lab at the eye institute, said gene therapy eyedrops could potentially be used for other diseases by changing the gene delivered by the virus. For example, a different gene could be used to treat Fuchs' dystrophy, which affects 18 million people in the US and accounts for about half the nation's corneal transplants.

The prospect of treating more conditions this way is "exciting," said Dr. Aimee Payne, a dermatology professor at the University of Pennsylvania who isn't involved in the research. The approach "delivers gene therapy that really addresses the root cause of disease."

With his vision restored, Antonio has enjoyed a typical teen pastime he's wanted to do for quite a while: playing video games with his friends. And he finally feels safe walking around.

Sabater said the two-year journey seeking government and hospital approvals "was worth it. Just for Antonio, it was worth it ... but also because it opens the space to treat other patients in the future."

more research is needed on the drugs' efficacy and the extent of the risks of psychedelics, which can cause hallucinations.

The American Psychiatric Association has not endorsed the use of psychedelics in treatment, noting the Food and Drug Administration has yet to offer a final determination.

The FDA designated psilocybin as a "breakthrough therapy" in 2018, a label that's designed to speed the development and review of drugs to treat a serious condition. MDMA, also known as ecstasy, also has that designation for PTSD treatment.

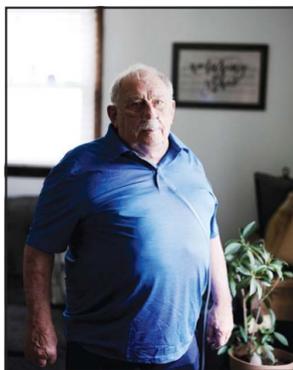
The FDA last week released draft guidance for researchers designing clinical trials testing psychedelic drugs as potential treatments for a variety of medical conditions. The Biden administration has also provided to the National Institutes of Health and other agencies funding for dozens of projects studying psychedelic drugs with potential benefit for mental and behavioral health.

Earlier this year, Oregon became the first state in the nation to legalize the adult use of psilocybin. Colorado's voters last year voted to decriminalize psilocybin.

Republican strongholds, including Utah and Missouri, have or are considering commissioning studies into the drugs, partly inspired by veterans' who have used psilocybin to help with PTSD.

Former Texas Republican Gov. Rick Perry spoke at a conference last week in Colorado about helping get a bill passed in the Texas legislature in 2021 to fund a study of psilocybin for veterans. He doesn't support recreational use.

In Congress, similar veteran-focused proposals brought progressive Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez from New York and far-right Rep. Matt Gaetz from Florida into an unlikely alignment.



Retired coal miner James Bounds, who has pneumoconiosis, more commonly known as 'black lung,' poses for a photo at his home in Oak Hill, W.Va., Thursday, July, 13. Bounds said nothing can be done to reverse the debilitating illness he was diagnosed with at 37 in 1984. But he doesn't want others to suffer the same fate. (AP)

## Discovery

**Woman dead after bear encounter:** A woman was found dead in Montana on Saturday after coming into contact with a grizzly bear on a trail west of Yellowstone National Park.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks said in a statement on Sunday that the woman was found deceased on a trail near West Yellowstone, a Montana town nestled in the Custer Gallatin National Forest just west of Yellowstone National Park.

They said the woman was found deceased "following an apparent bear encounter" based on what investigators determined were grizzly bear tracks at the scene. The department said the investigation into the grizzly attack was ongoing.

Rangers issued an emergency closure of the area where the woman was found, which is popular with hikers.

Though the department's statement said the death appeared to have followed the woman's interaction with the bear, it did not confirm her cause of death.

The attack comes amid a rise in Montana's grizzly bear population and an increase in sightings.

The department put out a news release last week warning visitors that staff had confirmed grizzly bear sightings throughout the state, "particularly in areas between the Northern Continental Divide and the Great Yellowstone ecosystems."

They implored those camping and visiting parks to carry bear spray, store their food while outside and tend to their garbage. (AP)

**Market ends meat trade:** Authorities announced the end of the "brutally cruel" dog and cat meat slaughter at a notorious animal market on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi following a years-long campaign by local activists and world celebrities.

The Tomohon Extreme Market will become the first such market in Indonesia to do dog and cat meat-free, according to the anti-animal cruelty group Humane Society International, or HSI. Images of dogs and cats being bludgeoned and blow-torched while still alive had sparked outrage.

The permanent end of the slaughter and trade was announced by the Regional Secretary of the city of Tomohon, Edwin Roring. HSI said they will be rescuing all the remaining live dogs and cats from the slaughterhouse suppliers and taking them to sanctuaries.

"We hope that Tomohon will be totally free from dog and cat meat trades," Roring said in his remarks. "We believe the way to reduce people's interest in consuming dog and cat meat in Tomohon is to stop selling it in markets."

He urged people to consume animal food sources that are more hygienic and do not cause rabies, such as beef and chicken. He vowed to deploy law enforcement officers in the markets to ensure there were no more dog and cat meat sellers in the city.

The Tomohon Extreme Market had previously been touted as a tourist attraction and listed on TripAdvisor as a destination that also sells cat meat and the carcasses of wild and protected species such as bats, snakes and other reptiles.

HSI and Indonesian groups operating under the banner of Dog Meat Free Indonesia are campaigning to end the trade in live dogs for human consumption as rabies could spread to humans during the slaughter or contact with infected meat.

International actors and celebrities in 2018 appealed to President Joko Widodo to close the markets, saying if Indonesia joined other Asian nations that have already banned the trade, it would be "celebrated globally" and end a stain on the country's reputation.

Actress Cameron Diaz, talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, talent spotter Simon Cowell, comedian Ricky Gervais, Indonesian pop singer Anggun and musician Moby are among the more than 90 celebrities listed in the letter.

North Sulawesi province is home to more than 2.6 million people, who are mainly Christian in the mostly Muslim archipelago nation. Eating dog and cat meat with special spices is a hereditary tradition for most people in the province which has been very difficult to get rid of, said Frank Delano, a local animal welfare activist.

Thousands of dogs and cats are slaughtered weekly in North Sulawesi, according to the anti-animal cruelty groups. (AP)

## SPORTS

## Reddick, Truex Jr complete podium

## Hamlin gets record 7th win at Pocono

LONG POND, Pa., July 24, (AP) — Denny Hamlin chalked up his record seventh win at Pocono Raceway — “Eight, right?” he quipped — to nothing more than coming out ahead after a hard, respectful duel with Kyle Larson over the furious final laps.

Hamlin's take: His Toyota held firm in the middle lane while Larson's Chevrolet ran out of room on the outside when it got choked in a tight aerodynamic situation and sailed into the wall.

Larson's view: His so-called good buddy Hamlin ran him up the track, smashed him into the wall and derailed his chance at the win.

Larson was furious. Hamlin shrugged it off. After all, he had the win at Pocono — and this time it counted.

Hamlin returned to victory lane Sunday a year after his first-place finish was thrown out, giving him a track-record seven wins and 50 overall in his Cup career.

Hamlin won for the second time this season and also gave Toyota its 600th NASCAR victory. Afterward, he stood firm that he did not even brush Larson.

“I'm not here to defend anything,” Hamlin said. “How can you wreck someone you don't touch?”

Hamlin passed Hall of Famer Jeff Gordon — for the second straight year — for most wins at the tri-oval track. Hamlin and his former Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch had their 1-2 finishes stripped a year ago by NASCAR for aerodynamics violations.

That made Hamlin the first disqualified Cup winner since April 17, 1960, when Emanuel Zervakis' victory at Wilson Speedway in North Carolina was thrown out because of an oversized fuel tank.

But Hamlin might have to go to the videotape to see if his No. 11 Toyota really did make contact with Larson. The pair bumped and battled over the final laps before the three-time Day-



Denny Hamlin poses with the trophy in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Pocono Raceway in Long Pond, Pa. (AP)

tona 500 winner pulled away on the final restart and won with the caution flag out.

Pocono paints rocks outside the garage to honor of some of NASCAR's greats, such as Jimmie Johnson and Richard Petty. Hamlin swept two races at Pocono in his rookie season in 2006, and added wins in 2009, 2010, 2019 and 2020.

Larson faded to 20th and blamed Hamlin for shooting the No. 5 Chevrolet into the wall.

Hamlin won his 50th race in 635 career Cup starts spent entirely with Gibbs.

Tyler Reddick was second and Martin Truex Jr., who won last week at New Hampshire, was third. Kevin Harvick and Ty Gibbs rounded out the top five.

Austin Dillon chucked his helmet at former teammate Reddick's car after the two were involved in a wreck.

Dillon's Ford slammed into the wall and its passenger side crumpled. Dillon threw his helmet as he walked off the track.

“I was just trying to hit him,” Dillon said. “They're going probably 65. If I had started at the front of the car, I might have got him at the door.”

Toyota now has 177 wins in the Cup Series, 196 in the Xfinity Series and 227 in the Truck Series.

Joe Gibbs Racing is Toyota's winningest organization with 148 wins in Cup and 190 in Xfinity since Gibbs and Toyota partnered together in 2008. Kyle Busch has 203 victories with

## CAR RACING

Toyota and Hamlin has 61.

Joey Logano's rough race ended with a bumpy ride to pit road. Logano, who won the first stage, later hit the wall, blew four tires and finished 35th. The Team Penske driver criticized NASCAR for the jittery ride to the pits in his Ford and said the tow truck caused additional damage to the car.

Logano took a job at Kevin Harvick after a run-in at the 2010 Pocono race, saying, “It's probably not his fault, you know, his wife wears the firesuit in the family.”

The quip has lived on in NASCAR circles but the feud between the two Cup champions has long since dissipated. Harvick, in his final NASCAR season, sold T-shirts this year for charity that read “I wear the firesuit in this family.” Harvick gave a \$12,000 check from money raised from the sale to Logano for his charity foundation. Harvick's young daughter wore a firesuit on Sunday with the slogan across the front.

NASCAR heads to Richmond. Larson won the race in April while Harvick is the defending winner of last summer's race.

## Henderson homers as Orioles top Rays



New York Yankees' Anthony Rizzo hits a home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals in New York. (AP)

## Angels wrap up strong homestand

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., July 24, (AP) — Gunnar Henderson and Ryan O'Hearn homered as the AL East-leading Baltimore Orioles beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-3 on Sunday to take three of four in a weekend series.**

The Orioles have a two-game lead over the Rays after winning for the 12th time in 15 games.

Mike Baumann (7-0) pitched 2 2/3 hitless innings for the win. Félix Bautista gave up ninth-inning singles to Manuel Margot and Yandy Diaz before securing his 28th save.

Four Baltimore pitchers combined on a three-hitter. Baltimore pitchers walked six and hit two batters.

Diaz homered for the Rays, who are an AL-worse 4-14 in July. Colin Poche (7-3) got the loss.

## Angels 7, Pirates 5

In Anaheim, Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 36th homer in the two-way superstar's final home game before the trade deadline, and the Angels wrapped up a strong homestand.

Ohtani is eligible for free agency this winter and could be on the move ahead of the Aug. 1 trade deadline. But general manager Perry Minasian has said the Angels (51-49) are highly unlikely to deal Ohtani if they remain in playoff contention.

Tyler Anderson (5-2) yielded eight hits while pitching into the seventh inning for the Angels. Carlos Estévez worked the ninth for his 23rd save.

Bryan Reynolds homered for the Pirates, who have lost seven of nine out of the break. Mitch Keller (9-6) got the loss.

## Rangers 8, Dodgers 4

In Arlington, Jonah Heim and Leody Taveras each hit a two-run double, and the Rangers overcame Max Muncy's first-inning grand slam.

Heim cut LA's lead to 4-2 in the bottom of the first before RBI singles from Marcus Semien, Nathaniel Lowe and Josh Jung put Texas in front in the second.

Missing All-Star sluggers Corey Seager (sprained right thumb) and Adolis García (sore right hand), the Rangers avoided a three-game sweep in a matchup of division leaders.

Texas left-hander Martín Pérez (8-3) allowed six hits in six innings. Dodgers rookie Emmet Sheehan (3-1) permitted eight runs and eight hits in 3 2/3 innings.

## Yankees 8, Royals 5

In New York, Anthony Rizzo hit his first home run since May 20 and went 4 for 4 as the Yankees completed their third series sweep of the season.

Gleyber Torres' two-run homer sparked New York's four-run first inning against Jordan Lyles (1-12). Torres extended his hitting streak to a career-high 13 games but exited in the seventh because of left hip tightness.

Luis Severino (2-4) won for the first time in four starts since June 24. It was Rizzo's 15th career four-hit game and first since Aug. 4, 2019.

Salvador Perez, Michael Massey, Freddy Fermin and Kyle Isbel homered for Kansas City in its fifth straight loss.

## Red Sox 6, Mets 1

In Boston, Rafael Devers homered, Adam Duvall drove in two runs and Boston beat New York to take two of three in their weekend series.

Boston opened a four-run third inning with seven straight hits, chasing an ineffective Carlos Carrasco (3-4). Connor Wong had three hits for the Red Sox, who finished with 15.

The victory kept Boston (53-47) tied with the rival Yankees for last place in the rugged AL East. Both sit two games out of a playoff spot.

Boston used seven pitchers, with Chris Murphy (1-0) tossing 3 2/3 innings in relief of opener Brennan Bernardino for his first major league win.

## Braves 4, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Atlanta star Ozzie Albies hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning, ending Milwaukee's run of bullpen dominance.

Albies' 407-foot shot to left-center on a first-pitch sinker from Elvis Peguero (1-3) ended a string of 28 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings by Brewers relievers.

Atlanta slugger Austin Riley went 0 for 4 to end his streak of five straight games with a homer, which matched a Braves record.

Daysbel Hernández (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh to earn the win in his big league debut after getting called up from Triple-A Gwinnett earlier in the day. Raisel Iglesias struck out the side in the ninth for his 18th save.

## Blue Jays 4, Mariners 3

In Seattle, pinch-hitter Santiago Espinal singled home the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning, and Toronto closer Jordan Romano escaped a ninth-inning jam.

Seattle put runners on second and third with one out in the ninth, but Romano struck out Julio Rodriguez on a 2-2 slider and retired Eugenio Suárez on a flyout for his 27th save.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Brandon Belt each homered for the second straight game, helping the Blue Jays rebound from blowing late leads in one-run losses Friday and Saturday. Tim Lincecum (2-1) got the win.

Mike Ford hit a two-run shot for the Mariners. Bryan Woo (1-3) was charged with the loss.

## Phillies 8, Guardians 5, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Bryce Harper drove in the go-ahead run with a 10th-inning single and flashed more solid defense in his second career start at first base, leading Philadelphia to the victory.

## BASEBALL

Phillies closer Craig Kimbrel (6-1) blew his first save in 17 chances this season when David Fry hit a solo homer with two outs in the ninth.

Kyle Schwarber began the 10th as the automatic runner at second base. Trea Turner drew a walk before Harper singled up the middle off Tim Herrin (1-1). J.T. Realmuto hit a sacrifice fly and Alec Bohm had a two-run single that made it 8-4.

Cleveland threatened to come all the way back in the bottom half. Steven Kwan's single off Jeff Hoffman scored a run, and a walk to Tyler Freeman loaded the bases with no outs. Yunior Marte replaced Hoffman and got out of the jam for his second save.

## Nationals 6, Giants 1

In Washington, Lane Thomas matched a Nationals record with four stolen bases, and Washington recorded its first series sweep in nearly two years.

Riley Adams homered and MacKenzie Gore (6-7) threw five shutout innings for Washington, which completed its first sweep since taking two games from Toronto in August 2021. It was the Nationals' first three-game series sweep since June 2021 against Pittsburgh. Joc Pederson homered for San Francisco, which dropped its fifth consecutive game. Scott Alexander (6-1) got the loss.



Washington Nationals center fielder Alex Call catches a fly ball hit by San Francisco Giants' Austin Slater during the seventh inning of a baseball game at Nationals Park in Washington. (AP)

## Reds 7, Diamondbacks 3

In Cincinnati, Elly De La Cruz hit his first career leadoff homer and Nick Senzel connected for a two-run shot, helping the Reds finish the three-game sweep.

Christian Encarnacion-Strand had two hits and two RBIs as Cincinnati earned its fifth straight victory overall. It was the Reds' first sweep of the Diamondbacks since July 6-8, 2007, at Great American Ball Park.

Cincinnati (55-46) moved within a half-game of NL Central-leading Milwaukee. The Reds open a three-game set at the Brewers on Monday night.

Derek Law (4-4) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. Lucas Sims got two outs for his second save.

Corbin Carroll hit his 21st homer for the Diamondbacks, and Ketel Marte went 2 for 2 with three walks. Tyler Gilbert (0-1) got the loss.

## Cubs 7, Cardinals 2

In Chicago, Cody Bellinger homered and drove in three runs for the Cubs, and Jameson Taillon pitched into the sixth inning.

Dansby Swanson had two hits and Yan Gomes drove in two runs as Chicago closed out a 6-4 homestand. The Cubs won the last three games of their four-game set against the Cardinals.

Taillon (4-6) was charged with one run and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Nolan Arenado had three hits for the disappointing Cardinals, who could be one of baseball's most active sellers ahead of the Aug. 1 trade deadline. Jordan Montgomery (6-8) allowed seven runs, five earned, and six hits in six innings.

## Marlins 3, Rockies 2, 10 innings

In Miami, Luis Arraez singled home the winning run with the bases loaded in the 10th inning, and the Marlins ended an eight-game losing streak.

With the Rockies playing five infielders, Arraez hit a line drive to an empty right field off Pierce Johnson (1-5). Arraez went 3 for 4, raising his major league-leading batting average to .379. Huescar Brazoban (4-2) got the win for Miami, which earned its first victory since the All-Star break.

Randal Grichuk and Brenton Doyle homered for Colorado.

## Twins 5, White Sox 4, 12 innings

In Minneapolis, Ryan Jeffers hit a two-out RBI single in the 12th inning to cap a late rally by the Twins that secured a series sweep over the White Sox.

Jesse Scholtens (1-3) loaded the bases with nobody out before enticing Christian Vázquez to hit a 2-0 fastball into a shortstop-to-home-to-first double play. That left a runner on third for Jeffers, who lifted the Twins (53-48) to a three-game lead on Cleveland in the AL Central for their largest margin in more than five weeks.

Emilio Pagán (5-1) pitched a perfect 12th for the victory, stranding the automatic runner at third in his latest solo appearance following a rough 1 1/2 seasons to start his Twins career.

## Astros 3, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Mauricio Dubón homered with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting Houston to the victory.

Yainer Diaz connected for his 11th homer for the Astros, who have won four of five and remain three games back of the AL West-leading Rangers. Hector Neris (6-2) got the win, and Bryan Abreu earned his third save.

Jeremy Pena drew a one-out walk off Chad Smith (1-2) but was caught trying to steal second. Dubón then went deep for his fifth homer this season.

JJ Bleday homered and scored twice for the last-place A's.

## Tigers 3, Padres 1

In Detroit, Spencer Torkelson and Andy Ibañez homered, and the Tigers avoided a weekend sweep.

Alex Faedo (2-4), who entered with a 6.98 ERA, pitched six shutout innings for Detroit. The right-hander allowed one hit and walked four.

Beau Brieske and Jason Foley each worked an inning before Alex Lange pitched a rainy ninth for his 17th save. With runners on second and third, Lange retired Gary Sánchez on a fly ball to center for the final out.

## Ex-winners OM to face Dnipro-1 or Panathinaikos

NYON, Switzerland, July 24, (AP) — Marseille, the first winner of the rebranded Champions League in 1993, was paired with either Ukrainian club Dnipro-1 or Greek team Panathinaikos on Monday in the draw for the third qualifying round.

After finishing third in the French league last season, Marseille needs to advance through two rounds to get to the 32-team group stage.

Marseille's path through the first of those rounds was drawn three days after the club won a ruling at the Court of Arbitration for Sport which lifted the threat of a one-year ban on registering new players. The club can now recruit freely for the new season.

## SOCCER

A second former champion, PSV Eindhoven, was in Monday's draw. The 1988 European Cup champions will be at home first on Aug. 8 or 9 against Austrian club Sturm Graz. A separate section of the draw for teams from higher-ranked countries that did not win their domestic title saw Rangers paired with Servette or Genk, and Braga paired with Serbian club TSC Backa Topola.

The draw was made ahead of Tuesday's games in the second qualifying round.

In the draw section for national champions, AEK Athens will face either Dinamo Zagreb or Astana in the third qualifying round, and Sparta Prague is away first against Copenhagen or Icelandic club Breidablik.

## Change Name

I, Hozefa (current name as in Passport), holder of Indian Passport Number: N0420444 having permanent address Madhya Pradesh, India 457001 State, Country and Pincode), and residing in Kuwait at present, do hereby declare that I change my name to Hozefa (Given name) Khawasawala (Surname) for all purposes, and that I undertake to effect the change in all my official documents

## MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, July 24, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Sunday.																
Detroit	3	San Diego	1	Toronto	4	Seattle	3	NY Yankees	8	Kansas City	5	Boston	6	NY Mets	1	
Baltimore	5	Tampa Bay	3	Washington	6	San Francisco	3	Philadelphia	8	Cleveland 10 inn	5	Cincinnati	7	Arizona	1	
Texas	8	LA Dodgers	4	Miami	3	Colorado 10 inn	2	Minnesota	5	Chicago W. Sox 12 inn	4	Atlanta	4	Milwaukee	2	
Houston	3	Oakland	2	Chicago Cubs	7	St Louis	2	LA Angels	7	Pittsburgh	5					
American League					National League											
East Division					East Division											
Baltimore	W	L	Pct	GB	Atlanta	W	L	Pct	GB							
Tampa Bay	61	42	.616	—	Milwaukee	64	34	.653	—							
Toronto	55	45	.550	6-1/2	Cincinnati	54	47	.535	11-1/2							
Boston	53	47	.530	8-1/2	Chicago	53	46	.535	11-1/2							
New York	53	47	.530	8-1/2	New York	46	53	.465	18-1/2							
					Washington	41	58	.414	23-1/2							
Central Division					Central Division											
Minnesota	W	L	Pct	GB	Milwaukee	W	L	Pct	GB							
Cleveland	53	48	.525	—	Cincinnati	55	45	.550	—							
Detroit	49	50	.495	3	Chicago	48	51	.485	6-1/2							
Chicago	41	60	.406	12	St Louis	44	56	.440	11							
Kansas City	28	73	.277	25	Pittsburgh	43	56	.434	11-1/2							
West Division					West Division											
Texas	W	L	Pct	GB	Los Angeles	W	L	Pct	GB							
Houston	59	41	.590	—	Arizona	57	41	.582	—							
Los Angeles	56	44	.560	3	San Francisco	54	46	.540	4							
Seattle	51	49	.510	8	San Diego	54	46	.540	4							
Oakland	50	49	.505	8-1/2	Colorado	48	52	.480	10							
	28	74	.275	32		39	60	.394	18-1/2							

## Josef slightly closes gap behind leader Palou

## Newgarden completes sweep

NEWTON, Iowa, July 24, (AP) — Josef Newgarden got one win on Saturday, but he said it felt like “50 percent of the battle.”

Newgarden completed the doubleheader sweep he wanted at a track where he's had plenty of success, winning the IndyCar Series race Sunday at Iowa Speedway.

Newgarden, who led 212 of 250 laps, held onto the lead on a restart with three laps to go, beating Team Penske teammate Will Power by less than a second and slightly closing the gap behind series points leader Alex Palou with five races to go.

“Today, I feel like we're done now,” Newgarden said. “It's finished.”

It was the sixth victory of Newgarden's career at the 0.875-mile oval and came a day after he led for 129 laps in the first race of the series' lone dou-



Josef Newgarden (2) leads Alex Palou, of Spain, during an IndyCar Series auto race at Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa. (AP)

bleheader of the season. Newgarden needed a little extra work in this race after starting seventh — he started third on Saturday — but he was able to move into the lead by Lap 31 and maintained control the rest

## AUTO RACING

of the way. Newgarden said he spent four hours studying video on Saturday night, looking for something that he could use in this race.

Newgarden left the weekend second in the series standings, 80 points behind Palou, who finished third. Palou came into the weekend with a 117-point lead over Scott Dixon, with Newgarden 126 points back in third place.

Palou said he was dreading the doubleheader long before he came to Iowa, but was happy leaving with one podium finish.

“We knew it would be a tough weekend,” said Palou, who finished eighth on Saturday. “Today we had no pace. I was struggling to keep the tires under the deck. The team got me back into it.”

Newgarden continued his dominance on ovals this season. He won at Texas Motor Speedway

on April 2, then won the Indianapolis 500. It was his fifth consecutive win on ovals dating back to last season, tying him with A.J. Foyt and Al Unser Sr. for the longest oval win streak in IndyCar.

“It's hard to complain about our cars on ovals,” Newgarden said. “They're very, very good.”

Power acknowledged frustration at his teammate's dominance on ovals.

“Just ovals in general, he's won every single oval when he's finished, for a long time,” Power said.

Power, on the pole for both weekend races, led the first 30 laps before Newgarden used a lower line to pass Power and fellow Penske teammate Scott McLaughlin as they encountered slower traffic.

Newgarden was among several drivers involved in one of the tense moments of the race, when Sting Ray Robb lost the left wheel of his car on Lap 158, seconds after Robb left pit road.

The wheel rolled into oncoming traffic between Turns 3 and 4, with Newgarden, Conor Daly and Graham Rahal among others having to swerve to avoid

## Pogaar claims penultimate stage

## Vingegaard wins Tour de France for 2nd straight year

PARIS, July 24, (AP) — Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard won the Tour de France for a second straight year as cycling's most storied race finished Sunday on the famed Champs-Élysées.

With a huge lead built up over main rival Tadej Pogaar, the 2020 and 2021 winner, Vingegaard knew the victory was effectively his again before the largely ceremonial stage at the end of the 110th edition of the Tour.

"It's been a long journey, yet it went by so fast," Vingegaard said. "Day after day, it was a super hard race with a super nice fight between me and Tadej. I've enjoyed every day. I hope to come back next year and see if I can take a third win."

It had been a three-week slog over 3,405 kilometers (2,116 miles) with eight mountain stages across five mountain ranges. Vingegaard seized control of the race over two stages in the Alps.

Little had separated the two rivals until Vingegaard finished a time trial 1 minute, 38 seconds ahead of Pogaar on Tuesday, then

followed up the next day by finishing the toughest mountain stage of the race almost 6 minutes ahead of his exhausted rival.

"I'm dead," Pogaar said. The Slovenian rider responded by winning the penultimate stage, but Vingegaard still had an insurmountable lead of 7 minutes, 29 seconds going into the final stage - a mostly ceremonial stage which is contested at the end by the sprinters.

## CYCLING

Vingegaard kept that lead and was able to celebrate early Sunday as organizers decided to take the times one lap before the finish when it started raining on the cobblestones of the Champs-Élysées. The decision invited the sprinters to fight for the stage victory - the only remaining uncertainty.

Belgian cyclist Jordi Meesus prevailed in a photo finish between four riders on the line, just ahead of Jasper Philipsen, Dylan Groenewegen and Mads Pedersen.

"It was my first Tour. It was a



Tour de France winner Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates on the podium after the twenty-first stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 115 kilometers (71.5 miles) with start in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines and finish on the Champs-Élysées avenue in Paris, France. (AP)

super nice experience already so far, and to take the win today is an indescribable feeling," said Meesus, who clocked a top speed

of 68.8 kph (42.8 mph) on the last kilometer.

Pogaar, who attacked after just one lap of eight altogether on the Champs-Élysées, was wearing the white jersey as the best young rider for the 75th day - extending a career Tour record. The 24-year-old Slovenian rider has won the best young rider classification every year since 2020.

But Pogaar had to be content with second place in the general classification again.

British rider Adam Yates, Pogaar's teammate, finished third overall, ahead of his twin brother Simon.

Colombian rider Egan Bernal, the 2019 Tour winner, completed the race as he made his impressive comeback from a life-threatening crash. The 26-year-old Bernal said he narrowly avoided becoming paralyzed after an accident with a bus while training in Colombia in January 2022.

"It's difficult to compare with the year I won but it's almost the same feeling because for me it's a great victory," Bernal said. "Yesterday, in the last climb, I was so lucky I was alone and could enjoy the last kilometers. I was so emotional."

## Harman is unstoppable in a drama-free British Open win



United States' Brian Harman poses for the media as he holds the Claret Jug trophy for winning the British Open Golf Championships at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, England. (AP)

HOYLAKE, England, July 24, (AP) — Brian Harman turned back every challenge in the British Open, from big names to bad weather, and took his place among major champions Sunday with a victory that was never seriously in doubt at Royal Liverpool.

Harman twice responded to a rare bogey with back-to-back birdies, leaving everyone else playing for second. He closed with a 1-under 70, making an 8-foot par putt on the last hole for a six-shot victory.

At age 36, he is the oldest first-time major winner since Sergio Garcia was 37 when he won the Masters in 2017.

Harman had gone 167 tournaments over six years since his last win in the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship. This is only his third title in his 12 years on the PGA Tour.

Masters champion Jon Rahm birdied his last hole for a 70 to make it a four-way tie for second place with Tom Kim (67), Sepp Straka (69) and Jason Day (69).

Harman took the lead on Friday morning with the second of four straight birdies early in the second round. He never trailed over the final 51 holes, leading by five shots after the second round and five shots after the third round.

He started the round in the rain with a smattering of boos from the grandstand. But he walked up toward the 18th green to a standing ovation, and tapped his hand to his heart to acknowledge the fans as he walked off the green. All that remained was signing his card - a 13-under 271 - and return to collect the silver claret jug, the oldest trophy in golf.

Akshay Bhatia birdied the closing hole in regulation, then capitalized in sudden death when Patrick Rodgers found a divot in the fairway to win his first PGA Tour title at the Barracuda Championship on Sunday.

The 21-year-old Bhatia, who turned pro at 17, earned full status on tour and

a spot in the FedEx Cup playoffs. He had been playing under special temporary membership since his runner-up finish at the Puerto Rico Open in March.

Bhatia converted a birdie from about 15 feet on the par-4 18th hole at Tahoe Mountain Club to finish with 40 points under the modified Stableford scoring system that awards five points for eagle and two for birdie while deducting a point for bogey and three for double bogey. The slender left-hander had nine points on Sunday.

That was good enough to match Rodgers, who scored six points in the final round.

In the playoff, Rodgers' tee shot on the 18th settled in a divot and he chucked his approach. His pitch was well short and he two-putted for bogey. Bhatia left his birdie putt just short and tapped in for the victory.

Rodgers remains winless in 246 PGA Tour starts. The 31-year-old former Stanford star failed to convert a 54-hole lead for the fifth time.

Two European tour players tied for third in the co-sanctioned event. Julien Guerrier scored 20 points on Sunday to finish with 37 alongside Jens Dantorp,

who had 15 points in the final round.

Cheyenne Knight and Elizabeth Szokol held off Matilda Castrén and Kelly Tan by a stroke Saturday to win the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, the LPGA Tour's lone team event.

Knight and Szokol closed with a 5-under 65 in better-ball play at Midland Country Club, waiting out a delay of 1 hour, 40 minutes because of lightning while they were on the 13th hole.

The 29-year-old Szokol took her first LPGA Tour title, while the 26-year-old Knight also won the 2019 Ascendant LPGA. The U.S. duo tied for fourth last year after missing the cut in 2021.

## GOLF

They finished at 23 under, following a better-ball 61 in the second round Thursday with an alternate-shot 62 on Saturday to take a three-stroke lead into the final round.

Castrén and Tan shot a 63. They also finished second last year.

The teams of Celine Boutier-Yuka Saso (62), Jodi Ewart Shadoff-Emma Talley (63) and Celine Borge-Polly

Mack (63) tied for third at 20 under. Stacy Lewis and Maria Fassi had a 63 to finish sixth at 19 under.

Pierceson Coody won for the third time in 13 months on the Korn Ferry Tour, closing with a 5-under 67 on Sunday for a two-shot victory over four players including his twin brother, Parker, in the Price Cutter Charity Championship.

The 23-year-old who starred in college at Texas moved to fourth in the points standings and assured himself of earning a PGA Tour card for next season. He won in Maine last year in his third Korn Ferry start and won again in Panama in February.

Pierceson and Parker are grandsons of 1971 Masters champion Charles Coody.

Pierceson finished at 25-under 263 at Highland Springs. Parker shot 66 and was 23 under alongside Ben Silverman (62), Thomas Walsh (69) and Chandler Phillips (69). Silverman has a victory and two runner-ups this season and has secured his PGA Tour card for 2024.

Kiara Romero won the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship on Saturday, outlasting Rianne Malixi 1-up with a 7-foot par putt on the 36th and final hole at the U.S. Air Force Academy Eisenhower Golf Club. ... Jenny Bae closed with a 2-over 73 on Sunday but won the Twin Bridges Championship in a playoff over Natasha Andrea Oon on the Épon Tour.

Nuria Iruroz of Spain won for the fourth time on the Ladies European Tour, closing with a 5-under 67 and beating Laura Fuenfstueck on the second playoff hole. ... Francesco Laporta closed with an even-par 72 for a one-shot victory over four players in the Big Green Egg German Challenge on the Challenge Tour.

Stuart Macdonald of Canada birdied the par-5 18th hole at Eagle Creek for the fourth time Sunday to beat Devon Bling and Luke Schneiderjans in a playoff in the Commissionaires Ottawa Open on the PGA Tour Canada. Macdonald birdied the 18th to get into the playoff and three more times in sudden death, winning on the fourth playoff hole when Bling made par.

## Sri Lanka bowled out for 166

## Shafique &amp; Ahmed put Pak on top in 2nd Test

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, July 24, (AP) — Pakistan's new aggressive approach paid rich dividends as it bowled out Sri Lanka for 166 before racing to 145-2 in reply on day one of the second cricket test on Monday.

Pakistan, 1-0 up in the two-match series, is in complete control despite losing the toss and having to field first at the Sinhalese Sports Club.

At one stage the tourists were scoring at 6.5 runs an over, with the 50 coming up in 50 balls and the 100 arriving in 101 deliveries.

Abdullah Shafique needed only 49 deliveries to reach his fifth test half-century while Shan Masood raced to his seventh half-century in just 44 balls.

## CRICKET

Asitha Fernando claimed the first Pakistan wicket to fall, removing Imam-ul-Haq for six, before coming back for a second spell and having Masood caught at wide mid-on for 51.

Shafique, who was dropped by Prabhath Jayasuriya off his own bowling on 42, reached 74 not out at stumps, with captain Babar Azam unbeaten on 8.

Earlier, leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed took 4-69 and fast bowler Naseem Shah claimed 3-41 as Sri Lanka was skittled out by a Pakistan side bowling with aggressive fields.

Sri Lanka batting coach Naveed Nawaz said: "We expected to bat better than this. The SSC is a wicket where you can make lots of runs once you get a start. Their field settings were good and tempted the batters and we made the wrong choices. It's a matter of poor execution."

Sri Lanka made a bad start when opening batsman Nishan Madushka was run out for 4 in the third over. Captain Dimuth Karunaratne pushed the ball into the covers and attempted a single but Masood threw down the stumps with a direct hit.

Pakistan was excellent in the field and

Masood also ran out tail-ender Jayasuriya with a direct hit later, but the damage for Sri Lanka was done in the morning session as it slumped to 36-4.

Sri Lanka was guilty of throwing away wickets. Kusal Mendis hit one straight to cover on 6, Angelo Mathews was caught behind for 9 and Karunaratne dragged the ball onto the stumps after attempting an expansive drive on 17.

An 85-run stand for the fifth wicket steadied the innings before Dinesh Chandimal, who had been peppered by short bowling, hit Naseem straight to mid-wicket on 34.

Dhananjaya de Silva, who shared the big partnership with Chandimal, top-scored with 57 before falling to Abrar.

Naseem said: "The pitch is good to bat on so we are pleased to have bowled them out for 166."

An hour's play was lost in the morning due to rain and 13 overs were lost in the day.



Pakistan's Abdullah Shafique plays a shot during the day one of the second cricket Test match between Sri Lanka and Pakistan in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)

## Rain ruins England's hopes

## Australia retain Ashes at Old Trafford

MANCHESTER, England, July 24, (AP) — Australia retained the Ashes after rain prevented any play on the final day of the fourth test against England at Old Trafford after weeks of blockbuster entertainment in the closest and most exciting Ashes contest since 2005.

Australia has an insurmountable 2-1 lead after the draw with one test left. England needed to win the five-match series to take the urn off holder Australia.

A shootout for glory in the fifth test at the Oval starting Thursday was on the cards if there had been enough time for England to convert its dominance in Manchester with Australia 214-5 in its second innings and 61 runs behind the hosts.

The fifth-day washout handed the urn to Australia as the most pessimistic forecasts came to pass and relentless rain meant the players never made it to the middle in a miserable weekend for England. Only 30 overs had been possible on Saturday.

England captain Ben Stokes was disappointed but said his team's thrill-a-minute style has already secured a place in the game's folklore.

"It's a tough one to take, a tough pill to swallow. We were completely and utterly dominant throughout the hours of play we had, but the weather didn't help us and we can't change that," Stokes said. "If this game went without rain we probably would have been favorites to be sat here at 2-2 and I think that would have elevated every-

thing that this series has already done for test cricket.

"But I think what we've managed to do has already done wonders for cricket in England. I said in the dressing room that the reward for your work isn't what you get, it's what you become. And I think what we've managed to become is a team that people will remember."

## CRICKET

England arrived Sunday needing five wickets to get over the line but left without a ball being bowled.

England has all but eliminated the concept of the draw since Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum ushered in the fast-scoring Bazball era more than a year ago, but for the first time in 17 games at the helm conditions finally left them with no cards to play.

Instead, dreams of a stirring comeback to beat its rivals for the first time since 2015 were swept away.

The rain fell all afternoon, with several puddles forming on the outfield, before any hope of play was abandoned at 5:24 p.m. (1624 GMT) local time.

Australia was more than happy to finish the job in the pavilion rather than out on the pitch, but any post-match celebrations may be slightly muted after this narrow escape.

There is still plenty to play for, with Australia bidding to claim a first outright win on English soil in 22 years while their opponents are seeking to level the series at 2-2 and preserve an undefeated streak under Stokes' leadership.

Pat Cummins, who has demanded a better showing from his side in London, wants to go one better than 2019, when Australia lost at the Oval to draw 2-2.



Akshay Bhatia watches his tee shot during the final round of the Barracuda Championship golf tournament at the Tahoe Mountain Club in Truckee, Calif. (AP)



Lara Dashti of Kuwait competes in the women's 100m breaststroke at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan. (AP)

# Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>



Zhang Yufei, of China, competes in the women's 100-meter butterfly final at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan, Monday. (AP)

Americans finish 1-2 in women's 200-meter medley

## China clinch two gold medals at swimming world championships

# Dominant Germany ruin Morocco debut at Women's WC, Brazil make flying start

Italy beat Argentina

**MELBOURNE, Australia, July 24, (AP):** Alexandra Popp scored twice in the first half and Germany added four more in the second in a 6-0 rout of a Morocco team on its debut at the Women's World Cup on Monday.

The margin of victory is the largest of the tournament so far as the two-time champions dominated throughout against Morocco, the first Arab and North African country to qualify for the tournament. Popp scored her 63rd and 64th international goals, moving to third on Germany's all-time list. The Wolfsburg forward quickly made her mark on the tournament after missing out on the final of the 2022 European Championship against England because of injury.

The second half featured two Morocco own-goals sandwiched between goals from Klara Buehl and Lea Schüller. In the 11th minute, Popp scored with a header off a cross from Kathrin Hendrich. She doubled her tally with another header in the 39th off Klara Buehl's corner kick.

Buehl scored the third goal with a right-foot strike just 23 seconds into the second half. For the fourth goal in the 54th, Svenja Huth served a ball in off a rebound from a corner. The ball then bounced off Morocco defender Hanane Ait El Haj for an own goal.

Another own goal by Yasmin Mraabet followed before Lea Schüller rounded out the scoring for Germany in the 90th minute.

### SOCCER

After losing to Zambia and Brazil in recent friendlies, Germany announced itself as a contender to win the tournament with the comfortable victory. The 2003 and 2007 World Cup winners have advanced to at least the quarterfinals in each of its eight previous World Cup appearances. Germany is on top of Group H, with Colombia and South Korea set to play their opening match on Tuesday.

The lopsided loss adds pressure to the remaining group-stage matches for the Moroccans, who need to improve on this performance in order to keep alive any hopes of advancing to the tournament's knockout stage. "I haven't set myself a goal on how many goals I'll score. I want to reach the finals and to win the finals. Apart from that, I'm just happy. I hadn't scored really well before (in the World Cup), but these two goals were a boost." - Alexandra Popp, Germany captain.

"We have to go again, there's another two games. We have the spirit, we have the fight and we'll regroup and go again against South Korea." - Rosella



Brazil's Duda Sampaio and Panama's Emily Cedeno (left), battle for the ball during the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match between Brazil and Panama in Adelaide, Australia. (AP)

Ayane, Morocco player.

Germany will travel to Sydney for its next game against Colombia, who advanced to the round of 16 in its last World Cup appearance. Morocco will play South Korea at Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium. Both games are scheduled for Sunday.

### Brazil 4, Panama 0

In Adelaide, Ary Borges scored a hat trick as Brazil made a flying start by beating Panama 4-0.

An early contender for goal of the tournament had to be Bia Zaneratto finishing off a move full of Brazilian flair. And Borges, playing at her first World Cup, was right at the heart of it with a back-heeled assist following a brilliant team move.

Brazil made an early statement by moving to the top of Group F and Borges was the star at Hindmarsh Stadium.

She struck twice in the first half and completed her treble in the 70th minute.

Panama, making its debut at the tournament, could do little to keep the 2007 runners-up at bay, with Borges ruthless in front of goal.

She headed her team in front in 19th from close range and got her second in the 39th when turning in the rebound after her first effort was saved by Panama goalkeeper Yenith Bailey.

Zaneratto added the third three minutes into the second half when Brazil put together a sweeping passing move.

Borges then went on to complete her hat trick with another header.

Brazil legend Marta went on in the second half to mark her sixth World Cup. The 37-year-old forward is the competition's all-time leading scorer with 17 goals.

Brazil plays France in Brisbane on Saturday when a win would see it qualify for Group F. Panama plays Jamaica in Perth on the same day.

### Italy 1, Argentina 0

In Auckland - in the space of some four minutes, Cristiana Girelli made history.

## Al-Hilal make record \$332 million bid for Mbappe

SYDNEY, July 24, (AP) - After missing out on Lionel Messi, Saudi Arabian soccer team Al-Hilal made a record 300 million euro (\$332 million) bid for Kylian Mbappe on Monday, an offer which could see the France striker join Cristiano Ronaldo in the oil-rich kingdom.

Paris Saint-Germain confirmed the offer for its player and has given Al-Hilal permission to open negotiations directly with Mbappe.

The 2018 World Cup winner is in a contract standoff with PSG after his decision not to take up the option of a 12-month extension on his deal. Instead, he plans to walk away as a free agent at the end of the upcoming season when he is widely expected to join Real Madrid. PSG cut Mbappe from its preseason tour of Japan on Saturday, with the French club determined to sell him unless he can be convinced to sign a new contract.

A new deal now looks highly unlikely with relations between the 24-year-old Mbappe and PSG becoming increasingly tense.

Saudi Arabia has sought in recent years to buy its way into international sports. Besides Ronaldo, whose contract reportedly earns him up to \$200 million a year, Saudi-funded LIV Golf has shaken up professional golf.

Earlier this year, Al-Hilal failed in an attempt to sign Messi, with the Argentina great choosing to join Inter Miami instead.

The bid for Mbappe would make him the most expensive soccer player in history, overtaking the \$262 million PSG paid for Neymar, who joined from Barcelona in 2017.

The offer represents Saudi Arabia's most ambitious move yet as part of a determined recruitment drive to lure the game's biggest players to the country.

After Ronaldo agreed to join Al-Nassr in December, Saudi teams have gone into overdrive by targeting leading names from Europe's top leagues. Real Madrid great and current Ballon d'Or holder Karim Benzema signed for Saudi champion Al-Ittihad last month and has been joined by 2018 World Cup winner N'Golo Kante.

Roberto Firmino, Kalidou Koulibaly and Marcelo Brozovic are among other big names to head to the lucrative Saudi league, which is making mega-money offers to players in a bid to raise the profile and quality of soccer in the country.

While that was not enough to convince Messi to join Al-Hilal after leaving PSG, more stars are expected to follow in the footsteps of Ronaldo and Co.

### SOCCER

Premier League players like Riyad Mahrez and Jordan Henderson have recently been linked with moves from Manchester City and Liverpool, respectively.

The reported salaries and commercial deals for Ronaldo, Benzema and Kante could earn them a combined figure of nearly \$1 billion.

Mbappe has said he plans to see out the final year of his contract, which would leave PSG powerless to prevent him from leaving for nothing next year.

The French champions, who are owned by Qatar Sports Investments, have already seen Messi leave for nothing in return and are determined to earn a fee for a player who is widely considered one of the few capable of taking over from Messi and Ronaldo as soccer's biggest star.

Girelli became the first Italian to score in two Women's World Cups with her goal in the 87th minute that gave Italy a 1-0 win in its tournament opener against Argentina.

Italy put the ball in the back of the net twice in the opening half but both times were offside, before Girelli's breakthrough header. Girelli came into

the match as a substitute in the 83rd minute.

The Italians have never dropped an opening match at the World Cup. But this time they faced tenacious Argentina, eager for its first-ever win in the tournament. Going into the World Cup, La Albiceleste were inspired by their men's side and star Lionel Messi,

who brought home the World Cup trophy from Qatar late last year.

Italy has had more success on the big stage, advancing to the World Cup quarterfinals in 2019 after a 2-0 round of 16 victory over China. The Italians were stopped by the Netherlands, which went on to lose to the United States in the final.



Morocco's Sakina Ouzraoui fights for the ball with Germany's Klara Buehl (right), during the Women's World Cup Group H soccer match between Germany and Morocco in Melbourne, Australia. (AP)

FUKUOKA, Japan, July 24, (AP) - China won just a single gold medal at last year's swimming world championships in Hungary. But on the second day of this year's competition in Japan, the Chinese claimed two golds in about 10 minutes to open the session.

And they are sure to win more with six days to go in the pool.

The American pair of Kate Douglas and Alex Walsh, college teammates at the University of Virginia, later went 1-2 in the 200-meter individual medley with Yu Yiting of China taking bronze. It was the Americans first gold.

"That was a huge honor for me to do it tonight," said Douglass, who overtook Walsh in the final 50-meter freestyle leg to finish in 2 minutes, 07.17 seconds. "I really just wanted to get the gold for Team USA tonight, and I'm so happy I did that."

Walsh finished in 2:07.97 and Yu in 2:08.74.

The Chinese sweep saw Zhang Yufei win the women's 100 butterfly and Qin Haiyang go wire-to-wire in the men's 100 breaststroke.

Zhang rallied over the final 15 meters, touching in 56.12 seconds. Maggie MacNeil of Canada finished second in 56.45, and Torri Huske of the United States clocked 56.61 for third just two years after placing fourth in the event at the Tokyo Olympics.

The women's race was a rematch of the final two years ago at the Tokyo Games. The top four finishers in Tokyo were separated by only 14 hundredths of a second. That race went to MacNeil, followed by Zhang and Australian swimmer Emma McKeon. Huske was .01 behind McKeon and missed out on a medal.

"This is my first gold medal in the world championships," Zhang said, calling her competitors MacNeil, McKeon and Huske "my old friends."

Zhang said she's changed her racing style, holding back on the first leg "and then going as fast as I can on the last 50."

### SWIMMING

Qin was never challenged in the 100 breaststroke and finished in 57.69. Three men tied for second in 58.72: Nic Fink of the United States, Nicolo Martigneghi of Italy and Arno Kamminga of the Netherlands.

"Everything just went the way I was thinking," Qin said. "And also this is just a start for me. I'm hoping for three gold."

He'll go in the 50 and 200. In the 200, he'll be up against rising French star Leon Marchand, who obliterated Michael Phelps' 400 IM record on Sunday, and Zac Stubblety-Cook - the world champion, Olympic champ and world-record holder from Australia.

His world record is 2:05.95.

The men's 100 breaststroke was partly defined by who did not compete. Adam Peaty, a two-time Olympic champion and world-record holder from Britain, is taking a break and is not swimming in Japan. He has said in interviews that he's taking time away for "mental health issues."

Peaty is one of the most dominant swimmers in his discipline and holds 19 of the top 20 times in the 100 breaststroke. His record is 56.88 seconds.

Thomas Ceccon of Italy won the men's 50 butterfly, which is not an Olympic event, in 22.68. He finished ahead of Diogo Matos Ribeiro of Portugal in 22.80 and Maxime Grousset of France in 22.82.

Ceccon won the race 20 minutes after winning a 100 backstroke semi-final.