



PARTS OF IRAQ SUFFER POWER OUTAGE AFTER FIRE
Kuwait urges power rationalization

MEW facing two critical weeks as temperatures soar

KUWAIT CITY, July 30, (Agencies): In light of the expectations of the Meteorological Department of high weather temperatures by the beginning of next August, the Ministry of Electricity is facing two critical weeks, during which electricity loads are expected to touch new record consumption levels, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This has prompted the Ministry to appeal to consumers to adopt a rationalization policy during the peak season of consumption and heat, in order to avoid emergency outages as a result of increased loads.

The MEW sources told the daily that the increase in each temperature is matched by an increase in loads exceeding 200 megawatts, pointing out that the expected consumption will not be more than 16,700 megawatts, while the production capacity exceeds 18,000 megawatts.

This means that things will remain under control especially since the maximum load recorded by the index during the current summer was 16,370 megawatts.

The sources expect the summer peak to end on August 15, and explained that the ministry appeals to reduce loads to save fuel consumption used in production, and reduce the burdens and costs of annual maintenance of power production units.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy confirmed on Saturday that what was being published in some social media about shutting down air conditioners in some schools and government agencies and cutting off electricity in industrial areas, chalets, and farms is inaccurate.

The ministry said in a statement that the routine emergency plan is implemented annually before the summer season and takes into account all possible scenarios for providing alternatives when need be.

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Iraqi Foreign Minister Fouad Hussein (right), shakes hands with visiting Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (left), in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, July 30, 2023.

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to Morocco's King Mohammed VI on his 23rd Throne Day anniversary.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir hailed all the progress and growth achieved during the King's reign, wishing him everlasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity to his country and people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to the King of Morocco Mohammed VI on the 23rd Throne Day anniversary, wishing him good health and Morocco further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable, congratulating Morocco's King Mohammed VI on the occasion of the 23rd Throne Day anniversary. (KUNA)

RABAT: King Mohammed VI, of Morocco, said Saturday the relations with neighboring Algeria were stable and the Kingdom is looking forward to even better relationship.

"The Kingdom of Morocco is keen on building strong relations with all sisterly and friendly countries, particularly the neighboring ones," he said in an address to the nation on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of his coronation. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Board of Directors of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) will soon appoint a director for the London Investment Office, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed that the authority's Board of Directors is currently studying the files of three candidates for the position, indicating the director of the office will most likely be appointed in the next meeting of the board.

KHAR, Pakistan: A powerful bomb ripped through a rally by supporters of a hard-line cleric and political leader in the country's northwestern Bajaur district that borders Afghanistan on Sunday, police and health officials said. At least 40 people were killed and more than 100 wounded.

Senior police officer Nazir Khan said the workers convention of Maulana Fazlur Rahman's Jamiat Ulema Islam party was taking place on the outskirts of Khar, the capital of Bajaur district, when the explosion took place. (AP)

MANAMA: Bahrain's Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif Al-Zayani on Saturday hailed his country's achievements and record in respecting human rights, protecting human dignity and combating trafficking in persons. (KUNA)



Shiite worshippers visit the holy shrine of Imam Abbas during Muharram processions in Karbala, Iraq, Saturday, July 29, 2023. Muharram is among the holiest months for Shiite Muslims and marks Ashoura, commemorating the 7th century martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) grandson Imam Hussein (RA). (AP)

Opinion

Are we shouting in a bottomless well?

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

ABOUT 1,600 years ago, the Carthaginian leader Hannibal said, "If we do not find the way to success, we must invent it." Also, there is a proverb that I always repeat - "Where there is a will, there is a way." There is no doubt that everyone knows what this leader - Hannibal - offered to his country, because he invented the way to its success.

This is just like the will of the late Chinese President Deng Xiaoping, who witnessed the birth of popular China, lived through its crises from 1945 until his death, and was the most important engine of the industrial revolution in China.

This communist leader, after he succeeded Hua Guofeng, inherited a country on the verge of bankruptcy, and suffering from several crises that originally resulted from the consequences of the great famine caused by Mao Zedong's decisions. Therefore when he assumed power, the first thing he did was plan for the advancement of the country.

At that time, the ruling Communist Party was suffering from power distribution in a way that did not allow any economic activity outside the administration of these centers. It thus sent a correspondence to a British university to seek the help of economists. The university chose Elias Korkis, a British citizen of Iraqi origin, and granted him full powers to perform his duties.

There were partisan circles opposing this proposal, but Xiaoping insisted on his position. In his famous speech in 1978, he said, "China needs half a century to rise". However, according to the plan drawn up by Korkis, China transformed into the largest industrial power in the world within two decades. Today, it has become the second economy in the world, and it is on the verge of becoming the first economy.

This example is not a unique one, as there is another one in Singapore, the island that used to live in poverty and disease due to underdevelopment and the lack of natural resources. However, it became blessed with a prime minister who realized from the beginning that the transition to the renaissance of his country needed ambition and determination.

Therefore, Singapore's leader Lee Kuan Yew worked to lift the country through education. He made the teacher's salary one of the highest incomes in the country. Within two decades after its separation from Malaysia, the island started achieving a national income of USD 340 billion. It became the seventh in the world with an average per capita income of about 62 thousand and a half dollars annually, in addition to the establishment of a global free market.

These equations were supported by one man who had the ambition and determination to reach the ultimate goal, which is the progress of the state, and achieve the strength of its continuity without crises. None of them submitted to the deep state and the reformists.

Sometimes one minister can achieve a miracle for his country, as did the former German Chancellor Ludwig Erhart who applied the theory of the social market economy when he was Minister of Economy and achieved an economic miracle after Germany's exit from World War II completely destroyed it.

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A view of the damaged skyscraper is shown in the 'Moscow City' business district after a reported drone attack in Moscow, Russia, early Sunday, July 30, 2023. (AP)

Drone attack on Moscow injures 1

Saudis to host Ukraine-organized peace talks

5 killed in refugee camp

Palestinian factions hold talks in Egypt

CAIRO, July 30, (AP): Palestinian factions met Sunday in Egypt to discuss reconciliation efforts as violence in the occupied West Bank surged between Israel and Palestinian militants.

The main groups, Hamas and Fatah, have been split since 2007 and repeated reconciliation attempts having failed, so expectations for the one-day meeting were low.

Participants at the closed-door meeting gave no indication of what was discussed. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who initiated the session in the Egyptian city of el-Alamein on the Mediterranean Sea, said at its conclusion only that the meeting was a "first and significant step" in efforts to end the long-running division.

Meanwhile, clashes Sunday in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp near the southern port city of Sidon left five people dead and seven others wounded, Palestinian officials said.

The officials, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said the fighting broke out after an unknown gunman tried to assassinate Islamist militant Mahmoud Khalil, killing a companion of his instead.

DUBAI, July 30, (AP): Saudi Arabia will host a Ukrainian-organized peace summit in early August seeking to find a way to start negotiations over Russia's war on the country, an official said Saturday night.

The kingdom and Kyiv did not immediately acknowledge the planned talks.

The summit will be held in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as no authorization had been given to publicly discuss the summit.

Those taking part in the summit will include Ukraine, as well as Brazil, India, South Africa and several other countries, the official said. A high-level official from U.S. President Joe Biden's administration also is expected to attend, the official said. Planning for the event is being overseen by Kyiv and Russia is not invited, the official said.

Details regarding the summit, however, remain in flux and the official did not offer dates for the talks. The Wall Street Journal, which first reported on the summit, said the talks would take place Aug. 5 and 6 with some 30 countries attending, citing "diplomats involved in the discussion."

Saudi officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press, nor did Ukraine's Embassy in Riyadh. News of the summit comes after U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan visited the kingdom on Thursday.

The official who spoke to the AP said the summit would be the next step after talks that took place in Copenhagen in June.

Saudi Arabia's hosting of the talks comes as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in May attended an Arab League summit in Jeddah to press those nations to back Kyiv. Arab nations largely have remained neutral since Russia launched the war on Ukraine in February 2022, in part over their military and economic ties to Moscow.

Saudi Arabia also has maintained a close relationship with Russia as part of the OPEC+ group. The organization's oil production cuts, even as Mos-

cow's war on Ukraine boosted energy prices, have angered Biden and American lawmakers.

But hosting such talks also help raise the profile of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has sought to reach a detente with Iran and push for a peace in the kingdom's years-long war in Yemen.

In other news, three Ukrainian drones attacked Moscow in the early hours on Sunday, Russian authorities said, injuring one person and prompting a temporary closure of traffic in and out of one of four airports around the Russian capital.

It was the fourth such attempt at a strike on the capital region this month and the third this week, fueling concerns about Moscow's vulnerability to attacks as Russia's war in Ukraine drags into its 18th month.

The Russian Defense Ministry referred to the incident as an "attempted terrorist attack by the Kyiv regime" and said three drones targeted the city. One was shot down in the surrounding Moscow region by air defense systems and two others were jammed. Those two crashed into the Moscow City business district.

Photos from the site of the crash showed the facade of a skyscraper damaged on one floor. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said the attack "insignificantly damaged" the outside of two buildings in the Moscow City district. A security guard was injured, Russia's state news agency Tass reported, citing emergency officials.

No flights went into or out of Vnukovo airport on the southern outskirts of the city for about an hour, according to Tass, and the airspace over Moscow and the outlying regions was temporarily closed to all aircraft. Those restrictions have since been lifted.

Moscow authorities have also closed a street to traffic near the site of the crash in the Moscow City area.

Without directly acknowledging that Ukraine was behind the attack on Moscow, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian air force said that the Russian people were seeing the consequences of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Opposition in Manipur visit

NEW DELHI, July 30, (AP): A group of Indian opposition lawmakers on Saturday visited a remote northeastern state where deadly ethnic clashes have killed at least 130 people, in a bid to pressure the government to take action against the violence which began in May.

The delegation of 20 lawmakers from 15 political parties, who are part of a new opposition alliance called INDIA, arrived in Manipur state for a two-day visit to assess the situation on the ground as the ongoing violence and bloodshed have displaced tens of thousands in recent months.

The conflict in Manipur has become a global issue due to the scale of violence, said Adhir Ranjan Choudhury, a lawmaker belonging to the opposition Congress party. "Our delegation is here to express solidarity with the people of Manipur in this time of distress. The top priority now is to restore normalcy as soon as possible," he added.

Tucked in the mountains on the border with Myanmar, Manipur is on the brink of a civil war. Mobs have rampaged through villages, torching houses and buildings. The conflict was sparked by an affirmative action controversy in which Christian Kukis protested a demand by mostly Hindu Meiteis for a special status that would let them buy land in the hills populated by Kukis and other tribal groups and get a share of government jobs.

After arriving in the state capital, Imphal, the lawmakers went to Churachandpur district, where they visited two relief camps and spoke to community leaders.

The conflict has triggered an impasse in India's Parliament, as opposition members demand a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the violence roiling the state.

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	03:38	Asr .....	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:07	Maghrib ..	18:42
Zohr .....	11:54	Isha .....	20:08

# Local

## Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Very hot with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 10-35 km/h.  
**By Night:** Hot to rather hot

## Weather

with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 10-35 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	48	37
Kuwait Airport	49	30

Abdaly	48	32
Jahra	50	33
Salmiyah	44	37
Ahmadi	45	38
Nuwaisib	46	30
Wafra	48	30

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



Honeymoon Lodges at the Shangrila Resort Hotel, Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan.



Polo match on top of the world in Shindur, near Chitral, Pakistan.



The second-highest mountain in the world, K2 in northern Pakistan.



The majestic Lake Saif-ul-muluk nestled among huge mountains in Naran, Kaghan Valley.



The Lahore Fort main gate.



The Parliament building in Islamabad.

## Pakistan, Kuwait share deep-rooted bonds of friendship, cooperation

# Pakistan: A land of rich history, resilient people, and tremendous potential

Pakistan boasts a rich and diverse history that spans over thousands of years. From the Indus Valley Civilization, one of the world's oldest urban settlements, to the Mughal Empire's grandeur and the cultural legacy of the Gandhara civilization, the country is a treasure trove of historical wonders. The birth of Pakistan in 1947 marked a significant milestone, as it became an independent nation dedicated to upholding the principles of democracy, freedom, and social justice.

The people of Pakistan are known for their warm hospitality, resilience, and diversity. With a population exceeding 240 million, Pakistan is a melting pot of various ethnicities, languages, and religions. The nation thrives on the spirit of unity, as people from different backgrounds coexist harmoniously. Pakistani society values education and has produced intellectuals, scientists, artists, and professionals, who have made substantial contributions globally.

Nestled in South Asia, Pakistan has breathtaking geographical diversity. From the mighty Himalayas in the north to the serene coastal lines along the Arabian Sea in the south, the country offers a stunning array of landscapes. Pakistan is home to enchanting valleys, such as Swat and Hunza, where one can witness the majestic beauty of nature. With its rich biodiversity, including national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, Pakistan is truly a paradise for nature enthusiasts.

### Hidden gem

Pakistan is a hidden gem for avid travelers. From ancient archaeological sites like Mohenjo-Daro and Taxila to the mesmerizing mountain ranges of the Karakoram and the world's second-highest peak, K2, Pakistan offers a wealth of unique experiences. The country's cultural festivals, vibrant markets, and delicious cuisine are a testament to its diverse heritage. With improved infrastructure and a renewed focus on tourism, Pakistan is set to become a top destination for adventure seekers and history buffs alike.

The world's leading US travel magazine Conde Nast declared Pakistan as the best tourist destination of 2020 and high-

lighted Pakistan's scenic and mesmerizing tourist attractions. The magazine had listed Pakistan as top tourist destination and inscribed "Pakistan has more peaks taller than 22,965ft than China and Nepal combined, making it an almost magnetic spot for adventure travelers and intrepid hikers." Similarly, British Backpackers Society (BBS) declared Pakistan as the world's third highest potential adventure destination for the year 2020.

Pakistan presents lucrative investment opportunities across various sectors.

The government has implemented investor-friendly policies, creating a favorable business environment. The country's strategic location as a gateway to Central and South Asia, coupled with its young and skilled workforce, makes it an attractive destination for foreign investors. With ongoing infrastructure development projects, particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan is poised for rapid economic growth and offers immense potential for investment in energy, manufacturing, technology, and agriculture. Pakistan has improved its ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business index from 136 to 108, reflecting the commitment of the authorities for enhancing business and facilitating the investments.

Pakistan has a proud sporting heritage, with notable achievements in cricket, hockey, squash, and other disciplines. The Pakistani cricket team has won the ICC Cricket World Cup in 1992 and 2009 and produced legendary players (Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram and Younas Khan) who have enthralled audiences worldwide. Pakistan's hockey team has dominated the international scene, clinching numerous Olympic and World Cup titles. The country has also produced world-class squash players, including Jahangir Khan and Jansher Khan, who reigned as undisputed champions for years. These accomplishments showcase the nation's passion for sports and its ability to nurture exceptional talent.

Pakistan's nuclear program is a testament to its commitment to energy self-sufficiency and technological advancements. Pakistan's nuclear

power plants contribute significantly to the national energy grid, reducing dependency on fossil fuels and promoting a cleaner environment. Through responsible and peaceful use of nuclear technology, Pakistan aims to meet its growing energy needs and enhance its socio-economic development.

### Women's role

Pakistan recognizes the pivotal role of women in society and is striving to ensure their empowerment and gender equality. The government has reserved 10% quota for employment of women to all posts across the board in federal and provincial civil services of Pakistan, besides competing on open merit; in the Parliament out of 342 total seats, Constitution of Pakistan reserves 60 seats for women. Female officers in our Armed Forces are equally serving the nation. Significant progress has been made in promoting women's education, healthcare, and participation in various sectors, women in Pakistan playing equally important role in the development of the country.

Pakistan and Kuwait share a deep-rooted bond of friendship and cooperation that has stood the test of time. The bilateral relations between these two nations have flourished over the years, laying a strong foundation for a mutually beneficial partnership. The friendship between Pakistan and Kuwait is characterized by mutual respect, understanding, and shared values, which have contributed to the growth and development of both countries.

The visit of the business delegation in February 2023, the launching of the joint Logo for the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations and the signing of the very important Defence Cooperation Agreement are vital milestones in this friendly journey. The cooperation in the Health Sector and appreciation of Pakistan's medical personnel by the Kuwaitis are perfect examples of supporting each other in times of need as well as of trust and cordiality between the two countries.

**Dr Syed Ja'afar Samdani**  
Senior Associate Lawyer

## Move to get rid of Al-Kabad garbage

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: Director of the Public Sanitation and Road Works Department at the Kuwait Municipality branch in Jahra Governorate Muhammad Al-Jabaa has confirmed assigning 250 cleaners for the removal of waste materials or garbage in Kabad; in addition to the supply of 25 blowers, six bulldozers, six half-trucks and four trucks, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Jabaa told the daily on the sidelines of the recent inspection tour in Kabad that Minister Fahd Al-Shula issued a directive to clean the area thoroughly, remove the accumulated garbage, and impound food trucks where violations were uncovered.

He warned that the inspectors will take action against anyone who does not put garbage in the designated containers as per Municipal Law number 190 of 2008.

**Refrigerant leak:** The firefighting teams dealt with a refrigerant gas leak in the basement of a cooperative society without causing any injuries, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Public Relations and Media Department of the General Fire Force stated after a report was received by the Central Operations Department today, Friday, the Sulaibikhat and Ar-dhiya fire stations rushed to the site of the accident and dealt with the heavy smoke.

### 'We work with Kuwait for future generations'

## Peru marks 202 years of independence

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: The Republic of Peru, as a sovereign State celebrated two-hundred and two years of Independence on July 28 bringing prosperity and progress for its people, improving the democratic standards imbedded in the country's constitution which is the supreme goal of the society and State.

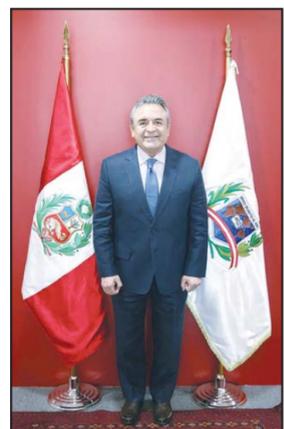
Speaking on the occasion, HE Carlos Velasco Mendiola, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Peru in Kuwait, conveyed his warmest congratulations to all Peruvians residing in Kuwait, as well as to "our dear Kuwaiti friends."

Over the past two centuries, Peru has steadily advanced in these objectives. In fact, as a multi-ethnic and multicultural country, Peru promotes its national interests and is open to the world, and the future as the nation continues on the path of economic growth and development with firm steps; innovation and private investment from all over the world which have nourished the Peruvian economy, which is open for entrepreneurial ventures in all fields - agriculture, mining, services, tourism, fishing industries, textiles, etc.

Ambassador Mendiola, said besides, Peru continues to invest in its human capital, and adapt international standards that would allow the implementation of best practices to increase the level of human development indicators among its citizens.

In this field, the fight against corruption and the reduction of poverty are addressed by the Peruvian authorities through important reforms. Furthermore, Peru is in the process of joining the OECD, which is a political will of the State consistent throughout different governments and fully in force, reaffirmed at the highest level, and which is based on the technical merits of Peru, as well as in its identification with the open economy, the rule of law, human rights, the fight against climate change, the fight against corruption and for fiscal transparency, which makes Peru a like-minded partner for the OECD.

During its history as a sovereign State, Peru has faced historical challenges: periods of prosperity and difficulty, good and tough times, as it was the challenge presented by the recent Covid-19 pandemic, during 2021. However, it has been with the joint



Carlos Velasco Mendiola

efforts of all Peruvians and friends of Peru, that our country is consistently succeeding in reaching the prior mentioned goals.

In this sense, the commemoration of the Independence of Peru is also an excellent occasion for highlighting the true interest of the Peruvian State to collaborate and strengthen its bilateral relations with the friendly nations. In particular, Peru and Kuwait have developed an excellent and strong relationship, which is a result of cooperation, trade, investment and economic exchanges, tourist flows, political coordination, and shared interests in the international arena.

### Relations

In fact, it is necessary to highlight the depth of the relations between the Republic of Peru and the State of Kuwait, and the extent of our historical friendship which dates back in time. Amongst the most important facts of our bilateral relationship, there is the re-establishment of the Embassy of Peru in Kuwait in 2011, with the collaboration of the State of Kuwait.

Both countries enjoy prestigious international positions, as Peru and Kuwait have played important roles at their respective regional and global levels. It is therefore our wish to strengthen the relations between the two countries in all fields, such as

bilateral cooperation, cultural interchanges, trade, investment, and tourist promotion, among others.

In this regard, it is important to underscore that Peru and Kuwait share common interests, for both countries eagerly seeking to ensure a better future for their citizens, aimed at diversifying their sources of income, and work for the sake of future generations. This clearly shows us that Peru and Kuwait can work together for a better future for our nations.

Speaking of the trade ties between both countries, the Peruvian envoy said, "the Embassy of Peru is actively working to promote Peruvian textiles, export agricultural and fish products to Kuwait, as well as minerals. Peru currently exports quinoa to Kuwait, a super cereal rich in protein, vitamins and minerals, with proven anti-diabetic properties. There is also the possibility of exporting potatoes and other vegetables, bearing in mind that the Peruvian agricultural sector is very efficient and developed, and is witnessing an economic boom."

Regarding tourism in Peru, there are many activities that can be practiced in Peru, such as visiting historical places, surfing, mountain climbing, safari trips, and discovering the ancient Peruvian civilization that stretches back thousands of years.

The Andes region has a cool-to-cold highland climate while the Amazon region has a tropical, equatorial climate, that is warm all year round. This has favored the development of extremely varied flora and fauna in the Peruvian territory. Therefore, doing tourism in Peru can be really exciting.

In the field of investments, the ambassador said, "we highlight that Peru guarantees a favorable business climate, and stable legal framework, for the development of foreign investment projects. The macroeconomic figures support Peru as an ideal country for investment."

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated that Peru will grow more than 2.3% this year, which is a high growth level in South America. Besides, Peru is a member of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), and offers legal stability agreements to foreign investors, said the ambassador.

### MPW eyes several projects

## Plan to improve treated water delivery to farms

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: The plan of the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) for the current fiscal year of 2023/2024 revealed a great interest in enhancing food security in the country through the implementation of a number of projects aimed at developing the country's treated water system and improving the process of delivering treated water to the farms in Wafra and Abdali areas throughout the year, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Among the most prominent projects included in the current year's plan are the project for the development and maintenance of Jahra pumping station and its associated facilities, the project for the operation and maintenance of pumping stations, main lines, and the treated water distribution network for Abdali farms, which includes the transfer and installation of agricultural connections as needed, and the project

for the maintenance of manholes and sewer tanks.

The plan also included a project for the development, construction, completion and maintenance of the treated water system in the southern region, through the implementation of the third line to transport treated water from the DMC control center to Wafra farms, with the construction of additional tanks to support the strategic stock of treated water, increase the area of agricultural crops in the region, and meet the needs of farmers by increasing agricultural plots to create a diversified agricultural economy, and work to reduce imports.

There is also a project for the study, development, rehabilitation, implementation, operation and maintenance of the existing Wafra station, the implementation of an irrigation network and lines for farms in the region,

a study on a number of agricultural plots, the current and future connections, and a similar irrigation network for Sulaibiya farms and cattle farms in Kabad.

The ministry's plan also includes a similar project for the development, construction and maintenance of the treated water system in the northern region of the country, through the study and design of the third line of treated water from the DMC control center to the Abdali farms area with a length of 84 km, and the implementation of the irrigation network and lines that serve the region and meet their water needs.

The daily amount of treated water, according to the latest data of the ministry, is estimated at about one million cubic meters of water per day and about 30 million cubic meters per month in Sabah Al-Ahmad marine, Wafra, and Khiran areas.

### 'Workers must follow regulation'

## E-data classification rule issued

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: The National Center for Cybersecurity (NCC) issued a regulation for the general national framework for classifying electronic data. It involves developing a general methodological framework for such data according to its level of sensitivity and importance in order to ensure the protection of electronic data and information, and ensure its use according to policies and regulations, reports Al-Rai daily.

The regulation highlighted a package of general policies to be followed, which are:-

- Obligation of civil, military and security government agencies and public and private sector institutions in Kuwait related to the center's competencies to classify electronic data by determining the level of its sensitivity and importance, provided that its loss, misuse, access or unauthorized disclosure of it will result in serious harm or negative impact on national security, or public security or the economy of the state, or damage to people and property.

- Obligation to classify data into different categories or levels according to the content classification model based on defining the category - general, limited, sensi-

tive.

- Commitment to take the necessary measures by issuing a data classification document, provided that it includes details of its categories and levels according to their importance.

- Taking necessary technical and organizational measures to ensure adequate protection for each category or level of data, including encryption, limited access procedures, two-factor authentication, data retention policies, and other measures.

According to the regulations, it is the responsibility of the concerned authorities to issue the classification document, and conduct periodic reviews and evaluation of the effectiveness of the classification policy.

All employees are committed to the responsibility of following the policies. The concerned authorities and their employees are required to submit a report to the concerned authority about any suspicion or violating or criminal activity.

The center is committed to reviewing and approving the project, and the regulations are binding on all concerned parties and their employees.

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Arab, Gulf summits do not directly address concerns of citizen'

"THE Arab citizen, no matter where they are, has grown accustomed to the statements issued by Arab summits. These statements are often filled with constructive rhetoric, but they can be difficult for ordinary citizens to understand due to their complex language and content," columnist **Souad Fahad Al-Moajel** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"In a recent summit, the representative of the Amir of Kuwait delivered a speech expressing the desire to strengthen the strategic partnership with Asian countries to maintain security.

"The summit aimed to foster more cooperation in the political and economic fields, working towards common interests and continued joint coordination. The focus of the speech was on confronting the challenges in the region through cooperation with Central Asian countries, considering them as crucial partners in enhancing security, stability, and the well-being of their people.

"It is undeniably true that regional and international coordination, both in security and economic matters, is essential. Security and stability are interdependent, and disturbances, wars, and security threats know no borders. To tackle these challenges, cooperation among nations is vital.

"However, what seems to be missing are the Arab and Gulf summits, and now even summits of more developed nations, are considerations for the rights, freedoms, capabilities, living conditions, and aspirations of their citizens.

"This absence is evident in the way some developed countries handled demonstrations, such as the recent actions of the French police, the suppression of protests in Britain, and the behavior of security forces in the United States.

"Internal security differs from external security, and it requires a greater level of sophistication and wisdom in its objectives. To maintain stability and internal security, certain foundations must be established. Among these, the definition of national identity and its connection to belonging, rights, freedoms, and duties are crucial.

"In the modern world, ease of movement has led countries to host diverse and different sectarian and ethnic components, posing challenges to existing political and economic conditions even in developed nations like France, Germany, and Britain.

"These challenges demand a reconsideration of their traditional security approaches when dealing with demonstrations calling for acquired national identity-based rights.

"The Arab Spring, despite its failure to bring about fundamental changes

in Arab political structures, had a profound impact on the concept of internal stability and security.

"It brought demands for freedoms, rights, and democracy to the forefront of political discourse, aiming to achieve real national security, which goes beyond mere military and security alliances.

"However, the concept of national security, encompassing justice, judiciary, freedoms, legislative and oversight institutions, civil society activities, integrity, anti-corruption efforts, promoting work and education values, and the application of laws, is still absent from the Arab mentality.

"While regional and international cooperation and integration are essential for national stability and security, the majority of actual stability can only be achieved through internal security.

"Unfortunately, this crucial aspect often does not receive the necessary attention. As a result, Arab and Gulf summits remain distant from the awareness of the individual citizen and merely serve as material for press headlines and editorials. They do not directly address the concerns of the citizen and, consequently, fail to form part of their political awareness or discourse."

Also:

"In this revised version, sensitive language has been addressed, and the focus is on presenting a neutral summary of events without making any judgmental statements," columnist **Mufreh Al-Enezi** wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"An Iraqi young man, was exiled from Iraq and sought temporary refuge in Sweden. He obtained an official permit from the Swedish authorities to burn the Holy Qur'an as part of a process to acquire Swedish citizenship. He holds Sweden responsible for protecting him even after this controversial act.

"The Swedish government responded by stating that they understand that actions taken by individuals during demonstrations may offend Muslims. While they condemned the act and emphasized that it does not represent the government's views, they also asserted that freedom of expression is protected constitutionally in Sweden.

"This incident raised questions about Sweden's stance on freedom of expression and whether similar permits would be granted for burning the Swedish flag or any other group's symbols deemed contrary to divine nature. The actions sparked strong reactions from various Arab and Islamic countries, with condemnations and acts of solidarity, such as printing copies of the Holy Qur'an in Swedish.

"Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries denounced the burning of the Qur'an, while the European Union criticized Sweden's

sponsorship of extremists and labeled the act as racist and provocative against Muslims. In Russia, President Vladimir Putin affirmed that burning the Qur'an is considered a crime in his country.

"A Swedish journalist, **Woof Jank Henson**, highlighted potential risks to Swedes traveling or living in Islamic countries due to the incident, including increased terrorist threats and declining exports to the Islamic world. As a result of the backlash, the Swedish Foreign Ministry modified its statement, acknowledging that burning the Qur'an is offensive and anti-Islamic.

It's worth noting that many Muslims worldwide expressed denunciation and condemnation of the act, regardless of the means through which they expressed it."

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"Spending on the healthcare sector is increasing dramatically all over the world, including Kuwait. Spending on health care services increases annually. For example in fiscal 2016/2017, the healthcare cost was KD2.8 billion," columnist **Dr Hisham Kalinder** wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"Ten years ago, this expenditure was less than half a billion Kuwaiti dinars. Spending on the health sector is expected to increase in the coming years unless an integrated model with a comprehensive view of health reform is adopted.

"Perhaps, the free service system leaves it more vulnerable to misuse, not forgetting that mismanagement, wastage, corruption and political satisfactions, especially in the file of overseas treatment, may exacerbate the problem. Accordingly, there is a need to use current resources with high efficiency, while finding a new way to manage health services in Kuwait are effective and sustainable.

"In health economics, an important concept is to increase returns through the implementation of health financing policies, including the revenue raising policy, which takes into account global data and the local context to develop a strategy that takes into account political, social and economic conditions.

"One of the innovative solutions for this is investment in the field of health, and one of the means for that is medical tourism. By doing so, you kill more than one bird with a stone. You stop and legalize the file of overseas treatment, create a market for medical tourism, build your administrative capabilities and your national professionals, provide employment opportunities, and revitalize your economy and your local companies too.

"We hope the government will soon pay attention to this file, just as it is in the Gulf region. Medical tourism is in the vision of Abu Dhabi, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and other Arab and international countries."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**



Al-Moajel

### Other Voices

## 'Dangerous and destructive cheating'

By **Ahmed alsarraf**

There are two blocs in the current National Assembly, varying in size. The first and the youngest seek to get what they want, in terms of strength and positions, and this is their right, if they meet the conditions and follow the right paths to reach what they want and the second, the bigger, knows the goals of the first, exploits it, and will use it more to achieve its agendas, knowing that the first bloc will need its positions and votes in the coming days, perhaps to resolve some fateful issues.

The collaboration or deceit between the two parties came to light when members of the second bloc launched an unwarranted attack, pushing for the adoption of numerous laws that would drastically alter the state's way of life. These proposed changes aimed at "Islamization" involved presenting peculiar and fantastical projects. Some of these laws included the execution of witches and sorcerers, a ban on all plastic surgeries and the closure of related clinics, prohibiting tattoos, re-censoring imported publications and books, establishing a pharmaceutical industry adhering strictly to Islamic law, and preventing women from serving in the judiciary.

Their proposals even extended to imprisoning individuals who imitated the opposite sex and making suggestions regarding power generators. The most audacious proposal was the transformation of Kuwait into the "Islamic economy" capital, as if the state had only recently emerged from a communist, atheist, and faithless past. This agenda seemingly sought to bring the people back into the fold of faith forcefully.

In essence, the second bloc's actions and proposed laws exposed their intentions, revealing a pursuit that was perceived by many as an attempt to impose religious beliefs on the populace and drastically change the state's way of life.

The government presented a draft law to the High Electoral Commission, but it succumbed to pressure from certain Kandahari deputies, who insisted on including a clause requiring women to exercise their vot-

ing and candidacy rights while adhering to "approved provisions and rules" in Islamic law.

This addition raised concerns, as it was accepted without objection from most deputies, including those who were expected to uphold fairness and moderation. The only dissenting voice was that of MP **Jenan Bush-ehri**, who, interestingly, is a veiled woman herself.

During the discussion of the draft law in the Legislative Committee, there was a question about the specific rules and provisions in Islamic law that women would be required to follow to participate in the political process. The government justified the inclusion of these controls by claiming they were already present in a previous law (though this assertion was incorrect, as those controls had been invalidated by a constitutional ruling).

They further argued that the inclusion was meant to avoid confrontation with opposing parties. However, this excuse was seen as inadequate and demonstrated the government's negligence and cooperation with extremist factions within Parliament.

The law was passed in its first deliberation last Thursday, but there are hopes that it will undergo amendments during its second deliberation. Failing to make necessary changes would be a disservice to Kuwaiti women who, unfortunately, have remained silent in the face of this unfair, regressive, and ambiguous condition. The situation demands attention and corrective action to ensure equality and justice for all citizens.

Representatives hold diverse opinions and positions on various matters, but it is concerning how a government claiming to be rational would collaborate with regressive forces seeking to suppress freedoms and undo the hard-won gains of women through long and difficult struggles. It is disheartening to witness the insertion of such a backward text into the proposed law merely to appease retrogressive elements within the council, all in pursuit of their own power and influence.

The current state of Article 16 in the Electoral Commission Law lacks any reasonable interpretation from any party and could lead to severe consequences, particularly affecting the future participation of women as candidates in future elections.

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### MoJ forms work group of engineers and jurists

## Bid to expedite documentary cycle of govt tenders

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: In an unprecedented step, the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs **Faleh Al-Raqba** formed a work group of engineers and jurists to follow up the state projects for entities subject to the Tenders Law with the aim of accelerating the pace of the documentary cycle of government agencies' tenders, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

According to informed sources from the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), the work group includes a group of engineers, jurists and specialists from within the agency to follow up the vital and developmental projects of the entities subject to the Tenders Law, with the aim of following them up directly, and overcoming any obstacles with the relevant authorities, in preparation for presenting them in board meetings to take appropriate decisions in this regard.

This aims to speed up the pace of the documentary cycle related to the public tenders Law No. 49/2016, with the need to submit a quarterly report to the senior administration of CAPT, and then present it to the

### 'Proposal on co-ops needs more study'

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Health Committee, **MP Majid Al-Mutairi**, said that the committee held its meeting, Sunday, to discuss the proposal for a law regarding amending the second paragraph of Article 14 of Decree-Law No. 24 of 1979 regarding cooperative societies for financial controllers, in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Affairs and the Civil Ser-

vice Bureau, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

concerned minister. This step, which is the first of its kind, would contribute to accelerating many vital projects in the country, as a result of direct cooperation between these authorities and CAPT, by overcoming obstacles that could delay the implementation of vital projects.

The three tasks of the work group are:

1. Preparing an initial list of government agencies that will be communicated and coordinated with to follow up their work submitted to CAPT.
2. Coordinating with government

agencies in following up and fulfilling the requests submitted to CAPT with all the requirements that need to be met in those requests in order to contribute to the speedy presentation on the agenda.

3. Contribute to reducing the average time period and speeding up the documentary cycle of transactions presented to the authority by various government agencies.

The sources added that the head of the work group should submit a report every three months for presentation to the Secretary-General of CAPT for performance evaluation.

## Ministry to regulate use of 'Traditional Medicine'

Bid to set modern standards and controls

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: The Ministry of Health plans to regulate the practice of 'Traditional Medicine' within the healthcare practices, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

This initiative, according to health sources, stems from Article 24 of Law No. 70/2020, which falls under the Law on Practicing the Medical Profession and Auxiliary Professions.

This particular aims to establish modern standards and controls for the practitioners in this field article and mandates the Ministry of Health to regulate the licensing and practice of traditional and complementary medicine.

The ministry will ensure that these practices adhere to specified requirements and controls as defined by the relevant regulatory guidelines. These guidelines will also outline the criteria and foundations for treatment facilities that are allowed to engage in this type of healthcare activity.

In this endeavor, the ministry is dedicated to collaborating with the World Health Organization and coordinating with Gulf countries where the profession of traditional and complementary medicine is authorized.

The World Health Organization actively supports the development of national policies related to guidelines for traditional medicine.

It's important to note that traditional medicine is indeed one of the professions permitted by the aforementioned profession practice law. However, the Ministry of Health's oversight role necessitates the implementation of precautionary measures to safeguard society from practices that fall outside the permissible scope of each specialty.

It's worth mentioning that several countries in Europe, China, Malaysia, the United States, and Canada already offer various scientific degrees in traditional and complementary medicine and phytotherapy -- phytotherapy is the use of plants or herbs to manage health conditions. It also refers to substances that come from plants or herbs. Medicinal plants and herbs are a form of complementary medicine. These are therapies that you can receive alongside traditional Western medicine.



Interior Minister Sheikh Talal chairs the security meeting.

## Respond 'firmly' against efforts to undermine nat'l security: minister

KUWAIT CITY, July 30, (KUNA): Kuwait will deal "firmly" with any effort aiming to jeopardize the nation's security, Interior Minister **Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah** said on Sunday, emphasizing that no one is above the law.

Security personnel will remain vigilant and steadfast in efforts to keep the nation's security intact, he told senior officials from his ministry amid talks, underlining the "gratitude" of the country's political leadership for such measures.

## Three decrees issued regarding 'transfer'

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: Three decrees were issued recently on the transfer of the supervision of some government agencies to certain ministers, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

Decree 133 of 2023 stipulates the transfer of the supervision of the Secretariat General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense **Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahd**.

The other two decrees are on transferring supervision of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to the Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy minister; while the supervision of the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) was transferred to the Justice minister who will also serve as chairman of the Board of Directors of PAMA.



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Implementing National Strategy to Prevent Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants

# IOM and national partners mark World Trafficking Day in Kuwait



Photo from the event.

## Kuwait restates 'commitment' with int'l fight against human trafficking

IOM seeks to enable concerned gov't agencies to combat crime

**KUWAIT CITY, July 30, (KUNA):** The State of Kuwait commits itself to international criteria for combatting human trafficking, migrant smuggling and protecting victims, said a Kuwaiti official on Sunday.

Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Justice Ministry Hashem Al-Qallaf made the remark while launching a campaign entitled: "Together against Human Trafficking", co-organized by the Permanent National Committee concerned with Implementing the National Strategy to Prevent Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The campaign was launched to mark the UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, which falls on July 30.

The crime of human trafficking has lately be-

come the prime concern of the international community since it is deemed a breach of the basic principles of human rights and freedom, said Al-Qallaf, who is deputy head of the committee.

This crime is not restricted to specific countries and its differs in its forms and manifestations according to countries' look at the concept of human trafficking and their compliance with, and respect of, the basic principles of human rights, he added.

### Well-established

The well-established values of the Kuwaiti society, notably tolerance, togetherness and respect of others, have reflected on all Kuwaiti pieces of legislation pertinent to human rights and prevention of human trafficking and persecution of basic human rights, he said.

Kuwait promulgated Law 91/2013 for fighting human trafficking, with penalties ranging from 15 years in jail to death penalty, he pointed out.

The Kuwaiti government, with all its sectors,

has spared no effort to take all necessary measures to fight this crime and provide the largest possible protection for victims mainly by means of creating the Permanent National Committee concerned with Implementing the National Strategy to Prevent Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in 2018, Al-Qallaf added.

For his part, Head of the IOM's Mission in Kuwait Mazen AboulHosn commended Kuwait for having been in the forefront of the region's countries that enacted laws in the field of fighting human trafficking.

He particularly spoke highly of Law 91/2013 and its amendments to cover technological means and to incriminate anyone involved in human trafficking, appreciating the national committee's role in this regard.

The IOM seeks to enable concerned government agencies to combat this crime, update relevant legislation and laws and organize workshops for personnel training in dealing with cases, he added.

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: In celebration of the 'World Day Against Trafficking in Persons' (WDATIP) marked each year on the 30th of July, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Kuwait held two awareness raising campaigns in collaboration with the Permanent National Committee concerned with Implementing the National Strategy to Prevent Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants.

The first campaign took place on the 30th of July at Al Assima mall, while the second took place on the 31st of July at the Ministries complex building in Kuwait City, which holds approximately 60,000 employees and serves 13,000 daily visitors.

Both campaigns aimed at raising awareness on the crime of trafficking, and had representatives from IOM, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice and the Public Authority for Manpower present at the campaign's booths that were available to answer questions. The campaign also provided information about the State of Kuwait's commitment in combatting trafficking in persons including the Kuwait Law No. 91 of 2013 on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, and the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support, as well as IOM efforts in that regard.

"This year, IOM is marking the 'World Day Against Trafficking in Persons' under the theme 'Reach every victim of trafficking'. Human trafficking is a violation of human rights and a crime against humanity, and it is borderless where no region is

spared from human trafficking" remarked Mazen AboulHosn, IOM Kuwait's Chief of Mission. "In Kuwait and worldwide, IOM works with governments and partners on prevention, protection, prosecution, policy, and partnerships towards its goal to combat human trafficking, and leaving no one behind".

A representative from The Permanent National Committee concerned with Implementing the National Strategy to Prevent Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, said "The State of Kuwait is keen to enhance its international cooperation in the field of combating trafficking in persons, a crime that is transnational in its nature. The Permanent National Committee concerned with Implementing the National Strategy to Prevent Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants participated in this celebration to join efforts with the international community to combat this crime. The State of Kuwait has also made pioneering efforts in the field of combating trafficking in persons, including the issuance of Law No. (91) of 2013 related to Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, the adoption of Law No. (6) of 2010 concerning Labour in the Private Sector and Law No. (68) of 2015 on Employment of Domestic Workers, as well as the establishment of a shelter for expatriate workers, whose services have benefited more than 5,000 people from 2018 till date".

In conjunction with the two awareness raising campaigns, IOM in partnership with a private sector partner sent out broadcast SMS text messages to its customers to highlight the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (WDATIP) and announce the campaign, while the Avenues mall highlighted the day on its electronic screens.

### Other Voices

#### Impact on women's rights

## 'Controversy' surrounding Kuwait's proposed Election Commission Law

By Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb

Attorney and Visiting Professor at Kuwait International Law School

Recently, the government tabled a proposal for a law aimed at establishing the High Election Commission in the National Assembly. A notable inclusion was clause number 16, which mandates that women intending to run for the National Assembly must adhere to Islamic regulations. This proposal has incited significant controversy and widespread disapproval, as it undermines the political rights of Kuwaiti women.

From an academic standpoint, I believe that clause 16 is inherently ambiguous, and unconstitutional. It collides with fundamental constitutional principles, including the guarantees of public freedoms, personal freedom, freedom of belief, equality, and non-discrimination. This clause is unclear and lacks the condition of subject-specific precision and fails to adhere to appropriate legislative drafting protocols, which is a common pitfall among legislative drafters. This oversight can spawn potential ambiguities, diverging interpretations, and an impending constitutional challenge. The obscurity may well be a deliberate ploy to delay the issuance of its executive regulations by creating grounds for constitutional appeals, thereby impeding the law's execution.

This legislative direction is concerning, given its apparent contradiction with the foundational principles of equal rights and public freedoms. The law, as proposed, seems to impose an excessive burden specifically on women, thereby fostering a climate of gender discrimination and infringing upon the constitutional principle of equality. Additionally, the proposal appears to misuse law as a vehicle to impose a particular reli-

gious ideology, which violates the freedom of belief. The unclear nature of the clause—especially with respect to defining these regulations and their interpretation—could lead to inconsistent interpretations and an unstable legal platform for implementation, as evidenced in the judgment of the appeal filed in the constitutional court under record number 20/2009, issued on 10/28/2009.

The government's passive acquiescence to extremist elements is not a recent development in Kuwait's political history. While such position might offer short-term gains for the government at the cost of constitutional principles and freedoms, it is likely to undermine the government's long-term standing. Any party that breaches the constitution or legislates against it is bound to lose credibility. The government's concessions to extremism not only enhance the political influence of religious factions but also encourage persistent breaches of constitutional rights and freedoms, resulting in the long-term weakening of the government's position.

Civil society and activists have a vital role in opposing such legislative proposals, a duty that is fundamental for societal progress and for defending women's rights and combating discrimination. They are crucial in upholding democratic principles and constitutional rights, and they must continually champion gender equality and non-discrimination—both constitutional and universal principles. Elevating public awareness on these issues and fostering dialogue is of utmost importance, as is pressuring the government to rectify discriminatory laws. This is a responsibility shared by all citizens and representatives who have pledged to protect the constitution. Furthermore, working with international human rights organizations to draw global attention to these matters and educate the public about human rights, equality, freedom of belief, and public freedoms is vital. Equally important is encouraging greater political participation among women and lending them support, as it will foster structural social change.

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### Kuwait urges

Continued from Page 1

The ministry continues the awareness campaigns to save electricity and water, reduce waste in consumption, and preserve and sustain the country's resources through the optimal use of them.

#### Also:

**BAGHDAD:** Power was cut off in large swaths of southern and central Iraq for much of Saturday during scorching summer heat and observances of the Shiite holy day of Ashoura after a fire broke out at a power station in the southern city of Basra.

The fire at the Al-Bkir substation in Basra resulted in the separation of transmission lines linking the southern and central regions, leading to a complete shutdown of the electrical system in the area, Iraq's Ministry of Electricity said in a statement. It said the fire was accidental.

### Are we

Continued from Page 1

Indeed, there is always the ability to overcome crises when there is a will to do so.

One of the states in India was suffering from poverty, disease and illiteracy, and its youth dreamed of immigration. At that time, Eng. Ram Krishna Baliga, who was the Head of the Indian Governmental Electronics Development Corporation, asked himself, "Why do we make our children migrate to foreign companies? Why don't we make them migrate to us?"

He then started working on establishing an electronic city for the information technology industry to educate and qualify a million Indian students in information technology. The government trusted him, granted him full powers, and allocated a large area in southern Bangalore to implement what he called the "city complex". He established

seven advanced technology institutes, which enroll about 50,000 outstanding students, and each student was given a laptop and an internet line for free.

After that, he sent 2,400 outstanding students to study in the United States of America, Britain, and Germany, and those who returned taught others. As for those who settled abroad, they continued to visit the complex every year for a month to transfer their experiences. In order to encourage foreign companies to invest in India, he gave them land for free and exempted them from taxes if 1,000 Indians are employed in each company.

Over time, 103 of the largest global technology companies moved to that state. After the Indians learned from them, they established about 1,500 software companies. By then, the Indian government decided to establish three electronic cities in different states.

Now, the city of Bangalore alone produces technology programs and provides services worth about USD 33 billion. The average per capita income has increased 11 times. India's ambition did not stop there, as it currently trains about four million students in 1,832 educational institutions specializing in modern technology to catch up with development.

Also, on the Arab and Gulf levels, there is an example. Before King Salman came to power and appointed Prince Muhammad bin Salman as crown prince, Saudi Arabia was on the brink of bankruptcy. However, he revived the state, thanks to the courageous initiatives led by Prince Muhammad bin Salman. Today Saudi Arabia is transforming in less than ten years to become an international destination economically, crowded with productive projects. The whole world is coming to it for tourism and investment purposes.

There is no doubt that the countries that relied on change in the methodology of education and administration were able to achieve renaissance, but for that, their leaders must have the will and ambition. Will Kuwait achieve this? This is because we do not want to say bye-bye to our country; as we do not want to say that we are shouting in a well.

# August

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## 'Comply with DORA by January 2025'

# 78% of EU financial institutions faced 3rd party breach

LONDON, July 30: SecurityScorecard has announced the release of a new report on the Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA). The report analyzes 240 of the largest financial institutions in the European Union that must comply with the Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA) by January 2025.

Key takeaways include:

- 78% of financial institutions experienced a third-party data breach in the past year. In the wake of attacks such as MOVEit and SolarWinds, cybersecurity regulations are increasing the need for comprehensive approaches to manage vendor risk and ensure compliance.
- 84% of financial institutions have been exposed to a fourth-party breach – illustrating how a vast web of unseen risks are hiding in plain sight. Visibility across the entire third-and fourth-party ecosystem is mission-critical, yet organizations lack consensus on how to measure and track fourth-party risk.
- Just 3% of the third-party vendors analyzed were breached – which underscores the massive butterfly effect that hackers are just starting to take advantage of. Spotlights a single supply chain attack's dramatic impact on the threat landscape. Supply chain attacks attract cybercriminals because when widely used software is compromised, attackers gain access to potentially all organizations that use that software.
- 18% had a cybersecurity 'C' rating or below, making them four to seven times more likely to suffer a breach than those with an 'A' rating. Seven factors that drive cyber risk and can be predictive of a breach, including endpoint security; patching

cadence; ransomware score; DNS health; IP reputation; cubit score; and network security.

"If nearly 20% of the most well-resourced financial entities in the EU have grades of C or worse, then it's likely that the overall cyber resilience for other financial entities is actually much lower," said Matthew McKenna, Chief Sales Officer, SecurityScorecard. "Financial entities need a trusted view of security risk. SecurityScorecard dynamically discovers risk across a customer's attack surface, including their third- and fourth-party ecosystem, to dramatically reduce the risk of a compromise."

Cyber risk by financial vertical:

- Retail banks at highest risk – 82% experienced a third-party breach in the last year, and 8% suffered from a breach in their own domain.

- Insurance firms have the lowest security scores – 24% have a 'C' security rating or below, and 78% reported a third- or fourth-party breach.

- Private equity firms prioritize cybersecurity – No breaches on their own domains, and achieved the highest ratings with only 9% at a 'C' rating or below.

DORA implications for third-party risk management

Managing third-party risk is a core theme of DORA and the EU approach to digital cyber risk more broadly. DORA requires financial entities to identify and assess all third-party risks. This includes threats to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data and systems, as well as risks to the financial entity's ability to continue operating in the event of a third-party incident.

"Who financial entities choose to trust and how they sustain that trust are essential factors for the resilience of the EU's financial services sector," said Dan Morgan, Senior Government Affairs Director, Europe & APAC, SecurityScorecard. "Financial institutions must adopt an objective, standard measurement for third-party cyber risk to inform regulatory decisions, reduce cyber incidents, and comply with regulations, such as DORA in the EU."

### Cybersecurity

SecurityScorecard examined the cybersecurity profiles of the largest 240 financial institutions, including their third- and fourth-party vendor operations in Europe in 2023. This aggregates into an ecosystem of 26,142 domains. The top 240 were determined by current revenue, assets under management, or gross written premium. The 240 financial institutions included private equity, asset management, retail banks, insurance, and pension funds.

This financial institution ecosystem was scored and analyzed against reported data breaches to demonstrate the cybersecurity posture of the financial market in the lead-up to the full implantation of DORA in January 2024.

SecurityScorecard ratings offer easy-to-read A-F ratings across ten risk factors (network security, DNS health, patching cadence, cubit score, endpoint security, IP reputation, web application security, hacker chatter, leaked credentials, and social engineering). Each factor has a numerical weight, which reflects the severity or risk that the factor contributes

to an organization's overall cybersecurity posture.

SecurityScorecard utilizes machine learning to optimize the weights of its risk factors. This data-driven approach maximizes the correlation between SecurityScorecard scores and the relative likelihood of a breach. Organizations with an 'A' rating are 7x7 times less likely to experience a cybersecurity breach. SecurityScorecard continuously monitors the threat landscape and evaluates new data sources and new analytics to better reflect cybersecurity risk.

Funded by world-class investors, including Evolution Equity Partners, Silver Lake Partners, Sequoia Capital, GV, Riverwood Capital, and others, SecurityScorecard is the global leader in cybersecurity ratings, response, and resilience, with more than 12 million companies continuously rated.

Founded in 2013 by security and risk experts Dr. Aleksandr Yampolskiy and Sam Kassoumeh, SecurityScorecard's patented rating technology is used by over 25,000 organizations for enterprise risk management, third-party risk management, board reporting, due diligence, cyber insurance underwriting, and regulatory oversight.

SecurityScorecard makes the world a safer place by transforming the way companies understand, improve and communicate cybersecurity risk to their boards, employees, and vendors. SecurityScorecard is listed as a free cyber tool and service by the US Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Every organization has the universal right to its trusted and transparent Instant SecurityScorecard rating.

### 'AIUla an example'

## RCU, IUCN partner to conserve nature

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, July 30: The Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) has produced a report that outlines the critical need for action to protect, promote, and conserve the world's under-threat natural environments and critically threatened species. RCU has identified these needs in collaboration with its strategic partner IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), and they will be working together to address these important conservation issues.

Titled 'Comprehensive Regeneration: The AIUla Approach to Sustainable Development' and issued on the occasion of World Nature Conservation Day, the report offers a blueprint for action that examines how environmental degradation poses an extreme risk to habitats worldwide, and how the work being carried out by RCU provides a framework and agenda for sustained economic, cultural, and environmental success.

Comprehensive Regeneration, a concept developed by RCU in its sustainable development of AIUla, employs a diverse set of principles and approaches built around the goal of revitalising not only the landscape, but how people and societies interact with their surroundings. They are:

- 1 Environment & heritage safeguarding
- 2 Sustainable settlement patterns
- 3 Development, growth, & activation
- 4 Resilient infrastructure

Delivered as the definitive framework for RCU's efforts across AIUla County, Comprehensive Regeneration showcases the importance of establishing a circular economy, how restoring heritage and culture can benefit current and future generations, and the pivotal role communities must play in delivering liveable, sustainable, and resilient urban regeneration plans in the long-term.

Case studies highlighted in the document show how RCU's Comprehensive Regeneration plans are being put into action as a model for responsible development, with success being delivered in diverse projects including the development of the Arabian Leopard Programme, which aims to reintroduce the species into the wild, and the establishment of the Sharaan Nature Reserve, the revitalisation of the AIUla Cultural Oasis, and the success of the AIUla Seed Bank and Plant Nursery.

### Projects

Each of these projects has seen positive results, including the restoration and greening of habitats with plants grown at the AIUla Seed Bank; the reintroduction of native animal species into managed and monitored reserves such as Sharaan, which is included on the IUCN's Green List for Protected and Conserved Areas; and the regeneration of thriving cultural and economic community hubs in AIUla and the opportunities they bring for local people.

A key insight from the report is its support for the widespread integration of the principles of Comprehensive Regeneration into the decision-making of governments and the private sector, with an acknowledgement that both need to work closely to deliver on a wide range of critical sustainability and development efforts that will have a profound impact on the world for generations to come.

Dr Stephen Browne, Vice President, Wildlife & Natural Heritage at RCU, said: "Environmental degradation is a problem all of humanity faces, and it is a problem we must solve. RCU has been taking clear action under the banner of Comprehensive Regeneration. We are delivering sustainable development in a manner that is harmonious with communities and the environment, developing solutions that are integrated and deliverable as part of our long-term strategy."

IUCN Director General (July 2020 - June 2023), Dr Bruno Oberle, said: "In witnessing AIUla's determination to contribute to IUCN's vision for a just world that values and conserves nature, it is my hope that AIUla's example and experience will inspire other public authorities to implement Comprehensive Regeneration."



A group photo from the business groups in Kuwait's inter-council summer dinner event.

## Inter-council summer dinner aims to foster business relationships

# Business groups in Kuwait host networking event

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: The American Business Council-AmCham Kuwait in collaboration with British Business Forum-Kuwait, Canadians in Kuwait, German Business Council-Kuwait, Lebanese Business Council-Kuwait, Portuguese Business Council-Kuwait, and Spanish Business Council-Kuwait held an Inter-Council Speed Networking event, attended by their respective members and friends. The event was held with the goal to continue fostering business relationships amongst the different business communities through the networking dinner.

The highly anticipated Inter-Council Summer Dinner proved to be an extraordinary affair, leaving attendees with lasting memories of fruitful business connections, delightful gastronomy, and engaging social interactions. Hosted at the exquisite SINTOHO restaurant within the renowned Four Seasons Hotel, this exclusive event provided an unparalleled opportunity for professionals to expand their networks, exchange ideas, and foster valuable partnerships with like-minded peers.

Embodying the collective commitment of the participating councils, the Inter-Council Summer Dinner aimed to strengthen ties between businesses and professionals, driving innovation, and advancing economic growth in the country. Guests immersed themselves in an atmosphere conducive to open dialogue and collaboration, where expertise was shared, market trends were discussed, and potential avenues for cooperation were explored.

The event's relaxed and convivial setting encouraged the exchange of knowledge and insights, equipping attendees with valuable resources to navigate today's dynamic business landscape. As the evening unfolded, alliances were fortified, and new opportunities for success in diverse industries emerged.

The Inter-Council Summer Dinner stands as a testament to the unwavering dedication of all the business councils

involved in fostering a thriving and interconnected business community. Their joint efforts, exemplified by this remarkable event, will undoubtedly contribute to the continued growth and prosperity of the nation's business landscape.

The networking event concluded with a raffle draw that had several prizes from raffle donors. The first prize was provided four vouchers from Venture Foods Kuwait- China Garden, the second raffle prize included four vouchers for an invitation for lunch or dinner at one of the five stars hotels provided by Al Mulla Exchange, the third raffle prize was four vouchers to use in-store provided by AAB Word, and the fourth raffle prize were 3 in-store vouchers provided by Harly Davidson.

**ABCK-AmCham Kuwait:** Is a non-profit organization operating since 1985 and is composed of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. ABCK-AmCham Kuwait has acted as an advocate for American interest in the state of Kuwait. For More Information, please visit our website at [www.amchamkuwait.org](http://www.amchamkuwait.org) or follow us on our social media channel @abck1985

**The British Business Forum:** The British Business Forum (BBF) in Kuwait has been in existence for nearly 50 years. It was set up and operated under the auspices of the British Embassy. It is a non-profit organization run by Business professionals for Business and its prime focus is to connect and promote British organizations and businesses interests in Kuwait using its membership network. Such is collated from both Individual and Corporate classes of membership and ranges in organisations across all sectors and nationalities. The BBF is supportive of the UK Department of International Trade (DTI) and the growth of UK/ Kuwait business relationships and opportunities through its membership and knowledge base of membership who are subject

matter experts (SME's) in many business sectors, including Oil & Gas, Education, Finance, Logistics, Infrastructure, Retail, and Health. The BBF is able to facilitate connections between people and organisations on personal and corporate levels through its network of members and supporters. Those wishing to find out more or are interested in joining us can contact the BBF administration officer, Julie Fautley via [admin@bbfkw.com](mailto:admin@bbfkw.com)

### Canadians in Kuwait:

CiK is a non-profit membership-based organization supported by Canadian and Non-Canadian volunteers. CiK shares Canadian culture with Kuwaitis' utilizing the talent and efforts of its members. CiK members participate actively in various events like Community-based, and national events in Canada and Kuwait. CiK offers networking to help its members expand their network and feel a home away from home through fun activities and outings. It also contributes to bringing Canadian and Kuwaitis together and provides an opportunity to experience one another's cultures.

CiK offers weekly Friday breakfasts to its members and their friends at various restaurants in Kuwait. Those wishing to find out more or are interested in joining us can contact the CiK via [cikeventsqs@gmail.com](mailto:cikeventsqs@gmail.com)

### The German Business Council:

The German Business Council is a non-profit organization and business platform, founded in 2005, in order to promote and cultivate relations between German-speaking individuals and companies with their counterparts from the host country and the region. Monthly business events and gatherings serve to increase the profile of the German-speaking economic presence and provide regular opportunities for networking and exchange of information. The GBCK is conducting its operations in close and trusting cooperation with the German, Austrian, and Swiss Embassies and institutions in Kuwait. Follow us on

social media @gbckuwait

The Lebanese Business Council: (10/012)

The Lebanese Business Council in Kuwait (LBCK) is a Non-Profit group established in 2020 under the Lebanese Embassy in Kuwait. It is composed of 150 members, including small and medium-sized companies. LBCK's mission is to promote trade between Kuwaiti and Lebanese businesses and to strengthen the economic and cultural exchange between the two countries.

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.lbc.org](http://www.lbc.org) or follow us on our social media channels:

Facebook: Lebanese Business Council in Kuwait

Instagram: [lbc\\_kuwait](https://www.instagram.com/lbc_kuwait)

Twitter: @lbc Kuwait

**The Portuguese Business Council:** The Portuguese Business Council Kuwait is an organization that aims to promote economic and commercial ties between Portugal and Kuwait. It provides a platform for Portuguese companies to network, exchange information, and develop business opportunities in Kuwait. The PBCK serves as a liaison between Portuguese businesses and the Kuwaiti government, helping to facilitate trade and investment between the two countries. [www.pbckw.org](http://www.pbckw.org)

**The Spanish Business Council:** The Spanish Business Council Kuwait (SBCK) is a non-profit organization and initiative officially constituted in 2021 and composed of Spanish Companies and representatives of Spanish Companies. The SBCK is establishing itself as a corporate platform to strengthen business and cultural ties between Spain and Kuwait, through the linking of Spanish companies with Kuwaiti public and private entities. For More Information, please visit our website at [www.sbckuwait.org](http://www.sbckuwait.org) or follow us on our social media channel @sbckuwait.

## financial fraud cases up in EU

The overall number of cases of financial fraud and irregularities detected and reported in the European Union slightly increased in 2022, according to the EU's anti-fraud office OLAF.

In a press release, OLAF said the European Commission Thursday adopted its 2022 Annual Report on the protection of the EU's financial interests.

The overall number of cases of fraud, and irregularities, 12, 455 in total, detected and reported in the EU slightly increased in 2022, compared to 2021,

it noted. The irregular amounts related to these cases totalled 1.77 billion euro (USD 1.94 billion).

The EU and Member States share responsibility for protecting the EU's financial interests and fighting fraud.

Authorities in the 27-EU member states manage over 85 percent of EU expenditure and collect the EU's traditional own resources. The European Commission oversees both of these areas, sets standards and verifies compliance. (KUNA)

## former Fed chair to lead BoE review on economic forecasts

Former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke will lead a review of the Bank of England's economic forecasting amid concern that inaccurate predictions about growth and inflation hampered the central bank's efforts to combat Britain's cost-of-living crisis.

Bernanke, who served as Federal Reserve chair from 2006-2014, will examine how procedures and analysis affected the decisions of the bank's Monetary Policy Committee, which has approved 13 consecutive interest rate increases as it bat-

les stubbornly high inflation. Some business leaders and government officials have suggested the bank's response to the crisis was hamstrung by overly pessimistic forecasts of a recession that never materialized and overly optimistic expectations for a rapid drop in inflation.

"The UK economy has faced a series of unprecedented and unpredictable shocks," Bank of England Gov. Andrew Bailey said in a statement. "The review will allow us to take a step back and reflect on where our processes need to

adapt to a world in which we increasingly face significant uncertainty."

While Britain's inflation rate has dropped sharply after peaking at 11.1% in October, it remains higher than in the U.S. and European Union. The U.S. inflation rate fell to 3% last month after peaking at 9.1% in June of 2022.

Bernanke, now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, oversaw the Fed in the years immediately after the 2008 financial crisis, a time of unprecedented turmoil in the global economy. (AP)

## Market Movements

29-07-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+0.19	4,036.88	JAPAN - Nikkei	-0.40	32,759.23
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.89	47,139.06	PHILIPPINES - PSEi	-0.79	6,625.26
			SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.49	11,847.72
			EGYPT - EGX 30	-0.33	17,339.06

# Business

## BoJ says it will hold rates steady at -0.1%

# US, EU cbanks hike rates as mkts anticipate looming pause

By National Bank of Kuwait

### United States

#### PMI Prints Show Recovering Manufacturing and Slowing Services

In the US, the manufacturing sector grew rapidly, with the latest flash manufacturing PMI coming at 49.0, from 46.3 previously, and beating the expected figure of 46.1. Services, on the other hand, slowed down reaching a figure of 52.4 from 54.4 previously. The slowdown in the services sector is seen as a sign of relief for the Fed, who are anxious to see activity cool to lower inflation.

#### Federal Funds Rate

The Federal Reserve delivered a unanimous 25bps hike taking the fed funds rate to a target range of 5.25%-5.5%, in line with market expectations. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell stressed that inflation "has a long way to go" before reaching the Fed's 2% target. Powell added, "It's certainly possible that we will raise funds again at the September meeting if the data warranted." In their policy statement, the Fed asserted that they "will continue to assess additional information and its implications for monetary policy." Markets are currently pricing in an 80% probability of a pause at the September FOMC meeting.

#### Upbeat GDP Print and Low Unemployment Claims

The US economy grew more than expected after quarterly GDP growth came in at 2.4% versus a 1.8% forecast and 2% previous figure. The better than expected prints comes amid an increase in consumer spending and non-residential fixed investment. Meanwhile, the number of people filing jobless claims reached a 5-month low, with 221,000 people filing for unemployment benefits versus an expectation of 234,000.

#### PCE Figures Show Declining Pace of Inflation

The key gauge used by the Federal Reserve for inflation readings and interest rate decisions came in better than expected. Headline PCE fell to 3% from 3.8% previously, while core PCE came in at 4.1% from 4.6% previously. Both figures came in better than market forecasts in what is a welcome sign for the Federal Reserve. Furthermore, the figures are adding fuel to the narrative of slowing inflation, upbeat economic growth, and trying to engineer a successful soft landing. In addition, personal income on a monthly basis came in at 0.3%, which is slightly below expectations of 0.5%. Finally, personal spending came in line with expectations at 0.5% on a monthly basis.

The US dollar index ended the week slightly higher at 101.62.

### Europe

#### Eurozone PMI Data Shows Weakness

■ US PMI data mixed with manufacturing data coming in more than expected 49.0 while services data showed a decline to 52.4.

■ The Federal Reserve hiked rates by 25bps to a target range of 5.25%-5.5%.

■ Quarterly GDP growth in the US comes in better than expected at 2.4% while unemployment claims reach 5 month low of 221,000 people.

■ Headline PCE falls to 3% while core PCE falls to 4.1%, both came in better than expectations.

■ European Central Bank announced it would raise rates by 25bps to 3.75% and signaled a potential pause.

■ The Bank of Japan announced it would hold rates steady at -0.10% but announced a tweak to its yield curve policy allowing 10-year Japanese bonds to reach a threshold of 1%.

Fears of the Eurozone going into recession seem to have been reignited, especially after the latest data released. The zone's two biggest economies, France and Germany, are in contraction territory when it comes to manufacturing, with both readings below the 50 mark. Starting off with France, the latest flash manufacturing PMI came in at 44.5, some way off the forecasted 46.1 figure, while Germany's is at 38.8. Additionally, there was a decline in the services industry for both countries, with France's latest flash services PMI reading coming in at 47.4, while Germany's listed at 52.0, both below expectations. Aided by the disappointing numbers coming out from the bloc's two biggest economies, the Eurozone as a whole declined in both manufacturing and services. With the decline in the services sector, it is evident that the persistent interest rate hikes by the European Central Bank seem to have finally been embedded into the economy.

#### ECB Hikes Rates, Signals Possibility of Upcoming Pause

The European Central Bank (ECB) announced that it would raise its benchmark rate by 25bps to 3.75%, matching the high last seen in 2001. The decision is in line with market expectations and is the ECB's ninth consecutive hike in an effort to combat elevated inflation. Speaking on the decision to raise rates, ECB president Christine Lagarde stated that "underlying inflation remains high." Despite this, Lagarde has signaled for the possibility of a pause as soon as the next meeting. She acknowledged that "The near-term economic outlook for the euro area has deteriorated, owing largely to weaker domestic demand." Lagarde stated that the policy meeting in September "could be a hike, could be a pause" in its outcome. In their policy statement, the ECB vowed to

remain "data dependent" and acknowledged that "rates will be set at sufficiently restrictive levels for as long as necessary." Markets are pricing in a pause for the September ECB meeting.

The Euro ended the week in decline, with the EUR/USD currency pair closing at 1.1015.

### United Kingdom

#### PMI Readings Point to Slowdown

In the United Kingdom, the private sector is experiencing its weakest pace of growth since January, with flash manufacturing PMI coming in at 45.0 from 46.5 previously. Meanwhile, flash services PMI came in at 51.5 from 53.7 previously. Both readings came in below market expectations amid higher interest rates and elevated cost of living affecting households. The UK has managed to defy expectations and avoid a recession in 2023, however the latest data is among other worrying signs that a slowdown is on the horizon. Chief business economist at S&P global Chris Williamson stated that "manufacturers are cutting production in response to a worryingly severe downturn in orders, both from domestic and export markets." Markets are pricing in a 25bps hike for the upcoming Bank of England meeting. Furthermore, rates are expected by markets to peak at 5.75%, down from expectations earlier in the month of 6.5%.

The Sterling ended the week relatively flat, with the GBP/USD currency pair closing at 1.2850.

### Asia-Pacific

#### Inflation Slows in Australia

Inflation in Australia slowed down more than expected, with prices rising 0.8% on a quarterly basis versus 1.4% previously. On an annual basis, this represents a 6% in-

crease versus 7% previously. Both annual and quarterly prints came in much less than market expectations, easing pressure on the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) to deliver another rate hike. Prior to the inflation readings, markets were anticipating a 50% chance of a rate hike by the RBA. This has since decreased to 23% chance of a hike as moderation of price pressures for domestic travel, accommodation, and automotive fuel helped soften Australia's inflation readings.

The AUD/USD currency pair ended the week lower, last trading at 0.6649.

### Bank of Japan Holds Rates, Tweaks Policy

The Bank of Japan (BOJ) announced that they would hold interest rates at -0.10%, matching market expectations. Despite this, the BOJ tweaked its policy by allowing more flexibility in its efforts to control the yield curve. Historically, the BOJ have always seemed reluctant to adjust their ultra-loose monetary policy.

However, months ago the central bank shocked markets by allowing its 10-year bond yields to reach a threshold of 0.5%. Similarly, the BOJ surprised markets this time by increasing that threshold to 1%. Some market speculators see this as a move that could potentially translate to a gradual shift away from their historical loose monetary policy. However, markets do not anticipate for an emergence in any tightening whatsoever as it prices in a 97% probability of no hike in their next meeting.

The Yen gained following the central bank's decision to tweak yield curve policy before reversing, as the USD/JPY pair ended the week at 141.15.

### Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar  
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30660.

## Rates - July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1125	1.0942	1.1149	1.1015	1.0910	1.1200	1.1067
GBP	1.2855	1.2761	1.2995	1.2850	1.2760	1.3045	1.2856
JPY	141.68	138.05	141.81	141.15	139.20	142.90	139.17
CHF	0.8663	0.8551	0.8736	0.8698	0.8510	0.8790	0.8617



President Joe Biden signs an executive order to encourage companies to manufacture new inventions in the United States at Auburn Manufacturing Inc., in Auburn, Maine, Friday, July 28, 2023. Back row from left, Rep. Jared Golden, D-Maine, Auburn, Maine Mayor Jason Levesque, Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, and Maine Gov. Janet Mills. (AP)

## Signing takes place in Maine

# Biden signs an executive order to encourage new inventions in US

WASHINGTON, July 30, (AP) — President Joe Biden signed an executive order while visiting Maine on Friday to encourage companies to manufacture new inventions in the United States.

Biden is going to Maine for the first time of his presidency, packaging his signing of the executive order with a speech at a textile factory and a fundraiser later in the town of Freeport.

The Democrat won three out of the state's four electoral votes in 2020 and is seeking to shore up his support in the state. Maine allocates its electoral votes by congressional district, and Biden lost the vote in the state's 2nd District, which provided the only electoral vote in New England for then-President Donald Trump, a Republican. By going to that district on Friday, Biden is seeking to show its blue-collar voters that he's committed to them as a single electoral vote could be critical in a narrow 2024 presidential election.

"We're talking about bringing manufacturing back to the country and creating jobs - good-paying jobs," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Thursday as she previewed the trip.

Democrats can compete in Maine's 2nd District as Rep. Jared Golden has been its congressman since 2019. But Golden has

also been one of the Democratic lawmakers who has openly criticized Biden over his handling of debt limit talks this year and the administration's forgiveness of student debt that has since been overturned by the Supreme Court. Despite distancing himself from the White House on some policies, Golden was traveling with Biden on Air Force One on Friday.

Republicans have said that Biden's policies have led to higher inflation. Consumer prices climbed to a four-decade high last summer, but inflation has eased over the past 12 months to a rate of 3% annually.

"Bidenomics is hurting working people in my district," said Maine state Rep. Joshua Morris, a Republican. "The cost of groceries, heating oil, gas, health care and electricity have gone up as a result of Joe Biden's policies. He should be apologizing to us while he's here, not bragging."

The White House outlined the executive order being signed by Biden, which would improve the transparency of federal research and development programs to meet the administration's goals for domestic manufacturing. The order asks agencies to weigh U.S. national security and economic interests when determining if domestic manufacturing requirements should be broadened.

# Interactive Brokers expands overnight trading to over 10,000 US stocks, ETFs

Overnight trading an important service that helps clients

GREENWICH, Conn., July 30, (BUSINESS WIRE) — Interactive Brokers, an automated global electronic broker, announced the expansion of its Overnight Trading Hours service, which now lists over 10,000 US stocks and ETFs. Interactive Brokers was one of the first brokers to introduce Overnight Trading on US stocks and ETFs, and the enhanced offering allows clients to trade an even broader range of US equities nearly 24 hours a day, five days a week. Clients now have the flexibility to trade more US stocks and ETFs when it's convenient, and clients in Asia and Europe can trade a wider variety of US equities during local market hours. To supplement the Overnight Trading liquidity provided by Interactive Brokers' own IBEOS Alternative Trading System (ATS), Interactive Brokers is now connected to the Blue Ocean ATS.

"Overnight Trading is an important service that helps our clients make timely trading decisions and capture investment opportunities around the clock," said Milan Galik, Chief Executive Officer at Interactive Brokers. "By extending Overnight Trading to thousands of



A monitor displays the raise in the interest rate on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Wednesday, July 26, 2023. Stocks are mixed after the Federal Reserve followed through on Wall Street's expectations and raised its benchmark interest rate to its highest level in more than two decades. (AP)

US stocks and ETFs, our global clients have a greater choice of what and when to trade at almost any time. When clients choose Overnight Trading to place an order, the IB SmartRoutingSM technology automatically routes the order to the optimal Overnight Trading destination."

Interactive Brokers' regular market hours, extended hours and Overnight Trading Hours enable clients to trade eligible US stocks and ETFs nearly 24 hours a day, five days a week. Overnight Trading Hours are from 8:00 pm ET to 3:50 am ET, with the first session of the week beginning on Sunday at 8:00 pm ET and the last session ending on Friday at 3:50 am ET. Any trades executed between 8:00 pm ET

and 12:00 am ET will carry a trade date of the following trade day.

Brian Hyndman, CEO of Blue Ocean Technologies, added: "Interactive Brokers is the perfect broker for us to connect to because of their global footprint and commitment to market access for investors worldwide. We are pleased to collaborate with Interactive Brokers and help further our mission to give investors the ability to trade US markets regardless of their time zone."

Interactive Brokers Group affiliates provide automated trade execution and custody of securities, commodities, and foreign exchange around the clock on over 150 markets in numerous countries and currencies, from a single unified

platform to clients worldwide. We service individual investors, hedge funds, proprietary trading groups, financial advisors and introducing brokers. Our four decades of focus on technology and automation has enabled us to equip our clients with a uniquely sophisticated platform to manage their investment portfolios. We strive to provide our clients with advantageous execution prices and trading, risk and portfolio management tools, research facilities and investment products, all at low or no cost, positioning them to achieve superior returns on investments. For the sixth consecutive year, Barron's ranked Interactive Brokers #1 with 5 out of 5 stars in its June 9, 2023, Best Online Brokers Review.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY & RESEARCH

# KAMCO INVEST

## GCC Real Estate Update July 2023

### Pockets of late-cycle opportunities remain

Investors to cherry-pick RE sub-segments and markets in typical late-cycle trends: The combination of strong pricing and lower transaction volumes prevalent in the GCC at the end of H1-2023 should keep developers cautious of bringing significant supply to the market in our view, and therefore project launches are likely to cater to a more normalized demand environment going forward. Further, we believe the strong late-cycle pricing achieved for quality assets in most of GCC's real estate sub-segments over the last 12-18 months now leaves fewer pockets of opportunities for investors. We believe residential developers in Dubai & Riyadh who possess dominant brand equity, an attractive product mix, and market sensitive payment plans should achieve sell-through of their new launches build-to-sell (BTS) portfolio going forward. Separately, most of office markets in the GCC are expected to remain strong as new Grade-A office space supply from developers remains limited. For retail, best-in-class super regional malls in key markets will return as late-cycle favorites, as they should continue to achieve higher occupancy rates and should mitigate tenant portfolio risks adequately.

Dubai carries GCC RE transacted value higher y-o-y in H1-2023; Resi rents in Saudi & UAE trend higher: Real estate sale transactions in the GCC over H1-2023 reached USD 90.7 Bn, up 9.9% y-o-y from USD 82.5 Bn in H1-2022, based on our estimates. Dubai's transactions contributed 54% of the region's total transacted value and was able to offset the decline of the other key markets such as Saudi, Qatar\* and Kuwait. RE value transacted in Dubai increased almost 57% y-o-y in H1-2023 based on data from DXB Interact. Key drivers were strong pricing and demand for luxury properties for both single-family and multi-family homes, while the affordable property segment also witnessed healthy gains. Going forward, we expect the pace of price and rental growth across residential key markets to moderate further in H2-2023, as typical late-cycle stabilization is witnessed, and supply calibrates to more normalized demand. Further, the trajectory of mortgage rates and rental affordability should impact end user ownership trends especially in markets such as UAE & Saudi Arabia and determine the future course of residential transaction activity, in our view.

RE equities outperformance could get narrower in H2-2023: The Refinitiv GCC Real Estate Total Return Index gained by 15%, driven by strong performances from Saudi Arabia (+32.2%), Dubai (+16.9%) and Abu Dhabi (+15.9%) RE equity indices. Qatar (-3.6%) and Saudi RE-ITs index (-2.3%) were major decliners in the regional real estate listed space. The outperformance of the UAE and Saudi equities indices is ascribed to the strong growth in pricing that real estate developers have been able to achieve in their respective markets for their products, with incremental demand outstripping new supply. Going forward, we expect the rally to be significantly narrower, and skewed towards companies that possess stronger balance sheets that enable them to achieve higher IRR projects and opportunistic M&A activity. Moreover, headwinds such as higher interest rates and normalizing future growth could potentially impact the broader sector in our view.

### Dubai carries GCC RE transacted value 9.9% higher y-o-y in H1-2023

Real estate sale transactions in the GCC over H1-2023 reached USD 90.7 Bn, up 9.9% y-o-y from USD 82.5 Bn in H1-2022, based on our analysis of available official estimates. Dubai's transactions contributed 54% of the region's total transacted value and was able to offset the decline of the other key markets such as Saudi, Qatar and Kuwait. RE value transacted in Dubai increased almost 57% y-o-y in H1-2023 based on data from DXB Interact, mainly driven by strong pricing and demand of luxury properties in both single-family and multi-family homes, while the affordable property segment also witnessed healthy gains. The number of transactions in the GCC however declined by 8.4% y-o-y over H1-2023 to 286,610 deals, despite a jump of over 42% witnessed in Dubai's RE transactions, as other markets such as Saudi, Qatar and Kuwait witnessed lower activity as compared to the same period in H1-2022.

Nevertheless, the average value per transaction achieved over H1-2023 for GCC real estate was up by 20.1% y-o-y, pointing towards significant investment demand and strong pricing. The average value per transaction in GCC in H1-2023 (~USD 316,400) also surpassed the 2022 average (~USD 276,600). However, it is hard to estimate whether GCC's full year 2023 transacted value potentially surpasses 2022 estimates, as it will depend on: 1) Key markets such as Saudi, Kuwait and Qatar witnessing higher transaction volumes and transacted value in H2-2023. 2) UAE markets and mainly Dubai keeping the current pace of H1-2023 transaction activity.

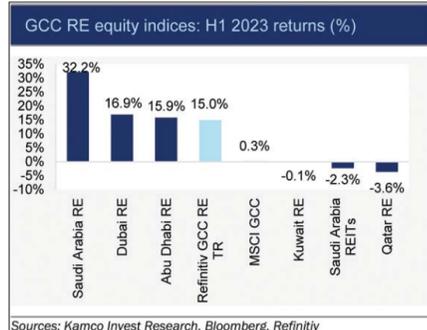
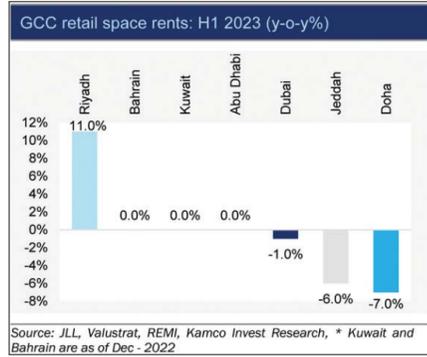
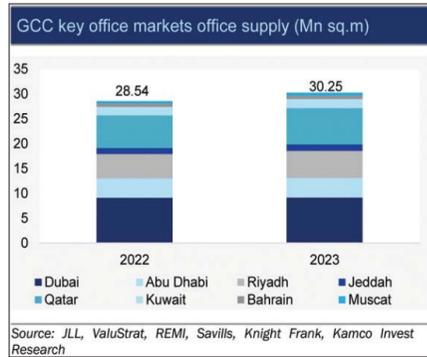
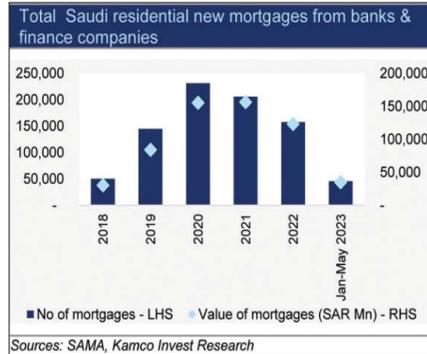
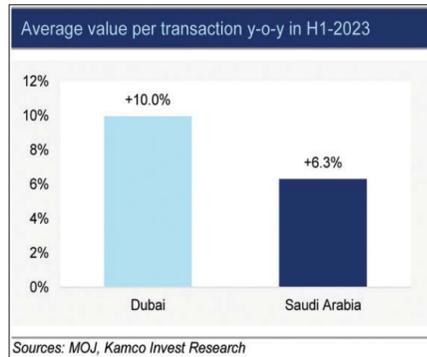
In Dubai, off-plan transactions continued their momentum with off-plan volumes jumping by over 73% y-o-y in H1-2023, while registering a healthy 7.1% increase in average off-plan value per transaction from end -2022. Separately in Saudi Arabia, mortgage activity continued to trend downwards due to higher mortgage rates and higher pricing of residential products. Going forward, we expect the pace of price across key residential markets to moderate further in H2-2023, as typical late-cycle stabilization is witnessed and supply calibrates to more normalized demand, while investors and end users should remain cautious about higher interest rates and affordability. The trajectory of mortgage rates and rental affordability should impact end user ownership trends especially in markets such as UAE & Saudi Arabia and determine the future course of residential transaction activity, in our view.

### Pockets of late-cycle opportunities remain in GCC's RE landscape

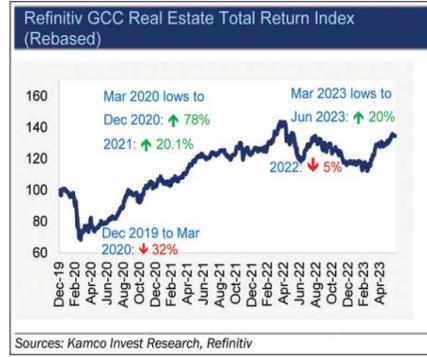
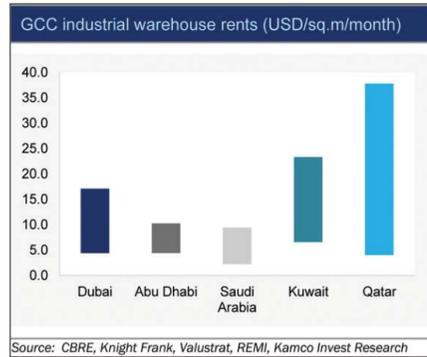
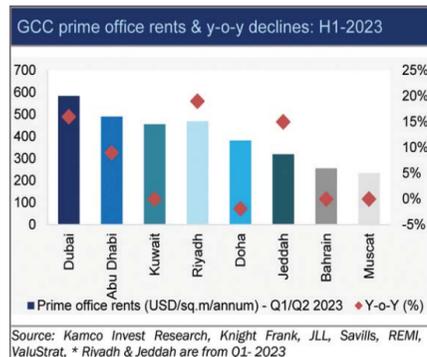
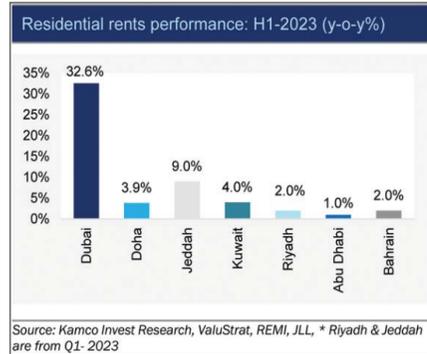
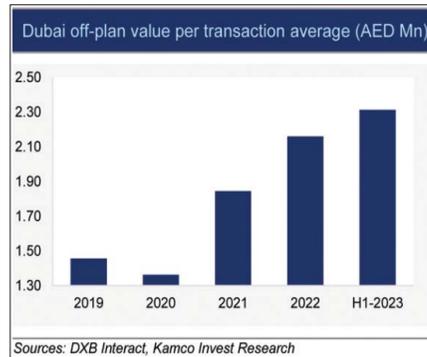
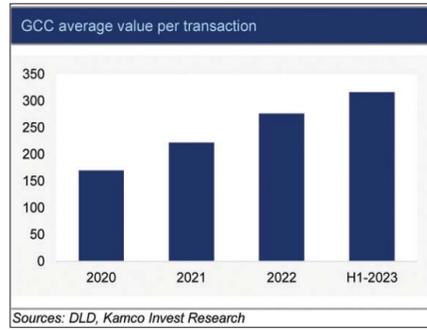
The combination of strong pricing and lower transaction volumes prevalent currently should keep developers cautious of bringing significant supply to the market in our view, and therefore project launches are likely to cater to a more normalized demand environment going forward. Further, we believe the strong late-cycle pricing achieved for quality assets in most of GCC's real estate sub-segments over the last 12-18 months now leaves fewer pockets of opportunities for investors. We believe residential developers in Dubai & Riyadh who possess dominant brand equity, an attractive product mix, and market sensitive payment plans can achieve sell-through of its new launches build-to-sell (BTS) portfolio going forward. Separately, most of office markets in the GCC are expected to remain strong as new Grade-A office space supply from developers remains limited. For retail, best-in-class super regional malls in key markets will return as late-cycle favorites, as they should continue to achieve higher occupancy rates and should mitigate tenant portfolio risks adequately.

### Residential RE prices in Dubai & Saudi trend higher in 2023; Yields expansion has many catalysts

Growth in residential real estate prices in key markets continued into H1-2023, albeit slower than trends witnessed in 2022, driven by investment demand and slower completion of the supply pipeline. In Dubai, prices rose 11.7% in Q2-2023 y-o-y, as per ValuStrat, driven mainly by higher demand for single-family homes and luxury villas, while incremental supply for those products continue to remain limited. As a result, prime villas reportedly witnessed price



gains of 16% y-o-y, while luxury villas at the end of Q2-2023 surpassed mid-2014 prices by 8.8% according to data from ValuStrat. Registered prices of off-plan properties increased by 6% in Q2-2023 from the end of 2022, after witnessing a



price growth of 17% y-o-y in 2022. Developers look to improve specifications and continue to tweak post-completion plans of their new launches to keep price momentum going, while mortgage lenders can lend upon projects reaching 50% completion rates as against the 80% previously, which is likely to keep demand for such properties buoyant.

In Abu Dhabi, residential price growth was muted at 1% y-o-y at the end of Q1-2023 as per JLL, as residents reportedly preferred to relocate to new developments located on the new islands offering modern amenities, as against the older projects on the main island. Contrary to trends witnessed in Dubai, sales prices of villas (+5% y-o-y) in Riyadh lagged corresponding price increases of apartments (+10% y-o-y) in Q2-2023 based on Knight Frank estimates, as home buyers preferred the relative affordability of apartments in the current backdrop of rising interest rates. Developers are also reportedly increasing supply to smaller single-family homes and apartments as a result. Jeddah on the other hand reportedly witnessed lower price growth of 1%-2% y-o-y, as per Knight Frank, as demand was impacted by lower affordability, while supply consisted of the higher contribution of Ministry of Housing projects in the

affordable segment. In terms of rents, Dubai reportedly witnessed a 32.6% y-o-y jump in average residential rents as per ValuStrat, as investors continued to raise rents to maintain gross yields which are around 6.5%-7%.

In Saudi Arabia, residential rents in Riyadh and Jeddah echoed the drive towards affordability as apartment rents grew by 4% and 13% y-o-y respectively in Q1-2023, outpacing overall residential rental increases by 200bps-400 bps over the same period. Other rental markets such as Doha (+3.9%) and Kuwait (+5%-6%) also witnessed marginal increases y-o-y, based on trends from ValuStrat and REMI respectively. Going forward, we expect the pace of price and rental growth across key markets to moderate further in H2-2023, as typical late-cycle stabilization is witnessed and supply calibrates to more normalized demand, while investors and end users should remain cautious about higher interest rates and affordability. The trajectory of mortgage rates and rental affordability should impact end user ownership trends especially in markets such as UAE & Saudi Arabia and determine the future course of residential transaction activity, in our view.

### Riyadh remains hottest office space market; BFSI returns as key demand driver

Grade-A office spaces in the region continued to witness strong rental performances, as supply remained tight, while sectors such as BFSI (banking, financial services, and insurance) and O&G (oil & gas) reportedly joined newer sources of demand such as TMT (Technology, Media & Telecom) for additional take-up of quality spaces. Aggregate office space in GCC's key markets is expected to reach 30.25 Mn sq.m by the end of 2023, from 28.54 Mn sq.m in 2022, based on our analysis of consultant data. Further, consultant data showed that prime office rents across most markets increased in Q1/Q2-2023 with Riyadh (+19%), Dubai (+16%), Jeddah (+15%) Abu Dhabi (+9%) witnessing strong increases y-o-y. JLL mentioned that average market-wide vacancy rates in Riyadh have fallen to 1% at the end of Q1-2023, and that corporates have started expanding to Northern Riyadh as spaces comes with better accessibility and better parking. They further mentioned that in Jeddah, market-wide demand is reportedly being led by local companies and family businesses relocating to newer areas towards the north and west, while CBRE estimates occupancy rates to have improved to 88% by early 2023, compared to 78% a year ago.

In Dubai, new entrants represented 40% of the enquires at the end of Q1-2023 as per Savills, while consolidation activity and space upgrades continued from corporates. BFSI re-established itself as the key sector driving office space demand within Riyadh, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi, while we expect TMT, AI, Robotics, Healthcare/Pharm and Legal corporates to remain active occupiers, a trend which emerged since 2020. Most markets in the GCC are expected to remain strong as new office space supply from developers remains limited. Further, some of the Covid-19 initiated trends could reverse further going forward, as companies monitor return-to-office mandates and flexible/remote working strategies to remain asset light and cost conscious. Moreover, certain multi-national corporates will continue to prefer sustainable office spaces that are LEED certified, with allocation towards wellness components and better infrastructure connectivity.

### Industrial RE disparity widens on suitability

Trends from 2022 continued into the current year as quality industrial warehouse spaces within the GCC continue to witness strong growth in demand, while such spaces remained in short supply. Rents moved higher overall across markets for such spaces, with certain spaces witnessing double digit increases y-o-y in percentage terms. National Industrial transformation plans will remain strongest driver for the segment going forward, which should bring investments from private sector participants such as international logistics players, real estate developers, as they look to capitalize on growth from the major industrial hubs and achieve attractive yields of +8%.

In the UAE, Maersk, the global integrated logistics company, opened its new cold store of over 13,000 sq.m at Dubai Industrial City. Separately, Silver Line Gate Group (SLG) announced in Q1-2023 that they are investing AED 200 Mn in constructing a new manufacturing, warehouse, and corporate offices facility, spanning 1.37 million sq. ft. at Dubai Industrial City, which is set to open by 2025. In Saudi Arabia, the higher footprint of Saudi's bonded zones with proximity to ports increase capabilities to clear, store and re-export to more destinations, and potentially enable the country to become one of the main centers of storage and redistribution in the region. Moreover, the country's aim to increase the number of factories from 10,640 industrial facilities to 36,000 factories should also result in strong demand for industrial warehouse spaces.

### Super-regional malls return as late-cycle favorite

The retail real estate market in the GCC remains supply conscious, with markets that absorbed new supply witnessing softer aggregate trends. This was evident from H1-2023 rental trends, as all markets barring Riyadh (+11%) remained stable or witnessed declines y-o-y, as per consultant data. Mall space owners continue to focus on increasing their Family Entertainment (FEC) footprint to attract footfalls. Retailers are constantly evaluating their mall space expansion plans and the potential impact from increasing omnichannel strategies such as Click & Collect, and influencer-driven marketing campaigns to maintain profitability and market share. Nevertheless, we believe the risk of retail e-commerce largely pinning hopes of achieving continuous market share gains from brick-and-mortar retail has considerably receded after Covid-19. Further, mall space owners of best-in-class super regional malls should be able to keep vacancy rates at natural vacancy rates at 4%-5%. Further they should be able to mitigate tenant portfolio risks by monitoring KPIs such as footfalls, tenant sales and occupancy cost ratios (OCRs), which should enable them to achieve contract renewals or tenant rollover at favorable rental rates. In such landmark mall spaces retailers would continue to look for more strategic locations for their outlets and will be willing to pay a premium for better visibility.

### RE equities in UAE & Saudi rebound in H1-2023

Real estate equity indices in the UAE and Saudi Arabia outperformed the MSCI GCC index (+0.3%) and other regional RE sectoral indices over H1-2023. The Refinitiv GCC Real Estate Total Return Index gained by 15%, driven by strong performances from Saudi Arabia (+32.2%), Dubai (+16.9%) and Abu Dhabi (+15.9%) RE indices. Qatar (-3.6%) and Saudi REITs index (-2.3%) were major decliners in the regional real estate listed space.

### Refinitiv GCC Real Estate Total Return Index

The outperformance of the UAE and Saudi equities indices is ascribed to the strong growth in pricing that real estate developers have been able to achieve in their respective markets for their products, with incremental demand outstripping new supply. Going forward, we expect the rally to be significantly narrower, and largely skewed towards companies that possess stronger balance sheets that enable them to achieve higher IRR projects and opportunistic M&A activity. Moreover, headwinds such as higher interest rates and normalizing future growth could potentially impact the broader sector in our view.



GV60 APEAL 1

**Genesis GV60 tops small premium SUV segment**

The Genesis GV60 was named top small premium SUV in the J.D. Power 2023 U.S. Automotive Performance, Execution, and Layout (APEAL) Study. Commenting on the award, Omar Al Zubaidi, Head of Genesis Middle East and Africa, said: "Receiving international recognition of the Genesis GV60 is a testament to the car's impressive performance and user-focused design, which brings innovative technology and customisable features to the forefront of the driving experience. We're thrilled to see another one of our

models being celebrated on the global stage and remain committed to delivering automotive products that set the standards for sustainability, safety, and speed." GV60 embodies the Genesis design language of Athletic Elegance and 'Beauty of White Space' ethos. Its interior features a spacious layout while incorporating more eco-friendly and recycled materials with leading safety and technology. GV60 also features world-first innovative technologies like Face Connect and Crystal Sphere, allowing the driver to further connect with

and personalise their driving experience. "We are pleased that our customers have recognised the exceptional design and performance of GV60, our first dedicated electric vehicle, in this year's APEAL study," said Claudia Marquez, Chief Operating Officer of Genesis Motor North America. "GV60 represents the brand's customer-centric focus as our most personalised model yet. With leading technologies like Face Connect, GV60 delivers on our commitment to tailor the vehicle ownership experience to suit customers' individual needs."

**Figure a decrease of 21.4% compared to the same period last year**

**Boursa Kuwait records net profit of KD 8.42m for 1st half of '23**

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: Boursa Kuwait announced its financial results for the first half of 2023, recording a net profit of KD 8.42 million during the period ended 30 June 2023, which represented a decrease of 21.4% compared to the first half of 2022. The decline can be attributed primarily to lower trading activity compared to the exceptional trading activities witnessed in the same period of 2022, which were the highest first half results for the exchange since its privatization.

In the first half of 2023, most capital markets in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and around the world witnessed a wave of turbulence and uncertainty because of the slowdown in the global economy, which was impacted by high inflation rates and the subsequent intervention of central banks to raise interest rates. Additionally, as a result of the fluctuation of oil prices and a fear that the turmoil of global banks would be transmitted to the region's markets, many market indices saw a gradual decline in their performance, with exchanges witnessing a decrease in trading volume as well.

Despite these challenges, Boursa Kuwait remained steadfast in its commitment to promote the Kuwaiti capital market to the international investment community. The company continues to adopt the best standards and practices of global financial markets, collaborating closely with the Kuwaiti capital market apparatus to enhance market attractiveness, efficacy, efficiency, and transparency in addition to improving the corporate governance of its listed companies.

Boursa Kuwait Chairman Mr. Hamad Mishari Al-Humaidhi commented on the financial results for the first half of 2023, saying: "Boursa Kuwait has shown remarkable resilience in adapting to the fluctuations of the volatile financial markets and the challenging global economic landscape. The company remains committed to upholding the best-in-class standards and practices of the capital markets industry worldwide and works diligently to develop the market and enhance its efficiency and efficacy and improve access to it as well as strengthening the corporate governance of all its listed companies."

Al-Humaidhi added, "Boursa Kuwait continues to promote our market and its listed companies, guided by a progressive strategy that aims to create more investment opportunities and develop a more transparent and solvent capital market through the implementation of a group of enhancements and regulatory projects as well as the technology to raise the capital market's profile locally, regionally, and



Mohammad Al-Osaimi



Hamad Al-Humaidhi

around the world. I would like to thank my fellow Board Members, the Executive Team and the esteemed Boursa Kuwait employees for their efforts to develop and enhance the company and the Kuwaiti capital market."

Boursa Kuwait has made continued strides to boost the attractiveness of the Kuwaiti capital market to foreign investments, in collaboration with its subsidiary, the Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC). These measures include late, late confirmations for international investors; omnibus accounts; and foreign investor KYC (Know Your Customer) through a global custodian, features which are available exclusively in the region to the Kuwaiti capital market. In addition, the KCC ran a series of stress tests for the Central Counterparty Clearing (CCP) system, to ensure that financial brokerage firms can fulfill its requirements and be eligible for membership. The KCC also ran tests with the Central Bank of Kuwait and local banks, as a prerequisite to launching several products like exchange traded funds (ETFs),

a platform for bonds and sukuk as well as a derivatives market. Boursa Kuwait also recently concluded its participation in the London GCC Stock Exchanges Conference, which was organized by HSBC, one of Europe's largest banks. Additionally, Boursa Kuwait organized its tenth Corporate Day on the peripheries of the conference, bringing together twelve companies listed in the "Premier" Market, including Boursa Kuwait, with more than 50 globally recognized asset management firms and investment companies. The exchange also participated in the 17th Annual EFG Hermes One-on-One Conference in Dubai, as part of its ongoing and dedicated efforts to engage with local and international investors and raise awareness of the opportunities in the Kuwaiti capital market.

"Boursa Kuwait continues to work on providing the latest tools and solutions available in markets around the world, in collaboration with its various partners in the Kuwaiti capital market. The company also strives to attract more foreign investors and investments to the market, increasing its efficacy and facilitating access to it. In the first half of the year, we saw an increase in the rate of foreign trading as well as in the rate of trading for institutional investors, which is a reflection of investor confidence in the market and an indication of its stability in the face of the challenging worldwide economic landscape," said Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi.

The Kuwaiti capital market has seen an increase in foreign trading, which includes the GCC as well as international investors, by 15.9% year to year. Additionally, trades by institutional investors, which accounted for 58% of the market in the first half of 2022, have increased to 69% of the market, for a percentage spike of 18.4%.

- Financial Highlights of the First Half of 2023:
- Net profit was recorded at KD 8.42 million
  - Earnings per share were recorded at 41.94 fils
  - Total operating revenue came in at KD 15.14 million
  - Operating profit came in at KD 9.89 million
  - Total assets were recorded at KD 109.99 million
  - Shareholder Equity (Attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company) was recorded at KD 56.85 million

**ABK introduces Ooredoo staff to the bank's products, services, and offers**

Booth witnesses a significant turnout

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has strategically chosen to establish its presence at the headquarters of Ooredoo in order to attract new clientele, and extend special benefits to employees. These initiatives are aimed to avail the diverse array of services and features offered by the Bank.

A pioneer in the field of communications and technology, Ooredoo was selected for its proactive nature in supporting leading businesses and projects by providing solutions to both individuals and companies that meet the various market needs.

A proficient team from ABK ensured that Ooredoo employees were well-versed in the Bank's various products, such as the Al-fouz and salary account. In addition, they provided a comprehensive overview of the valuable rewards and offerings whilst accentuating the Bank's latest advancements that fortify its competitive standing within the local banking landscape.

ABK's booth witnessed a significant turnout from Ooredoo employees, who also became acquainted with the benefits of the recently launched summer campaign, granting a range of valuable prizes, which will run until September.

**Emphasized**

On this occasion, Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK emphasized, "The Bank has an ongoing commitment to collaborate with both public and private sector institutions to acquaint employees with the most prominent campaigns and offers throughout the year." She expressed her satisfaction with the significant turnout at the Bank's booth in the Ooredoo headquarters, and highlighted it as an opportunity to introduce the company's employees to the advantages of banking with ABK.

Marafi stated, "At ABK, we strive to enhance our presence in the local community by introducing innovative services and exclusive offers that cater to all segments and meet their diverse requirements. We constantly study the needs of our customers and establish partnerships and agreements in various sectors to provide a wide range of discounts, encouraging everyone to join our ever-growing customer family."

Marafi emphasized that ABK strives to keep up with the constant changes in the lifestyles of its customers and is committed to the continuous development of its



CSR team from AUB at the world of exploration from National Geographic during the fun day for the orphaned children.

**Event took place in Assima Mall**

**AUB organizes a fun day for orphans**

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility program, Ahli United Bank (AUB) sponsored an entertainment event for orphaned children in the world of exploration from National Geographic Ultimate Explorer at the Assima Mall. The event was organized in collaboration with the volunteering Manarat Al-Ghadeer of the Namaa Charity Association. Commenting on this initiative, Mrs. Faten Al-Tamimi, Head of Corporate Communications Department at Ahli United Bank said, "Through this event, we provided orphaned children with a unique opportunity to experience fun and entertainment at the first family entertainment center in Kuwait, carrying the renowned global brand 'National Geographic Ultimate Explorer' at the Assima Mall. This center offers exceptional interactive entertainment and aims to inspire children between the ages of 4 and 14 to explore the world through educational adventures."

Al-Tamimi emphasized the importance of recreational activities for children, particularly during their developmental stage, as these interactive activities play a significant role in shaping various aspects of their personalities. These positive interactive experiences help children acquire numerous personal traits, such as cooperation, teamwork, respect for others, forming friendships, and trusting others.

"We take great pride in contributing to spreading joy among orphaned children and providing them with happiness through entertainment at the finest and most modern entertainment venues in Kuwait, just like we do for other children. There is no doubt that focusing on meeting the emotional needs of orphans, nurturing their imagination and creativity, and developing their skills while boosting their self-confidence and enhancing their communication abilities aligns perfectly with the bank's strategic objectives for Corporate Social Responsibility. Our commitment to the most vulnerable segments of society particularly orphans, who require care and affection from everyone to compensate for the loss of their parents, remains our top priority",

Al-Tamimi added. Al-Tamimi further highlighted that AUB seeks, through the implementation of numerous initiatives that care for orphaned children, to promote values of solidarity and compassion towards them. The bank aims to engage with orphaned children and share moments of joy and entertainment that bring happiness to their hearts. On this occasion, Al-Tamimi extended her sincere gratitude and appreciation to the organizers of the volunteering Manarat Al-Ghadeer and National Geographic Ultimate Explorer for their active roles in providing enjoyable moments for orphaned children. Al-Tamimi emphasized that Ahli United Bank is committed to launching and adopting distinctive initiatives and events in the humanitarian, charitable, and social fields. These initiatives promote community partnerships and collaborative efforts between the private sector, government and civil society organizations to achieve sustainable development through purposeful community programs.

perience. The Bank offers personal, corporate, and private banking



Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK

of which includes a wide array of products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital. Enjoying equal stability and strength, the Bank also offers the convenience of banking across the region, servicing other markets in Egypt and the UAE.

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.

**Each winner bags KD1000**

**'Warba' names winners of the 'Sunbula' Weekly Draw**

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: Warba Bank - the best bank in banking services for the corporate sector and banking services for the investment sector in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Sunbula draw. The Bank will continue to make weekly draws for 10 winners for the Sunbula account in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

As for the lucky clients of the Al Sunbula weekly draw, the 10 winners, each of whom won KD 1,000 are as following: Khaled Mohammad Alwoqayan, Ms. Suad Salem H. Alkudhur, Mr. Abdulla Shlaiweeh A. Alajmi, Mr. Sayed Mohammad N. Naqvi, Mr. Eissa Rmaidh G. Aldhafari, Ms. Nouf Mubarak O. Alsulaimani, Mr. Abdullah J. H. Alhamad, Mr. Fahad F. K. Alsabah, Ms. Amal Abdulla H. Alrawi, and Mr. Sultan Raheem S. Alenezi.

Meanwhile, the Sunbula account is the perfect choice for all those who wish to save money and achieve great financial returns on their balances at the same time; in addition to multiple opportunities to win cash prizes throughout the year.

With regards to the conditions for winning the Sunbula, Mr. Ahmed M. Almutawa Area Manager Retail Banking Group states: "Only 100 KD is required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and other major draws, whereby the customer still gets one chance per every 10 KD in the account, and the chances are calculated according to the lowest balance in the account during a month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to calculate the opportunities. There are no restrictions or



Ahmed Al Mutawa

limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the customer's chances of winning".

Notably, Warba Bank launched its latest Customer Onboarding banking solution in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, this will enable non-Warba Bank customers to apply for opening an account in an easy digital way through the bank's website without the need to visit any of the bank's branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new customers will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank has achieved remarkable success in a short period, pioneering Islamic digital banking services for individuals and prioritizing customer convenience. Alongside its social role and support for Kuwaiti youth projects, Warba Bank ranks among the top 50 banks in the Middle East in terms of market value for 2023, according to Forbes Middle East classification.

**French economy grows 0.5 percent**

PARIS, July 30, (KUNA): The French economy grew 0.5 percent in Q2 2023 compared to 0.1 percent in Q1 of the same year, according to a report released on Friday by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE).

Gross domestic product noticeably grew in Q2 due to rise of external trade, 0.7 percent, against 0.5 percent previously. Meanwhile, exports recovered in Q2 by 2.6 percent and imports by 0.4 percent.

Over a year, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) should rise by 4.3% in July 2023, after +4.5% in the previous month, according to the provisional estimate made at the end of the month. This further decrease in inflation should result from a new year-on-year decline in energy prices and a slowdown in food prices (for the fourth consecutive

month) and in those of manufactured goods. The prices of services should increase over one year at a rate close to that of the previous month.

Over one month, consumer prices should be stable in July 2023, after +0.2% in June. The prices of energy should fall back due to the decrease in gas prices. The prices of manufactured goods, notably those of clothing and footwear, should also fall back due to the summer sales.

The prices of food should slow down and those of services should accelerate due to the seasonal increase in transport service prices and in other service prices.

Year on year, the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices should rise by 5.0% in July 2023, after +5.3% in June. Over one month, it should be stable, after +0.2% in June.

## Russia's pull out from Ukraine grain deal could lead to surging prices

# India rice export cuts trigger panic-buying by Indian expats in US

NEW YORK, July 30, (AP): Chatter on one of Prabha Rao's WhatsApp groups exploded last week when India announced that it was severely curtailing some rice exports to the rest of the world, triggering worry among the Indian diaspora in the United States that access to a food staple from home might soon be cut off.

As in any crisis situation - think bottled water and toilet paper- some rushed to supermarkets to stock up, stacking carts with bags and bags of rice. In some places, lines formed outside some stores as panic buying ensued.

But Rao, who lives near Syracuse, New York, was reassured when the proprietor of her Indian market sent out an email to customers to let them know there was no need to worry:

There was an ample supply of rice. At least for now.

An earlier than expected El Niño brought drier, warmer weather in some parts of Asia and is expected to harm rice production. But in some parts of India, where the monsoon season was especially brutal, flooding destroyed some crops, adding to production woes and rising prices.

Hoping to stave off inflationary pressures on a diet staple, the Indian government earlier this month imposed export bans on non-Basmati white rice varieties, prompting hoarding in some parts of the world.

The move was taken "to ensure adequate availability" and "to allay the rise in prices in the domestic market," India's Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution announced

July 20. Over the past year, prices have increased by more than 11%, and by 3% over the past month, the government said.

### Constitutes

Non-Basmati white rice constitutes about a fourth of the rice exported by India.

"On WhatsApp, I got a lot of messages saying that rice was not going to be available. I think there was a lot of confusion in the beginning because, as you know, rice is very important for us," Rao said.

"When we first heard the news, there was just mild confusion and people started panic buying because they thought that it may not be available," she said.

There are scores of different varie-

ties of rice, with people having their preference depending on taste and texture. India's export ban does not apply to Basmati rice, a long-grain variety that is more aromatic.

The ban applies to short-grain rice that is starchier and has a relatively neutral flavor - which Rao says is preferable in some dishes or favored in specific regions of India, especially in southern areas of the country.

At Little India, a grocery store in New York City's Curry Hill neighborhood in Manhattan, there was no shortage of Basmati rice and other varieties.

That wasn't the case at other Indian groceries. On its Facebook page, India Bazaar, an Indian grocery chain in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, told customers not to panic. "We are working hard to meet

all our shoppers' demands," the post said.

Customers cleared shelves and waited in long lines to stockpile bags of rice, reported NBC Dallas affiliate KXAS.

"They really wanted to purchase ten, 12, 15 bags," India Bazaar's president, Anand Pabari, told the station. "It was a really crazy situation."

India's move came days after Russia backed out of a deal to allow Ukrainian wheat safe passage through the Black Sea, prompting warnings that the action could lead to surging prices.

Some economists say the ban might further hurt food supplies around the world, and some governments have urged the Indian government to reconsider the export ban.

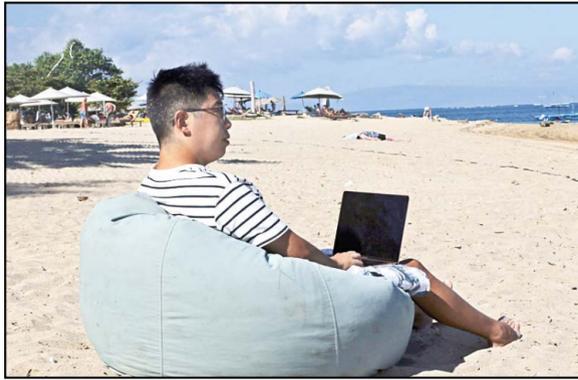
At least in the United States, the supply of imported rice from India may not yet be a problem - despite the panic buying - but a long-term ban would certainly deplete that stock.

Rao says she and others will just have to adapt by purchasing rice grown in the United States or imported from other countries.

"I might have to substitute Basmati rice," she said, "but it doesn't taste that good, especially with South Indian dishes."

A US resident for three decades, Rao said she is accustomed to improvising.

"When we first came here, there was not even that much rice from India," she said. "So I've learned to substitute, and I'm fine with the other brands that we get."



Chinese Armonio Liang sits on a beach as he works on his computer in Bali, Indonesia on June 22, 2023. (AP)

### Pressures at home

## Young Chinese 'opt out' of rat race for nomad lifestyle

BANGKOK, July 30, (AP): Shortly after China opened its borders with the end of "zero-COVID," Zhang Chuannan lost her job as an accountant at a cosmetic firm in Shanghai and decided to explore the world.

"The cosmetics business was bleak," said Zhang, 34, who explained everyone wore face masks during the pandemic. After being laid off, she paid \$1,400 for an on-line Thai course, got an education visa and moved to the scenic northern Thai city of Chiang Mai.

Zhang is among a growing number of young Chinese moving overseas not necessarily because of ideological reasons but to escape the country's ultra-competitive work culture, family pressures and limited opportunities after living in the country under the strict pandemic policies for three years. Southeast Asia has become a popular destination given its proximity, relatively inexpensive cost of living and tropical scenery.

There is no exact data on the number of young Chinese moving overseas since the country ended pandemic restrictions and reopened its borders. But on the popular Chinese social media platform Xiaohongshu, hundreds of people have discussed their decisions to relocate to Thailand. Many get a visa to study Thai while figuring out their next steps.

At Payap University in Chiang Mai, around 500 Chinese began an online Thai course early this year.

Royce Heng, owner of Duke Language School, a private language institute in Bangkok, said around 180 Chinese inquire each month about visa information and courses.

The hunt for opportunities far from home is partly motivated by China's unemployment rate for people ages 16 to 24, which rose to a record high of 21.3% in June. The scarcity of good jobs increases pressure to work long hours.

### Downward

Opting out is an increasingly popular way for younger workers to cope with a time of downward mobility, said Beverly Yuen Thompson, a sociology professor at Siena College in Albany, New York.

"In their 20s and early 30s, they can go to Thailand, take selfies and work on the beach for a few years and feel like they have a great quality of life," Thomson said. "If those nomads had the same opportunities they hoped for in their home countries, they could just travel on vacation."

During the pandemic in China, Zhang was cooped up in her Shanghai apartment for weeks at a time. Even when lockdowns were lifted, she feared another COVID-19 outbreak would prevent her from moving around within the country.

"I now value freedom more," Zhang said.

A generous severance package helped finance her time in Thailand and she is seeking ways to stay abroad long-term, perhaps by teaching Chinese language online.

Moving to Chiang Mai means waking up in the mornings to bird songs and a more relaxed pace of life. Unlike in China, she has time to practice yoga and meditation, shop for vintage clothes and attend dance classes.

Armonio Liang left the western Chinese city of Chengdu in landlocked Sichuan province for the Indonesian island of Bali, a popular

digital nomad destination. His Web3 social media startup was limited by Chinese government restrictions while his use of cryptocurrency exchange apps drew police harassment. Moving to Bali gave the 38-year-old greater freedom and a middle-class lifestyle with what might be barely enough money to live on back home.

"This is what I cannot get in China," said Liang, referring to working on his laptop on the beach and brainstorming with expatriates from around the world. "Thousands of ideas just sprouted up in my mind. I had never been so creative before."

He also has enjoyed being greeted with smiles.

"In Chengdu, everyone is so stressed. If I smiled at a stranger, they would think I am an idiot," he said.

Life overseas is not all beach chats and friendly neighbors, though. For most young workers, such stays will be interludes in their lives, Thompson said.

"They can't have kids, because kids have to go to school," Thompson said. "They cannot fulfill their responsibilities to their parents. What if their aging parents need help? They eventually will get a full-time job back home and get called back home because of one of those things."

### Move

Zhang said she faces pressure to get married. Liang wants his parents to move to Bali with him.

"It's a big problem," Liang said. "They worry they will be lonely after moving out of China and worry about medical resources here."

Huang Wanxiong, 32, was stranded on Bohol Island in the Philippines for seven months in 2020 when air travel halted during the pandemic, and he spent his time learning free diving, which involves diving to great depths without oxygen tanks.

He eventually flew home to the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, but lost his job at a private tutoring company after the government cracked down on the industry in 2021. His next gig was driving more than 16 hours a day for a ride-hailing business.

"I felt like a machine during those days," Huang said. "I can accept a stable and unchanging life but I cannot accept not having any hope, not trying to improve the situation and surrendering to fate."

Huang returned to the Philippines in February, escaping family pressures to get a better job and find a girlfriend in China. He renewed his Bohol Island friendships and qualified as a dive instructor.

But without Chinese tourists to teach and no income, he flew home again in June.

He still hopes to make a living as a diver, possibly back in Southeast Asia, though he also may agree to his parents' proposal to emigrate to Peru to work in a family-run supermarket.

Huang recalled he once surfaced too quickly from a 40-meter (131-foot) dive and his hands trembled from a dangerous lack of oxygen, known as hypoxia. The lesson he took was to avoid rushing and maintain a steady climb. Until his next move, he plans to use that free diver discipline to counter the anxieties of living in China.

"I will apply the calm I learned from the sea surrounding that island to my real life," Huang said. "I will maintain my own pace."

### France's Le Maire presses China on market access

# China defends trade with Russia after US accuses Beijing of weapon supply

BEIJING, July 30, (AP): The Chinese government defended its dealings with Russia as "normal economic and trade cooperation" Friday after a United States intelligence report said Beijing possibly provided equipment used in Ukraine that might have military applications.

The Biden administration has warned Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government of unspecified consequences if it supports the Kremlin's war effort. The latest report cited Russian customs data that showed Chinese state-owned military contractors supplied navigation equipment, fighter jet parts, drones and other goods, but didn't say whether that might trigger US retaliation.

"China has been carrying out normal economic and trade cooperation with countries around the world, including Russia," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning. She said Chinese-Russian cooperation "neither targets a third party nor is it subject to interference and coercion by a third party."

Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin declared before the February 2022 invasion that their governments had a "no-limits" friendship. Beijing says it is neutral in the war, but it has blocked efforts to censure Moscow in the United Nations and has repeated Russian justifications for the attack.

China is an "increasingly important buttress" for Russia, "probably supplying Moscow with key technology and dual-use equipment used in Ukraine," said the report by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, referring to equipment that can have both civilian and military applications.

China has stepped up purchases of Russian oil and gas, which helps Putin's government offset lost sales after the United States, Europe and Japan cut off most purchases of Russian energy. Beijing can do that without triggering Western sanctions on its own companies, but Washington and its allies are frustrated that it undercuts economic pressure on Moscow.

China rejects Western trade and financial sanctions on Russia because they weren't authorized by the U.N. Security Council, where Beijing and Moscow have veto power. However, China has appeared to avoid directly defying those sanctions.

"We have also consistently opposed unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction that have no basis in international law and have not been authorized by the Security Council," said Mao.

Meanwhile, the French finance minister said Sunday he pressed Chinese leaders to open their markets wider to foreign companies and lobbied for investment in France's electric car industry, as the European Union's second-largest economy followed Washington in reviving post-COVID economic talks amid tension over Beijing's surging trade surpluses.

Bruno Le Maire also defended Paris's controls on foreign access to technology after authorities said two Chinese citizens are under investigation for what news reports say is possible

### Global dollar shortage among central banks

## Bolivia latest in S. America to use China yuan for trade in challenge to US dollar

LA PAZ, Bolivia, July 30, (AP): Bolivia is now using the yuan to pay for imports and exports, becoming the latest country in South America to regularly use the Chinese currency in a small but growing challenge to the hegemony of the US dollar for international financial transactions in the region.

Between May and July of this year, Bolivia conducted financial operations amounting to 278 million Chinese yuan (\$38.7 million), which accounts for 10% of its foreign trade during that period, Economy Minister Marcelo Montenegro said on Thursday.

"We're already using the yuan. It's a reality and a good start," Montenegro said during a news conference. "Banana, zinc, and wood manufacturing exporters are conducting transactions in yuan, as well as importers of vehicles and capital goods." These electronic transactions are carried out through the state-owned Banco Unión.

"The amount being used in yuan is still relatively small, but it will increase over time," Montenegro said. With these transactions, Bolivia joins other countries in South America, most notably Brazil and Argentina, which are using the yuan. The three countries are ruled by leftist or left-leaning governments.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the use of the yuan is growing especially "in those countries that are looking to establish stronger ties with China, that view themselves as in some way politically aligned on this particular objective on decreasing their overall reliance on the dollar and on the US in general," said Margaret Myers, director of the Asia & Latin America Program at the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue.

The use of the yuan comes at a time when China's footprint in the region is increasing with rising trade and investment.

### Anxiety

"There is a lot of anxiety in Washington about threats to the special role of the dollar in regions like Latin America," Benjamin Gedan, director of the Latin America Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center, said. "China's new role as a lender of last resort in Argentina, and the use of the yuan for international trade by Bolivia, are a sign of the times."

Earlier this year, Argentina's government unveiled a plan to use the yuan to pay for imports from China as a way to preserve its dwindling foreign reserves and it has raised the possibility of paying off debts with

smuggling of French-made processor chips with military uses to China and Russia.

Le Maire met Saturday with Vice



A money exchange shop worker counts Chinese yuan banknotes in La Paz, Bolivia, on July 26, 2023. Bolivia's state-run bank, Banco Unión, has started to carry out transactions using China's currency, the yuan. (AP)

### OPEC+ urged to stay alert

## Rejuvenated Chinese economy, high oil demands boost oil prices: experts

KUWAIT CITY, July 30, (KUNA): A couple of Kuwaiti oil experts attributed the rise in oil prices last week to the highest point since last April to improving global oil demands and the stimulation of Chinese economy.

In separate remarks to KUNA on Sunday, the two mentioned that Brent crude rose by 4.8 percent whereas West Texas by 4.6 percent, for fifth week in a row, the longest series of weekly gains in about a year.

Professor of petroleum engineering at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Dr. Ahmad Al-Kouh stated that the global economy remains relatively wan due to interest rate hikes by US Federal Reserve and other central banks.

Al-Kouh urged OPEC+ to stay alert and monitor rapid market develop-

ments as oil demand in second half of this current year is expected to drop.

He ruled out the possibility of OPEC+ lowering production yet again but called previous decreases a correct decision as they managed to keep prices above the USD 70 threshold.

As for Expert Jamal Al-Gharabally, he stated that oil prices remain aloft due to increasing demand in China accompanied by decreasing global oil reserves.

Al-Gharabally expects oil prices to remain at USD 85 to USD 90 until the end of the year.

He credited the improved demand on oil due to growth of the American economy surpassing second quarter forecast, as well as the mounting hopes of central banks ending interest rate increases.

the International Monetary Fund using the Chinese currency. In Brazil, the yuan surpassed the euro as the second most important currency in its foreign reserves at the end of 2022, when 5.37% of the central bank's holdings were in the Chinese currency, compared to 4.74% for the euro.

In Bolivia, the yuan started to be used after months of severe dollar shortages that have been impacting the country's economy since February.

Some analysts and members of the opposition have questioned the move to use the yuan.

"It is not a long-term solution, and it seems more like an attempt to

cover up economic problems," said José Gabriel Espinoza, an economics professor at Bolivia's Catholic University.

The manager of the Chamber of Exporters of Bolivia, Marcelo Olguin, dismissed the criticism, characterizing the use of the yuan as merely "an alternative to operate."

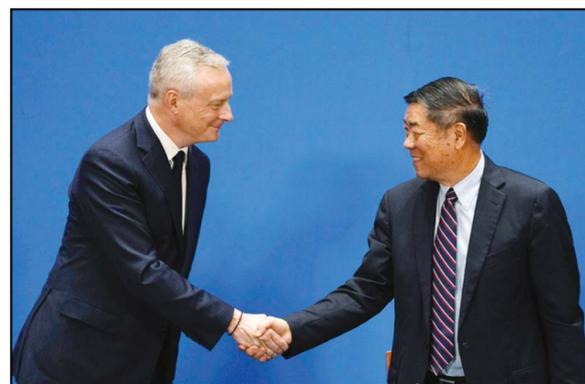
"They're all facing the same global macroeconomic conditions, and the most important part of that is the US dollar is really expensive and hard to get a hold of. So there's basically a global dollar shortage among current central banks," Ray said. "Central banks everywhere are looking for alternatives."

pean goods."

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government has looked to Europe as an alternative market and source of technology since Washington tightened controls on access to US processor chips and other high-tech goods and hiked tariffs on imports from China in a feud over its industry development ambitions.

Le Maire and Chinese officials pledged to cooperate on climate change, financing for developing countries and nuclear power. They announced plans to set up a group to settle a dispute over access to China's market for cosmetics, a major French export.

Le Maire also lobbied for investment from China's fast-growing electric car industry. He was due to fly to the southern city of Shenzhen to meet Wang Chuanfu, founder of BYD Auto, one of the world's biggest electric vehicle producers. BYD Auto and other Chinese brands are starting to sell in developed markets including Europe and Japan. Chinese battery supplier CATL has set up a factory in Germany to supply automaker BMW.



French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, (left) and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng shake hands after a joint press conference at the end of the 9th China-France High Level Economic and Financial Dialogue held at the Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing, Saturday, July 29, 2023. (AP)

Merck begins late-stage study of skin cancer treatment

# Targeted therapy may transform high-risk melanoma care

RAHWAY, N.J., July 30: Merck (NYSE: MRK), known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, and Moderna, Inc. (Nasdaq: MRNA), a biotechnology company pioneering messenger RNA (mRNA) therapeutics and vaccines, announced the initiation of the pivotal Phase 3 randomized V940-001 clinical trial evaluating V940 (mRNA-4157), an investigational individualized neoantigen therapy (INT), in combination with Keytruda, Merck's anti-PD-1 therapy, as an adjuvant treatment in patients with resected high-risk (Stage IIB-IV) melanoma. Global recruitment in V940-001 has begun, and the first patients are now enrolling in Australia.

"As we continue our efforts to advance novel treatment options for patients with high-risk Stage IIB-IV melanoma, the initiation of the V940-001 Phase 3 trial represents an important step forward in these efforts and our study of individualized neoantigen therapy," said Dr. Marjorie Green, senior vice president and head of late-stage oncology, global clinical development, Merck Research Laboratories. "We look forward to continuing to collaborate with Moderna to evaluate this promising new approach with V940 (mRNA-4157), while also building on a standard of care laid by Keytruda."

"The initiation of the V940-001 Phase 3 trial is an exciting and important milestone for us as we work with our colleagues at Merck and the melanoma patient community to investigate how individualized neoantigen therapy may potentially transform the treatment of the most serious form of skin cancer," said Kyle Holen, M.D., Moderna's Senior Vice President and Head of Development, Therapeutics and Oncology. "We thank the patients, investigators, and clinical trial sites across the world for helping us advance our efforts in this area."

**Safety**

V940-001 is a Phase 3 global, randomized, double-blind, placebo- and active-comparator-controlled study designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of V940 (mRNA-4157) in combination with Keytruda in people with resected high-risk (Stage IIB-IV) melanoma compared to Keytruda alone. The trial is slated to enroll approximately 1,089 patients at more than 165 sites in over 25 countries around the world. The primary endpoint of the study is recurrence-free survival (RFS), and secondary endpoints include distant metastasis-free survival (DMFS), overall survival (OS), and safety.

Based on data from the Phase 2b KEYNOTE-942/mRNA-4157-P201 study, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency granted Breakthrough Therapy Designation and the Priority Medicines (PRIME) scheme, respectively, for V940 (mRNA-4157) in combination with Keytruda for the adjuvant treatment of patients with high-risk melanoma. The companies presented the study's primary endpoint, RFS, in April 2023 at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting and presented the study's key secondary endpoint, DMFS, in June 2023 at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting. The companies also plan to expand the development program to additional tumor types, including non-small cell lung cancer.

V940 (mRNA-4157) is a novel investigational messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA)-based individualized neoantigen therapy (INT) consisting of a single synthetic mRNA coding for up to 34 neoantigens that is designed and produced based on the unique mutational signature of the DNA sequence of the patient's tumor. Upon administration into the body, the algorithmically derived and RNA-encoded neoantigen sequences are endogenously translated and undergo natural cellular

antigen processing and presentation, a key step in adaptive immunity.

Individualized neoantigen therapies are designed to train and activate the immune system so that a patient can generate an antitumor response specific to their tumor mutation signature. V940 (mRNA-4157) is designed to stimulate an immune response by generating specific T-cell responses based on the unique mutational signature of a patient's tumor. Keytruda is an immunotherapy that works by increasing the ability of the body's immune system to help detect and fight tumor cells. Based on early clinical studies and data from the Phase 2b KEYNOTE-942/mRNA-4157-P201 trial, combining V940 (mRNA-4157) with Keytruda may provide an additive benefit over Keytruda alone.

**surgical**

V940-001 is a global, randomized, double-blind, placebo- and active-comparator-controlled Phase 3 trial evaluating 1,089 patients with resected high-risk (Stage IIB-IV) melanoma. Following complete surgical resection, participants 18 years and older will be randomized 2:1 to receive V940 (mRNA-4157) (1 mg every three weeks for up to nine doses) and Keytruda (400 mg every six weeks up to nine cycles [approximately one year]) versus Keytruda alone for approximately one year until disease recurrence or unacceptable toxicity, or for a total treatment duration of up to approximately 56 weeks, whichever is sooner. The primary endpoint is RFS, defined as the time from randomization to any type of disease recurrence as assessed by the investigator, or death due to any cause. The secondary endpoints are DMFS, OS, safety and quality of life.

Key eligibility criteria for the trial include: patients who have surgically resected and histologically/pathologically confirmed diagnosis of Stage IIB or IIC, III or IV cutaneous melanoma, patients who have not received any prior systemic therapy for their melanoma beyond surgical resection and no more than 13 weeks have passed between final surgical resection.

Melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, is characterized by the uncontrolled growth of pigment-producing cells. The rates of melanoma have been rising over the past few decades, with nearly 325,000 new cases diagnosed worldwide in 2020. In the U.S., skin cancer is one of the most common types of cancer diagnosed, and melanoma accounts for a large majority of skin cancer deaths. It is estimated there will be nearly 100,000 new cases of melanoma diagnosed and almost 8,000 deaths resulting from the disease in the U.S. in 2023.

Keytruda is an anti-programmed death receptor-1 (PD-1) therapy that works by increasing the ability of the body's immune system to help detect and fight tumor cells. Keytruda is a humanized monoclonal antibody that blocks the interaction between PD-1 and its ligands, PD-L1 and PD-L2, thereby activating T lymphocytes which may affect both tumor cells and healthy cells.

Merck has the industry's largest immuno-oncology clinical research program. There are currently more than 1,600 trials studying Keytruda across a wide variety of cancers and treatment settings. The Keytruda clinical program seeks to understand the role of Keytruda across cancers and the factors that may predict a patient's likelihood of benefiting from treatment with Keytruda, including exploring several different biomarkers.

Keytruda is a monoclonal antibody that belongs to a class of drugs that bind to either the PD-1 or the PD-L1, blocking the PD-1/PD-L1 pathway, thereby removing inhibition of the immune response, potentially breaking peripheral tolerance and inducing immune-mediated adverse reactions.

# Apollo leads India's solid multi-organ transplantation with 23K transplants

Clarius participates in GHP

NEW DELHI, July 30: Apollo, the world's largest vertically integrated healthcare provider, has achieved a momentous feat by completing 23,000 transplants. The Apollo Transplant Program stands as one of the most advanced and comprehensive programs globally, renowned for its cutting-edge services. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic in 2020, the program successfully carried out 814 transplants. Importantly, this program is the first in India to surpass significant milestones of 23,000 transplants, including 18,500 kidney transplants, 4,300 liver transplants, and 500 pediatric liver transplants.

Dr. Prathap C Reddy, Founder Chairman, Apollo, said, "We see this milestone as a testament to the advancement of clinical excellence practices we have built in India, with care and technology at the core. As we strive to keep our population healthy, we will continue to remain committed to bringing world-class care to everyone."

India is the leading destination for global patients seeking medical treatment, with over 30% of 23,000 transplants performed for international patients. Apollo, performing 12% of all Indian transplants, has performed 1% of global transplant procedures which include patients from 50+ countries, including the US, Philippines, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, Pakistan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, CIS, Myanmar, and others.

**Demands**

Dr. Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice-Chairperson, Apollo, said, "India has attracted a lot of international patients seeking medical care because of its reputation as a leader in the field of healthcare. We have established a solid framework for both professional excellence and state-of-the-art technology and are able to meet the complicated demands of patients while maintaining a sharp emphasis on results and care."

Dr. Anupam Sibal, Group Medical Director and Senior Pediatric Gastroenterologist, Apollo, said, "We are delighted to have accomplished this landmark, and are privileged to offer hope to patients with end stage organ failure from across the globe. We now routinely perform complicated kidney transplants, combined liver - kidney transplants, combined kidney - pancreas transplants, multi -organ transplants, heart transplants, lung transplants, heart - lung transplants and liver transplants in children and adults."

The Apollo Transplant Institutes are spread across more than 24 locations, with 8 dedicated to liver transplants and 6 to multi-organ transplants. Over 250 doctors serve as consultants for the organization's solid organ transplant program. Our exceptional reputation for dependability and trust is the result of providing the highest level of care and unparalleled results over the last decade.

**Also:**

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia:** Clarius Mobile Health, a leading provider of high-definition handheld ultrasound systems, has been selected by the Government of Canada to participate in the new Global Hypergrowth Project (GHP), powered by

Endoscopic spine activities peak during summer '23

# Mouser 'shares' power of digital therapeutics for better healthcare

DALLAS & FORT WORTH, Texas, July 30: Mouser Electronics Inc, the industry's leading New Product Introduction (NPI) distributor with the widest selection of semiconductor and electronic components™, premieres its latest installment of the Empowering Innovation Together (EIT) series unveiling the transformative potential of digital therapeutics. Mouser examines the bridge between technology and medical devices to find how these parts and components can work together to provide a more personalized and accessible means of healthcare.

The medical industry is constantly evolving, and technology has become a crucial aspect in changing traditional methods. Digital therapeutics have emerged as an efficient approach that offers the potential to reach more patients, monitor conditions in real time, and reduce the financial barriers to accessing medical care. To support this shift, Mouser and its industry-leading supplier partners have collaborated to share their collective expertise and promote a more comprehensive method of personal health.

The latest series installment includes a brand-new podcast episode from The Tech Between Us, as well as a second episode from In Between The Tech, featuring esteemed guests from the Digital Medicine Society and Freespira. Each episode breaks down the meaning of digital therapeutics and the cutting-edge solutions it has the potential to provide. Through these informative episodes, listeners will gain a comprehensive understanding of the technical hardware and software aspects of engineering design, along with the current industry challenges facing

this area. Mouser's articles, case study and infographics offer a comprehensive exploration of the present market landscape while also presenting an optimistic outlook on future prospects, such as advancements in wearable technology, FDA approval procedures, and the diverse range of treatments it can facilitate. The range of content helps provide a solid foundation and raise awareness among designers about how to incorporate modern solutions into digital therapeutic devices.

This EIT installment is sponsored by Mouser's valued partners ams Osram, Microchip Technology, Bourns, Murata, NXP Semiconductors, Molex, and Renesas.

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**Also:**

**KARLSRUHE, Germany:** joimax®, the German-based market leader in technologies and training methods for full-endoscopic and minimally invasive spinal surgery, presented at the ESPINEA® World Summit at the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, PASMIS in Taiwan, NASSI in Bangkok, the ASEAN MISST in Jakarta, and at the first Annual Endoscopic Spine Surgery Symposium at the Seattle Science Foundation.

From July 13 to 15 more than 80 attendees from 22 countries connected at the ESPINEA® World Summit.

the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development. GHP is designed to help the country's most promising scale-up companies to further fuel their growth with the support of a team of experts with extensive public and private sector experience.

"Canada wins when cutting-edge companies keep operations, profits, and jobs here at home. And when they scale up around the world, they signal that Canada is open for business," said Minister Mary Ng. "With the Global Hypergrowth Project, we're doubling down on Canada's most promising firms, to help them scale up, from here."

Clarius has an ambitious mission to improve patient care globally and reduce healthcare costs by enabling clinicians to instantly look into a patient's body to confidently diagnose disease and enhance procedural safety. The company was the first to develop a high-definition pocket-size wireless ultrasound scanner that works with an app on Apple and Android smart devices. Since Clarius began selling its ultrasound scanners in 2016, more than

20,000 clinicians have used them performing more than 3.8 million scans. Clarius currently employs over 150 people at its headquarters, an innovation center and manufacturing facility in Vancouver, British Columbia.

"We share the government of Canada's goal to build a vibrant, local medical technology community and we're extremely honoured to be one of a select few innovative companies in Canada chosen to participate in the Global Hypergrowth Project," said Clarius CEO **Ohad Arazi**. "Having our government's support for funding, international expansion, access to government procurement projects, and more will help rapidly accelerate our growth. Our team is energized to be recognized as one of Canada's 15 most promising companies!"

Minimum criteria for participation in the GHP include: annual revenues of \$30 million; 40% gross margin; 30% revenue compound annual growth over the last three years; and headquarters in Canada with at least 60% employees based in the country. Clarius underwent a rigorous selection process

to demonstrate its ability to execute on growth ambitions and prove its potential to seize opportunities for global leadership and to create and maintain highly-skilled jobs in Canada. Clarius was selected by a volunteer panel of notable Canadian business leaders appointed by Innovation Canada.

Clarius is the only ultrasound company to offer 10 AI-powered models of handheld ultrasound scanners designed for a broad range of medical specialties including orthopedic surgeons, aesthetic clinicians, emergency physicians, and veterinarians.

Clarius is on a mission to make accurate, easy-to-use, and affordable ultrasound tools available to all medical professionals in every specialty. With decades of experience in medical imaging, the team knows that great ultrasound imaging improves confidence and patient care. Today, Clarius handheld wireless ultrasound scanners connect to iOS and Android devices, delivering high-resolution ultrasound images traditionally only available with bulkier, high-end systems at a fraction of the cost.

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# Sandberg's Lean In launches girls leadership program

People

NEW YORK, July 30, (AP) — Ten years after publishing her book "Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead," Sheryl Sandberg launched a girls leadership program Thursday through her foundation to respond to what she calls stubborn gender inequities.

"What we realized is that in order to really get to equality, equality in leadership everywhere, from our parliaments to our statehouses to our homes, we're going to have to go younger," Sandberg said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The girls leadership program, which includes a middle-school curriculum as well as resources for adults, starts with difficult conversations about the systems and biases that Sandberg said girls face.

"Who wants to say to a girl seven years before she enters the workforce, 'One day you're going to be in a meeting and some man is going to talk over you, voice something you just said and get credit for your ideas,'" Sandberg asked. "We don't want to tell our daughters that."

But speaking about those biases, she said, then allows for a conversation about how to counteract them.

"We're going to start telling you the challenges, but then we're also going to equip you and the people around you to change them," Sandberg said.

Many nonprofits and schools run programs that encourage girls to lead, particularly teenagers, who research shows may retreat from high-profile roles or limit their ambitions in response to social pres-

ures. However, researchers caution against making broad generalizations about the experiences of all girls and say that any national curriculum needs to be flexible to be relevant.

Lean In piloted the new curriculum with girls 11 to 15 years old, along with partners like the Girls Scouts of Northeast Texas, KIPP Public Charter Schools and the nonprofit Girls Inc. It also plans to provide resources to help adults challenge gender norms in their families, schools and communities. Lean In is a project of the Sandberg Goldberg Bernthal Family Foundation, the private foundation Sandberg started with her late husband, Dave Goldberg. Her second husband, Tom Bernthal, is a member of the board.

## Secure

Sandberg has acknowledged criticism of her call for women to step up in their roles at work and to ask for additional help from partners at home. The goal of Lean In, she said, including its program for girls, is to secure a fair share of leadership roles for women in business, politics and families and to change ideas about what effective leadership is. Expanding the pool of potential leaders benefits everyone by drawing on the talents of the whole population, she said.

The first half of the 15 hour-long sessions will be freely available online for any caring adult to use, while the second half requires facilitators from partner organizations to participate in training sessions pro-

vided by Lean In. To extend its reach, Lean In will also tap the women already engaged with their networking and support circles, asking them to run sessions for teenagers in their communities.

Finding an audience for girls leadership programs and fundraising to support the program were challenges faced by Jean Sinzduk, associate director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. She helps run a leadership program for girls focused on encouraging political participation and civic knowledge that started in 2014. As an organization that also did not serve youth directly, she built partnerships with Girl Scout troops and ran pilot projects in schools to distribute their curriculum that is also free to use online.

"Our framework was: have resources available and then work to get it scaled up through organizations already doing this work," she said.

Research and conversations about girls limiting themselves or quieting their voices as they reach teenage years extend back decades, said Katherine Clonan-Roy, assistant professor at Cleveland State University. That includes the work of psychologist and feminist Carol Gilligan in the 1980s, and Janie Ward, a professor at Simmons University, who studied the youth development of Black teenagers.

Clonan-Roy said she sees teenagers and college students today demanding more humane treatment from their schools, but also thinks that institutions and social biases are slow to change.

## Variety



This image released by A24 Films shows Joe Bird in a scene from 'Talk to Me.' (AP)

## Film

New film a hand-some high-five for twin Aussie filmmakers

# 'Talk to Me' a stylish, refined horror flick

By Mark Kennedy

You've got to hand it to the Philippou brothers. They've taken an old horror cliché - a severed hand - and made something worth, well, applauding. "Talk to Me," which hit theaters Friday, is a stylish, well-crafted piece of filmmaking that marks the auspicious arrival of twin Australian filmmakers Michael and Danny Philippou.

Directed by the brothers from a script by Danny Philippou and Bill Hinzman, "Talk to Me" is modern and yet ancient, with just enough jump-cuts and zombies and dread, but not too much. It also downshifts out of madness in the final third to explore loss and guilt just when most films would ramp up the running-from-scary-guys part.

Our focus here are a pack of teens in Australia. Teens Down Under are pretty much the same as they are everywhere - snarky, peer-pressure-y and clique-y. But in addition to stealing their parents' booze and smoking, these guys have a porcelain hand that is a doorway to hell.

Curiously, these teens don't sit around and play beer pong or spin-the-bottle. They take turns holding the hand and inviting whatever bug-eyed, damp and foul demon to enter their body. (For not too long, though: 90 seconds sounds good before someone needs to cut the connection.) The kids film it all on their phones and post it on social media. (Who should get royalties isn't clear.)

OK, let's talk about this hand, which initially just looks like one of those mannequin pieces you find in upscale jewelry stores to show off expensive rings. It's got loads of graffiti but looks pleasant enough. Underneath the porcelain we're told, might be the severed hand of a medium or a satanist. Don't ask a lot of questions about how some teens in suburban Australia got it. Talk to the hand.

What's surprising is the joy it brings to our weird

group. Being possessed in this movie is a rush - an unconventional idea in the horror genre - even though the demon who briefly controls you can do embarrassing things, like make out with a dog. The script seems to be playing with notions of recreational drugs as much as horror here.

The heroine of this tale is played by Sophie Wilde and it's her vehicle to stardom, too. It's a role that asks her to be sad, exuberant, frightened, deadly, possessed, lusty, mournful and vengeful. She is all those things and more. She's one to watch.

Her Mia is grieving the anniversary of her mother's suspicious death and a demon that may or may not be mom shows up during their little game. That leads the plot in the second half to go supernatural and where holes in the logic tend to stretch.

But there's no doubt the Philippou brothers have possessed us. Born and raised on YouTube - they cut their filmmaking teeth building RackaRacka (take that, fancy film schools) - they've crashed the party with a great debut. Welcome them warmly, just don't shake their hands.

"Talk to Me," an A24 release, is rated R for "strong, bloody violent content, some sexual material and language throughout." Running time: 95 minutes. Three stars out of four.

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Two weeks into the actors strike, Max Greenfield is urging the studios and their CEOs to return to the bargaining table.

"Be the heroes, come to the table, make a deal," said Greenfield, who co-stars in the CBS sitcom "The Neighborhood." "My hope is these guys get organized and have a real conversation with both the WGA and SAG-AFTRA so that we can get to a resolution," he said, referencing the unions for the writers and actors, respectively.

Greenfield spoke at a charity ping pong event at

Dodger Stadium on Thursday night, joined by his co-star Cedric the Entertainer.

"We struck because our deal was up and it's time to adjust to what has changed in the business. To make a minor adjustment feels disproportionate to what has obviously changed in a massive, massive way," Greenfield said. "Until we feel like we're getting fair compensation and we feel like we're protected, this is going to continue to go on."

Bryan Cranston, who had fiery words for Disney CEO Bob Iger at a New York rally on Tuesday, acknowledged things are "going very, very slowly."

"Until we're able to get back to the table, which we are more than willing to do and we've told them so, we want to keep talking through this strike," he said. "We want to end this as soon as possible."

On July 14, actors joined striking screenwriters who walked out in May. The stoppage has shuttered nearly all film and television production.

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the Writers Guild of America are striking for fair pay and protections involving the use of artificial intelligence, among other issues.

There has reportedly been no negotiating between the unions and the Association of Motion Picture and Television Producers since shortly after the actors hit the picket lines.

"I think when people realize that the artists are the people that are making this and nothing is going to get made without the actors and the writers, maybe that will force a little more flexibility in the negotiations," Oscar-winning actor Casey Affleck said.

Actor and entrepreneur Danny Trejo urged the studios to look beyond Hollywood's highest-paid actors and consider the financial plight of those working behind the scenes. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Drew Barrymore, whose honors include a Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild award, will be presiding over a more literary ceremony this fall.

Barrymore will be hosting the 74th annual National Book Awards, the National Book Foundation announced. And Oprah Winfrey, a previous winner of an honorary National Book Award, will be a guest speaker.

Barrymore and Winfrey both have long histories of championing books and reading. Winfrey's book club picks have helped dozens of works become bestsellers, while Barrymore has praised books by Tina Fey and David Sedaris, among others.

"Throughout their careers, Drew Barrymore and Oprah Winfrey have each demonstrated their enduring belief that books have the power to change readers' lives - by opening doors, sparking conversations, and building community," David Steinberger, chair of the Board of Directors of the National Book Foundation, said in a statement. "This belief echoes the mission of the National Book Foundation to ensure that books have a prominent place in our culture." (AP)

**NEW YORK:** A digital poetry archive in Utah, slam poetry workshops in South Carolina and creative writing programs in New Mexico are among the initiatives being supported by more than \$1 million in grants from the Academy of American Poets.

The academy announced its 2023 Fellowships, contributions of \$50,000 each to 23 state and local poets laureate around the country, from Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Redmond, Washington.

The Poet Laureate Fellowship program, launched in 2019, are funded in part by the Mellon Foundation.

"Collectively the voice and vision of these 23 poets laureate will bring together community members through the craft and creativity of poetry and illuminate place through words," poet Elizabeth Alexander, president of the Mellon Foundation, said in a statement. Fellows include Utah laureate

Lisa Bickmore and Lauren Camp of New Mexico, along with such local laureates as Diannely Antigua of Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Laura Da' of Redmond, Washington; Jennifer Bartell Boykin of Columbia, South Carolina; and Yalie Saweda Kamara of Cincinnati. (AP)



Winfrey



Barrymore

**RAYMONDVILLE, Texas:** First there was Gone Girl. Now there is Gone Goat.

The search for a rodeo goat that has been missing for more than a week has the residents of a rural South Texas county enthralled as they are using horses, ATVs and even contemplating utilizing a helicopter to find the

missing animal.

Local businesses have donated nearly 90 prizes and gifts worth more than \$5,000, including brisket, frescos and salon service, as a reward for the person who finds the goat.

"This has just gotten bigger than we ever dreamed. Our county is a really small county,

about 20,000 population and a mostly agriculture, farming and ranching community. And we're very much one big family ... So, we're excited that everybody wants to find our goat," said Alison Savage, president of the Willacy County Livestock Show and Fair. (AP)

## People & Places

### Music

#### Greta Van Fleet back

### 'Starcatcher' depicts boys becoming men

NEW YORK, July 30, (AP) — Greta Van Fleet's new album lists 10 tracks but it's really 9 1/2. Halfway through, there's a song fragment that runs barely past a minute. It's like a nugget of distilled Greta Van Fleet.

"Runway Blues" has the bluster of the Rolling Stones, the driving force of Led Zeppelin, a dash of Humble Pie and some John Lennon solo work. It was captured spontaneously as the band came back from dinner and just started jamming.

"We just had a bit too much wine and I just sort of cracked into a riff and everybody kind of jumped on instruments," says guitarist Jake Kiszka. "It's really basic and it's just a great example of what can be accomplished with pure attitude."

The quartet show plenty of rock star attitude on "Starcatcher," the Michigan-bred rockers' third album. Their early sound and classic rock look was reminiscent of Zeppelin but has grown artistically, moving into prog and psychedelic rock.

"Starcatcher" represents boys becoming men in a way," says Kiszka, 27, whose bandmates include twin brother and singer Josh, younger brother Sam on keys and bass, and family friend Danny Wagner on drums.

The band recorded much of the album in Nashville's historic RCA Studios, where Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton and Waylon Jennings recorded.

"We learned from the old masters, the giants that walked the Earth," says Sam Kiszka. "A lot of the record is take No. 1 - the conception of the idea."

#### Material

The first sprawling, '60s-vibing single "Meeting the Master" has made the top 40 of Billboard's Hot Rock & Alternative Songs chart, hit No. 4 on Hard Rock Songs and was a No. 12 entry on the Mainstream Rock Airplay chart.

"This is definitely some of my favorite material and some of my favorite songs that we've written together," says Sam Kiszka. "I think that our ability to work with each other just keeps becoming more and more elevated and that keeps evolving."

"Sacred the Thread" was one of the first songs the bandmates agreed had to be on the record and which has hit No. 25 on the Hot Hard Rock Songs chart. The seeds were first planted in 2016, with Sam supplying the original chords for the chorus and Josh a melody. It kicked around in various forms over the years.

"I always find that the longer the song is that we've got sitting on a shelf, the better it turns out in the end," says Jake Kiszka.

The final product is a soaring, cinematic anthem, with Josh Kiszka wailing some of his best lyrics to date: "I've caught the wind in a kite of dreams/In a flight of seams/Like freedom sewn/And the people roar/And the people soar."

Their last album, "The Battle at Garden's Gate," had more elaborate arrangements, layers and chord progressions, lots of instrumental sections and strings under the guidance of super-producer Greg Kurstin.

This time Dave Cobb produced - as he has done for Chris Stapleton and Brandi Carlile - and he took the guys back to their roots as a live band, recording all the time to capture lightning in a bottle.

"Some of the objectives on 'Starcatcher' was to really focus on the individual instruments being played as opposed to something like 'The Battle at Garden's Gate,' the previous record, which I think is very, very layered," says Jake Kiszka.

"So this this is a sort of a love letter to minimalism in a way. And I think it's also the record that we wanted to make at this particular time right after the pandemic, to sort of like juice the room up a little."

That's not to mean Greta Van Fleet, whose name was inspired by the octogenarian bluegrass musician Gretchen VanFleet, threw away any equipment. In fact, they experimented with phaser pedals, alternative tunings and accessories like a B-Bender.

#### Texture

"It's just about texture, texture, texture - moving you dramatically to a different world, not only through the feeling or the emotion of what's going on musically, but also the sounds," says Sam Kiszka.

Members of the band moved to Nashville at the start of the global shutdown and that has led in part to Josh Kiszka publicly coming out, writing in an Instagram post this month that it is "imperative that I speak my truth for not only myself, but in hopes to change hearts, minds, and laws in Tennessee and beyond." The singer declined to talk about his decision to The Associated Press.

Kiszka's post came after Tennessee legislators passed a bill attempting to ban drag shows on public property where minors could be present, as well as another signed in March that bans gender-affirming healthcare for children.

The band's Starcatcher World Tour kicks off Monday in Nashville at the Bridgestone Arena, with stops at Madison Square Garden in New York, The Kia Forum in Los Angeles, TD Garden in Boston and Allstate Arena in Chicago.

"It'll be really fun to play more of this record live because the way that these songs are structured there's a lot of room for improvisation," says Jake Kiszka. "It's very attitude-based. And so we get to take people on a whole new journey."

One song that may spark some intra-band debate playing live is "Runway Blues," that weird song fragment. Josh Kiszka has never been a fan and he didn't want it to grow into a full song, even though his brothers loved it.

"We really pushed for the entire thing to be on the record. But Josh, he just hates it too much," Sam says. Jake sighs, laughing: "This is a democracy, unfortunately."



Black Belt Eagle Scout performs during the Pitchfork Music Festival at Union Park in Chicago, Saturday, July 22. (AP)

### Music

#### New record propels Black Belt Eagle Scout

### KP's homecoming inspires album

CHICAGO, July 30, (AP) — The beginning of the pandemic was devastating for the leader of the indie rock band Black Belt Eagle Scout, Katherine Paul. All her tours, including one headlining across North America, were canceled and she feared her ascending music career might be over.

She got a day job at a nonprofit and returned to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's homelands in Western Washington. But as Paul, or KP to her friends, spent time in the cedar forests and walked along the Skagit River, she turned to her guitar to deal with the isolation and stress. Those snippets, recorded on her phone, provided the foundation for what would become songs on her powerful, grunge-soaked new record "The Land, The Water, The Sky."

"I feel like if the pandemic hadn't happened, I probably wouldn't have made this record," said KP, who writes the songs, sings and plays guitar in the band that was the only Native American artist at the Pitchfork Music Festival in Chicago this month.

"I spent a lot of time outside. I spent a lot more time than normal going on hikes, being part of the land," she continued. "It's not like I never do that stuff but it brought me back to a place where this is who I am."

The new record, which came out in February, helped launch what has probably been the most successful year so far for Black Belt Eagle Scout. The band toured Europe and will go to Australia later this year. Two of her songs, "Soft Stud" from an earlier record and "Salmon Stint" from her latest, appear this season on the television series "Reservation Dogs."

#### Emotional

Reservation Dogs Music Supervisor Tiffany Anders said she was introduced to the band's music by the show's creator, Sterlin Harjo, when they started working on the second season.

"It's always been important for us on this show to include Native American artists, but beyond representation, Black Belt Eagle Scout's music is beautiful and emotional, and fits these characters, their world and landscape - and the vibe of the show," she said in a statement.

Then there was Pitchfork, a three-day festival that is a significant milestone for indie musicians. The festival is held every year in Chicago's Union Park and this year's headliners included Bon Iver, Big Thief and The Smile, which has members of Radiohead.

She admitted stepping on that stage last weekend was nerve-wracking given her high hopes for the show, a feeling compounded by concerns that storms could scuttle their performance.

hateful message of the park, said Atlanta NAACP President Richard Rose.

"They're saying, 'This is OK. Get used to it. It's cool,'" he said in a phone interview.

Rose said he encouraged two of the bands to pull out of the event, but they told him they were under contract, and their music brings people together.

"The music can't bring people together in front of this icon of the Confedera-

But as she launched into the blistering set of mostly new songs in front of thousands of eager fans, KP found solace in her guitar. She launched several long jams that were punctuated by her twirling her jet-black hair around to the point it obscured her face.

"It was totally a moment," she said with a laugh.

"I kind of cried after we played because it felt so meaningful," she added. "Like, I've always wanted to play this music festival. I remember trying to play one of the years before the pandemic when I was touring and it didn't happen. This year, I was just so stoked to play."

#### Reservation

Reaching Pitchfork has been a long journey for the 34-year-old artist, who is a member of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and left her home on the reservation in LaConner, Washington, when she was 17 to attend Lewis & Clark College in Oregon and play rock music.

Growing up on the reservation off the Washington coast on islands in the Salish Sea, she drummed and sang cultural songs. As a teenager, she discovered local Pacific Northwest bands like Mount Eerie and the sounds of the Riot Grrrl movement and played one of her first gigs at a small bar called Department of Safety. She moved to Portland, Oregon, due to its outsized role in the indie scene that featured bands like Sleater-Kinney and quickly immersed herself in the music scene playing drums and guitar.

She joined an all-female outfit whom she met at the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls in Portland. She went on to play a lot of small, basement shows with bands like Genders - whose wolf tattoo she still has on her left arm.

But she wanted to write her own songs and formed Black Belt Eagle Scout in 2013. Her early music was defined by her ethereal singing about love, friendship and healing - often only accompanied by minimal guitar strumming. But she did rock out on songs like "Soft Stud," which featured searing solos.

"She is a really authentic musician and she carries a lot of power on stage with her presence and sound," Claire Glass, who plays guitar in the band and first saw KP seven years ago.

KP has said her Native American identity has always been present on her records. But her latest music paints a more vivid picture of life on the Swinomish reservation. There are references to chinook salmon, which are traditionally fished, and a powwow dance.

"I started thinking of feeling grateful for the life that I have been given; this

place that I'm from; how much the land, the water, the sky means to me - being surrounded by it," KP said of writing the song "Don't Give Up." "It has so much more meaning because the land, that's where my people are from."

Her songs aren't meant to directly confront issues like the crisis of missing and murdered Native American women or tribes' forced relocation. It's not the way she writes songs. Instead, she envisions them connecting with people, drawing more Native Americans to indie rock shows in places like Minneapolis, which has a vibrant Native American community, and inspiring young Native Americans to connect with her after shows.

"Isn't me like being here existing with my music good enough? Can't I just be who I am?" she asked, adding she doesn't need to speak out from stage about these issues because being Native often means she is already wrestling with them. A judge, for example, ruled in March that BNSF Railway intentionally violated the terms of an easement agreement with the tribe by running 100-car trains carrying crude oil over the reservation.

"As a Native person, you know someone who is missing. Your tribe is trying to get your land back. Those are topics that are part of your every day life," she said. "I care about those things deeply but there are certain ways in which my music is, maybe not as direct, but it can be healing."

#### Collaboration

KP also doesn't want to be seen just as a rock musician or as a Native artist. "I am a musician who happens to be Native, but I am also a Native musician ... I think I am always both," she said.

Her latest record aims to show that. "I kind of had in the back of mind, just kept thinking what would Built to Spill do," KP said of the guitar-heavy, indie-rock band from the Pacific Northwest. "I've gone on tour with them and seen their three guitars at one point playing together and how they overlap and all these other things."

It's also a more collaborative effort with more musicians playing on the record - a departure for KP, who is accustomed to doing everything herself. A cellist who played with Nirvana, Lori Goldston, is featured on several songs, as are two violinists, as well as a saxophone and mellotron player.

Takiya Reed, a first-time producer who is also in a doom metal band, described the experience of working on the record as "beautiful and amazing" and said the two bonded over their love of punk. Reid also brought her classical training and love of "heavier sounds" to the studio.

cy," he said.

Emails to the park and its management company, Thrive Attractions, were not immediately returned. In a news release earlier this month, the park promoted Soul Fest as a new event that would allow families to experience a "full day of fun." An ad for the event on the park's website featured a photo of a smiling Black man and Black woman on a lawn. (AP)



Actor Jack Black walks on a picket line outside Netflix studios on Friday, July 28, in Los Angeles. The actors strike comes more than two months after screenwriters began striking in their bid to get better pay and working conditions. (AP)

#### Variety

**DALLAS:** The combat boots and dog tags Alan Alda wore while playing the wisecracking surgeon Hawkeye on the beloved television series "M-A-S-H" sold at auction Friday for \$125,000.

Alda held onto the boots and dog tags for more than 40 years after the show ended but decided to sell them through Heritage Auctions in Dallas to raise money for his center dedicated to helping scientists and doctors communicate better.

The buyer's name wasn't released.

Alda, 87, said he wore the boots and dog tags for the 11-season run of the show about a Korean War medical unit. His character, Benjamin Franklin "Hawkeye" Pierce, was a talented surgeon who helped ease the stress of working in a war zone with quips and practical jokes. The show's final episode, which aired in 1983 and was written and directed by Alda, was the most watched TV show in US history.

The boots and dog tags, given to him by the costume department, "made an impression on me every day that we shot the show," said Alda, who won five Emmys for his work on the sitcom.

Alda said auctioning off the dog tags and boots now made sense. "I saw this as a chance to put them to work again," he said.

The money raised from the auction will go to the Alan Alda Center for Communicative Science at Stony Brook University in New York, which aims to help scientists and doctors communicate better through the use of improvisational exercises and other strategies. (AP)

**ATLANTA:** Civil rights groups and other advocates denounced a concert series with Black performers dubbed "Soul Fest" that is being held at a Georgia park replete with Confederate imagery, including a giant carving of Confederate leaders.

Stone Mountain Park just outside Atlanta is where the Ku Klux Klan marked its rebirth in 1915. Its colossal, mountainside sculpture of Gen. Robert E. Lee, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson is the largest Confederate monument ever crafted and has special protection enshrined in Georgia law.

The park has taken steps in recent years to try to soften its Confederate legacy and promote itself as a family site amid declining revenue, but civil rights groups have said the moves fall way short of what's needed.

The "Soul Fest" concert series is a way to "normalize and sanitize" the



Rose



Alda

## Climate

## Unrefreshing water

## Florida waters too hot to offer 'relief'

KEY BISCAZYNE, Fla., July 30, (AP): In the sweltering summer heat, nobody tries to cool off by jumping into a hot tub. In parts of Florida, however, that's what the ocean has felt like.

Earlier this week, sea surface temperatures reached as high as 101.2 degrees Fahrenheit (38.4 degrees Celsius) around the state's southern tip in Manatee Bay, according to the National Weather Service - although scientists said the context for Monday's reading is complicated.

"It was like there was no difference between humidity of the air and going into the water," said Chelsea Ward of Fort Myers, Florida.



Mullins

Triple-digit ocean temperatures are stunning even in Florida, where residents are used to the heat and where many retirees find refuge from cold, northern winters. Several other nearby spots reached the mid-90s (about 35 Celsius). A storm finally came through on Wednesday, helping water temperatures drop back down in to the more temperate 80s (about 29 Celsius).

Humans naturally look to water for a chance to refresh. Every summer, millions grab their swimsuits for a day on the beach and a chance to cool off in the water - a break from everyday work and worry. Pools offer the same relief and a place for friends to gather. But when water temperatures get too high, some of the appeal is lost.

## Discovering

Ward, 47, doesn't keep her beach bag in her car anymore even though she lives minutes away from the beach in Fort Myers. Lately, the water is just too hot. On Sunday, when her friend asked if she wanted to go to the beach, the two decided against it after discovering the water temperature was around 90 degrees (32 degrees Celsius).

When it's hot, the body cools down by sweating, which evaporates and releases heat. Dipping into the ocean is typically so refreshing because heat efficiently transfers from your body into the water. But as water temperatures climb, that effect diminishes and you lose less heat less quickly, according to Michael Mullins, a Washington University toxicologist and emergency medicine physician at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

A hot tub - or a stretch of ocean water hotter than body temperature - reverses the transfer of heat into your body. That's not a pleasant experience on a sizzling, humid, Florida day.

"It would feel," Mullins said, "like you are swimming in soup."

People already tend not to swim that much in the Florida waters that were so extremely hot earlier this week. The water can get muddy and there are alligators and crocodiles in the area, too.

But high temperatures anywhere can make swimming less pleasant. Through Friday, Phoenix endured highs above 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius) every day this month. Pools are warm. About 150 miles (240 kilometers) to the northwest in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, Stefanee Lynn Thompson, 50, wanted to keep guests cool for a pool party she hosted Sunday. The heat had raised the pool's temperature to 96 degrees (36 Celsius).

Her friend recommended she go buy ice blocks. She ran to the grocery store, picked up 40 of them and dumped them in the pool. She set up fans, too. All that hard work dropped the pool's temperature a grand total of 4 degrees (7 degrees Celsius).

"When it's 120 out, anything helps," Thompson said. Recently, ocean temperatures off the western coast of Florida have been a few degrees above normal, sitting around 88 to 90 degrees (31-32 degrees Celsius). It's not just humans that suffer when the oceans warm. Sea corals are bleaching. They can be hurt when water temperatures rise above the upper 80s (low 30 degrees Celsius).

## Announced

July has been so hot that scientists announced a global heat record even before the month ended. Climate change is creating a hotter world, warming oceans and making some storms more destructive. Sea surface temperatures are somewhat above average around Florida, but they are far higher in parts of the North Atlantic near Newfoundland where they are as much as 9 degrees Fahrenheit (5 degrees Celsius) hotter than usual.

The extremely high sea surface temperatures recorded earlier this week off Florida's southern tip were caused by lots of sun, little wind and no storms.

"I've never seen temperatures 100 degrees in Florida Bay in the 21 years I've been in the Keys," said Andy Devanas, science officer at the National Weather Service in Key West, Florida.

And there are some questions about how representative Monday's 101.2-degree reading in Manatee Bay were. Water there is shallow and thus heats up quickly. If there's lots of sediment, that can raise temperatures, too, according to David Roth, a forecaster with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center.

By contrast, stop by the YMCA pools on the North Shore of Massachusetts near Boston and you'll descend into water that's around 78 to 80 degrees (26 to 27 degrees Celsius). The ocean nearby is cooler, too. Sea surface temperatures off Cape Cod, for example, barely touched the mid-70s (about 24 degrees Celsius) this week.

When Maria Argueta, 38, has time off from her job at an open-air decorative plant nursery in Homestead, Florida, she'll go with her family to swim.

"This year, the heat is stronger," she said.

The hot ocean water doesn't bother her, but sometimes she takes her 2-year-old son and other members of the family to the Venetian Pool, a public facility in Coral Gables fed by water from an aquifer that's always in the 70s. The very cool water, she said, is refreshing.

Florida's humid weather makes it harder for sweat to evaporate and cool the body down. People in south Florida know the ocean doesn't tend to offer real relief from that suffocating heat.

"You aren't getting much cooling at all," Roth said. "Nobody goes into the water in South Florida in the summer really except to swim, because it is comfortable to swim, but it is not refreshing."



A commercial airliner flies Northwest across Lake Michigan in front of the 'Full Buck' supermoon, the first of four supermoons in 2023, July 3, in Chicago. The cosmos is offering up a double feature in August: a pair of supermoons. Catch the first show Tuesday night, Aug. 2, as the full moon rises in the southeast. (AP)

## Two supermoons in August mean double the stargazing fun

The cosmos is offering up a double feature in August: a pair of supermoons culminating in a rare blue moon.

Catch the first show Tuesday evening as the full moon rises in the southeast, appearing slightly brighter and bigger than normal. That's because it will be closer than usual, just 222,159 miles (357,530 kilometers) away, thus the supermoon label.

The moon will be even closer the night of Aug. 30 - a scant 222,043 miles (357,344 kilometers) dis-

tant. Because it's the second full moon in the same month, it will be what's called a blue moon.

"Warm summer nights are the ideal time to watch the full moon rise in the eastern sky within minutes of sunset. And it happens twice in August," said retired NASA astrophysicist Fred Espenak, dubbed Mr. Eclipse for his eclipse-chasing expertise.

The last time two full supermoons graced the sky in the same month was in 2018. It won't happen again until 2037, according to Italian astrono-

mer Gianluca Masi, founder of the Virtual Telescope Project.

Masi will provide a live webcast of Tuesday evening's supermoon, as it rises over the Coliseum in Rome.

"My plans are to capture the beauty of this ... hopefully bringing the emotion of the show to our viewers," Masi said in an email.

"The supermoon offers us a great opportunity to look up and discover the sky," he added. (AP)

## Health

## Allergy can fade away in some people

## Meat allergy linked to tick spit rising

NEW YORK, July 30, (AP): More than 100,000 people in the US have become allergic to red meat since 2010 because of a weird syndrome triggered by tick bites, according to a government report released Thursday. But health officials believe many more have the problem and don't know it.

A second report estimated that as many as 450,000 Americans have developed the allergy. That would make it the 10th most common food allergy in the US, said Dr. Scott Commins, a University of North Carolina researcher who co-authored both papers published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health officials said they are not aware of any confirmed deaths, but people with the allergy have described it as bewildering and terrifying.

"I never connected it with any food because it was hours after eating," said one patient, Bernadine Heller-Greenman.

The reaction, called alpha-gal syndrome, occurs when an infected person eats beef, venison or other meat from mammals - or ingests milk, gelatin or other mammal products.

It's not caused by a germ but by a sugar, alpha-gal, that is in meat from mammals - and in tick spit. When the sugar enters the body through the skin, it triggers an immune response and can lead to a severe allergic reaction.

Scientists had seen reactions in patients taking a cancer drug that was made in mouse cells containing the alpha-gal sugar. But in 2011 researchers first reported that it could spread through tick bites, too.

They tied it to the lone star tick, which despite its Texas-themed name is most common in the eastern and southern US. (About 4% of all US cases have been in the eastern end of New York's Long Island.)

One of the studies released Thursday examined 2017-2022 test results from the main US commercial lab

looking for alpha-gal antibodies. They noted the number of people testing positive rose from about 13,000 in 2017 to 19,000 in 2022.

Experts say cases may be up for a variety of reasons, including lone star ticks' expanding range, more people coming into contact with the ticks or more doctors learning about it and ordering tests for it.

But many doctors are not. The second study was a survey last year of 1,500 U.S. primary care doctors and health professionals. The survey found nearly half had never heard of alpha-gal syndrome, and only 5% said they felt very confident they could diagnose it. Researchers used that information to estimate the number of people with the allergy - 450,000.

## Symptoms

People with the syndrome can experience symptoms including hives, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, severe stomach pain, difficulty breathing, dizziness and swelling of the lips, throat, tongue or eye lids. Unlike some other food allergies, which occur soon after eating, these reactions hit hours later.

Some patients have only stomach symptoms, and the American Gastroenterological Association says people with unexplained diarrhea, nausea and abdominal pain should be tested for the syndrome.

Doctors counsel people with the allergy to change their diet, carry epinephrine and avoid tick bites.

The allergy can fade away in some people - Commins has seen that happen in about 15% to 20% of his patients. But a key is avoiding being re-bitten.

"The tick bites are central to this. They perpetuate the allergy," he said.

One of his patients is Heller-Greenman, a 78-year-old New York art historian who spends summers on Martha's Vineyard. She has grown accustomed to getting bitten by ticks on

the island and said she has had Lyme disease four times.

About five years ago, she started experiencing terrible, itchy hives on her back, torso and thighs in the middle of the night. Her doctors concluded it was an allergic reaction, but couldn't pinpoint the trigger. She was never a big meat eater, but one day in January 2020 she had a hamburger and then a big, fatty steak the following evening. Six hours after dinner, she woke up nauseated, then suffered terrible spells of vomiting, diarrhea and dizziness. She passed out three times.

She was diagnosed with alpha-gal syndrome shortly after that, and was told to avoid ticks and to stop eating red meat and dairy products. There have been no allergic reactions since.

"I have one grandchild that watches me like a hawk," she said, making sure she reads packaged food labels and avoids foods that could trigger a reaction.

"I feel very lucky, really, that this has worked out for me," she said. "Not all doctors are knowledgeable about this."

## Also:

**ATLANTA:** A Georgia resident has died from a rare brain infection, commonly known as the "brain-eating amoeba," state health officials said Friday.

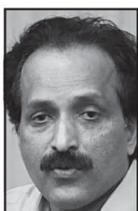
The victim was infected with *Naegleria fowleri*, an amoeba that destroys brain tissue, causes brain swelling and usually death, the Georgia Department of Health confirmed in a news release.

This is the sixth case of the infection in Georgia since 1962.

Officials said the victim likely was infected while swimming in a freshwater lake or pond but did not say where. People can become infected when water containing the amoeba goes up a person's nose. It can not infect people if swallowed and is not spread from person to person.



A SpaceX Falcon heavy lifts off from Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla., late Friday, July 28. The rocket, carrying the Jupiter 3 communications satellite for Hughes Network Systems, lifted off at 11:04 p.m., local time. (AP)



Somnath



Da Silva

## Discovery

**India launches sats successfully:** Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on Sunday placed seven satellites belonging to Singapore into intended orbits.

The ISRO said in its official Twitter account that "PSLV-C56 vehicle launched all seven satellites precisely into their intended orbits."

The launch of DS-SAR satellite and six co-passenger payloads took place at 6:30 AM Local Time from Sriharikota launchpad located in the South Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

The primary satellite of the mission, DS-SAR is a radar imaging earth observation satellite. In addition, there are six co-passenger customer satellites belonging to Singapore.

Mission Director Biju SR said that in the 56th successful mission of PSLV, all the seven satellites separated successfully one after another. ISRO Chairman S. Somnath congratulated the scientists and the government of Singapore for having this mission on board PSLV. (KUNA)

**Mangrove forest thrives:** It was once Latin America's largest landfill. Now, a decade after Rio de Janeiro shut it down and redoubled efforts to recover the surrounding expanse of highly polluted swamp, crabs, snails, fish and birds are once again populating the mangrove forest.

"If we didn't say this used to be a landfill, people would think it's a farm. The only thing missing is cattle," jokes Elias Gouveia, an engineer with Comlurb, the city's garbage collection agency that is shepherding the plantation project. "This is an environmental lesson that we must learn from: nature is remarkable. If we don't pollute nature, it heals itself." Gouveia, who has worked with Comlurb for 38 years, witnessed the Gramacho landfill recovery project's timid first steps in the late 1990s.

The former landfill is located right by the 148 square miles (383 square kilometers) Guanabara Bay. Between the landfill's inauguration in 1968 and 1996, some 80 million tons of garbage were dumped in the area, polluting the bay and surrounding rivers with trash and runoff.

In 1996, the city began implementing measures to limit the levels of pollution in

the landfill, starting with treating some of the leachate, the toxic byproduct of mountains of rotting trash. But garbage continued to pile up until 2012, when the city finally shut it down.

The bay was once home to a thriving artisanal fishing industry and popular palm-lined beaches. But it has since become a dump for waste from shipyards and two commercial ports. At low tide, household



A research associate in the Lirman coral lab at University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science, carries a tray of baby coral brought in from one of the school's open water Key Biscayne coral nurseries, Friday, July 28, in Key Biscayne, Fla. The university's coral restoration program is scrambling to save as much of the nursery coral as they have space for, after biologists in the Florida Keys earlier reported bleaching of coral due to high water temperatures. (AP)

trash, including old washing machines and soggy couches, float atop vast islands of accumulated sewage and sediment. Brazil's president is Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The landfill, where mountains of trash once attracted hundreds of pickers, was gradually covered with clay. Comlurb employees started removing garbage, building a rainwater drainage system, and replanting mangroves, an ecosystem that has proven particularly resilient - and successful - in similar environmental recovery projects. (AP)

**8 dogs died from extreme heat:** At least eight dogs died of heat-related injuries after being transported in the back of an uncooled cargo van through northern Indiana Thursday night, authorities said.

The dogs that died were among 18 shepherds traveling from O'Hare International Airport in Chicago to a training facility in Michigan City, Indiana, police said.

The driver, whom police did not name, said he was unaware that the air conditioning in the cargo area failed until he heard dogs barking. Then, he pulled off Interstate 94 at a convenience store and gas station in Lake Station, Indiana. When he opened the back, the driver found several dogs dead and others suffering. Numerous store employees and passersby stepped in to aid the dogs.

Jennifer Webber, executive director of the Humane Society of Hobart, responded to the call at 7:40 pm and said the dogs displayed signs of heatstroke: Salivating heavily, wobbling, vomiting and convulsing. (AP)

## Cruz edges Cabrera by split decision

## Crawford knockouts Spence Jr. to unify welterweight division

## Judge homers in 'second' game back to help Yanks beat Orioles

Padres shut out Rangers

**BALTIMORE, July 30, (AP):** Aaron Judge homered and singled twice in his second game back from the injured list and the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles 8-3 on Saturday night.

Giancarlo Stanton and Kyle Higashioka went deep as well for the Yankees, who knocked out struggling Orioles starter Tyler Wells (7-6) in the third inning. In the sixth, Isiah Kiner-Falefa capped a 10-pitch at-bat with a three-run double to make it 8-3.

Judge has three walks and three hits in nine plate appearances since returning Friday from the toe injury that kept him out since early June.

Ryan Mountcastle homered for the Orioles, but Clarke Schmidt (7-6) made it through five tough innings and the New York bullpen took it from there.

## BASEBALL

The Orioles remained 1 1/2 games ahead of Tampa Bay atop the AL East. The Yankees are 3 1/2 behind Toronto and Houston for the final two wild cards in the American League.

## Padres 4, Rangers 0

In San Diego, Slumping Texas agreed to acquire three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer during a loss to Yu Darvish and San Diego, its sixth loss in eight games, cutting its AL West lead to one game over Houston.

The blockbuster trade with the New York Mets came as Rangers ace Nathan Eovaldi had his next start pushed back again and manager Bruce Bochy spoke of the need for the rotation to improve. Then Martín Pérez gave up four runs in the second inning, when the 32-year-old left-hander allowed five straight baserunners and two runs before getting his first out.

## Braves 11, Brewers 5

In Atlanta, Ronald Acuña hit his 24th home run and stole his 50th base and Atlanta used a six-run first inning to beat Milwaukee.

Bryce Elder (8-2) shut down the Brewers after being staked to the big lead. He allowed one run and four hits while striking out three in seven innings.

Taylor Hearn allowed four runs in the eighth for the Braves before Michael Tonkin closed out the game with a scoreless ninth.

Acuña went 3 for 4 with two runs, two RBIs, a home run, a steal and a walk. He is on pace for 39 home runs and 79 steals for the season.

## Blue Jays 6, Angels 1

In Toronto, Alejandro Kirk hit two home runs, Santiago Espinal added a two-run homer and Toronto beat Los Angeles.

Kirk hit a leadoff homer against former Blue Jays left-hander Aaron Loup in the seventh inning, then hit a two-run shot off right-hander Jaime Barria in the eighth. It was Kirk's first multihomer game of the season and the fourth of his career.

Toronto won for the 14th time in 20 games and moved a season-best 13 games above .500 at 59-46. The Angels lost their second straight.

Shohei Ohtani started for the Angels after leaving Friday in the ninth because of cramps in both legs. Ohtani was hit on the left foot by a pitch in the first inning, doubled in the third, and was intentionally walked in both the fifth and sixth.

Angels outfielder Taylor Ward left after he was hit in the side of the head by a pitch from Blue Jays right-hander Alek Manoah in the fifth.

## Giants 3, Red Sox 2

In San Francisco, J.D. Davis homered on the first pitch from Kenley Jansen in the ninth inning to lift San Francisco past Boston.

After the Red Sox tied it in the top of the ninth on Justin Turner's two-run single against All-Star closer Camilo Doval that deflected off diving second baseman Casey Schmitt's glove and rolled into center field, Davis came through for San Francisco with his second game-ending hit of the season.

Jansen dropped to 2-5 with the blown save.

Giants slugger Wilmer Flores continued his hot streak with three hits and an RBI and made a terrific defensive play at first base.



Terence Crawford, (left), connects with a punch to Errol Spence Jr. during their welterweight title unification boxing bout in Las Vegas. (AP)

## Astros 17, Rays 4

In Houston, Jeremy Peña had a career-high four RBIs, Yainer Díaz and José Abreu added three apiece and Houston touted Tampa Bay with its highest-scoring game of the season.

Díaz put Houston up early with a two-run shot in the second. Peña, who had two hits, made it 5-0 with a bases-loaded double in the fourth. Chas McCormick hit a two-run triple in Houston's three-run fifth and Abreu made it 11-0 with his 10th homer of the season in the sixth.

Hunter Brown (7-7) allowed four hits and two runs in six-plus innings for his first win since June 13. Taj Bradley (5-7) took the loss.

Isaac Paredes hit a two-run homer in the seventh and a solo shot in the ninth and Wander Franco added a home run in the eighth for the Rays.

## Dodgers 3, Reds 2

In Los Angeles, Max Muncy hit a pair of two-out homers, including a go-ahead shot in the sixth inning, and Los Angeles rallied to beat Cincinnati. Muncy had the Dodgers' only two hits. The rest of the lineup went 0 for 25.

Both of Muncy's homers came off Luke Weaver (2-3). Muncy gave the Dodgers a 2-0 lead in the first with a 400-foot shot to right. In the sixth, he snapped a 2-all tie with a 371-foot shot into the lower right-field seats.

The Reds had the potential tying run at second in the eighth. Matt McLain singled off reliever Brusdar Graterol and took second on pinch hitter Kevin Newman's groundout. After Graterol struck out Spencer Steer,

## White Sox 7, Guardians 2

In Chicago, Tim Anderson homered for the first time in more than a year on a three-hit night, Mike Clevinger tossed five shutout innings in his return from the injured list and Chicago beat Cleveland.

Andrew Vaughn hit a two-run homer and Yoán Moncada had two RBIs to help the White Sox beat Cleveland for the second straight night following a six-game losing streak. Luis Robert Jr. and Eloy Jiménez drove in runs with singles in the seventh inning.

Clevinger (4-4) allowed just two singles, walked none and struck out three against his original team after missing six weeks with right biceps inflammation. The right-hander had last pitched on June 14 against the Dodgers in Los Angeles, and left after 72 pitches in this one.

## Diamondbacks 4, Mariners 3

In Phoenix, Corbin Carroll started an eighth-inning rally with some distracting base running. Dominic Canzone brought his fellow rookie home with a single for the go-ahead run and Arizona beat Seattle.

Carroll - the speedy All-Star -



Pittsburgh Pirates relief pitcher David Bednar reacts after getting Philadelphia Phillies' J.T. Realmuto to ground into a double play during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh. (AP)

started the eighth inning with a walk off reliever Andrés Muñoz. He then advanced to second on a balk by Muñoz (2-4) and stole third against the flat-footed infield a few pitches later. Seattle pulled its infield in with one out before Canzone delivered a chopper that bounced through.

Carroll has 32 stolen bases and 21 homers this season, consistently causing problems for opposing teams with his power-speed combo. It was a much-needed win for the D-backs, who are still just 7-15 in July.

Seattle had a great chance to score in the ninth after a one-out triple by Cade Marlowe, but José Caballero whiffed for the second out. J.P. Crawford then walked before Scott McGough struck out All-Star Julio Rodríguez to end the game.

## Nationals 11, Mets 6

In New York, New York, shortly after agreeing to trade three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, lost to Washington.

The deal, which a person with knowledge of the details said would send Scherzer to the AL West-leading Texas Rangers, was reported in the first inning, which ended with Washington leading 4-0 after an announced crowd of 30,858 sat through an 80-minute rain delay before the first pitch.

Riley Adams hit a two-run double in the third inning and added another RBI double in the ninth for the Nationals. Patrick Corbin (7-11) was the winner.

## Tigers 5, Marlins 0

In Miami, Akil Badoo and Riley Greene homered and five pitchers combined on a seven-hitter in Detroit's victory over Miami.

Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera

doubled and singled in four at-bats and continued to receive cheers in his final visiting series against the club he began his 20-year career with. The game, promoted as Venezuelan Heritage Day in honor of Cabrera, attracted a crowd of 32,936 - the Marlins' largest home crowd since April 2017.

Joey Wentz (2-9) pitched 4 2/3 innings in relief for the victory.

## Athletics 11, Rockies 3

In Denver, Zack Gelof and Brent Rooker each homered in a five-run second inning and major league-worst Oakland handed Colorado's fourth straight loss and fifth in six games.

Rooker finished with three RBIs, two from his 17th home run of the season. Ramón Laureano's two-run double highlighted Oakland's four-run sixth inning and Seth Brown had three hits and a pair of RBIs as the A's ended the night one run shy of their season high.

Randal Grichuk had three hits for the Rockies, including a solo homer in the bottom of the eighth inning off Tayler Scott.

## Pirates 7, Phillies 6

In Pittsburgh, Endy Rodríguez hit a go-ahead, bases-loaded triple and drove in four runs, fellow rookie Liover Peguero had a home run among his three hits and Pittsburgh beat Philadelphia.

Rodríguez's triple sparked a four-run fifth inning against Aaron Nola (9-7) that put the Pirates in front 7-4. Phillies center fielder Brandon Marsh was unable to make a play on the sinking liner and Rodríguez then scored on Alik Williams' single, which was his first career hit.

Peguero hit a leadoff home run in the third, his second, to open the scoring.

Yet another rookie, Quinn Priester (2-1), won his second straight start despite allowing five runs and six walks in five innings. Closer David Bednar entered the game in the eighth inning with the Pirates leading 7-5 and gave up a run-scoring single to rookie Johan Rojas. However, he got J.T. Realmuto to hit into a game-ending double play with runners on first and third for his 21st save.

## Cubs 5, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Yan Gomes and Ian Happ homered and Chicago beat St. Louis for its eighth straight victory.

Jameson Taillon (5-6) allowed a run on two hits and four walks and struck out four in seven innings.

Adam Wainwright (3-5) took the mound after a rain delay of 1 hour, 47 minutes and allowed four runs on seven hits and walked three batters. The 41-year-old Wainwright is 0-4 with a 10.89 ERA in his last five starts after winning his 198th career game June 17 at the New York Mets.

## Royals 10, Twins 7

In Kansas City, Bobby Witt Jr. went 4 for 5 with three RBIs, a home run and a triple and Kyle Isbel also was 4 for 5 to help Kansas City beat Minnesota.

Witt hit a solo homer in his first at-bat of the game, a night after hitting a walk-off grand slam and finishing with a career-high six RBIs. He leads the Royals with 60 RBIs and 18 homers.

Jordan Lyles (2-12) tossed five innings and allowed three runs on four hits with four strikeouts, two walks and a hit batter. Scott Barlow finished for his 13th save. Bailey Ober (6-5) was the loser.

LAS VEGAS, July 30, (AP): The fight itself didn't match the hype, but Terence Crawford's performance exceeded it.

He knocked down Errol Spence Jr. three times Saturday night before finally ending the fight at 2:32 of the ninth round on a technical knockout to cement himself as one of the greatest welterweights in history.

The fight, the most-anticipated boxing match in several years, made Crawford the first undisputed champion in the 147-pound division in the four-belt era that began in 2004.

Crawford (40-0, 31 knockouts) already owned the WBO belt, and

took the WBC, WBA and IBF titles from Spence (28-1). Crawford also ran his KO streak to 11 matches, the second-longest active stretch.

Crawford, 35, has won titles at super lightweight and lightweight in addition to welterweight, capturing the latter after moving up in 2018. The Omaha, Nebraska, fighter became the first male boxer to become the undisputed champion in two divisions in the four-belt era.

"I only dreamed of being a world champion," Crawford said. "I'm an over-achiever. Nobody believed in me when I was coming up, but I made everybody a believer. I want to thank Spence and his team because without him none of this would have been possible."

A big fight night on the Strip still brings out the stars, with recording artist Andre 3000 of Outkast, NBA star Damian Lillard and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones at T-Mobile Arena. They were among the celebrities that also included former boxing champions such as Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield, Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao.

Eminem introduced Crawford and his song "Lose Yourself" played as he walked into the ring before a sellout crowd of 19,990 at T-Mobile Arena.

## BOXING

Spence was the aggressor early on, but Crawford sent him to the floor with a right hand with 20 seconds left in the second round. Then Crawford went after Spence, but time ran out before he could finish him off.

Crawford, a minus-154 favorite, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, then took control of the fight, landing several major blows, often on counters. But Crawford also picked his spots to go after Spence, his punching power taking a heavy toll. "He was just better tonight," Spence said. "I make no excuses. He was throwing a harder jab. He was timing with his jab, and he had his timing down on point."

In the seventh round, Crawford knocked down Spence twice - with a short right at 1:02 and with another right with just a second left.

The fight was essentially over at that point, though Crawford backed off in the eighth round. He came roaring back in the ninth to end it for sure.

Crawford didn't waste the chance to gloat afterward, directly responding to his critics.

"They said I wasn't good enough and I couldn't beat these welterweights," Crawford said. "I just kept my head to the sky and kept praying to God that I would get the opportunity to show the world how great Terence Crawford is. Tonight, I believe I showed how great I am."

Spence, however, said he would be up for a rematch, but wants to move up to the 154-pound division. "We've got to do it again," Spence said. "I would be a lot better."

Crawford said he would have no problem moving up a weight class.

"I'm in the hurt business," Crawford said. "Forty-seven is kind of hard for me, too. I was already talking about moving up in weight and challenging (champion Jermell) Charlo."

The 33-year-old Spence, who lives in DeSoto, Texas, won the IBF title in 2017, claimed the WBC championship in 2019 and took the WBA championship last year.

In the co-main event, Isaac "Pitbull" Cruz (25-2-1) of Mexico beat Chicago resident Giovanni Cabrera (21-1) by split decision in a WBC and WBA lightweight match. Judges Benoit Roussel (114-113) and Don Trella (115-112) scored the fight in favor of Cruz, and Glenn Feldman gave Cabrera the fight by a 114-113 score. Cruz had a point deducted because of a head butt.

Also, Alexandro Santiago (28-3-5) of Mexico won the vacant WBC bantamweight title with a 115-113, 116-112, 116-112 decision over Nonito Donaire (42-8), who lives in Las Vegas.

## MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, July 30, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Saturday.

Team	Opponent	Score
Toronto	LA Angels	1
Detroit	Miami	0
Chicago W. Sox	Cleveland	2
San Francisco	Boston	2
Houston	Tampa Bay	4
Kansas City	Minnesota	7
NY Yankees	Baltimore	3
Arizona	Seattle	3
Oakland	Colorado	3
San Diego	Texas	0
Chicago Cubs	St. Louis	1
Atlanta	Milwaukee	5
Pittsburgh	Philadelphia	6
Washington	NY Mets	6
LA Dodgers	Cincinnati	2

American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	63	41	.606	—
Tampa Bay	63	44	.589	1-1/2
Toronto	59	46	.562	4-1/2
Boston	56	48	.538	7
New York	55	49	.529	8

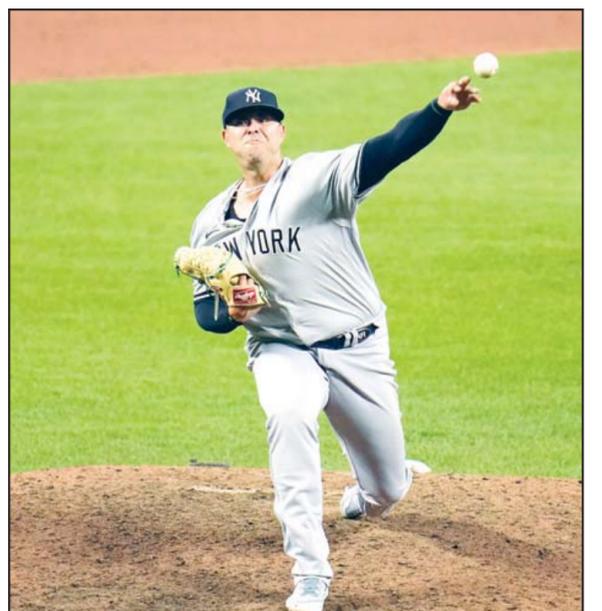
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	54	52	.509	—
Cleveland	52	53	.495	1-1/2
Detroit	47	58	.448	6-1/2
Chicago	43	63	.406	11
Kansas City	31	75	.292	23

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	60	45	.571	—
Houston	59	46	.562	1
Los Angeles	54	51	.514	6
Seattle	53	51	.510	6-1/2
Oakland	30	76	.283	30-1/2

National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	66	36	.647	—
Philadelphia	56	48	.538	11
Miami	56	49	.533	11-1/2
New York	49	55	.471	18
Washington	44	61	.419	23-1/2

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	57	48	.543	—
Cincinnati	57	49	.538	-1/2
Chicago	53	51	.510	3-1/2
Pittsburgh	46	58	.442	10-1/2
St. Louis	46	60	.434	11-1/2

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	59	44	.573	—
San Francisco	57	48	.543	3
Arizona	56	49	.533	4
San Diego	51	54	.486	9
Colorado	40	64	.385	19-1/2



New York Yankees relief pitcher Nick Ramirez throws a pitch to the Baltimore Orioles during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Baltimore. The Yankees won 8-3. (AP)

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## Forte survives photo finish

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y., July 30, (AP): Forte survived a photo finish and a stewards' inquiry to win the \$500,000 Jim Dandy by a nose at Saratoga on Saturday, giving Hall of Fame trainer Todd Pletcher his record-extending seventh victory in the Grade 1 race.

It was Forte's first win since taking the Florida Derby in April. He paid \$3.50 to win.

Ridden by Irad Ortiz Jr., Forte ran nine furlongs in 1:49.61 on a sloppy track. Saudi Crown was second and Angel of Empire was another half-length back in third. Disarm was fourth and Hit Show last in the five-horse field. Brad Cox trains Saudi Crown, Angel of Empire and Hit Show.

# Verstappen wins Belgian GP to extend huge F1 lead



Dare Rose of the U.S. competes during the men's 4x100m medley relay final at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan. (AP)

## Not just Americans

# Bowman keeps turning out winning swimmers

FUKUOKA, Japan, July 30, (AP) — The American swim team has had a so-so meet at the world championships in Japan. Meanwhile, Australia and China have been pouring it on.

The American gold-medal count at the worlds is the lowest in at least two decades, although the overall medal count of gold, silver and bronze, is similar to most years.

After winning only four gold medals during the first seven days, they picked up three on Sunday — the eighth and final day — for a total of seven golds and 38 overall. The gold total is still their lowest in a world going back as far as 20 years. They won only eight in the 2015 worlds.

## SWIMMING

Australia finished with 13 gold and 20 overall, and China had five gold and 16 overall.

"Obviously, we'd like to win more gold medals and I think we will," American coach Bob Bowman said going into Sunday's final day.

The slight predicament for Bowman is that two of the swimmers he coaches at Arizona State University, Leon Marchand of France and Hungary's Hubert Kos, have won four gold medals. Marchand has three, and he's sure to be a star at next year's Paris Olympics, and Kos has one.

That's the same gold-medal total for the entire American team through seven of eight days — four gold. The average for the Americans over the last nine championships has been about 15 golds.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, two of the first three questions Bowman fielded were about Marchand and Kos, from French and Hungarian news outlets.

"If you look at swimming, every coach on the U.S. team is coaching a foreign swimmer, an international

## Boca Juniors sign vet striker Cavani

BUENOS AIRES, July 30, (AP) — Argentina club Boca Juniors announced Saturday it has signed 36-year-old Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani on a free transfer.

The club said it has an 18-month deal which will see the veteran player compete in the knockout stage of this year's Copa Libertadores.

"We are happy to have you here," Boca Juniors said on social media, posting a highlight reel of Cavani's career and an image of a Boca No. 10 shirt with the Uruguayan's name on it.

Earlier, Spanish team Valencia said in a statement it had terminated its contract with Cavani, which was due to expire next year.

Attacking midfielder James Rodriguez signed for Sao Paulo on a free transfer in a move announced by the Brazilian club on Saturday.

The former Real Madrid and Bayern Munich player agreed a two-year contract. He has been out of action since he left Greek club Olympiakos in April. The 32-year-old Colombian said in a video posted online that he was happy to return to Brazil, where he impressed at the 2014 World Cup.

"It was here that I was shown to the world," he said. "I could not miss the feeling of wearing the 'heaviest' shirt of this magical place. The shirt of the Brazilian club with most international titles. Amazing things happen here in Brazil. Amazing things happen here at Sao Paulo."

## Ireland still playing with something to prove in last game

# Sweden's corner kicks causing trouble for opponents

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, July 30, (AP) — Sweden has dominated the airspace at the Women's World Cup with its corner kicks, converting them into two victories and a spot in the knockout round of the tournament.

The Swedes have scored four of their seven goals off corners, and on nearly the same play every time. A ball curls inside the six-yard box, finds the head or foot of a Swedish player in the middle of the action and boom — just like that — the Blue and Yellow have another goal.

At the center of it all has been Amanda Ilestedt, the 5-foot-10 defender who has scored three of the goals.

Ilestedt, who plays for Arsenal, has leapt high over defenders, glancing headers into the net and giving Sweden the game winner in a 2-1 comeback over South Africa. Ilestedt scored two more goals in a 5-0 rout of Italy on Saturday.

Corner kicks are a point of emphasis for the Swedes. Although the corner kick may not be as aesthetically pleasing as a goal after a great run down the field, all goals count the same.

"We've been good at set pieces for a long time. Regardless of what you might think of Sweden's type of play, you can always look at the details in the game, look at how you can fine tune," said Swedish coach Peter Gerhardsson.

Set pieces are "a structural component where you can do a great deal. Serving the ball up is very important. But you can have different varieties," he added.

Jonna Andersson, who had three assists on her corners against Italy, said it's a skill she has worked hard at perfecting.

"I've been putting (in) a lot of time to do corners. I've been training hard to have good deliveries," she said. "Of course, I know that we have a lot of good players in the box, so I need to deliver them."

And that she does, said Ilestedt, whose three goals had her tied for the tournament lead among all scorers headed into Sunday night's games.

"We are good at set pieces," Ilestedt said. "We have good shooters and we know we are good headers so it

feels good the balls are coming where they should."

Sweden will win the group with anything but a loss to Argentina on Wednesday. The Swedes know they've given all future opponents an aspect of their game to worry about.

Said Gerhardsson: "It's an excellent weapon as we move forward."

Following two narrow losses that ended its chances of advancing to the knockout stage on debut at the Women's World Cup, Ireland remains motivated to play for more than just a result against Nigeria on Monday night.

"We still have something to fight for," midfielder Lily Agg said. "That's our pride, that's our passion and that's who we are as Irish players. We're going to leave it all out there on Monday and, hopefully, do Ireland proud."

## SOCCER

Ireland is yet to pick up a competition point despite pushing two Top 10 teams to the limit. In front of almost 76,000 people in the tournament opener, a second-half penalty was the difference in Ireland's 1-0 loss to co-host Australia. Ireland struck first in its next match against Canada, but two unanswered goals from the Olympic champions left the Irish empty-handed once again.

"We can compete with the best, and I think we've proven that," Agg said. "We've got so much talent, and it's now just about making that next step as a team and fighting to win."

The Irish squad is well aware of what's at stake for the other three teams in Group B.

Nigeria, which opened with a 0-0 draw against Canada and then upset Australia 3-2, will advance to the knockout stage with a win or draw.

A win for the Irish, however, would put the Super Falcons at risk of failing to make it out of the group stage and provide a potential opening for Australia and Canada.

swimmer. There's always that dynamic," said Bowman, who has legendary status for helping Michael Phelps win 23 Olympic gold medals."



Medalists, (from left to right), Lily King of the U.S., silver, Lithuania's Ruta Meiluteyte, gold, and Benedetta Pilato of Italy, bronze celebrate during the medal ceremony for the women's 50m breaststroke at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan. (AP)



Ahmed Hafnaoui, of Tunisia, competes in the men's 1500-meter freestyle final at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan. Hafnaoui won the race. (AP)

## Red Bull teammate Perez 2nd

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium, July 30, (AP) — Defending Formula One champion Max Verstappen emphatically won the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday for an eighth straight win and 10th overall of a crushingly dominant season.

Despite starting from sixth place he finished 22.3 seconds ahead of teammate Sergio Perez to give Red Bull an easy 1-2. It moved Verstappen ominously closer to a third straight world title and his own F1 record of 15 wins from last year.

Verstappen is 125 points ahead of Perez after just 12 races, and his next target is matching Sebastian Vettel's F1 record of nine straight wins with a victory at the Dutch GP when the lopsided season resumes on Aug. 27.

## MOTOR RACING

Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc finished in third spot for a third podium of the season, with Lewis Hamilton in fourth for Mercedes ahead of Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso.

George Russell was sixth for Mercedes, with Lando Norris (McLaren), Esteban Ocon (Alpine), Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), and Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri) completing the top 10.

Leclerc started on pole ahead of Perez, with Hamilton and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. behind them. McLaren rookie Oscar Piastri was on the next row alongside Verstappen — who was fastest in Friday's qualifying but took a five-place grid penalty for a gearbox change and had to avoid early traffic.

"It was just about surviving turn one. I could see it was all getting really tight," Verstappen said. "I've been in that position before myself so I am just going to stay out of that and it worked out. From there onwards I made the right overtakes."

Last year Verstappen won from 14th, and once he overtook Perez on Lap 17 of 44 his 45th career win was seemingly inevitable. Red Bull extended its record to 13 straight wins, including the final race of last season.

Hamilton came in on the penultimate



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates with his trophy on the podium after winning the Formula One Grand Prix at the Spa-Francorchamps racetrack in Spa, Belgium. (AP)

lap for a tire change and the move paid off as he took the bonus point for fastest lap from Verstappen — a very minor blip for the dominant Dutchman.

It was yet another stellar weekend for Verstappen, who also won Saturday's sprint race. The only issue was some more bickering with his race engineer Gianpiero Lambiase over radio, as they continued their spat from Friday's qualifying.

"Don't forget Max, use your head, please," Lambiase told Verstappen when he questioned why Perez was making his first tire change on Lap 14.

With some rain forecast, Verstappen boxed on the next lap and came out about 2 seconds behind Perez. Just minutes later he cruised past Perez and, as so often this season, the rest was just about control.

Perez, meanwhile, pledged to stay on the podium for the rest of the season.

"It's been a bit of a rough patch," the 33-year-old Mexican said. "I really need this summer break, it's been really intense. I'll come back really strong for Zandvoort."



Drivers steer their cars at the start of the Formula One Grand Prix at the Spa-Francorchamps racetrack in Spa, Belgium. (AP)

## Kligerman finishes 0.368 seconds back

# Mayer wins on home-state track for maiden Xfinity Series victory

ELKHART LAKE, Wis., July 30, (AP) — Sam Mayer moved from Wisconsin to North Carolina as a teenager to pursue his racing dreams more seriously with JR Motorsports.

A return to his home state Saturday ended with the 20-year-old's first NASCAR Xfinity Series victory.

Mayer pulled ahead for good in the next-to-last lap of a wild second overtime session to win at Road America, about an hour's drive from his hometown of Franklin, Wisconsin. That elusive first victory came in his 72nd Xfinity start.

"It took coming all the way back here to win one," Mayer said. "It's super cool to have that happen, obviously. The fans and everyone in the stands and in victory lane, they were congratulating me non-stop, chanting my name. Stuff like that, you don't see that very often. And to have that happen today at home, it almost leaves you speechless."

Mayer won by 0.368 seconds over Parker Kligerman on the sprawling 14-turn, 4,048-mile road course. They were followed in order by Austin Hill, Sage Karam and Riley Herbst.

The race included eight caution flags, tying a track record. The final restart occurred during a second overtime session and followed a red flag to clean up oil on the track.

Justin Allgaier, Mayer's JR Motorsports teammate, took the lead on the sixth lap of the scheduled 45-lap race and stayed in front through all those restarts.

"He hauled the mail today," Mayer said. "He was definitely the best car in the field. I think he set the pace for all for us."

Then everything went haywire on the last one.

Karam passed Allgaier from the right, Mayer then took the lead as those cars briefly went three wide. Karam pulled back ahead soon thereafter. Kligerman then moved in front.

Then Mayer came from the right and passed Kligerman to regain the lead. Mayer stayed in front the rest of the way.

"It was definitely hectic — going back and forth, back and forth," Mayer said.

"Ending on top, thank God."

The finish was so frantic in part because so many drivers were chasing milestones. Mayer, Karam and Kligerman all were seeking their first career Xfinity victories.

"We've been close multiple times," Kligerman said. "If we keep putting ourselves in position like this, even leading for half a corner, one of these days we're going to get that checkered flag. Oh, I really, really wanted this one."

Allgaier spun out soon after getting passed and faded to 18th place.

Other notable drivers in the field also had tough afternoons.

John Hunter Nemechek, who entered the day as the series' points leader, got knocked out of the race about two-thirds of the way through after he went off course and damaged the nose of his car.

Hill now leads the standings by 14 points over Nemechek.

AJ Allmendinger took the pole position after setting a track record with his average lap speed of 111.666 mph during Friday's qualifying. He separated from the pack as soon as the race started, but Allgaier passed him around the sixth lap and stayed in the lead until those frantic final moments.

## AUTO RACING

Allmendinger ended up in ninth. The day instead belonged to Mayer, who had plenty of history on this track after growing up so close to and having so many memories of this place. His father, Scott Mayer, won a Grand-Am race at Road America in 2013.

"It was super-cool to be a part of that and then, obviously, all the way up to now — to be the better Mayer," Sam Mayer quipped after the race Saturday.

Until that dramatic finish, it seemed this race would be remembered primarily for all the cautions.

Near the race's halfway point, an apparent brake failure caused Chandler Smith to go off course and crash into the wall.

With about seven laps left, Alex Labbe had an apparent brake issue that caused him to slam into the wall in Turn 1.

Both Smith and Labbe got out of their cars and were examined and released from the care center.



Mayer



Gold medalist Team U.S. celebrate during the medal ceremony for the women's 4x100m medley relay at the World Swimming Championships in Fukuoka, Japan. (AP) — See Page 15

# Sports

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## World Cup Standings

BRISBANE, July 30, (AP): Women's World Cup standings on Sunday.

Group A							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
q-Switzerland	3	1	2	0	2	0	5
q-Norway	3	1	1	1	6	1	4
e-New Zealand	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
e-Philippines	3	1	0	2	1	8	3
Group B							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Nigeria	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Canada	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Australia	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
e-Ireland	2	0	2	1	3	0	0
Group C							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
q-Spain	2	2	0	0	8	0	6
q-Japan	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
e-Costa Rica	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
e-Zambia	2	0	0	2	0	10	0
Group D							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
England	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Denmark	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
China	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
e-Haiti	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Group E							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
United States	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Netherlands	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Portugal	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
e-Vietnam	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
Group F							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
France	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Jamaica	2	1	0	1	0	4	4
Brazil	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
e-Panama	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
Group G							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
q-Sweden	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	1	5	3
South Africa	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Argentina	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Group H							
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Colombia	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Germany	2	1	0	1	7	2	3
Morocco	2	1	0	1	1	6	3
South Korea	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Note 1: Standings read as played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against and points.  
 Note 2: q denotes qualified for the knock-out stage.  
 Note 3: e denotes eliminated

# Swiss, Norway advance; Colombia upset Germany as Morocco make WC history



South Korea's Shim Seo-yeon, (right), and Morocco's Ibtissam Jraidi compete for the ball during the Women's World Cup Group H soccer match between South Korea and Morocco in Adelaide, Australia. (AP)

## Rapinoe adjusts to World Cup new role

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, July 30, (AP) — Megan Rapinoe is adjusting to her new role at the Women's World Cup, even if it means she's not on the field as much as she'd like to be.

The outspoken 38-year-old known for her eclectic hair colors and the iconic ponytail she struck at the 2019 World Cup is the oldest player on the team. She already announced that her fourth World Cup would be her last.

"Ultimately, we're at the World Cup. This is where everybody wants to be, whether you're playing 90 minutes, whether you're a game changer, whatever," she said Sunday. "I think it's a lot similar to what I thought it would be - bringing all the experience that I can, all the experience that I have, and ultimately being ready whenever my number is called up."

Rapinoe has played limited minutes so far, coming in as a substitute in the 3-0 victory over Vietnam in the tournament opener, which was her 200th career appearance for the team.

She was available but didn't play in the disappointing 1-1 draw with the Netherlands on Thursday in Wellington. U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski made just one substitution in the match, bringing in midfielder Rose Lavelle after the first half.

"I think all of us on the bench, it's like we think we should be on the field as much as the players on the field believe that they should be on the field," Rapinoe said. "Every player on the field that starts the game thinks that they should play 90 minutes, and even-

## SOCCER

ry player who doesn't, who is a sub, thinks that they should be on at some point."

The United States has won the last two World Cups, but the players find themselves in a more precarious position as they chase an unprecedented third consecutive title. The Americans need at least a draw going into the final group match against Portugal on Tuesday at Eden Park in Auckland.

The Americans top Group E, even on points with the Netherlands, but hold the edge because of goal difference. Portugal, which beat Vietnam, could send the United States home early with a win over the Americans.

"We're unsatisfied with the way we played, but we know there are areas that we can be better and I think there's some really simple fixes we can do to put ourselves in a better position to have more joy on the ball, especially in the final third," Rapinoe said. "I think everybody's looking at this like 'Let's go.'"

At the 2019 World Cup in France, Rapinoe scored six goals over the course of the tournament, including a penalty in a 2-0 victory over the Netherlands in the final. She also finished with three assists and claimed both the Golden Boot and the Golden Ball for the best overall player. Rapinoe has won two Women's World Cup titles and an Olympic gold medal with the United States. She also took home the Ballon d'Or and the Best FIFA Women's Player awards - the game's top individual honors - for her play in 2019.

**DUNEDIN, New Zealand, July 30, (AP) — New Zealand outshot Switzerland and even moved goalkeeper Victoria Esson into an attack position several times, but failed to break a 0-0 tie Sunday in the Women's World Cup and became the first host nation to be eliminated in group play in tournament history. In Group H, Morocco made history in multiple ways during its 1-0 victory over South Korea.**

Defender Nouhaila Benzina became the first player to wear a Hijab in a World Cup game at the senior level, and her teammate Ibtissam Jraidi scored the Atlas Lionesses' first World Cup goal while Colombia upset Germany.

The Football Ferns are co-hosting the World Cup with Australia, which must win Monday against Canada to avoid its own early elimination.

Switzerland advanced to the round of 16. The Swiss also played to a scoreless draw against Norway, but won the group with the draw against New Zealand, coupled with the Norwegians' simultaneous 6-0 rout of the Philippines.

New Zealand controlled the pace for long stretches of the match and had its chances to score, outshooting Switzerland 12-3. Jacqui Hand knocked a shot off the right post in the 24th minute.

All 25,947 seats at Forsyth Barr Stadiums were filled - the only one of Dunedin's six tournament matches to sell out. The raucous crowd stomped and cheered all night, to no avail.

The tournament began July 20 with New Zealand upsetting Norway 1-0, but the Ferns failed to score from the 48th minute of that match through two more games. They lost their previous match 1-0 against the Philippines.

Esson moved into an offensive position several times in the last minutes of the match as New Zealand pressed for a winner. She managed a header off a corner kick but was off target.

**Norway 6, Philippines 0**  
 In Auckland, Sophie Roman Haug's hat trick kick-started Norway's dormant offense and sparked a 6-0 blowout win over the Philippines that moved the Norwegians into the knockout stage of the Women's World Cup.

The Philippines' debut run in the tournament came to an end as Norway scored early and often, netting three goals in the first 31 minutes.

Norway's spot in the round of 16 was secured when Switzerland and New Zealand simultaneously played to a 0-0 draw and the Norwegians, Norway and New Zealand were tied in Group A but Norway advanced on goal differential.

Before the game, Norway had not scored in three consecutive Women's World Cup matches dating to the quarterfinals of the 2019 tournament.

But Roman Haug one-timed a ball into the net in the sixth minute, and scored again 11 minutes later. Caroline Graham Hansen added a long-distance shot in the 31st minute.

Roman Haug completed the hat trick in injury time.

## SOCCER

In the second half, an Alicia Barker own goal in the 48th minute and Guro Reiten's penalty kick in the 53rd minute extended Norway's lead to 5-0. Filipina defender Sofia Harrison received a red card in the 67th minute for using excessive force, and the Philippines played the rest of the match a player down.

Eden Park was turned into a makeshift home match for the Philippines, as the Filipina fans screamed in unison any time the Philippines touched the ball, even as the deficit grew.

The Philippines were fresh off of a historic 1-0 win over co-host New Zealand that marked the first Women's World Cup win for the debutants.

Roman Haug got the Norwegians off to a hot start. The first of her two goals was a left-footed volley from inside the six-yard box in the sixth minute. Eleven minutes later, Roman Haug scored a header delivered by a Vilde Boe Risa cross. Roman Haug's header flew over



Philippines' Hali Long, (left), tussles for the ball with Norway's Guro Reiten during the Women's World Cup Group A soccer match between Norway and Philippines at Eden Park stadium in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)



Switzerland's Coumba Sow, (left), and New Zealand's Ria Percival jump for the ball during the Women's World Cup Group A soccer match New Zealand and Switzerland in Dunedin, New Zealand. (AP)

the reach of Philippines goalkeeper Olivia McDaniel.

**Colombia 2, Germany 1**  
 In Sydney, Manuela Vanegas scored in the seventh minute of stoppage time as Colombia upset Germany 2-1.

The defender headed in to settle a thrilling game and put her country on the brink of advancing to the knockout stage. Alexandra Popp had scored an 89th-minute penalty and seemed to have earned two-time champion Germany a 1-1 draw after 18-year-old Linda Caicedo had struck a stunning opener for Colombia.

But Vanegas came up with a late twist to huge celebrations from Colombia fans who dominated the Sydney Football Stadium crowd.

The Germans thought they'd secured

## Pockets of passionate fans in Australia not fully tied to Matildas' fate at WCup

MELBOURNE, Australia, July 30, (AP) — When Nigeria scored its third goal in the Women's World Cup match that now has co-host Australia on the brink of elimination, the hundreds of Matildas fans watching on a giant screen in Melbourne's Federation Square sent up a chorus of groans.

In the sea of yellow and green jerseys, though, a few spectators cheered and exchanged high-fives.

"You can see the joy all over here," Nigeria fan Juwon Fayomi said.

The Matildas' 3-2 loss to Nigeria sent the tournament co-hosts into a must-win group-stage finale against Olympic champion Canada on Monday in Melbourne. So there's a chance Australia could be knocked out in the group stage of the Women's World Cup, a fate that no host country endured in the first eight editions.

That undoubtedly could dampen some local enthusiasm. But because of Australia's unique migration history, pockets of passionate fans still will be heavily invested in the Women's World Cup matches.

Almost one-third of Australians are foreign-born, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and 51.5% have a parent born overseas.

"We often think of the United States as the great migrant-receiver country, but actually, the percentage of foreign-born is higher in Australia," said demographer Elin Charles-Edwards, a University of Queensland professor.

The 2023 World Cup is being co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, and ticket sales have set records.

In the knockout rounds, Australia will host five of the eight round-of-16 matches, two quarterfinals, a semifinal match, as well as the third-place match and the Aug. 20 final.

Fayomi, a mechanical engineering researcher at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, arrived in Australia from Nigeria about nine months ago. He attended the Super Falcons' first group-stage match - a 0-0 draw against Canada - in Melbourne.

"I'm so proud of them," Fayomi said. "So proud, so proud."

The Super Falcons can guarantee themselves a spot in the knockout round with a win or draw over winless Ireland on Monday in Brisbane.

Colombia fans packed the Sydney Football Stadium's stands for Las Cafeteras' 2-0 win over South Korea last week. Another big crowd was expected for Colombia's match against two-time World Cup champion Germany.

"Emotionally, it's exciting to see the stands dressed in yellow," Colombia player Lady Andrade said. "We didn't think this was going to happen."

Despite ranking 55th worldwide in national population size, at 26.6 million, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australia is ninth in the size of its population born in other countries.

The notion of "populate or perish" is ingrained in Australia's post-colonialization history, Charles-Edwards said. Early policies attracted immigrants from Northern Europe to boost the nation's population.

at a point after Colombia goalkeeper Catalina Perez was penalized for bringing down Lena Oberdorf in the box.

Popp, who scored twice in her country's 6-0 rout of Morocco in its opening game of the tournament, fired straight down the middle to level the game.

That had disappointed the crowd, which passionately cheered Colombia on throughout and erupted after Caicedo's goal in the 52nd. The Real Madrid teenager had suffered a health scare earlier in the week, but produced a moment of moment of magic to score her second of the tournament.

It was all the more special coming after she'd dropped to the ground holding her chest in training during the week.

Caicedo scored from distance in the 2-0 win against South Korea on Tuesday. But while that goal involved an error from goalkeeper Yoon Young-geul, on this occasion it was all about indi-

vidual brilliance.

## Morocco 1, South Korea 0

In Adelaide, the Moroccans scored in the 6th minute and were able to make it stand up for the remainder of the match.

After a lopsided 6-0 loss against Germany, the victory keeps No. 72-ranked Morocco in contention to advance to the knockout stage of the tournament.

Morocco scored its first ever World Cup goal in the sixth minute when Ibtissam Jraidi met a cross from Hanane Ait El Haj with a glancing header toward the far post.

South Korea had the majority of the possession but was unable to translate the advantage into many scoring opportunities. Its best chance at equalizing came in the 87th minute when 16-year-old New Jersey resident Casey Phair pushed a shot just wide of the post. Phair, the youngest player to appear at a World Cup, went on as a late substitute.