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Opinion

Dear leaders, three million workers serve 1.5 million citizens ... large scale reform needed

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

TODAY, we remember the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the tragic stories that will forever remain in the memory of its citizens.

On the other hand, we must acknowledge that the strength, decisiveness, and hard work demonstrated by Kuwaiti citizens during the crisis serve as a valuable lesson for political and social figures, as well as for the entire society.

During that challenging period, Kuwaiti people worked tirelessly in all fields, each contributing to the nation's resilience. Along with the heroes who took part in military actions, there were many others who resisted in their own ways, including bakers, car repair workers, laundry staff, poultry workers, and many other citizens who were running essential businesses.

It is unfortunate that this experience was not used as a guideline. Furthermore, public institutions and successive governments have increasingly relied on foreigners for all types of jobs. This is a violation of Article 26 of the Constitution, which prohibits assigning public sector positions to non-Kuwaiti employees.

On the other hand, the government has linked recruitment to academic qualifications for several years, ignoring the fact that nearly 90 percent of the public sector employees are in positions that are not related to their specializations. Also, the majority of them occupy administrative roles.

It is perplexing that a Kuwaiti population of just 1.5 million needs three million expatriates to serve them. This situation highlights an obvious image of dependency and places a huge burden on the public budget at all levels.

Recently, it was found that a large number of Kuwaiti workers were appointed through "wasta" or quota considerations. Additionally, many of these workers would refrain from going to their offices. This was revealed after the implementation of the fingerprint attendance system, which exposed significant administrative and executive shortcomings as well as major failures in the employment system.

At the same time, public institutions lack skilled national workers, which poses a risk if a regional conflict arises. In such a scenario, expatriates might leave, leaving us without essential personnel such as nurses and technicians to operate power plants and other public facilities, as many citizens are only familiar with easier jobs.

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28 people stripped of Kuwaiti nationality

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Supreme Committee for the Investigation of Kuwaiti Nationality issued three decisions on the cancellation of the citizenship of 28 people.

The first decision stipulates canceling the citizenship of two people as per Article Nine of Nationality Law No. 15/1959, the second stipulates withdrawal of the citizenship of four people based on Article 10

of the same decree, and the third stipulates canceling the citizenship of 22 individuals in accordance with Article 11.

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Kuwait ready to evacuate its citizens in emergency

US to boost military presence in Middle East



KUNA photo

Former Minister of Information Badr Al-Yaqoub and Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Barjas Al-Barjas witness the act of sabotage that occurred within the agency during the Iraqi invasion.

Local media exposed Iraqi atrocities

KUNA's robust message continued in invasion

Kuwait governors pay tribute to martyrs sacrifices in occupation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: On the 34th anniversary of the treacherous Iraqi invasion, Kuwait's governors paid tribute to the steadfastness and sacrifices of the righteous martyrs. They emphasized the profound meanings of sacrifice and loyalty displayed by the Kuwaiti people during this period, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Ahmad Governor Sheikh Hamoud Al-Jaber highlighted the exemplary unity and sacrifice of the Kuwaiti people, who rallied around their political leadership against the aggressor.

He praised their heroic efforts and honored the martyrs who gave their lives for the homeland, asking God Almighty to bestow His vast mercy upon them.

The Governor expressed deep gratitude for the support of sisterly and friendly countries in liberating Kuwait and restoring its rights.

He prayed for continued security, safety, and stability under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali reflected on the significance of preserving the homeland and the sacrifices made during the invasion.

He called on Kuwaitis to rally behind the leadership, maintain the country's security and prosperity, and draw lessons from the invasion to strengthen national unity and build a brighter future.

Sheikh Abdullah also honored the eternal sacrifices of the martyrs, asking God Almighty to grant them a place in His spacious gardens among the honored martyrs.

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Syrian gang busted for selling visas at KD2,000

By Munif Nayer

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Based on directives from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, officers from the General Department for Residency Affairs arrested a gang of six Syrian expatriates involved in crimes related to human trafficking and residency violations.

According to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, the gang had set up fake companies through document manipulation and forgery. They then obtained hundreds of labor visas, charging approximately KD 500 per visa transfer and KD 2,000 to bring expatriates from abroad.

The ministry affirmed that security efforts are ongoing to identify and arrest those involved in human trafficking crimes.

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Kuwait, Egypt in joint bid to promote rights

CAIRO, Aug 3, (KUNA): Kuwait Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs, Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah has commended the deep-rooted Kuwaiti-Egyptian interrelations.

This came in remarks to KUNA, following her meeting with the Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister for human rights and social affairs, Ambassador Khaled Al-Baghli.

This meeting was held on the sidelines of her participation in the 54th session of the Arab Human Rights Committee, which was hosted in Cairo, by the Secretariat General of the Arab League.

The two officials discussed means to bolster cooperation to protect and promote human rights whether bilaterally, or globally, as Sheikh Jawaher Al-Sabah affirmed the two nation's commitment in that regard.

Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah expressed her gratitude to Ambassador Al-Baghli for hosting her at the headquarters of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and looks forward to his visit to Kuwait and further explore different venues of cooperation between the two countries.

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KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah with Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights and Social and Humanitarian Issues Ambassador Khaled Al-Baghli.

NATO, Kuwait in close cooperation: official

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (KUNA): For the first time, the NATO-ICI Regional Centre and the US Embassy host the CAPSTONE seminar for US flag officers. The Head of the NATO Office at the NIRC, Nora-Elise Beck, said during the opening of the CAPSTONE seminar for newly promoted US generals and admirals, that NATO and Kuwait cooperate closely at the Centre, involving various Kuwaiti government agencies and NATO entities.

The NIRC hosted the event, organized in collaboration with the US Defense Attache and Senior Defense Official Col. Lamont Jubeck and the US Embassy. Beck pointed out that NATO's Istanbul Cooperation Initiative allows GCC countries to engage with NATO members on different topics, such as cyber defense, defense against terrorism, maritime security, and civil preparedness. The initiative was established 20 years ago (in 2004) to provide countries in the Gulf Region and NATO Allies with the opportunity to collaborate on shared security challenges and threats.

Kuwait's government established the NATO-ICI Regional Center in 2017 to serve GCC countries and engage with their NATO counterparts. Beck said that NATO celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, a significant milestone in the history of international security and defense cooperation.

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Newswatch

Addresses of 580 deleted

By Mohammad Ghanim

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Youm the names of 580 individuals whose addresses have been canceled. This action was taken due to reports from residential building owners or because the buildings have been demolished.

PACI has urged those individuals to visit its headquarters within one month of the publication of their names in the official gazette. They must present documented proof of their new addresses to avoid penalties as outlined in Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, which includes a maximum fine of KD 100 per individual.

AMMAN: Princess Rajwa, wife of Crown Prince Hussein of Jordan, gave birth to a baby girl Saturday, the couple's first born and first grandchild of King Abdullah II, the country's royal court said.

In a brief statement, The Royal Hashemite Court said the baby was named Iman. In a video posted on Rajwa's official Instagram page on Saturday, Hussein was seen cradling his newborn daughter to the soundtrack of the famous American ballad, "You Are My Sunshine." (AP)



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:41	Asr .....	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:09	Maghrib ..	18:39
Zohr .....	11:54	Isha .....	20:04

# Local

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

## Education minister terminates NCED director for absenteeism

# Ministry refers 70 educators for retirement as part of legal age policy

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Adwani recently issued a decision to terminate a director at the National Center for Education Development (NCED) for being absent for 30 intermittent days starting from Oct 2, 2023, as per the report of the committee formed in accordance with Ministerial Resolution No. 78/2024 issued on 24 April 2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In another development, sources revealed that acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Mansour Al-Daihani referred 70 educators for retirement as at the end of the working day on July 31. Sources said this is in line with the decision to refer for retirement all employees who have completed the legal retirement age or period.

Sources disclosed that those referred for retirement include principals, assistant principals, department heads and teachers who

have been in service for 34 years or those who reached the legal retirement age as per the regulations.

Sources confirmed all those referred for retirement were notified about the decision through 'Sahel' platform, indicating the ministry has adopted 'Sahel' as an effective means of informing employees about decisions concerning them. Sources explained this is part of the digital transformation of the ministry in a bid to ensure easy access to instructions and decisions regarding employees and to maintain the confidentiality of information, such that it reaches only the person concerned through the platform.

Sources added the retirement procedures will be completed through the End of Service Department, including the disbursement of the indemnity and obtaining the necessary documents for submission to the Public Institution for Social Security for pension related transactions.



Governor Ali Salem Al-Asfar receiving the Kuwait Youth Council Nawaf Al-Quwaidhi.

### Youth-related issues discussed

Hawally Governor Ali Salem Al-Asfar received the Chairman of the Kuwait Youth Council Nawaf Al-Quwaidhi, reports Al-Qabas daily.

During the meeting, they addressed youth-related issues and discussed suggestions and observations aimed at ben-

efiting young people. They also focused on enhancing social contributions between the youth and various public institutions. Al-Asfar affirmed the keenness of Hawally Governorate to support the projects carried out by the Kuwait Youth Council in favor of the nation.

### Other Voices

## Saddam ... and the 'painful week'

By Ahmed alsarraf

For thousands of Kuwaiti families, and many times more Iraqi families, this week is a week of pain and sad memories, with the anniversary of Saddam's invasion and occupation of our beloved country on August 2, 1990.

Thirty-four years have passed since the most stupid invasion of one country by another, let alone the fact that the aggressor is the older sister of the victim.

This happened without a logical justification, and the results were catastrophic for Iraq and its people, as the material losses exceeded tens of billions of dollars, and tens of thousands of civilians and many times that number of military personnel lost their lives in that absurd war, the largest in the history of the region.

The worst of all is that no party knows, or even cared to know, the number of Iraqi dead, in an act that represents the height of contempt for the human spirit, and evidence that, in dictatorships and oppressive regimes, man has no meaning and no existence... and 'Oh, how sweet is victory with God's help'!

Saddam's mistake in invading Kuwait was fatal, and he, his people and his family paid a very high price for it. It made the fate and future of Iraq ambiguous and tragic for many years to come, after it brought it to the peak of despair and financial, intellectual and national bankruptcy, with the death of the idea of Arab nationalism and the crushing of the slogan 'One Arab nation with an eternal message', all of whose leaders and founders died without telling us about the content of that message!

It was not shocking to read what was mentioned in the memoirs of the late Dr. Ahmed Al-Khatib, that he understood from his meetings with the late venerable Amir Abdullah Al-Salem, on more than one occasion, that he did not like Kuwait to have any relationship, whether water, financial or economic, with Iraq, because he was not confident in the intentions of those who took over the reins of power there, whether

during the royal era, or after Qasim's bloody coup, and those who came after him.

But it seems that our fate dictates that we live with a stable and secure Iraq, and it does not seem that this will be achieved in the foreseeable future, as we hope, and as every loyal Iraqi wishes.

Nizar Hamdoun, 1944-2003, who held sensitive positions in Saddam's administration after whose term as ambassador to Washington has ended, says in his memoirs that despite his Baathist and nationalist background and his belief in unity, the use of force and the forced annexation of Kuwait to Iraq was a big mistake.

Iraq's treatment of Kuwait was also brutal, as many Kuwaitis who refused to cooperate with the occupier were executed, especially the Baathists such as Faisal Al-Sanea and others, for opposing the occupation and refusing to hold any ministerial positions.

He said that Saddam's criminals, such as Hussein Kamel, Sabawi Ibrahim, and Ali Hassan Al-Majid, wreaked havoc and stole everything they could lay their hands on in Kuwait, and committed massacres in a city that was supposed to be the 19th Iraqi province. So how could the owner of a house steal his own house?

Hamdoun asks in disapproval: Are the "organized looting," mostly governmental, and the killing of innocent people consistent with the idea that Kuwait is part of Iraq? How can we justify these criminals stealing even traffic lights?

He said that the so-called "Arab solution" to the situation was just a cover to buy time, in order to consecrate the invasion, and for Iraq to remain in Kuwait forever.

There was no Arab solution, and the entire Iraqi leadership was busy absorbing all of Kuwait's possessions in a barbaric and hideous manner!

And that all the countries that called for an Arab solution, namely Libya, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, and Tunisia, were either unaware of Saddam's actual intentions, or took their positions for reasons of their own. If Iraq was interested in an Arab solution, it would not have entered Kuwait City in the first place!

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## Capital governor reviews firefighting readiness

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Governor of the Capital Governorate Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali recently visited Al-Madaniyya Fire Center; where he was welcomed by acting Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Director Major General Khaled Fahd and a number of officials and employees, reports Al-Anba daily.

Several issues were discussed during the visit, including ways to strengthen coordination within the governorate. The gov-

ernor also reviewed the achievements and plans of KFF through a visual presentation, in addition to the latest technologies and mechanisms in dealing with fire incidents and other accidents.

In a press statement after the visit, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali disclosed he looked into the level of firefighters' readiness to deal with accidents and fire incidents throughout the country and the means of protection for everyone.

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: In light of the threat of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to put Kuwait on the grey list due to money laundering and financing terrorism risks, and the failure of the concerned authorities to put an end to this phenomenon that is considered deadly for national economies; experts who met with the political leadership have agreed on the need to take legislative, procedural and executive steps to stop this destructive phenomenon.**

The repercussions of this phenomenon has reached the 'catastrophic' level in terms of the national economy, foreign relations and the classification of Kuwait by international institutions and the entities operating in the country like banks, companies and investors.

The modus operandi of those involved in money laundering continue to develop like that of drug smugglers; hence, the need for advancements in legislation and follow-up methods to get rid of this phenomenon, which is likely to eliminate the competitiveness of the economy, expel foreign direct investment and illegal accumulation of wealth among people.

In separate interviews with the staff of the newspaper, the experts attributed the growing money laundering crimes to the loopholes in the law on criminalizing the act of laundering money. They urged the government to take new and innovative measures to curb such crimes and activate the role of the Financial Investigations Unit in combating money laundering by taking advantage of the golden reform era that the country is experiencing, which was specified by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

### Criminal

Asrar Hayat, an entrepreneur and certified trainer and consultant on Criminalization of Public Official Bribery Act applied in the United States and Britain, clarified that the increasing number of money laundering cases facilitates other criminal activities, such as drug trafficking and financing terrorism.

She stressed that money laundering encourages corruption in public and private sectors by undermining governance and limiting development, in addition to the immense risks and effects that harm Kuwait's reputation abroad, as it makes investors lose confidence in the country's economy, especially if it reaches the stage of 'financial isolation'; meaning the international banks and financial institutions cut their relations with 'correspondent' banks in Kuwait. This, in turn, affects trade and transfers; and exposes banks to high-risk clients and transactions that may lead to financial instability, she warned.

She said money laundering operations include manipulating the market by pumping illegal funds, which affects asset prices such as real estate, stocks and others. It leads to economic instability and unfair competition, which enables companies to be involved in money laundering to undermine legitimate commercial activities; prompting their exit from the market, she explained.

She warned about the legal and regulatory consequences. "We are afraid that Kuwait will face international sanctions, which will affect its economic and trade relations," she added.

### Economy

Regarding the impact of money laundering on GDP, she pointed out that the economy will decline if money laundering operations continue; as these operations lead to the transfer of resources to unproductive activities and illicit economies, in addition to widening inequality in society, as the returns and benefits of illicit activities will go into the pockets of a small group. "This will exacerbate the imbalance, create income inequality and lead to social tension. The biggest problem is the erosion of people's confidence in institutions and the government. Therefore, addressing money laundering in Kuwait requires strong regulatory frameworks, effective enforcement and international cooperation to mitigate the risks and protect the economy," she explained.

Head of Real Estate Appraisers Association Qais Al-Ghanim asserted that money laundering is already rampant in the real estate market even before the Ministry of Justice focused on this issue, as sales were done in cash in the past. "Nevertheless, the decisions of the ministry resulted in certain changes; such that payment is now done through certified checks. This significantly reduced money laundering operations in the real estate market, but certain legal loopholes remain; thus, the continuation of money laundering operations in one way or another," he disclosed.

He said money laundering was common in the purchase of land, particularly in external areas where payment was made in cash, leading to an unusual increase in prices. He pointed out that land owners received tempting offers, so the sale transaction was completed quickly. "Real estate exhibitions previously witnessed money laundering operations," he asserted.

"Fortunately, the Ministry of Justice's procedures eliminated the largest part of such operations. We hope the government will take broader steps to address the legal loopholes, as the continuation of money laundering affects social life. This is manifested in the group that did not own anything and then head towards obtaining obscene wealth," he explained.

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h.			
with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	47	35	
Kuwait Airport	47	31	
Abdaly	47	29	
Jahra	48	32	
Salmiyah	42	35	
Jal Aliyah	47	29	
Nuwaisib	48	29	
Wafra	47	30	

## Call for stronger legislation and international cooperation



Group photo of the participants in the training course.

## PAY concludes training course on hospital cleaning, transportation & waste disposal

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Public Authority for Youth (PAY) has concluded a training course titled "Cleaning, Interior Transportation, and Waste Disposal in Hospitals", reports Aljarida daily.

The training course, which is held regularly by PAY, witnessed the participation of a large number of diploma holders who recently graduated.

Acting Director General of PAY Nasser Al-Shaikh revealed that the course was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). He emphasized its importance as a platform for youth to gain educational and professional qualifications, thereby enhancing their employability, particularly in the private sector, after acquiring necessary skills

Al-Shaikh highlighted that the training course facilitated the placement of 79 participants into private sector jobs, which is part of the state's strategy to encourage youth employment in private enterprises.

He praised the cooperation of private sector entities in hiring young talent, adding that the collaboration among the four public institutions to organize the training course affirms the government's commitment to youth development.

Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for Services at the Ministry of Health Abdulaziz Al-Tasha told KUNA that the training course has successfully enhanced youth employment in the private sector through PAM's collaboration. He highlighted the program's success in graduating over 70 students.

## Current terms of circular are impractical: official

## Kuwait Domestic Workers Union protests new Ethiopian salary, commission circular

KUWAIT CITY Aug 3: In response to a recent circular issued by the Ethiopian Ministry of Labor, the Union of Domestic Workers Recruitment Offices in Kuwait has submitted an official protest, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The circular set the monthly salaries for Addis Ababa workers arriving in Kuwait at 120 dinars for experienced women and 110 dinars for those who don't have any experience.

It also established a commission of \$1,300 (approximately 400 dinars) to be paid by Kuwaiti offices for each worker.

Abdulaziz Al-Ali, the Director-General and Advisor to the Union, expressed concerns over these terms, highlighting that the commission set for offices is the highest among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

In comparison, the commission in Saudi Arabia and the UAE is set at \$900, and in Qatar at \$1,000. Al-Ali emphasized that the current terms of the circular are impractical and jeopardize the joint bilateral efforts that resulted in a memorandum of understanding on domestic worker recruitment.

Al-Ali stated that the Ethiopian Federation has promised to discuss these concerns with the Ministry of Labor in an upcoming meeting and

will inform the Kuwaiti side of the outcome. He stressed that if the circular remains unchanged, it would nullify months of collaborative efforts and render the memorandum of understanding ineffective.

Furthermore, Al-Ali reiterated the union's request to the Kuwaiti Minister of Trade and Industry, Omar Al-Omar, to reconsider Resolution No. (2/2024). This resolution sets the recruitment price for domestic workers, including travel tickets, at 750 dinars from Asian countries, 575 dinars from African countries, and 350 dinars for a special passport submitted by the sponsor.

Al-Ali argued that the current resolution negatively impacts the quality of labor arriving in Kuwait, leading to dissatisfaction among Kuwaiti and expatriate families. He also noted that it incentivizes foreign offices to send workers to neighboring countries instead of Kuwait.

Al-Ali urged government agencies to expand memorandums of understanding with additional countries to positively impact recruitment prices.

He also stressed the importance of involving the Union in all decisions related to the recruitment and use of domestic workers, as it represents the interests of the recruitment offices.

Businessman and former State Minister for Housing Yahya Al-Sumait stressed the need for the government to take urgent steps to completely eliminate money laundering operations in the country; particularly since Kuwait is currently living in the era of economic reform led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his loyal Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid. He noted that His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah is the best person to realize the visions of the senior leadership. "The people are hoping that HH the Prime Minister will intensify efforts to stop money laundering operations in the country, out of mercy for the Kuwaiti economy, considering that money laundering operations have prompted many companies to leave the country," he added.

Head of Kuwaiti Contracting Companies Union Dr. Salah Buresli affirmed it is difficult to launder money through the contracting companies, unless it is done by purchasing construction equipment, as the latter can be manipulated. He asserted that Kuwaiti banks impose many restrictions on deposits; explaining that if the union discovers a contracting company is suspected of involvement in money laundering, it will not hesitate in writing off the company once proven guilty. He said money laundering exists in all sectors, not just the contracting companies; and that this phenomenon is widespread even in the oldest countries which claimed to have succeeded in combating money laundering.

In a related development, Psychology Professor at Kuwait University Dr. Hader Al-Baron stated that the economy is affected by psychological factors; hence, the saying, "Capital is cowardly." When someone invests his money in an environment where money laundering rates are increas-

ing, it is natural to be afraid of the risks. He will then go to a safer economic environment, far from any operations that destroy the economy. This is in addition to the fact that the foreign investor will hesitate to invest in any country where money laundering operations are active. Therefore, psychological factors play a major role in the exit of Kuwaiti capital, he explained.

He said the issue does not stop at this, as it extends to the growing fear about the economic situation. He pointed out that the rising number of money laundering crimes kills the creativity of students, as it pushes them to be lazy since the methods of obtaining illegal money have become easier than diligence and dedication in school and at work. "When a financially destitute group gains obscene wealth without owning anything before, this negatively affects the psyche of some people," he revealed.

### Studying

He added the youth who is studying diligently and every citizen who works hard should not look at the negative categories. "They should work and study to enrich themselves with knowledge and Science. They should remember the Kuwaiti saying: 'He who gets rich easily will not rise.' This means that anyone who becomes extremely wealthy through illegal means will fall into the hands of justice sooner or later; in addition to the fact that ill-gotten money does not bear fruit and Allah Almighty has forbidden it," he asserted.

He also stressed the need for the State to continue exposing everyone who obtains money through illegal means, hoping for the amendment of the Anti-Money Laundering Law to address all the loopholes in order to protect the local economy.

A banking law expert in a responsible authority, who requested for anonymity, said money laundering destroys the base and structure of the economy as it leads to the government's weakness in implementing economic reform programs; in addition to increasing inflation rate, destabilizing the money market and threatening the stock market.



## ‘Kuwait needs to re-evaluate ‘90 Iraqi invasion of country’

“THE brutal Iraqi invasion in 1990 is one of the most important crises that have affected Kuwait and its people since its inception until now, and it was a major global event at the time,” columnist Dr. **Muham-mad Hussein Al-Dallal** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“Despite the size and gravity of the catastrophe of the brutal Iraqi invasion in 1990, to date, no official government report has been issued by successive governments since the liberation, including a serious assessment of the invasion and its conse-quences, analyzing the causes of the invasion and the shortcomings, and coming up with results and recom-mendations, in order to ensure that the causes that led to the brutal in-vasion are not repeated, or to avoid similar risks and crises in the future.



Dr Al-Dallal

“It is likely that such an assess-ment has been carried out in some government agencies, but the people have certainly not seen it or learned of its results.

“Despite the importance of the assessment of this painful histori-cal experience, the matter has not been carried out in a comprehensive manner, despite the popular call for it. We exclude from this the orphan report, known as the Fact-Finding Committee on the Causes of the Iraqi Invasion, issued by the National Assembly in 1995.

“After all this long period, our call to rethink and start taking serious steps to read the past and benefit from the harsh experience that Ku-wait and its people went through fol-lowing the brutal invasion and then liberation is required and deserved in light of the current regional and international conditions.

“As the saying goes, ‘Today is very similar to yesterday’; the re-gional atmosphere is tense and threatens escalation, especially with neighboring countries such as Iran and Iraq, and the security situation is more tense in Palestine, Lebanon and the Sudan, not to mention the politically and security-turbulent in-ternational situation due to the strug-gle of the great powers over centers of political and economic influence.

“These are circumstances and data that require a great effort in understanding and dealing, beyond the simple efforts made by recent governments.”Accordingly, the re-quired assessment, in light of the previous painful historical experi-ence, seeks in one of its axes to mon-itor the extent of the state’s appa-ratus’ readiness in the event of crises and risks, especially since the data of the invasion revealed the absence of the roles of state institutions and the collapse of their systems, and the weakness of their readiness to deal with the crisis of the brutal occupa-tion and its consequences.

“Preparedness for risks and crises has an important and vital role that must be addressed and carried out quickly. In fact, we are very late in doing so.”To demonstrate the above, it is known and observed that the State of Kuwait does not have, ac-cording to international standards, fortified shelters prepared to protect against the effects of war or dangers, and the existing shelters in the state are very few, and they do not cover the numbers of the Kuwaiti people, let alone expatriates.

“On the other hand, the required evaluation would shed light on an-other aspect no less important than what was mentioned above, which is the way the Kuwaiti people dealt with the brutal Iraqi invasion.

“Despite the observations and reservations of many people regard-ing the performance of the govern-ments before the invasion, the peo-ple rose above those differences in that critical period, putting the goal of liberation above everything else, believing in the unity of ranks and destiny, supporting constitutional legitimacy, offering martyrs, pris-oners and tremendous efforts for the return of Kuwait to its legiti-macy and its people.

“One of the most prominent ex-amples of this was the convening of the popular conference in Jed-dah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the results it reached. This historic stance of the Kuwaiti people, rulers and the subjects, during the invasion, until liberation, deserves to be evalu-ated and praised.

“It also deserves to be reactivated again in light of the great internal and external challenges facing Ku-wait and its people. This courageous and noble stance of the people and their rulers for the sake of Kuwait, its freedom, independence and democ-racy in 1990, requires everyone to put collective and cooperative work before individual work, and require

adopting and strengthening the path of consensus, within a framework of wisdom for the advancement and progress of Kuwait and its people, and doing everything that would remove all points of difference and division from any tip, if you find it.”God Almighty said: ‘And obey God and His Messenger, and do not dispute, lest you lose heart and your strength will depart, but be patient’. Indeed, God is with those who are patient.”

### Also:

“In early 2022, attempts were made to restore relations between Turkey and Syria, but they were not successful. Recently, (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan (the Turkish president) and his governments have made several statements and calls that clearly indicate a strong desire to re-turn relations to what they were be-fore 2011, including an invitation to President Bashar (Assad of Syria) to visit Turkey,” columnist Dr. **Noura Saleh Al-Majim**, wrote for **Al-Qa-bas** daily.

“What is new or different from 2022 is the Turkish insistence on fully restoring previous relations as soon as possible. On the other hand, the regime of Bashar al-Assad has shown a positive response to Turk-ish calls, but it made the restoration of relations conditional on Turkey withdrawing its forces from Syria.

“This Turkish insistence shows that Syria has become more im-portant to Turkey than ever before, and even decisive in a set of vital Turk-ish issues. Relations between coun-tries are managed based on interests and changing contexts and circum-stances, and therefore it is not sur-prising that enemies turn into friends overnight, and vice versa.

“Turkey, and specifically the Er-dogan regime, is currently facing several serious challenges. The chal-lenge of the Syrian Kurds approach-ing the realization of the dream of self-rule is at the forefront. If it is achieved, especially with the SDF movement announcing local elec-tions for self-rule, it will be a major disaster for Turkey. The Kurdish is-sue is one of the most sensitive and complex issues for Turkey com-pared to other neighboring countries with Turkish minorities. Turkey has a chronic historical obsession with a Kurdish rebellion in southeastern Turkey and the declaration of an independent state, as the number of Kurds in Turkey exceeds 25 million.

“Declaring northern Syria or large parts of it autonomous would be a strong incentive for Turkey’s Kurds to rebel, which often ends after long rounds of conflict between the An-kara government and the rebels, especially the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK). Hence, rapprochement with Syria would allow Turkey to penetrate northern Syria beyond the borders permitted to Turkey to track down SDF elements who cooperate with the PKK and abort the self-rule project.

“In the same context, Turkey is trying to preempt any steps that Trump might take with the certainty of his return to the White House, as he is likely to withdraw the few American forces from northern Syria, which will lead to a large security vacuum that will allow the Kurdistan Workers’ Party to infiltrate there.

“The return of Syrian refugees in Turkey, whose number is close to four million, is one of Turkey’s crit-ical priorities for rapprochement with Syria, as they have become a public opinion issue due to the severe eco-nomic, security and social burden that Turkey bears because of them, in light of the economic deteriora-tion that Turkey is groaning from.

“This file in particular is one of the most pressing and troubling files for Erdogan, as it was one of the main reasons for his party’s heavy loss in the recent local elections. It is also a powerful weapon in the hands of the Turkish opposition, especially the rival Republican People’s Party, to in-crease its popularity and undermine Erdogan’s legitimacy, especially in light of the strong public opinion pressing for the return of Syrians to their homes. Therefore, rapproche-ment with Damascus will contribute to resolving the refugee file through their gradual return to Syria.

“In light of the economic deterio-ration that Turkey is suffering from, the return of rapprochement with Damascus will contribute to revital-izing the Turkish economy.”Turkey is one of the most affected economi-cally by the Syrian crisis, as it was deprived of its export quotas for its various products to Syria, the Turk-ish trade corridors crossing from Syria to the Arabian Gulf were closed, and the page of Turkish in-vestments was turned, especially in the field of infrastructure. With the return of relations, Turkey will regain its economic gains in Syria again.”

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



Lieut-Gen Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain chairing the meeting.

Mol photo

### Lieut-Gen Al-Muzain chairs vital meeting

Wednesday morning, Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, Chief of Staff of the Army, chaired a meeting of the Higher Committee for Officers’ Affairs at the General Staff building, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief of Staff, Major Gen-eral Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad. During the session, key topics related to human resources, plan-ning, and qualification for officers were discussed. Al-Muzain has also

emphasized on the importance of monitoring the execution of various tasks and duties, and highlighted the need to address and overcome any obstacles that might impede the implementation of military plans and strategies.

# 2 children get trapped inside vehicle, one dies

Jordanian dies after being hit by car; woman injured

By Munif Nayef

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: A 46-year old Jordanian expatriate died after being struck by a vehicle that was involved in a collision on Fahaheel Road.**

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received information about the accident on Fahaheel Road, security personnel and paramedics rushed to the scene and confirmed the victim’s identity.

The body was transferred to the forensic medicine depart-ment, and a lawsuit has been filed. Also, the Kuwaiti motorist who was driving the colliding vehicle has been arrested.

□ □ □

**Two kids suffocate inside car, 1 dies:** A tragic incident occurred in the Al-Dhahr area, where a 7-year-old Kuwaiti child died, and his 4-year-old brother was rushed to the nearby hospital and placed in intensive care in critical condition due to suffocation inside a vehicle, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The children allegedly climbed into the vehicle but were un-able to come out. They died due to high temperature.

The father called for help when he realized the children were missing.

Security personnel and neighbors immediately began searching for them and eventually found them, but by the time one was already dead and the other needed urgent medical at-tention.

□ □ □

**Case filed against security man:** An employee at the General Traffic Department (GTD) in the Interior Ministry filed a lawsuit against a security personnel who allegedly humiliated and attacked him while he was on duty.

Case files indicate the two had a heated argument over an impounded vehicle. Security sources revealed the owner of the car went to the concerned section at GTD to lift the seizing of the car. When he discussed the issue with the concerned em-ployee, a heated argument ensued and it escalated to a physical altercation. The car owner is said to have pushed and humili-ated the employee.

A security source revealed the other employees interfered to put an end to the dispute and control the situation. It was found out later that the owner of the car is a security personnel at ministry and he is being investigated on the issue.

□ □ □

**Arab expat arrested:** An Arab expatriate was arrested for displaying unusual behavior while being presented with a traf-fic citation.

According to security sources, the traffic officers became suspicious while issuing a traffic citation to the suspect, and arrested him. He was referred to the concerned authorities for investigations.

□ □ □

**Woman run over, motorist held:** A bedoun woman who is in her seventies was taken to intensive care unit of the Jahra Hospital after she was run-over by a Kuwaiti citizen, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

After a report was received from the Operations De-partment of the Ministry of Interior security personnel rushed to the spot and found the woman suffering from head injuries and the emergency medical services personnel rushed her to the hospital.

The errant motorists has been arrested and referred to the Al Naseem Police Station.

□ □ □

**Several held in drug-related cases:** Personnel from the Directorate-General for Drugs Control have referred two ex-patriates to the General Administration for Narcotics Control after they were found with narcotic substances during an in-spection campaign, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

In a separate incident, a 26-year-old man was arrested in Abu Futaira after being caught in a state of drug use and pos-session of a sachet containing heroin. The arrest occurred after officers suspected the reckless motorist.

The patrol officers also arrested two expatriates inside the Al-Qurain Markets area for drug use and possession of nar-cotic substances (shabu) and drug paraphernalia.

Meanwhile, the Hawalli Security Directorate patrol officers arrested two individuals in the Salwa area for using narcotic drugs and possessing shabu, narcotic pills, and drug parapher-nalia.

□ □ □

**Bedoun suspected of committing theft:** Security forces have referred a bedoun born in 1988 to the Jahra Investigation Department on suspicion of theft, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

He was reportedly seen entering a restricted area (Virginia Camp). Upon arrival, security forces observed the suspect loading iron scrap onto a white vanette bearing Gulf license plates.

□ □ □

**1 injured in gas leak explosion:** Friday evening, firefight-ing teams responded to an explosion and fire caused by a cook-ing gas leak in the kitchen of a house in the Saad Al-Abdullah area, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The incident resulted in one person being injured. Firefight-ers controlled and blaze and referred the incident for further investigation.

Fingerprint OK’d for Mol Operation Sector employees

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3:** As-sistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Op-erations Affairs, Major Gen-eral Yousef Al-Khadda, has issued a directive mandating the fingerprint registration of all personnel within the Op-erations Sector, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

This includes officers, non-commissioned officers, individuals, and profession-als.

According to the circular, a designated location within the technical examination hall in the Ardhiya Industrial Area has been allocated for this purpose.

The fingerprint registra-tion process is scheduled to take place over the span of one month, operating daily from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

This initiative is a pre-p-eratory step towards the full implementation of the finger-print system.

□ □ □

**Police officers insulted:** The investigator at Sulai-bikhat Police Station has been directed to arrest a 22-year-old man for insult-ing a patrol commander and his companion, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The incident occurred when the two officers re-sponded to a report of threats and beatings in Sulai-bikhat, Block 4.

When the patrolmen ar-rived at the site, the suspect came out of his house and hurled insults at the men in uniform.

A case of insulting a pub-lic employee case has been registered under the charge.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq Some of the encroachments being bulldozed.



Al-Anba photo One of the stores being sealed.

### DGFD shuts down 61 establishments

## Municipality removes encroachments on state-owned lands in open areas

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Kuwait Municipal-ity has announced that inspection teams have removed encroachments on state-owned lands in the open areas of the Jahra and the Ahmadi governorates.

The operation involved bulldozers clearing 58 sites that were fenced with barbed wire, as well as 160 unlicensed reserves located in various areas.

□ □ □

**61 stores shut:** A campaign carried out by the Public Relations and Media De-partment of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) Friday resulted in the closure of 61 stores and establish-ments in several governorates, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

This happened because the owners had failed to obtain firefighting licenses and

not committing to fulfilling safety and fire prevention requirements after they had been warned earlier to rectify such violations. The campaign was launched in the best interest of the safety of citizens and residents and their property.

□ □ □

**Theft and assault case:** A female Ku-waiti citizen and a domestic worker have exchanged accusations, leading to a com-plex case involving both theft and as-sault, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to the citizen the domestic worker stole gold bullion worth 150 dinars, and prayer beads and jewelry worth 850 dinars. However, when the suspect was brought in for interrogation, she denied the allegations and claimed she had been severely beaten by the woman and submitted a medical report to support her claims.

The case has been referred to the concerned authority for further investiga-tion.



WEDDINGS, UPTO 140



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# Municipality pushes for EV charging stations inside new parking facilities

Ministry of Finance’s request approved

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Municipality has directed government agencies to incorporate electric vehicle (EV) charging stations into new parking facilities, including both surface and multi-storey lots, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This initiative is part of a broader effort to ensure that parking infrastructure supports the growing use of electric cars and meets accessibility needs.

In its recent technical studies, the municipality emphasized several key requirements for parking lot developments saying agencies are required to include designated parking spaces for EV charging in all new parking facilities.



Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah with representatives from the Umniah plastic recycling project.

## Minister commends Umniah’s efforts

First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah Minister recently met with representatives from the Umniah plastic recycling project, where CEO Sanaa Al-Ghamlas detailed the project’s objectives and global accreditations, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The discussion emphasized the project’s potential to combat climate change and contribute to the na-

tional economy.

Al-Yousef expressed strong support for expanding the project, aligning it with Kuwait’s National Waste Management Strategy 2040.

He commended Al-Ghamlas for her swift engagement and highlighted the project’s significance for environmental and economic development.

Moreover, the parking lots must also feature spaces for the elderly and people with special needs, in line with established specifications.

Meanwhile, the Municipality has approved a request from the Ministry of Finance to convert a surface parking site into a multi-storey parking building in the East Area, Block 2.

The site, which spans 7,500 square meters after adjustments to the surrounding road network, must adhere to specific guidelines.

The building will consist of two basements and five floors, with the fifth floor’s roof covered by light awnings. Before starting construction, the municipality requires coordination with the Public Facilities and Services Subcommittee and approval of a traffic study.

Additionally, the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Literature must be consulted prior to project implementation.

The Municipality has authorized relevant departments to adjust the shape and dimensions of the site, ensuring that modifications do not exceed the designated areas, particularly if they conflict with existing infrastructure services.

## Sheikh Abdullah pushes for sustainable Kuwait

### Capital Governor, UN-Habitat discuss collaborative environmental projects

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah recently received Head of the Kuwait and the Gulf Commission of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Dr. Amira Al-Hassan and the Deputy Head Qusai Al-Deij, reports Al-Anba daily.

During the meeting, the governor highlighted projects launched by Kuwait in co-ordination with the UN Human Settlements Programme, relevant public institutions and civil society organizations.

These projects aim at enhancing development, such as the “Kuwait Plants” project

and the project to stabilize the border crossing dust.

Sheikh Abdullah affirmed the importance of raising public awareness about preserving the environment and enhancing cooperation between the Capital Governorate and UN Human Settlements Programme for initiatives such as planting more trees in Kuwait City, finding solutions to the quicksand issues, combating rodents, and cleaning shores.

He affirmed the governorate’s readiness to collaborate for executing sustainable development projects and programs.



Al-Anba daily photo

Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah recently received Head of the Kuwait and the Gulf Commission of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Dr. Amira Al-Hassan and the Deputy Head Qusai Al-Deij.

## Applications open until August 7

### ‘Guidance campaign’ for private university scholarships launched

KUWAIT CITY Aug 3: The General Secretariat of the Private Universities Council has initiated its guidance campaign, under the title ‘Create Your Future’ for the upcoming academic year 2024/2025, focusing on providing support to students applying for internal scholarships, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This campaign, now in its fourth day, offers essential advice and instructions for the application process.

The campaign highlights several key aspects of the online registration process. The applications are open until Wednesday, August 7, 2024 and the applicants must upload several documents to the electronic registration system such as the student’s civil card, guardian’s civil card, high school transcript showing continuous academic years, and the acceptance letter from the desired university or college.

This is in addition to a copy of the registration receipt, certificate from the Department of Private Education for foreign high school graduates and the birth certificate and mother’s civil card for children of Kuwaiti women.

For students currently enrolled in other institutions who wish to apply for internal scholarships, they must visit the General Secretariat with a withdrawal paper from their current educational institution.

The following are the special conditions for various certificates:

Kuwaiti High School Graduates --

The high school certificate must not exceed 26 months from the date of graduation. Graduates from religious institutes are considered equivalent to those from literary high school sections.

American High School Graduates -- The certificate should not be older than 26 months. To be considered for a scientific track, students must have completed Mathematics, Algebra, Preparatory Arithmetic, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. Students lacking any of these courses can register as unregistered students at Kuwait University, provided they achieve a grade of C. Those without these courses will be classified in the literary track.

Saudi Secondary School Graduates -- The certificate must not exceed 26 months from graduation. Applicants need to submit a high school sequence of studies and pass an aptitude test and achievement test from the National Center for Measurement and Evaluation of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia. English Secondary School Graduates -- The campaign provides details on calculating averages and meeting conditions for graduates from various types of private secondary schools.

The General Secretariat encourages all prospective students to review the guidance campaign on social media for further details and ensure they meet the application requirements.



Al-Rai daily photo

Modern designs for government schools.

## Investor covers Wafra costs

### 30 ‘school demolitions’ cut to 19 as Education Ministry finalizes tenders

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Ministry of Education conducted a review of the plan concerning 30 schools that have been listed for demolition and reconstruction, and decided to remove 11 schools from the plan, reports Al-Rai daily.

Preparations of relevant public tenders have been finalized, and they will be floated soon, starting with schools located in densely populated residential areas.

Among the 19 remaining schools, four private schools in Wafra will have their rehabilitation costs covered by the beneficiary investor.

According to the report of the Ministry of Education, four schools in Khiran and the Institute for Religious Studies for girls have been removed from the demolition list and added to the list for radical maintenance.

Additionally, the Institute for Religious Studies for boys in Fahaheel has been transferred to the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

## CSC extends training deadline until Aug 15

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has confirmed the extension of the deadline for institutes to submit the list of their training courses within the training plan for 2024/2025 until Aug. 15, reports Al-Anba daily.

The CSC called on the institutes accredited and licensed by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) in six fields to submit the list by email: hrdc-info@csc.gov.kw. These six fields include Administrative Sciences, Finance, Accounting, Economics and Commerce, Public Relations and Media, Legal Sciences, Secretarial and Office Management, and Human Resources.

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Kuwaitization initiative on track, all coops submit vacancy lists

Platform launched to regulate cooperative price hikes

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Head of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies Musab Al-Mulla has confirmed the launching of the ‘Prices’ platform, in which 70 cooperative societies upload prices daily as part of ongoing efforts to control prices, reports Al-Shahed daily.

During his interview in the ‘Money and Workers’ program on Al-Akhbar Channel, Al-Mulla explained that the platform monitors the prices of goods sold in cooperatives;

including vegetables, fruits and other items, in order to prevent the unjustified price hikes.

He revealed the objectives of the platform include controlling prices and informing the consumers about the availability and prices of products before they go to the cooperatives. He said the union is closely coordinating with the ministries of Social Affairs and Commerce to regulate the prices through the platform.

He affirmed that the union serves as the link and the first line of defense between cooperatives, State institutions and individuals. He pointed out that cooperative societies are part of the culture of the Kuwaiti society and an essential element for every home. Since their establishment, the main goal of cooperatives has been the provision of high quality goods at the cheapest prices in the service of the community, he asserted.

On the Kuwaitization of supervisory positions in cooperative societies, he confirmed that they are working according to the timetable. He said all cooperatives have submitted their lists of vacancies, while unveiling a comprehensive plan to Kuwaitize non-supervisory positions in cooperatives to generate job opportunities for citizens. He added the total number of cooperative societies in the country has reached 75, while the number of parallel markets totaled eight.

All units with tracking systems

MoE allocates ‘1,696 buses’ for new academic year 2024/2025

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Ministry of Education has allocated a total of 1,696 buses for student transportation in the new academic year of 2024/2025, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to sources, the buses will be distributed to various educational zones in the following manner:

- 167 buses for Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone
- 155 buses for Farwaniya Educational Zone and Religious Education Department

- 125 buses for Capital Educational Zone
- 100 buses for Hawally Educational Zone

The sources revealed that 280 buses have been allocated for schools in the Jahra Educational Zone, and are set to begin operation at the start of the second semester of the new academic year, adding that all these buses have been fitted with tracking systems.

They said the Public Services Department of the Ministry of Education has been exerting efforts to provide adequate environment for students.

Astronomical phenomena await Kuwait skywatchers this August

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3, (KUNA): The Al-Ajari Scientific Center said on Saturday that the first week of August will witness a group of astronomical phenomena that can be seen with the naked eye if the sky is clear at night.

The center added in a press statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that starting at 2:00 am on Sunday, August 4, the planet Mars will rise in conjunction with the star Aldebaran, which is characterized by its large size and orange color. The conjunction will remain visible until the scene disappears with the intensity of the morning twilight light due to sunrise.

It explained that the new moon

of the month (the new moon of Safar) will also be born tomorrow, Sunday, and will appear the following day in conjunction with the planet Venus and the star Heart of Leo, which is considered one of the brightest stars in the sky at night. The conjunction will be visible immediately after sunset towards the west until the scene sets at night.

The center stated that next Tuesday, August 6, the planet Venus and Mercury will be in conjunction immediately after sunset towards the west, and the condition will end at night.

Dear leaders,

Continued from Page 1

Recently, a public hospital posted an advertisement for hiring almost 1,000 non-Kuwaiti nurses to cover three shifts. If the total number of workers at the Ministry of Health is 67,000, only ten percent are Kuwaiti. If the non-Kuwaiti workers were to leave, it would critically undermine the health system.

To solve this issue, the link between employment and academic qualifications should be suspended. Citizens seeking jobs need to be trained in essential technical skills, similar to the approach taken by many countries, including those in the Gulf region. These countries implemented training programs to qualify nationals for technical roles, regardless of the policy’s cost. As a result, nationals have taken on technical positions with higher salaries than their highly qualified counterparts.

Kuwait needs national workers to operate power plants and serve as medical laboratory technicians in place of expatriates. The shortage of assistant medical staff during the COVID-19 crisis highlighted the critical need for a reliable national workforce.

Hiring non-Kuwaiti employees places a heavy financial burden on the State Treasury. Expatriate workers require housing, transportation, and various other services that are costly for the state. Employing nationals would alleviate this burden and reduce expenses.

Additionally, housing provided to expatriate workers could be allocated to nationals, which will solve multiple issues simultaneously. These problems are well-known to the executive decision-makers and ministers.

To the decision-makers, I would like to emphasize that the current regional and global situations are exceptionally sensitive. It is time to discard outdated theories and reject misconceptions that have caused a lot of damage and hindered reform, such as the notions that “Kuwaitis are not hardworking” or “these types of jobs are not suited for Kuwaiti citizens.”

I dare to ask: Was it not the fathers of the current Kuwaiti youth who undertook such demanding jobs during the Iraqi invasion? Hasn’t it been recently proven through youth campaigns that young Kuwaiti men and women are fully capable of shouldering responsibility?

Consider a scenario where a war or disaster occurs. Who will manage the oil institutions and other public service facilities, especially if expatriates leave Kuwait? Is Kuwait truly in need of such a large number of employees in the public sector, particularly those who only focus on clocking in and out while spending their duty hours in cafes? Many of these employees lack specific job responsibilities, resulting in underemployment that is costly and unproductive.

Reflect on the lessons learned during the challenging seven-month period to build a capable and resilient state.

Syrian gang

Continued from Page 1

It was revealed that, in addition to the six Syrian expatriates, officers

from the General Department for Residency Affairs also arrested those who facilitated the crimes, and the Kuwaiti sponsors.

The ministry stated that legal procedures have been initiated and the arrested individuals have been referred to the concerned authorities.

It insisted that anyone involved in human trafficking or violation of the law will face stringent actions.

Kuwait governors

Continued from Page 1

He acknowledged the remarkable role of the Kuwaiti national resistance, whose members displayed the highest forms of sacrifice and redemption in defense of their homeland.

KUNA’s robust

Continued from Page 1

After announcing the intention to hold a Kuwaiti popular conference in Jeddah on October 13 1990, KUNA decided to start complete transmission through its national cadres from London via its new network.

The transmission process coincided with holding the conference, and KUNA resumed transmitting its English service in addition to the Arabic one. From October 3, 1990 until November 1991, KUNA was able to transmit about 16,110 news items.

Following the liberation in November 1991, the agency started transmitting items from its headquarters in Kuwait, and its plan of action completed by 1992.

Kuwait’s media has played a pivotal role at that period and was able to expose the Iraqi forces’ practices.

It also contributed to backing steadfastness of citizens over seven months until the country was liberated on February 26, 1991.

NATO, Kuwait

Continued from Page 1

The NIRC Director, Mohammad Al-Oraifan, proudly said that the NIRC has successfully organized public diplomacy events and training courses, e.g. on maritime security, with experts and instructors from NATO, as well as regional and local partners, instilling confidence in the Centre’s capabilities.

Al-Oraifan pointed out that the NIRC plays a pivotal role in hosting significant events related to the region, targeted to a high-level audience. Since last April, for example, the NIRC hosted a conference on climate change and security, a study day on food security, and a NATO Talk involving NATO’s Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy, Ambassador Boris Ruge. Now, the NIRC is proud to host its very first CAPSTONE seminar.

CAPSTONE is a programme run by the US National Defense University. It is a five-week course that ensures newly selected US generals and flag officers understand the fundamentals of joint doctrine and joint



Former Information Minister Badr Al-Yaqoub checking the damage.

KUNA photo

operational art, preparing them for the complex and evolving nature of modern warfare.

CAPSTONE fellows learn how to integrate the elements of national power to accomplish national security and national military strategies and how joint, inter-agency, and multinational operations support national strategic goals and objectives.

CAPSTONE focuses on working as a unified team across service branches, agencies, and nations to achieve shared national security goals. In addition to classroom seminars, CAPSTONE fellows engage in overseas field studies to understand regional security concerns, capabilities of allied and partner forces, and critical issues facing US combatant commanders.

28 people

Continued from Page 1

**Article 9:** A foreign woman who has acquired Kuwaiti nationality shall not lose it upon the termination of the marriage unless she thereupon reacquires her nationality of origin or acquires another nationality.

**Article 10:** A Kuwaiti woman who marries a foreigner shall not lose her Kuwaiti nationality unless she acquires the nationality of her husband at her own request.

**Article 11:** A Kuwaiti national shall lose his Kuwaiti nationality if he becomes voluntarily naturalized according to the law of another State. His wife, being a Kuwaiti national, shall not lose her Kuwaiti nationality by virtue of her husband’s naturalization unless she voluntarily acquires the nationality of her husband. His children, being minors, shall also lose their Kuwaiti nationality if they themselves acquire ipso facto the nationality of the State according to the law of which their father has become naturalized if that law so provides. Such children

shall reacquire Kuwaiti nationality upon their informing the Minister of Interior within two years following their attaining the age or majority of their wish to do so.

A Kuwaiti national who has lost his Kuwaiti nationality by virtue of the provisions of this article may reacquire his Kuwaiti nationality by Resolution of the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Minister of Interior, provided that he has lawfully resided in Kuwait for not less than one year and provided further that he applies for such re-acquisition and has renounced his foreign nationality. He shall resume his Kuwaiti nationality upon the acceptance of his application by the Council of Ministers.

Kuwait ready

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Airways Corporation announced Saturday its last flight from Beirut to Kuwait will be on Sunday, August 4, and urged passengers to be at the airport four hours before departure.

In a statement, the KAC urged passengers who want to reschedule their booking to call from outside Kuwait at hotline: 009611985181, 0096524345555 (171), or WhatsApp: 0096522200171.

The U.S. will move a fighter jet squadron to the Middle East and maintain an aircraft carrier in the region, the Pentagon said Friday, beefing up the American military presence to help defend Israel from possible attacks by Iran and its proxies and safeguard U.S. troops.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has also ordered additional ballistic missile defense-capable cruisers and destroyers to the European and Middle East regions and is taking steps to send more land-based ballistic missile defense weapons there, the Pentagon said in a statement Friday evening.

The shifts make good on a promise

President Joe Biden made to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In a call Thursday afternoon, Biden discussed new U.S. military deployments to protect against possible attacks from ballistic missiles and drones, according to the White House. In April, U.S. forces intercepted dozens of missiles and drones fired by Iran against Israel and helped down nearly all of them.

U.S. leaders worry about escalating violence in the Middle East in response to recent attacks by Israel on Hamas and Hezbollah leaders, which triggered threats of retaliation. Iran also has threatened to respond after Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran on Wednesday, a day after senior Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur was killed in Beirut.

Israel has vowed to kill Hamas leaders over the group’s Oct. 7 attack, which sparked the war in Gaza.

Austin is ordering the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to the Middle East to replace the USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group, which is in the Gulf of Oman but scheduled to come home later this summer. That decision suggests the Pentagon has decided to keep a carrier consistently in the region as a deterrent against Iran at least until next year.

The Pentagon did not say where the fighter jet squadron was coming from or where it would be based in the Middle East. A number of allies in the region are often willing to base U.S. military forces but don’t want it made public.

The Pentagon has options to provide additional land-based ballistic missile defense, such as the Patriot or the terminal high altitude area defense, known as THAAD, both of which launch interceptor missiles from specialized trailer-based mobile launching systems. The Pentagon did not identify what system it would be deploying to augment defenses in the region.

The White House in a statement said Biden “reaffirmed his commitment to Israel’s security against all threats from Iran, including its proxy terrorist groups

Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis.”

Earlier Friday, Sabrina Singh, Pentagon spokeswoman, told reporters that moves were in the works. She said Austin “will be directing multiple” force movements to provide additional support to Israel and increase protection for U.S. troops in the region.

Military and defense officials have been considering a wide array of options, from additional ships and fighter aircraft squadrons to added air defense systems or unmanned weapons. In many cases the U.S. does not provide details because host nations are very sensitive about the presence of additional U.S. forces and don’t want those movements made public.

It’s unclear what new ships would move to the Middle East.

The U.S. has had a consistent warship presence there and in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, including two Navy destroyers, the USS Roosevelt and the USS Bulkeley, as well as the USS Wasp and the USS New York. The Wasp and the New York are part of the amphibious ready group and carry a Marine expeditionary unit that could be used if any evacuation of U.S. personnel is required.

In addition, a U.S. official said that two U.S Navy destroyers that are currently in the Middle East will be heading north up the Red Sea toward the Mediterranean Sea. At least one of those could linger in the Mediterranean if needed.

Noose tightened

Continued from Page 1

**Article 1:** Article No. 10 bis shall be added to Civil Service Commission Resolution No. 41 of 2006 referred to, and its text shall be as follows:

**Article 10 bis:** Without prejudice to the leave regulations and the prescribed grace period, proof of the employee’s attendance, departure, and presence at the workplace during official working hours shall be by facial print.

The entity may also add other electronic means to the fingerprint systems in addition to facial print according to what it deems to be in the interest of work.

The employee must prove his presence at the workplace during official working hours by taking a fingerprint within sixty minutes following the expiration of two hours from the start of his shift.

This fingerprint does not bind the employee if he obtains permission, and any part of it must be signed within 60 minutes.

The employee who does not prove his presence in the manner stated in the previous paragraph within the sixty minutes referred to shall be deemed to have left during official working hours without permission.

However, in this case, the period following the expiration of two hours from his attendance until the time of proving his presence by fingerprint shall be included within the monthly delay periods by Article 18 of this resolution.

The Civil Service Commission may set other dates for taking a fingerprint to prove the employee’s presence at the workplace during official working hours according to the circumstances and interests of the work.



World News Roundup

Europe

**UK police brace for more violence:** Police are bracing for more violence Saturday following another night of rioting by far-right protesters that saw three officers hospitalized after a tense stand-off outside a mosque in northeast England.

In the city of Sunderland, protesters Friday evening tossed beer barrels, fire extinguishers and rocks at police officers near the Muslim house of worship. A car was set ablaze, and a police station was attacked. The protests over the past few days and nights have ostensibly erupted after a 17-year-old was arrested over Monday's stabbing rampage at a dance class that left three girls dead and several wounded.

False rumors spread online about the young man's identity, being a Muslim and an immigrant, fueled anger among far-right supporters. Suspects under 18 are usually not named in the U.K., but Judge Andrew Menary ordered Axel Rudakubana, born in Wales to Rwandan parents, to be identified, in part to stop the spread of misinformation.

"Anyone involved in the disorder we have seen can expect to be dealt with robustly and that action has already begun," said Northumbria Police Chief Superintendent **Helena Barron**. "Eight people have so far been arrested for a range of offenses, including violent disorder and burglary."

Barron said three officers were taken to hospital, and that one has been discharged. (AP)

**Don't take young kids to forest – Dutch province:** A central Dutch province is urgently warning parents not to take young children to a popular forest area near the city of Utrecht following two recent close encounters with a wolf displaying "atypical and worrying" behavior.

Utrecht province on Thursday was preparing to seek a permit to kill the wolf, which is a protected species throughout the European Union. It was seeking support and approval from the agriculture ministry for the permit.

On Wednesday, a child was pushed over by a wolf in Austerlitz, the province said in a statement. The incident came two weeks after another confrontation led to the closure of a popular walking area.

"Assuming it was a wolf involved, wolf experts say that the behavior displayed is atypical and worrying," the statement said. "The province takes seriously into account that it is the same wolf that was previously involved in incidents in Leusden with another girl and a dog." (AP)

**Driver held for gate crashing outside Irish PM office:** A driver was arrested early Friday morning in Dublin after crashing his van into gates outside the home of Ireland's president, the offices of the prime minister and the building housing parliament, police said.

Detectives questioning the suspect had ruled out terrorism as a motive.

The series of incidents occurred around 2 a.m., when government offices were closed, and no injuries were reported.

The van first rammed the fence outside the official residence of President Michael Higgins, but did not enter the grounds. The driver then traveled about 3 miles (5 kilometers) to central Dublin, where the van plowed into several gates outside two government building complexes.

Pickets in the sturdy iron fence outside the offices of Prime Minister Simon Harris were bent inward and the gate was knocked off its hinges outside the attorney general's office. (AP)

**22 injured during explosion in Germany:** Twenty-two people were injured by an explosion in the paddock area of Germany's famous Nuerbergring racetrack, police said Saturday.

Police said the accident, which they believe was caused by the explosion of a compressed air canister on Friday night, injured one person severely, three seriously and the others slightly, German news agency dpa reported. Police were still on the scene to investigate the cause on Saturday.

Several people were taken to nearby hospitals by helicopter. The accident took place behind a pit in track's paddock area during a test and set-up run ahead of the NLS4 race, officials at the track in the West German town of Nuerberg said in a statement.

Organizers said the NLS24 race would go ahead after consultation with all parties involved, but said participation was voluntary. (AP)

**Ukraine adds another Turkish corvette to its navy:** Ukraine has taken delivery of a second Turkish-built navy corvette, officials said Friday, although they did not say specifically how the warships might be used in the war against Russia.

Ukraine's first lady, Olena Zelenska, attended the launching ceremony of the Ada-class corvette during a visit to Turkey, the Ukrainian presidency announced on its website.

The corvette Ukraine already had is currently undergoing sea trials.

Turkish Ada-class ships are typically able to strike planes, other ships and submarines.

Ukraine, which has coastlines on the Black Sea and the smaller Sea of Azov, had a small navy at the time of Russia's February 2022 full-scale invasion.

But it has developed deeply uncrewed sea drones that have severely limited Moscow's Black Sea naval capability. (AP)

**Russia reports Ukraine drone barrage on regions:** Russian officials on Saturday said Ukrainian forces overnight targeted multiple Russian regions with a massive drone barrage.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement that its air defense systems "intercepted and destroyed" a total of 75 drones over a number of regions that lie on the border with Ukraine or not far from it, including Belgorod, Krasnodar, Kursk, Oryol, Rostov, Voronezh, and the Ryazan region deeper inside Russia. One of those drones was also shot down over the Azov sea, the statement said.

Thirty-six drones were destroyed over the Rostov region, according to the ministry. Rostov Gov. Vasily Golubev said in an online statement, however, that the region was attacked by a total of 55 drones. He didn't specify how many of these were intercepted and how many hit the targets, saying only that "warehouse facilities" in the Morozovsk and Kamensky districts sustained damage in the attack.

Ukraine's General Staff said Saturday in a Facebook post that its forces struck an airfield in Morozovsk, hitting ammunition depots with guided air bombs, as well as fuel depots in the Belgorod, Kursk and Rostov regions. (AP)

**Apartment block collapse kills 4 in Russia:** At least four people died after an apartment block in Russia's Ural Mountains collapsed following a gas explosion, the Russian Emergencies Ministry said Friday. Fifteen people have been rescued, but dozens more are feared trapped under the rubble.

Photos published by Russian agencies showed a large part of the five-story prefab building, in the industrial city of Nizhny Tagil, leveled to the ground.

According to Russia's Emergencies Ministry, the explosion of a natural gas tank was the likely cause. Residents of neighboring blocks told Russian news outlets that they heard a loud blast immediately before the collapse on Thursday.

A rescue operation involving heavy equipment and over 500 emergency workers continued to comb the debris on Friday, according to Russian emergency officials. They said they had so far freed 15 people, including seven children, as well as a cat. (AP)

**2 Belarusian journalists sentenced:** Two Belarusian journalists working for news outlets that the government of authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has declared extremist have been sentenced to prison, the country's leading human rights group said.

The convictions in a closed-door trial are the latest in a persistent crackdown on dissent and independent journalism. The severe repression began when huge protests arose after the disputed 2020 presidential election that gave Lukashenko a sixth term in office.

More than 35,000 people have been arrested in the crackdown. Many prominent opposition figures have fled the country and others have been sentenced to long prison terms.

The rights group Viasna says there are nearly 1,400 political prisoners currently in Belarus. (AP)



US Vice President Kamala Harris delivers remarks at a Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority gathering in Houston on July 31 in Houston. Harris has secured enough votes from delegates to become her party's nominee for president, Democratic National Committee Chair Jaime Harrison said on Aug 2. (AP)

Politics

Ohio removes 155K from voter rolls

Harris secures Democratic nom for prez

WASHINGTON, Aug 3, (AP): US Vice President Kamala Harris has secured enough votes from delegates to become her party's nominee for president, Democratic National Committee Chair Jaime Harrison said Friday.

The announcement was made before the online voting process ends on Monday, reflecting the breakneck speed of a campaign that is eager to maintain momentum after President Joe Biden ended his reelection bid and endorsed Harris as his successor less than two weeks ago.

Harris is poised to be the first woman of color at the top of a major party's ticket, and she joined a call with supporters to say she is "honored to be the presumptive Democratic nominee."

"It's not going to be easy. But we're going to get this done," she added. "As your future president, I know we are up to this fight."

Harrison pledged that Democrats "will rally around Harris and demonstrate the strength of our party" during their convention in Chicago later this month.

The Democratic National Committee did not provide details of the delegate vote count, including a number or state-by-state breakdowns, during a virtual event that had the flavor of a telethon, with campaign officials keeping tabs on a delegate-counting process whose result is a foregone conclusion.

Challenged

No other candidate challenged Harris for the nomination, and she swiftly solidified Democratic support in the days after Biden endorsed her.

Democrats still plan a state-by-state roll call during the party's convention, the traditional way that a nominee is chosen. However, that will be purely ceremonial because of the online voting.

As Harris prepares to face off with Republican nominee Donald Trump, her campaign is reorganizing its senior staff and bringing on a coterie of veterans of President Barack Obama's successful campaigns.

David Plouffe will serve as a senior adviser focused on Harris' pathway to the 270 Electoral College votes she needs to win the election. To take the role, he will stop consulting for TikTok, the social media app, as well as a podcast that he was hosting with Kellyanne Conway, the former Trump campaign manager, according to a person familiar with his plans.

In addition, Stephanie Cutter will advise on messaging and strategy, while Mitch Stewart will serve as senior adviser for battleground states.

Brian Nelson, who until recently was an undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence at the Treasury Department, has shifted to the campaign to advise Harris on policy.

Despite the new additions, many aspects of the campaign remain the same from when Biden was the candidate. Jen O'Malley Dillon still serves as chairwoman and will oversee the entire staff structure.

Other unchanged senior roles include Julie Chavez Rodriguez as campaign manager, Quentin Fuls as principal deputy campaign manager and Michael Tyler as communications director.

Sheila Nix will continue as Harris' senior adviser and chief of staff on the campaign. Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge, who was recently brought on as a campaign co-chair, is expanding her portfolio to include outreach and strategy.

Brian Fallon, who had been Harris' campaign communications director when Biden was still on the ticket, will now serve as senior adviser of communications.

Elizabeth Allen, most recently an undersecretary at the State Department, will be chief of staff for Harris' running mate, who has not yet been chosen. Harris is expected to interview candidates over the weekend.

Democratic officials have said the accelerated roll call process was necessary because of an Aug. 7 deadline to ensure candidates appear on the Ohio ballot.

Ohio state lawmakers have since changed the deadline, but the modification doesn't take effect until Sept. 1. Democratic attorneys said that waiting until after the initial deadline to determine a presidential nominee could prompt a legal challenge.

Also:

**WASHINGTON:** US Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign announced Friday that it raised \$310 million last month, an eye-popping sum showing that donors who once seemed spooked about the prospects for November's election with President Joe Biden are now offering mountains of cash to boost his former No. 2.

The haul by Harris, the Democratic National Committee and affiliated entities far outpaced Republican former president Donald Trump, whose campaign and assorted committeees said they took in \$138.7 million for July.

The vice president's campaign also says it entered August with \$377 million in cash on hand, which it described as the most for any presidential candidate at this point in the cycle. It was also well above the \$327 million Trump's team announced having to start the month.

"The tremendous outpouring of support we've seen in just a short time makes clear the Harris coalition is mobilized, growing, and ready to put in the work to defeat Trump this November," Harris campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez said in a statement. "Our money is going to the work that wins close elections."

Harris' team, meanwhile, is hoping for another jolt early next week, when she's expected to announce her own running mate, and during the Democratic convention, which opens in Chicago on Aug 19.

**COLUMBUS, Ohio:** Ohio has removed 155,000 inactive and out-of-date voter registrations from the state's voter rolls ahead of the November election, the state elections chief announced Friday.

Ohio Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose said inactive voters and non-US citizens were among those removed. He had directed county election directors in May to hunt through the voter rolls in an effort he says is legally mandated to remove inactive registrations.

"Every Ohioan, regardless of their political views, should care about accurate voter rolls," LaRose said in a statement Friday. "Diligent list maintenance helps prevent voter fraud and ensures the voice of the voters is heard on Election Day."

The effort targeted people who have moved and are no longer eligible to vote at their former address, those with four consecutive years of voter inactivity, and people whose registrations don't match certain details they provided to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, such as their name, birth date, or driver's license number.

**Miss. vehicle crash kills 6:** A two-vehicle crash in Winston County killed six people, including four children, authorities said.

The crash happened just before 10:30 pm Thursday on Highway 14 in the county about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northeast of Jackson, the Mississippi Highway Patrol said. Authorities told news outlets that a 2013 Kia Rio was traveling east when it collided with a 2013 Nissan Maxima that was traveling west on the highway.

Troopers said Laquarius R. Brown, 22, of Macon, the driver of the Nissan, died, Sara L. Batchelor, 25, of Sebastopol, the driver of the Kia, and her four passengers – a 16-year-old girl, a 6-year-old girl, a 3-year-old boy, and a 1-year-old girl – also died in the crash. (AP)

**Ex-Louisiana mayor arrested:** A woman who abruptly resigned her mayoral seat in a small southwest Louisiana city a week ago is now facing a rape charge involving a minor.

Louisiana State Police arrested Misty Clanton Roberts, 42, on charges of third-degree rape and contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. She was released from the Beauregard Parish jail after posting \$75,000 bond, news outlets reported.

It was not immediately known if an arraignment had been scheduled. (AP)



In this photo released by the Telegram channel of the head of Nizhny Tagil Vladislav Pinyaev on Aug 1 Russian Emergency Ministry workers are seen near a multi-storey building partially collapsed presumably due to gas explosion in Nizhny Tagil, 1400km (870 miles) east from Moscow, Sverdlovsk region, Russia. At least four people died after an apartment block in Russia's Ural Mountains collapsed following a gas explosion, the Russian Emergencies Ministry said on Aug 2. (AP)



Noreika



Biden

America

**Man dies parachuting:** A man died at Grand Canyon National Park after attempting the high-risk parachute leap from Yavapai Point on the South Rim, the park said Friday.

The park did not name the person who died Thursday morning because it was still awaiting positive identification and needed to notify his family.

The jump attempt had been reported to the Grand Canyon Regional Communications Center. Park rangers were able to recover the man's body about 500 feet (15.4 meters) below the rim early Friday, along with a deployed parachute.

The body was transported to the rim by helicopter and subsequently taken to the Coconino County Medical Examiner's Office.

The National Park Service and the medical examiner's office are conducting an investigation into what happened.

BASE jumping is a high-risk activity involving parachuting from fixed objects and illegal throughout Grand Canyon National Park. (AP)

**Biden set to be sentenced in Nov:** Hunter Biden is set to be sentenced on felony firearms charges in November under an order signed by a judge on Friday.

The president's son could face up to 25 years in prison at sentencing set for Nov. 13 in Wilmington, Delaware, but as a first-time offender he is likely to get far less time or avoid prison entirely.

Hunter Biden is also facing another trial on tax charges in California set to begin in September. He's charged in that case with failing to pay \$1.4 million in taxes.

President Joe Biden, who dropped his reelection bid last month, has said he will not use his presidential powers to pardon his son or lessen his sentence. Hunter Biden was convicted of three felonies after lying on a federal form to purchase the gun by saying he wasn't a drug user in 2018, a period when he has acknowledged struggling with addiction.

US District Judge Maryellen Noreika, who was nominated to the bench by former Republican President Donald Trump, will decide how much time, if any, Hunter Biden

serves behind bars at the sentencing scheduled to fall shortly after Election Day.

He was supposed to plead guilty to misdemeanor tax offenses and avoid prosecution in the gun case if he stayed out of trouble for two years in a deal with prosecutors last year. (AP)

Firefighters walk in front of pit 27 in the pit lane of the Nuerbergring auto racing circuit, in Nuerbergring, Germany, on Aug 2. Twenty-two people were injured by an explosion in the paddock area of Germany's famous Nuerbergring racetrack, police said on Aug 3. (AP)



Firefighters walk in front of pit 27 in the pit lane of the Nuerbergring auto racing circuit, in Nuerbergring, Germany, on Aug 2. Twenty-two people were injured by an explosion in the paddock area of Germany's famous Nuerbergring racetrack, police said on Aug 3. (AP)



Africa

9 dead in Nigeria rallies

32 killed in Somalia beach attack: police

MOGADISHU, Somalia, Aug 3, (AP): Police in Somalia said Saturday that 32 people died and 63 others were wounded in an attack on a beach hotel in the capital, Mogadishu, the previous evening.

Al-Qaeda's East Africa affiliate, al-Shabab, said through its radio that its fighters carried out the attack.

Police spokesperson Maj Abdifatah Ade Hassan told journalists that one soldier was killed in the attack and that the rest were civilians. Another soldier was also wounded in the attack, Hassan said. Witnesses reported an explosion followed by gunfire.

Lido Beach, a popular area in Mogadishu, is bustling on Friday nights as Somalis enjoy their weekend.

A witness, Mohamud Moalim, told The Associated Press that he saw an attacker wearing an explosive vest moments before the man "blew himself up next to the beach-view hotel."

Moalim said some of his friends who were with him at the hotel were killed and others were wounded.

Another witness, Abdisalam Adam, told the AP that he "saw many people lying on the ground" and had helped take some wounded people to the hospital.

Targeted

The Lido Beach area has in the past been targeted by militants allied to al-Shabab. The most recent attack last year killed nine people.

In a separate attack on Saturday, state media reported that seven people died after a passenger vehicle hit a roadside bomb some 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the capital.

Al-Shabab still controls parts of southern and central Somalia and continues to carry out attacks in Mogadishu and other areas while extorting millions of dollars a year from residents and businesses in its quest to impose an Islamic state.

Somali President **Hassan Sheikh Mohamud** last year declared a "total war" on the militants as the country starts taking charge of its own security.

The Friday attack comes a month after Somalia started the third phase of the drawdown of peacekeeping troops under the the African Union Transition Mission.

Also:

**ABUJA, Nigeria:** Nigerian security forces clashed with protesters during mass demonstrations over the country's economic crisis, leaving at least nine people dead, a rights group said Friday. One police officer was killed as the military threatened to intervene to quell any violence.

Meanwhile, four people were killed and 34 injured Thursday when a bomb went off in a crowd of protesters in the conflict-hit northeastern state of **Borno**, authorities said.

Police continued to fire tear gas at protesters in various locations, including the capital of Abuja, as they regrouped on Friday.

The military will also intervene if the looting and destruction of public properties witnessed on Thursday continued, Nigeria's defense chief Gen **Christopher Musa** said. "We will not fold our arms and allow this country to be destroyed," Musa told reporters in Abuja.

More than 400 protesters had been arrested as of Friday, the Nigerian police said. Curfews were imposed in five northern states after the looting of government and public properties, but protesters defied the curfews in some places, resulting in arrests and clashes with police.

National police chief **Kayode Egbetokun** said Thursday night that the police are on red alert and may seek the help of the military.

Amnesty International's Nigeria director **Isa Sanusi** said in an interview that the group independently verified deaths that were reported by witnesses, families of the victims, and lawyers.

The protests were mainly over food shortages and accusations of misgovernment and corruption in Africa's most populous country. Nigeria's public officials are among the best paid in Africa, a stark contrast in a country that has some of the world's poorest and hungriest people despite being one of the continent's top oil producers.

The cost-of-living crisis - the worst in a generation - is fueled by surging inflation that is at a 28-year high and the government's economic policies that have pushed the local currency to record low against the dollar.

Carrying placards, bells, tree branches and Nigeria's green-and-white flag, the mostly young protesters chanted songs as they listed their demands, including the reinstatement of gas and electricity subsidies that were canceled as part of an economic reform effort.

Violence and looting were concentrated in Nigeria's northern states, which are among the hardest hit by hunger and insecurity.

Egbetokun, the police chief, said officers "aimed at ensuring peaceful conduct." But, he added "regrettably, events in some major cities today showed that what was being instigated was mass uprising and looting, not protest."

**HARARE, Zimbabwe:** Zimbabwe police have arrested 18 political activists and hauled some of them off a plane, their lawyers said Thursday, in the latest clamp-down by the government after warning it would crush opposition protests ahead of its hosting of a meeting of the southern African heads of state this month.

The Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights group said it was representing the activists, who were detained on Wednesday.

Among the activists arrested is **Namatai Kwekweza**, a 25-year-old pro-democracy campaigner and the inaugural winner of the Kofi Annan NextGen Democracy Prize in 2023. The prize is awarded by the late United Nations secretary-general's foundation to young people committed to the principles of democracy.

Amnesty International has condemned the arrests, while Annan's foundation said it was "deeply concerned" by the incident.

Kwekweza and three other activists were removed from a plane on the tarmac of the Robert Mugabe International Airport in the capital, Harare. Another 14 activists were arrested the same day for holding a protest in another town.

The four taken off the plane are being charged with disorderly conduct for being part of a courthouse protest in late June demanding the release of 77 opposition party members who have been in pre-trial detention for over six weeks.



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits an air force helicopter unit to praise the troops for helping rescue people from recent floods, at an undisclosed location in North Korea on Aug 2. (AP)

Asia

Kim accuses SKorea of smear campaign over floods

Lam confirmed as new Communist Party chief

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Aug 3, (AP): Vietnamese President To Lam was confirmed Saturday as the new chief of the Communist Party after his predecessor died July 19.

Lam will be the general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the country's most powerful political role, state media said. It was unclear if Lam will stay in his role as president.

The previous general secretary, Nguyen Phu Trong, dominated Vietnamese politics since he became party chief in 2011. He was elected to a third term as general secretary in 2021. He was an ideologue who viewed corruption as the gravest threat facing the party.

In his first speech as the Communist Party chief, Lam said that him taking the reigns was because of "an urgent need to ensure the leadership of the party."

Lam said he would maintain the legacies of his predecessor, notably the anti-corruption campaign that has rocked the country's political and business elites and a pragmatic approach to foreign policy known as bamboo diplomacy - a phrase coined by Trong referring to the plant's flexibility, bending but not breaking in the shifting headwinds of global geopolitics.

Lam spent over four decades in the Ministry of Public Security before becoming the minister in 2016. As Vietnam's top security official, Lam led Trong's sweeping anti-graft campaign until May, when he became president following the resignation of his predecessor, who stepped down after being caught by the campaign.

Big changes in Vietnam's strategic approach are unlikely, said Nguyen Khac Giang, a visiting fellow in the Vietnam Studies Program at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, but Lam's relative newness to governing meant that it remains to be seen how he will lead.

Given the current composition of the upper echelons of Vietnamese politics, Giang said it was possible that Lam's promotion could mean an end to the internal fighting that has rocked the party for several years.

"To Lam is the new unchallenged power who will dominate Vietnamese politics in the years, if not a decade, ahead," he said.

Giang said the party will vote for the general secretary again in 2026, and Lam's performance will be a factor.

"For now, however, it seems a new era has come," he said.

Also:

**SEOUL, South Korea:** North Korean leader **Kim Jong Un** accused South Korea's "rubbish" media of tarnishing

Death toll from bridge collapse in China's Shaanxi raised to 38

BEIJING, Aug 3, (AP): The death toll has risen to 38 from the partial collapse of a highway bridge that plunged two dozen vehicles into a rushing river two weeks ago, China's state broadcaster CCTV reported Friday evening, while a separate tunnel collapse and landslides in southwestern Sichuan province in the early morning Saturday have killed at least two.

The report said 24 people were still missing from the July 19 disaster in the province of Shaanxi in China's northwest. One person was saved.

The area where the bridge on the Danning highway fell had experienced heavy rains in the preceding days.

At least 25 cars fell into the river, according to CCTV, and teams have searched kilometers (miles) downstream looking for victims.

**2 dead in Philippine ambush:** A town vice mayor and his security aide were killed, and two others, including the vice mayor's 11-year-old child, were wounded after gunmen ambushed his car in Ma-

guindanao del Sur province in the southern Philippines, police said Saturday.

In a report, the provincial police said unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets into the vice mayor's pickup truck in South Upi town at around 5 pm local time on Friday, killing the official and his aide at the scene.

The official's wife and child suffered slight injuries in the attack, while another child, aged 13, was unhurt, police added.

**Manila Chinatown fire kills 11:** A fire swept through a part of a small building in Manila's crowded Chinatown district Friday, leaving at least 11 people dead, police said, adding that an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the blaze.

About 14 firetrucks battled for more than two hours to control the blaze in an old five-story building in one of the world's oldest Chinatowns, a densely populated river-side section of the capital.

Fire investigator **Roderick Andres** said the fire started in an eatery on the ground floor, and that several of its staff were among the dead.

dress the "humanitarian challenges" facing North Korean residents in flood-affected areas near the country's border with China.

It was widely expected that North Korea would reject the offer. Animosity between the war-divided rivals is at its highest in years over the North's growing nuclear ambitions and the South's expansion of combined military exercises with the United States and Japan to counter the North's threats.

The North had also rejected South Korea's offers for help while battling a COVID-19 outbreak in 2022.

North Korean state media reports said recent heavy rains left 4,100 houses, 7,410 acres of agricultural fields and numerous other public buildings, structures, roads and railways flooded in the northwestern city of Sinuiju and the neighboring town of Uiju.

State media has not provided information on deaths, but Kim was quoted blaming public officials who had neglected disaster prevention, causing "the casualty that cannot be allowed."

accepting bribes to protect brothels, but who had been kept on the force anyway. He was on medical leave at the time of his death.

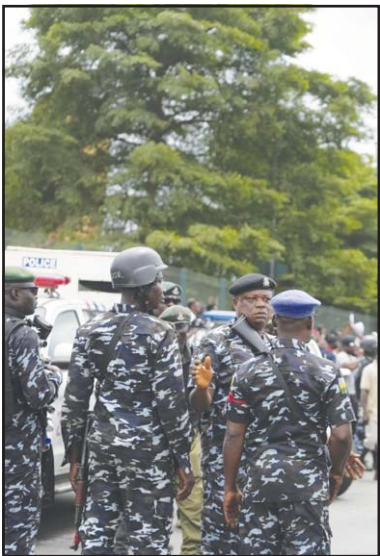
**Honduras 'El Tigre' gets 19 yrs:** The former chief of the Honduran National Police was sentenced to 19 years in prison after he pleaded guilty in a conspiracy to protect shipments of cocaine destined for the United States.

Juan Carlos Bonilla Valladares, 64, better known as "El Tigre" or "The Tiger," was a member of the Honduran National Police for decades before becoming its leader for a year in 2012.

He rose to power by enabling cocaine trafficking on a massive scale and using violence, including murder, to protect the drug trade, prosecutors said in a presentencing brief. They had asked that he be sentenced to 30 years in prison.

The sentence in Manhattan federal court was announced by Judge P. Kevin Castel.

In a brief by the defense, attorney Donald Vogelmann requested a sentence of 10 years in prison. He wrote that Bonilla Valladares "was not always involved in illegal activities" and that although he admitted his guilt in a drug conspiracy, "he adamantly denies being involved in any murders." (AP)



Police attend as people protest against economic hardship, on the streets in Lagos, Nigeria on Aug 2. At least nine people were killed by security forces as protesters clashed with police during mass demonstrations over the country's economic crisis, a rights group said on Friday, while authorities said a police officer was killed and several others injured. (AP)



Blinken



Urrutia

Lat/Am

**US congratulates Urrutia:** US Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** congratulated Venezuelan opposition candidate for winning the majority of votes last Sunday, despite the National Electoral Council declaring President Nicolas Maduro the winner of a third term.

In a statement on Friday, the US State Department indicated that Blinken, in a phone call, spoke with opposition candidate **Edmundo Urrutia** and Maria Machado, as he congratulated Urrutia for receiving the most votes in Venezuela's July 28 presidential elections.

Blinken expressed concern for the safety and well-being of the opposition candidate and leader following the elections, condemning all forms of political violence and repression.

He also praised the Venezuelan people for their dedication to democracy in the face of significant challenges, reaffirming the US commitment to supporting the restoration of democratic standards in Venezuela. (KUNA)

**Venezuela oppn HQs ransacked:** Half a dozen masked assailants ransacked the headquarters of Venezuela's opposition Friday in an escalation of violence against President Nicolás Maduro's opponents after several countries called for proof of his claim he had won the disputed presidential election.

Assailants broke down doors and hauled away valuable documents and equipment in the raid around 3 a.m., opposition leader María Corina Machado's party said. Several walls were covered in black spray paint.

The raid follows threats by top officials, including Maduro, to arrest Machado, who has gone into hiding while still urging Venezuelans and the international community to challenge Sunday's election results.

The Biden administration has thrown its support firmly behind the opposition, recognizing candidate Edmundo González as the victor and discrediting the National Electoral Council's official results. (AP)



**4 men killed in Cancun:** Police on Mexico's Caribbean coast said Friday they have found the bodies of four men, including a policeman, shot to death near a resort just south of Cancun.

The victims all had apparently been shot in the head and were found dumped near the highway leading out of Cancun, said Luis Rodríguez Bucio, the assistant head of



This photo taken on Aug 3, 2024 shows the collapse site of a tunnel bridge at the section between Kangding City and Luding County of the Ya'an-Kangding expressway in southwest China's Sichuan Province. Houses were washed away and villagers were missing after a flash flood in southwest China's Sichuan Province on Saturday, local authorities said. (Xinhua)



Market Movements					02-08-2024	
	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	Change +478.13	Closing pts 78,240.78		
	DUBAI	- DFMGI	-42.61	4,237.28		
	JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	-2,216.63	35,909.70		
	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-88.53	6,605.30		
	BRITAIN	- FTSE 100	-108.65	8,174.71		
	EUROPE	- Euro Stoxx 50	-127.02	4,638.70		

# Business

Premier market index drops 0.43% amidst profit-taking

## Boursa Kuwait begins August with 0.35% decline

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Trading on the Boursa Kuwait began August with a downturn, as the general market index fell by 0.35 percent, or 25.28 points, closing at 7,214.13 points, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Liquidity reached approximately 50 million dinars, with 207.7 million shares changing hands through 12,737 transactions. Of the 122 traded shares, 47 gained, 59 lost, and 16 remained unchanged.

The Premier Market Index experienced a loss of 0.43 percent, or 34.01 points, ending at 7,865.46 points, with liquidity at 39.5 million dinars. A total of 126.5 million shares were traded through 8,162 transactions, with 34 shares traded -- 12 gained, 19 lost, and 3 remained unchanged.

Conversely, the main market index saw a slight increase of 0.05 percent, or 2.96 points, closing at 6,071.57 points. Liquidity amounted to 9.9 million dinars, with 81.2 million shares traded through 4,575 transactions. Out of 88 traded shares, 35 gained, 40 lost, and 13 remained unchanged.

The downturn in the banking sector's share prices, following significant gains in July, was deemed deserved and logical.

Despite a positive overall market performance and increased liquidity in July compared to previous months, the Kuwait Stock Exchange's opening in August saw limited trading activity with initial liquidity at just 700,000 dinars.

Banking sector stocks, particularly Gulf Bank, faced profit-taking after recent highs but closed with a modest loss of 4 fils. Notable declines were also observed in shares of KFH, Watani, Boubyan, and projects and buildings.

Amidst the declines, some stocks, particularly smaller banking sector stocks like Warba Bank and Al-Ahly, showed positive activity.

GFH rebounded above 100 fils, while Eid stock rose by 2 percent

## KOC's \$223 million pipeline upgrade project advances

HEISCO wins major EPC contract

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: A \$223 million project to upgrade a gas pipeline network in western Kuwait has achieved key targets and is on schedule, with valves and pipes still being installed, according to MEED, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Heavy Engineering Industries & Shipbuilding Company (HEISCO) has won the main contract for the project in December 2022. Unlike typical flow line contracts in Ku-

wait, which are awarded on a lump sum turnkey (LSTK) basis, this contract uses the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) model but is not on an LSTK basis.

The contract was awarded for a period of four years. The scope of the project includes construction of gas flow lines, installation of hot taps, installation of valves, installation of surface safety valves and control systems and panels, installation of booster pumps, civil works, piping works, cleaning works, fabrication works and construction of associated facilities.

The flow lines are pipelines that connect a single wellhead to manifold or processing equipment. They are used in both onshore and offshore fields and can be placed either on the surface or below the surface.

In large oil and gas fields, multiple flow lines connect individual wells to a manifold, while a gathering line transports the flow from the manifold to a pre-treatment stage, transfer facility, or ship.

Since the beginning of 2020, the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has tendered a large number of flowline projects. Many of these projects were valued at less than \$100 million, although several of the larger projects were worth around \$250 million.

## Turkiye and GCC negotiate major free trade zone deal

ANKARA, Aug 3, (KUNA): Ongoing negotiations between Türkiye and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States aim to set up one of the largest free trade zones in the world, said Turkish officials on Thursday.

Citing some officials who spoke on condition of anonymity, Anadolu Ajansi said when a free zone deal is signed between Türkiye and the GCC members, the two sides will have one of the main free trade zones in the world.

The volume of trade between Türkiye and GCC states hit USD 31.5 billion

by 2023, it revealed.

Türkiye and the GCC aim to sign a deal suitable for global economic conditions to provide new opportunities for the private sector, it said.

Ankara seeks to boost its exports to Gulf countries, mainly agriculture and technology, through a free trade zone deal whose first round of negotiations began two days ago, it stated.

Many Turkish companies have become global trademarks in various sectors, including telecommunications, contracting and health tourism that play active roles in the Gulf countries.

### Other Voices

## EU secures oil supply amid decline in Russian imports

By Kamel Al-Harami  
Independent Oil Analyst

IS Europe dependent on Russian energy supplies? This question seems to have reached a final conclusion that Russian oil supply is no longer needed. With sufficient supplies from Arabian Gulf suppliers, thanks to recent agreements with Qatar and Abu Dhabi, and similar agreements with U.S. suppliers of oil and gas, does it mean the end of any energy crisis facing Europe?



Al-Harami

Certainly, there are positive signs supporting our point. Oil prices have decreased and begun to stabilize around the \$80s level. Currently, Brent crude is around \$77 per barrel, not even reaching the \$80 range. With OPEC+ being fully committed to its production quotas, this may indicate lower demand and sufficient oil supply. This could contribute to a stable oil and gas market, potentially mitigating the risk of an energy crisis.

The question that needs to be answered today is - how will oil producing countries manage with such low oil prices, given that they need a minimum of \$90 per barrel to balance their annual budgets and expenses?

Despite Europe being well-protected by both Gulf suppliers and U.S. sources, and the sanctions against Russian oil that have been in place since 2023, petroleum products are still finding their way through. This is likely due to processing facilities in other parts

of the world that handle Russian crude. It is almost impossible to distinguish between petroleum products sourced from Russian oil and those of other crude oils. India has emerged as the biggest supplier of Russian oil to Europe.

The European Union imported approximately 1.75 million tons (or 11.3 million barrels) of oil per day from Russia between 2021 and 2023, peaking in 2022. By November 2023, these imports had dropped to below 2 million metric tons. However, gas imports from Russia remain the highest, accounting for 54 percent of EU gas imports due to the ongoing pipeline connection with Russia and the lack of marine facilities for receiving marine shipments from the Arabian Gulf and the US.

Arabian Gulf oil and gas producers are gradually ramping up efforts to replace Russian supplies, either directly or indirectly, such as through the shipment of Russian crude via India.

Regarding the recent dip in oil prices to \$77 per barrel, the key question is - what action will OPEC+ take in response, especially since most of its members are adhering to their agreed quotas?

This raises the possibility of \$77 becoming the new norm, potentially setting the stage for revised growth and economic recovery. Oil-producing and exporting countries may need to take measures to address their annual budget deficits in this context.

Despite European efforts to reduce reliance on Russian energy, Russia is likely to remain a major player in both the oil and gas markets. Europe may find it challenging to completely sever ties with its principal gas supplier.

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\$3.65 billion in sustainable assets, green investments up

## NBK releases 2023 sustainability report highlighting ESG milestones

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Under-scoring its pioneering role and corporate approach to fully integrate sustainability into the core of its business activities and operations, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has released its Sustainability Report for 2023, highlighting the key milestones achieved and contributions made towards implementing its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Strategy over the past year.

The Eighth Annual Sustainability Report showcases the strategic initiatives implemented by NBK during 2023 in relation to compliance with ESG standards, material issues, opportunities, challenges, and the noticeable progress made in its strides towards a sustainable future, which it embarked on since 2016. It also brings into focus the commitments it is determined to fulfil going forward.

The report also presents a holistic perspective on NBK's strategic approach to sustainability, which aims to positively impact the communities it serves, while driving sustainable growth in line with global best practices. In this report, NBK reinforces its commitment to increasing value creation opportunities for all through a range of actions aimed at reducing environment impact, accelerating the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, promoting diversity, equity and inclusion, and empowering communities by making banking accessible for all.

The 2023 report is centered around the four pillars of NBK's ESG Strategy Framework, formulated to tackle the critical issues that matter most to our stakeholders and are of significance to our business. The report outlines the achievements made in relation to each of these four pillars (Governance for Resilience; Responsible Banking; Capitalizing on Our Capabilities; and Investing in our Communities), and the related material issues, initiatives implemented, and future goals and targets.

Notably, NBK Sustainability Report for 2023 is aligned to both domestic and global sustainability or ESG reporting standards and frameworks including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG), the UN Global Compact (UNGC), Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, Sustainable Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and Boursa Kuwait's ESG Reporting Guidelines. To promote transparency and accountability in the banking sector, NBK obtained independent third-party verifications to the alignment of the 2023 report with the GRI standards, as



NBK sustainable future.

well as the conformity of its GHG footprint for 2023 with the GHG Protocol.

### Sustainable Finance

Among the achievements highlighted in the report, the Bank's Sustainable Assets reached USD 3.65 billion as of 31 December 2023, representing more than 36% of 2030 USD 10 billion target. This includes designated financing and lending to our clients to support them achieve their environmental and social goals, investments in sustainable financing instruments, in addition to investing in the bank's physical assets that have an environmental or social impact.

In this context, NBK increased its investments in green assets through extending financial support for a wide array of environmental projects that focus on renewable energy, clean transport, green buildings, and sustainable water and wastewater management across various sectors, in efforts to accelerate the achievement of the UN SDGs.

The sustainability and sustainable finance landscapes are rapidly evolving as new research, regulations, frameworks, standards, and tools emerge globally. In 2023, NBK invested in the capacity building of its client-facing employees to ensure they are equipped with the requisite knowledge they

need to proactively support clients through their own transition plans, providing 108 training hours in sustainable finance to 36 key champions.

The report also highlights the new sustainable products launched for our retail consumers in 2023, expanding our consumer offerings to include eco-friendly electric vehicles (EV) and housing loans in partnership with prominent car dealers and sustainable product providers in Kuwait. By choosing any of the loans, consumers are now able to gain an advantage from competitive interest rates that are lower than the current commercial schemes, whilst benefiting from innovative and energy-efficient solutions.

### Strong Governance

Fundamental to effective implementation of the ESG strategy, the report presents the ESG governance framework NBK has developed and which the Board has approved. This dynamic ESG governance framework consists of a Sustainability and Climate Change (S&CC) Committee and five sub-committees, operating under the Board of Directors' oversight, responsible for managing ESG-related matters. The S&CC Committee and its five Sub-Committees convened several times during FY2023 to establish mandate and formalize the ESG



NBK headquarters.

- The Bank's Sustainable Assets reached USD 3.65 billion, representing more than 36% of 2030 USD 10 billion target
- Reduced overall disclosed GHG emissions by 10.43% compared to baseline year (2021)
- Reduced electricity consumption by 5.75% YoY, recycled 99.25 metric tons of paper
- Local suppliers represented 70% of NBK's total suppliers, and local procurement accounted for 84% of total procurement spending
- Nationalization rate reached 76.7%, while women representation reached 44% of the total workforce
- Women accounted for 28.8% of managerial positions
- NBK has raised the standard of green assets within its portfolio, extending financial support for clean technologies across various sectors

Strategy Roadmap for FY2023-2025.

Instrumental to governance resilience is adequate management of climate-related risks and opportunities. NBK adeptly manages ESG trade-offs concerning strategic and operational decisions. In this context, NBK institutionalized alignment with there commendations of Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) during the year and developed a roadmap for adequately integrating climate-related matters in the bank's enterprise risk management framework. We are establishing formal systems to identify, assess, and manage climate and ESG-related risks and opportunities associated with our activities and business relationships.

### Environmental Stewardship

The report also sheds light on the progress made in reducing environmental impact and improving resource management, highlighting the notable reduction achieved in overall disclosed GHG emissions by 10.43% compared to our 2021 baseline year, in addition to the re-

duction of electricity consumption by 5.75% YoY and 15.8% compared to our 2021 baseline year. To effectively manage environmental impact from operations, NBK implemented Building Energy Management System (BEMS) in 22 standalone local branches and approved the installation of solar panels in 24 branches by 2025.

On the same note, the report presents NBK's responsible waste management practices, which includes recycling 99.25 metric tons of paper, representing 87% of total paper usage. The recycling of paper resulted in saving 1,687 trees, 406,921 kWh of energy, and 694,743 gallons of water.

### Work Environment

Considering the working environment as a key aspect for fostering long-term organization success, the report highlights the Bank's ongoing efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace, its sustainable approach to employee development and engagement, and promoting employee well-being.

In 2023, women representation reached 44% of the total workforce, with 28.8% in managerial positions. ESG-related training hours reached 3,306 hours, with a focus on Sustainability Awareness, Sustainable Finance, and Climate Risk Management. NBK also took proactive steps in developing a Staff Complaint and Grievance Policy to promote a safe, transparent, and open working environment. We prioritized employee health and wellbeing through various targeted initiatives and enhanced policies, including providing employees with on-site specialized medical advice at NBK Clinic.

### Supply Chain

The report also underscores NBK's commitment to fully integrating ESG standards across the supply chain, as of 2023, local suppliers represented 70% of NBK's total suppliers, and local procurement expenditure accounted for 84% of total procurement spending. NBK has also revised its Procurement Policy with the inclusion of ESG principles, implementing a more sustainable procurement strategy and methodology.

### Community Investments

Community Investments totaled KD 28 million in 2023, a 22% increase from 2022, which includes committing KD 3.0 million for the restructuring of Shuwaikh Beach Waterfront in line with NBK's corporate social responsibility and sustainability principles. Approximately 56% of NBK's corporate social responsibility (CSR) contributions were directed towards initiatives aimed at providing youth with market exposure, valuable experience, and essential financial knowledge. NBK's instrumental efforts were recognized with the award "Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility in the Middle East 2023" by Euromoney.

NBK continues to foster financial inclusion, accessibility, and literacy, facilitating KD 20 million in 2023 to small, and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), achieving a 12% YoY growth. This is coupled with the official launch of the 'Bankee' financial literacy program in Kuwait's public and private schools, with 15,940 students and around 3,400 teachers participating.

In efforts to foster and nurture local talent, Kuwaitization rate reached 76.7% as of 31 December 2023. Approximately 70% of management positions at NBK were occupied by Kuwaiti citizens within the reporting period. A key factor in increasing our Kuwaitization percentage is through new employee hires. In 2023, 84.5% of our newly hired employees were Kuwaiti.



# Kuwait Finance House achieves MSCI ESG ‘A’ rating

The best rating among Kuwaiti banks

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has been awarded an “A” rating by MSCI for its exemplary performance in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices. This prestigious rating underscores KFH’s commitment to sustainable finance and its leadership in integrating ESG principles into its operations and strategic initiatives.

KFH Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, emphasized that KFH’s rating on the MSCI ESG Index was upgraded from BBB to A, making it the highest rating to be received among Kuwaiti banks.

Al Rushood added in a press statement that the “A” rating is attributed to the remarkable progress made by the Bank in advancing the implementation of sustainability standards and contributing to achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). The rating also reflects the success of efforts made in executing sustainable initiatives across the Bank’s operational, financial, administrative, social, and environmental activities.

Rating Criteria

Al Rushood said that the MSCI ESG Index evaluated KFH across a number of criteria, the first and most important is having a solid and effective governance framework. KFH is the first bank to have formed a committee as part of the Board of Directors specifically for governance and sustainability. KFH is also the first bank to have designed an integrated sustainability strategy covering the four pillars of economy, environment, society, and governance, aligning them with the sustainable development goals (SDGs). In addition, KFH is the first bank to have established a department assigned to monitoring sustainability; promoting green finance products; managing talent; and promoting financial inclusion, commitment to responsible banking operations, optimal resource utilization, lead-



Abdulwahab Al Rushood, Acting Group CEO

Al Rushood

- Rating upgraded from “BBB” to “A” for exemplary performance in environmental, social, and governance (ESG)

ing community initiatives that serve all segments of society, and contributing to the environment through initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions that lead to climate change.

He highlighted the significance of KFH being rated on global sustainability indices, as investors use ESG ratings as effective tools to identify investment opportunities in companies that abide by sustainability standards, which in turn contribute to reducing risks in their investment portfolios.

Global Ratings

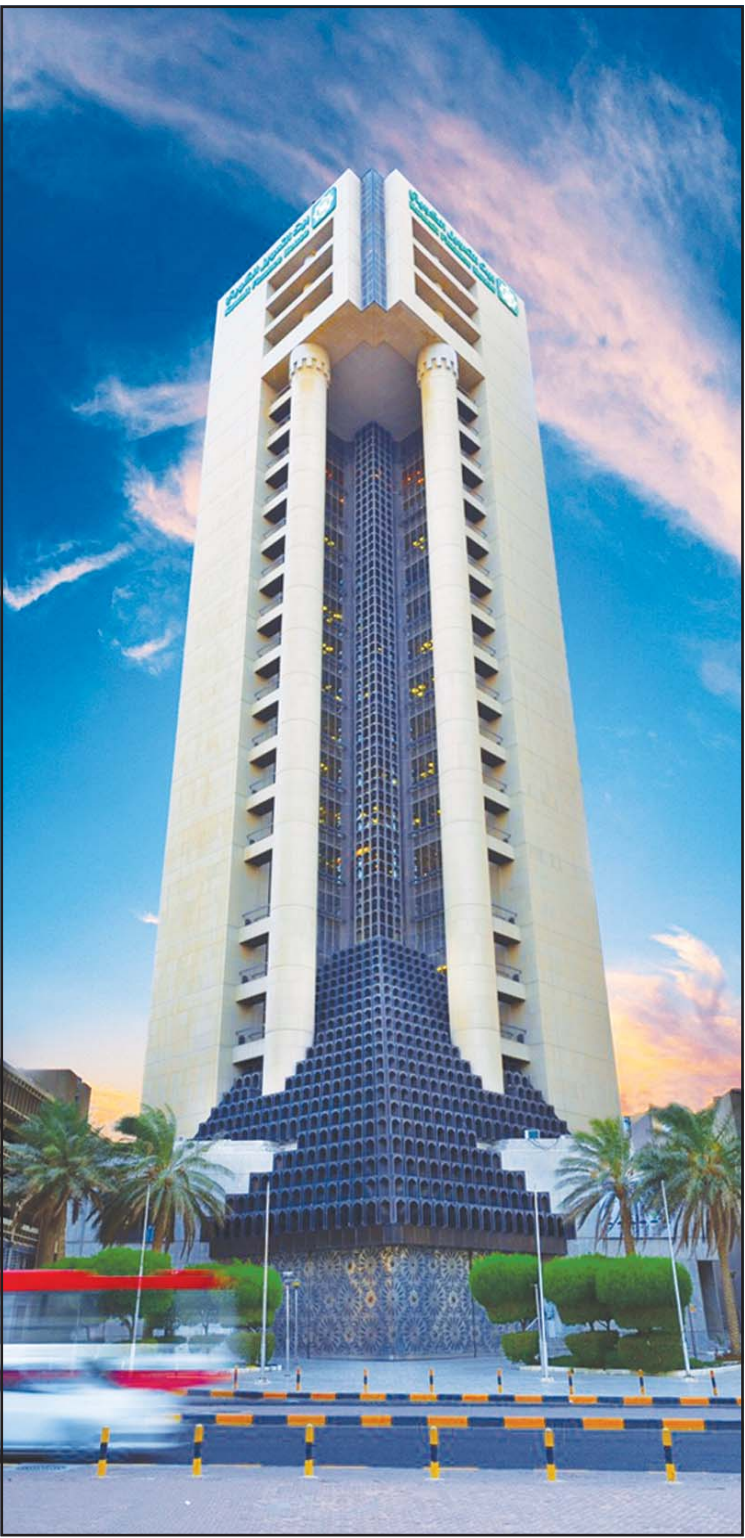
Al Rushood added that the “A” rating of the MSCI ESG Index is one of many global achievements that KFH has made in sustainability. The Bank was rated on the global sustainability index, FTSE-4Good Index Series, and received a high 24.7 rating – the highest

among Kuwaiti banks - for sustainability risks (ESG Risks) on the Sustainalytics index.

KFH was also awarded internationally with Kuwait’s Best Bank for Sustainable Finance Award by Global Finance magazine, Kuwait’s Best Bank for ESG by Euromoney, and Corporate Social Responsibility – Middle East Award from EMEA Finance, in addition to many other awards. Furthermore, the KFH Auto Showroom received the Global Sustainability Assessment System GSAS – Gold Level Certificate, first-of-its-kind in Kuwait.

Most prominent initiatives implemented by KFH in the field of sustainability:

- Promoting financial inclusion through quality digital services and geographical expansion in 12 countries.
- Issuing its sustainability reports



KFH headquarters

periodically, and issuing its carbon footprint report, the first-of-its-kind among Kuwaiti banks.

- Offering a green finance product to finance housing and consumer products. This contributes to pre-

serving natural resources and reducing energy consumption.

- Issuing green Sukuk and aiming at increasing investment in green finance looking ahead.

■ Launching the “Keep It Green” campaign, which focuses on initiatives that aim for environmental protection.

- 50% of KFH banking cards issued in 2023 were made from recycled materials.

■ Signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to further enhance KFH’s commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), noting that KFH is the first bank in the region to have signed such a memorandum.

■ Women empowerment, having been the first Islamic bank in Kuwait to sign the Women’s Empowerment Principles agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as having women hold leadership positions in the Bank.

■ Building the largest KFH Auto Showroom in the Middle East, with the building being certified as environmentally friendly.

■ Participating in various initiatives with the UNDP and signed the Global Takaful Alliance Agreement with UNDP with the aim of providing Takaful insurance to 100 million farmers worldwide.

■ Training its human capital at all job levels in programs designed in cooperation with the UNDP and other leading international academic institutions.

MSCI Index

The MSCI ESG Index is the largest provider of environmental, social and governance (ESG) ratings in the world.

The MSCI ESG Index ratings are designed to measure companies’ ability to address long-term sustainability risks, with a data-based assessment methodology covering environmental, social and governance standards, and various other factors such as carbon footprint, talent management, corporate governance and product quality.

‘...stuck in crisis’

## German economy dragged by weak growth, rising layoffs, bankruptcies

**BERLIN, Aug 2, (Xinhua):** Germany has been grappling with a challenging economic landscape this year amid weak macroeconomic indicators and rising financial distress.

A series of latest data underscored the country’s underlying economic weaknesses. The Federal Statistical Office reported on Tuesday a 0.1 percent decline in GDP for the second quarter, which marked a persisting economic stagnation amid high inflation, elevated interest rates, and weak export demand.

“The German economy is stuck in crisis,” said Klaus Wohlrabe, head of surveys at ifo, while commenting on the office’s report. “Hardly any improvement is to be expected in the third quarter of 2024 either,” he said. “That is indicated by the results of the ifo Business Climate Index in July.”

The ifo Business Climate Index, a key indicator of German economic trends, fell to 87 points in July from 88.6 points in June, marking a third consecutive decline, the ifo Institute reported on July 25.

“The economic outlook is deteriorating. Concerns about the economy in the coming months have significantly increased. The German economy is in crisis,” said Clemens Fuest, president of the ifo Institute.

According to the latest World Economic Outlook report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on July 16, Germany’s economy is projected to grow by only 0.2 percent in 2024, lagging behind other major economies.

Although there were initial hopes that the 2024 European Championship hosted by Germany from June 14 to July 14, would invigorate the economy, recent analyses suggested that the event only temporarily boosted consumer spending in tourism, retail, and catering trade, and has not fundamentally addressed the country’s economic sluggishness.

The ZEW Indicator of Economic Sentiment for Germany also declined to 41.8 in July from 47.5 the previous month, reflecting waning confidence in the country’s economic prospects, the Leibniz Center for European Economic Research (ZEW) said on July 16.

“The economic outlook is worsening. For the first time in a year, economic expectations for Germany are falling,” said ZEW President Achim Wambach.

“The fact that German exports decreased more than expected in May, the political uncertainty in France and the lack of clarity regarding the future monetary policy by the ECB have contributed to this development,” he added.

The manufacturing sector, a cor-

nerstone of Germany’s economy, also showed signs of persistent weakness. Manufacturing PMI fell from 43.5 to 42.6 in July, marking the 24th consecutive month of contraction for the sector, according to the Federal Statistical Office. Industrial production, factory orders, and exports all declined for a fifth consecutive month in May.

Unemployment has been getting worse in the European country. Meanwhile, many companies are preparing to cut jobs to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

The number of unemployed people in Germany surged in July, up by 82,000 to over 2.8 million on a month-on-month basis, as the economy contracts, the Federal Employment Agency (BA) reported on Wednesday.

The agency also noted that the figure represented an increase of 192,000 year-on-year, bringing the country’s unemployment rate to 6 percent.

“The weak economic development is putting a strain on the labor market,” said Daniel Terzenbach, director of regions at the BA.

German auto supplier ZF Group aims to cut 11,000 to 14,000 jobs in Germany by 2028, the company said on July 26, while German rail operator Deutsche Bahn plans to cut 30,000 jobs, or around 9 percent of its staff, over the next five years, with 1,500 posts set to disappear this year. German car parts supplier Continental AG and another auto supplier Bosch have also announced significant layoffs.

Germany is witnessing a significant rise in bankruptcies. German credit agency Creditreform reported on June 25 that approximately 11,000 companies filed for bankruptcy in the first half of 2024, a nearly 30 percent increase from the previous year to reach the highest level since 2016.

In response to these challenges, the German government has introduced several measures. On July 17, the federal government unveiled its 2025 draft budget alongside a comprehensive growth package consisting of 49 initiatives.

The package focuses on promoting investment, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, incentivizing employment, enhancing financial market efficiency, and strengthening energy infrastructure.

Germany’s economic stagnation is attributable to multiple factors, including high energy prices, overregulation, inadequate infrastructure, a shortage of skilled labor, insufficient raw material supplies, and supply chain disruptions, Zheng Chunrong, director of the German Studies Center at Tongji University, told Xinhua.

## Apple breaks out of recent sales slump as it gears up to make its leap into the AI craze

Company posts a quarterly loss of over \$1.4 bln

## Boeing names next chief executive officer

**SEATTLE, Aug 3, (AP):** Boeing named an aerospace industry veteran with a background in mechanical engineering as its next chief executive Wednesday, looking to open a new chapter at a company rocked by legal, regulatory and production problems and mounting financial repercussions.

Robert “Kelly” Ortberg, a former CEO at aerospace manufacturer Rockwell Collins, will succeed David Calhoun as CEO and president effective Aug. 8, the company said. Calhoun said in March that he would retire at the end of the year, and analysts generally praised the quicker transition.

“There is much work to be done, and I’m looking forward to getting started,” Ortberg said in a statement issued by Boeing.

Boeing announced its new CEO as it reported a loss of more than \$1.4 billion on falling revenue during the second quarter. The loss was wider and the company’s revenue lower than Wall Street’s dismal expectations, as both Boeing’s commercial-airplanes business and defense unit lost money.

The disappointing results came at a tumultuous time for Boeing, which is the subject of multiple investigations into its safety culture and manufacturing quality.

The American aerospace giant agreed to plead guilty this month to a federal fraud charge in connection with its 737 Max jetliner and two crashes that killed 346 people. The Federal Aviation Administration increased its oversight of the company and limited the number of planes it could produce after a panel blew off an Alaska Airlines Max flying at an altitude of 16,000 feet. No one was seriously hurt, but the frightening incident and subsequent scrutiny have damaged Boeing’s reputation.

Boeing Chairman Steven Mollenkopf said Ortberg was chosen after a

“thorough and extensive search process” and “has the right skills and experience to lead Boeing in its next chapter.” Ortberg has earned a reputation for running complex engineering and manufacturing companies, Mollenkopf said.

Calhoun, who said he wasn’t involved in the hiring decision, is expected to serve as a special adviser to Boeing’s board of directors until next March. He suggested that Ortberg would support Boeing’s current executives instead of bringing in his own team.

“I don’t think he’s coming in with a notion to want to change a lot of folks,” Calhoun said on a call with analysts. “He knows full well we’re in recovery mode, and he knows full well that we’ve got to complete the recovery mode and we’ve got to get this thing stable and move forward.”

Ortberg emerged as a leading candidate only recently. Others who were reportedly considered for the job included Patrick Shanahan, a former Boeing executive and now CEO of its most important supplier, Spirit AeroSystems, and another longtime Boeing executive, Stephanie Pope, who recently took over the commercial airplanes division.

Ortberg led Rockwell Collins from 2013 to 2018. The company, which developed electronics and other equipment for commercial and military planes, then merged with United Technologies and wound up as part of RTX, formerly known as Raytheon. He retired from RTX in 2021.

Richard Aboulafia, a longtime aerospace analyst and consultant and recently a harsh critic of the company, said the hire is great news for Boeing.

“He is a deeply respected leader in the aerospace industry, and brings more hope for a better future than the

which saw its revenue climb 14% from last year to \$24.21 billion in the most recent quarter. Although the services division has been thriving for years, it’s confronting regulatory threats that could drag down its performance.

A lucrative deal that generates about \$20 billion in revenue by making Google the default search engine on the iPhone and Safari browser is being targeted in a high-profile antitrust case that the U.S. Justice Department filed against Google.

A federal judge is expected to issue a ruling by the end of this year.

The Justice Department also is targeting Apple in a separate lawsuit that it filed in March, alleging the company is illegally locking out competition by erecting unnecessary barriers around the iPhone. Apple has adamantly denied any wrongdoing and launched an attempt to have the case dismissed in documents filed Thursday in New Jersey federal court.

That started a legal process that will

take several more months to play out before the presiding judge decides whether to throw out the case or allow it to proceed in a ruling likely to come late this year or early next year. (AP)

As has been happening during much of the past year, Apple’s sales continued to erode in China - a worry for investors because the region is one of the company’s key markets. Apple’s revenue in China dropped 7% from last year in the past quarter. (AP)





Photos of the workshop.

Red cardholders enjoy exclusive discounts and offers across Kuwait

Gulf Bank organizes anime painting workshop for Red cardholders

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: As part of its ongoing efforts to engage with the community, Gulf Bank organized a new session in the “GB Masterclass” series, with approximately 20 young Red cardholders participating in a workshop focused on step-by-step painting of anime figures.

This session was held in collaboration with Art N Dine, a company specializing in organizing modern artistic events that bring people together in attractive locations to paint while enjoying food, drinks, and live music.

During the session, participants had the opportunity to create personalized artworks inspired by anime themes, learning to draw characters ranging from superheroes to science fiction, under the guidance of Art n Dine. They explored composition, various illustration styles, and received tips on creating character poses.

Gulf Bank is committed to interact and communicate with the broader community, especially its customers, through various events. The bank aims to promote sustainability principles within the community through the GB Masterclass series, collaborating with experts and specialists who have extensive experience in fields relevant to the public and customers.

The bank takes pride in its close connection to the community and is committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the public and its customers through a range of meaningful initiatives and events. Looking ahead, the bank anticipates introducing more initiatives in the future.

The Red card for high school and university students is the first prepaid card in the Middle East to offer cashback benefits for youth.

Additionally, it features the highest cashback program in Kuwait, and is recognized as the first vertically designed card. Red cardholders benefit from numerous advantages

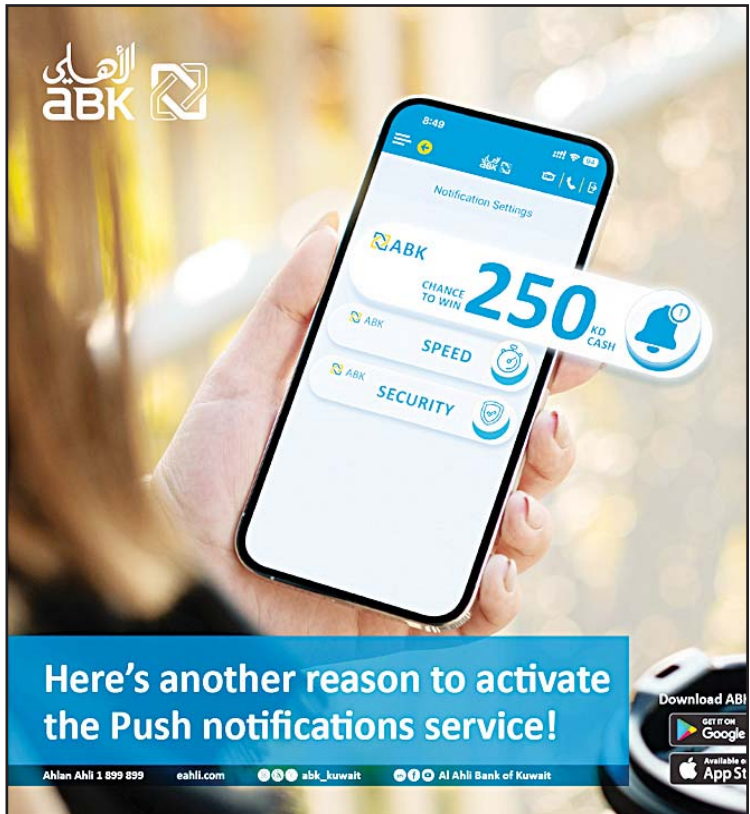
and discounts at their favorite stores, earning up to 15% cashback on monthly purchases, including local and international communication bills, cinema tickets, and dining. They can receive up to KD 300 annually in cashback.

Red cardholders enjoy several perks, including discounts at their preferred restaurants through Gulf Bank’s dining program. They can also receive instant discounts of up to 25% at over 550 restaurants and cafes across Kuwait.

Furthermore, they benefit from Gulf Bank’s promotional offers program, which provides immediate discounts of up to 30% at over 300 retail stores. These offers cover a wide range of categories including travel, entertainment, health, beauty, and more as part of Gulf Bank’s promotional program. Additionally, the card offers fraud protection through the 3D Secure system for online transactions.

Gulf Bank’s vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee’s role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 “New Kuwait” and works with various parties to achieve it.



ABK’s ‘Push Notifications’ service.

Chance to win KD 250 in latest campaign

ABK announces new campaign to promote ‘Push Notifications’

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: As part of its efforts to motivate customers to activate the ‘Push Notifications’ service when conducting their financial and banking transactions instead of relying on the SMS service, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait launches its new marketing campaign.



Johair Marafi

The new campaign affirms the commitment displayed by ABK to reward the customers who use the services offered through its application for smart devices and that is in line with the Bank’s ongoing digital transformation plan while keeping pace with the constant developments in the banking industry to raise ABK’s competitive position, and fulfill customer needs on all levels.

Customers who activate the ‘Push Notifications’ service get the chance to enter the draw for a cash prize of KD 250.

Commenting on this new campaign, the General Manager of Retail Banking at Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Johair Marafi said, “The launch of the new

campaign is a testament to our keenness on rewarding and motivating customers to use ABK’s mobile application in order to receive push notifications whenever they conduct their transactions which helps them stay informed and aware of their account transactions directly.”

She also added that the new campaign aims to protect customers from the attempts of banking fraud as receiving push notifications for any banking transaction that is not authorized by the account holder allow customers to instantly stop their banking card and protect their account from theft.

Moreover, Marafi mentioned that the Campaign is a reflection of ABK’s continuous plans set to digitize services offered to all customer segments in the local market, pointing out that the Bank is constantly keeping pace with the latest updates to earn customers’ trust and satisfaction while she revealed that more campaigns will be released in the near future that promote digital services offered by ABK around the clock.

Concluding her statement, Marafi invited all to follow Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait’s official website and its social media accounts to learn more about the latest offers, campaigns, banking products and services launched constantly.

Exhibition commemorates Kuwait’s suffering during Iraqi invasion

Artists & Media Professionals Union hosts ‘We Will Not Forget’ exhibition

By Medhat Alam

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Artists and Media Professionals Union organized a group exhibition under the title ‘We Will Not Forget’ at the union headquarters, under the patronage of Sheikh Duaij Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

The exhibition featured a selection of visual artists who expressed through their creations the suffering experienced by Kuwait during the brutal Iraqi invasion and its devastating humanitarian consequences.

The artworks served as a poignant reminder of this difficult period in Kuwait’s history, ensuring that future generations remember the hardships endured by the nation and its people.

The art pieces showcased a variety of artistic styles, including realistic portrayals of events, symbolic representations, abstract works, and impressionistic pieces.

All these diverse approaches centered on the common theme of commemorating this challenging era to anchor it in collective memory.

Some works focused on specific instances to highlight the emotional and psychological scars left by the invasion, while others connected with the human spirit’s rejection of the invaders’ inhuman actions and the resulting destruction.

On this occasion, Dr. Nabil Al-Failakawi, President of the Artists’ and Media Professionals’ Union, said, “The union is keen to make its mark and deliver a message on every national occasion.

“Our message today is to convey the events and information from the time of the brutal invasion on August 2.”

He explained that approximately 80 artists participated in the exhibition, using various artistic methods to express their feelings through their works.

Dr. Al-Failakawi also made a mention of another exhibition titled “Martyrs of the Invasion” at the Al-Hamra Complex, where the artists depicted the suffering and martyrdom of 28 women who died during the invasion. The artists will explain the meanings behind their works to the public.

Ceramic artist Abbas Malik contributed a piece about Kuwaiti prisoners held in Iraq. Retired Colonel Nasser Saleh, who exhibited personal items and presented his book “When I Was a Prisoner,” shared his experiences as one of the Kuwaiti officers imprisoned in Iraqi jails.

He said, “I am honored to participate today at the invitation of Dr. Al-Failakawi in this exhibition, an occasion we must always commemorate to educate the current and future generations about the brutal Iraqi invasion.”

Saleh recounted his arrest on August 2 and his 238-day imprisonment, during which he was moved between multiple prisons until Kuwait was liberated, and he and other prisoners were released on March 27.

Artist Awatif Kakoli presented a painting titled “Resistance,” portraying the brave Kuwaiti who stood strong against the invasion, created using acrylic on canvas.

Artist Elie Bou Shaaya showcased a painting titled “We Sacrifice for Kuwait’s Glory,” depicting martyr Nuwaier Saeed Al-Mutairi.

Artist Hala Hashim participated with a painting titled “Homeland of Daylight,” using acrylic and some paste. Artist Adla Shaaban included prominent landmarks of Kuwait in her work, expressing her experience during the invasion and having previously participated in several exhibitions on this theme organized by the union.

Artist Alia Al-Enezi painted a piece representing landmine martyrs, featuring Nuwaier flowers, a well-known flower in Kuwaiti deserts, using oil paints.

Artist Hessa Al-Asfour contributed a painting titled “We Will Not Forget,” symbolizing the resilience and strength of Kuwaitis, incorporating poetry lines that read: “I am coming back, Kuwait, despite the pain and tragedies, and the shelling of cannons, Kuwait, I am coming back to defend.”

Artist Iman Suleiman depicted martyr Dalal Al-Randi in her artwork, while artist Iman Al-Ramzi contributed two ceramic pieces and a mixed-media work featuring a 1993 postage stamp that commemorates the Iraqi invasion.



Photos during the art exhibition.

Photos by Ihab Qurtal



Music

Taylor Swift fans join Warsaw’s WWII tribute before concert

Underwood to return to ‘American Idol’ as its new judge

LOS ANGELES, Aug 3, (AP): Carrie Underwood will be the next singer to sit behind the judges’ table on “American Idol,” filling Katy Perry’s spot after her departure from the show in May.

Underwood, who rose to fame after she won the singing competition show in 2005, will return 20 years later as a judge for the upcoming season, set to premiere in spring 2025. She’s the first “American Idol” alum to become a judge.

In an emotional video announcing Underwood’s new hosting gig, she said “I’m proud of everything that I was able to accomplish on the show, and I’m so proud of everything that I’ve accomplished since.”

The country singer, who is the most decorated artist in CMT Music Awards’ history with 25 wins, made waves with her rendition of Bonnie Raitt’s “I Can’t Make You Love Me” at her audition, and she quickly became a fan-favorite.

Underwood has also won eight Grammy Awards and consistently tops the charts with her albums and singles. She will be joining Luke Bryan and Lionel Richie, who each have seven seasons of judging experience under their belts, for the franchise’s 23rd season.

“This upcoming season marks 20 years since Carrie won America’s hearts on ‘Idol’ and launched her successful multi-Grammy Award-winning career. As a former Idol and dynamic musical force, she brings

a remarkably unique perspective to one of the most popular shows on television,” said Craig Erwich, president of Disney Television Group, in a release from ABC. “This is a full-circle moment both for the show and audiences at home who have been tuning in for over two decades. Welcome home, Carrie.”

Longtime host Ryan Seacrest, who has been with the show since it premiered, will also return. Seacrest is also taking over Pat Sajak’s role as the host of “Wheel of Fortune” this fall.

Auditions for the new season will kick off Aug. 12 with the “Idol Across America” nationwide search for talent and will end in September. The season is set to premiere in the spring and will be available to watch on ABC and Hulu.

“American Idol” premiered in 2002 on Fox and was a hit for the network, but it was canceled in 2016. After two years off the air, the show was revived by ABC and has aired there for seven seasons. Perry was the first of the revival judges to leave the judges’ post.

A representative for Underwood did not immediately return requests for comment.

**Also:**

**WARSAW, Poland:** Taylor Swift warned fans who traveled to her concert in Warsaw on Thursday to expect loud sirens in the afternoon honoring a key World War II anniversary.

When the moment came, many of the fans who arrived for the concert also stood in tribute.

The Polish capital held observances to mark the 80th anniversary of the start of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, a 63-day revolt by Polish insurgents after five years of brutal Nazi German occupation. The entire city stops and alarm sirens sound every year on Aug. 1 at the exact time when the revolt was launched.

“To the people who are coming to the concert on August 1st don’t panic if you hear sirens alarm about 5 p.m. It will be the 80th anniversary & planes!” Swift’s “The Eras Tour” posted on social media.

Thousands of ticket-holders, many who traveled to Warsaw from afar, were in the area of the stadium early ahead of the evening performance.

A Polish news site, Onet, also published an “important message for all Swifties who are going to the concert” explaining the significance of the day.

“We ask you to remain calm and not to panic. In this way every year residents pay tribute to the heroes of 1944. Those who will be at that moment already outside the stadium, please remain quiet and get up.”

While some swifties joined the solemn commemoration, their mood was celebratory, as the countdown began to the singer’s performance.

Swift is performing for three consecutive nights in Warsaw starting Thursday.

Variety



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Josh Hartnett, (left), and Ariel Donoghue in a scene from ‘Trap.’ (AP)

Film

Britney Spears biopic will be made by Universal

Hartnett goes big as serial killer in ‘Trap’

By Lindsey Bahr

**SAG HARBOR, N.Y.:** Justin Timberlake made a virtual court appearance Friday in his drunken driving case on **Long Island**, saying little during the brief proceeding as a judge accepted his not-guilty plea and suspended his right to drive in New York.

Police in the seaside village of Sag Harbor arrested Timberlake June 18 after they say he ran a stop sign, veered out of his lane and got out of his BMW smelling of alcohol.

The former NSYNC singer, who is on tour in **Europe**, wasn’t required by the court to return to the U.S. for his court date. He is performing Saturday night in **Antwerp, Belgium**.

His attorney, **Edward Burke Jr.**, has maintained that Timberlake was not drunk and that the case should be dropped.

“The facts remain he was not intoxicated,” Burke said Friday, according to Newsday. “I’ll say it again: Justin Timberlake was not intoxicated and we’re very confident that charge, that criminal charge, will be dismissed.”

**Sag Harbor Village Justice Carl Irace** suspended Timberlake’s Tennessee driver’s license in New York state and threatened to impose a gag order on Burke, saying the attorney’s comments to the media have been inappropriate.

Irace set a next court date for Aug. 9.

Timberlake had appeared in court in person previously but his arraignment needed to be repeated because of a paperwork oversight, Burke said the original charging document lacked a police sergeant’s signature. (AP)

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia:** The 1975 is being sued after **Matty Healy**’s kiss of a bandmate in an on-stage protest shut down a music festival last year in Malaysia.

Healy used profanities as he criticized Malaysia’s stance against homosexuality before kissing bassist **Ross MacDonald** during the band’s headline performance at the Good Vibes Festival in Kuala Lumpur. Homosexuality is a crime in Malaysia, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and caning.

The lawsuit from the festival organizer Future Sound Asia seeks 1.9 million pounds (\$2.5 million)

In our spoiler phobic culture, movie trailers don’t often offer a lot of information. It’s even dangerous territory for a critic to discuss too many specifics, sometimes years after a film or television show has come out.

So it seemed like a particularly bold and even confusing move for “Trap,” the latest film from M. Night Shyamalan, to reveal so much so soon. Namely, that the nice guy dad played by nice guy actor Josh Hartnett taking his teenage daughter to a Taylor Swift-like arena concert is a brutal serial killer. Not only that, the entire event has been manufactured by to trap him.

Doesn’t seem like something that a filmmaker known, or at least stereotyped, for his twists would do. Obviously there must be something else going on, right?

Perhaps that something else is that “Trap” really doesn’t take itself that seriously. It is a solidly entertaining film that’s mostly silly and sometimes unnerving. You’re not exactly rooting for Hartnett’s Cooper, whose energy is so manically enthusiastic in his casual interactions with strangers and acquaintances that it takes some getting used to. But you are drawn in enough to be ever curious about his next move.

Hartnett, fresh off a stately turn in “Oppenheimer,” is not going for naturalistic with this performance. He’s a psychopath trying, not very well, to keep his devilish side at bay. When he smiles and attempts pleasantries, it looks almost painful. His energy is intense and a little uncomfortable. If Hartnett was born just a little earlier, you could image him as part of the original “Twin Peaks” cast - even his name seems to be a nod. And here, Cooper’s supervillain power is being able to seamlessly pass as the normal suburban dad just trying to show his daughter (Ariel Donoghue) a fun time. That is soon dashed when a friendly arena employee decides to clue him in on the big plot to catch The Butcher. One thing “Trap” does especially well is exploit the ways in which a guy like Cooper - attractive, confident, white - can pass almost any-

where.

Much of the film transpires at an arena concert full of teen and tween girls obsessed with a pop star called Lady Raven, played by Shyamalan’s daughter, Saleka Shyamalan, who wrote 14 songs for the film. It’s quite the hard launch for an up-and-coming performer, but it’s an admirably bold one too.

**Performance**

“Everyone needs a break when they’re starting out,” she says to the crowd at one point. “Trap” commits to the bit, too, making you feel like you are on the ground floor experiencing a concert in real time. But if you went in hoping for “Die Hard” in an arena, be prepared for something else.

“Trap” does have some things up its sleeve, including a solid and unexpected acting performance from Saleka Shyamalan. It also feels a bit underbaked, a ridiculous ride that’s not going to get under your skin or provide for a lot of discussion fodder afterwards.

While it’s great to see Hayley Mills, regal as ever, as the mastermind of the police operation, she’s not given much to do besides narrate. But maybe there’s not meant to be some grand there there, like some startling revelation about parenthood or marriage or pop stardom or even sociopaths. We keep wanting Shyamalan to somehow give us “The Sixth Sense” or “Signs” again. “Trap” is not either of those. This is a popcorn movie, with a surprising turn from an underrated star. And ultimately, it’s a pretty fun time at the theater.

“Trap,” a Warner Bros. release now in theaters, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for “brief strong language, some violent content.” Running time: 105 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

**Also:**

**NEW YORK:** Universal Pictures has landed the rights to **Britney Spears**’ memoir “The Woman in Me” and will develop a biopic of the pop star to be directed by **Jon M. Chu**, the studio announced Thursday.

After a competitive auction, Universal won the movie rights to the memoir, which has sold more than

2.5 million copies since it was released last October.

**Marc Platt**, the veteran producer of “Wicked” and “La La Land,” is set to produce, with Chu (“Crazy Rich Asians,” “In the Heights”) to direct.

Spears, herself, celebrated the news on X, where she tweeted that she was “excited to share with my fans that I’ve been working on a secret project with #MarcPlatt. He’s always made my favorite movies ... stay tuned.”

Spears, 42, in her book chronicles her rise to fame from “The Mickey Mouse Club” to global pop stardom, as well as her struggles with the conservatorship that was dissolved in 2021. The memoir, sales of which were boosted by an audiobook read by **Michelle Williams**, included the revelation that she had an abortion while dating Justin Timberlake more than 20 years ago.

Music biopics have been one of Hollywood’s most popular genres in recent years, with recent films about **Elvis**, **Amy Winehouse** and **Bob Marley**. Upcoming releases include “A Complete Unknown,” with **Timothée Chalamet** as **Bob Dylan**, and a **Michael Jackson** biopic due out next year.

Universal previously released the 2015 N.W.A. biopic “Straight Outta Compton.”

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**LOS ANGELES:** Just in time for Olympics fever, **Luca Guadagnino**’s sweaty, synth “Challengers” made its streaming debut on MGM+ last Monday. Even if you missed it in theaters, it’d be hard not to be at least aware of it, what with the teasing photo of **Zendaya**, **Mike Faist** and **Josh O’Connor** perched suggestively on that bed and the ubiquitous “I Told YaA” T-shirt in paparazzi photos. For the few uninitiated, “Challengers” is set in the world of competitive tennis, where all three are rising stars until an injury forces Zendaya’s character off the court. I wrote in my review that it’s “a prickly treat, about fractured relationships, egos, infidelity and ambition” with “plenty of skin, sweat, close-ups of muscly thighs and smoldering looks of lust and hate in this deliriously over-the-top psychodrama.” The Associated Press named it one of the best movies of 2024 thus far.

for breach of contract and losses. It filed the lawsuit against The 1975 Productions LLP and all four of the band members in the High Court in **London** on July 23, lawyer **David Dinesh Mathew** said Thursday.

The government slammed Healy’s conduct, blacklisted the band from the country and canceled



Timberlake



Healy

the three-day festival. Some in the LGBTQ+ community also criticized the band, saying Healy had disrupted the work of activists pushing for change and had endangered the community. (AP)

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**BERLIN:** The German city of **Gelsenkirchen**, which temporar-

ily renamed itself “**Swiftkirchen**” before the American superstar played three concerts there in mid-July, said Wednesday it received about 1,400 bids from **Germany** and abroad for signs it put up with the name.

The new name was one of a flurry of fan attractions around the

concerts on July 17, 18 and 19. The city then held an auction for 20 original “Swiftkirchen” signs.

The highest offer was 3,000 euros (\$3,245), and the 20 highest bidders will be informed by email, the city said in a statement, adding that a total sum for the auction will be announced once all payments have been received. (AP)



People & Places

Television

Contestants complain

‘Beast Games’ under fire for safety issues

NEW YORK, Aug 3, (Agencies): YouTube’s biggest star **MrBeast** is facing complaints about the safety of contestants from the preliminary round of his ambitious “Beast Games” game show, which boasts 1,000 competitors hoping for a \$5 million grand prize.

Some contestants complained online and to other YouTube influencers that they lacked regular access to food, water and medication during early production at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, and that some competitors were injured during the production.

A spokesperson for MrBeast said his team is reviewing the process and soliciting attendees’ feedback ahead of the next phase of production in Toronto.

The stakes for “Beast Games” aren’t just high for the contestants, but for MrBeast himself, whose real name Jimmy Donaldson, as well as the recipients of his brand of “stunt philanthropy” that often entails direct gifts of cash or even houses. The complaints about the “Beast Games” production coincide with Donaldson’s acknowledgement this week that he used racial and homophobic slurs years ago in recordings he made as a teenager.

The show, which has already been picked up by Amazon Prime Video to air in 240 countries, is part of Donaldson’s cultural expansion beyond YouTube - where his channel has 307 million subscribers, including countless young consumers who already purchase his Feastables line of candy or the burgers that bear his name.

“My goal is to make the greatest show possible and prove YouTubers and creators can succeed on other platforms,” Donaldson said in a March press release from Amazon.

Donaldson’s companies cast 2,000 people to take part in an initial tryout of sorts at Allegiant Stadium in July, with 1,000 of them presumably advancing to the actual show. Amazon Prime Video was not involved and did not respond to a request for comment.



MrBeast

Complicated

A MrBeast spokesperson said Friday that the promotional video shoot was “unfortunately complicated” by extreme weather, the widespread CrowdStrike outage that wreaked global technological havoc and “other unexpected logistical and communications issues.”

We “have taken steps to ensure that we learn from this experience and we are excited to welcome hundreds of men and women to the world’s largest game show in history,” the spokesperson said in an emailed statement.

MrBeast offered eliminated contestants \$1,000 upon leaving the competition and the spokesperson said most of those who remain in contention are ready to keep going.

Some contestants expected challenges similar to those from the dystopian Netflix show “Squid Game,” a fictional series - and eventual reality game show - where deeply indebted people compete for millions in high-stakes children’s games.

The Associated Press reached out to several contestants about “Beast Games,” but most either did not respond or declined to speak on the record because they had signed nondisclosure agreements.

Scott Leopold, a 53-year-old father from Austin, Texas, told the AP he thought he was competing in the actual “Beast Games,” not a precursor to the show. He said he felt deceived about his chances of winning and that the competition in Las Vegas would not stream on Amazon Prime Video.

He said that Donaldson should not be “villainized” but added that “an apology would go a long way.”

“All I can conclude is that he was in over his head,” Leopold said. “There were too many people, and I don’t think he knew how to handle the situation.”

Nancy Libby, a Navy veteran from California who said she was one of the last people eliminated, told AP that she applied after seeing a casting call on Facebook. Her daughters watch MrBeast videos, she said, and she’d already planned to take off work anyway.

On-set conditions met her expectations. Libby said she was instructed by recruiters beforehand to watch previous MrBeast challenges to gain some understanding of the experience. Because of that, she said, she was unsurprised by meals of oatmeal and nights spent sleeping on the floor.

Also:

**LONDON:** The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is facing scrutiny over its handling of the child abuse image scandal involving one of its highest-paid former presenters.

**Huw Edwards**, a renowned BBC newsreader known for covering high-profile events such as the death and funeral of **Queen Elizabeth II**, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to three counts of making indecent images of children. According to law in the **United Kingdom (UK)**, “making” such images can include actions like opening, accessing, downloading, storing content, or receiving unsolicited images via social media.

In a statement following Edwards’ guilty plea, the BBC expressed shock at the court’s revelations, stating, “There can be no place for such abhorrent behavior.”

Court records indicate Edwards received 41 indecent images of children between December 2020 and August 2021. Seven images were classified as category A, the most serious, while 12 were category B and 22 were category C. Most category A images depicted children aged 13 to 15, with two clips showing a child aged around seven to nine, according to the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Metropolitan Police began investigating Edwards after discovering his WhatsApp conversation with **Alex Williams**, a convicted pedophile, during an unrelated probe. Edwards is scheduled to appear in court in September.

Culture Secretary **Lisa Nandy** and BBC Director General **Tim Davie** are expected to discuss the BBC’s handling of the Edwards case via phone on Thursday. Key questions include why the BBC did not terminate Edwards’ employment upon learning of his arrest and why he continued to receive his salary for five months until his resignation.

The BBC stated that at the time of Edwards’ arrest, “no charges had been brought against Mr. Edwards and the BBC had also been made aware of significant risk to his health.” They added, “If at any point during the period Mr. Edwards was employed by the BBC he had been charged, the BBC had determined it would act immediately to dismiss him. In the end, at the point of charge, he was no longer an employee of the BBC.”



Steven Tyler of Aerosmith performs during night one of their ‘Peace Out: The Farewell Tour’ on Sept. 2, 2023, at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. The band said Friday, Aug. 2, that Tyler’s voice has been permanently damaged by a vocal cord injury last year and the band will no longer tour. (AP)

Music

Steven Tyler’s voice fails to recover

Aerosmith retires from touring

LOS ANGELES, Aug 3, (AP): Aerosmith says Steven Tyler’s voice has been permanently damaged by a vocal cord injury last year and the band will no longer tour.

The iconic band behind hits like “Love in an Elevator” and “Livin’ on the Edge” posted a statement Friday announcing the cancellation of remaining dates on its tour and provided an update on Tyler’s voice.

“He has spent months tirelessly working on getting his voice to where it was before his injury. We’ve seen him struggling despite having the best medical team by his side. Sadly, it is clear, that a full recovery from his vocal injury is not possible,” the statement said. “We have made a heart-breaking and difficult, but necessary, decision - as a band of brothers - to retire from the touring stage.”

Announced

Tyler announced he injured his vocal cords in September during a show on its Peace Out: The Farewell Tour. Tyler said in an Instagram statement at the time that the injury caused bleeding but that he hoped the band would be back after postponing a few shows.

Tyler’s soaring vocals have powered Aerosmith’s massive catalog of hits since its formation in 1970, including “Dream On,” “Walk This Way” and “Sweet Emotion.” They were near the start of a 40-date farewell tour when Tyler was injured. “We’ve always wanted to blow your mind when performing. As you know, Steven’s voice is an instrument like no other,” the band said in Friday’s statement to fans.

“It has been the honor of our lives to have our music become part of yours,” the band said. “In every club, on every massive tour and at moments grand and private you have given us a place in the soundtrack of your lives.”

Aerosmith is a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee and a four-time Grammy winning band. In addition to Tyler,

its members are Joe Perry, Brad Whitford, Tom Hamilton and Joey Kramer.

Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Country-turned-pop singer **Maren Morris** is readying a new EP, “Intermission,” leading with the singles “cut!,” a collaboration with **Julia Michaels**, and the dreamy “i hope i never fall in love,” which slows down the instantly-identifiable drum pattern

last appeared at the Met in 2019 in Verdi’s “Macbeth” and a New Year’s Eve gala. Ntetrebo will perform with pianist Angel Rodriguez at the The Breakers hotel.

“I am honored to be lending my voice to the Palm Beach Opera’s annual gala,” Ntetrebo said in a statement Wednesday sent to The Associated Press.

Barbato said he began discussions with Ntetrebo’s manager in January.

“It was, a rare opportunity to present, an electrifying performer with one of the most beautiful voices of our lifetimes,” he said.

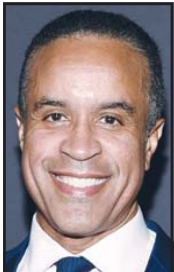
Palm Beach Opera’s season includes three performances each of Gounod’s “Roméo et Juliette” in January, Verdi’s “La Traviata” in February and Mozart’s “Le Nozze di Figaro” in April. Casts have not been announced.

Past Palm Beach Opera galas featured Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo, José Carreras, Renée Fleming and Bryn Terfel, with Isabel Leonard (2024), Piotr Beczala (2023) and Nadine Sierra (2022) appearing in recent years. “It means a lot to me to be joining the remarkable list of illustrious singers that have participated in this celebration over the last decades,” Ntetrebo said.

of the Ronettes’ “By My Baby.” Heartbreak, growth, and self-discovery are strong themes across “Intermission.” It’s been less than a year since Morris filed for divorce from her husband **Ryan Hurd**, citing the prominent country music couple’s “irreconcilable differences” after five years of marriage. Whether that informed the songwriting on this EP or not - these five tracks are all open-hearted, big-voiced Morris.



Julia Stiles attends a screening of ‘Couple!’ at the Crosby Street Hotel on Thursday, Aug. 1, in New York. (AP)



DuBois



Cardi B

Variety

**NEW YORK:** **Cardi B** has filed for divorce from her husband, Migos’ rapper Offset.

A representative for Cardi B confirmed the news to The Associated Press, writing, “This is not based on any one particular incident, it has been a long time coming and is amicable.”

On Instagram, Cardi B did not directly comment on the news of her divorce, but posted a photo of her on a rooftop, holding her stomach to reveal a baby bump.

“With every ending comes a new beginning! I am so grateful to have shared this season with you, you have brought me more love, more life and most of all renewed my power,” she wrote in the caption. “It’s so much easier taking life’s twists, turns and test laying down, but you, your brother and your sister have shown me why it’s worth it to push through!”

Cardi B and Offset, whose birth names are **Belcalis Almanzar** and **Kiari Cephus** respectively, have two children together: 5-year-old daughter **Kulture** and 2-year-old son **Wave**. The hip-hop power couple were secretly wed on Sept. 20, 2017, in **Atlanta**. They only announced their engagement a month later.

In 2020, Cardi B previously filed for divorce from Offset, claiming her marriage was “irretrievably broken.” (AP)

**NEW YORK:** **John Dickerson** and **Maurice DuBois** will co-anchor the “CBS Evening News” following the departure of **Norah O’Donnell** later this year, the network said Thursday.

Dickerson is a former host of “Face the Nation” and “CBS This Morning” for the network. The former Time magazine White House correspondent has been anchoring a nightly newscast for CBS’ streaming service most recently.

DuBois, a veteran anchor for CBS’ local affiliate in **New York City**, has also contributed reporting to various CBS newscasts.

The storied newscast, which **Walter Cronkite**, **Dan Rather** and **Katie Couric** have anchored, has been third in the ratings to ABC’s “World News Tonight” and NBC’s “Nightly News” for years. O’Donnell, who is becoming a special correspondent focusing on big interviews for CBS, didn’t move the needle.

**Bill Owens**, executive producer of CBS News’ most successful broadcast, “60 Minutes,” will also become supervisor of the evening news, said **Wendy McMahon**, president and CEO of CBS News and Stations. Owens appointed veteran “60 Minutes” hand Guy Campanile as execu-

tive producer of the evening news. (AP)

**LONDON:** Britain’s Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) will return to stages in China next week with its first tour there since 2017.

“It’s a tremendous honor for the RPO to be returning to China after quite a long absence,” **Huw Davies**, RPO acting managing director, said during a press briefing on Friday.

The London-based orchestra debuted in **China** in the early 1970s and has regularly

toured in various Chinese cities in the following decades. Its last China tour was held in 2017.

Noting that RPO has forged partnerships with many cultural institutions in China “in a desire to exchange knowledge and learn from each other,” Davies said the orchestra is looking forward to “rekindling those friendships and relationships” and strengthening bonds with China to bring the joy of orchestral music to a wider audience.

The RPO will kick off this year’s China tour on Thursday next week in **Beijing**. Over 11 days, it will present nine concerts

with an orchestra of 94 musicians in seven cities, including **Shanghai, Shenzhen, Wuhan, and Nanjing**.

The tour will highlight “a blend of British, Chinese and Russian music,” featuring pieces such as Benjamin Britten’s Four Sea Interludes, Excerpts from the Crouching Tiger Cello Concerto by **Tan Dun**, and Symphony No. 5 by Shostakovich. (Xinhua)

**ISTANBUL:** **Türkiye** is set to unveil a “groundbreaking” archaeological park at the historic Haydarpasa Train Station later this year, Transport and Infrastructure Minister **Abdulkadir Uraloglu** announced.

The park, a first in the country, will feature artifacts unearthed during extensive excavations beneath Haydarpasa Station’s railways in **Istanbul’s Kadiköy** district, on the Asian side along the shores of the Marmara Sea, Uraloglu said during an inspection earlier this week.

Since 2018, archaeologists have uncovered over 100,000 square meters of historical remains spanning the **Ottoman, Byzantine**, and ancient periods. Discoveries include lamp fragments, coins, underground tombs, and rare Hellenistic relics.

**Ayse Ovrur**, an archaeologist involved in the project, noted that excavations at Haydarpasa station, including over 12,000 coins from the 5th to 7th centuries B.C., “revealed previously inaccessible historical data and shed light on life” in this part of Istanbul.

Ovrur added that the archaeological park is expected to become a significant educational and tourism site, attracting visitors with its rich historical context. Transforming the Haydarpasa excavation site into an “archeopark” will be transformative for Istanbul, she said. (Xinhua)



Members of the international female Lebanese dance troupe Mayyas, who won America’s Got Talent season 17 in 2022, perform for the first time in Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Aug. 1. (AP)



Few treatments and vaccines available

Mpox cases surged by 160% in Africa so far this year

BANGUI, Central African Republic, Aug 3, (AP): African health officials said mpox cases have spiked by 160% so far this year, warning the risk of further spread is high given the lack of effective treatments or vaccines on the continent.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a report released Wednesday that mpox, also known as monkeypox, has now been detected in 10 African countries this year including Congo, which has more than 96% of all cases and deaths.

Officials said nearly 70% of cases in Congo are in children younger than 15, who also accounted for 85% of deaths.

There have been an estimated 14,250 cases so far this year, nearly as many as all of last year. Compared to the first seven months of 2023, the Africa CDC said cases are up 160% and deaths are up 19%, to 456.

Burundi and Rwanda both reported the virus for the first time this week.

New outbreaks were also declared this week in Kenya and Central African Republic, with cases extending to its densely populated capital, Bangui.

“We are very concerned about the cases of monkeypox, which is ravaging (the capital region),” the Central African Republic’s public health minister, Pierre Somsé, said Monday.

On Wednesday, Kenya’s Health Ministry said it found mpox in a passenger traveling from Uganda to Rwanda at a border crossing in southern Kenya. In a statement, the ministry said that a single mpox case was enough to warrant an outbreak declaration.

The Africa CDC said the mpox death rate this year, at about 3%, “has been much higher on the African continent compared to the rest of the world.” During the global mpox emergency in 2022, fewer than 1% of people infected with the virus died.

Earlier this year, scientists reported

Four-year-old diagnosed with H5N1 bird flu

New H5N1 case brings Cambodia’s total to 8

PHNOM PENH, Aug 3, (Xinhua): Another human case of H5N1 bird flu has been confirmed on a four-year-old boy from southeast Cambodia’s Svay Rieng province, raising the number of the cases to eight since the start of 2024, said a Ministry of Health’s statement late on Thursday.

“Laboratory results from the National Institute of Public Health showed on Tuesday that the boy was positive for H5N1 virus,” the statement said.

The patient, who lives in Romeas

Haek district’s Chhlong Popeal village, has the symptoms of fever, cough, dyspnea, and drowsiness, the statement said, adding that he is currently recovering after receiving intensive care from a team of doctors.

“According to queries, about 12 days before the boy fell ill, many chickens and ducks in the village and at his house had subsequently died, and the patient’s family cooked them for food, and the patient had direct contact with the dead poultry,” the

statement said.

Health authorities are looking into the source of the infection and are examining any suspected cases or people who have been in contact with the victim in order to prevent an outbreak in the community, it added.

Among the eight human cases of H5N1 bird flu so far this year were seven children, one of whom died, and an adult. All patients reportedly had a history of recent exposure to sick or dead poultry prior to their illness.

Congo suggested that recent genetic mutations in the virus were the result of the ongoing spread in people.

Unlike in previous mpox outbreaks, where lesions were mostly seen on the chest, hands and feet, the new form of mpox causes milder symptoms and lesions mostly on the genitals, making it harder to spot.

The medical charity Doctors Without Borders called the expanding mpox outbreak “worrying,” noting the disease had also been seen in camps for displaced people in Congo’s North Kivu region, which shares a border with Rwanda.

“There is a real risk of explosion, given the huge population movements in and out,” said Dr. Louis Massing, the group’s medical director for Congo.

Mpox outbreaks in the West have mostly been shut down with the help of vaccines and treatments, but barely any have been available in African countries including Congo.

A rare cancer treatment

FDA okays first engineered cell therapy for solid tumor

PHILADELPHIA, Aug 3, (AP): Adaptimmune Therapeutics plc, a company working to redefine the treatment of solid tumor cancers with cell therapy, has announced US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) accelerated approval of Tecelra (afamitresgene autoleucel) for the treatment of adults with unresectable or metastatic synovial sarcoma who have received prior chemotherapy, are HLA-A\*02:01P, -A\*02:02P, -A\*02:03P, or -A\*02:06P positive and whose tumor expresses the MAGE-A4 antigen as determined by FDA-approved or cleared companion diagnostic devices.

This indication is approved under accelerated approval based on overall response rate and duration of response. Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in a confirmatory trial. Tecelra is the first engineered cell therapy for a solid tumor cancer approved in the US, and the first new therapy option in more than a decade for synovial

Is modernization a hidden factor?

Breast cancer mystery: Why no major cause has been identified

By Richard G. ‘Bugs’ Stevens  
University of Connecticut

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

breast cancer was thought to be more likely to develop.

This hypothesis was logical because when researchers analyzed countries’ per capita fat consumption and breast cancer mortality rates, they found a strong correlation. In addition, rats fed a high-fat diet are more prone to breast tumors.

pause which might implicate the total amount of calories consumed if not the composition of the diet.

There is a chance that early life dietary fat exposure, even in utero, may be important, but it’s difficult to study in humans, so we don’t know much about how it might relate to breast cancer risk later in life.

much lower. This is because in Africa, women are diagnosed at a later stage of disease and also because there are far fewer treatment options.

The question is whether the known risk factors differ enough between the high-risk modern societies and the low-risk developing societies to account for the large differences in risk. The answer: probably not. Experts think that less than half the high risk in America is explained by the known risk factors, and that these factors explain very little of the difference in risk with Asia.

A related question is whether the high risk in America and Northern Europe is due to a combination of many known exposures, each of which affects risk a little bit, or mostly due to a major cause that has so far eluded detection. And maybe some of the known risk factors have a common cause which we don’t yet understand.

Since the 1980s, screening by mammography has accounted for some of the increase in incidence in the modern world compared to the developing world, but not nearly enough to explain the entire difference. About 20% of the cancers found by mammography are now believed to be of a type that would never have progressed beyond the very small early stage that mammography can detect. But the problem is that we can’t tell which are the benign ones and which are not.

Promising result

Therapy offers relief for major depression

BURLINGAME, Calif., Aug 3, (Business Wire): Magnus Medical, Inc., a pioneering therapeutic neuromodulation company transforming the treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders, has announced promising new clinical data on Saint therapy at the 2024 NYC Neuromodulation Conference, Aug 1-3. The research will be presented in two posters demonstrating the long-lasting benefits of Saint treatment and its potential for personalized continuation therapy in people with treatment-resistant depression (TRD).

Saint therapy works by leveraging structural and functional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans to inform a proprietary algorithm that pinpoints the optimal anatomical target for precise neurostimulation in individuals with major depression. The innovative treatment is performed on an accelerated, five-day timeline, ensuring that stimulation targeting is meticulously customized to each person’s unique brain connectivity.

“We’re excited to share these new findings at this year’s NYC Neuromodulation Conference, which further validate the transformative potential of the Saint therapy in providing durable relief for people with debilitating intractable depression and offering a pathway for personalized continuation treatment to maintain remission,” said Brandon Bentzley, M.D., Ph.D., co-founder and CSO, Magnus Medical. “The potential life-saving impact is truly inspiring.”

“Furthermore, building on the strength of this compelling research, we are rapidly expanding access to the Saint neuromodulation system, delivering it to hospitals and private clinics across the country,” continued Dr. Bentzley.

sarcoma, a rare, soft tissue cancer that most commonly impacts young adults.

“The approval of Tecelra is a momentous step in Adaptimmune’s journey to redefine the way cancer is treated and the culmination of a decade of groundbreaking R&D. I want to thank the patients, caregivers, investigators, and clinical teams as well as everyone at Adaptimmune and our partners who made possible this watershed moment for cell therapy and for people with synovial sarcoma. We are committed to advancing our robust clinical pipeline to serve more patients in need and plan to progress late-cl, the next late-stage investigational treatment in our sarcoma franchise, with a rolling BLA submission to the FDA next year.”

Approval

The approval of Tecelra was based on results of the Spearhead-1 (Cohort 1) trial, which included 44 patients. The major efficacy outcome was overall response rate (ORR) determined by independent review and supported by duration of response. Tecelra treatment resulted in an ORR of 43% with a complete response rate of 4.5%. The median duration of response was 6 months (95% CI: 4.6, not reached). Among patients who were responsive to the treatment, 39% had a duration of response of 12 months or longer.\*

Data from the pivotal SpearheadP-1 trial were previously published in The Lancet earlier this year.

With this approval, Adaptimmune is positioned to make a significant impact on the synovial sarcoma community. HCPs can begin testing patients, Adaptimmune systems are ready to take Tecelra orders, and an integrated support program, AdaptimmuneAssist, is available to enable a seamless and personalized experience through the treatment journey. Adaptimmune plans to have at least six to ten authorized treatment centers (ATCs) up and running this year and to onboard approximately 30 treatment centers within the first two years. These ATCs are recognized leaders in sarcoma research and treatment.

Generations

By studying Japanese migrants to California, researchers found that the first generation had low risk like their parents in Japan, but then by the second and third generation, risk was as high as white American women. So, the genetics of race did not account for the stark differences in the breast cancer risk between Asia and America. This was also consistent with the idea that the change in food from the lean Asian diet to the high-fat American diet causes cancer. So it all made sense.

Until it didn’t.

Starting in the mid-1980s, large, well-done prospective studies of diet and breast cancer began to be reported, and they were uniformly negative. Fat in the diet of adult women had no impact on breast cancer risk at all.

This was very surprising - and very disappointing. The evidence for other aspects of diet, like fruits and vegetables, has been mixed, though alcohol consumption does increase risk modestly. It is also clear that heavier women are at higher risk after meno-

Bid to cut infant deaths, infection

UNICEF urges Kenya to expand breastfeeding centers

NAIROBI, Aug 3, (Xinhua): The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has called on Kenya to increase breastfeeding centers across the country.

Laura Kiige, a nutrition specialist at UNICEF Kenya, said that mothers living and working in the areas have little access to maternity leave and space to feed their children.

“Kenya should put policies in place to ensure that mothers living in informal settlements have access to breastfeeding within the areas to start timely breastfeeding to reduce infant sickness and death from infections,” Kiige told journalists in Nairobi, the capital

of Kenya, ahead of the World Breastfeeding Week which begins on Aug. 1.

She noted that Kenya stands a chance to meet the international commitment that aims at ensuring that children breastfeed exclusively for the first six months to help reduce infections such as diarrhea and pneumonia. She suggested that all daycare centers within the informal settlements in urban centers should be equipped to address breastfeeding inequalities and promote breastfeeding as vital for child health.

World Breastfeeding Week is an annual celebra-

tion that is held every year from Aug. 1 to 7 in more than 120 countries. Kiige noted that despite the known benefits, there are still significant gaps in breastfeeding practices and promotion in Kenya during the spread of messages that confuse populations.

Purity Kibe, program manager in the Ministry of Health, said that many infants in Kenya do not start breastfeeding within the first hour of birth as is required by the World Health Organization (WHO).

According to Kibe, only 60 percent of infants are initiated to breastfeeding within an hour of delivery.

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Kuwaiti side kicks off local preparation

Kuwait Club faces Shahdab Yazd in Group A of the Asian Clubs Volleyball Champ’ship

**By Khaled Al-Anzi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The draw for the 24th Asian Clubs Volleyball Championship, set to take place in Yazd, Iran from September 8-15, has placed the Kuwait Club in Group A. It will compete against the Iranian Shahdab Yazd Club. Group B features Japan’s Nagoya, Iraq’s Gas South, and China’s Badong Wuli. Group C includes Indonesia’s Jakarta, Kazakhstan’s Bavuar, and

Chinese Taipei’s Tai Chong. Group D comprises Qatar’s Al Rayyan, Afghanistan’s Kam, and Iran’s Foolad Sirjan.

Kuwait Club will kick off its local preparations today under the guidance of Turkish coach Taner Atik.

VOLLEYBALL

The team will then hold an external training camp in Turkey from August 25 to September 6, before head-

ing directly to Iran for the championship.

The club has renewed Atik’s contract and signed Brazilian player Ferreira, Cuban player Ramos, and former Al-Arabi player Hussein Al-Masry.

Musleh Al-Rashidi, the Volleyball Director at Kuwait Club, stated that the local training starting today aims to get the players back in shape after the long offseason. The Turkish camp will focus on tactical training and feature several friendly matches.

Al-Rashidi emphasized the importance of participating in the Asian Championship ahead of the new season, which begins on September 15. He also praised the club’s management for their strong support of the volleyball program and the first team.

Last season, the Kuwait Club volleyball team clinched the League Championship, Super Cup, and Union Championship, and finished as the runner-up in the West Asian Championship.



A file photo of Kuwait Club players celebrating.

Egypt edge Paraguay on penalties, set up semifinal clash with France



Argentina’s Kevin Zenon fights for the ball with France’s Enzo Millot during a quarter final soccer match between France and Argentina, at Bordeaux Stadium, during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Bordeaux, France. (AP)

Spain dominate Japan to secure semifinal spot against Morocco

**PARIS, Aug 3, (Xinhua):** France reached the men’s soccer semifinals of the Paris Olympics after beating Argentina 1-0.

French striker Jean-Philippe Mateta muscled in a header following a corner kick from Michael Olise in the fifth minute, which turned out to be the sole goal of the game.

Argentina’s best chance came in the 36th minute when a cross found Soungoutou Magassa unmarked before the goal, but the defender’s close-range header flew over the bar.

In the semifinal, France will face Egypt, which labored to beat Paraguay on penalties.

Both sides fought to a 1-1 draw in overtime, dragging the game into shoot-out.

SOCCER

Egypt prevailed by 5-4 in the penalty kicks after their goalkeeper Alaa Hamza saved Marcelo Pereze’s effort from the spot.

Paraguay looked to stand a better chance after Diego Gomez’s goal put them 1-0 up in the 71st minute.

Egypt held their nerve and equalized in the 88th minute through Adel Ibrahim who scored on an assist from Zizo.

In the other semifinal, Spain will take on Morocco.

Spain thrashed Japan 3-0 thanks to a brace from Fermin Lopez and

Kuwaiti speed skaters ‘depart’ for Malaysian Int’l Cup Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: The Chairman of the Kuwait Winter Games Club, Fahid Al-Ajmi, announced that the Kuwaiti speed skating team, comprising 11 players across various age groups, has departed for Malaysia to participate in the Malaysian International Cup Championship on the short track

SKATING

(2024). The competition, featuring international participation, will commence on the ninth of this month and last for two days.

Al-Ajmi stated that the Kuwaiti team delegation, led by the club’s Secretary-General, Mishaal Fulaitah, includes team manager Youssef Al-Kandari, Malaysian coach Muhammad Arif, and players Fahad Salem, Adeeb Suleiman, Yassin Abdullah, Omar Muhammad, Hashem Al-Qallaf, Jassim Ali, Hussein Al-Ansari, Bader Al-Sarraf, Fahad Al-Abdullah, Abdullah Al-Shatti, and Abdulrahman Walid.

He mentioned that the team will

Abel Ruiz’s goal. Japan hit the woodwork twice and had a goal disallowed during the game.



Kuwaiti speed skating delegation.

undergo a short training camp for five days before the tournament begins. The players will compete in various age group categories, and Al-Ajmi expressed hope that the national team players will achieve strong results that reflect the progress of winter sports in Kuwait.

Al-Ajmi highlighted that this par-

Morocco hammered the United States 4-0. The African team imposed a tight control on the game

ticipation is part of the preparation for the Kuwaiti national team players for upcoming international events, most notably the Asian Winter Games scheduled for next February in China. He noted that the team includes several promising young players being groomed for future international competitions.

as they managed eight shots on goal against the American side’s one throughout the match.

BOXING

“Let’s be very clear here: We are talking about women’s boxing,” Bach said Saturday. “We have two boxers who are born as a woman, who have been raised a woman, who have a passport as a woman, and who have competed for many years as women. And this is the clear definition of a woman. There was never any doubt about them being a woman.”

The IBA, which received the un-

precedented punishment of being banned from Olympic participation in 2019 following years of conflict with the IOC, disqualified Khelif last year for what it said were elevated levels of testosterone.

The IBA, which is led by an acquaintance of Russian President Vladimir Putin, has not released more details on the tests, calling the process confidential.

“What we see now is that some want to own the definition of who is a woman,” Bach added. “And there I can only invite them to come up with a scientific-based new definition of who is a woman, and how can somebody being born, raised, competed and having a passport as a woman cannot be considered a woman?”

“If they are coming up with something, we are ready to listen,” Bach added. “We are ready to look into it, but we will not take part in a sometimes politically motivated cultural war.”

Relationship status ‘top secret’

Siniakova and Machac win gold

PARIS, July 3, (AP): Katerina Siniakova and Tomas Machac hugged each other when they won the 2024 Olympics mixed doubles tennis gold medal for the Czech Republic , then laughed about keeping their relationship status “top secret.” Sinikova and Machac defeated Wang Xinyu and Zhang Zhizhen 6-2, 5-7, 10-8 in a match tiebreaker in the final. Olympics doubles uses a first-to-10, win-by-two tiebreaker instead of a standard third set.

Social media has been speculating about where things stand romantically between the new champions, who apparently have been a couple but might no longer be. Machac rolled his eyes when a



Czech Republic’s Tomas Machac and Katerina Siniakova show their gold medals after defeating China’s Wang Xinyu and Zhang Zhizhen in the Mixed Doubles final tennis match at the Roland Garros stadium at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

TENNIS

reporter at the post-victory news conference brought up the topic by asking: “Are you still together?” “That’s our personal life, so you don’t need to know that,” Siniakova said with a chuckle. “We like when you are confused.” Machac chimed in to add: “This is top secret.” Siniakova now owns the only two Summer Games tennis titles for her country. She teamed with Barbora Krejickova to win the women’s doubles gold at the Tokyo Games three years ago.

Siniakova is a doubles specialist who has won a total of nine Grand Slam trophies.

The first seven came alongside Krejickova. Since they stopped playing together, Siniakova teamed with Coco Gauff to win the French Open title this June - at Roland Garros, the same site being used for tennis during these Olympics - and with Taylor Townsend to win Wimbledon in July.

“I showed myself that I can play well with anyone,” Siniakova said, “and I should be more proud of myself.” The mixed doubles bronze went to Gabriela Dabrowski and Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada,

who beat Demi Schuurs and Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands 6-3, 7-6 (2).

Machac’s two best results in men’s doubles at Slam events came with Zhang as his partner this year. They are good pals and reached the Australian Open semifinals in January, then the quarterfinals at the French Open.

“Friendship’s totally broken,” Zhang joked. “He destroyed my Olympic Games.” He and Wang leave Paris with a silver medal.

Chinese tennis “is getting better,” Zhang said.

As for what advice the more-experienced and more-successful Siniakova offered Machac ahead of Friday’s final, he offered a kidding response, saying she told him: “Ace on the line and winner on the line.” Siniakova made clear that her view actually is: “With a team, you are two, so it’s really helpful when you communicate and you help each other.” Sounds like perfect words of wisdom for a doubles pair.

Or an off-the-court couple.

Muscle injury cited

Al-Arabi’s Khaba out for 30 days

**By Hassan Musa**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3: Al-Arabi’s Moroccan professional, Hamza Khaba, has been sidelined with a muscle injury that will keep him out for 30 days, according to a statement from the club on its social media. The specifics of the injury were not disclosed.

As a result, Khaba will miss the first three rounds of the Zain Premier League, where Al-Arabi is set to face Kazma, Al-Tadamon, and Al-Qadisiya. Despite receiving loan offers from clubs such as Al-Khaldiya of Bahrain and Al-Shorta of Iraq, Al-Arabi’s management decided to retain Khaba for another season.

Khaba missed Al-Arabi’s recent friendly match in their Turkish camp against Erzurum Spor, which ended in a 1-0 defeat for Al-Arabi. He also did not participate in the final days of training at the camp.

The Al-Arabi team has returned from their Turkish camp and will resume training today in preparation for their match against Kazma next Saturday in the first round of

the league.

Al-Qadisiya drew 2-2 with Saudi Arabia’s Al-Adalah in a friendly match at the conclusion of their camp in Egypt. Moroccan Ismail Khafi and Libyan Mohammed Soula scored for Al-Qadisiya.

The team is scheduled to return from Cairo today and will start training for their league opener against Kuwait next Thursday.

SOCCER

In a friendly match held at Kuwait Stadium in Kaifan, Al-Salmiya defeated Kuwait Club 2-0. Al-Salmiya’s goals were scored by Tunisian professional Imad Lawati and new signing Saif Al-Hashan from Al-Arabi.

Al-Salmiya is preparing to face Al-Nasr next Friday in the first round of the league, while Kuwait Club will play Al-Qadisiya next Thursday. Following this, Kuwait Club will travel to Manama, Bahrain, to face Al-Ahli Bahrain in a play-off match for AFC Champions League 2 qualification.



Al-Arabi Club photo  
A file photo of Hamza Khaba in action.

Algerian boxer Khelif clinches medal at Paris Olympics

VILLEPINTE, France, Aug 3, (AP): Boxer Imane Khelif of Algeria clinched a medal Saturday at the Paris Olympics following days of sharp scrutiny and online abuse as misconceptions about her gender have exploded into a larger clash about identity in sports.

Khelif defeated Anna Luca Hamori of Hungary 5:0 in the quarterfinals of the women’s 66-kilogram bout.

Khelif will win at least a bronze medal after defeating Hamori for the second victory of her tumultuous second trip to the Olympics.

Khelif was faced international scrutiny after the banned International Boxing Association claimed Khelif failed an unspecified eligibility test for women’s competition last year. She then won her opening bout Thursday when opponent Angela Carini of Italy tearfully abandoned the fight after just 46 seconds.

The unusual ending became a sharp wedge to drive into an already promi-

nent divide over gender identity and regulations in sports, drawing comments from the likes of former U.S. President Donald Trump. “Harry Potter” writer J.K. Rowling and others falsely claiming Khelif was a man or transgender.

At a Paris Games that has championed inclusion and seen other outcry over an opening ceremony performance featuring drag queens, LGBTQ+ groups say the hateful comments could pose dangers to their community and female athletes.

IOC President Thomas Bach on Saturday defended Khelif and fellow boxer Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan. Khelif and Lin were disqualified in the middle of last year’s world championships by the International Boxing Association, the now-banned former governing body of Olympic boxing, after what it claimed were failed eligibility tests for the women’s competition.

Both had competed in IBA events

for several years without problems, and the Russian-dominated body - which has faced years of clashes with the IOC over judging scandals, leadership decisions and financial issues - has refused to provide any information about the tests, underscoring its lack of transparency in nearly every aspect of its dealings, particularly in recent years.



Hancock claims 4th title in skeet

Vincent Hancock of the United States beat his student Conner Prince to capture his fourth Olympic gold medal in men's skeet, winning Saturday at the Paris Games.

Hancock coaches Prince, a first-time Olympian, and turned round to share a hug with his silver medal-winning student after making his last two shots to ensure the gold. He hit 58 out of 60 shots to Prince's 57.

Hancock won skeet gold at the Olympics in 2008, 2012 and 2021 and is the only skeet shooter to take the Olympic gold more than once.

"That'll never get tiring. For me it's something

that I work for for four years," Hancock said. "At this point, it just seems to be the luck of the draw for me. I do the best that I can and just hope and pray for the best."

Shooters are eliminated one by one in the finals, and when Taiwan shooter Lee Meng-yuan ended in bronze-medal position, that set up a fight for the gold between Hancock and Prince, who grinned and shook hands.

Hancock had two misses close together midway through the competition but rallied to hit every one of his last 26 targets. Prince missed one shot from his final sequence of four to give Hancock the chance to close out the win. (AP)



Leon Marchand of France, celebrates after winning the men's 200-meter individual medley final at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Nanterre, France. (AP)

Daudet the dominant sweep

Wild scenes in BMX as Macron watches historic French treble

MONTIGNY-LE-BRETON-NEUX, France, Aug 3, (AP): Joris Daudet joined teammates Sylvain Andre and Romain Mahieu in a wild celebration on the front stretch of the BMX track just outside of Paris, where they were serenaded by fans - including French President Emmanuel Macron - after the first podium sweep for the home nation at the Summer Olympics in a century.

Then, the trio paraded around with flags. Took pictures. Hugged everybody in sight.

The riders had been in quite a hurry to reach the finish line. But they were suddenly in no hurry to leave the track.

"It's hard to perform, you know, when it mattered," said Daudet, the three-time and reigning world champion, who finally earned an Olympic medal. "But today we were able to do that. Yeah, it's amazing. It's a dream." The only rider who had a shot at breaking up the French podium was Cedric Butti of Switzerland, but he was held off by Mahieu over the final straight on the tightly twisting course. The three Frenchmen then ran back onto the track together, where Andre chucked his bike in celebration and all three threw their arms up in victory.

It had been a long time coming for the 33-year-old Daudet, who started riding when he was 9 years old in Saintes in the far west of France. He has won 12 medals at world championships but had never even made a final in three trips to the Olympics.

"My dream came true tonight," he said, "for me to win gold, but also to share the podium with my friends." It was a dream night for Mahieu, too. His partner, Saya Sakakibara of Australia, won gold in the women's race.

Kye Whyte was hoping to improve on his silver medal from Tokyo, but the Briton crashed heavily during his second semi-final race. The accident occurred just after riders came down the starting ramp, which means he would have been going about 56 kph (35 mph) when he hit the dirt. Whyte was able to move as he was loaded on a stretcher and taken away.

France has been the most successful nation in BMX racing, topping the U.S. for the most gold and total medals at the world championships. But the success has rarely translated to the Olympics. Its only medal had been the silver Laetitia Le Corguille won at the 2008 Beijing Games, when the sport made its Olympic debut.

But hopes were high after the trio of French riders dominated their heat races.

Andre, who was fourth at the Tokyo Games, won two of his heats and finished second in the other. Daudet and Mahieu, who won worlds the previous year, also won a pair of heats and finished third in their others.

Together, the trio topped the 16 riders who advanced to the semi-final rounds.

Of course, the Americans were right behind them.

Kamren Larsen finished in the top three of each of his heats, and Cameron Wood won a heat and finished second in another, and hopes were high that they might follow in the footsteps of Connor Fields, who won gold at the 2016 Rio Games.

Yet while the French dominated their semifinals, the Americans had trouble. Larsen crashed out of his second race, essentially eliminating him from contention, and Wood needed a second-place finish in his third semi to make the medal run.

Once there, he was caught behind the leaders at the start and was unable to make up the ground on them.

"Right now, obviously pretty devastated," he said. "There's all kinds of emotions I think, all at once. It's taken everything I've had to get here. Get to this day, this moment. And obviously it didn't go the way I wanted, but I'm proud of everything I did." "It's just an unforgiving sport at times," Wood added. "Just doing my best to focus on the process and the journey."



Captain Hussain Al-Musallam, President of the International Aquatics Federation poses with the American officials at the Paris Olympics.

Al-Musallam honored

The United States Olympic Committee and the US Swimming Federation honored Captain Hussain Al-Musallam, President of the International Aquatics Federation, for his significant contributions to the development of aquatic sports. This recognition highlights his efforts in expanding the reach of aquatic competitions globally and supporting the sport at all levels. The award ceremony took place on the sidelines of the "Paris 2024" Olympic Games.

PARIS, Aug 3, (Xinhua): Local hero Leon Marchand capped a stunning run at the Paris Olympics as Australia extended its gold medal haul on seventh night of swimming at the Paris Olympics.

The 22-year-old Frenchman appeared to feed off the energy of around 17,000 fans at La Defense Arena, clinching his fourth gold medal of the Games by winning the men's 200m individual medley final.

Marchand set a new Olympic record of one minute, 54.06 to finish more than a second ahead of Britain's Duncan Scott, who took silver. Wang Shun of China claimed bronze, almost two seconds off the winning pace.

Marchand is the first Frenchman to collect four individual gold medals at a single summer or winter Olympic Games, having also triumphed in the 200m butterfly, 200m breaststroke and 400m individual medley here.

And he is just the fourth swimmer in history to achieve the feat, joining Michael Phelps (2004, 2008), Mark Spitz (1972) and Kristin Otto (1988).

"Winning four [gold] medals in five days, I don't know what to say," Marchand said. "After the semifinals on Thursday night I was really tired, but it was a great race. I'm so happy." His time in Friday's final eclipsed the previous Olympic record of 1:54.23 set by Phelps at Beijing 2008.

"You never forget a moment like that," Marchand said. "It was incredible, it was magical." Earlier, Australian veteran Cameron McEvoy secured his first Olympic gold medal

by winning the men's 50m freestyle final.

The 30-year-old touched the wall in 21.25 seconds, just 0.05 seconds ahead of Britain's Benjamin Proud, who pocketed silver.

Tokyo 2020 silver medalist and London 2012 champion Florent Manaudou of France took bronze in 21.56 seconds. Defending Olympic champion Caeleb Dressel finished sixth.

SWIMMING

The result made McEvoy the first Australian man to conquer the Olympic 50m crown.

"Just literally pure joy. It's amazing to win but that entire 21.25 seconds was bliss," said McEvoy, who is competing in his fourth Olympics.

"The way the stroke moved in the water - I never thought I'd be able to experience that, the joy of the movement, let alone getting a gold medal with it. It's unreal." In the night's only other medal race, Australian world record holder and defending champion Kaylee McKeown bagged her fifth Olympic gold by winning the women's 200m backstroke final.

McKeown produced a stunning burst of speed in the final 50 meters to finish in an Olympic record time of 2 minutes, 3.73 seconds, more than half a second ahead of American Regan Smith, who grabbed silver.

Canadian Kylie Masse claimed bronze, 1.84 seconds behind McKeown.

"Not in a million years did I imagine this," McKeown said. "I couldn't ask for much more, to be honest with you."

Evenepoel sweeps Olympic road race

PARIS, Aug 3, (AP): Remco Evenepoel became the first rider to sweep the Olympic road race and time trial on Saturday, relentlessly attacking over three climbs of Montmartre and building such a lead on the run-in to the finish at the Pont d'Iéna that the Belgian rider was able to overcome a mechanical problem in the final kilometers.

He raised his arms in triumph as he crossed the bridge of the Seine, then stopped at the finish line to soak in the cheers at the Paris Games.

Valentin Madouas, who tried to keep pace with Evenepoel late in the race, held on for silver while French countryman Christophe Laporte took bronze from a group that included Matteo Jorgensen of the U.S., Ben Healy of Ireland and Marco Haller of Austria.

The two medals for France were its first in the men's Olympic road race in 68 years.

Evenepoel, who won the time trial through the rain a week ago, had more than a minute on his pursuers as he was passing in front of the Louvre. The 24-year-old from Flanders suddenly threw up his arm for help, got off his bike and screamed to his team for the spare. They had it ready, Evenepoel got back aboard with only a few seconds lost, and was on his way.

The win capped a spectacular few weeks for Evenepoel that began with his third-place finish in the Tour de France.



Monica Doria Villarrubla of Andorra, (from left), competes in the women's kayak cross race against Eliska Mintalova of Slovakia, Haruka Okazaki of Japan and Li Shiting of China at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Vaires-sur-Marne, France. (AP)

Maggetti stars as Italy clinch gold in new windsurfing class

MARSEILLE, France, Aug 3, (AP): Marta Maggetti won gold Saturday in the women's new windsurfing class called iQFOiL, topping Sharon Kantor and Emma Wilson at the Paris Olympics.

Maggetti, 28, is from Italy, and Kantor, 21, is from Israel. Wilson is the British daughter of a two-time windsurfing Olympian.

In iQFOiL windsurfing, the sailors fly off the water at high speed, the boards lifted by a foil.

SURFING

Olympic sailing regattas in Marseille started on Sunday. They have been plagued by high heat and fickle winds, which forced the first medal races in the men's and women's skiffs to be postponed to Friday.

The windsurfing quarterfinals, semifinals and medal races were all pushed to Saturday. Each race only lasts about 10 minutes or less, with athletes pushing speeds well above 20 knots (37 kph or 23 mph).

Only two athletes were guaranteed a medal at the beginning

of the day because of their ranking after days of sailing: Wilson and Grae Morris of Australia. The remaining top nine faced off this way: The athletes ranked four through 10 faced off in a quarterfinal, with the top two advancing to a semifinal against the competitors who began the day in second and third place. The top two finishers in the semi moved on to meet Morris and Wilson respectively.

China's Zheng Yan and Peru's Mara Bazo advanced in the first quarterfinal to take on Kantor and Maggetti. Kantor and Maggetti then made it to the final.

The Netherlands' Luuc van Opzeeland and Britain's Sam Sills advanced to the semifinal to face Israel's Tom Reuveny and New Zealand's Josh Armit, with van Opzeeland and Reuveny going into the men's final.



Marta Maggetti of Italy celebrates her gold medal win in the women's iQ-FOiL windsurfing class during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Marseille, France. (AP)

Germany continue dominant run

VERSAILLES, France, Aug 3, (AP): Equestrian star Isabell Werth helped Germany win the Olympic team dressage title for the third consecutive time with a narrow victory over Denmark on Saturday at the Paris Games.

For Werth it was an eighth Olympic gold medal and increased her overall medal tally to 13, all in dressage and more than any equestrian.

Werth, riding Wendy, was joined on the podium by Jessica von Bredow-Werndl and Frederic Wandres. Bredow-Werndl was on Dalera, the horse which helped her win individual dressage gold at the Tokyo Games three years.

Germany's overall score was 235.790, just 0.121 ahead of Denmark on 235.669. Britain took the bronze

medal with 232.492.

The German team had qualified for the final in first place and held off strong pressure from Denmark, which was led by the top-ranked Cathrine Dufour-Laudrup on Freestyle.

She had the best performance of the

EQUESTRIAN

day with 81.216, making her the only rider among the 10 teams to score 80 points.

Daniel Bachmann Andersen on Vayron and Nanna Skodborg Merrald were Denmark's other medalists.

The British trio were Becky Moody (Jagerbomb), Carl Hester (Fame) and Charlotte Fry (Glamourdale).



Medalists from Team Germany, Denmark and Britain celebrate their gold, silver and bronze medals, at the dressage team Grand Prix final, at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Versailles, France. (AP)





Mohammed Al-Daihani aims for a target during the Skeet competition at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

# Sports

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## Kuwait U-18 team qualifies for Asian Cup



FIBA U18 ASIA CUP - GBA QUALIFIERS KUWAIT 2024

Kuwaiti basketball players display their medals on the podium after finishing second.

### Qatar top the standings

**KUWAIT CITY, Aug 3:** The Kuwait U-18 basketball team secured their spot in the Asian Cup Championship, set to be held in Jordan next September, following a decisive 78-40 victory over Oman. The match took place at the Federation Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex for Indoor Halls as part of the final round of the Asian Youth Basketball Cup qualifiers for the Gulf region, which also saw Qatar defeat Bahrain 92-69.

Qatar topped the standings with eight points, followed by Kuwait in second place with seven points. Bahrain secured third place with six points, Saudi Arabia came fourth with five points, and Oman finished fifth with four points.

According to the qualifying system, the top two teams from the Gulf region qualifiers advance to the continental championship. With this well-deserved qualification, the team has demonstrated its potential for achieving future success.

### BASKETBALL

At the conclusion of the qualifiers, Dhari Burjas, President of the Basketball Federation, along with Omani Mohammed Al-Hasani, Vice President of the Asian Coordination Committee for the Gulf Region, and Thamer Al-Shanfa, Secretary of the Kuwaiti Basketball Association and Treasurer of the Asian Coordination Committee for the Gulf Region, awarded the championship title to the Qatari team. Kuwait's national team was crowned second, and the Bahraini team took third place.

President of the Kuwait Basketball Association, Dhari Burjas, congratulated the national youth team on their qualification for the 2024 FIBA Asia Cup Finals. He dedicated this achievement to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the wise government, and the generous Kuwaiti people.

He emphasized that this qualification is the result of significant effort, strategic planning, and collaborative efforts between the Association's Board of Directors, the clubs, the Public Authority for Sports, and the Kuwait Olympic Committee. Burjas noted that qualifying for the FIBA Asia Cup Finals marks a new era for Kuwaiti basketball, showcasing the remarkable development of the sport in recent years. He called for continued effort and attention to meet the upcoming challenges and to compete against advanced-level teams in future competitions.



Carlos Edriel Yulo, of the Philippines, pauses for the national anthem on the podium after winning the gold medal during the men's artistic gymnastics individual floor finals at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

### Yulo wins gold for Philippines

**PARIS, Aug 3, (AP):** Carlos Yulo won the second Olympic gold medal ever for the Philippines, edging defending champion Artem Dolgopyat in the men's floor exercise finals at the Paris Games on Saturday.

The 24-year-old Yulo scored 15,000, just ahead of Dolgopyat, the defending champion from Ukraine at 14,966. Jake Jarman of Britain claimed the bronze with a 14,933.

### GYMNASTICS

Yulo stuck his triple-twisting dismount during his final tumbling pass. He stuck his arms out and roared inside a packed Bercy Arena before walking off the podium.

Yulo joins weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz as Olympic gold medalists from the Philippines. Diaz earned gold in the women's 55-kilogram division in Tokyo three years ago.

The event finals continue later Saturday with the women's vault final, where American star Simone Biles will look to become the second woman in Olympic history to win vault twice. A medal by Biles would give her 10 in her Olympic career, tied for the third most ever. Biles could add to that total if she finishes in the top three on balance beam and floor exercise on Monday.

The men's pommel horse final is also later Saturday. American Stephen Nedoroscik and Rhys McClenaghan of Ireland tied for the top score in qualifying.

## Cheptegei powers to 10,000m gold in Oly record

**SAINT-DENIS, France, Aug 3, (AP):** Joshua Cheptegei of Uganda took the lead with a little more than a lap left in a masterpiece of a 10,000-meter final to win in an Olympic-record 26 minutes, 43.14 seconds in front of a roaring crowd on an electric opening night for track at the Stade de France.

The world-record holder raced in the middle of a strung-out pack for most of the 25 laps on the calm, cool evening outside of Paris. Then he took off around the curve and held the lead over the final 500 meters against a crowd of Ethiopians who set a blistering pace all night.

### ATHLETICS

Ethiopian Berihu Aregawi beat American Grant Fisher in a sprint to the line for silver. Fisher's bronze medal marked the first for the U.S. in the longest race on the Olympic track since Galen Rupp took silver in 2012.

This was Cheptegei's season opener on the track this season - his only race at this distance was a 26:53 run in a cross-country road race earlier this season.

He looked in peak form, turning a race being controlled by Aregawi and his Ethiopian teammates, who strung out the pack early and took turns in the lead, into a celebration for Uganda, which captured its first gold in the 112-year history of this race at the Olympics.

The win earned Cheptegei \$50,000 - a new prize for Olympic track this year - and a chance to ring the bell at the end of the stadium that is reserved only for newly crowned Olympic champions.

Cheptegei adds this to the silver medal he won in Tokyo and the world titles he took in 2019, 2022 and 2023.

"Now, my collection is complete," he said. "I was the world champion. Now, I win the Olympic title. I'm so excited."



Joshua Cheptegei of Uganda poses for a photo after winning the gold medal and setting a new Olympic record in the men's 10,000 meters final at the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Saint-Denis, France. (AP)

### 'Now, my collection is complete'

### Sheikh Fahad meets Macron at Paris Olympics

## Shah delivers another impressive performance

**PARIS, Aug 3, (KUNA):** Kuwait's sailor Amina Shah delivered another impressive performance at the 2024

Paris Olympic Games on Saturday, marking her second consecutive stand-out day.



Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser with French President Emmanuel Macron.



Sheikh Fahad and Captain Hussain Al-Musallam with Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad and other Asian officials.

Shah, the first Kuwaiti and Gulf athlete to compete in Olympic sailing, completed six out of ten races with a total of 257 points over the two days.

As she continues her competition on Sunday, Shah's remarkable performance is a result of extensive preparation, including overseas training camps and international courses in recent months.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, met with French President Emmanuel Macron during the swimming events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. This meeting was arranged at the invitation of Hussein Al-Musallam, President of the International Aquatics Federation.

Sheikh Fahad praised the outstanding organization of the swimming competitions, highlighting Al-Musallam's role in elevating Kuwait's international sports presence. He emphasized that Al-Musallam represents the national talent in global sports leadership roles, bringing pride and honor to Kuwait.

The Chairman expressed his heartfelt gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for their unwavering support of Kuwaiti sports, which drives the nation's achievements on regional and international stages.

Sheikh Fahad also attended a reception hosted by the Olympic Council of Asia in Paris, alongside Captain Hussein Al-Musallam, Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee.

Kuwaiti shooter Mohammed Al-Daihani concluded his participation in the skeet shooting events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Al-Daihani scored 120 out of 125 targets in the qualifying round, ending his Olympic journey after a strong performance in the second stage but an unfortunate start in the first stage.

Despite a perfect score of 50 in the second stage, Al-Daihani's initial round score of 70 out of 75 targets affected his overall ranking, resulting in his exit from the competition in his first Olympic appearance.

In athletics, Kuwaiti runner Amal Al-Rumi secured eighth place in the 800m race at the Paris Olympics with a time of 2:12:13. Al-Rumi, reflecting on her debut Olympic experience, expressed her enthusiasm for competing against elite athletes and views it as a stepping stone for future events, including the Los Angeles Olympics.

Amina Shah completed the second day of the Alka 6 category race in Marseille, finishing sixth out of ten races and ranking 42nd overall. The final results will be announced after two more races today and tomorrow.

Yaqoub Al-Youha is set to compete in the 110-meter hurdles race today, aiming for a strong performance to advance to the finals.