

Scan the QR code to access

the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel

ARAB TIMES

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT Established in 1977 / www.arabtimesonline.com

stc Page 9

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024 / MUHARRAM 11, 1446 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18646

16 PAGES

150 FILS

Amir, Crown Prince receive Defense Min., new deputy army chief

KUWAIT CITY, July 16, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace.

His Highness the Amir was introduced to Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Army Air Vice Marshal Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, on the occasion of his appointment to his

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received at Bayan Palace on Tuesday First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, who introduced to him newly appointed Deputy Chief of the General Staff Air Vice Marshal Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

An Amiri order was issued on Tuesday appointing Air Vice Marshal Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah is tasked to carry out the order, signed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah





Left: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Major General Pilot Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Right: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Major General Pilot Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Opinion

O Allah, relieve the worries of the state and its people

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE news of a major oil discovery east of Failaka Island brought great joy to Kuwaitis. According to reliable oil sources, more of such discoveries will follow, and this will

The discovered volume equals Kuwait's production over the last three years, with an estimated current market value of approximately USD 225 billion.

What does this mean in the language of numbers and de-

Kuwait has undoubtedly faced many crises in recent years, stemming from various reasons that are too numerous to list but are known to everyone. As a result, infrastructure lagged, development projects were stalled, and all



aspects of entertainment and enjoyment were disrupted and closed. Meanwhile, the imprudent laws that were passed in recent years have restricted citizens, many of whom seek opportunities for leisure abroad,

and hence flee to Allah's vast world during every vacation. On the other hand, stakeholders have intensified their efforts to pres-

Al-Jarallah sure constitutional institutions to prevent the crisis of loans and debtors from being addressed, with the aim to strangle the citizenry for their malicious goals that are known to everyone.

Today, these interferences have vanished, and the government is working based on a clear vision outlined by His Highness the Amir. In light of this new reality, it is imperative to work quickly to initiate all development projects in infrastructure, the northern economic region, entertainment cities, or others, which aim to encourage citizens to remain in the country and enjoy the facilities here without disruption.

In addition, it is also necessary to address issues related to debtors and holders of loans for housing, consumer, study or medical care, holders of dud cheques, and other matters that burden the citizens.

Financial abundance exists, and the actual figures are not as exaggerated as rumored.

According to statistics, personal loans amount to KD 1.9 billion, not KD 14 billion as some critics, proponents of the "social justice and equality" theory, attempted to mislead decision-makers with.

Resolving this crisis will lead to revitalization of economic activity, because the borrowers, who total about 230,000 citizens, are suffering due to their inability to repay their financial obligations.

On the other hand, many of them, including women, are either incarcerated or subject to arrest warrants, or banned from traveling because they issued dud cheques under pressure from moneylenders.

In recent years, several factors have hindered justice for these individuals, including amending the dud cheque law. In Kuwait, dud cheques are still considered a felony, whereas many other countries have amended their laws to treat them merely as performance guarantee cheques.

Therefore, by resolving this crisis, the government will alleviate a lot of pressure on citizens. Consequently, if the government intends to impose taxes, it can do so, given the relief it provides by completing infrastructure projects, enhancing recreational facilities, and expanding livelihood opportunities within the country.

It was said in the past, "Time is money." Therefore, the current government must benefit from the blessings that Allah has bestowed on Kuwait, and work to solve all crises.

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com Follow me on:

facebook



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Day by Day

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs has critical responsibilities in serving the interests of the citizens. It becomes a major issue when the Foreign Affairs Minister and his assistants are unaware of their duties.

More often than not, they ignore the needs of ordinary citizens, focusing only on a select few individuals connected to them through personal relationships.

Officials at the Ministry must promptly address any problems faced by citizens abroad and provide continuous support until each case is resolved

... Yet tomorrow is another day

Zahed Matar

Widespread fraud scheme preys on expats in Kuwait

20-minute scam costs Bangladeshi more than KD 1,000



Photo by Mohammad Morsi Citizens and expats flock to the fish market in Souq Sharq as fresh quantities of Kuwaiti, Iranian, Pakistani fish and prawns arrive. Prices of Zubaidi, Hamour and Nuwaibi remained high. — See Page 5

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Abdul Malek Uzir, a Bangladeshi expatriate, recently fell victim to a financial fraud scheme orchestrated by unknown individuals, losing a total of KD 1,015 within 20 minutes.

Uzir recounted the incident to Arab Times, stating it began with a phone call requesting information to update his bank account, warning that his account would be closed if he did not comply. Shortly after, he received SMS messages containing One-Time Passwords (OTPs). Another call followed, asking him to divulge the OTPs. Within minutes, his bank sent notifications of deductions amounting to KD 443.97, KD 443.97, KD 111.309, KD 8.750, KD 5.750, and KD 2.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait FM laments slow progress in implementation of SDGs by UN

NEW YORK, July 16, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met Monday President of the 78th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly Dennis Francis.

Headquarters in New York, on the sidelines of Minister Al-Yahya participation in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The meeting was held at the UN

The two officials discussed close relations between Kuwait and the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

They also touched upon the topics on the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly and coordination related to future events. The Foreign Minister underlined the

border challenges impeding the implementation of the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs). The cross-border challenges facing the entire world need more concerted

regional and international efforts to

need for synergy to overcome cross-

KUNA photo Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya meets the President of the 78th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly Dennis Francis.

confront them," Minister Al-Yahya said in his speech at the general debate session of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the UN Headquarters in New York

Continued on Page 5

MoH warns public on risks

Kuwait logs 33 sun exposure cases in first ten days of July

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The Min-

istry of Health issued a warning on Tuesday, cautioning the public against prolonged or repeated exposure to sunlight, particularly during peak hours from 10 am to 4 pm. Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad, the ministry's spokesperson, emphasized through official social media channels that direct exposure during these hours can pose significant

health risks, including sunburn, heat stress, sunstroke, and muscle damage. Dr. Al-Sanad advised everyone to

avoid outdoor activities during peak hours unless absolutely necessary. He highlighted that recent rises in temperatures have led to an increase in cases related to sun exposure, with hospitals across the six governorates handling approximately 33 cases in the first ten days of July alone.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

5 killed in Oman mosque shooting

DUBAI, July 16, (AP): A rare shooting by multiple attackers at a Shiite mosque in Oman killed five people and wounded many more including a police officer, authorities said Tuesday. Pakistan's government said four of its nationals were dead and 30 hurt.

The Royal Oman Police said in a statement mentioned no motive or suspect and said the shooting occurred Monday night in the Wadi Kabir neighborhood of the capital, Muscat. The state-run Oman News Agency said three attackers were killed.

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip: Israeli airstrikes killed more than 60 Palestinians in southern and central Gaza overnight and into Tuesday, including one that struck an Israeli-declared "safe zone" crowded with thousands of dis-

placed people.

The day's deadliest strike came in the afternoon, hitting near a gas station outside the southern city of Khan Younis in Muwasi, a coastal region that's part of the humanitarian "safe zone" where the Israeli military has told Palestinians to take refuge to escape offensives elsewhere. (AP)

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday upgraded its economic outlook this year for China, India and Europe while modestly lowering expectations for the **United States** and **Japan**. But it says worldwide progress against accelerating prices has been slowed by stickier-than-expected inflation for services, from airline travel to restaurant meals. (AP)

300 domestic workers shift to private sector in 48 hrs

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: About 300 domestic workers (Article 20 visa) have transferred to the private sector within 48 hours of implementing the decision to allow such transfer last Sunday, reports Al-Rai daily.

It has been confirmed that there is a high demand among domestic workers to benefit from this decision, which will continue for two months. It is believed that this move will reinforce the manpower shortage in private companies by taking advantage of the skills of workers who are already inside the country, instead of hiring from abroad.

Continued on Page 5

Now Hiring Arab Times Newspaper

Advertising Representatives **Indian nationality**

- **Salary** + Commission
- Driving license and a car is a must

To apply, please send your CV to : hr@alseyassah.com

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h. By Night: Hot to rather hot with

speeds of 08-35 km/h. Max Exp Min Rec **Kuwait City**

Weather

light variable wind to light to mod-Kuwait Airport erate northwesterly wind, with Abdaly Salmiyah

Wafra

Nuwaisib

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

Turkish Embassy commemorates 'Democracy and National Unity Day'



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

The Turkish ambassador during the tour of the photo exhibition.

Media video, photo exhibit showcased

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: On the occasion of 'Democracy and National Unity Day', which falls on July 15, the Turkish Embassy in Kuwait held a memorial ceremony comprising a series of activities, starting with a moment of silence, the national anthem, and a recitation from the Holy Qur'an, reports Al-Jarida daily

This was followed by a media video about the events of July 15, 2016, and an exhibition featuring small photographs documenting that day.

The ceremony was attended by various ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Kuwait, and Turkish and Kuwaiti citizens.

In her speech, Turkish Ambassador Tuba Nur Sönmez emphasized the significance of this day, marking the eighth anniversary of the failed coup attempt by the Gulen terrorist organization. She commemorated the 252 martyrs and more than 2,200 wounded from that night, highlighting the nation's steadfastness and unity in the face of such a threat.

Ambassador Sönmez praised the courageous response of the Turkish people and security forces, which thwarted the coup attempt with unprecedented bravery and solidarity.

She noted that the night of July 15 stands as a new victory in the nation's memory, showcasing the people's determination to defend their democracy and independence. She stressed the importance of ongoing efforts to prevent similar threats in the future and called for international cooperation in

She also addressed the broader implications of the coup attempt, stating that it was not merely an attempt to seize political power but part of a larger plan by external forces to undermine Turkey's progress in various sectors.

Sönmez reiterated that the Fathallah Terrorist Organization is a terrorist and criminal organization that poses a threat to every country where it operates. She emphasized the need for continued international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

The ambassador concluded by asserting that as long as the spirit of July 15 remains alive in Turkey, no force will be able to enslave the nation or seize its will. The ceremony ended with the presentation of Ashura sweets in Turkish style, celebrating the month of Muharram.

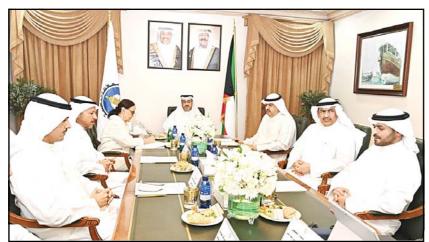
Sheikh Fahad sends congratulations to newly-appointed UAE Deputy PM

KUWAIT CITY, July 16, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Minister of Defense Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah sent a cable congratulating the Crown Prince of Dubai Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad Al-Maktoum on being appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister of the United Arab Emirates

The Ministry of Defense said in a state-

ment that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef expressed his sincere congratulation to Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum for gaining the trust of the political leadership in the UAE.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef wished Sheikh Hamdan success in his new position and wished the UAE and its people further progress and prosperity under the wise leader-ship of President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan



KUNA photo

Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah chairs the coordination meeting

Call for co-op in power conservation

Al-Assima Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah on Tuesday affirmed the necessity of coordination among the public departments and lauded the existing continuous coordination among the country's governorates to tackle hurdles in the environmental. health and municipal spheres.

The affirmation was publicized in a statement issued after the governor chaired a coordination meeting that grouped Hawally Governor Ali Al-Asfar, and his peers of Al-Farwaniya, Sheikh Adhbi Nasser al-Adhabi Al-Sabah, Al-Jahraa, Hamad Al-Habshi, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Sheikh Sabah Badr Sabah Al-Salem, Al-Ahmadi, Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chairperson of the Volunteering Action Center Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, representatives of the ministries of Electricity and Water, Commerce, Industries, Municipal Affairs and Infor-

Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali stated

that the discussions during the meeting dealt with prospected mechanisms for closer coordination among the governorates, government apparatuses, in addition to the cooperation at the social

He praised the great efforts that have been exerted by the Ministry of Elec-tricity, Water and Renewable Energy hand in hand with the other government departments. Such close coordination proved helpful in tackling the recent power outages due to excessive con-

He urged citizens to cooperate and ration the power consumption in line with their patriotic responsibilities.

The capital governor affirmed that the broad gathering aimed at examining means for supporting the state apparatuses during the summer peak heat wave and discussing campaigns to raise awareness of the necessity to rationalize power consumption. (KUNA)

Husseiniyas inspections continue

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf continued his inspection tour in the Husseiniyats in Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates, along with a number of other security officials, reports Al-Anba daily.

This visit is aimed at ensuring the proper implementation of the security plan, determine the progress of security procedures, review the mechanism for distributing patrols, and monitor the flow of traffic to secure the visitors of Husseiniyats during the month of Muharram

At the beginning of the tour, Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf inspected the checkpoint in

Ahmadi Governorate and he was briefed on the security plan by the field commanders. The plan includes the deployment of security officers around Husseiniyats, ensuring smooth traffic flow within their vicinity, and overcoming obstacles and difficulties to guarantee the comfort of Husseiniyat

He also met with Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor Sheikh Sabah Badr Sabah Al-Salem at the checkpoint of the Husseiniyat in Sabah Al-Salem; where the prospects for coordination between the security institution and the governorates, and ways to strengthen coordination were reviewed to guarantee the safety of everyone.

Cabinet hails minister's decision to cut medicine prices, oil discovery

HH the Prime Minister chairs weekly Cabinet meeting

KUWAIT CITY, July 16, (KUNA): The Cabinet held its weekly session on Tuesday at Bayan Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Among the session highlights was the Cabinet's praise of the minister of health for cutting prices of necessary medicines and recommending speedy execution of the key project, the railway network in the country.

Following the session, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheridah Al-Mousherji said that the ministers were briefed by the Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and the Acting Minister of Oil, Dr. Ali Al-Mudhaf, regarding the declaration by the Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Sheikh Nawaf Saud Nasser Al-Sabah and Kuwait Oil Company, last Sunday, about discovery of commercial amounts of light oil and associate gas at Al-Nokhatha maritime field east of Failaka Island.

The finance minister, in his address to his peers at the session, affirmed that this discovery places the State of Kuwait on the map of leading regional producers of oil and gas and lifts its status in this field to an international level.

This discovery is a national project aimed at boosting the State of Kuwait's hydrocarbon resources' reserves, he has added.

The ministers lauded the great efforts that have been exerted by the KPC and the KOC, resulting in the discovery of these huge amounts of light oil and gas at Nokhatha field.

The ministers examined a visual presentation by the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi regarding the new application (Kuwait Soha), noting that this venture aims at unifying all systems of the ministry and providing full and qualitative step forward in the realm of digital medical services and comes as a continuation of the ministry's policy of digital transformation and overhauling medical services.

The ministers commended the sincere efforts of the minister and personnel executing the project. They also applauded the minister's decision to approve the list of downgraded prices of medicines and pharmaceutical products in the private sector, where the cut reached 60 percent thus relieving patients in need for some necessary drugs.

They later discussed a recommendation from the meeting of the ministerial public services committee regarding the route of the planned railway in the State of Kuwait and a report presented by the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transportation. They decided to task the authority to complete its efforts for executing the Cabinet resolutions regarding the venture and take the appropriate measures to speed up pace of the work, cut red tape and embark on the execution phase ahead of the set schedules

Furthermore, the authority has been advised to submit a report every six months about the latest execution phases, along with timetables.

Council authorized to allocate plots only to state institutions

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Director General of Kuwait Municipality Saud Al-Dabbous says the Municipal Council is authorized to allocate the plots either for permanent or temporary purposes based on Article 21 of law No. 33/2016. It is also authorized to allocate plots only for the benefit of state institutions, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In response to the proposal submitted by a member of the Municipal Council Naser Al-Judaan to allow Kuwait Municipality to allocate plots for the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS), Al-Dabbous said the UCCS is not considered as a state institution, and so allocating plots to UCCS is the responsibility of the concerned state institution that supervises the union.

He stressed that it is not correct to discuss the request of Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) or the Ministry of Social Affairs for the allocation of plots in favor of a legal personality as stated by law No. 105/1980 concerning state properties, and law No. 116/2014 concerning partnership enterprises and its executive regulations.



PM Diwan photo

HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting, Tuesday.

French Embassy celebrates Bastille Day

France, Kuwait are partners in stability, security – envoy

By Fares Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The French Ambassador to Kuwait, Claire Le Flecher, emphasized the strong partnership between France and Kuwait in terms of stability and security.

During the celebration of Bastille Day, she highlighted the continuous dynamism of their defense cooperation, showcasing the capacity of both countries' armed forces to defend Kuwait side by side.

In her speech, attended by notable figures such as Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber, former Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Al-Nasser, and Undersecof the Ministr Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mishaal, along with French military members and heads of diplomatic missions, the French envoy praised the mutual commitment of France and Kuwait to pluralism, peace, and international solidarity. She lauded Kuwait's humanitarian efforts, especially in supporting civilians in

Gaza and Sudan. Reflecting on her three-year tenure in Kuwait, the French envoy noted the elevation of strategic dialogue to ministerial levels and the development of a robust relation-

ship between the two countries. She acknowledged the eagerness of French and Kuwaiti companies to establish commercial ties, citing the participation of many Kuwaitis in French business forums like Vision Golfe and Choose France.

Le Flecher highlighted the launch of the French-Kuwaiti Friendship Association, led by Mohammed Jassim Al-Saqr and Dominique Séniquet, which aims to foster longterm relationships and projects be-



Photo by Jehab Qurtal

French Ambassador Le Flecher with Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah cutting the ceremonial cake

tween the private sectors and civil societies of both nations.

She also mentioned the upcoming Francophonie summit in France, promoting cultural diversity and dialogue.

The ambassador acknowledged the significant contributions of Kuwaitis to the vitality of the French language and thanked His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed for

his support. She reiterated that the 1992 defense agreement between France and Kuwait is the oldest of its kind in the Gulf region, fostering mutual trust and cooperation through training and educating Kuwaiti officers in France.

Le Flecher highlighted recent joint military exercises, such as Pearl of the West 2022 and Arabian Breeze 2023 and 2024, which enhance operational readiness.

She also noted Kuwait's acquisition of one of the largest Caracal helicopter fleets in the world, underscoring the advanced capabilities achieved through this cooperation.

She expressed her honor at serving as France's ambassador to Kuwait and her commitment to strengthening French-Kuwaiti friendship.

She concluded with a heartfelt message celebrating the enduring ties between the two nations and welcomed the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in France, acknowledging the presence of a Kuwaiti Olympic Committee delegation.

Other Voices

'Minor offenses lead to major crimes'

By Ahmed alsarraf

In the absence of the National Assembly and with 50 representatives losing their positions and privileges, including former ministry members and minis-

ters no longer appointed, there has been a notable increase in hostility towards the current situation. Thousands who benefited

from these representatives are also impacted. Public corruption, debt issues, and subversive activities have exacerbat-

ed the problem. Recently, rumors, WhatsApp messages, and statements from both known and

anonymous sources have surged, with factions engaging in sabotage, making no side immune to accusations and slander.

This environment has fostered a culture of lying. hypocrisy, and pretense, with fabricated news targeting the judiciary, the executive authority, and spreading unsubstantiated claims about thefts and citizenship issues.

Consequently, we are witnessing leaflets and invitations to "opposition" meetings, both domestically and internationally, aimed at sowing division and confusion, eroding confidence in the government, and tarnishing its reputation for the benefit of wellknown parties.

We urge His Highness the Prime Minister to activate the role of an "official spokesperson" to trace the sources of these rumors, contact relevant authorities, confirm or deny the information, and announce legal actions against those spreading false information.

Every government agency should adopt the Ministry of Interior's current approach, where the Public Relations Department, led by Brigadier General Tawhid Al-Kandari, promptly responds to any news, confirming or denying it as necessary.

Moreover, we call on senior officials of the Ministry of Interior to intensify efforts to trace the sources of these destructive anonymous messages and legally pursue those responsible.

This situation parallels the belief of former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani (1994-2001), who successfully reduced crime by targeting minor offenses, as perpetrators of small crimes often escalate to ma-

By increasing police presence and focusing on minor infractions like bicycle theft, grocery theft, vandalism, and graffiti, Giuliani implemented a proactive policing strategy, significantly reducing overall

Similarly, addressing audio-visual crimes, prohibited parking, and other traffic violations should be prioritized. By controlling these minor offenses, the incidence and severity of major crimes will inevitably decrease.

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

diwaniya 🕝 چیوانیة

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Documenting Kuwait's history: Bishara's memoir in the making

"I WILL begin in early October to document my memories from three unique locations, recording events and historical decisions that have significantly impacted Kuwait. This includes discussions on its interests, defense of its positions, and the approach adopted by its leadership, particularly during the period following Kuwait's independence,' columnist, former permanent envoy of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations (UN), the former Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) secretary general Abdullah Bisha-

ra wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

decla-"The ration of independence led to crisis threatening Kuwait's existence, identity, and history, which deeply affected the pride of the Kuwaiti



Bishara

people.
"In 1963, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber was appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs. That December, the Arab Follow-up Committee for Palestinian Refugee Affairs, under the Arab League, convened in Cairo.

"Unexpectedly, I was assigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lead the Kuwaiti delegation at this significant meeting, which was closely watched by the Arab countries hosting refugees: Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt.
"During the first session, the Egyp-

tian delegate distributed a memorandum claiming that an Australian mission was meeting with Palestinians at a Kuwaiti hotel, seeking to entice them to immigrate to Australia.

"This unexpected behavior, which seemed out of sync with the cordial relations between Kuwait and Egypt, could have been resolved with a simple notification to Kuwaiti officials. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, expressing strong reproach, addressed this matter in a meeting with the Egyptian ambassador. The situation was resolved amicably, affirming good intentions.

"Upon my return to Kuwait, I briefed the late Abdulrahman Al-Atiqi, the Undersecretary, who then took me to meet Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad for the first time. Following this, I served as the head of the Undersecretary's office and later as the director of the Minister's office, where I remained from January 1964 to September 1971.

"During this period, Kuwaiti diplomacy was shaped with a primary goal of normalizing relations with Iraq following the fall of Qasim in February 1963, marked by the exchange of visits between officials of both countries.

"Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad prioritized this objective. He visited Baghdad immediately after the revolutionary government was formed, resulting in a statement that repudiated the methods and allegations of the Oasim era.

"This marked a significant shift in Kuwaiti policy, placing Kuwaiti-Arab relations at the forefront of its diplomatic efforts. Sheikh Sabah also dedicated himself to mediating Arab disputes, viewing this role as Kuwait's destiny and a vital mission.

"Amid these convictions, Kuwait's diplomatic efforts encompassed Arab concerns. The relationship with Britain transitioned from that of a historical ally to a friend, especially after Kuwait joined the Arab League in July 1961. Kuwait's membership in the League was almost conditional upon the understanding that Kuwait's security, sovereignty, and independence were Arab matters, free from foreign interference.

"My tenure in the minister's office was characterized by a focus on bilateral relations with Iraq. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's initiatives during this time included proposing and developing ideas for Arab mediation efforts. One of his notable achievements was working to resolve the confrontations between revolutionary Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"In 1971, I became Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations. I frequently accompanied Sheikh Sabah to the annual UN sessions. While I was generally familiar with the working methods of the UN, the most striking aspect was the international presence and the speeches delivered by global leaders expressing their positions on world issues.

"At the UN, one feels the deep interconnection of global interests, with a major focus on securing peace through problem-solving and emphasizing development. Stability and global security are seen as indivisible.

"However, despite this awareness of interconnectedness, the UN remains a battleground of state interests, devoid of ideologies like the Arab nation or African unity. The primary focus is on what benefits a state and its homeland.

"The aspiration to build global peace is evident, yet there is no consensus on the mechanisms to achieve it or a unified understanding of its components. These nuances are often absent from public speeches but are prevalent in the agendas of various committees. In these committees, the voice of the independent state -- regardless of its size -- expresses its political, economic, and security concerns.

"A core principle of the UN is the affirmation of state sovereignty. Unity among nations is about coordination, not annexation or the erosion of sovereignty. The Arab group, for example, coordinates positions on issues such as Palestine and refugees, as discussed in the Arab League.

"One crucial lesson from working at the UN is the importance of preserving state identity and maximizing the benefits of UN membership. I had initially intended to stay in diplomatic service for only two years before moving on.

"However, fate led me to the Cooperation Council in Riyadh, where I spent twelve years as Secretary-General, opening a new chapter in my diplomatic career.

"After my time at the United Nations, I returned to Kuwait. In April 1981, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad traveled to Moscow to inform the Soviet Union about the Gulf States' decision to establish the Cooperation Council among the six Gulf States.

"During a session with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, there was an open discussion about Soviet-Gulf relations. Gromyko welcomed the formation of the Cooperation Council, supporting it as long as it adhered to the principles foundational to Kuwaiti diplomacy. Sheikh Sabah confirmed that the Gulf States were following an approach inspired by Kuwait's path.

"On May 25, 1981, the leaders of the six Gulf states signed the document establishing the Cooperation Council. This document outlined general principles affirming cooperation among these countries in various areas, with a strong emphasis on economic and commercial matters.

"Notably, it did not mention security or defense cooperation, focusing solely on economic issues. This emphasis likely reflected a commitment to cooperation that respected the sovereignty and identity of each state.

"The document represented a collective agreement among the Gulf States. Despite health issues, King Khalid bin Abdulaziz came to Abu Dhabi to represent Saudi Arabia, demonstrating the Kingdom's commitment to the Council's progress.

"He also attended the second summit meeting in Riyadh in November 1981. At this summit, King Khalid, suffering from health problems, asked me to present the summit file contents as arranged by the foreign ministers, expressing no objections to its contents. This summit was King Khalid's last, as he passed away shortly thereafter.

I plan to document these three significant periods in a book, which I will begin writing next October. I aim to complete it within a year. I hope my memory serves me well, providing many details that will be valuable to include in the book's pages."

"I've written many times that our democracy is confined solely to the National Assembly and its elections. and that our "defenders" only uphold the Constitution insofar as it pertains to Article 107, which mandates National Assembly elections and prohibits its disruption," columnist Abdullatif Al-Duaij wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"Our democracy and Constitution are limited to the National Assembly and its representatives. Explicitly guaranteed freedoms of opinion, expression, and scientific research by the Kuwaiti Constitution are non-existent in practice.

'The National Assembly itself has passed several media laws that restrict freedom of opinion and stifle expression, without any objections or pro-

"I've also pointed out multiple times how the Ministry of Interior has repeatedly boasted about the "valor" of its members in violating individuals' rights and disregarding the legal and constitutional protections meant for their safety.

"This bragging is done publicly, on newspaper pages, without any denouncement from those who claim to defend the Constitution. Article 31 of the Kuwaiti Constitution, defended by the government, opposition, and loyalists alike, states, 'No person may be arrested, imprisoned, searched, have his residence restricted, or his freedom of residence and movement restricted except in accordance with the provisions of the law'

"Recently, the Ministry of Interior proudly reported that during a security patrol by the Hawalli Security Directorate, they observed an Arab expatriate leaving a building in the Hawalli area carrying a bag.

"Upon seeing the patrol, he appeared confused and attempted to flee. The patrol members arrested him and, upon searching his bag, found a large sum of money, which the expatriate could not

"This scenario illustrates how Interior Ministry officers arrest individuals based on mere suspicion or disapproval of their behavior, especially if the individual is an expatriate, without causing any protest or denouncement, even from law enforcement.

"This expatriate might have been carrying his life savings, and his confusion upon seeing the Interior Ministry officers is understandable. Why shouldn't he be confused when the Interior Ministry feels free to arrest anyone at their discretion?

"As repeatedly mentioned, our Constitution is limited to the National Assembly and its elections. The individual rights enshrined in Chapter Three of the Constitution are nothing more than a

- Compiled by PFX Fernandes

Multiple violations reported at Mubarakiya Market

PAFN shuts 17 restaurants for selling unfit food

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: In a recent crackdown aimed at safeguarding public health, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition has shut down 17 restaurants and establishments in the Mubarakiya Market, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This action was taken due to serious violations including selling meat and materials unfit for human consumption, which posed significant health risks.

The head of the Mubarakiya Center, Muhammad Al-Kandari, stated that these closures resulted from multiple violations, including operating without licenses and selling spoiled meat whose natural properties, color, and smell had changed. Legal measures have been taken against these stores, and the owners have been referred to the relevant authorities.

Additionally, hygiene standards were found lacking, with reports of cockroach infestations and workers lacking health certificates or proper hygiene practices.

The authority issued a total of 60 violations against these establishments and referred the owners to legal authorities.

This enforcement effort underscores the authority's commitment to ensuring the safety of food



Municipality inspector checking meat being sold in the Mubarakiya Market.

products and protecting the wellbeing of citizens and residents.

Additionally, meat packed in harmful chemical bags was seized. Workers were found handling food despite having wounds and ulcers without health reports, lacking health certificates proving they were disease-free, and failing to maintain personal hygiene, such as trimming visibly dirty nails.

The authority remains commit-

ted to holding accountable anyone who jeopardizes consumer health. Al-Kandari urged consumers to report any food safety concerns to the Hotline No. 1897770, assuring that inspectors will take appropriate legal measures if any violations are discovered.

The closure of violating stores in Mubarakiya Market was directed by Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the

This action aims to hold accountable those who tamper with food supplies and endanger consumers. The authority emphasized that violations involving the sale of unfit food cannot be reconciled, while other violations may be resolved with fines payable within

Muhammad Al-Kandari explained that establishments closed for non-compliance with hygiene standards will only receive temporary permission to reopen once the violations are addressed. These establishments will be re-inspected, and a report will be submitted to determine if they can permanently

Al-Kandari stressed the importance of consumer vigilance in ensuring food safety. He urged citizens and residents to check the natural properties, color, and smell of meat and food products and to ensure they are stored

Consumers are encouraged to report any food safety concerns to the Hotline No. 1897770, ensuring that inspectors can take immediate legal action if commercial fraud or the sale of unfit food is discovered.

Mom gets 47-yrs jail, lover 15-yrs in daughter's insulin kill attempt

Court overturns disbarment of lawyer convicted of bribery

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The Criminal Court sentenced a woman to 47-year imprisonment and her boyfriend to 15-year imprisonment with hard labor.

According to the case file, the woman had injected her 13-year-old daughter with high volume of insulin with the intention of killing her, and facilitated for her boyfriend to molest her daughter.

During the investigation, she admitted it was an act of revenge against her daughter upon discovering her forbidden relationship with her boyfriend. Consequently, she deprived all her children of their basic rights.

In the indictment report, the Public Prosecution called for the maximum punishment to be imposed on both the "mother and her boyfriend" for committing what it deemed as one of the most heinous crimes against humanity.

Appeals overturns ruling: The Court of Appeals overturned

the ruling of a lower court that disbarred a lawyer and ordered the latter's suspension for three years after being convicted by the Court of Cassation of bribing an airport employee. Officers at the Airport Security General Department, in co-

ordination with their counterparts in the Criminal Investigation General Department, arrested the lawyer who attempted to help his client -- an Arab -- to escape through the Kuwait International Airport by offering a bribe to a female immigra tion officer. The immigration employee informed her seniors at the air-

port that a lawyer offered her a large amount in exchange for stamping the passport of an Arab, represented by the lawyer, in order to smuggle him out of the country, because he was wanted by several security agencies and a number of arrest warrants were issued against him. The Airport Security General Department officials in-

formed the Money Crimes Unit at the Criminal Investigation General Department about the incident. The airport employee was then instructed to accompany the lawyer and obtain information about the expatriate who wanted to flee from the

Investigations and airport security personnel arrested the lawyer and the wanted person the moment they handed over the agreed amount to the passport employee. Many charges were filed against the lawyer and the wanted person, including bribing a public employee and helping a wanted person escape from the country. The case was referred to the Public Prosecution.

Child rescued from drowning: An eight-year-old Kuwaiti child has been admitted to Sabah Hospital after he was rescued from drowning in the swimming pool of a club in Sulaibikhat.

According to security sources, when the Ministry of Interior's Operations Room received information that a Kuwaiti child was on the verge of drowning in the club's pool, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location.

Upon arrival, paramedics performed First Aid on the child and then referred him to Sabah Hospital where he was admit-Investigations are underway to determine the circumstances

of the incident.

Two acquitted of possessing drugs: The Criminal Court canceled the ruling issued in absentia on the imprisonment of two individuals for four years with hard labor for possessing hashish with the intention of using it, and then acquitted them due to the invalid arrest and search procedures carried out by

The Public Prosecution had earlier charged the defendants with possessing narcotic substance known as 'cannabis resin' or 'hashish' with the intention of using it without proving that they are licensed to do so.

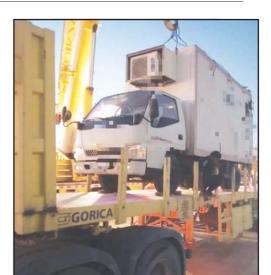
Attorney Abdullatif Al-Sarraf from the Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan Law Office represented the defendants in court. He argued that the arrest and search procedures were invalid, because they were carried out without a warrant. He pointed out it was an incorrect arrest; thereby, invalidating all subsequent procedures in the case.

He also cited the absence of any of the cases stipulated by the law, confirming that the accused were not charged, and that there was no incriminating evidence in the case files.

He concluded his argument saying that "stopping someone does not justify or permit searches. If the policeman finds the accused in a state of doubt or suspicion and stops him, that is within his authority. However, the policeman has no right to search the accused or his car. He stopped him, searched him and found drugs. This search is an invalid procedure, so the seizure of the drugs may not be the evidence upon which the conviction is based

Oil tanker capsizes: Oman News Agency reported on Monday, quoting the Maritime Security Center, that an oil tanker flying the Comoros flag capsized 25 nautical miles southeast of Ras Madrakah in the Duqm area in the Arabian Gulf, reports Al-Qabas daily.

No more details were available. However, the search and rescue operations have been initiated with the relevant authori-



One of the vehicles being lifted during the cam-

36 violations issued

Municipality removes 68 cars, scrap, mobile carts

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: During a tour conducted by the Mubarak Al-Kabir Governorate Municipality branch in residential areas 68 abandoned cars, scrap, and mobile carts were removed from the residential areas, reports Al-

The municipality also issued 36 violations during the tour. These violations encompassed a range of issues from general cleanliness concerns to violations related to street vendors, ensuring adherence to local regulations and

These efforts are part of the municipality's ongoing initiatives to maintain cleanliness, safety, and regulatory compliance within Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate.

3 women named to a co-op board

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, issued a ministerial decision to appoint three women from the ministry's supervisors to the Board of Directors of the Hadiya Cooperative Society, which was recently dissolved, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The female appointees are Munira Al-Kandari, Director of the Supply and Warehouses Department; Iman Al-Anazi, Director of the Civil Associations Department and Mashael Hajiya, Superintendent in the Family Welfare Department.

Fake news decried: The Ministry of Justice stated that a fake account on social media has been spreading rumors and false news, including the name of an individual and their relation to members of the judiciary seconded to the State of Kuwait, which places them under legal liability, reports Al-Seyassah

The ministry emphasized the integrity of the judiciary members, firmly denying these rumors and stressing their absolute falsehood. It will take the necessary

legal measures to deter these violations in order to preserve the dignity and prestige of the judiciary.

New traffic law: According to security sources, the new traffic law scheduled to be enforced before the end of 2024 aims to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from traffic accidents, and minimize traffic violations.

The sources highlighted that the tough penalties proposed in the amendment will improve driver discipline and enhance their adherence to traffic regula-



MUGHAL MAHAL BUDGET-FRIENDLY

Weddings Seminars Conferences Celebrations

Sea view | Ample car parking For more enquires Call: 23911174 / 23911175

Mr. Jack: 97644421

Email: fahaheel@mughalmahal.com info@mughalmahal.com

Enhancing poultry industry and food safety in Kuwait

KISR secures patent for innovative probiotic product

Emergency medical services handle 86,000 cases in first half of '24: MoH

Operations workflow revolutionize

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Director of the Medical Emergency Department at the Health Ministry Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti revealed that the emergency medical technicians dealt with about 86,000 cases in the first half of this year -- 73,000 transported by ambulance (45,000 urgent and 28,000 non-urgent cases), 530 by air ambulance, 39 by medical evacuation, and 328 through the arrival and departure ports.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Shatti said the Operations Department received about 61,700 urgent reports from January to June; and dealt with 5,400 road accidents and covered 4,500 occasions.

He cited the semi-annual report of the Medical Emergency Department; pointing out that the department's strategy aims to ensure quick and efficient response to emergency situations, provide the appropriate service for transporting patients, prepare human and technical resources to deal with emergencies and disasters, and raise health awareness among citizens

He also confirmed the receipt of 79 ambulances, while 100 new cars were ordered during the first half of the year. He praised the department's success

in replacing the paper system with the

and tasks; such as replacing the paper urgent centers' strength statistics with a digital copy, stopping the printing of urgent centers' and clinics' time sheets and replacing them with digital statements integrated into these centers' strength statistics file; such that the time sheets of a center appear immediately upon clicking its name. He affirmed this contributes to quickly reaching the desired position, preserving statements for a long time, and saving paper and ink.

electronic system in many services

He continued saying that paper work schedules in the Urgent Operations Division were replaced with digital schedules that are constantly updated, while the attendance and departure signature statements were removed from the department and it now relies on fingerprinting.

He also confirmed the creation of a digital alternative to the urgent operations notebook and the non-urgent operations notebook via Microsoft Teams, in addition to replacing the paper ambulance malfunction notification and vacant bed statistics in hospitals with an updated digital form.

He added that circulars are published and distributed to management employees through the official e-mail; while a special barcode was created for the individuals' personal e-mails to anonymously send notes, complaints and suggestions from the employees to the head of the Operations Depart-

He stated that the daily cost lists and schedules in the operating room were replaced with digital files; the large screens in the operating room were activated to include a display of the total



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Athbi with Anwar Al-Moussa, the Acting Director of the Educational Affairs Department in the Farwaniya Edu-

Farwaniya Governor reviews preps for new academic year

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Athbi met with the Acting Director of the Educational Affairs Department in the Farwaniya Educational District, Anwar Al-Moussa, to review the preparations of the district and its affiliated schools for the new academic year 2024-2025, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, Sheikh Athbi emphasized the importance of developing strategic plans to enhance the educational environment and its efficiency, stating that providing a suitable educational environment is a top priority to ensure high-quality education for

workforce at the centers, incoming and executed reports, and ideal employees of the month; and the creation of a file all students.

Anwar Al-Moussa expressed her gratitude for the Governor's support and his continuous efforts to improve the education sector, highlighting that ongoing cooperation between various parties will significantly contribute to achieving the desired educational goals.

Additionally, Farwaniya Governorate has joined the "Sahel" application under the directives of the Governor. This initiative is part of the governorate's ongoing efforts to enhance interaction with citizens, meet their needs, improve services provided, and facilitate communication with the public.

to record and follow up events and costs according to dates and type, to know the events held by date.

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) announced that its Environmental and Life Sciences Research Center has secured a patent for developing a new biologi-cal product aimed at supporting the poultry industry and enhancing food safety in Kuwait without relying on antibiotics, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The innovative product, utilizing probiotics, is expected to contribute significantly to national food security and yield profitable outcomes.

In a press statement on Monday, KISR revealed that the research team, led by researcher Tahani Al-Suraye' and including Dr. Hanan Al-Khalifa, researcher Hamad Al-Mansour, researcher Muhammad Kishk, Dr. Thanyan Al-Anizi, researcher Anwar Al-Mutairi, researcher Hanan Sultan, and researcher Haya Al-Saleem, developed a probiotic product comprising a mixture of bacteria in powder form.

This powder can be added to poultry water or food to support the industry and ensure food safety. The product offers a safe alternative to antibiotics for controlling infections that cause intestinal diseases

The research indicated that the probiotic powder enhances microbial balance in the animal intestine, improves poultry digestive health, increases meat and egg production, combats salmonella, and withstands harsh climatic conditions.

Experiments demonstrated the product's effectiveness in maintaining bird health, preventing mortality, increasing vital indicators, and producing high-quality meat with improved taste.

KISR emphasized that the strategic impact of this project is substantial, with potential contributions to national food security and profitability if implemented commercially.

Additionally, the project opens new avenues for developing Kuwait's poultry industry by promoting reliance on effective local products and reducing dependence on expensive imports.

Al-Huwailah dissolves boards of 3 Kuwaiti cooperative societies

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, has issued two decisions to dissolve the Board of Directors of Al-Salam Cooperative Society and the Board of Directors of Hadiya Cooperative Society, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Additionally, another decision was made to dismiss four members of the Board of Directors of Ishbiliya Cooperative Society.

Informed sources confirmed to Al-Seyassah that Al-Huwailah's forts to reform the cooperative sector and address the problems it

seriousness of ensuring proper oversight of cooperative societies and holding accountable any negligent parties.

appointed for the Hadiya and Al-Salam associations to ensure that their operations and the interests of their shareholders are not disrupted.

was due to financial and administrative violations.

decisions are part of ongoing ef-**Outstanding students to receive 50% discount**

PAAET details expenses for non-Kuwaiti students wanting to study at its colleges

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Informed sources from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) have disclosed to Al-Jarida the financial costs for non-Kuwaiti students studying at the authority's colleges under the "own expense" scheme, which were recently approved by the board of directors, reports Al-Jarida

sic Education

At the College of Business Studies

Bachelor's Program -- Total cost of 10,400 dinars for completing 130 academic units

Diploma Program -- Total cost of 5,440 dinars for completing 68 academic units.

College of Health Sciences

Diploma Program -- Total cost of 6,800 dinars for completing 68 academic units.

Bachelor's Program -- Total cost of 13,100 dinars for completing 131 aca-

College of Technological Studies

Diploma Program -- Total cost of 8,700 dinars for completing 87 academic units.

Bachelor's Program -- Total cost of 13,200 dinars for completing 132 academic units.

Completion Program -- Total cost of 6,900 dinars for completing 69 academic units.

The cost at the College of Nursing

Diploma Program: Total cost of 7,700 dinars for completing 77 academic units.

Bachelor of Nursing Program -- Total cost of 12,100 dinars for completing 121 academic units.

School Nursing Bachelor Program --Total cost of 13,600 dinars for completing 136 academic units.

Academic Completion Program --Total cost of 6,100 dinars for completing 61 academic units.

Discounts and Bonuses Outstanding Students -- Students with These actions are based on the

Temporary directors have been

The dissolution of the boards

NSLC

Here are the details of the costs for

Two students accepted into summer programs

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Two students, Nawal Al-Qenaei and Ibtisam Al-Qenaei, have been accepted unconditionally into the summer and the most present the most pre programs of some of the most prestigious and highly ranked universities in the world, reports Al-Jarida daily.
This marks the seventh consecutive

year that students from the American Baccalaureate School (ABS) have participated in the National Student participated in the National Student Leadership Conference's (NSLC) summer programs for middle and high school students. Over the years, more than 100 ABS students have enrolled in these esteemed programs, which

provide them with opportunities for admission into top-ranking univer-

ABS prides itself on being the first school in Kuwait to establish agreements with NSLC, continually supporting its students in achieving the best educational opportunities.

a GPA of 3.80 points or higher after two semesters will receive a 50 percent discount on the fees due in the following semester, based on a written request submitted by the student.

Exclusions -- Students under this system do not qualify for the excellence and rare specialization bonus. They may be eligible for a social bonus under specific conditions. Each applicant is allowed only one chance for acceptance under this system and cannot apply for acceptance in specializations available exclusively to Kuwaitis.

Bedouns surge in public, private Arab schools

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The latest statistics on education revealed that the number of Bedoun students and employees in public and private Arab schools reached 36,944 in academic year 2023/2024, reports Al-Rai daily.

This is part of the response of the Ministry of Education to the request of the Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residents' Status (CARIRS) regarding the number of Bedoun students and teachers, in addition to the amount spent on Bedoun students, in the past

academic year. The agency uses such statistics to evaluate the services it provides to Bedouns in line with Resolution No.

409/2011 on the provision of humanitarian, social and civil services to this category. The ministry's Financial Affairs Sec-

tor revealed that the amount spent on the education of Bedouns in academic year 2023/2024 reached KD6.9 million, affirming that its finance counterpart approved this amount.

The statistics indicated that the number of Bedoun students in public schools in the last academic year reached 21,253 compared to 14,505 in private schools; while the number of Bedoun employees in the ministry, including teachers and administrators, reached 1,186.



Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday) 2 Bedroom Chalet Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night. per night. NOW NOW BHD 60.984 net BHD 136.198 net Weekends (Thursday & Friday) Queen Cabana 2 Bedroom Chalet (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night. per night. NOW NOW BHD 170.247 net BHD 76.230 net

Promo period from 23rd June to 31st July 2024

Terms & conditions apply*

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

www.albander.com | 60 @albanderhotelandresort

Empowering youth through technology and innovation

Kuwait prepares to host World Robot Olympiad 2024



Participants of the nursing training course

KUNA photo

MoH holds nursing course with University of Toronto

The Nursing Services Department organized on Tuesday a training course, "Training nursing Officers," in cooperation with the University of Toronto in Canada to develop the vision of Nursing Services Department in the Health Ministry. The five days training course was presented by the visiting Samar Sami at the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS), where 26 partici-

pantS from the head faculty attended the course. The head of the nursing services Dr. Eman Al-Awadhi tackled during the opening speech the vision and mission of the administration, programs and future plans in the field of training, stressing the keenness of the Nursing Services Administration to hold training courses on an ongoing basis with the aim of advancing the nursing sector, which reflects positively on the quality of health services provided

She added that the course aims to train the largest possible number of nursing personnel in various specialized fields to develop clinical and technical skills and enhance health communication skills, management and leadership skills. (KUNA)

Deputy Director General of the Youth Sector at the Public Authority for Youth (PAY), Waleed Al-Ansari, stressed that organizing the "World Robot Olympiad 2024" in Kuwait, scheduled for October, represents a unique opportunity to showcase the talents of Kuwaiti youth in technological, technical, and scientific fields.

Al-Ansari said in a speech at a press conference held on Sunday at the "Ahmed Al-Jaber" Oil and Gas Exhibition at the headquarters of the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) on the occasion of announcing this event, which will be held under the slogan "Allies of the Earth", that the authority's support for the Olympiad provides a fertile environment for youth that encourages them to innovate and create.

He expressed his aspiration to see great achievements by Kuwaiti youth in this global scientific forum dedicated to the age group from 8 to 19 years, expressing his pride in cooperating in organizing this Olympiad, which embodies Kuwait's leading position in the field of technology and innovation.

For her part, Head of Program De-

velopment at the World Robot Olympiad, Karen Pepelaar, said in a similar speech that holding this major event in Kuwait with the participation of youth from about 100 countries is important for technological development in Kuwait, looking forward to seeing Kuwaiti teams shine and achieve outstanding results.

For his part, the official organizer of the World Robot Olympiad in Kuwait, Musaed Al-Kout, explained in his speech that this event aims to shed light on the technological development and sustainability that Kuwait is experiencing, in line with the directives of



Waleed Al-Ansari, Acting Deputy Director General of the Youth Sec

tor at the Public Authority for Youth during the press conference. the country's wise political leadership on the necessity of paying attention to

the energies of youth to achieve the vision of "New Kuwait 2035". Al-Kout added that this exceptional event will be held in distinguished cooperation between government agencies, the private sector, and civil society institutions to ensure the pres-

ence of an integrated system that raises the level of the desired outputs of this

event, expressing his happiness at Kuwait hosting this event. He called on all youth and Kuwaiti society, citizens, and residents to participate in this major event by registering through the official website of the competition

(http://www.wro-kuwait.org). In her speech, the Head of Public Relations at Kuwait Oil Company, Abrar Al-Mahdi, said that the company's hosting of this global competition aims to enhance awareness of environmental sciences and renewable energy sciences, hoping to see great results from the Kuwaiti teams that will participate in this major global scientific

Price remains steep

Zubaidi fish reappears in Kuwaiti markets after 45-day suspension

By Abdel Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: After the 45-day suspension of Zubaidi fishing, the king of the Kuwaiti table -- Zubaidi fish -returned at a price ranging from KD80 to KD140 per basket.

This has been the focus of public attention since the first day of lifting the suspension; although the prices are still high, as a kilo of Zubaidi was sold for KD13 after 15 baskets were supplied to the fish market at prices ranging from KD80 to KD140 per basket depending on the size.

This is contrary to the expectation of some that the fish market would witness a de-

The turnout of people in the fish market on the first day

of the start of Zubaidi fishing seemed normal, since it is the middle of the month and salaries have been paid.

Some fishing boats are still docked and only a few fishermen returned with very small quantities of Zubaidi fish, since 80 percent of them are absent from the market; according to the fish stall owners.

On the prices of other fish varieties, some stall owners revealed that shaam is sold at KD4 per kilogram, Hamour at KD6, baul at KD10, Subaiti at KD8 and Nuwaibi at KD5.

Fish stall owners hope that the catch will be abundant in the coming period, and that Zubaidi lovers will get what they want at reasonable prices; given the current prices are still high, the supply is low and the available fishing sites are far away.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

King of the Kuwaiti table - Zubaidi fish return to the markets post-suspen-

CAPT issues mandate for gov't agency heads' presence in tender discussions

MoE widens job access with qualification adjustment

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The Central Agency for Public Tenders has issued an external circular requesting that government agencies ensure the presence of the relevant individual, such as an Assistant Undersecretary or the Director of the concerned department, during discussions on any tender related to their agency, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This measure aims to expedite the documentary process and increase the completion rates for various topics presented at the Authority's Board of Directors meet-

Matrook Al-Mutairi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Administrative and Financial Affairs, emphasized the importance of adherence to this circular by Education officials.

He noted that the CAPT Circular No. 1 of 2024, issued in June, stressed the necessity of having the person concerned with the project, along with the Assistant Undersecretary for the sector or the Director of the department, present during discussions.

This ensures that opinions and observations can be expressed, and any matters related to the work presented

can be clarified. In a separate context, the Ministry of Education announced a series of vacant supervisory positions -- Kindergarten Superintendent, Primary, Intermediate, and Secondary Education Superintendent; General Director of an Educational District; Director of the Public Services Administration: Director of the Educational Affairs Department; Director of the Human Resources Department at the Ministry's General Office; Director of the Legal Research and Grievances Department



KUNA photo

Participants of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research's 45th summer training course pose for a group photo.

Young minds explore science

KISR hosts 45th summer training course

to engage in scientific research.

Al-Failakawi further explained that

the participating students have been

distributed among eight diverse scien-

tific programs, namely microbiology,

healthy food for a better life, birds in

our lives and their languages, the pro-

gram to make what we imagine, ex-

ploring the world of engineering, the

world of nanotechnology, genetic en-

gineering, and applications of artificial

Dr. Dalal Al-Baijan, Director of

KUWAIT CITY, July 16, (KUNA): The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) launched its 45th summer training course on Sunday, with the participation of 152 high school students and 47 university students at its main headquarters in Shuwaikh. The course will continue until August 15.

Mona Al-Failakawi, Director of the Manpower Development Department at the institute, stated in a press release that the aim of conducting such student courses is to encourage the younger generation

and Director of the Social and Psychological Services Department.

Employees wishing to apply must fill out the designated form on the website within two weeks of the announcement.

intelligence.

For the position of General Director of an Educational District, the Ministry has removed the educational qualification requirement for applicants

statement the importance for participating students to adhere to the rules and regulations that will ultimately benefit them, maximize their investment of time, and achieve the greatest possible benefit. This year, the course is held under

the summer course, emphasized in the

the sponsorship of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, the Ministry of Education, Kuwait University, and several private sector

companies. Those with a non-educational qualification must have at least 21 years of work experience, while those with an

educational qualification need 20 years

O Allah,

Continued from Page 1

Today, it does not have a sword drawn by either parliamentarians or influential people. It also has a large financial abundance through which it can advance the country, instead of deluding people into thinking that we are living in a crisis and scarcity, as stinginess is the enemy of states and the scourge of chaos.

Widespread fraud

Continued from Page 1

Uzir expressed his distress, explaining that the money represented his savings accumulated over the years, as he had been planning to leave Kuwait after working there for 24 years. He appealed to the relevant authorities and the bank administration for assistance in recovering his funds

Uzir also highlighted the need for bank warnings to be translated into multiple languages to protect people of all nationalities, as he couldn't understand the initial warning messages in Arabic. He admitted his mistake in responding to the phone call and disclosing the OTP, acknowledging that he had been deceived.

In other news, a timeshare company operating in Kuwait is defrauding Asian middle-class families through a deceptive scheme. The company, with a small office in Hawally and a main office in Kuwait City, initially distributes coupons in shopping mall parking lots, asking people to fill in their information. After a week or more, participants are contacted via phone call or WhatsApp and told they have won a raffle draw among 200 participants. They are then invited to the office to collect their prize: a 5 KD voucher and a four-night stay in a five-star hotel.

To claim the prize, participants must come as a couple, primarily targeting families from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. Upon arrival, the company entices them with offers such as a 35-day package for stays in five-star hotels in 175 countries, a one-year gym package for couples, summer camps for kids, free dinner nights at five-star hotels, party arrangements, free tour guides, discounts, and free transportation in the host country, among other benefits. These packages range from KD 250 onwards.

However, once participants pay, the company's response slows dramatically, requiring numerous follow-ups to receive any promised benefits. Victims eventually realize they have been scammed. This company previously executed similar schemes in Dubai and

Qatar, earning millions before disappearing. In Qatar, 23 Indian nationals filed a complaint with the Indian Embassy, which documented the victims' names in a letter to the Director General of Police in Telangana, India (No. DOH/CW/415/11/2023). The complaint names Adil Muhammad as the main accused, along with other staff members Vicky, Chirag, Sham, Hanah, Zaid, Priya, Joseph, Arafat, and Kiran. Sources indicate that this same company has relocated to Kuwait and is operating under a different name.

This fraudulent operation poses a significant threat to the community, particularly targeting vulnerable middle-class families from South Asia. Arab Times and Al Seyassah have consistently reported on various scams targeting people, and this timeshare scheme is one of the latest frauds that people need to be aware of.

300 domestic

Continued from Page 1

According to estimates, the decision to allow domestic workers to transfer to the private sector will contribute to reviving the private sector through the provision of workers needed in the completion of certain projects.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for

Manpower (PAM) has launched the national project 'Together 4' to protect the rights of expatriate workers in Kuwait, in partnership with the Kuwaiti Society for Human Rights, reports Ku-

wait News Agency (KUNA). In a press conference, Acting Deputy Director General of the Labor Protection Sector at the Authority, Dr. Fahad Al-Murad affirmed that the Authority seeks to review all procedures to guarantee the rights of all expatriate workers in Kuwait.

The Authority is also working to evaluate all aspects of the employment measures, starting from the recruitment stage and then employment to the return of workers to their countries, he added.

He also noted that the 'Together 4' project comes within the framework of the Authority's efforts aimed at strengthening cooperation with civil society institutions and public benefit associations and institutionalizing cooperation between them by developing a special mechanism through the establishment of the permanent committee to work on linking and coordinating between them.

For his part, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Society for Human Rights, Khaled Al-Humaidi, said that 'Together 4' consists of several activities, including social, psychological and legal support and providing consultations via the hotline in six different languages.

Kuwait FM

Continued from Page 1

He praised the efforts made over the past year to meet development aspirations.

Kuwait's top diplomat, however, lamented that the UN Secretary-General report on the progress made towards achieving the seventeen UN sustainable goals reflected the bitterness of the international economic

reality. He noted that the report has indicated that the SDGs implementation rate

did not exceed 17 percent. It also estimated that more than 23 million people live in severe poverty and more than one hundred million people face famine and malnutrition, and the majority of the victims are from the least developed regions, the

Minister regretted. "This challenge also requires carefully action from the United Nations," he stressed, adding that the developed countries have to transfer their expertise to the least developed countries to help build their capabilities to face the cross-border chal-

lenges. Al-Yahya highlighted Kuwait's initiative since its independence in 1961, by establishing the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development with the aim of helping the least developed countries achieve greater economic and development progress.

Kuwait logs

of experience.

Continued from Page 1

Groups particularly vulnerable to these risks include children, beachgoers, water sports enthusiasts, and outdoor workers.

For these groups, Dr. Al-Sanad recommended organizing rest periods in shaded or air-conditioned areas to prevent heat exhaustion and sunburn. He also stressed the importance of families and caregivers ensuring that elderly individuals stay hydrated and remain in cool, shaded environments.

Symptoms of heat stress and sunstroke, such as dizziness, headache, nausea, excessive sweating, and weakness, should be monitored closely. Dr. Al-Sanad advised immediately stopping activity, seeking shade, and drinking fluids if any of these symptoms occur. He underscored the importance of seeking medical help promptly if symptoms persist or worsen.

By adhering to these guidelines, Dr. Al-Sanad emphasized, individuals can significantly reduce the health risks associated with high temperatures and direct sun exposure.

World News Roundup

Europe

Welsh leader Gething resigns: The leader of Wales' government, First Minister Vaughan Gething, said Tuesday he will resign after several members of his government quit over a campaign donation scandal.

Gething said that "I have this morning taken the difficult decision to begin the process of stepping down as leader of the Welsh Labour Party and, as a result, First Minister."



The announcement came after four members of Gething's semiautonomous government quit, demanding he resign.

Gething, the son of a Welsh father and a Zambian mother, made history in March when he was elected by Welsh lawmakers to head the Cardiff-based administration, becoming the first Black leader of a government in the UK.

He has faced criticism for accepting 200,000 pounds (\$255,000) in donations during his leadership campaign from a recycling company whose owner had been found guilty of environ-

mental offenses and breaching health and safety regulations. Another company with the same owner was given a loan by the government-owned Development Bank of Wales in 2023 when Gething was economy minister.

His leadership has crumbled since the Welsh nationalist party Plaid Cymru ended a cooperation arrangement with Gething's minority Labour government in April. (AP)

Ex-NATO chief to lead **UK** defense review: Former NATO leader George Robertson will lead a review of Britain's military strategy to counter what he calls the "deadly quartet" of China, Iran, Russia and North Korea.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced the strategic defense review on Tuesday as one of his first major acts after taking office on July 5. Starmer who leads a center-left Labour Party government, has promised to end the shrinking of the UK's military seen during 14 years of Conservative Party rule.

Starmer also says he will increase defense spending to 2.5% of GDP from its current level of about 2.3%, but has not set a deadline. (AP)

Some officials boycott meets in Hungary: Some European Union leaders protested on Tuesday what they see as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's misuse of the bloc's rotating presidency, with many including those in the EU's executive commission boycotting an informal meeting hosted by Hungary in response to Orbán's actions.

Officials are angry that Orbán, a nationalist populist who is seen as having the warmest ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin among EU leaders, made unannounced trips to Moscow and Beijing earlier this month on what he called a "peace mission" aimed at brokering an end to Russia's war in Ukraine.

Orbán said he was seeking the quickest path to peace in Ukraine and portrayed himself as uniquely positioned to communicate with both warring parties. He also met last week with former US president Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago compound and expressed confidence that Trump would quickly "solve" the conflict. (AP)

Germany security official bans magazine: Germany's top security official on Tuesday banned a far-right magazine, accusing it of stirring up hatred against people with immigrant roots and parliamentary democracy.

Interior Minister Nancy Faeser banned Compact magazine and the company that publishes it, Compact-Magazin GmbH, as well as a film production company, Conspect Film. Police raided properties and apartments in four German regions linked to the organizations, their management and shareholders, her ministry said.

Faeser described Compact as "a central mouthpiece of the right-wing extremist scene." She said in a statement that "this magazine agitates in an unspeakable way against people with a history of migration and against our parliamentary democ-

US journo scheduled to appear in Russia court: Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich is scheduled to appear in court in Russia on Thursday for the second hearing in his trial on espionage charges that he, his employer and the US government vehemently deny, court records showed.

The trial is taking place behind closed doors in Yekaterinburg, a city in the Ural Mountains where the 32-year-old journalist was detained while on a reporting trip.

At the first hearing last month the court had adjourned until mid-August. But Gershkovich's lawyers petitioned the court to hold the second hearing earlier, Russian state news agency RIA Novosti and independent news site Mediazona reported Tuesday, citing court officials. It is now scheduled for Thursday morning. (AP)

'Ukraine needs 25 Patriot defense systems': Ukraine needs 25 Patriot air defense systems to fully defend its airspace and protect the entire country from Russian missile attacks, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday, adding that he also wants Western partners to send more F-16 warplanes than those already pledged.

In his first news conference since returning from a trip to the United States, Zelenskyy said he is ready to work with Donald Trump if he wins November's election. "I am not afraid" of that prospect, Zelenskyy said, adding he is convinced that most Republicans support Ukraine in its war with

Zelenskyy said on Sunday he was "appalled" by the attempt

to assassinate Trump and wished him a speedy recovery. Western support is crucial for Ukraine as it tries to beat back Russia's bigger and better-equipped invading army. Zelenskyy has proved talented at persuading friendly countries to provide ever more support, even if he doesn't always get what he wants

5 hospitalized after Spain bus accident: A dramatic bus accident at the mouth of a highway tunnel in northeast Spain injured five people, three of them critically, officials said Tuesday.

The bus was carrying 50-60 textile workers to a nearby factory when the accident occurred on the C-32 highway about an hour north of Barcelona, according to emergency services and

From the position of the bus, it appears to have hit the sloped edge as it was entering the tunnel and it was vaulted upward until its front came to a rest at the top. That left it propped diagonally across the entrance to the tunnel.

Emergency authorities for the Catalonia region said three people in critical condition were flown by helicopter to a hospital in Barcelona. Two more people were taken to a local hospital. (AP)

Attacker stabs, wounds French soldier: A French soldier was stabbed outside a big train station in Paris on Monday and the attacker was arrested, officials said, while the city is under a high security alert 11 days before the opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympics.

The soldier was hospitalized with a shoulder blade injury, but was not in life-threatening condition, and the motive for the attack was under investigation, the Paris prosecutor's of-

An investigation was opened into attempted murder, and the suspect's identity was being confirmed, the prosecutor's office said. Authorities did not suspect terrorism as a motive at this stage,

according to the national counterterrorism prosecutor's office. The soldier was among thousands of troops serving in the Sentinelle force for France's domestic security, created to guard prominent French sites after a string of deadly Islamic extremist attacks in 2015. (AP)



US Republican presidential candidate former president Donald Trump and Republican vice presidential candidate Sen JD Vance, R-Ohio, attend the first day of the Republican National Convention on July 15, in Milwaukee. (AP)



Linemen repair power lines on Jamaica Beach Road the west beach of Galveston island on July 13. The majority of Houston outages that followed Hurricane Beryl should be fixed within the next two days, the city's main utility company said on July 15 as Texas Gov Greg Abbott threatened to punish CenterPoint Energy even after the

Kawakami

America

Hawaii residents evacuated: Residents of about 200 homes in a small, rural community on the Hawaiian island of Kauai were evacuated due to a wind-swept wildfire on Monday as firefighters tried to stop it from spreading by dropping water from the air, officials said.

The fire had burned approximately 1.56 square miles (4.04 square kilometers) of land between Hanapepe and Kaumakani, Kauai Fire officials said. "Multiple" structures are being threatened, officials said. The fire is 60% contained.

Authorities alerted residents in the Kaumakani area of the need to flee by activating a siren system, sending authorities door-to-door as well as notifying them by phone calls and texts, Kauai Mayor **Derek** Kawakami said.

Authorities have closed Kaumuali'i Highway from Lele Road in Hanapepe to Kaumakani near Aloha Sweet Delights, due to the fire.

There were reports of structures catching fire but Kawakami said earlier he did not know if any homes or businesses had been burned by the fire. It was reported around noon in the Hanapepe area, about 3 miles (4.83 kilometers) to the east, he said. (AP)

3 hikers die in Utah parks: Three hikers died over the weekend in suspected heat-related cases at state and national parks in Utah, including a father and daughter who got lost on a strenuous hike in Canyonlands National Park in tripledigit temperatures.

The daughter, 23, and her father, 52, sent a 911 text alerting dispatchers that they were lost and had run out of water while hiking the 8.1 miles (13 kilometers) Syncline Loop, described by the National Park Service as the most challenging trail in the Island in the Sky district of the southeast Utah park. The pair set out Friday to navigate steep switchbacks and scramble through boulder fields with limited trail markers as the air temperature surpassed 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius).

Park rangers and a helicopter crew with the Bureau of Land Management began their search for the lost hikers in the early evening Friday, but found them already dead. The San Juan County Sheriff's Office identified them on Monday as Albino Her-

Politics

Ex-president gets a hero's welcome

Trump picks Vance as running mate

MILWAUKEE, July 16, (AP): Two days after surviving an attempted assassination, former president Donald Trump appeared triumphantly at the Republican National Convention's opening night with a bandage over his right ear, the latest compelling scene in a presidential campaign already defined by dramatic turns.

GOP delegates cheered wildly when Trump appeared onscreen backstage and then emerged in the arena, visibly emotional, as musician Lee Greenwood sang "God Bless the USA." That was hours after the convention had formally nominated the former president to head the Republican ticket in November against President Joe Biden.

Trump, accompanied by a wall of Secret Service agents, did not address the hall - with his acceptance speech scheduled for Thursday - but smiled silently and occasionally waved as Greenwood sang. He eventually joined his newly announced running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, to listen to the night's remaining speeches, often with a subdued expression and muted reactions uncharacteristic for the unabashed showman.

The raucous welcome underscored the depth of the crowd's affection for the man who won the 2016 nomination as an outsider, at odds with the party establishment, but has vanguished all Republican rivals, silenced most conservative critics and now commands loyalty up and down the party ranks.

Unite

"We must unite as a party, and we must unite as a nation," said Republican Party Chairman Michael Whatley, Trump's handpicked party leader, as he opened Monday's prime-time national convention session. "We must show the same strength and resilience as President Trump and lead this nation to a greater future.'

But Whatley and other Republican leaders made clear that their calls for harmony did not extend to Biden and Democrats, who find themselves still riven by worries that the 81-year-old question is not up to the job of defeating Trump

rera Espinoza and his daughter, Beatriz Her-

Fishermen sentenced: Several com-

mercial fishermen in New England have

rera, of Green Bay, Wisconsin. (AP)

"Their policies are a clear and present danger to America, to our institutions, our values and our people," said Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson, welcoming the party to his battleground state, which Trump won in 2016 but lost to Biden four years ago.

Saturday's shooting at a Pennsylvania rally, where Trump was injured and one man died, were clearly in mind, but the proceedings were celebratory - a stark contrast to the anger and anxiety that had marked the previous few days. Some delegates chanted "fight, fight, fight" the same words that Trump was seen shouting to the crowd Saturday as the Secret Service ushered him off the stage, his fist raised and face bloodied.

Thankful

"We should all be thankful right now that we are able to cast our votes for President Donald J. Trump after what took place on Saturday," said New Jersey state Sen. Michael Testa as he announced all of his state's 12 delegates for Trump.

When Trump cleared the necessary number of delegates, video screens in the arena read "OVER THE TOP" while the song "Celebration" played and delegates danced and waved Trump signs. Throughout the voting, delegates flanked by "Make America Great Again" signs applauded as state after state voted their support for a second Trump term.

Multiple speakers invoked religious imagery to discuss Trump and the assassination attempt.

"The devil came to Pennsylvania holding a rifle," said Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina. "But an American lion got back up on his feet!"

Wyoming delegate Sheryl Foland was among those who adopted the "fight" chant after seeing Trump survive Saturday in what she called "monumental photos and video."

"We knew then we were going to adopt that as our chant," added Foland, a child trauma mental health counselor. "Not just because we wanted him to fight, and that God was fighting for him. We thought, isn't it our job to ac-

been sentenced in a fraud scheme that cen-

tered on a critically important species of bait

fish and that prosecutors described as com-

cept that challenge and fight for our country?" "It's bigger than Trump," Foland

said. "It's a mantra for our country."

Another well-timed development boosted the mood on the convention floor Monday: The federal judge presiding over Trump's classified documents case dismissed the prosecution because of concerns over the appointment of the prosecutor who brought the case, handing the former president a major court victory.

Designed

Trump's campaign chiefs designed the convention to feature a softer and more optimistic message, focusing on themes that would help a divisive leader expand his appeal among moderate voters and people of color.

On a night devoted to the economy. delegates and a national TV audience heard from speakers the Trump campaign pitched as "everyday Ameri-- a single mother talking about inflation, a union member who identified himself as a lifelong Democrat now backing Trump, a small business owner, among others.

Featured speakers also included Black Republicans who have been at the forefront of the Trump campaign's effort to win more votes from a core Democratic constituency. U.S. Rep. Wesley Hunt of Texas

said rising grocery and energy prices were hurting Americans' wallets and quoted Ronald Reagan in calling inflation "the cruelest tax on the poor." Hunt argued Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris didn't seem to understand the problem.

"We can fix this disaster," Hunt said, by electing Trump and sending 'him right back to where he belongs, the White House.'

Scott, perhaps the party's most well-known Black lawmaker, declared, 'America is not a racist country.' Republicans hailed Vance's selec-

tion as a key step toward a winning coalition in November.

Trump announced his choice of his running mate as delegates were voting on the former president's nomination Monday.

plex and wide-ranging. The fishermen were sentenced for

"knowingly subverting commercial fishing



Britain King Charles III and Queen Camilla arrive at the Royal Square in St Helier, Jersey, for special sittings of the States Assembly and of the Royal Court,

reporting requirements" in a scheme involving Atlantic herring, prosecutors said in a statement. The defendants included owners, captains and crew members of the Western Sea, a ship that operates out of Maine.

Western Sea owner Glenn Robbins pleaded guilty in March to submitting false information to the federal government regarding the catch and sale of Atlantic herring and a failure to pay taxes, prosecutors said. Members of the ship's crew conspired to submit false trip reports to the federal government from 2016 to 2019, court records state. The charges are misdemeanors. (AP)

Ex-hospitals execs charged: Federal authorities have charged a former Loretto Hospital executive in a scheme to embez-zle \$15 million from the health care facility.

In an indictment filed late last week, Anosh Ahmed was charged with eight counts of wire fraud, four counts of embezzlement, 11 counts of aiding and abetting embezzlement and three counts of money laundering.

Ahmed was chief financial officer and CEO of the safety-net hospital when he resigned in 2021 for his involvement in questionable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, a controversy that's not part of the federal indictment.

Criminal charges have also been filed against Sameer Suhail, of Chicago, who owns a medical supply company and allegedly participated in the fraud, and Heather Bergdahl, the hospital's former chief transformation officer. She and Ahmed are from Houston. (AP)



during their two day visit to the Channel Islands on July 15. (AP)

Lat/Am

Narco plane crashes

Brazil launches 'op' to fight criminal org

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 16, (AP): Brazilian authorities launched a mega-operation in Rio de Janeiro that sent a force of nearly 2,000 military and civil officers into 10 low income neighborhoods Monday seeking to regain control of areas dominated by organized crime.

The officers deployed in the city's western zone, an area that has been the target of intense territorial disputes involving drug traffickers and militias in recent years, the Rio de Janeiro state government said in a

The operation, which also seeks to carry out arrest warrants, has no end date, the the statement said.

"The state government's security task force is on the streets to fight criminal organizations that want to take the population hostage," said Gov Cláudio Cas-

tro, who was present as troops and police began the operation at 4 am, the statement said. Officers deployed across

the sprawling urban neighborhoods - known as favelas - of Rio das Pedras, Terreirao, Ce-Maia/Coroado, Cidade de Deus, Muzema, Gardenia Azul, Tijuquinha, Fontela, Morro do Banco and Sitio do Pai Joao

Organized by Rio's state government, the operation included participation by Brazil's navy and the municipal guard as well as employees for cable TV and in-

ternet operators and water, electricity and gas utilities. The spread of organized crime in Rio's western zone has led to fierce confrontations between law enforcement agencies and different factions of drugtrafficking groups and militias.

The militias - formed in the late 1980s to stop drug traffickers' expansion - moved into land-grabbing and real estate more recently and control over half the territory in Rio's metropolitan region, according to a 2022 study from the Federal Fluminense University and the Fogo Cruzado Institute.

CARACAS: An aircraft suspected of being used to traffic drugs crashed in west-central Venezuela's Portuguesa state, Domingo Hernandez Larez, the general commander of the Strategic Operational Command of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, said

The plane tried to evade interception by Venezuelan military aircraft after local authorities detected its illegal entry into the Venezuelan airspace, he said in a post on social media.

"Next to the aircraft, they located a deceased crew member and items such as a Mexican passport and a US flying license," said Larez, adding that materials indicating the aircraft was used for drug trafficking were also found.

When the aircraft's illegal entry was detected, it was declared a hostile target, he said.

The commander added that air interdiction and interception were ordered since the aircraft did not identify itself, turned off its locator and transponder, and hid its identification plates.

The pilot ignored the various steps taken by the Venezuelan Armed Forces and attempted a forced landing, which led to the accident, Larez said.

MEXICO CITY: The pet rail project of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador could wind up costing as much as \$30 billion, is only half finished as he heads into the final 2 1/2 months of his term, and has wreaked major damage on the environment.

But the most damning judgments on the Maya Train tourist line, which runs in a loop around the Yucatan Peninsula, are the ridership figures on about half the railway that is now open: only about 1,200 people per day use the train, according to government figures released Monday.

Most ride it only on short stretches between the city of Merida and Cancun, or the nearby city of Campeche. The big hope for paying the train's massive cost was that tourists would use it to depart from the resort of Cancun and explore the whole 950-mile (1,500-kilometer) route to visit the Mayan archaeological sites that dot the peninsula.

But a round-trip route from Cancun to the wellknown Mayan temple complex of Palenque has drawn only about 100 passengers per day each way in the first six months of operation. That is a volume that a bus or two per day could handle far more cheaply.

The government had originally promised the train would carry between 22,000 and 37,000 people per day. Current ridership is about 3-5% of that, with three of the four most popular stations - Cancun, Merida, Palenque and Campeche - already in service.

Admittedly, the rail line down the heavily traveled corridor linking Cancun and the resorts of Playa del Carmen and Tulum - an area known as the Riviera Maya - isn't finished yet, and only 17 trains are operating; three times as many may eventually be added.

But critics say there is little evidence the Cancun-Tulum line will make the project profitable, because it doesn't run particularly near any of the resort towns it is supposed to serve.

The Cancun-Tulum railway was originally supposed to run on an elevated line over the coastal highway, where most hotels are. But facing technical difficulties, the government changed the route by cutting a 68-mile (110-kilometer) swath through the jungle and moving the tracks about 4½ miles (7 kilometers)

So instead of hopping one of the micro-buses that run constantly down the coastal highway, tourists or resort workers would have to take a taxi to the train station, wait for one of the few daily trains, and then take another taxi to the resorts once they reach their destination.

"The uselessness of this project was foreseeable," said Jose "Pepe" Urbina, a local diver who opposes the train because its steel pilings have damaged the caverns he has explored for decades. "In reality, the train doesn't go anywhere you couldn't get to by highway before.'

"These are rail lines that don't provide any useful service for workers, for students, for any daily use,' Urbina said.

One thing the railway project did create was jobs: Manuel Merino, the governor of the Gulf coast state of Tabasco, said the Maya Train had created 20,000 direct or indirect jobs in his state and lowered the unemployment rate by 40%.

'This makes it truly a motor for developing the south," a historically poorer and undeveloped part of Mexico, Merino said. But most of those jobs will be gone once construction is finished, and federal officials are also casting around for ways to try to make the railway pay for itself.



Philippine resupply vessel Unaizah May 4 is hit by two Chinese coast guard water cannons causing injuries to four crew members as they tried to enter the Second Thomas Shoal, locally known as Ayungin Shoal, in the disputed South China Sea on March 5. Inset: Demonstrators hold slogans beside the Philippine flag to celebrate the 8th anniversary of an arbitration ruling that invalidated Beijing's vast territorial claims in the South China Sea, locally called West Philippine Sea, as they hold a rally in Quezon city, Philippines on July 12. (AP)

New deal establishes hotline Chinese, Philippine presidents can use to stop clashes at sea

A recently signed agreement will open a direct line of communication between China and the Philippines' presidential offices to try and prevent any new confrontation from spiraling out of control in the disputed South China Sea, according to highlights of the accord seen by The Associated Press on Tuesday.

China and the Philippines have forged such emergency telephone hotlines at lower levels of their bureaucracies in the past to better manage their disputes, particularly in two fiercely disputed shoals where the

Philippines has accused Chinese forces of increasingly hostile actions and China says Philippine ships have encroached despite repeated warnings.

The territorial faceoffs, however, have persisted uncontrollably in the past year, sparking fears of a larger armed conflict that could involve the United States, which has repeatedly warned that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, a key Asian treaty ally, if Filipino forces come under an armed attack in the disputed waters.

In a confrontation between Chinese and Philippine forces at the Philippines-occupied Second Thomas Shoal in August 2023, the Philippine government said it was unable to reach Chinese officials through an established "maritime communication mechanism" for several hours as the clash happened. That emergency telephone hotline was arranged after Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing in January 2023. (AP)



People gather to clear the rubble of a house partially damaged by landslide due to heavy rainfall in Surkhroad district of Jalalábad, Nangarhar province east of Kabul, Afghanistan on July 15. (AP)





Asia

'NKorea diplomat defected to Seoul':

South Korea's spy agency said Tuesday that a senior North Korea diplomat based in Cuba has fled to South Korea, the latest in a series of defections by members of the North's ruling elite in recent years.

The National Intelligence Service said media reports on the defection of a North Korean counselor of political affairs in Cuba were true. A brief statement by the NIS public affairs office gave no further details. South Korea's mass-circulation Chosun

Ilbo newspaper reported earlier Tuesday that diplomat **Ri Il Kyu** fled to South Korea

with his wife and children in November. Chosun Ilbo cited Ri as telling the newspaper in an interview that he had decided to defect because of what he called disillusionment with North Korea's political system, an unfair job evaluation by Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry, and the ministry's disapproval of his hopes to visit Mexico to treat his neural damage. He said that hospitals in Cuba didn't have the necessary medical equipment to treat his health

problem due to international sanctions. The Chosun report said Ri had been engaged in efforts to block Cuba from opening diplomatic ties with South Korea until his defection. The report said Ri won a commendation from leader Kim Jong Un for his role in negotiations with Panama that led to the release of a ship detained in 2013 for allegedly carrying banned items like missiles and fighter jet parts. The report said Ri was then a third secretary of the North Korean Embassy in Cuba. (AP)

Philippine landslides kill 5: At least five people have been killed by landslides and flash floods triggered by heavy rains that hit Zamboanga City in the southern Philippines, a spokesperson for the local disaster prevention agency said Tuesday.

Elmeir Apolinario of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office said four died from the landslides and one from drowning.

Apolinario said the bodies of the five victims,

Subcontinent

Pakistan troops kill 10 militants

40 dead in Afghanistan heavy rains

ISLAMABAD, July 16, (AP): Heavy rains in eastern Afghanistan have killed at least 40 people and injured nearly 350 others, Taliban officials said Tuesday. Separately, at least 17 died when a bus overturned on a main highway, official media said.

Sharafat Zaman Amar, a spokesperson for the Public Health Ministry, confirmed that 40 people had died in Monday's storm and that 347 injured people had been brought for treatment to the regional hospital in Nangarhar from Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, and nearby districts.

Among the dead were five members of the same family who were killed when the roof of their house collapsed in Surkh Rod district, according to provincial spokesperson Sediqullah Ouraishi. Four other family members were injured. About 400 houses and 60 electricity

poles were destroyed across Nangarhar province, Ouraishi said. Power was cut in many areas and there were limited communications in Jalalabad city, he said. The damage was still being assessed, Quraishi said.

Abdul Wali, 43, said much of the damage occurred within an hour. "The winds were so strong that they blew everything into the air. That was followed by heavy rain," he said. His 4-year-old daughter received minor injuries, he said.

In May, exceptionally heavy rains killed more than 300 people and destroyed thousands of houses, mostly in the northern province of Baghlan, according to the World Food Program.

10 militants dead in Pak: All 10 militants who rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into a Pakistani military facility were killed in an 18-hour operation, officials said Tuesday.

In its statement, the Pakistani military said eight soldiers were killed when a suicide bomber early Monday rammed his explosive-laden vehicle into the outer wall of an army housing

which include a 29-year-old mother and her six-

year-old son, and a 47-year-old father and his

Apolinario said the heavy downpour on

10-year-old son, were all accounted for.

complex in Bannu, a city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

A splinter group of Pakistani Taliban, led by a militant commander Gul Bahadur, claimed the attack, which has been denounced by the country's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and other officials.

The military said the suicide attack collapsed a portion of the wall and damaged nearby infrastructure, resulting in the killing of the eight soldiers. Responding to the attack, security

forces killed all ten attackers, it said. The military said a "timely and effective response by the security forces prevented major catastrophe."

Pakistan has consistently raised its concerns with the Taliban government in Afghanistan, the military adds, "asking them to deny persistent use of Afghan soil by the terrorists and to take effective action against such elements."

The military said Pakistan's armed forces "will keep defending the motherland and its people against this menace of terrorism and will take all necessary measures as deemed appropriate against these threats emanating from Afghanistan."

There was no immediate comment from Kabul.

Four Indian soldiers killed: Four Indian soldiers were killed in a gunfight with suspected rebels fighting against Indian rule in the disputed region of Kashmir, the Indian military said Tuesday.

The soldiers were killed late Monday when they were fired at by militants hiding in the forests of southern Doda district in Jammu division, the Indian military said in a statement on the X social media platform. Government forces had been conducting a search based on intelligence input when the shooting occurred.

No insurgent group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. The attack was the latest in a flurry

of violence in the region. Last week, five soldiers were killed in the nearby Kathua district when suspected rebels

Friday night triggered two landslides and

massive flooding in the city, affecting at least 4,000 families.(Xinhua)

ambushed an army vehicle. In June, nine people were killed when suspected militants fired at a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims.

Rebel groups have been fighting since 1989 for Indian-controlled Kashmir's independence or merger with neighboring Pakistan. Most Muslim Kashmiris support the rebel goal of uniting the territory, either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country. New Delhi insists the Kashmir mili-

tancy is Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Pakistan denies the charge, and most Kashmiris consider it a legitimate freedom struggle.

Violent clashes in Bangladesh: Police fired tear gas and charged with batons during violent clashes between a pro-government student body and student protesters overnight, leaving dozens injured at a public university outside Bangladesh's capital, authorities and stu-

dents said Tuesday.

The violence spread early Tuesday at Jahangir Nagar University in Savar, outside Dhaka, where protesters demanded an end to a quota reserved for family members of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence in 1971, allowing them to take up 30% of governmental jobs. While job opportunities have expanded in Bangladesh's private sector, many find government jobs stable and lucrative. Each year, some 3,000 such jobs open up to nearly 400,000 gradu-

Protesters argue such quota appointments are discriminatory and should be merit-based. Some even said the current system benefits groups supporting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Some Cabinet ministers criticized the protesters, saying they played on students' emotions. Hasina said Tuesday war veterans -

commonly known as "freedom fighters" should receive the highest respect for their sacrifice in 1971 regardless of their current political ideologies.

4 dead in Hanoi traffic collision: Four people were killed in a crash among three vehicles in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Tuesday noon, local media reported

At around 12 pm, a dump truck carrying crushed stone crashed into the right side of a 1.5-ton mini truck in the suburban district of Hoai Duc, VnExpress reported. After being hit hard, the mini truck lost

control, rushed into the opposite lane, colliding with a motorbike carrying an adult and three children.

Four people on the motorbike died on the spot. The accident is being further investigated. (Xinhua)

Crash kills 1, 8 hurt in Myanmar: One person was killed and eight others were injured in a crash on Myanmar's Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon highway, an official from the Fire Services Department (Bago Region) told Xinhua on Tuesday.

The accident occurred around 5 a.m. local time as a car coming down the slope collided with a truck parked on the road, he Five people on the truck were seriously

injured while one had minor injuries. Two people in the car also sustained minor injuries, he said.

The injured were sent to a local hospital, he added. (Xinhua)



People visit an exhibition featuring ancient Chinese characters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on July 13. An exhibition featuring ancient Chinese characters was held on Saturday in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, to enhance people-topeople and cultural exchanges between China and Ethiopia. (Xinhua)

Board approves semi-annual dividends at 10 fils per share

NBK reports net profits of KD 292.4 mln for H1-2024 reflecting 6.2% Y-o-Y growth

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has announced its financial results for the six-month period ended 30 June 2024. The Bank reported a net profit of KD 292.4 million (USD 953.6 million), compared to KD 275.3 million (USD 897.9 million) for the corresponding period in 2023, improving by 6.2% year-on-year.

Total assets as of the end of June 2024 grew by 4.4% year-on-year to reach KD 37.7 billion (USD 122.9 billion), whereas total loans and advances increased by 5.4% year-on-year to reach KD 22.7 billion (USD 74.1 billion), while shareholders' equity reached KD 3.8 billion (USD 12.5 billion), growing by 6.5% year-on-year.

Based on these results, the Board of Directors has resolved to distribute semi-annual cash dividends of 10 fils per share for the period ended 30 June, 2024, representing 10% of the nominal value of the shares.

Impressive financial performance

Commenting on NBK's 1H 2024 financial results, Mr. Hamad Al-Bahar, NBK Group Chairman, said: "In the first half of 2024, NBK maintained its growth momentum with strong financial results, highlighting the resilience of its diversified and resilient business model amidst evolving operational landscapes.'

"Despite regional and international geopolitical tensions impacting the global economy, the Bank has continued to leverage strategic diversification in its products and services across diverse regions. This success was supported by a strong balance sheet, solid capital base, high asset quality, ample liquidity, targeted investments, and prudent risk management," Al-Bahar added.

He also indicated that in the first half of this year, NBK continued to strengthen its operations across its markets, adopting the highest standards of sustainability and adhering to the best ESG practices. This



Mr Hamad Al-Bahar

Our ability to maintain

growth momentum under-

scores the adaptability of our

versatile business profile to

changing operating environ-

■ We are reaping the benefits of strategic diversifica-

tion, supported by a robust balance sheet, a solid capital

base, targeted investments,

and prudent risk manage-

■ NBK continues to enhance

its operations, steadfast in its commitment to upholding

the highest standards of sus-

■ We are dedicated to sup-

porting our customers as

vital partners in their quest for sustainable financing so-

commitment underscores the Bank's

dedication to seizing optimal and

sustainable opportunities while serv-

ing as a key partner for its customers

in their efforts to secure sustainable

Social Responsibility

Al-Bahar:



Mr Isam J. Al-Sager



Al-Sager:

Our strong financial results underscore NBK's success in

achieving sustainable growth.

Our investments in technology and innovation deliver a digital banking experience that caters to our customers' evolving needs

■ All our key business segments, including international operations and wealth management, have demonstrated strong performance.

■ Implementing a practical economic reform program and advancing development projects will revitalize Kuwait's business environment.

■ We aim to establish ourselves as the primary partner for the government sector in financing major strategic projects.

On the social responsibility front, Al-Bahar stated that, as part of NBK's commitment to supporting the sustainable development of Kuwait's economy and leveraging its position as the leading contributor to social responsibility in Kuwait,



NBK headquarters

the Bank signed an agreement in 2Q 2024 to develop Sharq area. This collaboration with Kuwait Municipality and Al-Shaab National Real Estate Company involves the establishment of a new public park and parking facilities, with an estimated investment of KD8 million. The execution of this initiative is projected to take approximately two and a half

Sustainable Growth

Meanwhile, Mr. Isam J. Al-Sager, NBK Group Vice Chairman and CEO, said: "NBK's robust financial results for the first half of 2024 highlight the successful implementation of our strategy for sustainable growth. This achievement reflects our commitment to delivering longterm value to our shareholders, customers, the communities we serve, and all stakeholders".

Al-Sager explained that NBK's ability to sustain profit growth across various economic cycles clearly reflects its resilient business model and prudent approach to risk management. He noted that the group's net operating income increased by 8.2% year-on-year in 1H 2024, reaching KD 612.4 million (USD 2.0 billion).

"Through its strategic investments in technology and innovation, as well as its commitment to investing in its employees as its most valuable asset, NBK has succeeded in delivering a banking experience that meets the evolving needs of its customers with a range of carefully designed digital services and products. The Bank remains dedicated to investing in these areas, recognizing innovation as a key driver of future growth," Al-Sager added.

Al-Sager highlighted that NBK Group continued to strengthen its leading banking brand across all business sectors, emphasizing strong performance in key areas in 1H 2024. This includes notable growth in international operations which continues to support the Bank's diversification strategy and contributing positively to both the Group's operating income and net profits.

He explained that the strong contribution attributed to the international operations to the Bank's profits, reflects the soundness of the Group's vision and the proved success of its diversification strides. He also stressed that the Group will continue with its endeavor in strengthening its global banking operations, with an eye on key growth markets.

In parallel with the Bank's vision to increase international operations' contribution to profits, expanding its global banking services, its commitment to providing exceptional mortgage solutions and tailored service that meet the investment needs of its clients in international real estate; NBK opened during the second quarter of this year the first international mortgage loan center of its kind in Kuwaitat the Bank's headquarters; dedicated to serving clients intending to buy or finance real estate in the United Kingdom, France and the UAE.

'The Group is also witnessing a significant expansion in the area of wealth management, particularly following the recent launch of "NBK Wealth", positioning it as the largest local wealth management firm and a major player in the region," Al-Sager added.

Economic reform

Al-Sager expressed confidence in the government's ability to tackle significant economic challenges and execute a pragmatic reform agenda, uplifted by the backing of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He emphasized that upon the implementation of these reforms and the initiation of significant development projects, alongside increased investment expenditure and alignment with policies that attract investments and bolster the role of the private sector in project operation and management, it will revitalize the local business environment. He highlighted NBK's commitment to solidifying its role as the primary partner of the government sector in funding major strategic initiatives.

On the prospects of domestic credit growth for the year 2024, Al-Sager said: "We are optimistic that credit growth will further improve for the remainder of the year for both business sector and household credit, compared to a decline in growth levels last year." He attributed this to the positive momentum of project awards during 2Q 2024, and anticipates an acceleration in its pace throughout the remainder of the year. Additionally, he cited expectations of lower interest rates in the second half of the year and an influx of Kuwaitis entering the labor market as contributing fac-

Driving sustainable leadership In 1H 2024, NBK maintained its

leadership in sustainability by successfully issuing its first green bonds totaling USD 500 million. This issuance, oversubscribed by more than 3 times (USD 1.5 billion), marks the first green bond from a Kuwaiti financial institution and the first by a bank in the region this year. It stands as one of the largest green issuances by a conventional financial institution in the region.

In another milestone in sustainability, Al-Sager announced that NBK has joined the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) initiative. This move positions NBK as the first bank in Kuwait and one of only six banks in the MENA region to join leading global financial institutions in measuring and disclosing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to its lending and investment activities. He emphasized that this significant step strengthens the Bank's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

He further elaborated that in 1H 2024, NBK has entered a strategic partnership with DHL to use the "DHL GoGreen Plus" service. Through its participation in Go-Green Plus, NBK ensures that all its international shipments are transported using Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) rather than traditional jet fuel. This transition leads to a substantial reduction in carbon emissions that are linked to transportation.

Prestigious Awards

Al-Sager highlighted that during the first half of 2024, NBK reinforced its leadership in Kuwait and the region by earning prestigious awards, further enhancing its global recognition.

He explained that NBK has received several prestigious awards from MEED international magazine as part of its MENA Banking Excellence Awards for 2024. The accolades include Best Retail Bank in Kuwait (NBK), Best Innovation Program in MENA, and Excellence in Sustainable Investment in MENA. Additionally, Weyay was recognized as the Best Digital Bank in Kuwait, and NBK Wealth was honored as the

MENA Fund Manager of the Year. **Key financial indicators for 1H**

■ Net operating income of KD 612.4 million (USD 2.0 billion), up 8.2% year-on-year

Total assets increased by 4.4% year-on-year, at KD 37.7 billion (USD 122.9 billion) ■ Total loans and advances grew by

5.4% year-on-year to KD 22.7 billion (USD 74.1billion) ■ Customer deposits increased by 7.6% year-on-year to KD 21.8 bil-

lion (USD 71.1 billion) Shareholders' equity amounted to KD 3.8 billion (USD 12.5 billion), registering an annual growth

■ Strong asset quality metrics, with NPL/gross loans ratio at 1.52% and an NPL coverage ratio of 248%.

■ Robust Capital Adequacy Ratio of 16.8%, comfortably in excess of regulatory requirements.

Oil price down to \$86.58 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 16, (KUNA): The price of Kuwait oil went down by 98 cents to USD 86.58 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 87.56 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

Globally, the price of the Brent crude went down by 18 cents to USD 84.85 per barrel, the same occurred with the West Texas Intermediate, which also went down by 30 cents to USD 81.91 pb.

Pending regulatory approvals

Boubyan to sell 12.2% stake in BAICO Gas for 7 mln dollars

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Boubyan Petrochemical Company of Kuwait has entered into a preliminary agreement to sell its 12.2 percent stake in Bahrain's BAICO Gas Company for \$7 million, reports Al-Seyassah

This transaction is contingent upon approvals from the purchasing party's general assembly and regulatory authorities in Bahrain, as disclosed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange website, Monday.

Established in 1995 and listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange since 1997, Boubyan Petrochemical Company has an authorized capital of 53.4 million dinars. Among its major investments, the

company holds a 9% share in Equate Petrochemical Company and has interests in Kuwait Olefins Company.

It also maintains stakes in various local and international companies across multiple sectors, both listed and unlisted.

Kuwait real estate trading down 29% in value, up 8% in contracts

Ahmadi leads private real estate contracts in Kuwait

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The weekly statistical report on real estate trading movement issued by the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Departments at the Ministry of Justice revealed that 108 contracts were traded during the first week of July, worth about 79 million di-

This marks a decrease of 29% compared to the previous week ending on June 30, which amounted to 112 million dinars. However, an increase in the number of contracts was recorded, with 8 additional contracts, an increase of 8% compared to the previous week, which amounted to 100 contracts.

The statistics indicated the registration of 68 contracts for private real estate worth 26 million dinars, 35 contracts for investment real estate worth 43 million dinars, and 4 contracts for craft real estate worth 4.8 million dinars. In addition, one contract for exhibitions was recorded, also worth 4.8 million dinars.

The report pointed out that the Ahmadi area witnessed the largest share of private real estate contracts with 24 contracts worth 6.4 million dinars, followed by Hawalli Governorate with 11 contracts worth 6.1 million dinars, then Farwaniya Governorate with 10 contracts worth 3.8 million dinars, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate with 9 contracts worth 3.6 million dinars, and finally Jahra Governorate with 7 contracts worth 2 million dinars, and the capital with 7 contracts also worth 4 million dinars.

Ahmadi also saw 4 contracts worth 417 thousand dinars in craft real estate, Farwaniya area recorded 2 contracts worth 2.7 million dinars, Mubarak Al-Kabeer had 2 contracts worth 4.8 million dinars, and one contract for Jahra area worth 1.6 million dinars. There were four craft contracts in Ahmadi area and one exhibition in Farwaniya area.

The report indicated an increase in the real estate trading index in various types of properties during the first week of July, except for the commercial sector, where trading in private real estate increased by one contract, in the investment sector by 12 contracts, and in craft real estate by 4 contracts. In contrast, trading in commercial real estate decreased by 10 contracts, and the trading index remained stable in exhibition, warehouse, and coastal strip properties.



Abraj Energy Services starts second rig operations.

New 1500 HP drilling rig sets industry benchmark in Kuwait

Abraj Energy Services initiates operations with second rig in Wafra Oil Field ahead of schedule

MUSCAT, July 16: Abraj Energy Services announces the successful commencement of operations for its second drilling rig in Wafra Oil Field ahead of schedule. This achievement follows the final acceptance from multiple inspecting authorities. It marks a significant step forward in Abraj's strategic expansion into the Kuwaiti market, further cementing its position as a leading provider of oil and gas services in the region.

The new deployment is part of a comprehensive contract with Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC) and Saudi Chevron. It reflects Abraj's steadfast commitment to delivering top-notch, efficient drilling services. The recent mobilization of the first rig in March 2024 set a precedent for excellence, and this second rig's early commencement highlights Abraj's operational superiority and ability to meet the high standards required by its trusted partners.

The new rig, is a a 1500 HP fast moving drilling Rig, is equipped with cutting-edge innovative solutions, and With AI-powereddrilling technology, making it one of the most advanced rigs in operation today. Its fully automated Rig package and comprehensive for safe &operation systems ensure optimal performance and safety. These features enable Abraj to provide efficient, reliable, and secure drilling operations, setting a new benchmark

"We are excited to commence operations with our second rig in Wafra Oil Field ahead of schedule," said Eng. Saif Al Hamhami, CEO of Abraj Energy Services. "This milestone is a testament to our team's dedication and expertise in providing top-tier drilling services. Our collaboration with KGOC and Saudi Chevron underscores our commitment to operational excellence and our ability to support our clients in achieving their production goals.'

The final acceptance of the second rig signifies the culmination of rigorous preparation and collaboration between Abraj and its clients. The successful deployment enhances Abraj's operational footprint in Kuwait and demonstrates its capability to execute complex projects efficiently and safely. The second rig's commencement ahead of the plan mirrors the success of the first rig, highlighting the team's efficiency and dedication.

Abraj Energy Services prides itself on its diverse client portfolio and market leadership across the Middle East. With over 30 rigs in operation, Abraj serves major clients such as Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), OQ, Petrogas Occidental Oman, BP Oman, TotalEnergies, and others, which consistently deliver high-performance drilling solutions. Strategic partnerships and innovative approaches have positioned Abraj as a market leader, contributing to the energy sector's development in the

Abraj Energy Services continues to focus on expanding its operations and leveraging its technical expertise to support the growing demands of the oil and gas industry in the Gulf region. With a strong emphasis on safety, innovation, and client satisfaction, Abraj is well-positioned to contribute significantly to the energy sector's development in Kuwait and beyond.

stc and MEW sign 'strategic' agreement for the supply of smart electricity meters

Deal in support of one of the largest initiatives in Kuwait's energy and ICT sectors in line with Kuwait's '35 vision

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, has signed a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy (MEW) for the supply of Smart Electricity Meters in Kuwait - Phase II. stc secured the agreement after winning the bid for the project, which aligns with its vision to enable digital transformation in Kuwait and supports Kuwait's 2035 vision.

The signing ceremony for the Smart Electricity Meters Project was attended by key executives from both stc and MEW, including Eng. Muataz Aldharrab, CEO of stc, and Mr. Mohammed Nizar Al-Nusif, CEO of solutions by stc, and Eng. Maha Al-Asousi, Undersecretary of MEW, along with other executives from both parties. The project is one of the largest initiatives in Kuwait's energy and ICT sectors, aiming to facilitate efficient energy consumption, streamline operational processes, and enhance the sustainability of the nation's energy infrastructure.

Under the strategic agreement, stc will supply approximately 500,000 electrical meters, including circuit breakers and transformers. These components will assist MEW in



A group photo of the executive officials of the Ministry and stc, with Eng. Muataz Aldharrab and Eng. Maha Al-Asousi in the middle.

Muataz Aldharrab: We believe in the crucial role of public-private partnerships in advancing the nation's digital transformation in line with Kuwait Vision 2035

tracking energy consumption in real-time, allowing for better management of electricity usage and more informed decision-making. The smart meters will significantly contribute to energy conservation by reducing manual intervention, minimizing human errors, and ensuring accurate billing.

Utilizing a state-of-the-art electronic platform, the smart meters will automatically collect readings Mohammed Nizar Al-Nusif: We continue to provide the latest technology solutions to all sectors in the country, enabling them to digitize their businesses.

and notify MEW's support team of any system failures in real-time. This integration of advanced technology will optimize energy usage and reduce wastage, contributing to sustainable living in Kuwait. Additionally, the platform will provide detailed analytics and reporting capabilities, offering insights into consumption patterns and potential areas for further energy-saving measures. The implementation of these

smart meters is expected to set a benchmark in the region, showcasing Kuwait's commitment to leveraging technology for a more sustainable future.

Commenting on the new partnership, Eng. Muataz Abdullah Aldharrab, CEO of stc, said, "We are pleased to announce our major project win with the MEW, where we can utilize our knowledge and expertise in the energy and ICT sectors to enhance the electrical infrastructure in the country. The Phase II implementation of Smart Electricity Meters is crucial for achieving a connected, efficient, and sustainable future for Kuwait. We believe in the crucial role of public-private partnerships in advancing the nation's digital transformation and have long supported the government's digital goals with our technological resourcesin line



Eng. Muataz Aldharrab, CEO of STC, and Eng. Maha Al-Asousi, Undersecretary of MEW, during the signing of the contract.

Maha Al-Asousi: This project reflects our commitment to integrating state-of-the-art technology, driving the digital transformation of the country.

with Kuwait Vision 2035 through our specialized business arm, solutions by stc."

Mohammed Nizar Al-Nusif, CEO of solutions by stc, the specialized business arm of stcstated, "We are always ready to provide the latest smart solutions to empower the achievement of the country's developmental goals. We have always been committed to enhancing the efficiency of government infrastructure and driving the nation forward through digital transformation and cutting-edge technology initiatives. Through leveraging our advanced technological capabilities, we aim to support Kuwait's strategic objectives

and contribute to building a resilient and sustainable digital economy."

Eng. MahaAl-Asousi, Undersecretary of MEW, said, "Our collaboration with stc marks a significant milestone in Kuwait's journey towards a smarter, more efficient energy infrastructure. The introduction of these advanced smart meters will not only enhance our ability to manage and conserve energy, but will contribute to building a smart energy grid (SMART GRD) by periodically sending usage readings and issuing monthly bills to customers to avoid late payments. It will also send alerts related to tampering or excessive load violations. Additionally, smart meters will enable us to offer prepaid payment options for customers and will also provide the necessary data to make informed decisions for future energy policies. This project reflects our commitment to integrating state-of-the-art technology to manage the country's energy needs and support its long-term sustain-

Goldman Sachs 'profits' more than double in second quarter

NEW YORK, July 16, (AP): Goldman Sachs is posting a 150% jump in second quarter profits Monday, helped by a resurgence of dealmaking and underwriting that has revived investment banking after the slowdown of the previous couple years.

The New York investment bank posted net earnings of \$3.04 billion, \$8.62 per share, compared with \$1.22 billion in the same period a year earlier. For the three months ended June 30, compared with \$1.22 billion, or \$3.08 per share, a year earlier.

Part of the surge in profits came from Goldman Sachs booking some one-time items last year as it took charges for the winddown of its consumer banking business.

That said, nearly every aspect of Goldman's businesses saw revenue jump in the quarter, reflecting what has been a broad revival in dealmaking and activity on Wall Street this year in a healthy economy.

Refinance

Investment banking fees rose 21%, helped by a big jump in debt underwriting fees for the bank. Many companies are having to refinance their debts to deal with higher interest rates, and there has been a surge in leveraged financing packages

Goldman's fixed income, currencies and commodities trading division had revenues up 17% from a year earlier. Equities trading was less robust than other parts of the market, with Goldman saying net revenues were up 7% in that division.

Lastly the bank's asset-management division posted 27% rise in revenues, helped by more fee income and the value of Goldman's own investments.

Shares in Goldman Sachs Group Inc. ended Monday up \$12.35, or 2.6%, at \$492.23.



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump reacts following an assassination attempt at a campaign event in Butler, Pa., on Saturday, July 13, 2024. Trump Media surged in the first day of trading, Monday, July 15, following the assassination attempt. (AP)

Trump Media shares surge

NEW YORK, July 16, (AP): Trump Media surged in the first day of trading following an assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump.

Also on Monday, a federal judge presiding over Trump's classified documents trial in Florida dismissed the case because of her concerns over the appointment of the special prosecutor who brought the case.

Shares in the owner of social networking site Truth Social soared more than 35% in early trading.

The U.S. Secret Service is investigating how a gunman armed with an AR-style rifle was able to get on a nearby roof and shoot and injure the former president at a rally Saturday in Pennsylvania.

The gunman, who officials said was killed by the Secret Service, fired multiple shots at the stage from an "elevated position outside of the rally venue," the agency said. Trump was bloodied and says he was "shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right

ear." A spectator was killed.

In the classified documents case, U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon granted a defense motion to dismiss the case Monday, voiding a prosecution that at the time it was brought was seen as the most perilous of the multiple legal threats Trump faced.

The stock, which trades under the ticker symbol "DJT," has been extraordinarily volatile since its debut in late March, joining the group of meme stocks that are prone to ricochet between highs and lows as small-pocketed investors attempt to catch an upward momentum swing at the right time.

Shares swung wildly both on the day after Biden's terrible debate performance, and a day after Trump's conviction in his hush money trial.

A New York jury found Trump guilty of falsifying business records in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election through hush money payments to a porn actor who said the two had sex.

President tries to show plans to tame inflation

Biden to call for a 5% cap on 'annual rent increases'

WASHINGTON, July 16, (AP): President Joe Biden is ready to propose a 5% cap on annual rent increases for tenants of major landlords as he tries to show he's doing something about the high cost of housing, according to a person familiar with the plan.

The proposal, to be announced while the president visits Nevada on Tuesday, is being championed by Biden in the middle of a tense presidential campaign and a time when housing costs have been a major driver of overall inflation.

But the plan would require solid Democratic control of Congress to become law. Additionally, most policymakers have said the best way to limit housing costs would be through more construction and changes to land use regulations.

The person familiar with the plan spoke on the condition of anonymity because the proposal has not yet been formally announced.

Biden himself previewed the announcement at his NATO news conference Thursday, folding it into comments that blamed inflation on companies trying to maximize their profits in the aftermath of the pandemic.

"It's time things get back in order a little bit," Biden said. "If I'm reelected, we're going to make sure that rents are kept at 5% increase."

The Washington Post first reported

Monday the details of the plan, which would only apply to landlords who own 50 or more units. The price cap would not apply to units that have yet to be built.

White House officials declined to comment.

The median national rent was \$1,411 a month in June, up from roughly \$1,150 in early 2021 when Biden became president, according to Apartment List.



President Joe Biden speaks from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Sunday, July 14, 2024, about the apparent assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania (AR)

Asking prices for rentals jumped in the aftermath of the pandemic and have since cooled, but the Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies found in its most recent report that half of renters were "cost burdened" because they spend more than 30% of their income on housing and utilities.

In recent months, housing has been a primary contributor to keeping the consumer price index elevated at 3% annually. Inflation has been a fundamental obstacle for Biden politically as he competes against Donald Trump, the former president and Republican nominee.

The president has proposed policies designed to increase home construction, but industry representatives were quick to criticize the rent cap as ineffective for addressing the overall shortage and possibly leading to fewer habitable units than the country would other-

wise have.

"This is not going to create a single unit of housing - which is what is needed to create more housing opportunities for Americans," said Sharon Wilson Géno, CEO of the

National Multifamily Housing Council. "This is really a campaign-driven piece of rhetoric."

Géno noted that landlords need to be able to keep up with costs such as maintenance, insurance and state and local taxes. If those costs exceed what they can charge for rent, the risk is that landlords will do less to maintain their properties and tenants could be worse

"What does that mean - the quality of the housing suffers," she said.

But affordable housing advocates said that if Biden's proposal had already been in effect, it would have likely reduced evictions and homelessness.

"The recent unprecedented increases in homelessness in communities across the country are the result of those equally unprecedented - and unjustified - rent hikes of a couple years ago," said Diane Yentel, president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition. "Had such protections against rent gouging been in place then, many families could have avoided homelessness and stayed stably housed."

OpenAI whistleblowers ask SEC to investigate the company's non-disclosure deals with workers

NEW YORK, July 16, (AP): OpenAI whistleblowers have filed a complaint with the Securities and Exchange Commission and asked the agency to investigate whether the ChatGPT maker illegally restricted workers from speaking out about the risks of its artificial intelligence technology.

A letter to SEC Chair Gary Gensler

representing "one or more anonymous and confidential" whistleblowers asks the agency to swiftly and aggressively enforce its rules against non-disclosure agreements that discourage employees or investors from raising concerns with regulators.

The July 1 letter references a formal whistleblower complaint recently filed

with the SEC. The Washington Post was the first to report on the letter.

U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley's office shared a copy of the letter with The Associated Press, noting it was provided to his office by legally protected whistleblowers.

"OpenAI's policies and practices appear to cast a chilling effect on whistleblowers' right to speak up and receive due compensation for their protected disclosures," said Grassley, an Iowa Republican, in a written statement. "In order for the federal government to stay one step ahead of artificial intelligence, OpenAI's nondisclosure agreements must change."

OpenAI said in a statement that its policies protect employees' rights to make protected disclosures. The com-

pany also noted that it's already made changes to remove "nondisparagement terms" that could punish departing employees if they criticize the company after they leave.

SEC didn't respond to a request for comment Monday and doesn't typically comment on whether or not it is opening an investigation.







Faisal Al-surayye with the winners of the Baitak Sustainability Prize - the second place-winning project.

As part of its participation in 46th Engineering Design Exhibition

KFH honors winners of Environmental Sustainability Award

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) honored the winners of its Environmental Sustainability Award during its participation in the College of Engineering and Petroleum's 46th Engineering Design Exhibition. KFH's award recognizes projects that focus on sustainability and environmental issues. The first and second-place winners among the students were presented with an award for their outstanding projects.

KFH's Environmental Sustainability Award, which the Bank has allocated for the third consecutive time, is an extension of its integrated sustainability strategy and part of its (Keep it Green) environmental campaign.

The winning projects were announced at the exhibition's closing ceremony, held under the patronage of Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of Public Works and State for Municipal Affairs. Dr. Khalid AlHazza, Acting Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum was also in attendance. The projects underwent a thorough evaluation by a specialized committee, which assessed all aspects of the participating entries.

Executive Manager Corporate Relations and CSR, Faisal Al-surayye, affirmed KFH's ceaseless efforts to support graduating students, participants of the Engineering Design Exhibition and their distinguished projects. He added: "KFH is one of the main and largest supporters of Engineering graduates. KFH supported

around 300 graduation projects for students throughout the year."

Meanwhile, Acting Dean of College of Engineering and Petroleum, Dr. Khalid AlHazza, praised KFH's role in supporting students and education through initiatives and sponsorships that are of high value and impact on exceptional students. It is worth noting that KFH has been a major supporter of the Engineering Design Exhibition, held twice annually, once per semester. KFH's support aligns with its commit-

It is worth noting that KFH has been a major supporter of the Engineering Design Exhibition, held twice annually, once per semester. KFH's support aligns with its commitment to sponsoring students, education, and youth initiatives. By fostering a thriving scientific environment through the necessary support for developing young scientific talent, KFH aims to encourage scientific endeavors that contribute to the country's progress.



Kuwait Airways ranks third in On-Time Performance in Middle East.

Airline achieves 90.6% on-time departures

Kuwait Airways ranks third in 'On- Time Performance' in MENA region

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Kuwait Airways has been ranked third in the Middle East and Africa region in terms of its On-Time Performance ensuring timely flight departures with a growth rate of 91.13%, according to the periodic report for the month of June 2024 issued by Cirium, which specializes in aviation analytics and data that includes the On-Time Performance of airlines around the world.

Kuwait Airways confirmed an increase in the punctuality rate of flight departure timings, as the company achieved an On-Time Performance of 90.6% in May 2024, compared to 88.2% in April 2024 and 85.6% in March 2024.

Kuwait Airways affirmed its unwavering commitment to implement its adherence to punctuality in an effort to achieve further progress and development in the various performance standards expected of international airlines with competence and expertise, achieved with the determination of its dedicated employees.

The On-Time Performance results come in accordance with the policy implemented by the company since the last quarter of 2023 in the aircraft maintenance schedule, as well as plans adopted in the flight operating schedule, which was after a detailed study of the operational sectors that has resulted in a gradual increase and improvement of accuracy of its take-off timings. These results are also one of the fundamental and significant steps that reflect the national carrier's progress and development in response to the challenges of the air transport industry and signifies the company's pursuit to provide the best levels of services to its valued customers.

It is worth noting that Cirium Aviation Analytics provides reliable sources of data and analytics to empower a wide spectrum of industry sectors, equipping airlines, airports, travel enterprises, aircraft manufacturers and financial entities for optimizing their operations, and for implementing their strategy and policy.

Prominent figures gather to congratulate first advisor

HMWA honors Asad Aleem Khan as first advisor to Kuwait Cricket Board

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Hyderabad Muslim Welfare Association (HMWA) hosted grand event to Mark appointment of Asad Aleem Khan a Prominent Indian Businessman as a first Advisor to the Kuwait Cricket Board. Kuwait Cricket Club is the official governing body for the game of cricket under the auspices of Public Authority of Sport and Kuwait Olympic Committee.

Mr Asad Khan is very well known for his long sustained and selfless dedicated service to Indian community here in Kuwait and in India. The event was held on Saturday, the 13th July -2024 in Rajdhani Hotel Kuwait. Programme was well attended by well-wishers and friends from all parts of India. The program started at 7.30 pm. with recitation of the Holy Quran by Mubeen Ahmed who staged the Master of ceremony also.

Distinct guests and prominent personalities from Kuwait Mr. Muzzammil Malik, Dr Nayeem, Ex FIMA President Siddique Valiyakut, Professor Arbab Ahmed, FIMA dignitaries Hanif Sahab, and Hidayat Ullah. Esteemed cricketer Mr Ali also present at the dais with Mr Asad Khan. Other dignitaries Arshad Ahmed, Iftekhar Ahmed, also spoke about remarkable efforts made by Asad Khan to at-



Photo during the event. congratulated Mr Asad Khan for

tain this level and congratulated him for his appointment to the Board and extended best of luck. This milestone is a testament to his unwavering dedication, hard work, and passion. His journey serves as an inspiration to all, demonstrating that with perseverance and commitment, one can attain great heights of professional success.

Young engineer Amir introduced Mr Asad Khan to the audience. All well wishers and friends highlighting the importance of preserving and maintaining unity and solidarity among Indian community and carrying out social service to Indian community and having such an illustrative record of social service and praised those who are working for good cause. Executive members Abdul Jabbar, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mubeen khan, Omar, Mr Nisar Juddy presented bouquet to the dignitaries. Nisar Juddy presented a special shawl to Mr Khan and Dr Nayeem HMWA President Abdul

HMWA President Abdul Azeem presented light humorous moment for audience and expressed his interaction bonding with Asad Khan his special respect for him and thanked Almighty that we have such selfless dedicated personalities among Indian community.

Siddique Valiyakut Prof Arbab Mr Malik and Dr Nayeem urged people to help needy community and applauded the continual efforts of HMWA for the betterment of community in general and Indians in particular.

Finally businessman Mr Asad Khan gave his speech and spoke about works done by HMWA and all other organisations and his respect for the member of various Indian associations working the community. In his short speech he assured his support for all good causes and wished them and urged to carry out good works.

Renowned scholars enlighten audiences on Hijrah lessons

Indian Muslim Association conducts series of Public Programs to mark Hijri New Year

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait successfully conducted a series of Public Programs recently, across various mosques in Kuwait to commemorate the commencement of the new Hijri Year 1446. Gatherings organized in mosques located in Khaitan, Abbasiya, Salmiya, Mahboula and Fahaheel were graced by Kuwait's renowned Islamic Scholars & Khateebs, who delivered profound lectures on the topic of Hijra (Migration of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) from Makkah to Madinah). The events captivated and enlightened large audiences, with special arrangements made to accommodate families, ensuring a comfortable and inclusive environment for all.

Sharafuddin Soofi well-known Scholar & Khateeb in Kuwait, addressed the audience at Masjid Haya Ibraheem in Salmiya on the topic 'Lessons from Hijrah'. He highlighted that the Hijrah event involved meticulous planning, sacrifices, best utilization of available resources and setting higher goals which laid the foundation for a successful new era. He emphasized its significance and relevance even today. The talk was followed by O&A Session, during which IMA President Maulana Mohammed Umar Falahi answered the questions.

Khursheed Khan, another well-known speaker in Kuwait, addressed a large gathering at Masjid Maryam in Mahboula onthe topic 'Hijratka Paigham'. He explained the importance & reasons for choosing Hijrah as the beginning of the Islamic Calendar. He further emphasized the lessons to be learnt from the event in present context, such as exemplifying an ideal life to be led in pluralistic society with full rights, coexistence, peace and respect for everyone's beliefs, culture and language, These are requisites for social, political & economic upliftment of the entire society. His talk was followed by an interactive Q&A Session conducted by brother Parvez Hanif, during which attractive gifts were awarded to the win-

Nisar Ahmad, a renowned Speaker & Khateeb in Kuwait, addressed the audience at Masjid Al Mailem in Khaitan on the 'Message of Hijrah'. He explained the significance of the event in Islamic History and the lessons to be learnt from it. He emphasized the essence of sacrifice & tawakkul (complete trust in Allah) that Prophet (PBUH) & his companions demonstrated throughout their lives, highlighting the need for us to practice these principles to achieve our goals and succeed in both this world and the hereafter.

IMA President Maulana Mohammad Umar Falahi, an Islamic Scholar & Khateeb in Kuwait, while speaking











Photos during the event

on the 'Message of Hijrah' at Masjid Bilqees in Abbasiya, explained to the audience that the event symbolizes patience & sacrifices which form the foundation for achieving significant goals. It teaches us the essence of brotherhood, promotes education, emphasizes women's role in society building, and supports welfare development programs all of which contribute to the upliftment of society.

Masoob Shihab, former IMA President, in his talk at Masjid Majyed Hilal Otaibiin Fahaheel explained the critical factors of Hijrah that were pivotal in the establishment & propagation of Islam throughout Arab nations. He highlighted how the Prophet (PBUH) formed friendly treaties with different religious tribes, setting a perfect example of leading a peaceful and prosperous life in a plural society. Elements of religious freedom, interfaith outreach & establishment of Islamic centers contributed to the growth & strength of Muslims in Madinah, facilitating the spread of Islam across the region.

The large turnouts at each event testified the strong

sense of community and devotion among Muslim expatriates in Kuwait toward the importance of Hijrah. At the end of each gathering, dinner packets were served, fostering a sense of community and togetherness. Programs were also conducted for kids separately and simultaneously in few Mosques, ensuring an inclusive and engaging experience for young attendees.

IMA Kuwait extends its gratitude to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait, for its patronage and constant support in organizing these impactful events.

IMA Kuwait is an Indian socio-religious organization that operates under the patronage of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kuwait. IMA always focuses to provide platform for enhancement of expatriates living in Kuwait for their spiritual & social aspect through various programs & social gatherings. It looks forward to organizing various beneficial programs in future, considering the occasions and requirements of expatriates in general and specifically Indian community.

BTS star and local hero among Olympic torchbearers

PARIS, July 16, (AP): From the Louvre Museum to the Champs-Elysees, from Paris' posh districts to working-class neighborhoods, hundreds of people have carried the Olympic torch through the French capital for two days of celebrations before the Summer Games kick off at the end of the month.

Joyful crowds lined up along the route Sunday and Monday.
"I got super emotional," BMX world champion Matthias Dandois said after carrying the torch in front of the Eiffel Tower. "I'm from Paris, and I grew up playing so much sport and watching the Olympics, and it was a dream to be a part of it."

About 10,000 people were chosen to carry the flame across France from the southern city port of Marseille, where it arrived on May 8, to the opening ceremony on July 26. Many are athletes. Others were picked because they represent art, culture and gastronomy, volunteer for charities or are deeply involved in community life.

Dressed in white, they ran at a slow pace to the cheers of spectators.

Francky Mbotto, a 26-year-old middle-distance runner from Central African Republic who lives in Paris, carried the torch near the Arc de Triomphe.

"This is incredible! It's so emotional. It's Olympism that is be-

ing highlighted," he said, adding that the relay is meant to deliver a "message of peace."

Another torchbearer, Eva David, a wheelchair basketball athlete, described it as "a real moment of jubilation."

Belgian singer Mentissa carried the torch as her songs were

played. "Sport and music really bring people together and make us forget our daily lives," she said.

The torch made its grand entrance in Paris for Bastille Day on

The torch made its grand entrance in Paris for Bastille Day on Sunday with military horse rider Col. Thibaut Vallette, gold medalist at the 2016 Rio Games. It was handed to a relay by students from the multicultural northern suburbs of Seine-Saint-Denis in front of French President Emmanuel Macron.

Attention

Former World Cup winner Thierry Henry, who leads France's Olympic soccer team, later carried the flame down the Champs-Elysees avenue.

Among the torchbearers who attracted the most attention was K-Pop icon Jin, a member of the band BTS, who carried it Sunday evening in front of the Louvre.

"It was an honor to be part of such a meaningful moment," he said, according to his management agency.

Jin's relay drew a significant crowd. Sofia Boukhabla, 23, said she

had very little interest in watching the Games but rushed with her friends to see Jin. "He is so cute," she exclaimed.

Late on Sunday, Ludovic Franceschet, a local garbage collector, brought the flame inside Paris City Hall, where it spent the night under high protection. Franceschet, who seeks to raise environmental awareness with hundreds of thousands of followers on TikTok and Instagram, seized the occasion to remind residents and visitors to put their trash in bins.

The torch relay was also the chance to pay tribute to victims of the 2015 attacks in the French capital at the Bataclan concert hall and elsewhere. Lassana Bathily, the Mali-born employee who saved lives during an attack at a kosher supermarket, carried the torch at the Pantheon monument.

Some onlookers found relief from recent chaos in France.

Isabelle Kling, 70, took a detour from her usual dog-walking route to witness the relay. "It almost makes me want to cry, finally seeing the flame. It's a bit of joy after the disastrous weeks we've had," she said, alluding to the recent elections in France.

The torch will continue its journey in northern France and through the Paris region before heading back to the French capital.

The Olympic cauldron will be lit after the opening ceremony on the River Seine on July 26.

Variety



This image released by Neon shows Lauren Acala in a scene from 'Longlegs.' (AP)

Film

Actor taps into mother's memory for 'Longlegs'

Cage finds healing in 'serial killer' role

LOS ANGELES, July 16, (AP): When Nicolas Cage first read the script for "Longlegs" and considered playing the titular serial killer, he knew exactly where he'd draw his inspiration from: his mother.

"Not that she was Satanic," Cage clarified in a recent interview, but said witnessing her struggle with mental illness throughout his life was something he needed to process. "In my approach to try and get more personal with my film performances, I've been trying to find a constructive place to put my memories of my mother."

Cage said the connection to his mom was so strong - particularly how he envisioned the character's body language and way of speaking - that he remembers hearing her voice early one Christmas morning while rehearsing lines to himself. "Everybody else is getting ready to open presents and whatnot, and I'm doing this very dark character and trying to infuse it with love," he recalled.

The experience of making "Longlegs," a Neon release opening in theaters Friday, was ultimately a cathartic one for the Oscar winner. "Gosh, I channeled my dad for Dracula and I channeled my mom for Longlegs. What does that say about my childhood?" he said, laughing.

When he first met with Osgood Perkins to discuss the film, Cage was shocked to learn the director had his own mother in mind when writing the script.

It follows FBI Agent Lee Harker (Maika Monroe) who, not long after being assigned to investigate a series of gruesome murders, realizes her own connection to the killer (Cage). Although Perkins confessed to being inspired by "Silence of the Lambs" and other films like it, "Longlegs" is distinct from many serial killer movies in that the horrors, despite being carried out by people, are hauntingly supernatural.

Perkins takes advantage of that paranormal license and saturates the world of "Longlegs" with biblical references and occultist clues for his protagonist to solve. But unlike some directors who prefer to obfuscate their process or leave open how much mean-

ing there really is for audiences to decipher, Perkins

is candid about his source material - or lack thereof. "I made it up," the director said plainly of some of the symbolism employed and messages sent throughout the film, comparing the process of making a movie like "Longlegs" to creating a crossword puzzle. "The fun of assembling things and finding little pieces of things you like, that's what making a movie is. It's just puzzling stuff together."

As the son of Anthony Perkins, who played Norman Bates in Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho," the "Longlegs" director has long wrestled with his rela-

tionship to Hollywood and horror in particular.

"It's kind of been foisted on me a little bit," he said, though he conceded he appreciates the freedom the genre permits. "You're allowed to kind of do anything and to do it in a sort of Gothic or Baroque way that's really full of flavor. It's like making a big, beautiful sauce."

Surreal

Cage has done his share of horror movies too, from "Mandy" to the 2006 remake of "The Wicker Man," but said this one is perhaps his scariest. As someone known for his versatility as an actor, he too said he relishes the genre's permission to nonconformity.

"I have always maintained that horror, when done well, is genuinely surreal. It's dream logic. It doesn't have to rely on physics or reality. It can allow actors to express themselves in other ways besides that which is considered the arbiter of great acting, which is 1970s naturalism," he bemoaned. "That is good, but we've done it again and again, ad infinitum, ad nauseum."

nauseum."

Though they had not known each other before making this film, Cage and Perkins quickly bonded over their love of cinema and their deep family roots in it. Wanting to create the most organic first interaction possible, Perkins didn't allow Cage and Monroe to meet before their first scene together - one of the most chilling and violent in the film.

But the actors already had a mutual respect for one another, and Cage, still covered in makeup, made a point to tell Monroe he was a fan of her work in David Robert Mitchell's "It Follows" as soon as the camera stopped rolling.

"I was just like, 'God, I wish we had this on camera.' It was so funny. It was the first time that I heard his actual voice," she said of their first encounter. "I grew up watching his films and then just in the recent years, his choices I think are so incredible. I just respect him so much."

ch." **Also:**

LOS ANGELES: If you loved the adrenaline rush of watching Alex Honnold scale El Capitan in "Free Solo," Netflix has a treat for you. This time the heights are manmade but no less harrowing. In "Skywalkers: A Love Story," filmmaker Jeff Zimbalist takes viewers into the dangerous world of rooftoppers - the daredevils who scale the world's tallest buildings. The subjects in "Skywalkers," streaming on Netflix starting Friday, are Angela Nikolau and Ivan Beerkus who are not only talented rooftoppers but also in a relationship (hence the "love story" in the title) with own ups and downs. Part heist movie, part dazzling spectacle thanks to incredible Go-Pro footage, part relationship drama, it is a no-brainer of

Meanwhile, **Daisy Ridley** stars as the trailblazing deep sea swimmer **Trudy Ederle** in "Young Woman and the Sea," a very well made and inspiring sports drama that harkens back to the live-action movies Disney used to make in the early '90s like "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken." Accessible for the whole family, the movie follows Ederle from her childhood to the Olympics and finally on her quest to become the first woman to swim the English Channel, in 1926. It had a somewhat quiet theatrical release after producer **Jerry Bruckheimer** found it got the best test scores of his career. But now it'll be available for all, on Disney+, on Friday.

recusal. They said the judge held a meeting with prosecutors and prosecution witness **Kenneth Copeland** at which defendants and defense attorneys were not present. The defense attorneys argued the meeting was "improper" and that the judge and prosecutors had tried to pressure the witness to testify.

Glanville maintained that the meeting was proper and argued that no one gained a tactical

ATLANTA: The judge overseeing the long-running racketeering and

gang prosecution against rapper **Young Thug** and others has been removed from the case after two defendants sought his recusal, citing a meeting the judge held with

prosecutors and a state witness.

Fulton County Superior Court

Chief Judge Ural Glanville had put

the case in Atlanta on hold two weeks

ago to give another judge a chance to

review the defendants' motions for

Monday granted those motions and

ordered the clerk of court to assign the

While not faulting Glanville

for holding the meeting and say-

ing she has "no doubt that Judge

Glanville can and would continue

presiding fairly over this matter,' Krause wrote that "the 'neces-

confidence in the judicial system'

weighs in favor of excusing Judge

This ruling will surely cause

already dragged on for over a year.

more delays in a trial that has

Jury selection began in January

Opening statements were in

calling dozens of witnesses.

2023 and took nearly 10 months.

November and the prosecution has

been presenting its case since then,

Young Thug, a Grammy winner

whose given name is **Jeffery Wil**-

liams. was charged two years ago in

a sprawling indictment accusing him

and more than two dozen others of

conspiring to violate **Georgia**'s antiracketeering law. He also is charged

with gang, drug and gun crimes and is standing trial with five of the oth-

Lawvers for Young Thug and co-

defendant Deamonte Kendrick had

filed motions seeking Glanville's

ers indicted with him.

sity of preserving the public's

Glanville" from the case.

recusal. Judge Rachel Krause on

case to a different judge.

advantage as a result.

The office of Fulton County
District Attorney Fani Willis,
which is prosecuting the case,
had argued there was no need for

Glanville to be recused. **Brian Steel**, a lawyer for
Young Thug, said in an emailed
statement that his client is innocent and sought to clear his name
through a fair trial.

"Sadly Judge Glanville and the

"Sadly, Judge Glanville and the prosecutors have run afoul of their duties under the law," Steel said, adding that he is grateful for the recusal order





and looks forward "to proceeding with a trial judge who will fairly and faithfully follow the law."

Kendrick's lawyer, **Doug**Weinstein, also applauded Monday's ruling. (AP)

BEIJING: Chinese comedy "Successor" topped the daily box office chart on the Chinese mainland

on its preview screenings, with whopping daily box office sales of 135.78 million yuan (about 19.04 million U.S. dollars) on Monday. Starring comedy stars Shen

Teng and Ma Li and directed by Yan Fei and Peng Damo, the film tells the story of a poor rural couple who count on their son to change their fate. It will be available for public screening on Tuesday. Crime thriller "A Place Called Silence" stood second, raking in over 39.37 million yuan on its 13th day of public screening.

its 13th day of public screening.
Universal and Illumination's animated comedy "Despicable Me 4" came up third with 15.51 million yuan of box office sales.
(Xinhua)

People & Places

Music

Barton Opus restored

Silent movie era icon revived to new glory

DETROIT, July 16, (Agencies): A massive pipe organ that underscored the drama and comedy of silent movies with live music in Detroit's ornate Hollywood Theatre nearly a century ago was dismantled into thousands of pieces and stashed away.

The Barton Opus, built in 1927, spent four decades stored in a garage, attic and basement in suburban Detroit. But the towering musical curiosity is being lovingly restored in Indianapolis and eventually will be trucked, piece by piece, to the Rochester Institute of Technology in western New York, to be reassembled and rehoused in a theater specifically designed to ac-

In its heyday, the Barton Opus was able to recreate the sounds of many instruments, including strings, flutes and tubas, says Carlton Smith, who has been re-



storing the organ since 2020. It also contained real percussion instruments such as a piano, xylophone, glockenspiel, cymbals and drums and could produce sound effects including steamboat and bird whistles, Smith says.

For many moviegoers, the organs - and the organists were the stars.

"One guy could do it all," Smith says. "In the big cities, they were literally filling the theaters' thousands of seats multiple times during the day. They were showing live shows along with the films. It was a big production.

The Barton Opus enjoyed good acoustics at the Hollywood Theatre, according to the Detroit Theatre Organ Society. The theaters in Detroit at that time, the golden age of the city's auto industry, were as glamorous as any in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco, according to John Lauter, an organist and organ technician.

"We were such a rich market for moviegoers that the theater owners built these palatial places," Lauter says. "There were no plain Jane movie houses back then."

Instrument

Lauter, who also is the director of the Detroit Theatre Organ Society and president of the Motor City Theatre Organ Society, says the Hollywood Theatre organ was one of the largest made by the Bartola Musical Instrument Co. of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Only three were sold, while the other two were installed in the Highland Theatre in Chicago and the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, Illinois.

Of the three, this is "the last one left that hasn't been altered," Smith says.

In the decades that followed, televisions began to appear in living rooms across the nation and silent movie houses fell out of favor. The Hollywood Theatre closed in the 1950s, its fixtures were sold and its famed Barton Opus was on the verge of being lost to

But in the early 1960s, Lauter's friend, Henry Przybylski, bought it at auction for about \$3,500. Przybylski scrambled to remove the massive instrument, parts of which stood two stories tall, before the theater was demolished.

"He pulled together all of his friends in the winter of 1963," Lauter says. "The building had no electricity and no heat. They came in with Coleman lanterns and block and tackle." block and tackle.

They took the organ apart and Przybylski - an engineer and organ buff - transported the thousands of pieces back to his Dearborn Heights home where it would remain, unassembled, for about 40 years.

"He never heard or played that instrument ever," Lauter says. "He lived a majority of his life owning that thing. He'd roll up the garage door and there would be that console in there. He made it known it was the very best there was.'

Przybylski died in 2000, but that did not spell the end of the Barton Opus' odyssey.

Steven Ball, a professional organist who taught at the University of Michigan's Organ Department, asked Przbylski's widow in 2003 if the pipe organ was

"I came up with every last bit of cash I could," Ball

But he also put the pipe organ straight into storage. "This whole project was to see this organ through to safety, until I could find an institution to restore it to what it was," Ball says, adding that he had always hoped the Barton Opus would end up in a theater mirroring its original home.

In 2019, Rochester Institute of Technology President David C. Munson reached out to Ball, whom he had known since Munson served as the dean of engineering at the University of Michigan years earlier.

Ball will donate his Barton Opus to the school, where it will be the centerpiece of the new performing arts center. The theater that will house the organ is expected to open by January 2026. Restoration work on the organ is a little over two-thirds complete, according to Smith.

Also:

SWITZERLAND: The Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, famous for its iconic live music performances since 1967, is keeping its musical heritage and audiovisual collection alive through digitization.

The collections, which began with the first festival in 1967, include both video and multitrack audio formats. To date, over 6,000 concerts have been recorded, amassing more than 11,000 hours of video and 6,000 hours of audio. Additionally, 200,000 professional photographs have been digitized.

According to the Claude Nobs Foundation, this equals 14,000 magnetic tapes, weighing 30 tons and occupying 600 meters of shelves, with 12 PetaBytes of storage for all copies.

"We have digitized everything during nearly 15 years," Alain Dufaux, operational director of the Cultural Heritage & Innovation Center (CHC) at the world-renowned Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), told Xinhua during the 58th edition which is running from July 5 to 20.

"Now our students and professors can use the archives in their research in many fields, such as audio processing, acoustics, machine learning, neuroscience, musicology, or museology."

In partnership with the Claude Nobs Foundation and other sponsors, EPFL is in charge of the Montreux Jazz Digital Project to digitize and enrich the recordings, as well as to safeguard their long-term preserva-

In 2013, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) inscribed the Montreux Jazz Festival audio and visual collection in its international Memory of the World Register, the documentary equivalent of "World Heritage."



LL Cool J performs during the MTV Video Music Awards in Newark, N.J., on Sept. 12, 2023. The rapper-actor will release 'The F.O.R.C.E.,' his first album in 11



Actor Haley Bennett attends a special screening of 'Widow Clicquot' at the Crosby Street Hotel on Monday, July 15, in New York. (AP)





Variety

EXETER, N.H.: Bestselling author Brendan DuBois was arraigned recently on multiple counts of possessing child sexual abuse materials after police discovered dozens of "sexually explicit conduct."

DuBois was arrested Wednesday after police in Exeter, New Hampshire, opened an investigation with the Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce into child sexual abuse materials in the town. The 64-year-old from Exeter was charged with six felony counts of possession of child abuse materials.

DuBois possessed "at least 35 visual representations of children under the age of 18 engaging in various sexual acts,

DuBois is in the Rockingham County Jail. His lawyer, Harry Starbranch, did not respond to a request for comment.

DuBois, according to his website, is a New York Times bestselling mystery writer who has penned 29 novels. He also has cowritten several of those novels with James Patterson, including "The Summer House" and "Blowback." Severn River Publishing, which published his latest novel "Terminal Surf" and republished 11 of his other novels, has removed all of his books from its website. (AP)

NEW YORK: The Library of Congress has awarded a lifetime achievement prize to James McBride, whose acclaimed novels include "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store," "Deacon King Kong" and "The Good Lord Bird."

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced Thursday that McBride, whose story lines have ranged from the crusades of abolitionist John Brown to a Brooklyn neighborhood in the 1960s, is this year's winner of the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. The award, previously given to Marilynne Robinson and Don DeLillo among others, is given to an American author who excels as a prose stylist and creative thinker.

"I'm honored to bestow the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction on a writer as imaginative and knowing as James McBride," Hayden said in a statement. "McBride knows the American soul deeply, reflecting our struggles and triumphs in his fiction, which so many readers have intimately connected with. I, also, am one of his enthusiastic readers.

McBride, 66, said in a statement that he was wished his mother were alive to hear of his prize. He then joked, "Does it mean

Music

Hip-hop singer relearns 'how to rap'

COOL J back with 'FORCE' after 11 yrs

NEW YORK, July 16, (AP): The Grammy award winning rapper-actor-author LL COOL J will release his first new album in 11 years, "The FORCE" in September - 40 years into his hiphop career.

Not that he hasn't been making music in that time. "I've always tinkered around in the studio here and there," he told The Associated Press over Zoom. But over the last two or so years, inspiration really struck. He started working with a producer and pursuing musicmaking more seriously. Then he hit a roadblock. "I just felt

like the tracks that this producer was giving me were better than the songs that I was writing," he said. Then the late Phife Dawg of A Tribe Called Quest came to him in a dream. "He told me, 'Yo, man, that new music you're working on is great, man.' But he had like he was lying to me," he says.

It was a wakeup call - and something told him to call A Tribe Called Quest's Q-Tip to work together. The move worked: Q-Tip produced every track and made all the beats on "The FORCE," which will be released Sept.

LL COOL J describes the process of making his 14th studio album as "going back to the drawing board and learning how to rap again ... making sure I was really inspired by the things I was saying. That's why there isn't a lot of fluff on this album."

"The LeBrons, the Stephs, the Jordans and the Kobes, they all go back to the drawing board, they always try to make themselves better" he continued. "I wasn't trying to do trendy, and I wasn't trying to recapture anything I did before.

"The FORCE" is an inventive rap record, informed by LL COOL J's lengthy career, touching on various themes, like the power of self-motivation ("Passion"), full-force swag ("Murdergram Deux," a long-awaited collab with Eminem), not-safe-forwork sensuality ("Proclivities" featuring Saweetie) and cautionary tales, as evidenced in the lead single, "Saturday Night Special" featuring Rick Ross

Effective

Particularly effective is the one-two punch of "Huey in the Chair," - a reference to a famous photo of Black Panther Party co-founder Huey P. Newton - what the rapper describes as "taking a stand for what you believe in," into the funky downtown beats of Energy," a celebration of the namesake artist's innovative spirit. The rapper says the American icons share an ability to "express their personal truths," something he aimed to do on this al-

In that way, "The FORCE," which stands for "frequencies of real creative energy," became an unofficial mantra for the release.

"That's what we wanted to present to the world," he said. "It's about wanting to vibrate at a high level."

And following the 50th anniversary of hip-hop last year, LL COOL J says he "wanted to show people that artists that have had long storied careers, so to speak, can make modern contributions to hip-hop that have a major impact. I hadn't seen that done before. It was another challenge: Can I create something that sounds new and fresh?"

He's not leaning into fads here - expect to hear rappers actually rapping but no one should consider this a play at nostalgia. The album is stacked with features, even beyond Ross, Fat Joe, Saweetie and Eminem: Snoop Dogg, Sona Jobareth, Busta Rhymes, Nas, Mad Squablz, J-S.A.N.D. and Don Pablito are among them.

"The one thing I wanted to do is, I wanted to meet people where I'm at now. I wasn't trying to be preachy," he said. "I'm not trying to tell people necessarily how to live. I did want to express with people where I'm at artistically at this point in my life and give them that. And then they can take that and do whatever they want with it."

1. "Spirit of Cyrus" (feat. Snoop

2. "The FORCE"

3. "Saturday Night Special" (feat. Rick Ross and Fat Joe)

4. "Black Code Suite" (feat. Sona

Jobarteh) 5. "Passion"

6. "Proclivities" (feat. Saweetie)

7. "Post Modern"

8. "30 Decembers" 9. "Runnit Back"

10. "Huey In Da Chair" (feat. Busta

11. "Basquiat Energy"

12. "Praise Him" (feat. Nas)

13. "Murdergram Deux" (feat. Em-

14. "The Vow" (feat. Mad Squablz, J-S.A.N.D., and Don Pablito)

I can use the Library? If so, I'm double thrilled." (AP)



KAMPALA: The Afri Art and Fashion Show 2024 concluded here on Saturday. with more than 15 local artisans and designers showcasing African fashion works with traditional and modern elements, eyecatching to the public.

Themed "Celebrating Timeless Beauty," the annual event exhibited a diverse range of African-inspired apparel and accessories, crafted with locally sourced materials like cotton, bark cloth, banana fiber, sisal, and traditional kitenge.

According to Cerinah Kasirye, founder of Trillion Looks Store which is the organizer of the show, the platform is important for young talents to display their African designs while remaining relevant in mod-

Kasirye said preserving the African heritage is essential in a world where people are looking for identity.

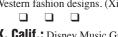
"Everyone needs identity; I have seen people in the African diaspora who are looking for identity. They are asking, who am I?" Kasirye said. "And for us, fashion is one of the ways that people can get their identity. People can relate to the fabrics and materials we use because they carry a rich heritage." She said young fashion talents have become more creative by infusing traditional African fabrics like bark cloth with modern designs. Bark cloth is a centuryold, locally sourced fabric that is made out of the bark of trees.

"Some people are actually picking old fabrics and used clothes to create new products. They are using these products to

impact lives, to touch the environment," she said. "So in modern times, we are here to promote passion and also to be ethical and just to the environment. Aisha Nabwanika, one of the exhibitors at the fashion show and also a pioneer in

culture tourism, said Africa has a rich cultural heritage that can be promoted through fashion. Citing the Baganda tribal group in central **Uganda**, which has different dress codes for various events, like parties or funerals, Nabwanika said these designs define who a group of people is and what drives them.

Nabwanika said it is important for local fashion designers to be more creative in integrating traditional African designs with modern ones so that the young generation can appreciate them instead of completely adopting Western fashion designs. (Xinhua)



BURBANK, Calif.: Disney Music Group (DMG) and AudioShake announced their collaboration to open up Disney's catalog of music to new creative and marketing opportunities. AudioShake's groundbreaking advancements in sound separation and lyric transcription will make it possible for DMG to unlock new listening and fan engagement experiences for the legendary Disney Music catalog.

From the earliest recordings of Mickey Mouse, through to contemporary classics across a wide range of genres, DMG is renowned for its iconic song recordings. Many of these earlier recordings don't have their constituent parts (AKA "stems"), which limit their use in sync licensing, remastering, and emerging formats like immersive audio and lyric videos.

Under the new agreement, DMG will expand its use of AudioShake's instrument stem separation technology to open up recordings that don't have stems to these new uses, to the benefit of artists, songwriters and fans alike.

AudioShake was a participant in the 2024 Disney Accelerator, a business development program designed to accelerate the growth of innovative companies from around the world. (AP)



Carlton Smith, (left), and Justin Nimmo pose in from of the console of the Barton Opus 234 theater organ that is undergoing restoration at Carlton Smith Pipe Organ Restorations in Indianapolis, Tuesday, July 2, 2024. The massive pipe organ built nearly a century ago for an extravagant movie house in Detroit is expected to be the centerpiece of a performing arts center at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. (AP)

Unproven technology may cause extra worry, unnecessary treatment

Celebs getting \$2,000 MRI scans for wellness. Should you?

WASHINGTON, July 16, (AP): What if there was a way to peer into your body and spot early signs of cancer and other life-threatening ailments before they became serious?

That's the pitch from a new cluster of companies selling high-tech scans to healthy people interested in learning more about their wellness.

These whole-body MRI scans aren't cheap. Startup companies like Prenuvo charge between \$1,000 to \$2,500 for various scanning options, none of which are currently covered by insurance.

Proponents say consumer-driven medical scans are the next logical step in preventive medicine. The industry has received a big publicity push from celebrities and influencers like Kim Kardashian, who posted about her Prenuvo scan last year.

But many medical experts say the companies are selling expensive, unproven technology that may cause extra worries and unnecessary treatment, while driving up costs for the US health system.

Here's what to know before considering a scan:

What is an MRI?

MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. It's a type of medical scan that uses magnetic fields to produce detailed images of organs, bones and other structures inside the body. Un-



This photo provided by Prenuvo in July 2024 shows an MRI scanner. (AP)

like many other types of scans, MRIs don't use radiation.

Doctors will order an MRI to help diagnose cancer, brain injuries, damaged blood vessels and other medical conditions. Full-body scans can take an hour or more, with patients lying motionless inside a cylindrical tube.

This article is part of AP's Be Well coverage, focusing on wellness, fit-

ness, diet and mental health.

Medical societies only recommend routine, full-body scans for certain high-risk groups, such as people who have a heightened genetic risk of cancer.

"MRIs are great for what they're typically used for," said Dr. Ernest Hawk, a vice president at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. "But now you're moving them

much earlier into an average risk population and that's where you can run into these questions that haven't been answered."

Why are people paying for them now?

Companies like Prenuvo say their scans can help identify more than 500 medical conditions that can go undetected at a typical doctor's visit.

The company charges \$999 to scan the torso, \$1,799 for the head and torso or \$2,499 for the entire body. Several other companies offer similar services and pricing.

Prenuvo's chief medical officer, Dr. Daniel Durand, says customers can decide for themselves if the price is worth it.

"We're trying to give people the opportunity to be more proactive about their health," Durand said.

Along with the scans and a readerfriendly summary of the results, customers can consult with a nurse or physician employed by Prenuvo to talk about next steps.

The company says it doesn't pay for endorsements but will sometimes "provide a complimentary scan for an unbiased review."

What are the potential downsides of MRI screening services?

Many radiologists say the likelihood of finding a serious problem, such as a cancerous tumor or brain aneurysm, in someone with no symptoms is very low. Instead, scans are likely to flag growths that are usually harmless. Definitively ruling out a problem could require additional tests, appointments and even surgeries.

"You're going to end up finding a lot of incidental things," said Dr. Mina Makary, a radiologist at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. "That's going to create more psychological stress or trauma for the patient, including additional costs for tests and procedures that may have risks."

Experts also worry that people who undergo MRI scans may start skipping other routine exams, such as mammograms

"You've gone through a scan and it didn't find anything so you say 'Gee, I don't need to do the other routine things my doctor recommends that have been proven to extend life," said

What do medical authorities say? The American College of Radiology does not recommend MRI screening in people without symptoms, stating that there is "no documented evidence" the technique is "cost-efficient or effective in prolonging life."

The Food and Drug Administration has not approved any MRI machines for preventive screening, but doctors are free to use the devices however they choose.

There are examples of imaging practices that were once considered experimental but have subsequently become standard practice. Prenuvo executives say their approach could follow a similar path.

ecutives say their approach could follow a similar path. "The evidence will evolve over time but patients don't necessarily want to wait 30 years to be in a position to benefit from it," said Prenuvo's

Durand.
When will we know if MRI screening helps people live longer?

The studies needed to show such a benefit would have to be very large and long, tracking a diverse population for years, according to experts.

Prenuvo recently announced plans to screen 100,000 people and study their health over time. The study isn't expected to wrap up until 2034 or

Most people enrolling in Prenuvo's study are expected to pay a \$2,200 fee. But eventually academic or government studies could offer individuals a chance to participate in such research without paying out-of-

"This is a great area in which to participate in a research study that might provide the information you're seeking, while also helping answer whether this is beneficial or not," Hawk said. "But doing so outside of a study makes no sense."



Scientists have confirmed a cave on the moon, not far from where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed 55 years ago this week, and suspect there are hundreds more that could house future astronauts. (AP)

Hope for lunar habitat

Cave on moon could host future explorers: experts

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., July 16, (AP): Scientists have confirmed a cave on the moon, not far from where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed 55 years ago, and suspect there are hundreds more that could house future as-

An Italian-led team reported Monday that there's evidence for a sizable cave accessible from the deepest known pit on the moon. It's located at the Sea of Tranquility, just 250 miles (400 kilometers) from Apollo 11's landing site.

The pit, like the more than 200 others discovered up there, was created by the collapse of a lava tube.

Researchers analyzed radar measurements by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, and compared the results with lava tubes on Earth. Their findings appeared in the journal Nature Astronomy.

The radar data reveals only the initial part of the underground cavity, according to the scientists. They estimate it's at least 130 feet (40 meters) wide and tens of yards (meters) long, probably more.

"Lunar caves have remained a mys-

tery for over 50 years. So it was exciting to be able to finally prove the existence" of one, Leonardo Carrer and Lorenzo Bruzzone of the University of Trento, wrote in an email.

Most of the pits seem to be located in the moon's ancient lava plains, according to the scientists. There also could be some at the moon's south pole, the planned location of NASA's astronaut landings later this decade. Permanently shadowed craters there are believed to hold frozen water that could provide drinking water and rocket fuel.

During NASA's Apollo program, 12 astronauts landed on the moon, beginning with Armstrong and Aldrin on July 20, 1969.

The findings suggest there could be hundreds of pits on the moon and thousands of lava tubes. Such places could serve as a natural shelter for astronauts, protecting them from cosmic rays and solar radiation as well as from micrometeorite strikes. Building habitats from scratch would be more time-consuming and challenging, even when factoring in the potential need of reinforcing the cave walls to prevent a collapse, the team said.

Malaria control enters a new era with child vaccination campaign

Ivory Coast rolls out vaccines for under 2 kids

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, July 16, (AP): Health workers in Ivory Coast began giving children the latest malaria vaccine on Monday, the beginning of a regional campaign that experts hope might curb the impact of one of Africa's top killers.

The West African country became the first to start rolling out the newest shot targeting malaria in an effort that aims to cover about 250,000 children under two. The three-dose vaccine known as R21/Matrix-M was developed by Britain's Oxford University and was authorized by the World Health Organization last October.

Research suggests it is more than 75% effective at preventing severe disease and death in the first year and that protection is extended for at least another year with a booster.

Alice Kanga was one of many who brought their children to get vaccinated Monday. "It's really important for the children, for their health," she said.

In 2021, WHO endorsed the first malaria vaccine, known as Mosquirix, made by GSK. But that vaccine requires four doses and protection fades



A health worker administers the malaria vaccine Oxford-Serum R21 to a child in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Monday, July 15. (AP)

within months. GSK also previously said it would only be able to make about 15 million doses.

But India's Serum Institute has already made 25 million doses of the Ox-

ford vaccine and says it plans to make at least 100 million every year, at a cost of about \$4 per dose.

More than 94% of the world's roughly 249 million malaria cases and

608,000 deaths every year are in Africa. The parasitic disease is spread by mosquitoes and most often strikes children under five and pregnant women.

Pierre Demba, Ivory Coast's health

minister, said the malaria vaccination launch was an indication of the government's commitment to invest in the country's children.

"They are the future of our country."

"They are the future of our country," he said.

Adrian Hill of Oxford University said in a statement that the Ivory Coast roll-out "marks the start of a new era in malaria control," adding that he hoped the shot would soon be available to all countries in Africa who wanted to use it.

Still, because malaria vaccines don't stop the spread of the disease, experts have long warned that other measures like insecticide spraying, improved treatments and the use of bed nets will still be critical.

The Gavi vaccine alliance, which helps poor countries buy vaccines, said other countries including the Central African Republic, Chad and South Sudan have also received supplies of the Oxford-developed shot.

Global vaccinations stall after COVID pandemic

UNICEF, WHO call for step-up in child vaccinations

UNITED NATIONS, July 15, (Xinhua): Two UN agencies on Monday called for a catch-up in child immunization, warning global vaccinations of children stalled last year, leaving 2.7 million unvaccinated or with insufficient inoculations.

The latest World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates of national immunization coverage provide the world's largest and most comprehensive dataset on immunization trends for vaccinations against 14 diseases. The estimates "underscore the need

for ongoing catch-up, recovery and system-strengthening efforts."

They said childhood immunization levels stalled in 2023, compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019, leaving many without life-saving protection, notably from measles. New data reveals that nearly three in four infants live in countries where low vaccine coverage is driving measles outbreaks.

"The latest trends demonstrate that many countries continue to miss far too many children," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "Closing the immunization gap requires a global effort, with governments, partners, and local leaders investing in primary healthcare and community workers to ensure every child gets vaccinated and that overall healthcare is strengthened."

The agencies' data shows the number of children who received three doses of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) in 2023 -- a key marker for global immunization coverage -- stalled at 84 percent (108 million). However, the number of children who did not receive a single dose

of the vaccine increased from 13.9 million in 2022 to 14.5 million in 2023.

"More than half of unvaccinated children live in the 31 countries with fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable settings, where children are especially vulnerable to preventable diseases because of disruptions and lack of access to security, nutrition, and health services," they said.

"Additionally, 6.5 million children did not complete their third dose of the DTP vaccine, which is necessary to achieve disease protection in infancy and early childhood."







Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp.Police station - Farwaniya www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

From Biles to Sha'Carri

Team USA packed with star power heading into Olympic Games

WASHINGTON, July 16, (AP): From Simone Biles to Sha'Carri Richardson and Diana Taurasi to Katie Ledecky, Team USA will provide some of the biggest star power at the 2024 Olympic Games.

And it will be the women leading the way as the U.S. looks to top the overall medal table for the eighth consecutive Summer Games.

The nearly 600 athletes going to the Paris Games include more than 250 returning Olympians and 122 Olympic medalists. Golfers Xander Schauffele and Nelly Korda, along with surfer Carissa Moore, are among the numerous Olympians set to defend their titles in France.

It's a loaded U.S. roster where the women outnumber the men 314 to 278, and ages range from 16 to 59. The most decorated member of Team USA in Paris will be Ledecky, who's trying to add to her collection of 10 medals (seven golds).

Biles is back in action after pulling out of multiple gymnastics finals in Tokyo to protect her mental health and safety. There's Richardson making her Olympic debut after a much-debated absence three years ago because of a positive marijuana test.

Biles leads a U.S. women's gymnastics team filled with familiar faces and looking for redemption in Paris. The team settled for silver three years ago behind the Russian athletes competing as the Russian Olympic Committee.

OLYMPICS

Richardson has become a media sensation for her speed, charisma and perseverance. The 100-meter world champion earned a spot for Tokyo in 2021 but was banned following her positive test for marijuana. It sparked an intense debate about whether she was being unfairly singled out for taking a substance that doesn't improve performance.

The 24-year-old Richardson, who graces the cover of Vogue magazine, said she was "overwhelmed with the emotions of just joy" after making the

U.S. women aim high, China, Japan vie for men's title

BEIJING, July 16, (Xinhua): The United States' female gymnasts are looking to secure several gold medals at the upcoming Paris Olympics, particularly in the women's team event, which they lost to the ROC at the Tokyo Olympics, while China and Japan will be the main contenders for the men's titles.

The U.S. women, who won team titles in 2012 and 2016, seem even more formidable, as Simone Biles has returned to superb form, winning the allaround world title in 2023 and taking a ninth national championship in 2024.

After the Tokyo Olympics, Biles took time to polish her signature

On the court, hoops royalty LeBron James and Diana Taurasi lead their teams. And it's no surprise that the men's and women's basketball squads brimming with talent are heavy fa-

vorites to bring home the gold. James, Joel Embiid, Kevin Durant Yurchenko double pike, upgrade her floor exercise, and recently produced a new dismount combination on bars.

But it's not just Biles that makes the American team stronger. Reigning allaround Olympic champion Suni Lee and 24-year-old Jade Carey also stand out. Lee is known for her excellence on the uneven bars, while Carey is a valuable asset on floor and vault.

There are, however, quite a few notable contenders that may pose a serious challenge for the U.S.

China's Qiu Qiyuan defeated Biles on the uneven bars at last year's world championships, and is eyeing glory in

and Steph Curry join forces to lead a U.S. contingent going for a fifth straight Olympic title. A'ja Wilson, Brittney Griner and Taurasi headline a women's squad that has won seven consecutive Olympic gold medals.

Taurasi has been apart of five of

Paris. "It's competitive, but if I can finish it smoothly, I will have a chance to win the title," Qiu said. Qiu's teammate Zhou Yaqin, with a brilliant display on the balance beam, is also a strong candidate for the Olympic title.

In the women's team event, three athletes from each team compete on vault, balance beam, uneven bars and floor exercise. "Vault and floor may not be our favorite," said Qiu. "We hope to have consistent and well-performed routines to make up for the difficulty.' Having a breakout year in 2023 by taking a first-ever team silver medal in the world championship, Brazil's squad,

Decorated swimmers Ledecky and

Caeleb Dressel are on deck to shine

again in the pool, and majors winners

and world No. 1 golfers Scottie Schef-

"We're telling these stories - we're

fler and Korda take to the links.

led by Tokyo all-around silver medalist Rebeca Andrade, is on the hunt for an unprecedented Olympic team medal for the South American nation.

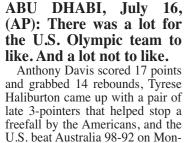
France's women's team, having never previously finished higher than fifth at an Olympics, is in contention for a medal after a strong showing for a team bronze at the world champion-

ships last year. In the men's competition, 2021 world all-around champion Zhang Boheng of China, a long-time rival of reigning Olympic and world all-around champion Daiki Hashimoto, is set to challenge for his first-ever Olympic title.

laughing, we're crying, we're cheering them on," said Lyndsay Signor, senior vice president of consumer engagement at NBC Sports. "So that really warrants both the combination of the athletes themselves and the celebrities we've partnered with."

US build big lead then hold off Australia for win in Oly tuneup

Davis scored 17 pts, grabbed 14 rebounds



game slate of exhibitions leading into the Paris Olympics. Devin Booker scored 16 for the U.S., Anthony Edwards scored 14 and three players - LeBron James, Bam Adebayo and Joel Embiid - finished with 10 for the Americans, who are playing host to a pair of exhibitions at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, this week. They'll play

day to improve to 2-0 in its five-

Serbia there on Wednesday.

Jock Landale scored 20 for Australia, which got 17 from Josh Giddey and 14 from Dyson Daniels.

The U.S. led by 24 midway through the third quarter, yet saw that lead cut to six with 5:05 left after Australia went on a 39-21 run. But Haliburton had the next six points on his 3s, pushing the lead back to 92-80.

Australia cut it to four on two separate occasions, but Booker went 4-for-4 from the line in the final 8 seconds to ensure the U.S. would escape.

BASKETBALL

"Third quarter, we started turning the ball over," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said. "We gave up a ton of points at the basket. Back cuts, offensive boards and so, the game shifted. It's a good lesson for us. Better to learn that lesson now than later. And this will be a good tape for us to watch. But I give Australia a ton of credit. They were great. They fought. They were really physical. Took it to us in the last quarter and a half and really made it a game."

Just like in the Canada game, the socalled second unit - Haliburton, Jrue Holiday, Adebayo, Davis and Booker - changed the game.

That was the group on the floor when the Americans took a game that was tied at 19-19 with 3:15 left in the first and turned it into a 39-23 lead - a 20-4 run in a span of just over 5 minutes.

Kerr used that group as his starting five to open the second half. But it's become a clear trend already: when the U.S. goes to its bench and can replace All-Stars with other All-Stars, it's just going to be a massive problem for opponents who don't have anywhere near that same level of depth.

"The strength of our team is our depth and we have to utilize our depth," Kerr said. It's been something



United States and Australia players fight for the ball during the USA Basketball Showcase in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

From a skateboard prodigy to China's youngest Olympian: Zheng's journey

provincial team in 2021.

Guangdong Provincial Games.

Olympic qualifying event

Zheng's rapid progress continued.

At just nine years old, she represented

making her debut abroad in Argentina

for the World Skateboarding Tour. De-

spite facing tight schedules and logisti-

cal hurdles, Zheng managed to arrive

in Argentina just in time for her first

GUANGZHOU, July 16, (Xinhua): Zheng Haohao has already made history before her Olympic debut in Paris. The 11-year-old skateboarder from Huizhou, south China's Guangdong Province, is the youngest Chinese athlete to compete in the Olympic Games. She secured a spot in the women's

park skateboarding event during the Olympic Qualification Series held in Shanghai and Budapest.

Zheng's exceptional athletic ability was evident from an early age. According to her mother, Wang Zhe, Zheng preferred uneven surfaces where she could climb rocks and steps. Despite

the Americans have used to their advantage in the past. Dwyane Wade led the gold-medalist 2008 U.S. Olympic team in points, even though he was sixth in minutes on that team and came

participating in various skill training programs, including music, chess, painting, and dancing, skateboarding captured her heart when she received a skateboard from her parents on her seventh birthday.

OLYMPICS

Initially practicing at the club run by Chen Wanqin, father of Asian Games champion Chen Ye, Zheng faced numerous falls and injuries during training. Despite the challenges, she persisted. Her talent caught the attention of the head coach of the Guangdong

off the bench in all eight games. Here's the big trouble sign right now

for the U.S.: turnovers.

FIBA games are shorter than NBA games, 40 minutes instead of 48 min-

utes. That means there are fewer possessions and makes it even more imperative to not give the ball away.

Which the Americans did. A lot. After committing 15 turnovers in

Guangdong at the 2021 National Games, excelled in the first round, scoring an finishing 14th in the semifinals. In Auimpressive 63.49 points. However, a gust 2022, she clinched the title in the mistake in the second round left her women's park skateboarding event at the with only 43.84 points. To secure a chance at Olympic qualification, she needed a minimum of 67.34 points in In 2023, Zheng embarked on her international skateboarding journey, the final round. At this critical juncture, Zheng

During the Budapest Olympic Qualifier Series last month, Zheng's

performance was a rollercoaster. She

took a daring risk by incorporating two challenging tricks into her final routine. Under immense pressure, she delivered an exceptional performance, earning a remarkable 72.6 points.

last week's exhibition win over Canada, the U.S. had 18 giveaways on Monday and Australia used them to fuel the comeback effort - getting 25 points off turnovers in the second half alone.

France, Japan seek to keep dominance

BEIJING, July 16, (Xinhua): Judo powerhouses Japan and host nation France are eager to win as many gold medals as possible at the Paris Olympic Games.

The judo competition will be held at the Champ-de-Mars Arena from July 27 to August 3, featuring 15 golds in seven categories each for men and women respectively, plus a mixed team event.

The host team, led by Olympic champions Teddy Riner and Clarisse Agbegnenou, is particularly strong. The emergence of French judo talents in recent years has further reinforced their competitiveness.

France bagged eight medals at the Tokyo Olympics, with two golds, three silvers and three bronzes, while French media predicted that their judokas could win five to ten medals in Paris.

Japan demonstrated its strength in judo at the Tokyo Olympics, winning nine gold medals. In Paris, judokas Hifumi and Uta Abe, both defending

JUDO

Olympic champions, are expected to become the first siblings in Olympic history to successfully defend their

The powerhouses will also face challenges from teams including Azerbaijan, South Korea, Georgia and Mongolia, which may have a considerable impact on the medal tally.

China will send six female judokas to the Paris Olympic Games to compete in the women's 48kg, 52kg, 57kg, 63kg, 78kg and over 78kg categories.

Among them, Ma Zhenzhao, who won the women's 78kg category at the Hangzhou Asian Games, is one of the gold favorites, and so is her compatriot Xu Shiyan, who ranked fifth at the Tokyo Olympics in the over 78kg category. Besides the two veterans, others are all Olympic debutants.

Yang Yung-Wei of Chinese Taipei is currently ranked world No. 1 in the men's 60kg category and is expected to make breakthroughs in Paris. Matthias Casse of Belgium, who ranked first in the men's 81kg category, is hopeful of winning gold, as he claimed two gold medals at the IJF Grand Slam this year.

German 'leagues' adopt Euro policy

FRANKFURT, Germany, July 16, (AP): German leagues will follow the European Championship policy of letting only team captains talk to referees about their decisions, the national soccer federation said Tuesday.

UEFA promised a crackdown on dissent toward match officials at Euro 2024 that saw several players shown yellow cards.

From the top-tier Bundesliga down to amateur and youth leagues, referees in the coming season will have the same authority to act in Germany.

"A player who ignores the role of their captain, complains to the referee or behaves disrespectfully will be cautioned." the German federation said in a statement.

Vacancy Announcement

A Leading Company in Kuwait has a job vacancy in their Commercial Department

Requirements:

1- Bachelor's Degree

residence visa

- 2- Indian national. Age: below 35years 3- Must have transferrable Kuwait
- 4- Knowledge & work experience in international shipping / logistics 5- Experience in Office routines including
- Office correspondence 6- Strong computer skills in MS Office
- 7- Good command over English language 8- Must be able to join from 01.09.2024

Interested candidates meeting the above criteria may send their CVs to:

hiringkuwait24@gmail.com

Neff and Reusser withdraw from Paris Games

ZURICH, July 16, (AP): Olympic mountain bike champion Jolanda Neff and Marlen Reusser, the reigning Olympic time trial silver medalist, withdrew from the Paris Games on Monday in a double blow to the hopes of the Swiss cycling

The Swiss Cycling Federation announced the two riders have been dealing with illnesses and will not compete at the Summer Games, which begin with the opening ceremony on July 26. Neff has been having breathing issues for several years while Reusser has been recovering from an illness but won't be ready to compete in Paris.

Change Name

I, SEEMA RANI H Holder of Indian Passport M 6718421 have added surname RANI to my name and delete Rani from my name SEEMA RANI. Now My name (old name SEEMA RANI) will change to new name SEEMA and Surname will be RANI. I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my

Villas for Rent

We have Two VIP Villas in Mesila Facing the sea And a Swimming Pool 4 master rooms, **Special Location**

Olympic silver medalist Sina Frei will take Neff's spot alongside Alessandra Keller, the world's No. 1-ranked rider, in the mountain bike competition at Elancourt Hill. Elena Hartmann will replace Reusser in the time trial and road race.

Neff, who led a historic Swiss sweep of the mountain bike podium at the Tokyo Olympics, underwent a battery of tests in early June as doctors tried to formulate a plan for her recovery. But while the team said the 31-year-old rider has shown improvements, they "are not sufficient to compete in Paris in two weeks." Neff won the world championship in 2017 and is a three-time World Cup overall winner.

The Swiss team, which is ranked No. 1 in the world, is still expected to be formidable in the mountain bike race. Keller has been a consistent podium finisher on the World Cup circuit and Frei was third at the European championships

Reusser said in a social media post that she had COV-ID-19 in February, then fell during the Tour of Flanders and suffered fractures to her face and teeth. She underwent surgery and then had "several viral infections" and still has not fully recovered. Her pro team, SD Worx-Protime, said Reusser had a tooth extracted and was on antibiotics in the

hopes of competing in Paris. "I saw a lot of doctors, had a lot of tests and still always had the hope that I would be fit in time for Paris," she said. "A significant part of my treatment now consists of rest, so I have to plan and hope for the longer term and do everything I can to ensure that I can compete in top form at the world championships in Zurich.'



Required for Next Academic Year 2024-25 at Private American School

Kindergarten

• English Teacher • Female Pool Lifeguard

· Math Teacher

Science Teacher

· English Teacher Physical Education Teacher

Middle and High School Social Studies Teacher

• English Teacher Science Teacher

- Math Teacher
 Business Teacher
- ICT Teacher
- Culinary Arts Teacher Graphic Design Teacher

Leadership Positions

High School Vice PrincipalDean of Students

CounselorCollege Counselor

· Curriculum Coordinator

Interested applicants may apply through our website at the following link: https://www.abs.edu.kw/careers/abs

Olympics fever 'cranks' up as Paris countdown begins

Kuwait sending 10 athletes

PARIS, July 16, (KUNA): The countdown is officially underway for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, as the sprawling French capital prepares to play host to perhaps the largest gathering in sports, amid impenetrable security measures aiming to ensure the marquee event goes off without a hitch.

Kuwait is among the participating nations at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, fielding some 10 athletes across various sports, with mere days remaining until the sporting extravaganza officially gets underway.

The French capital is no stranger to the Olympic Games, having hosted the 1900 and 1924 editions of the marquee event, ahead of this year's Olympic Games, according to a report by renowned research body The Center for Development Economics Studies, citing "immense" economic benefits triggered by the event.

This flow of revenue primarily comes from ticket sales and long-term investments in major infrastructure projects, all of which are collectively worth some USD 1.7 billion, ahead of what organizers say will be a lavish opening ceremony to usher in the sporting spectacle.

At the opening ceremony, nearly 100 boats carrying athletes will meander down a 6-kilometer (about 3.7 miles) stretch of the River Seine, which runs east to west through Paris and over-



French BMX champion Matthias Dandois holds the Olympic torch in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, just 10 days before the French capital hosts exceptionally ambitious and high-security Paris Olympic Games. (AP)

looks some of the city's famous bridges and renowned landmarks, which includes the Notre-Dame and the Louvre.

In an effort to ensure the preparedness of the facilities that will host the slew of events that comprise the Olympic Games, the French capital has seen major renovation works carried out across more than 30 facilities, chief among them the famous Stade de France, which is the national stadium of France, located just north of the French capital.

In addition to the Stade de France, the Olympic Village is another one of the notable facilities situated across the Saint-Ouen, Saint-Denis and L'Ile-

Saint-Denis neighborhoods north of Paris'city center, which is the single largest construction project in France, at a staggering cumulative cost of USD 1.85 billion, with its most notable feature being a footbridge linking the accommodation's blocks together.

With Olympic fever running through Paris, the city's rail network system will be revised to allow some 370 extra trains in regions outside Paris in a bid to accommodate more than 9.7 million

OLYMPICS

spectators and 10,000 athletes who will be commuting throughout France as the 2024 Paris Olympic Games unfolds.

Overseeing the management and coordination of all aspects related to the Olympic Games, the event's Executive Director Christophe Dubi expected major economic benefits that will come along with the Olympic Games, saying the aftermath of the event should continue to linger long after the Olympics are done and dusted.

Interspersed through the Olympic Games, French organizers plan to hold an array of activities and events aiming to shine light on French culture, which include musical shows and exhibitions that are expected to attract throngs of crowds, subsequently familiarizing attendees with French culture and tradition, he added.

As with any event of such magnitude, the prospect of terrorist attacks inevitably loom over the gathering, prompting French security forces to devise a foolproof plan that entails the deployment of an additional 40,000 personnel to various sites, subsequently ensuring the protection of athletes and spectators alike, he added.

Cairo ahead of Asian Championship

Kuwait maintain 'strong' showing in



The Kuwaiti team technical staff.

By Khaled El Anzi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, July 16: The Kuwaiti youth volleyball team earned a decisive 25-22, 26-24, and 25-18 win over Egypt in a friendly match in Cairo. This match was part of the team's training camp in preparation for the 22nd Asian U-20 Volleyball Championship, scheduled to be hosted in Indonesia from July 23 to 31.

Coach Jassem Al-Tararwa, expressed his satisfaction with the players' performance, particularly their physical fitness and technical harmony. He expressed optimism about achieving positive results in the tournament and aiming for a podium finish.

Al-Tararwa praised the progress of the training camp in Cairo, highlighting the enthusiasm and high spirit exhibited by the Kuwaiti players during their match against the Egyptian team. This, he said, reflects their high focus and preparation for the Asian Championship.

The Kuwaiti national team has intensified its training at

the Arab Contractors Club in Cairo, with sessions held twice daily, in the morning and evening, to increase the players' training load and physical fitness. The camp includes two friendly matches in preparation for the Asian Championship.

The delegation is led by Kuwait Volleyball Association Board Member Jassem Al-Failakawi and includes administrator Hamoud Al-Bathali and national team director Abdulaziz Al-Failakawi, along with 14 players.

VOLLEYBALL

Notably, the Kuwaiti youth team won its first test match against Al-Sharqiya Youth Al-Dukhan with a score of 3-0, and in the second match, it defeated Heliolido Club's first team, a member of the Egyptian Professional League, also with a score of 3-0. The team will conclude its camp today with a match against the Egyptian junior national team, before returning to Kuwait on Friday and departing for Indonesia on Saturday.

'It's time for change, and for a new chapter'

Southgate says he will step down as England manager

LONDON, July 16, (AP): After eight years, four tournaments and two finals, Gareth Southgate announced he was stepping down as England manager on Tuesday, saying it was "time for

Sunday's 2-1 loss to Spain in the European Championship final proved to be his last game in charge of the na-

"As a proud Englishman, it has been the honour of my life to play for England and to manage England. It has meant everything to me, and I have given it my all," he said. "But it's time for change, and for a new chapter."

Southgate's contract was due to expire this year and his announcement comes after months of uncertainty surrounding his future.

Mikel Oyarzabal's 86th-minute winner in Berlin was a painful way to end his reign after he transformed the fortunes of England's underperforming national team.

Hired in 2016, he led England to back-to-back finals at the Euros and to the semifinals of the World Cup in

But, ultimately, he was unable to end the nation's decades-long wait for a first major trophy since the World Cup

"Gareth, I want to thank you - not as the President of the FA, but as an England fan. Thank you for creating a team that stands shoulder to shoulder with the world's finest in 2024," Prince William said on X. "Thank you for showing humility, compassion, and true leadership under the most intense pressure and scrutiny. And thank you for being an all-round class act. You should be incredibly proud of what you've achieved. W.

Southgate said before the European Championship that it would likely be his last tournament if England did not

SOCCER

During it, he faced fierce criticism some fans threw plastic beer cups towards him at the end of the 0-0 draw with Slovenia in the group phase.

But he achieved what no other England manager has by leading his team to two finals, including the first final on foreign soil.

"Gareth has made the impossible job possible and laid strong foundations for future success. He is held in the highest regard by the players, the backroom team, by everyone at the FA and across the world of football," said Mark Bullingham, chief executive of the English Football Association.



England's manager Gareth Southgate reacts during the final match between Spain and England at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Berlin, Germany. (AP)

Before Southgate's arrival England had won only seven knockout games at tournaments since 1966. The team won nine during his tenure.

England was also in the top five of FIFA's rankings for six years under Southgate. Previously its longest run had been seven months.

Now thoughts will turn to finding his successor and the FA said the process was already under way. Southgate was not an obvious choice

to take over when hired after Sam Allardyce's one-match reign came to an end after just 67 days in charge.

He didn't have a stellar managerial career - with a three-year spell at Middlesbrough his only job in club soccer. But he was well-respected within the FA for his work with England's under

21 team and he exceeded all expectations with the senior job. The World Cup semifinal in 2018 came after England had suffered the humiliation of being eliminated by Iceland at Euro 2016 and failed to advance beyond the group stage of the World

England had not advanced to a semifinal since Euro 96 and hadn't reached that stage of a World Cup since 1990.

At the Euros in 2021, Southgate went one better by leading his team to the final, which it lost to Italy in a penalty shootout.

England was tied 1-1 with Spain in the final on Sunday before Oyarzabal's late winner.

"We look back at Gareth's tenure with huge pride - his contribution to the English game, including a significant role in player development, and in culture transformation has been unique. However, it is his record of winning tournament games which is most extraordinary," Bullingham

Kuwait Club celebrate win with Vitor

Al-Jouini in talks with Al-Arabi Club



Ahmed Khalidi controls the ball during a friendly game agianst Al-Shabab.

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: Al-Arabi Club has entered into negotiations with Tunisian international striker Haitham Al-Jouini, currently playing for Tunisian Stadium Club, to bolster its squad

for the upcoming season. Al-Jouini, born in 1993, has previously played for Tunisian club Esperance, Al-Ahly Club (Benghazi), and had a brief stint in the Spanish second division. He also played professionally for Saudi Arabia's Al-Ain Club.

SOCCER

In other news, Al-Arabi defeated Al-Shabab 4-1 in its first friendly match in preparation for the new season. The new Algerian recruit, Ahmed Khalidi, scored his first goal for the team, with Nayef Hamid, Salman Al-Awadi, and Nigerian Anabu Iwala also finding the net for "Al-Akhdar."

The team is set to conclude its training this evening before departing for a training camp in Bosnia, which will include four friendly matches.

Al-Arabi coach Nasser Al-Shatti expressed his confidence in the young players, emphasizing the importance of their contribution as the team competes in five tournaments this season.

Al-Arabi will participate in the Asian Challenge Cup as the Premier League runner-up, alongside local competitions including the Zain PreCup, and the Super Cup.
Al-Shatti highlighted that the friendly against Al-Shabab marked the team's

mier League, Amir Cup, Crown Prince

first match two weeks into its preparation period. He also pointed out that the Bosnian camp will be crucial for the players' physical and technical preparation to endure the season's match pressure. Al-Shatti stressed the importance of

support from Al-Arabi fans, noting that it significantly motivates the team to achieve positive results.

In the Kuwait Club camp, the players celebrated Argentina's victory in the Copa America, joining their new player, Argentine professional Sergio Vitor, in the celebrations after their training session.

Kuwait Club continues its daily training at its external camp in Turkey, which started at the beginning of July and will run until the 29th of the month, in preparation for the new season. The team will participate in the AFC Champions League qualifying playoff, facing Al-Ahly of Bahrain on August 14 in Manama. The winner will qualify directly for the group stage. The defense of its league title will begin against Al-Qadisiya on August 8.

In other news, Kazma's U-23 team player Abdullah Al-Jasser underwent surgery for a cruciate ligament injury at Al-Razi Hospital. Team manager Ayman Al-Asak visited Al-Jasser to check on him and thanked Dr. Abdulaziz Abbas, who performed the surgery. Al-Asak wished Al-Jasser a swift recovery and return to the team.

France's 'all-time' leading scorer **Giroud ends international career**

PARIS, July 16, (AP): France's all-time leading scorer Olivier Giroud confirmed the end of his international career.

He had already said he would go only as far as France went in the European Championship.

"The moment I've been dreading has arrived. The moment to say goodbye to the French team," the 37-year-old Giroud wrote on his Instagram page on Monday.

France bowed out last week in the semifinals, a 2-1 loss to eventual champion Spain. Giroud was a second-half He scored 57 goals in 137 matches

for France. He was a member of the squad that won the 2018 World Cup.

Giroud will continue his club career in Major League Soccer after he signed to play with Los Angeles FC, leaving Europe after 18 years in the top professional leagues in France, England and Italy. Giroud joined LAFC from AC Milan with a contract through 2025. The deal includes an option for 2026.

CONMEBOL says, it regrets the chaotic scene at final

Colombia's soccer federation president, son among 27 arrested

MIAMI GARDENS, July 16, (AP): Colombia's soccer federation president and his son were among 27 people arrested during the crowd control issues that broke out Sunday at the Copa America final between Argentina and Colombia, police said Monday.

Ramón Jesurún and his son Ramon Jamil Jesurun were detained after the event at Hard Rock Stadium and charged, Miami-Dade police detective Andre Martin told The Associated

Both men are facing three counts of felony battery on an official after being accused of fighting multiple stadium security guards. Arrest records said both men tried to go onto the field through a tunnel where media was gathering after the match. They were stopped by security, and the police report said they "became irate" at the delay. A verbal altercation eventually turned physical with a guard placing an "open palm" on Ramon Jamil Jesurun's chest to "guide him back" and the younger Jesurun grabbing the guard "around his neck" and pulling him to the ground before throwing "two punches that impacted" the guard, the report said. The two men were placed into custody after

midnight. Colombia's soccer federation didn't immediately respond Monday to a re-

quest for comment from the AP. Ramón Jesurún, 71, has been president of the Colombian soccer federation since 2015 and is a vice president of CONMEBOL, South American soccer's governing body that organizes the

Copa America tournament.
In a statement released Monday, the organization said it regrets the scene in which countless fans entered the stadium without tickets and "tarnished" the event. The game was delayed for more than an hour as authorities worked to control the situation, eventually deciding to let some fans in without going through security checkpoints.

"In this situation, CONMEBOL was subject to the decisions made by the Hard Rock Stadium authorities, according to the contractual responsibilities established for security operations," the organization said. "In addition to the preparations determined in this contract, CONMEBOL recommended to these authorities the procedures proven in events of this magnitude, which were NOT taken into account."

Hard Rock Stadium - the site of 2026 World Cup matches - said security was a shared responsibility among its stadium officials, the organization, CONCACAF (the governing body that oversees soccer in North and Central America and the Caribbean) and local

police.
"More than double the personnel"

used for a typical event were onsite Sunday, a stadium spokesperson said in a news release. Miami-Dade police said more than 800 law enforcement officers were at

the match. In addition to the arrests, 55

people were ejected, they said. It was a chaotic scene just hours before the scheduled 8 p.m. start of the championship match between the two South American countries: Fans forced their way in and jumped over security railings and ran past police officers and

stadium attendants, some appearing

hysterical as they searched for the peo-

ple they arrived with.

There appeared to be significant damage to the venue as a result. Video and images posted to social media showed the shattered side railings of an escalator inside the stadium, with shoes, soda cans, reading glasses and articles of clothing left behind. Security railings at a checkpoint in the southwest entrance to the stadium were bent over as thousands of people, including crying children, pushed against them.

The Hard Rock Stadium release said stadium officials communicated with tournament organizers around 8 p.m. and decided to open the gates to both ticketed and unticketed fans who were thrust against the entrance in fear of stampedes and serious injuries. The gates were then closed with many ticketed fans left outside.

The stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, which is home to the NFL's Dolphins, will be the site of seven World Cup matches in 2026, including a quarterfinal and third-place match.



Fans await the arrival of some of the Argentina squad that won the Copa America soccer tournament one day prior, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)



In this file photo, Al-Shaheen, with his deputies, Hayef and Oqla, and the Secretary-General address the press at the General Assembly meeting.

borts

Latest sports scores at — http://sports.arabtimesonline.com

Al-Shaheen resigns as KFA president

Al-Mutairi takes over

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 16: The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Football Association, Abdullah Al-Shaheen, submitted his resignation from his position. In response, the Association's **Board of Directors appointed** Vice Chairman Hayef Al-Mutairi as Chairman until an extraordinary general assembly can be convened to elect a new president.

In his statement, Al-Shaheen said, "We developed a strategy and action plan to advance and develop the football system. After more than two years of hard work and dedication, we fulfilled our duty to strive for the game's development. We diligently worked to implement our vision and strategy, despite facing numerous obstacles and challenges.

He continued, "Thanks to your valuable support and trust, the Federation has achieved significant milestones on administrative, technical, and financial fronts. We qualified for the third round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers after a 19-year absence and for the 2027 Asian Cup after a 12-year absence."

Al-Shaheen added, "Despite the smear campaigns and defamation I faced, I chose to take responsibility, working hard and diligently. I devoted my time, effort, and resources to serve my country. Together, we achieved tangible results in the development of the Kuwaiti football system.

He concluded, "I have decided to step down in accordance with Article (35, Paragraph 10) of the Kuwait Football Association's statute.

SOCCER

I extend my gratitude to the vice presidents, Board members, all Federation employees, technical and administrative staff, national team players, and General Assembly members for their unwavering support. I wish continued success, progress, and prosperity for Kuwaiti football under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sa-



Kuwait youth players pose for a group photo before their departure to Serbia.

Kuwaiti team heads to Serbia for Asian Cup qualifier preparations

A delegation of the Kuwaiti youth national team departed for Serbia to commence an external training camp, which will run until August 6. This camp is part of their preparation for the Asian Cup qualifiers, set to take place in Kuwait next Sep-

bah, and His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Ha-

mad Al-Sabah.

Croatian coach Dario Pasic has selected 28 players for the national team's roster. The squad includes Miqdad Safar, Abdul-Wahab Al-Aqra', Talal Al-Matrud, Youssef Majed, Jassim Shamouh,

Following the approval of Hayef Al-Mutairi's appointment as Chairman, the Board of Directors exArhama, Thamer Ál-Sulaili, Muhammad Al-Surai, Ahmed Boodai, pressed their gratitude to Abdullah

Al-Shaheen for his efforts and con-

tributions, which led to the Kuwaiti

'It's an incredible day for me'

Hussein Kankouni, Ahmed Khor-

shid, Hussein Al-Erian, Abdullah

Fares, Abdullah Al-Ayoub, Khaled

Al-Kharqawi, Abdullah Al-Sarraf,

Khaled Al-Othman, Muhammad

Talal, Bandar Nawaf, and Jassim Al-Anazi

Jassim Al-Matar, Fadel Al-Sarraf,

Turki Al-Youssef, Ahmed Al-Rashidi, Abdulaziz Abdeen, Mu-

hammad Al-Omran, Muntaser

Abdulsalam, Omar Al-Azmi, Eid

national team qualifying for the 2027 Asian Cup finals and the third round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

Blues advance despite losing to Iran

Al-Qabandi praises Kuwait youth handball Mbappé welcomed by Real Madrid fans team performance in Asian Championship

Khaled El Anzi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, July 16: The Kuwaiti youth handball team lost to Iran with a score of 23-25 (first half 11-12) at

the conclusion of the second group matches in the preliminary round of the Asian Youth Championship, currently held in Amman, Jordan. This tournament serves as a qualifier for the 2025 World Cup finals in Poland. Kuwait started the tournament with a victory over China, advancing as the second team in the group alongside

HANDBALL

Iran to the main round.

The tournament system stipulates that the first and second place finishers in each of the four groups will qualify for the main round, which will be divided into two groups of four teams each. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals, securing a spot in the 2025 Youth World Cup finals.

Meshaal Al-Qabandi, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Handball Association, praised the performance and fighting spirit that the players have shown since the beginning of the Asian Youth Championship in Jordan.

He stated, "We began preparations for the team four years ago, and the



Players huddle for a pep talk.

group has participated in three regional tournaments, in addition to local gatherings, friendly matches, and training camps."

Al-Qabandi added, "We have developed well-studied, long-term plans that consider the players' academic commitments and the pressure of local and international matches. The youth team includes several emerging players, which helps in developing their skills and increasing their exposure to higher levels of competition."

He continued, "We ensured that the players participated in local tournaments with their teams, which has contributed to improving their physical condition.'

Al-Qabandi concluded, "We look forward to achieving our goal of qualifying for the 2025 World Cup finals. Everyone is committed to representing the Kuwaiti team in this continental competition in the best possible way.'

at 'packed' Santiago Bernabeu Stadium

MADRID, July 16, (AP): Kylian Mbappé finally put on a Real Madrid jersey on Tuesday, fulfilling his childhood dream in front of a packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Nearly 80,000 fans were in hand at the Bernabeu to welcome the 25-year-old France star during his official presentation as the club's newest player.

After signing his five-year contract with the Spanish powerhouse alongside club president Florentino Pérez, Mbappé entered the stage set up at the Bernabeu to loud cheers by the Ma-

Wearing the No. 9 jersey, Mbappé smiled broadly and waved to the fans who chanted his name, then embraced Pérez and former Madrid player and coach Zinedine Zidane, who invited Mbappé to visit the Spanish club for the first time when he was just a teenager.

"It's an incredible day for me," Mbappé told the crowd, in good Spanish. "Since being a kid I dreamed about playing for Madrid and today I'm here. It means a lot to me."

Mbappé finished his speech by asking the crowd to join him and chant "Hala Madrid," similar to what his childhood idol - and "now friend" - Cristiano Ronaldo did when he arrived at the club. Mbappé then kissed the club's shield and went around the Bernabeu kicking balls to the crowd in the stands.

"Now I have another dream, which



Kylian Mbappe, of France, gestures as he is presented to fans as a new Real Madrid player at the Santiago

is to live up to the history of this club, the best club in the world," he said. "I'll give my life to this club and to this shield.'

The record 15 European Cups won by Madrid were on display on the stage where Mbappé was introduced. His relatives, club officials and several former players were also by the stage.

"I see my family happy, I see my mother crying," said Mbappé, who earlier Tuesday underwent his physical with Madrid's doctors.

The message "Welcome, Mbappé" was shown on the large video boards at the newly revamped Bernabeu, which had its roof closed for the midday ceremony in the Spanish capital.

Some of the club's most iconic moments were also shown while the song "Nessun Dorma" was played on the loudspeakers. Images of Mbappe's career were also displayed, as well as photos including Mbappé wearing Madrid's uniform as a kid and posing alongside former club star Ronaldo.

"It's was a historic day for me and

my family," Mbappé said later in his news conference, already wearing a suit and tie. "It was even greater than I had expected it to be. It's a privilege and an honor to be a Real Madrid

Pérez called Mbappé's presentation a "historic act" for the club.

"Today we welcome an exceptional player who today is fulfilling his childhood dream," Pérez said. "Today you are here because it's something that you wanted. Thank you for making a great effort to be able to wear this white jersey."

Kids linked to Mbappé's foundation were also on hand and Mbappé made a point to send a message to children everywhere.

SOCCER

"With passion and a dream, you can achieve anything you want," he said. "I'm the one here today, maybe next time it can be one of you."

Mbappé is a World Čup winner with France but is yet to win a Champions League, the club competition in which Madrid has been dominant in the last decade.

"There's no better place to win titles than at Real Madrid," he said. "My priority is to get back to training and get adapted to the squad so I can help the team win."

Mbappé met with coach Carlo Ancelotti and many of his new teammates before being introduced to the fans at the Bernabeu.

He said his France teammates who play for Madrid and Brazil forward Vinícius Júnior had been among those trying to get him to join the Spanish club.

Girmay falls near finish

Philipsen completes hat trick of stage wins at Tour

NIMES, France, July 16, (AP): Jasper Philipsen completed a hat trick of stage wins at this year's Tour de France after Biniam Girmay - his main rival for the best sprinter's green jersey - crashed near the finish on Tuesday.

There was no major change in the general classification with two-time champion Tadej Pogacar keeping the overall lead.

Philipsen was perfectly led out by his Alpecin-Deceuninck teammates in the last kilometer of the 16th stage leading the peloton to Nimes, and he comfortably won the mass sprint. Once set up by Mathieu van der Poel, Philipsen was just too fast and too powerful for his fellow sprinters, edging Phil Bauhaus and Alexander Kristoff.

It was Philipsen's ninth career stage win at cycling's marquee event.

Girmay, whose lead at the top of classification for the green jersey was cut to 32 points, hit the tarmac within the last 2 kilometers. He got back on his bike and reached the finish line.

With two weeks of intense racing in the legs and a tough final week looming, the peloton was back on the bike following a rest day and took it easy. In the summer heat of southern France, the pack stayed together on long

Editor-in-Chief



Jasper Philipsen celebrates as he crosses the finish line ahead of Norway's Alexander Kristoff, (in red, left), to win the sixteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 188.6 kilometers (117.2 miles) with start in Gruissan and finish in Nimes, France. (AP)

stretches of flat roads for the 189-kilometer (117 mile) stage. The race livened up after the inter-

mediate sprint, some 97 kilometers (60 miles) after the start, when Frenchman Thomas Gachignard tried to break away with a solo attack. He built a lead of more than two minutes before the sprinters' teams took care of the chase and reined him in with 25 kilometers

Pogacar, who stamped his authority on the race last weekend in the Pyrenees mountains, kept the yellow jersey with a lead of 3 minutes, 9 seconds over two-time defending cham-

CYCLING

pion Jonas Vingegaard. Third-place Remco Evenepoel is lagging 5:19 off the pace.

Riders head to the Alps on Wednesday with a stage to the ski resort of Superdevoluy, featuring three tough climbs in the final 40 kilome-

Chris Harper of Australia did not start Tuesday's stage. His Jayco Alula team said that Harper "is suffering from COVID symptoms and following medical advice he will return home to rest and recover properly for the next



Spain's team captain Alvaro Morata, with the microphone, introduces player Rodri, (center), to the fans during celebrations of the Spanish team's European soccer championship title on a stage at Cibeles square in Madrid. (AP)

ARAB® TIM

Editorial Office: Airport Road, Shuwaikh AHMED AL JARALLAH

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144 Fax: 24818267 P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

Advertising: Tel: 24813815 Fax: 24845708

Annual Subscriptions:

Individuals KD 45/- Companies and Official Departments KD 75 Airmail charges extra for Fax: 24839487

Tel: 24849144