



# NON-DEGREE EXPATS EARNING KD 800 CAN SPONSOR FAMILIES

## Opinion

Mohammad VI ... people love you for your justice

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

FROM the time King Mohammad VI came to power 25 years ago, the Kingdom of Morocco has been realizing achievements under his leadership, as he had taken it upon himself to modernize the country and build a state that is capable of overcoming any challenges it might encounter.

His Royal Highness King Mohammad VI has successfully revitalized his country's relations with its African neighbors, and effectively addressed the obstacles imposed by regional powers.

His conviction has been based on the fact that his country's strategic location and diverse nature makes it the golden gateway to the African continent and the compass in the transformation of the continent of Africa, which suffered greatly for centuries. The time has now come for it to rise.

Despite his youth and the significant political and economic changes occurring at that time, King Mohammed VI successfully preserved the traditions of the Alaouite Dynasty, which has been in place since 1631. As the Commander of the Faithful, he realized the difficulties of his role through the Islamic legacy, and worked diligently to establish justice within his kingdom.

He also sought to ensure justice and fairness among the diverse social components of Moroccan society.

King Mohammed VI became an icon of civilization and progress in education, based on his belief that advancing education is key to societal development. The Moroccan elite worldwide exemplify this commitment, because they became an intellectual force to be reckoned with in all aspects.

Every year, on the occasion of the Throne Day, King Mohammad VI promises his people more achievements - a promise that he always fulfills. He even follows up the procedures and the rate of achievement on the field, offering constructive criticisms regarding the shortcomings, and inspiring his people to give more for their country. This is why the King visits about 50 major Moroccan cities every year, because his main focus is to modernize all parts of the country.

Despite the wars and crises that the African and Arab countries went through such as the water-related conflicts, or the COVID-19 pandemic, or conflict with neighbors based on misunderstanding, and other developments, the country was able to overcome all challenges, and excel once again in international relations.

It is said that creativity in administration is being able to choose the right people for the right role. This art is usually mastered by those who are dedicated to their countries.

In this regard, the Makhzen, under the directives of the king, chose assistants and national experts who work for the progress of their country in all sectors.

King Mohammed VI is never satisfied with just conducting field tours. Rather, he engages directly with people through open and transparent meetings. Over the past 25 years, his efforts have had a profoundly positive impact on Morocco, fostering a significant renaissance across all levels.

Fate has placed this young man at the helm of a country with a rich history of national solidarity between the royal palace and the people. This was proven during the liberation march and through the widespread support for the late King Mohammed V, who led the resistance against colonialism and secured the nation's independence.

The Green March, led by the late King Hassan II, also demonstrated the strength and manifestations of national unity. Today, under King Mohammed VI, the country is experiencing a significant renaissance, built upon these solid foundations.

It goes without saying that the stability of the state is based on integrity of its administration, and the war on corruption which was waged by the King himself, is now bearing fruit.

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# Family visa salary cap lifted for select cases

Under-5 waived

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Al-Sabah has issued a resolution on amending some provisions of Article 29 of Ministerial Resolution No. 957/2019.

This article stipulates the executive regulations of the Expatriates Residency Law, specifically on allowing an expatriate who has no university degree to bring his wife and children to the country under the family visa provided his

salary in the work permit is not less than KD800.

Article One of the resolution states that Article 29 of Ministerial Resolution No. 957/2019 shall be amended as follows: To obtain a regular family visa for expatriates, the monthly salary of the applicant must not be less than KD800 based on the work permit.

On granting a regular family visa to those present or born inside the country, and those born outside the country -- who are not more than five years old -- to parents residing in the country; the director general of the Residency Affairs General Department at the Interior Ministry shall be responsible for exempting them from the salary requirement referred to in the first paragraph of this article in accordance with the regulations and conditions specified by the Residency Affairs General Department.

Article Two stipulates that the undersecretary of the ministry (in charge) shall implement the decision, which shall be effective from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

The residency affairs departments in the governorates have started receiving the family visa applications of expatriates who do not hold a university degree with a salary of not less than KD800.

## NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Arab and International Relations Council welcomed the signing of a declaration on forming a national reconciliation government by Palestinian factions in Beijing, China.

In a statement on Saturday, the Council's Chairman Kuwait's **Mohammad Al-Saqer**, called on all factions to set aside their political differences for the benefit of Palestine and its people. (KUNA)

**DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip:** Israeli airstrikes hit a school being used by displaced Palestinians in central Gaza on Saturday, killing at least 30 people, as the country's negotiators prepared to meet international mediators to discuss a proposed cease-fire.

At least one small child was among the dead taken from the girls' school in Deir Al-Balah to Al Aqsa Hospital. **Israel's** military said it targeted a Hamas command center used "as a hiding place to direct and plan numerous attacks against IDF troops" and "developed and stored large quantities of weapons." (AP)

**TEHRAN:** A heat wave blanketing Iran has forced authorities to cut operating hours at various facilities Saturday and order all government and commercial institutions to shutter on Sunday.

The temperature ranged from 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 degrees Fahrenheit) to 42 C (about 107 F) in the capital, Tehran on Saturday, according to weather reports. (AP)

## Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait first half 2024 net profit KD 29.06 mln, up 22 pct

— Details Page 9 —



Talal Mohamed Reza Bebhani – ABK Chairman



Abdulla Al Sumait – Acting Group Chief Executive Officer

## PARIS 2024



The Kuwaiti sports delegation proudly waves the Kuwait flag during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games opening ceremony along the River Seine on Friday.

## Kuwait poised to meet low-sulfur fuel demand

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Oil expert Kamel Al-Harami has affirmed Kuwait's capability to fulfill the global demand for low-sulfur fuel oil, citing substantial surpluses from the country's three main refineries – Al-Zour, Al-Ahmadi, and Mina Abdullah.

His remarks come as international news sources report a significant increase in Saudi Arabia's demand for this fuel, driven by a severe shortage of Russian supplies.

According to Al-Harami, Saudi Arabia is expected to import over 180,000 tons of low-sulfur fuel oil from Kuwait in July alone. This move is a rare occurrence, highlighting the growing need for alternative sources due to the decline in Russian fuel oil availability.

Al-Harami explained that Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has increased production at its Al-Zour refinery, which has led to an oversupply. Despite the Ministry of Electricity and Water initially being allocated 30 percent of this production, it opted to use less expensive imported gas, resulting in a surplus that Kuwait can now export to Saudi Arabia.

The Ministry's decision to rely on imported gas has allowed Kuwait to allocate excess low-sulfur fuel oil to meet international demand.

Kuwait's three refineries collectively produce low-sulfur fuel oil at a rate of 10 to 15% of their total refined output.

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## Kuwaitis urged to throw weight behind compatriots at Paris Oly

PARIS, July 27, (KUNA): Minister of State for Youth Affairs Amthal Al-Huwaila has urged Kuwaitis to support their athletes during the 2024 Summer Olympic Games, which commenced on Friday in Paris. Leading the Kuwaiti delegation, Al-Huwaila, who also serves as Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, made this statement to KUNA.

The Kuwait Olympic Committee is participating in the global event with

nine athletes competing in swimming, rowing, fencing, sailing, and shooting. Al-Huwaila praised Kuwait's involvement in the Games, which will continue until August 11, and highlighted the determination of Kuwaiti competitors.

Kuwait has taken part in the Olympics 14 times, beginning with the 1968 Games in Mexico City. The 1980 Moscow Olympics saw Kuwait's largest delegation of 56 athletes, and the Athens 2004 Games marked the debut of Kuwaiti female athletes.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah affirmed that Kuwait's participation in the Paris Olympics reflects the continued support of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for the sports movement. Sheikh Fahad Nasser, in remarks to KUNA, expressed deep appreciation for Their Highnesses' backing, which ensures Kuwait's strong presence in international competitions with nine athletes competing across six different sports.



KUNA photo  
Kuwait Olympic Committee Chairman Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the Paris 2024 Olympics kickoff.

Virus hotspots far away, safety assured

## No Hantavirus cases in Kuwait

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Amid the wave of panic in the United States due to the spread of Hantavirus that has claimed the lives of four people, an internal medicine and epidemiology consultant at Adan Hospital Dr. Ghanem Al-Hujailan affirmed that the virus does not pose a risk to Kuwait.

In a press statement, he assured that "Kuwait is completely distant from the

hotspots of the virus's spread, and there is no need for concern."

Dr. Al-Hujailan stated, "Hantavirus is a dangerous virus that became widespread among mice. It is unlikely to spread in Kuwait or be transmitted from travelers coming from abroad because it is transmitted from wild rodents to humans through contact with materials contaminated with rodent urine, saliva, or feces. It is not transmitted from person to person."

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## Addresses of 409 people 'removed'

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) yesterday announced via the official gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm" that the residential addresses of 409 people have been deleted.

It revealed that this action was taken based on declarations from property owners or due to the non-existence of the buildings.

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## T2 project reflects aviation progress

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, has emphasized the new Kuwait International Airport (T2) project as a testament to Kuwait's dedication to advancing the civil aviation sector, recognizing its crucial role in bolstering the country's economic growth.

This statement was made during a periodic meeting with government agencies involved in the T2 passenger terminal project.

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Photo taken during the meeting.

KUNA photo



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:35	Asr .....	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:05	Maghrib ..	18:44
Zohr .....	11:54	Isha .....	20:11

# Local

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

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Very hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind, with speeds of 20-55 km/h causing rising dust.			
By Night: Hot to rather hot with			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	48	36	
Kuwait Airport	48	37	
Abdaly	48	32	
Jahra	49	35	
Salmiyah	45	35	
Jal Aliyah	48	33	
Nuwaisib	48	33	
Wafra	48	31	

## Kuwait 1st batch of drone pilots & techies graduates

ANKARA, July 27, (KUNA): The Kuwait Air Force announced Saturday the first batch of the Turkish-made TB2 combat drones', Bayraktar, pilots and technicians graduated during a ceremony held in Turkiye, in the presence of the military attaché.

Some pilots, personnel and technicians in varied specialties have passed the four-month training course, as part of a training program set to prepare technical teams and pilots of the drones, Kuwait Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

The Bayraktar was tested in Kuwait in 2019 when it flew a non-stop mission, reaching 27 hours and three minutes, in tough climate conditions.

In June 2023, the Ministry signed a contract with Turkiye to get the Bayraktar TB2, with the aim of enhancing Kuwaiti army's combat potential. The drone has high technical capabilities in carrying out multitasks to support security and military operations.

Meanwhile, the Air Force, represented by Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base, carried out recently an aero-medical evacuation exercise in cooperation with the Medical Services Authority of the Air Force.

The General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army said in a press statement that the exercise simulates the scenario of transporting patients and injured people by C17 and C130 transport aircraft.

It stated that the exercise aims to raise the level of cooperation, coordination, and speed of response in procedures between the Air Force and the Medical Services Authority in the field of aero-medical evacuation.



Pilots and technicians at the cake-cutting ceremony after the graduation.

KUNA photo

### 'Martyrs brought glory'

## Kuwait remembers heroes of Aug 2

KUWAIT CITY, July 27, (KUNA): Kuwait Martyr's Day which falls on August 2 is a significant occasion for recalling the national resistance sacrifices in the face of the blatant Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, the Martyr's Bureau said on Saturday.

Salah Al-Ofan, the director general of the martyrs honoring office, said in a press release today on the upcoming 34th anniversary of the aggression that this occasion constitutes a source of pride for the people of Kuwait who have stood on the side of the political leadership, namely Al-Sabah family, masterminds of development for decades.

Books and documents that have been written about that hard period are not enough to cover all of the great sacrifices at the time.

That historic epic embodied by the

people of Kuwait guides the coming generations and constitutes a hope for achieving a better future under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Al-Ofan said.

Kuwait's resistance fighters had taken an honorary and unique stand and the martyrs had fallen for manifesting the Kuwaiti people's resolve to safeguard their homeland's security and independence.

As to the activities that would mark the occasion, he revealed that exhibitions would be organized at shopping malls, namely the Avenues, 360, Al-Salhiya and Al-Khairan, under the motto, "Kuwait forever".

Animation and smart sets will be employed to narrate some of these heroes' deeds.

# Countries, people's reputations at stake in social media tirades

Unknown groups spreading hatred, inciting online wars

By Mohammad Al-Musleh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Flaming electronic campaigns, rumors, misinformation, and the distortion of facts are rampant on social media platforms. They contribute to damaging the reputation of countries and their people, stirring doubts, and undermining trust.**

Social media has increasingly become a breeding ground for attacks on reputations of countries and for destabilizing them.

In this chaotic climate, parties and individuals exploit these electronic platforms to create fake accounts and IDs with pictures and symbols associated with certain countries and prominent figures. Their aim is to sow discord among people.

These accounts are often operated by unknown entities with the intent to spread hatred, incite online wars, and pursue various political agendas.

According to observers and followers of electronic affairs, some parties and individuals use the names, images, and flags of countries and prominent figures to target and destabilize nations and their people by spreading misleading information and lies that tarnish the reputations of specific countries and incite discord among people.

Observers say this exploitation could lead to the deterioration of diplomatic relations between countries, undermine trust between citizens and their governments, and incite hatred and internal conflicts. The goal of these activities may be to achieve hidden political or economic interests by attacking national unity.

While observers stress that government media outlets must rise to the occasion by enhancing public awareness, they urged them to respond and communicate constantly with newspapers and other media outlets with complete transparency, and clarity to deter these electronic wars.

They explained that these accounts exploit people's trust in well-known figures by using their photographs to spread false information and lies. The aim is often to destabilize political and social stability by impersonating influential figures or using national symbols to incite internal and external conflicts.

Observers have called for implementing measures to verify news and educate individuals on how to identify fake accounts and misleading content. They also emphasize the need for enhanced international cooperation and coordination among countries to combat these malicious activities, as well as working with media outlets to address and counter fake accounts and harmful content.



Deputy Director of Technical Affairs at the EPA Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaidan in talks with the Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari.

KUNA photo

## China pledges to work jointly, restore rights of Palestinians

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Recently, 14 Palestinian groups had gathered in Beijing to discuss reconciliation and signed the "Beijing Declaration to End Division and Promote Palestinian National Unity."

According to a press statement issued by the Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei, this agreement brings hope to the Palestinian people who have endured significant suffering.

China has been supporting the cause of the Palestinian people, and helping the Palestinian groups to enhance solidarity, achieve reconciliation, and work together to restore their legitimate national rights.

The most important outcomes of the Beijing Dialogue among the Palestinian groups were the commitment to reconciliation and comprehensive unity among all 14 groups, the affirmation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the agreement on future governance.

They called for the establishment of a truly independent State of Palestine in accordance with the relevant United Nations



Zhang Jianwei

resolutions, especially after the conflict in the Gaza Strip, and the formation of a temporary national reconciliation government.

The success of the dialogue reflects the confidence of the Palestinian groups in China and their recognition of China's diplomatic stance and mediation capabilities. It also sends a positive signal for peace in the context of the turbulent regional situation.

China was one of the first countries to recognize both the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the State of Palestine.

It has always considered the Palestinian issue as core to the Middle East issue, and firmly supports the Palestinian people's demand for an independent state.

The President of China Xi Jinping proposed initiatives and visions several times for resolving the Palestinian issue, contributing Chinese wisdom and solutions to resolving the Palestinian issue.

To address the current conflict impasse, the Chinese side is proposing a "three-step" initiative. They are:

1. To achieve a comprehensive, permanent and sustainable ceasefire in the Gaza Strip as soon as possible and ensure the smooth delivery of humanitarian aid and relief.
2. To bring about collaborative governance post-conflict in the Gaza Strip, in line with the principle of "Palestine is governed by the Palestinians".

## Kuwaitis to replace 56 expat teachers terminated by MoE

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Ministry of Education begins conducting interviews for vacant supervisory positions in the departments of human resources, public services, grievances, and psychological and social services, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Educational sources told the daily that the interviews will be held under the chairmanship of the acting Undersecretary Mansour Al-Deehani, and the membership of the Assistant Undersecretaries to select four vacant department directors.

Filling these positions before the start of the 2024/2025 academic year aims to ensure the smooth flow of work.

The Ministry of Education has terminated the services of 56 non-Kuwaiti teachers in integration classes for students with learning difficulties or slow learners, as part of its plans to Kuwaitize these jobs.

This move is part of the Ministry's plans to Kuwaitize these jobs, reserving them exclusively for Kuwaiti teachers.

The Ministry plans to appoint a number of Kuwaiti male and female teachers in the integration classes in schools allocated for



Al-Deehani

this category of students, with transfers to take place during the summer vacation.

Interviews for supervisory positions, include managers, controllers, and department heads; positions being interviewed include Director of the Human Resources Department, Director of the Public Services Department of the Administrative Sector, Director of the Grievances Department in the Legal Sector, and Director of the Psychological and Social Services in the Educational Development Sector.

The applicants will present their vision for developing work in their respective departments through a presentation to the committee members, along with their CVs and career accomplishments.

The interview committees will be headed by Acting Undersecretary Mansour Al-Deehani, with Assistant Undersecretaries Mansour Al-Dhafiri for the public education sector, Matrouk Al-Mutairi for administrative affairs, Muhammad Al-Adwani for legal affairs, and Maryam Al-Anazi for the educational development sector as members.

Instructions have been issued by the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, to expedite the filling of vacant supervisory positions during the summer vacation to ensure they are occupied before the new academic year 2024/2025 begins.

## CAN warns against sun exposure in peak hours

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) campaign Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh warned people against direct exposure to sunlight, especially during peak hours.

He revealed that a total of 297 cases of skin cancer were recorded in Kuwait in the last ten years, including 179 cases among men, constituting 60 percent, and 118 cases among women, constituting 40 percent.

Dr. Al-Saleh said this in a press statement he issued on the sidelines of the celebration of the Awareness Day for Sun Protection under the slogan "Protect Yourself from Skin Cancer", which was held with the cooperation of Jahra Hospital's Dermatology Unit.

He explained that the number of cases among Kuwaiti men is 55, constituting 1.1 percent, while the global standard rate is 1.6 percent per 100,000 people.

As for Kuwaiti women, the number of infections is 58, constituting a rate of 0.7 percent, while the global standard rate is 1.2 percent per 100,000 people.

The infection rate among non-Kuwaiti men is 124 cases at a rate of 1.9 percent, while the global standard rate is 1.5 percent per 100,000 people.

The number of infections among non-Kuwaiti women reached 60 cases, at a rate of 0.9 percent, with the global standard rate being 1.2 percent per 100,000 people.

## Kuwait's EPA, Japan embassy eye boost in environment cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, July 27, (KUNA): The Environmental Public Authority (EPA) and the Japanese embassy in Kuwait discussed ways to enhance cooperation within the sustainable environment, exchange expertise within this domain.

Speaking to KUNA after meeting with Japanese Ambassador Morino Yasunari, Deputy Director of Technical Affairs at the EPA Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaidan commended the cooperation between the two sides, affirming that it came within the framework of Kuwait's sustainable development goals and international agreements and commitments on climate change and biological diversity signed by both countries.

Issues of mutual interest were discussed namely boosting cooperation for sustainable environmental and social development as well as protection of the ecosystem from climate change and pollutants, he added.

He went on to reveal that cooperation to develop healthy environmental systems for future generations were also discussed during the meeting, which touched also on the negative impact of climate change on earth and Kuwait in particular.

The Kuwaiti official also touched on the issue of recycling, noting that waste could be used to generate power, and leading to less load on current electrical power generating structures.

He thanked the Japanese embassy for its continuous efforts to help Kuwait tackle issues of prominent environmental importance.

On his part, Ambassador Morino commended the EPA for its keenness on bolster ecological cooperation with Japan, expressing gratitude for its ongoing involvement in "Operation Turtles" cleaning campaign marking its 25th anniversary.

### 'All safe, well'

## KU flight returns home after glitch

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Kuwait Airways said that the outbound Flight KU125 for Sarajevo, safely returned to Kuwait International Airport after developing a technical malfunction. The airline assured that all passengers were safe and well.

In a statement, Kuwait Airways explained that the aircraft experienced a technical issue that necessitated a return.

The crew promptly implemented all required safety measures, and facilitated the travel arrangements of passengers to Sarajevo.

The airline is conducting a thorough investigation to determine the cause of the malfunction, adhering to its established procedures.

Special sources told Al-Seyassah that passengers showed understanding of the situation, and the airline's Board of Directors has convened with the Maintenance and Safety Department to address and prevent similar issues in the future.

Kuwait Airways is renowned for its punctuality and commitment to passenger safety, and the company is taking steps to ensure that such incidents are minimized going forward.

## Crackdown pledged on fake degrees

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: For the second time in 22 days, the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Adel Al-Adwani, has referred a number of academic certificates to the Public Prosecution as part of an ongoing campaign to combat the phenomenon of forged certificates, reports Al-Rai daily.

Following the referral of a batch of certificates on July 3, based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Education's investigation committee, Dr. Al-Adwani announced yesterday the approval of the

Ministry of Higher Education's investigation committee recommendations to refer another set of post-secondary academic certificates to the Public Prosecution.

This second batch includes documents that have been found to be fraudulent, with alterations made to the data contained in the academic certificates to obtain equivalency.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Adwani emphasized the importance of this campaign, linking it to the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad to combat corruption and work towards national progress.



# diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## ‘Educational reforms crucial to produce competent workforce’

“WE ARE tired of the convoluted language that often pervades research introductions, filled with explicit and vague assumptions, comparisons, and oppositions, ultimately culminating in the research problem,” columnist **AbdulRahman Al-Jeeran** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“What we seek is a clear understanding of the true position of human beings in the context of civilizational (human) personality.

“Without a future for the complete human personality, there is no future for humanity itself. True development of this personality requires a leadership quality rooted in conscience and free from deficiencies and shortcomings.

“Human personality comprises mind, emotion, and conscience -- it is more than just organs, functions, cells, and nerves. The essence of human development lies in nurturing this personality through its growth stages.

“According to the constitution, there is no obstacle preventing the state from caring for and protecting the young from neglect, exploitation, or misuse. Yet, we see continued cliques and bureaucratic inertia preventing progress.

“In higher education and among some university deans, we observe that we are far from producing individuals who have developed to the point of a strong conscience or “religious restraint.” Instead, we see individuals who are only concerned with avoiding treatment as minors and continuing the wasteful practices of a rentier state.

“We long for the day when our educational system produces advanced individuals with a heightened sense of conscience, capable of leading and reforming education. We do not want individuals who are like donkeys turning in a waterwheel with closed eyes or blind creatures laboring in darkness, oblivious to their role in building a future for self-serving interests.

“We expect that promotions and educational outcomes will foster individuals who recognize their role as pioneers for the next generation. They should understand that they are shaping the future through their efforts and academic endeavors.

“Every individual must remember that the laws and values of the past remain relevant today. Struggle is ongoing, shifting from material concerns to spiritual and ethical values.

“One must maintain dignity and integrity, striving against comprehensive corruption with genuine national motives. This is the spark of reform within you, a choice you must embrace or neglect. Your decision impacts your work for the greater good, reflecting your commitment to the nation and its leadership.”

### Also:

“Many are apprehensive about the recent statements by the Minister of Finance, whether in local newspapers or at the “General Budget Forum.” These remarks, marked by warnings and bluntness about the dire financial situation caused by waste and other issues, are seen as potentially detrimental,” columnist **Talal Matar Al-Wardan** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“There is a pressing need to address the sources of the problem, find solutions, and halt unnecessary expenditure.

“What may seem harmful on the surface might actually be beneficial for all of us. Kuwait has always been generous and bold in its approach, often setting a high standard for others.

“However, following the Minister’s disclosure about the public treasury’s assets, the extent of our financial predicament is now clearer. It is crucial for the government to address its wasteful practices seriously, as they impact our future.

“While we may not have desired such candidness, and while fame and wealth are not the primary goals, it is essential for the government to focus on internal and external rationalization. This includes not just helping other nations -- a moral obligation that does not significantly impact public income -- but also ensuring that our financial blessings are preserved.

“Although I am not an economist, I am reminded of a story about a merchant’s son. After his father admitted he could no longer cover the family’s increasing expenses, the sons were perplexed. They only accounted for 20% of the expenses and were unsure of what action to take.

“One suggested that the father should consider divorcing one of his wives to reduce costs, but the father refused, as divorce was against his beliefs, leaving the family in a quandary.

“Turning back to the Minister’s statements, rather than viewing them as part of the problem, they may offer insights into the solution. His comments raise questions about the impact on the Kuwaiti dinar and whether the increase in salary percentages to 30% of GDP is justifiable, particularly for employees with salaries ranging from 650 to 1300 dinars.

“The Minister should scrutinize the lists of those receiving substantial financial benefits and exceptional salaries to understand the disparity.

“Additionally, subsidies are provided to some who may not need them, based on the principle of “increasing good for the good.”

“Finally, are the Minister’s media presentations meant to solicit public input for solutions? We believe not. The government, being the most knowl-

edgeable authority, will decide what is right and wrong.

“It is crucial to address issues such as fictitious employment in the private sector and examine expenditure distribution across ministries and government departments. Solutions may involve re-evaluating and possibly cutting some expenditure to better manage our financial resources.”

□ □ □

“Is it time for a government-owned company to handle home maintenance? The answer is a big YES,” columnist **Dr. Khaled Ahmad Al-Saleh** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“The public in Kuwait is today raising a complaint about the maintenance prices. Options have dwindled, and there is a notable disparity in maintenance costs. For instance, if your air conditioner malfunctions during the scorching weather, the repair quotes given by the technicians can cause additional anxiety. Whether it is plumbing or electrical issues, or damage to flooring, homeowners have limited choices and often feel compelled to accept rates that strain many families’ budgets. Workers in Kuwait seem unified in their pricing, leaving you with few options, and sometimes surpassing the financial means of many families.

“Some cooperative societies tried to alleviate the problem by employing workers and setting the service prices, something for which the residents are grateful. However, there are many ways these workers follow to circumvent offering this service. Also, many areas of Kuwait do not provide this service.

“Most of the workers do not have specialized skills. You will find them spread throughout Kuwait and active in getting customers. They compete to place advertisements for their services. They have to save a large sum of money to give to their sponsors who brought them to Kuwait. In order to save money for the sponsor, as well as for themselves and their families, they raise prices for the services they offer the consumers, even though the level of their professionalism is weak.

“As usual, in every problem, the ordinary citizens are the ones who have to pay the price. Both the citizens and the residents need a solution to this problem today. The budget of many families is no longer capable of maintaining their homes and ensuring their cleanliness and beauty.

“The government must provide trained workers through a joint-stock company. They should be free from exploitation by sponsors, and provided with good housing facilities. The service prices must be set and continuously monitored for any unjustified hikes. It is the company’s responsibility to provide trained workers in all parts of Kuwait. It gives confidence to the Kuwaiti consumers in helping families and also preserving the dignity of workers away from exploitation.

“Are we able to do that? Today, with the new Kuwait, the long list of exploiters no longer has much power. There are steps to limit those fake companies, institutions and individuals who grant residency to expatriates in exchange for money. They are the main reason for the spread of marginal untrained workers in Kuwait who exploit citizens and residents without mercy. Mercy is something that they did not get from the sponsors so that they could give it to the consumers.”

□ □ □

“According to Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him), the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stated, “Come closer, act righteously, and know that none of you will attain salvation solely through deeds.” They asked, “Not even you, O Messenger of God?” and he replied, “Not even me, unless Allah showers me with His mercy and grace.” We quote this hadith as a dedication to the imam of Al-Ghanim and Al-Kharafi Mosque - a large Islamic edifice where funeral prayers are performed before they are buried!” columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

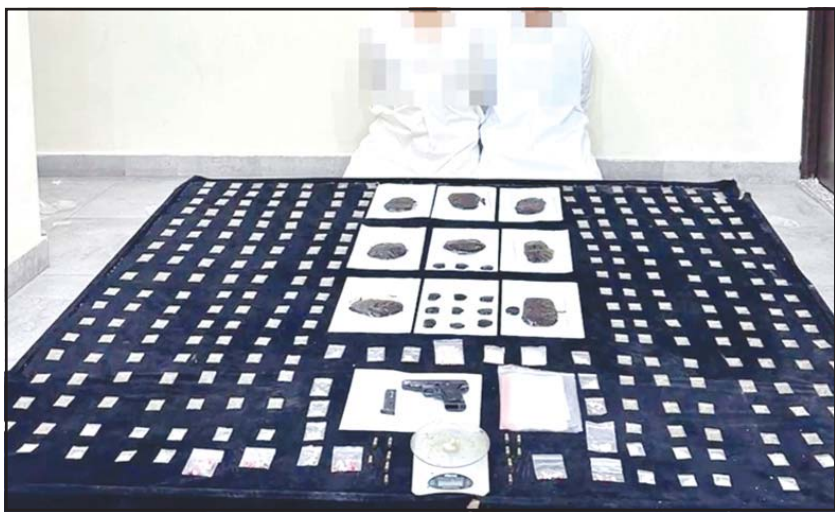
“Delaying the stay and then praying for funerals, especially after the burial has started following dinner, leads to an unnecessary prolonging of the process. This results in mourners remaining at the Sulaibikhat cemetery until nearly 11:00pm, making it difficult for them and worshippers alike. The imam would not be at a disadvantage if he were to expedite the prayer and simplify matters for the people. “Al-Muqarabah” refers to the intention without any exaggeration and negligence.

“The term “Al-Sadad” means uprightness and correctness. In another hadith, the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) says, “Whoever among you leads the people in prayer, let him make it slow, for among them are the young, the elderly, the weak, and the needy. And when one of you prays alone, let him prolong it as he wishes.

“As for waiting for worshippers to arrive, it is merely talk; the opportunity may pass, so those interested in attending funerals should arrive early, even before the prayer. All we ask of the “hijacked” ministry is to consider the circumstances of the people and advise the imam to expedite matters, especially since most now only offer their condolences at the cemetery.

“Does the mosque’s imam enjoy such dense crowds and traffic? Mourners and honking horns with traffic congestion, particularly during times of multiple funerals, prompt us to adopt the “innovation” of offering condolences at the cemetery. Must we thus spend the evening there?”

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes & Mahmoud Attiyeh



Heroin, hashish in possession of two suspects.

Mol photo

## Drugs, liquor seized in multiple raids

The Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Narcotics Control, arrested 21 defendants in 16 cases, and in their possession were about 20 kilograms of various narcotic substances (chemicals - shabu - hashish - marijuana - heroin) and about (10,000) psychotropic pills and 178 bottles of alcohol and 43 electronic cigarettes containing hashish and sums of money from the

sale, reports Al-Anba daily.

When the defendants were confronted with what was found in their possession, they admitted that the seized items belonged to them for the purpose of trafficking and use. The suspects and the seized items were referred to the competent authority, in order to take the necessary legal measures against them.



Expats without documents being detained.

Mol photo

# Raids to nab illegals ‘continue’ unabated

Bneid Al-Qar, Khaitan targeted

**KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, the Governor of the Capital, has lauded the significant efforts of security forces in apprehending residency law violators and wanted individuals. A security operation took place in Khaitan at dawn, led by Major General Abdullah Safah, in collaboration with the Residency Affairs Investigations and Special Forces, reports Al-Rai daily.**

The Governor participated in an inspection campaign in Bneid Al-Qar, joined by Brigadier General Suleiman Al-Jarrah, Director of the Capital Security Directorate, and several other security leaders and personnel.

“This surprise inspection campaign is one of many conducted by our security forces across all governorates, following directives from the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef,” stated Governor Al-Ali.

Governor Al-Ali praised the continuous efforts of the security directorates, police departments, and traffic departments, which have led to the daily arrest

of numerous violators. These individuals are processed according to the law and referred to the appropriate authorities for necessary actions, including deportation.

The Ministry of Interior has resumed its campaigns against residency violators, which were briefly paused at the beginning of Muharram to focus on securing Hussein councils during Ashura nights.

A recent security operation in Khaitan, spearheaded by Major General Abdullah Safah, resulted in the arrest of 30 individuals. These included people with expired residency permits, those absent without leave, individuals with expired visit visas, and those without proper identification. The arrested individuals were handed over to the competent authorities for legal proceedings. This campaign is part of the Ministry of Interior’s broader plan to apprehend residency violators who did not take advantage of the grace period to regularize their status.

A security source informed Al-Rai that “these campaigns have resumed and will continue across the entire country. No violator will evade the law. The Ministry of Interior plans to intensify these operations in the coming days, implementing a strict security plan to ensure the maximum number of arrests. The campaigns will be carried out at various times, both morning and evening, and at locations determined by the element of surprise.”

## Violators face law

# PAFN destroys 90kg spoiled popular fish

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, July 27:** The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) recently destroyed 90 kilograms of spoiled fish and issued 31 reports of various violations during an inspection tour at the Mubarakia Market in Murghab.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper, Head of the Mubarakia Market Department at PAFN Mohammad Al-Kandari revealed that the inspection teams in the Capital Governorate conducted an inspection tour of fish shops; which resulted in the seizure of large quantities of grouper, pomfret and shrimp whose natural properties changed like the color, shape and smell.

He said the inspectors discovered many violations; such as selling food items unfit for human consumption and adulterated food, workers selling food without obtaining a health certificate, employing workers without obtaining a health certificate, failure to adhere to the rules on public and personal hygiene at work, operating a food facility with an expired health license, opening a food facility without obtaining a health license, and failure to adhere to the general regulations concerning food establishments.

He affirmed the inspection teams will continue their tours to track down anyone who dares harm the health of citizens and expatriates, stressing that legal measures will be taken against violators.

Meanwhile, inspectors from the Capital Inspection Department at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) recorded 10 violations in their most recent inspection tour in food establishments in Murghab, reports Al-Rai daily.

Maha Ali Al-Ghoul, who heads the Shuwaikh Food Inspection Center Department (B) at PAFN, told the daily that “as part of the efforts being exerted by the center and based on the instruction of Capital Inspection Department Director Ali Hashim Al-Kandari- the inspection team consisting of Zainab Qasim, Manar Al-Ateq, Fatima Al-Mutairi, Faraj Al-Anazi and Sarah Shehab issued citations for 10 violations uncovered in Murghab.

## MoH building center to treat drug addicts

**KUWAIT CITY, July 27:** The Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila confirmed that the ministry is keen on implementing the recommendations of the political leadership and directives of the Council of Ministers to contribute to the ongoing efforts to address the drugs issue and enhance its social role by supporting national projects that serve the community, reports Al-Rai daily.

The ministry revealed this in press statement it issued following the inspection tour of Al-Huwaila in the addiction treatment center project site to personally look into the latest developments in the implementation of the project and the quality of work.

Acting Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, several ministry officials, members of the National Projects Committee, Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies and the company implementing the project were present during the inspection.

Al-Huwaila stressed the need to overcome all obstacles to speed up the completion of the center, which will be operated by the Ministry of Health using the latest systems.

The minister also inspected the facilities of the building, which consists of four floors with a capacity of 208 beds, a swimming pool, a health club, a pharmacy, specialized clinics and other services.

During the tour, the minister was briefed on the progress of work and the requirements for equipping the center, which will be received from the implementing company soon. The project is funded and implemented by the National Projects Committee under the umbrella of the Ministry of Social, Family and Child Affairs.



Dr. Al-Huwaila

## 2 die in building fall

# Decomposed body of Asian woman ‘found’

**KUWAIT CITY, July 27:** A decomposed body was discovered in a building in the Bneid Al Qar area, according to a security source. Initial information suggests that the body is that of a Filipino woman. The Public Prosecution and the Criminal Evidence Department were immediately notified. The Public Prosecution has ordered the removal of the body and its referral to the forensic medicine department to ascertain the cause of death, reports Al-Rai daily.

□ □ □

**2 crushed to death:** Two expatriates, born in 1988 and 1985 respectively, tragically lost their lives when a government building under construction collapsed, reports Al-Anba daily.

Authorities promptly arrived at the scene on Friday to assess the situation, examining the extent of the construction and investigating the cause of the collapse. A security source reported that the Ministry of Interior was notified of the incident around 7:00 am. It was discovered that the two expatriates were working on the construction when a wall fell on them.

□ □ □

**Top official probed:** The Public Authority for Combating Corruption (Nazaha) announced that, following an investigation and the collection of evidence, a former senior official of the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters has been referred to the Public Prosecution, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This referral is based on the suspicion of unintentionally harming public funds, in accordance with Article No. 14 of Law No. 1 of 1993 on the protection of public funds and Article No. 22 of Law No. 2 of 2016, which established the Public Authority for Combating Corruption.

Nazaha emphasized its commitment to continuing efforts and procedures to examine and gather inferences and investigations into all serious information it receives, while appreciating the role of whistleblowers in fulfilling their responsibilities.

□ □ □

**Surprise raid in jail:** The Special Forces, in collaboration with the Security Division of the Correctional Institutions of the Ministry of Interior, conducted a surprise security campaign at Central Prison No. 3, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The operation led to the seizure of several prohibited items. The seized items are currently being transferred to the concerned authority before taking further legal action.

□ □ □

**Fire in Fahaheel flat:** Fire broke out at an apartment in Fahaheel without causing injuries or loss of life, reports Al-Anba daily. Firefighters from Fahaheel and Ahmadi fire stations rushed to the location after the Operations Unit at Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) received information about the fire incident. They extinguished the fire in record time.

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Crown Prince and PM extend best wishes

# Kuwait's HH Amir congratulates Maldives on Independence Day

## MEW announces promotions, addresses allowance dispute

1,180 employees elevated amid audit discrepancies

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri, the Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, and the Minister of State for Housing Affairs, has announced the promotion of 1,180 employees within the Ministry of Electricity for the year 2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This move reflects the ministry's commitment to recognizing and advancing staff who meet the required standards and conditions. Bushehri extended his congratulations to the promoted employees and encouraged them to continue their efforts in enhancing the performance of the ministry's sectors.

In related news, the Ministry of Electricity has faced scrutiny over allowances granted to certain employees.

Sources within the ministry revealed that the Audit Bureau's repeated observations since 2020 have identified issues with the distribution of "food, shift, and night-time" allowances.

These allowances were being received by employees in administrative and legal roles at the southern stations of the water filling stations, despite these roles being unrelated to the technical work performed at these stations.

## CSC nominates 752 Kuwaitis to fill various jobs in government

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: The Civil Service Commission has announced the nomination of 752 male and female citizens to fill various job positions in government agencies. This new batch is part of the bureau's ongoing efforts to address job needs and provide employment opportunities for registered candidates, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement on its official social media account X, the CSC detailed that this nomination is part of the job needs plan and targets specializations that were previously stagnant.

This batch includes all registered holders of a Bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering, totaling 220 citizens.

Additionally, 344 candidates with degrees in Chemical Engineering and

Industrial Engineering have been nominated. This nomination marks the first batch for these specializations, with more batches to follow based on the needs of government agencies.

The nominated candidates are expected to fill newly created engineering positions such as contracts engineer, environmental engineer, project engineer, and safety engineer.

The CSC has advised the nominated candidates to visit their respective employers directly without the need to visit the bureau.

This initiative underscores the bureau's commitment to addressing employment stagnation and meeting the evolving needs of government institutions.

However, many employees have resisted moving, preferring to stay in their current roles to retain the allowances. As a result, the Administrative Affairs Department has proceeded with the suspension.

Approximately 50 employees visited the Ministry's building in South Surra recently to seek clarification on the suspension of these allowances, which will affect their salaries from August onwards.

The ministry's actions are intended to prevent further audit issues and ensure proper allocation of allowances based on job roles and responsibilities.

KUWAIT CITY, July 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Mohamed Muizzu of the Maldives on Friday, celebrating the country's Independence Day. His Highness expressed his wishes for President Muizzu's continued good health and for further progress and prosperity for the Maldivian people.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also extended his congratulations to President Muizzu, wishing him lasting good health.

In addition, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to the President of the Maldives, joining in the celebration of the nation's Independence Day.



Members of the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the Gerash cultural festival.



Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar reviews the pavilion's publications.



Part of the interactive display of the traditional Sadu craft.

### Kuwait opens pavilion at Jordan cultural festival

Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar inaugurated on Thursday Kuwait's pavilion at the 38th session of Gerash cultural festival, in Jordan.

The pavilion includes some cultural items and aspects like publishing houses, books, fine arts, handicrafts, in addition to some

popular traditional meals.

Some women are taking part in the pavilion with wool weaving performances that attracted visitors who came to learn about this traditional industry.

Speaking to KUNA, al-Jassar said Kuwait's partaking in this festival aims to enhance Arab culture, mainly amid the sufferings of Pales-

tinian people.

Kuwait's pavilion displays cultural editions, mainly books on the Palestinian cause and Arab identity, he added.

He noted that some Kuwaiti poets and writers are taking part in this festival, which is one of the ancient festivals in the region, that is held every year. (KUNA)

# JULY

## Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Terms & conditions apply\*

### Existing regulations prevent visual clutter

## KM turns down cooperative societies proposal on external advertisements

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: The Kuwait Municipality has refused to allow cooperative societies to place advertisements for trademarks, commercial agencies, flagpoles, and gas station activities outside the boundaries of the store as part of the advertisement list, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This decision came in response to a proposal by the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Abdullah Al-Mahri, to amend Clause 7 of "A" Fourth of Article 15 in the advertisement regulations.

The municipality clarified that cooperative societies are not suitable for inclusion in Article 17, which pertains to these advertisements, to avoid distorting the general appearance and affecting the experience of visitors to the cooperative societies.

This proposal had previously been discussed during the Advertising Committee Meeting No. 2024/1 on January 8, 2024, where it was recommended to reject the proposal because it conflicts with Ministerial Resolution No. 2023/599 regarding advertisement regulations, specifically Article 17, Introductory Advertisements.

The committee highlighted technical justifications that prevent the adoption of



Part of the inspection campaigns to monitor shops and advertisements.

this proposal.

Clause 7 of Article 15 of the current regulations states: "The establishment of these advertisements shall be limited to industrial areas, and the municipality may permit their establishment in front of independent stores, provided that they are not connected to other stores and have their own services, and are far from residential buildings."

The proposed amendment suggested adding cooperative societies to this clause, allowing advertisements in industrial zones and cooperative societies, provided they are not connected to other shops, have their own services, and are far from residential buildings.

### University denies misconduct claims

## KU upholds standards amidst controversy

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Kuwait University has reiterated its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of quality and integrity across all its academic processes, including appointments, promotions, and missions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The university emphasized its dedication to transparency, objectivity, and adherence to established regulations and procedures.

In a recent statement, the university expressed its respect for constructive criticism and acknowledged the important role of the media and freedom of opinion, provided these are exercised within the bounds of the constitution and law.

The university stressed its commitment to scientific integrity and the honest transmission of information and facts.

The statement addressed concerns raised about the College of Law, where allegations were made regarding the nomination of the seventh applicant for a position while excluding the candidate with the highest GPA.

Kuwait University refuted these claims, describing them as part of a media-driven effort to undermine the university's reputation.

The university clarified that the reported issues were inaccurate, asserting that the allegations were based on misinterpretations and selective use of confidential documents.

Kuwait University affirmed its serious approach to addressing any viola-

## MoE OK's 2024-2025 academic calendar

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: The Ministry of Education has approved the academic calendar for the 2024-2025 school year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The following are the key dates:

September 16 -- Start of school year for first grade primary students.

September 17 -- Start of school year for all other primary, middle, and secondary students.

September 18 -- Start of school year for kindergartens.

January 19-30 -- Mid-year vacation.

February 2 -- Start of the second semester for all levels.

End-of-year exams:

May 21-29, 2025 -- Intermediate stage exams.

May 21-June 2, 2025 -- Secondary stage exams.

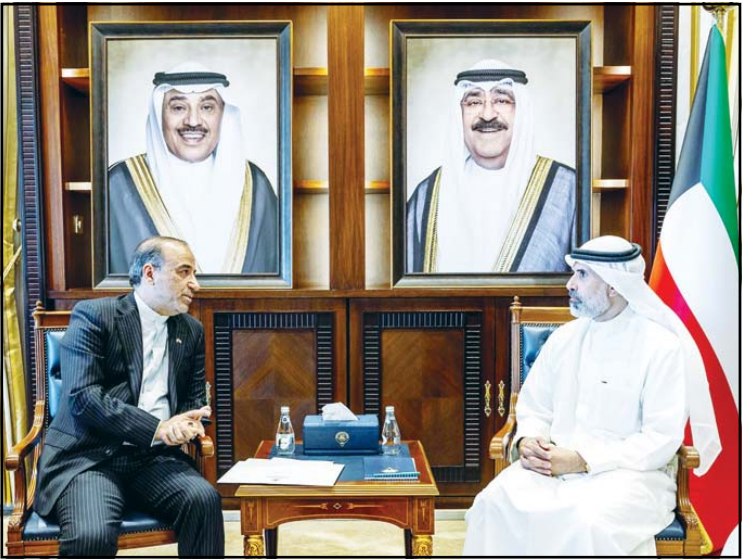
June 11-23, 2025 -- 12th-grade exams.

The kindergarten and primary school term will end on May 29.

tions or transgressions, ensuring that they are investigated and rectified in accordance with institutional and professional standards.

The university remains committed to upholding its principles of fairness and integrity in all its academic and administrative operations.





KUNA photo  
Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber during talks with the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the State of Kuwait HE Mohammad Totonji.

## Deputy FM discusses bilateral ‘ties’ with Iranian Ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber discussed with the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the State of Kuwait HE Mohammad Totonji, the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and addressed is-

sues of common interest, reports Al-Seyassah daily.  
The discussion aimed at strengthening the ties between Kuwait and Iran, highlighting the importance of cooperation and mutual understanding in various areas of interest.

### Governorate starts series of forums

## Al-Ahmadi Governor promises swift solutions to key regional challenges

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: The Governor of Al-Ahmadi, Sheikh Hamoud Al-Jaber, emphasized his commitment to addressing the key issues faced by the governorate’s regions through continuous engagement with citizens to understand their service needs, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During an open meeting held this morning at the governorate’s general office, Al-Jaber highlighted the importance of coordinating with relevant authorities to expedite the implementation of solutions and overcome obstacles promptly.

The meeting was attended by the Director-General of the Ahmadi Security Directorate, the Director-General of the Ahmadi Health District, and officials from various service sectors, including the Ministries of Interior, Works, Education, Electricity, Water, Municipality, Endowments, and the General Authority for Agriculture.

A large number of residents from the governorate’s areas also participated.  
Al-Jaber stated that this meeting marks the beginning of a series of future interactions between citizens and officials, aimed at facilitating direct communication between service representatives and the public to find the most effective and swift solutions.

The meeting included a discussion on the most pressing issues and deficiencies in services across the governorate, with a focus on public parks, roads, security, health, traffic, and educational services.

Officials in attendance expressed significant interest and committed to finding immediate solutions.  
Participants expressed their gratitude to Governor Al-Jaber for this initiative, appreciating the continuous communication and efforts to enhance service performance and quality, and accelerate achievement.

## Mohammad VI ...

**Continued from Page 1**  
That is why people have entrusted this difficult task to their King, who is supported by an elite group of members of the Moroccan ruling house, all dedicated to defending their country. This includes Crown Prince Hassan bin Mohammed, who has great stature, knowledge and intelligence.  
That is why the celebration of the Throne Day this year has a special feature, as it coincides with the silver jubilee of King Mohammad VI’s reign.

## Kuwait poised

**Continued from Page 1**  
The recent official operation of the Al-Zour refinery on May 29 has further bolstered Kuwait’s ability to supply global markets with petroleum derivatives.  
Sources have indicated that the current shortage of Russian fuel oil is a significant factor in Saudi Arabia’s increased reliance on Kuwaiti supplies. Kuwait has recently expanded its fuel oil, diesel, and jet fuel exports to Europe, Asia, and India by five times. This surge in exports, coupled with the presence of Kuwaiti refineries abroad -- including the Nghi Son Refinery in Vietnam, the Milazzo Refinery in Italy, and the Duqm Refinery in Oman -- positions Kuwait to achieve substantial profits and meet growing global demand for its oil derivatives in the coming years.

## T2 project

**Continued from Page 1**  
The meeting, attended by Sheikh Hamoud Al-Mubarak, Chairman of the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation, and representatives from the Public Authority for Manpower, the Government Performance Follow-up Agency, Kuwait Oil Company, and the National Cyber Security Center, aimed to address and resolve ongoing project issues.  
Minister Al-Mashaan highlighted that the meeting focused on overcoming obstacles to expedite the progress of packages 1 and 2 of the project. The participating agencies showed a strong commitment to promptly resolving issues within their respective jurisdictions.  
Additionally, the discussion included addressing the roads leading to Kuwait International Airport and potential issues related to the Kuwait Oil Company, aiming to find mechanisms to accelerate work on package No. 3.  
Minister Al-Mashaan emphasized the importance of anticipating and

mitigating potential traveler obstacles, such as heavy traffic during peak times, and ensuring adherence to all security and customs requirements.  
She underscored the urgency of completing the project on schedule, noting the critical need for coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority to relocate security barriers and facilitate the transfer of project land. This includes requesting demolition land, coordinating with KAFCO for sub-contractor approval for aircraft fuel systems, and resolving conflicts with the Kuwait Oil Company.  
Furthermore, Minister Al-Mashaan highlighted the ongoing collaboration with the National Cyber Security Center to conduct workshops that ensure the integrity of the specifications in the contract.  
This coordination reflects a commitment to integrating robust cybersecurity measures, enhancing the overall security posture, and mitigating risks associated with the project. These initiatives play a vital role in protecting sensitive information and maintaining a secure digital environment.

## No Hantavirus

**Continued from Page 1**  
On the global level, the American health authorities issued an urgent warning to be careful of the virus. The Department of Health Services in the state of Arizona confirmed the increase in the number of Hantavirus cases. The US health authorities revealed that from the beginning of this year, seven cases of Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome were confirmed with three deaths in Arizona, and two cases in California including one death.  
The health authorities said, “The most severe and sometimes fatal respiratory disease is caused by the Hantavirus. The main symptoms of infection are fever, headache, and muscle pain that quickly make breathing difficult. This virus may be present in many areas of the southwestern United States where there is rodent activity, even if mice have never been seen.”

## Addresses of

**Continued from Page 1**  
It explained that these individuals must visit PACI to register the new address, after providing the supporting documents, within 30 days from the date of the published announcement. Failure to do so will result in the penalty stipulated in Article 33 of law No. 32/1982, which includes a fine of up to KD 100, multiplied by the number of individuals affected.  
It is worth highlighting that PACI last week announced the deletion of the addresses of 207 people.

### Crown Prince, PM offer best wishes to Prez Boakai

## HH Amir congratulates Liberia on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, July 27, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah extended on Friday heartfelt congratulations to Liberian President Joseph Boakai on the occasion of Liberia’s national day. In his cable, the Amir wished the President continued health and wellness, and ex-

pressed hopes for further progress and prosperity for Liberia and its people.  
Earlier in the week, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also conveyed his congratulations to President Boakai on Liberia’s national day. The Crown Prince

sent his best wishes for the President’s health and the nation’s ongoing development.  
Additionally, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory message to President Boakai on Friday, celebrating Liberia’s national day.

# Livestock breeders call for proper treatment amidst unfair citations

## Call for gradual enforcement and financial relief

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: A group of livestock breeders expressed their dissatisfaction with what they described as “the sudden citations that have been imposed on them

in the past few days”.  
They stressed that these citations caused them financial losses, and they urged the concerned authorities to take into consideration their financial situation, as most of them are retirees who do not have anything but their pensions.  
During a joint meeting with members of the Livestock Breeders



Photos from the farewell reception at the White Palace.

### Sheikh Mubarak commends Warba’s efforts

## Chairman of KABFA hosts farewell reception for Austrian Ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: The Chairman of the Kuwait-Austria Business and Friendship Association (KABFA), Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-

Mubarak Al-Sabah, held a farewell reception at the White Palace in honor of the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Kuwait, Marian Warba, on

the occasion of completion of his term in the State of Kuwait, the reception attended by a number of ambassadors, diplomats, officials and leading personalities.

Sheikh Mubarak in his speech, thanked His Excellency Ambassador Warba for his sincere efforts during his tenure in strengthening commercial relations between Kuwait and Austria. Emphasizing on the importance of the bilateral relations, which has been strengthened in various different fields, and looked forward to its promotion to reflect further development, progress, and the strength of the relations of the two friendly governments and peoples. Sheikh Mubarak added that Austria and Kuwait have distinguished relations based on mutual trust, as these relations resulted in an official visit to the State of Kuwait in 2009 by the Austrian President Heinz Fischer heading a large high-level delegation, and in 2018 a visit by Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz. The visits consolidated relations between the two countries in various fields, and pushed the level of relations to broader horizons.

From his part, His Excellency Ambassador Warba thanked Sheikh Mubarak for his generous initiative in hosting the reception, and said that it expresses the friendship he received from the government and the Kuwaiti people during his tenure of work at the embassy. He expressed his great pride in the period in which he worked, and extended his best wishes for the State of Kuwait toward continued progress and success.

Moreover, His Excellency the Austrian Ambassador said in his speech, “Sheikh Mubarak, in his capacity as Chairman of the Kuwaiti-Austrian Business and Friendship Association (KABFA), has contributed greatly to supporting and developing bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields, expressing his thanks and appreciation to the Kuwaiti people in general and Sheikh Mubarak in particular for their generous hospitality and attention during eight years he spent his time as ambassador to the State of Kuwait, over two different terms, the first period was in 2008 and the second period in 2020, stressing that he would not hesitate if he was asked to stay for a longer period.

At the conclusion of the reception, Sheikh Mubarak presented a memorial gift to Ambassador Warba.

### Other Voices

## The United Kingdom a top choice for Kuwait students

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

Kuwaiti students have always preferred studying in the United Kingdom for their higher education. The Kuwaiti Cultural Office in the UK (KCOUK) plays a vital role in aiding about 10,000 Kuwaiti students with their academic and social needs, which contributes to this growing trend. In this single year, the UK has received approximately 1,500 scholarship students from Kuwait, supported by the Ministry of Higher Education. In addition, many Kuwaiti students rely on private funding to study in the UK, showing the country’s popularity among students from different financial situations.

There are multiple factors that play a role in the appeal of the UK for Kuwaiti students. Above all, the UK is famous for its top-notch education system. British universities are always ranked at the top globally, providing a variety of programs that draw students seeking an advantage in the international job market. Some prestigious options include the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, and the London School of Economics.

The close geographical proximity between the UK and Kuwait is another important factor.

Students and their families discover it easy to stay connected due to direct flights and short travel times. This close distance allows students to conveniently travel back home during breaks and enables their families to visit them without difficulty.

The UK’s social scene is also a significant attraction. Cities such as London, Manchester, and Edinburgh provide a wide range of cultural experiences in arts, music, and cuisine, making the country’s cultural scene vibrant. Kuwaiti students benefit from the diverse social environment, enhancing their overall experience during their time abroad.

Furthermore, the UK is a shopper’s paradise, which is a significant attraction for visiting families, particularly mothers. From high-end boutiques on Bond Street to the vast selections at Harrods and Selfridges, the shopping experience in the UK is unparalleled. This makes visits to the UK appealing for families, as they can enjoy luxury shopping while their children pursue their education.

The United Kingdom continues to be a top choice for Kuwaiti students due to its excellent educational standards, convenient proximity to Kuwait, and enriching social life. The efforts of the Kuwaiti Cultural Office in the UK play a pivotal role in supporting these students, ensuring that their academic and personal needs are met. With both scholarship and privately funded students thriving in this environment, the UK remains a beacon of educational excellence for Kuwaiti families.



Al-Hajeri



Dr. Al-Zaidan

Association and the Deputy Director General for Technical Affairs at the Public Environment Authority Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaidan, citizens complained about the citations that were issued unjustly in implementation of Article 40 of the Environment Law. They also highlighted the absence of a gradual approach to deal with violations, urging for the provision of grace periods and warnings before imposing financial fines.

Some breeders demanded the opening of reserves by issuing a law that regulates grazing in them, even for a certain period of the year, and based on the recommendations of the environment.

They stressed that this can achieve environmental benefits by recycling animal manure in them.

The breeders also urged oil companies to permit livestock grazing once more after proposing regulations and arrangements that benefit all parties.

They questioned the motives and reasons for the ban in vast areas of land from Dhafer to the Wafra stables. They also highlighted the huge cost incurred by the state for weed removal in the oil networks using specialized companies.

The breeders said Dr. Al-Zaidan promised to convey their demands to the relevant minister, as well as the abuses they face from some employees of the authority.

The livestock owners proposed a package of proposals in this regard including some proposals to preserve the environment and grazing areas identified by the joint committee.

1. Gradual enforcement of citations with warnings or orders for reconciliation, particularly in unfenced areas where the prohibition is not widely known, such as sidewalks without clear signage.

2. Collaborate with the municipality to clean up scattered debris along the Seventh Ring Road, Salmi Road, and Abdali Road. Remove remnants of fixed stables and abandoned spring camps scattered throughout the Kuwaiti desert.

3. Organize the pigeon coops, which currently span areas exceeding one kilometer, posing obstacles to livestock movement for grazing. Specific designated areas should be allocated for them, ensuring they do not exceed these boundaries and expand their stable areas..

4. Establish a joint committee between Kuwait Municipality and the Environment Public Authority dedicated to overseeing spring camps, fixed stables, and pigeon coops. Permits will be issued specifying the area and duration allowed, with periodic enforcement campaigns in the spring to penalize those operating without permits. This initiative aims to safeguard the environment by defining and monitoring the exact coordinates of each camp or stable. It is also mandated that upon departure, operators notify the committee within ten days to prevent fines for leaving waste in the same location.

5. Issue a 48-hour crossing permit aimed at easing the movement of livestock owners. Currently, navigating around the reserve to access the opposite side compels them to travel considerable distances and cross highways. Allowing crossing within the reserve, with the condition of avoiding damage to crops, significantly reduces travel time and effort for livestock owners.

6. Set up a WhatsApp number to facilitate cooperation and receive notifications about privately owned reserves located in designated grazing areas assigned by the joint committee. These notifications will enable prompt removal of unauthorized structures, ensuring the designated areas are used appropriately for grazing purposes.



## World News Roundup

### Europe

**‘Agreement with Russia deal with devil’:** Signing an agreement with Russia to stop the war with Ukraine would amount to signing a deal with the devil, a top adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as pressure mounts on the country to seek an end to more than two years of fighting.

A deal would only buy time for Russian President Vladimir Putin to strengthen his army and usher in another, potentially more violent chapter in the war, **Mykhailo Podolyak** told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday.



Podolyak

“If you want to sign a deal with the devil, who will then drag you to hell, well, go for it. This is what Russia is,” Podolyak said when asked about the prospects for a peace deal for Kyiv, whose forces are locked in a bloody war of attrition with Moscow’s troops in eastern Ukraine.

“If you sign anything today with Russia, that will not lose the war and will not be legally responsible for mass crimes, this will mean that you have signed yourself a ticket to continue the war on a different scale, with other protagonists, with a different number of killed and tortured people,” he said.

It is a view held across Zelenskyy’s camp and reflected broadly among Ukrainians. But it also increasingly comes up against the current of Western pressure, as Kyiv continues to face difficult front-line conditions against Moscow’s larger, better equipped army, as well as uncertainty over the level of future political support from Ukraine’s closest ally, the US.

War fatigue also appears to be eroding the morale of Ukrainians, who have struggled with constant bombardment, electricity outages and the loss of loved ones. (AP)

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**Dam bursts in west-central Russia:** About 200 people have found themselves in a flood zone near the city of Karabash in Russia’s west-central region of Chelyabinsk following a dam burst at the Kialimskoye Reservoir, local authorities said on Friday.

“Water broke through the dam in the Kialim reservoir, one of the major sources of drinking water for the city of Karabash. People are being evacuated from the villages of Kialim and Mukhametovo. Around 200 people are staying in the flooded area,” the Karabash municipal administration was quoted by TASS News Agency as saying.

A state of emergency has been declared in the Karabash municipal district.

According to the Chelyabinsk Center for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring, up to 73 mm of rainfall fell in the region during the 24 hours of July 25 and the night of July 26, which amounts to 1-1.5 monthly norms in some places.

Due to the dam breach at the Kialimskoye Reservoir, one settlement has already been flooded. As a precautionary measure, evacuation efforts are currently underway in three communities. (Xinhua)

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**Russia detains ex-deputy defense minister:** A former Russian defense ministry official was arrested on corruption charges, the Russian security services said Friday, the latest in a series of high-profile military arrests.

Former Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Dmitry Bulgakov was detained in Moscow and ordered held in custody pending an investigation and trial, Russia’s Investigative Committee said in a statement without giving further details.

Bulgakov was deputy defense minister from 2008 to September 2022, when he was dismissed. He was in charge of logistics at the time, and while the ministry had said that he was taking another job, the move was seen as punishment for flaws in supporting operations in Ukraine.

Seven top military figures have now been arrested on charges of fraud, bribery or abuse of office in recent months, including Deputy Defense Minister Timur Ivanov who was arrested for bribery in April and later dismissed from his position. (AP)

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**Russian man accused of staging bombing held:** Russia’s top security agency said Friday that it arrested a man accused of staging a car bombing on Ukrainian orders.

The Federal Security Service, or FSB, showed a video of the handcuffed suspect walking off a plane from Turkey escorted by masked officers.

Turkish authorities said that they detained the suspect, Yevgeniy Serebryakov, on Russia’s request on Wednesday. He arrived in Turkey’s resort of Bodrum hours after a car bomb went off in Moscow.

Russian authorities said that two people were injured by the bomb that detonated after they got into the car in northern Moscow. Russian media said that the car belonged to a senior military intelligence officer.

The FSB said the suspect was acting on orders from Ukraine’s spy agency and released a video of his confessions. It was impossible to verify the claims that he made under duress. Ukrainian officials have denied involvement. (AP)

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**French train networks partially restored:** French railway company SNCF said Saturday it has made progress in partially restoring high-speed train services after acts of sabotage disrupted three major lines ahead of Friday night’s Olympic Games opening ceremony on the Seine River.

SNCF said its agents worked through the night in adverse weather conditions to improve the TGV traffic from the north, east and west to Paris. As of Saturday morning, normal service had resumed on the Eastern high-speed line.

“On the North, Brittany and South-West high-speed lines, seven out of 10 trains on average will run with delays of one to two hours,” SNCF said.

The company added that traffic will continue to be disrupted on the North axis on Sunday, but conditions are expected to improve on the Atlantic axis for weekend returns. Customers are being contacted via text message and email to confirm the running of their trains.

Despite the disruptions, SNCF said all transportation for Olympic teams and accredited personnel will be maintained as planned. (AP)

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**Hungary seeks to resolve Ukraine spat:** Hungary will seek to resolve a dispute with Ukraine over the transfer of Russian oil by September to avoid a potential energy crisis, an aid to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on Friday.

Orbán’s chief of staff, Gergely Gulyás, alleged that Kyiv was “blackmailing” Budapest by blocking the transfer of some Russian crude across its territory.

Ukraine last month adopted sanctions against Lukoil, Russia’s largest non-state firm. Hungary receives most of its crude from Russia via the Druzhba or “Friendship” pipeline which runs into Central Europe through Belarus and Ukraine, about half of which it receives from Lukoil.

The move angered officials in Slovakia and Hungary, which argued the blocked supply would endanger their energy security. (AP)

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**Governor of Italy’s Liguria region resigns:** The governor of Italy’s northern Liguria region resigned on Friday after being held under house arrest since May as part of a corruption investigation by local prosecutors.

Giovanni Toti, a right-wing governor who is accused of providing political favors in exchange for election campaign funds, has denied any wrongdoing.

In a hand-written letter published by Italian news websites, Toti announced his decision to step down and call new elections within three months to allow citizens of Liguria to “decide about their future.”

According to the judge’s order signing off on Toti’s arrest, he was accused of doing favors for local figures in exchange for money to fund four local elections in 2021 and 2022. (AP)



The Park Fire burns below Highway 32 near Lomo in Butte County, Calif., on July 26. Inset: Firefighters with the Cal Fire Santa Clara Unit Pacheco Crew 2 walk along a dirt path while battling the Park Fire in the community of Forest Ranch near Chico, Calif. on Friday. (AP)

### California’s largest wildfire explodes in size as fires rage across US West

California’s largest active fire exploded in size on Friday evening, growing rapidly amid bone-dry fuel and threatening thousands of homes as firefighters scrambled to meet the danger.

The Park Fire’s intensity and dramatic spread led fire officials to make unwelcome comparisons to the monstrous Camp Fire, which burned out of control

in nearby Paradise in 2018, killing 85 people and torching 11,000 homes.

More than 130 structures have been destroyed by this fire so far, and thousands more are threatened as evacuations were ordered in four counties: Butte, Plumas, Tehama and Shasta. It stood at 480 square miles (1,243 square kilometers) on Friday night and

was moving quickly north and east after igniting Wednesday when authorities said a man pushed a burning car into a gully in Chico and then calmly blended in with others fleeing the scene.

“There’s a tremendous amount of fuel out there and it’s going to continue with this rapid pace,” Cal Fire incident commander Billy See said at a briefing. (AP)

### Politics

#### Beshear apologizes for barb, but not to Vance

## Barack, Michelle Obama endorse Harris

ATLANTA, July 27, (AP) — Former US president Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama have endorsed Kamala Harris in her White House bid, giving the vice president the expected but still crucial backing of the nation’s two most popular Democrats.

The endorsement, announced Friday in a video showing Harris accepting a joint phone call from the former first couple, comes as Harris builds momentum as their party’s likely nominee after President Joe Biden’s decision to end his reelection bid and endorse his second-in-command against Republican nominee and former president Donald Trump.

It also highlights the friendship and potentially historic link between the nation’s first Black president and the first woman, first Black woman and first person of Asian descent to serve as vice president, who is now vying to break those barriers at the presidential rank.

#### Trailed

“We called to say Michelle and I couldn’t be prouder to endorse you and do everything we can to get you through this election and into the Oval Office,” the former president told Harris, who is shown taking the call as she walks backstage at an event, trailed by a Secret Service agent.

Said Michelle Obama, “I can’t have this phone call without saying to my girl, Kamala, I am proud of you.

“This is going to be historic,” she added.

Harris, who has known the Obamas since before his election in 2008, thanked them for their friendship and said she looks forward to “getting there, being on the road” with them in the three-month blitz before Election Day on Nov 5.

“We’re gonna have some fun with this too, aren’t we?” Harris said.

The Obamas are perhaps the last major party figures to endorse Harris formally, a reflection of the former president’s desire to remain, at least publicly, a party elder operating above the fray. The Obamas remain prodigious fundraising draws and popular surrogates at large campaign events for Democratic candidates.

#### Support

According to an Associated Press survey, Harris already has secured the public support of a majority of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention, which begins Aug. 19 in Chicago. The Democratic National Committee expects to hold a virtual nominating vote that would, by Aug. 7, make Harris and a yet-to-be-named running mate the official Democratic ticket.

Biden endorsed Harris within an hour of announcing his decision Sunday to end his campaign amid widespread concern about the 81-year-old president’s ability to defeat Trump. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, former House Minority Whip Jim Clyburn, former president Bill Clinton and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton followed in the days after.

The Obamas, however, trod carefully as Harris secured the delegate commitments, made the rounds among core Democratic constituencies and raised more than \$120 million. The public caution tracks how the former president handled the weeks between Biden’s debate debacle against Trump and the president’s eventual decision to end his campaign: Barack Obama was a certain presence in the party’s

maneuvers, but he operated quietly.

Obama’s initial statement after Biden’s announcement did not mention Harris. Instead, he spoke generically about coming up with a nominee to succeed Biden: “I have extraordinary confidence that the leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges,” the former president wrote.

Both Obamas campaigned separately for Hillary Clinton in 2016 and Biden in 2020, including large rallies on the closing weekends before Election Day. They delivered key speeches at the Democrats’ convention in 2020, a virtual event because of the coronavirus pandemic. The former president’s speech was especially notable because he unveiled a full-throated attack on Trump as a threat to democracy, an argument that endures as part of Harris’ campaign.

#### Also:

**FRANKFORT, Ky:** Kentucky Gov **Andy Beshear**, one of the leading contenders to be Vice President **Kamala Harris’** running mate on the Democratic presidential ticket, apologized this week for something he said in lambasting Ohio Sen. **JD Vance** as inauthentically Appalachian - but the apology wasn’t to Vance.

Beshear, at his regularly scheduled news conference at the Kentucky State Capitol, pulled out a bottle of Diet Mountain Dew and apologized to the makers of the soft drink. Earlier in the week, the Republican vice-presidential nominee had said at a rally in **Ohio** that he’d had a Diet Mountain Dew that day and fully expected to be called a “racist” because of it.

Beshear, in a CNN interview, called the comment “weird” and added: “Who drinks Diet Mountain Dew?” He retreated - but only a little bit.



Britain’s Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer delivers a speech on clean energy during a visit to Hutchinsin Engineering in Widnes, Cheshire, England on July 25. (AP)



Wray



Adams

### America

**Plane crash causes fatalities:** A plane crash in a remote area of northeastern Wyoming caused an unspecified number of fatalities and sparked a wildfire, authorities said Friday.

The plane crashed at about 1 pm north of the town of Gillette near the Wyoming state line, Campbell County officials said in a social media post. The number of fatalities was not immediately released.

A distress signal was sent out by the plane before the crash, Campbell County Undersheriff Quentin Reynolds told the Gillette News Record. Callers later reported seeing smoke columns rising into the air near the suspected crash site, he said.

The wildfire that resulted from the crash was being suppressed using aircraft, heavy equipment and engine crews, officials said. (AP)

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**Trump struck by bullet – FBI:** Nearly two weeks after Donald Trump’s near assassination, the FBI confirmed Friday that it was indeed a bullet that struck the former president’s ear, moving to clear up conflicting accounts about what caused the former president’s injuries after a gunman opened fire at a Pennsylvania rally.

“What struck former president Trump in the ear was a bullet, whether whole or fragmented into smaller pieces, fired from the deceased subject’s rifle,” the agency said in a statement.

The one-sentence statement from the FBI marked the most definitive law enforcement account of Trump’s injuries and followed ambiguous comments earlier in the week from Director **Christopher Wray** that appeared to cast doubt on whether Trump had actually been hit by a bullet. (AP)

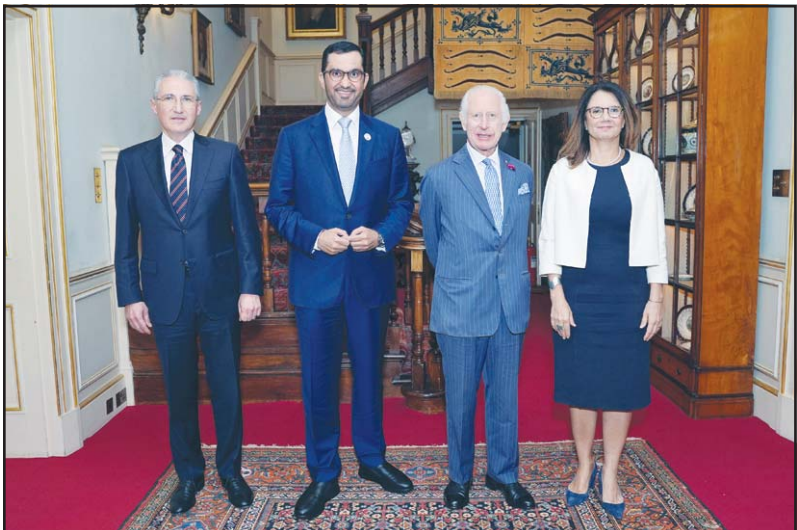
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**NYC turns to Evolv scanner:** New York City is turning to AI-powered scan-

ners in a new bid to keep guns out of its subway system, but the pilot program launched Friday is already being met with skepticism from riders and the threat of a

lawsuit from civil liberties advocates who say the searches are unconstitutional.

The Evolv scanner - a sleek-looking weapons detector using artificial intelli-



Britain’s King Charles III, (third from left), poses with, (from left); Cop29 President Mukhtar Babayev, Cop28 President Sultan al-Jaber, and Ana Toni, Cop30 representative and Brazil’s National Secretary for Climate Change, during a Cop Troika at Clarence House, in London on July 26. (AP)

gence to search riders for guns and knives - was on display at a lower Manhattan subway station where Mayor **Eric Adams** announced the 30-day trial.

“This is good technology,” Adams said at Fulton Center near the World Trade Center. (AP)

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**Inmate found dead at prison:** An inmate was found dead inside his cell at a Mississippi prison, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) east of the state’s capitol, authorities said Friday.

This is the third death this month at the East Mississippi Correctional facility in Meridian. Emily Lawhead, a spokesperson for Management and Training Corporation, which manages the facility, said Clarence Gillie, 59, was found unresponsive in his cell on Thursday.

“Facility medical staff responded immediately, performing emergency medical procedures,” Lawhead said in a statement. “Local emergency medical services arrived and declared Gillie deceased.”

The man’s death is under investigation, Lawhead said. A cause of death is pending the outcome of an autopsy but foul play was not suspected, she added.

Lawhead referred questions about why Gillie was in custody to the Mississippi Department of Corrections. (AP)



Lat/Am

Sinaloa cartel leaders held

Oppn leader provides hope for Venezuelans

CARACAS, Venezuela, July 27, (AP): **Maria Corina Machado** has hiked overpasses, walked highways, ridden motorcycles, sought shelter in supporters' homes and seen her closest collaborators detained and persecuted. She has held the calloused hands of crying men, worn dozens of gifted rosaries and listened to the pleas of the young and old while crisscrossing Venezuela.

The ruling party has blocked Machado from running in Sunday's hotly contested presidential election, but fueled by that ban, she has become the driving force for the main opposition coalition and a symbol of hope, courage and perseverance for millions of Venezuelans. Machado, once a political outcast, is their freedom fighter and the main threat to President Nicolás Maduro's reelection aspirations.



Machado

Supporters scream "Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!" as she arrives at rallies and while she speaks, some overwhelmed to the point of tears. The thousands-strong crowds include opponents of the self-professed socialist revolution that Maduro's predecessor began at the turn of the century, as well as voters who supported those ideals but abandoned them because of Venezuela's ongoing crisis.

Such is her power to commandeer millions of votes, that the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela has taken to intimidating Machado and her supporters. The government has arrested collaborators and closed businesses associated with her, from a hotel where she stayed during a campaign stop to women that sold empanadas to her from their homes. Her campaign manager has sheltered at an embassy in the capital, Caracas, for months.

And all this when the name Machado, her face and party do not appear on the ballot, while Maduro shows up 13 times.

Machado was cemented as leader of the Unitary Platform coalition - the main opposition faction - in October, when she won the presidential primary with more than 90% of the vote.

Leadership

But Machado's road to leadership has been long and winding. Just months before the primary, even some opposition members considered the free-market firebrand a radical because of her unwillingness to negotiate with Maduro's government and her harsh criticism of those who did. As recently as 2021, she urged voters to boycott elections, arguing that their participation in an uneven playing field implicitly legitimized the ruling party.

The industrial engineer and daughter of a steel magnate began challenging the ruling party in 2004, when the non-governmental organization she co-founded, Súmate, promoted a referendum to recall then-President Hugo Chávez. The initiative failed, and Machado and other Súmate executives were charged with conspiracy.

A year later, she drew the anger of Chávez and his allies again for traveling to Washington to meet President George W. Bush in the Oval Office. Chávez considered Bush an adversary.

She formally entered the political arena in 2010 when she was elected to a seat in the National Assembly, receiving more votes than any aspiring lawmaker ever. It was from this position that she boldly interrupted Chávez as he addressed the legislature and called his expropriation of businesses theft.

Machado is a "symbol of resistance to the regime," said Michael Shifter, an academic and former president of the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based think tank.

Also:

**WASHINGTON:** A powerful Mexican drug cartel leader who eluded authorities for decades was duped into flying into the US, where he was arrested alongside a son of **Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán**, according to a US law enforcement official familiar with the matter.

**Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada** got on an airplane to the US believing he was going somewhere else, said the official, who spoke on the condition on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter. The official did not provide additional details, including who persuaded Zambada to get on the plane or where exactly he thought he was going.

Upon arriving in the **El Paso** area, Zambada and Joaquín Guzmán López, a son of notorious drug kingpin "El Chapo," who was sentenced to life in a US prison in 2019, were immediately taken into custody by US authorities, officials said.

Zambada, 76, appeared in federal court in El Paso on Friday morning, where a judge read the charges and informed Zambada of his rights. Zambada, who is being held without bond, has entered a plea of not guilty to slew of drug trafficking charges, court records show. His next court hearing is scheduled for Wednesday.

**Frank Perez**, a lawyer listed for Zambada, said in a message to AP that his client "did not come to the US voluntarily."

Zambada, one of the most powerful drug lords in the world, has been a key target for the US government for years in its bid to take down leaders of the Sinaloa cartel that's responsible for trafficking huge sums of drugs across the border.

His arrest "strikes at the heart of the cartel that is responsible for the majority of drugs, including fentanyl and methamphetamine, killing Americans from coast to coast," said US Drug Enforcement Administration chief **Anne Milgram**.



**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina:** Argentine President **Javier Milei** and French President **Emmanuel Macron** met Friday in Paris where they appeared to put aside recent controversy stemming from their countries' fierce soccer rivalry.

The meeting comes after a video clip spread online showing the Argentine national soccer team's post-match racist chants, prompting backlash from French officials over lyrics considered offensive toward French players of African descent.

The song originated from fans' chants ahead of Argentina's 2022 World Cup final against France in Qatar, and resurfaced after the Argentina team's Copa America triumph over Colombia.

Exacerbating matters, Argentine Vice President **Victoria Villarruel** rushed to the defense of the Argentina players recorded singing the derogatory chants and publicly lambasted the French government as hypocritical for its criticism of Argentina.

The Argentine presidency said that Macron expressed gratitude Friday for efforts by Milei's sister and general secretary of the presidency, **Karina Milei**, to defuse the diplomatic crisis by apologizing



25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN PLUS THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

27 JULY 2024, VIENTIANE, LAO PDR



From left: Myanmar Permanent Foreign Secretary Aung Kyaw Moe, Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo, Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Thailand's Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa, Vietnam Deputy Foreign Minister Do Hung Viet, South Korea's Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Tae-yul, Japan's Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, Laos Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Malaysian Foreign Minister

ter Mohamad Hasan, Brunei Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof, Cambodia Foreign Minister Sok Chenda Sophea, Indonesia Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, East Timor Foreign Minister Bendito dos Santos Freitas and ASEAN Secretary General Kao Kim Hourn pose for a group photo at the 25th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers session of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Laos on July 27. (AP)

Asia

Philippine forces sail to shoal without incident

ASEAN diplomats condemn Myanmar violence

VIENTIANE, Laos, July 27, (AP): Southeast Asian top diplomats on Saturday condemned violence in Myanmar's ongoing civil war and urged for "practical" means to defuse rising tensions in the South China Sea during the last of the three-day regional talks with allies including the U.S., Russia and China.

Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith of Laos, which currently chairs the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), hailed dialogue partners for "frank, candid and constructive exchanges" on key issues revolving around regional security.

The weekend talks in the Laotian capital were dominated by the increasingly violent and destabilizing civil war in ASEAN-member Myanmar as well as maritime disputes of some of the bloc members with China, which have led to direct confrontations that many worry could lead to broader conflict.

In a joint statement issued at the end of the talks, the bloc said there's an urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar, and called for "all relevant parties in Myanmar to ensure the safe and transparent delivery of humanitarian assistance, to the people in Myanmar without discrimination."

"We strongly condemned the continued acts of violence against civilians and public facilities and called for immediate cessation, and urged all parties involved to take concrete action to immediately halt indiscriminate violence," it said.

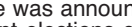


**Philippines forces sail to shoal:** Philippine government personnel transported food and other supplies Saturday to a fiercely disputed shoal occupied by a Filipino navy contingent but closely guarded by Beijing's forces in the South China Sea and no confrontations were reported, Philippine officials said.

It was the first Philippine government supply trip to the Second Thomas Shoal, which has been the scene of increasingly violent confrontations between Chinese and Philippine forces, since the Philippines and China reached a deal a week ago to prevent clashes, the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said in a statement.

"The lawful and routine rotation and resupply mission within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone is a credit to the professionalism of the men and women of the Philippine navy and the Philippine coast guard and the close coordination among the National Security

Council, Department of National Defense and the Department of Foreign Affairs," the Philippine Foreign Affairs Department said, without providing other details.



**Gaemi weakens to tropical storm:** Tropical storm Gaemi brought rain to central China on Saturday as it moved inland after making landfall at typhoon strength on the country's east coast Thursday night.

The storm felled trees, flooded streets and damaged crops in China but there were no reports of casualties or major damage. Eight people died in Taiwan, which Gaemi crossed at typhoon strength before heading over open waters to China.

The worst loss of life, however, was in a country that Gaemi earlier passed by but didn't strike directly: the Philippines. A steadily climbing death toll has reached 34, authorities there said Friday. The typhoon exacerbated seasonal monsoon rains in the Southeast Asian coun-

try, causing landslides and severe flooding that stranded people on rooftops as waters rose around them.



**Thousands attend Trong funeral:** Thousands of mourners gathered in Hanoi on Friday for the second day of the funeral of the man who dominated Vietnamese politics for over a decade, Communist Party general secretary **Nguyen Phu Trong**.

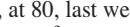
His death, at 80, last week in Hanoi marked the start of a succession struggle within the party that will likely to continue until the all-important National Party Congress of Vietnam's Communist Party in 2026.

Trong's coffin, draped in the red and yellow of Vietnam's flag, was laid beneath his smiling portrait and dozens of medals at the National Funeral House in Hanoi on Thursday. All flags in the southeast Asian nation flew at half mast during the two-day period of national mourning, while all sports and entertainment were suspended.



Mathe said in a post on the social media site X that the Libyans stated they had entered the country on study visas to train as security guards, but police investigations suggest they have received military training.

The Newzroom Afrika TV news channel broadcast pictures of the site of the arrests, showing a military-style camp with large green and khaki tents set up in a row. Dozens of men were seen lining up as they were arrested. They were wearing civilian clothing. (AP)



**DA party takes ANC to court:** South Africa's Democratic Alliance took the African National Congress, the party it co-governs the country with, to court Thursday over a pre-election speech in May given by President **Cyril Ramaphosa**.

It's an early sign of friction between the new coalition partners. The court papers were submitted to the Electoral Court by the DA in May before it entered into a coalition with the ANC, but it decided to still go ahead with the case.

The DA asked the court to deduct 1% of the vote received by the ANC in the May 29 national election and fine Ramaphosa, the ANC leader, \$10,900 and his party \$5,450, over what it argues was a presidential address that was used for election campaigning and amounted to an abuse of office.

The ANC responded Thursday by calling the DA's legal action "frivolous and unwarranted" and said the president was following the constitution when he made the speech. (AP)



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro holds First Lady Cilia Flores' hand during his closing election campaign rally in Caracas, Venezuela on July 25. Maduro is seeking re-election for a third term in the July 28 vote. (AP)



Guterres



Ramaphosa

Africa

**3 days of mourning in Ethiopia:** Ethiopian lawmakers declared three days of mourning Friday as diggers continued their search for bodies of mudslide victims in a remote part of the East African country.

Heavy rain triggered deadly slides on Sunday and Monday in Ethiopia's south, killing at least 257 people, according to the UN humanitarian office, known as OCHA. It said in its latest update that the death toll could rise to as many as 500, citing local officials.

"More than 15,000 affected people need to be evacuated" from the area, OCHA said.

The national assembly said a three-day period of national mourning would begin on Saturday. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said earlier in the week that he was "deeply saddened by this terrible loss."

Many people were buried in the Gofa Zone of Kencho Shacha Gozdi district on Monday, as rescue workers searched the steep terrain for survivors from mudslides the previous day.

Photos from the scene show residents standing over the shrouded bodies of mudslide victims who are being pulled, one by one, from the muddy earth. Diggers have been using hand shovels to pick through the mud. **Antonio Guterres**, the UN secretary-general, said on the social platform X that UN agencies were dispatching food and other critical supplies to help affected people. (AP)



**Ruto mulls changes to laws:** Kenyan President William Ruto on Friday said his government will soon be proposing changes to the relevant laws to seal the loopholes that undermine the fight against corruption.

Ruto, who has faced pressure from young Kenyan protesters demanding accountability, said the legal amendments will include cracking down on corrupt officials and those displaying opulence and wastage in government spending amid high cost of living.

"We cannot continue to tolerate those who steal from the public and then obtain injunctions while their cases drag on for years," he said in the coastal city of Mombasa during an inspection of development projects.

The Kenyan leader said the Executive will work together with the criminal justice system to ensure corruption cases are resolved within six months, promising that it will no longer be possible for the corrupt to use injunctions to evade prosecution or delay justice. (Xinhua)





**95 Libyans held in SAfrica:** South African police arrested 95 Libyan nationals in a raid on a suspected secret military training camp on Friday and authorities



Sanitation workers clear a flooded street in Shenyang, northeast China's Liaoning Province, July 26. Over 14,500 people in northeast China's Liaoning Province have been relocated following an orange alert, the second-highest level, for rainstorms, according to local authorities. (Xinhua)



Market Movements					26-07-2024						
	DUBAI	-	DFMGI	+42.69	4,280.34		JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	-202.10	37,667.41
	PHILIPPINES	-	PSEI	+55.74	6,726.01		PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	-247.64	78,144.16
	BRITAIN	-	FTSE 100	+99.36	8,285.71						
	EUROPE	-	Euro Stoxx 50	+51.22	4,862.50						

# Business

## Market value rises by 341 mln dinars

## Boursa Kuwait shows resilience amid broader market challenges

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Boursa Kuwait experienced a noteworthy upturn in the market value of its listed shares, rising by approximately 341 million dinars to reach 42.3 billion dinars by the end of the week, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This marks a significant recovery following several weeks of mixed trading conditions.

Despite fluctuations in recent weeks, the Boursa closed the week on a positive note, with an impressive 0.341 billion dinars (\$1.12 billion) increase in the market value of shares.

According to “Direct Information” statistics the Premier Market Index rose by 0.54% to 7800.84 points, a gain of 42 points from the previous week.

The General Market Index increased by 0.74%, reaching 7,154.88 points, up by 52.7 points; the Main Market Index noted a 1.73% growth, closing at 6021.77 points, with a rise of 102.34 points and Main Market Index 50 saw a 2.57% increase, reaching 5852.21 points, up by 146.38 points for the week.

The market value of shares at the end of trading yesterday was 42.317 billion dinars, reflecting a 0.81% rise from the previous Thursday’s level of 41.976 billion dinars.

Trading Activity liquidity increased by 5.01%, reaching 186.86 million dinars; the volume rose by 9.08%, totaling 777.63 million shares and transactions grew by 20.32%, with 58,080 transactions executed

this week.

In the meantime, consumer goods saw the highest increase, up by 27.95%; technology sector experienced a decline of 3.06% while the healthcare remained stable.

The Boursa Kuwait managed to sustain its gains throughout the week despite observable weakness in regional markets, a sharp decline in U.S. market indices -- particularly in technology and artificial intelligence stocks -- and falling oil prices, a critical factor for the region’s economies.

According to the Senior Vice President of Research and Investment Strategies at Kamco Invest, the Boursa Kuwait’s resilience highlights its robustness amid broader market challenges.

## Two major tenders remain active amid revisions

## KOC denies withdrawing \$1.2 bln tenders

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has dismissed recent social media claims suggesting that it withdrew two major exploration and production tenders, each valued at approximately \$1.2 billion, due to procedural errors, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement released yesterday, KOC clarified that the tenders in question had not been withdrawn. Instead, the company explained that there was a procedural issue with how the tenders were initially offered. The tenders were submitted as actual offerings rather than pre-offerings, which is the required procedure.

Consequently, the Central Agency for Public Tenders is currently revising the offering process to ensure compliance with legal standards.

KOC emphasized that it remains committed to upholding the highest

## Oil price up to \$83.47 pb

KUWAIT CITY, July 27, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up 86 cents to USD 83.47 pb on Friday, compared to USD 82.61 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Saturday.

On a global scale, the price of the Brent crude futures’ contracts went down USD 1.24 to USD 81.13 pb, as did the West Texas Intermediate crude, down USD 1.12 to settle at 77.16 pb.

legal and procedural standards in its tender processes. The company also pointed out that it was proactive in identifying and reporting the procedural error to the Central Agency for Public Tenders. This proactive stance is in line with its dedication to

transparency and proper procedural conduct.

The company reassured stakeholders that the two tenders remain active and are undergoing necessary modifications to align with regulatory requirements.

## Other Voices

## Brent crude stands at \$81 pb

## OPEC+ success in market discipline and compliance

By Kamel Al-Harami  
Independent Oil Analyst

A MAJOR question that comes to mind is - What level will the oil price reach or remain at?

Today, the North Sea Brent stands at \$81 per barrel, but there are no indications about the price level in the future. How far will it go? Will it hit the \$90 level, which is a difference of about \$10 per barrel from the current price.

There are several factors that speculators take into account, mainly China, which seems to represent a global factor for higher demand and therefore pushes the oil prices and stimulates demand. This could contribute to releasing the oil volume that has been kept away from the market in order to improve the prices and bring order to the oversupplied market.

OPEC+ did succeed in bringing order and discipline, and assured full compliance from its members.

In the next few days, the organization will meet to discuss and review the conditions in the oil market, assess forecasts for the year’s balance, and decide

what action to take.

It will take into account the incoming oil volumes from non-OPEC+ producers and newcomers such as Brazil. However, the United States, which is the biggest crude oil producer with 13.5 million barrels per day, is expanding its presence in the Indian market alongside Brazil. This move aims to secure stable markets for these two crude oils, potentially placing them in competition with the crudes of OPEC+ that have traditionally dominated the Asian oil market.

This scenario may not persist if the global demand for oil picks up to the extent of prompting OPEC+ to release their stored oil, and cancel their quota system temporarily. If such a scenario takes place, it will push the oil price to reach \$90 a barrel. However, this will lead to an influx of new crude volume into the market from various parts of the world, causing a decline in oil price, and restarting the cycle.

If such a scenario takes place again, OPEC+ will likely need to act swiftly to restore order and discipline to the oil market.

It is hard to predict how high or how low the oil price will get in the next five months, but they can certainly agree on retaining the oil price level at a minimum of \$80 per barrel, as it is unlikely for the prices to fall below this level.

Email: natfikuwaiti@yahoo.com



Al-Harami

## Interim cash dividend 12 fils per share

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced a net profit of KD 62.7 million for the half year ended 30 June, 2024. Operating profit before provisions at KD 61.1 million compared to KD 57.1 million for the same period of last year, higher by 7%. Earnings per share for the current period is 34.9 fils (June 2023: 36.8 fils).

### Regulatory Ratios:

Regulatory ratios remained strong and continue to be well above the Central Bank’s statutory requirements. Capital Adequacy Ratio is at 16.1%, Liquidity Coverage Ratio 237.8%, Net Stable Funding Ratio 115.0% and Leverage ratio 9.9%.

### Operational Performance:

Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al Sabah, the Bank’s Chairman, is pleased to present the Bank’s results for the first half of 2024. Operating profit before provisions reflects a healthy year-on-year growth of KD 4.0 million (7.0%) driven by growth in loans by KD 355 million, higher benchmark interest rates and 8.5% increase in fee income. Net Profit at KD 62.7 million is lower by KD 6.5 million (9.4%). Last year included higher loan loss recoveries mainly resulting from a legal verdict.

### Performance Ratios:

Sheikh Ahmad emphasised that Al-Tijari continues to report healthy performance ratios relative to its history and this stems from the strategic initiatives taken in the previous years. Net interest margin 2.76% (HY2023: 2.69%), Return on Equity 19.0% (HY2023: 20.8%) and Return on Assets 2.8% (HY2023: 3.3%). Cost to income ratio 32.0% continues to be one of the lowest amongst Kuwaiti banks.

### Business Updates:

Sheikh Ahmad added that the Bank is equipped with the latest technology and digital services, enabling it to continue its successful digital transformation journey by improving its digital platforms and introducing new customer services.

Al-Tijari enhanced its communication with customers through presence at several commercial complexes and malls through a comprehensive outreach plan with an aim to introduce customers to the integrated products and digital services provided by the Bank.

This personal contact helps to spread banking and financial culture amongst various segments of the society under “Let’s Be Aware” campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in cooperation with Kuwait Banks Association. The Bank also uses its electronic channels and accounts on social media networks to educate customers on the importance of protecting their banking information against fraud attempts.

During Q2 2024, K-Net launched a new instant payment system “WAMD”. Six banks including Al Tijari were the early adopters and launched the service through mobile banking applications. Customers can send and receive money instantly without any charges, 24/7.

Customers can now pay telecom bills through the mobile application. In addition, many other features have also been added to the



Sheikh Ahmad Duaij Al Sabah, Chairman.

Bank’s mobile application.

The “Business Islands” which are now available in most of Al-Tijari branches has been updated with additional features including enhanced authentication process for customers by using civil id.

### Diligent Efforts for Raising Customer Awareness:

In Light of the “Let’s Be Aware” Campaign, Commercial Bank of Kuwait continues its diligent efforts for raising customer awareness with the advent of summer and travel season, Al-Tijari is keen on encouraging customers to use their banking cards safely. Cardholders should continuously check the validity of their cards and credit limits before travel, and make sure to update their contact information at the Bank.

They should also be careful not to write down the password (PIN Code) or any personal information anywhere, lest fraudsters access such information.

Customers should never share their password or the one time password (OTP code) with anyone, and to read the content of the received messages containing the (OTP) to check the name of the relevant store. Customers should not use public Wi-Fi services in completing their banking transactions if the safety of the network is not trusted.

The Bank stressed the importance of downloading CBK Mobile App on smartphones for more information on how to use cards during travel. When using ATM machines, customers should always ensure there are not any unusual devices or information hacking devices installed on the ATM. In case of card loss or theft or having any card issues, it is essential to contact the Bank’s customer service immediately.

### Sustainability and Social Responsibility

Al-Tijari continues to show a strong commitment towards its sustainability and social responsibility. The Bank hosted the Integrated Care Association for Special Needs at its branches where a workshop was organised on environment sustainability. The workshop discussed the importance of recycling materials for environment preser-

vation.

The Bank also encouraged its employees to adopt the recycling approach by allocating a container in the Bank’s branches and headquarters where old electronic devices, wires and other unused children toys were placed by the Bank’s employees.

In celebration of Eid, the Bank visited the Paediatric department in Al-Amiri Hospital to congratulate and share the festivities with the children.

The Bank also distributed Iftar meals to construction and cleaning workers in different areas on

the Holy Day of Arafat within the framework of “Hawwin Alaihom” campaign.

Under its social responsibility and for encouraging staff to adopt a healthy lifestyle, the Bank hosted a team of medical professionals to conduct medical tests including blood pressure and diabetes, and advising on improving lifestyle. ‘Lunch and Learn’ workshop was also organised whereby staff were informed about the benefits of having a healthy diet. In addition, the staff were also trained to cook healthy food for their day to day life.

## Ministry issues 1,495 certificates of origin to GCC countries

## Kuwait’s non-oil exports drop by 9.6% in June

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has reported a decline in Kuwait’s non-oil exports for June, with total local exports amounting to 7.21 million dinars (approximately \$9.70 million), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This marks a decrease of 9.6% compared to 8.23 million dinars (about \$8.77 million) in May.

Saleh Al-Azmi, Undersecretary of the International Organizations Affairs and Foreign Trade Sector, provided insights into the export data in a statement to KUNA.

He noted that in June, the Ministry issued 1,495 certificates of origin for exports to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, valued at 68.11 million dinars (approximately \$38 million). This is a slight decrease from

May, when 1,502 certificates were issued, valued at 7.14 million dinars (around \$48 million).

For Arab and Islamic countries, the Ministry issued 403 certificates in June with a value of 3.9 million dinars (about \$4.30 million), up from 308 certificates worth 5.7 million dinars (about \$5.24 million) in May.

In contrast, the number of certificates issued to European countries decreased, with 11 certificates worth 515,276 dinars (about \$7.1 million) issued in June, compared to 13 certificates valued at 1.1 million dinars (around \$6.3 million) in May.

Similarly, exports to African countries saw a decline, with four certificates issued in June totaling 115,949 dinars (about \$376,000), down from seven certificates worth 240,891 dinars

(approximately \$784,000) in the previous month.

For the Americas, five certificates were issued in June for a total of 77,216 dinars (around \$251,000), compared to six certificates worth 141,590 dinars (about \$461,000) in May.

Asian exports also saw a reduction, with two certificates issued in June valued at 1,345 dinars (about \$4,000), down from three certificates worth 11,647 dinars (around \$38,000) in May.

Al-Azmi emphasized that some Kuwaiti exports do not require a certificate of origin. Therefore, the figures provided reflect only those exports for which certificates were issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Kuwaiti factories are increasingly tapping into international markets, exporting a wide range of products to

destinations across the globe. These products span several continents, including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the Arab world, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas.

A number of Kuwaiti factories export their products to various markets around the world, starting with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, then the Arab countries, reaching the European continent, the African continent, the Asian continent, Australia, and the American continents.

These products are diverse and include, but are not limited to (liquid gases, food products, polyethylene, organic solvent, empty cardboard boxes, white solvent, refined oil, mineral oil liquids, medical oxygen, dairy products, empty glass bottles, and copper

## Central bank faces rate cut dilemma

## Turkey’s economic recovery boosts foreign investment

## Turkey offers \$30 bln high-tech incentive program

ISTANBUL, July 27, (Xinhua): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday introduced a national high technology incentive program.

Speaking at a launching event in Istanbul, Erdogan said the government planned a series of grant and tax incentives totaling 30 U.S. billion dollars to spur investments in electric vehicles, battery production, semiconductor manufacturing, and renewable energy for 2024-2028.

The program aimed at a strong revival in interna-

tures, and early cuts could further strain their finances.

The slowdown in inflation has raised expectations of an imminent central bank policy shift. Deutsche Bank, for instance, predicts two 250 basis point cuts in November and December.

Small and medium-sized businesses, facing dramatically increased borrowing costs since last year, also favor a relaxation of monetary policy.

However, the central bank appears hesitant to cut rates this year, prioritizing a significant decline in inflation before making such a move. The bank’s

governor, Fatih Karahan, reiterated the bank’s commitment to fighting inflation and maintaining its tight monetary stance in a recent interview with Reuters. The bank left its benchmark rate unchanged for the fourth consecutive month at its July meeting.

“Recent data confirms a slowdown in domestic demand, albeit still inflationary,” the bank stated.

Ankara-based finance professor Senol Babuscü believes it’s too early to guarantee sustained disinflation throughout the year, despite June’s faster-than-expected decline. He argues that a potential

tional direct investments and “attracting at least 20 billion dollars in private sector investment” to the country, Erdogan said.

Türkiye would offer a five-billion-dollar incentive package to boost the domestic production capacity of electric vehicles to at least 1 million units per year.

Grant support would also be offered for building 15-GW solar cell facilities, and the manufacture of critical components in wind energy and offshore turbines, he noted.

August rate cut would be a “mistake.”

The central bank will release updated inflation projections in August and may revise its year-end target upwards. A recent survey by the bank revealed market participants now expect inflation to fall to 42.9 percent by year-end, down from a previous estimate of 43.5 percent.

Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek anticipates a temporary rise in July inflation due to factors like public pension hikes for inflation-hit retirees. He remains confident that the disinflation process will gain traction in the coming months.



# ABK announces H1 financial results: 22% increase in net profit to KD 29.06 million

Total Assets reached KD 6.64 billion

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) proudly announced its robust financial results for H1 2024, once again affirming its position as a leading financial institution.

**Financial Performance**

ABK reported a Net Profit of KD 29.06 million, representing a 22% increase and an increase in Earnings per Share (EPS) of 20% to 12 fils. Operating Income increased by 15% to KD 100.94 million while Operating Profit witnessed an increase of 21%, reaching KD 53.57 million, reflecting the Bank's strong profitability and shareholder value creation.

Total Assets reached KD 6.64 billion while maintaining steady growth in Loans and Advances amounting to KD 4.5 billion, with Customer Deposits at KD 3.97 billion, affirming the Group's reputation as a trusted financial partner. Moreover, the Bank's Non-performing Loan (NPL) ratio stood at 1.31%, with NPL coverage at 447%, Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) at 15.3%, and Shareholders' Equity at KD 607million, further underscoring ABK's financial stability, healthy financial position, and robust balance sheet.

**Solid Plans**

Commenting on this achievement, Mr. Talal Behbehani, Chairman of ABK, stated, "The growth that the Group has witnessed in financial indicators during H1 2024 demonstrates our success in developing appropriate plans that keep pace with the continuous changes in the Kuwaiti, regional, and global economies. It also highlights our strong financial market position in addition to our commitment to preserving shareholders' rights and consistently providing them with added value."

He reiterated that ABK is fully

prepared to contribute to financing upcoming large developmental projects in Kuwait in the near future. The Chairman expressed confidence that the partnership between the public and private sectors in implementing Kuwait Vision 2035 as envisaged would elevate economic activity and contribute to transforming Kuwait into a regional and global commercial and financial center.

Mr. Behbehani emphasized the adoption of the highest standards of governance and transparency in dealing with all stakeholders and shareholders in ABK, indicating that the Board of Directors and Executive Management consistently work on implementing plans and operations in a timely manner to provide the best returns and maintain trust.

He also revealed that, during H1 2024, the Board of Directors approved the new environmental, social, and governance (ESG) and sustainability 5-year strategy, aimed at elevating the Group's successes and achievements across all sectors.

Furthermore, Mr. Behbehani stated that ABK continues to work on its digital transformation plan and adopts the highest security standards in all divisions. This includes signing agreements for utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, enhancing performance and services, and innovating more banking solutions to assist customers in executing their financial transactions in the simplest and most secure ways.

Mr. Behbehani added, "We are pleased to have maintained our high ratings with a stable outlook by global credit rating agencies, with an A rating from Fitch and an A2 from Moody's." He affirmed that these confirm the Group's financial stability and its ability to earn trust as a reliable banking and financial partner in both the Kuwaiti and regional markets it operates in, namely in the United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

He emphasized, "These ratings reflect the high confidence we enjoy



Mr. Talal Mohamed Reza Behbehani - ABK Chairman.

■ Mr. Talal Behbehani:  
The growth that the Group has witnessed in financial indicators during H1 2024 demonstrates our success in developing sophisticated and distinctive plans.

thanks to our innovative financial products and services that are widely popular in the market."

**Committed to Innovation**

On his part, Mr. Abdulla Al Sumait, Acting Group Chief Executive Officer at ABK, said, "We have once again succeeded in maintaining our growth by consistently introducing worthwhile banking products, services, and solutions that meet individual and corporate customers' ever-evolving needs." This is in addition to ABK's participation in several financial deals, confirming the trust that the Group enjoys from global companies.

**New Campaigns**

H1 2024 witnessed the launch of several new campaigns, reflecting ABK's commitment to offering customers exclusive benefits as a token of appreciation for their trust.



Mr. Abdulla Al Sumait - Acting Group Chief Executive Officer.

■ Mr. Abdulla Al Sumait:  
We have once again succeeded in maintaining our growth by consistently introducing worthwhile banking products, services, and solutions that meet individual and corporate customers' ever-evolving needs.

Some examples include the launch of Al Tajer Plus to assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in growing their businesses and increasing their profitability. Another great success is the recent summer campaign, providing cardholders with exceptional benefits and discounts.

In addition, the UAE mortgage loan was introduced, allowing customers to acquire financing for property purchases as part of ABK's continuous efforts to integrate operations across the region. This comes alongside the debut of the first-of-its-kind Family Banking package in the Kuwaiti banking sector, aimed at providing comprehensive banking services to all family members.

Mr. Al Sumait stated, "The upcoming period will involve the launch of even more promotional



ABK logo

campaigns to attract customers and establish additional partnerships that provide exclusive benefits and rewards to all segments. This is all in an effort to contribute to further elevating ABK's position in the market."

**Awards**

These efforts have not gone unnoticed where Mr. Al Sumait highlighted that the Group received numerous reputable international awards during H1 2024. He said, "These accolades have acknowledged ABK's outstanding performance, provision of the best banking services, products, and solutions to customers, and adherence to the highest standards in the banking industry."

The most recent of which was ABK's notable wins at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards 2024 for Excellence in Customer Protection/Fraud Control (Kuwait), recognizing the Bank's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its customers' interests and maintaining robust fraud control measures. The second was Best Retail Bank – Egypt award, acknowledging ABK's unparalleled dedication to providing top-notch retail banking services and solutions in Egypt.

Furthermore, ABK received J.P. Morgan's Elite Quality Recognition award alongside international accreditation from the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS). This is in addition to ABK's subsidiary, ABK Capital, being awarded Most Innovative Multi-Asset Fund Management Company from International Finance.

**Widespread Presence**

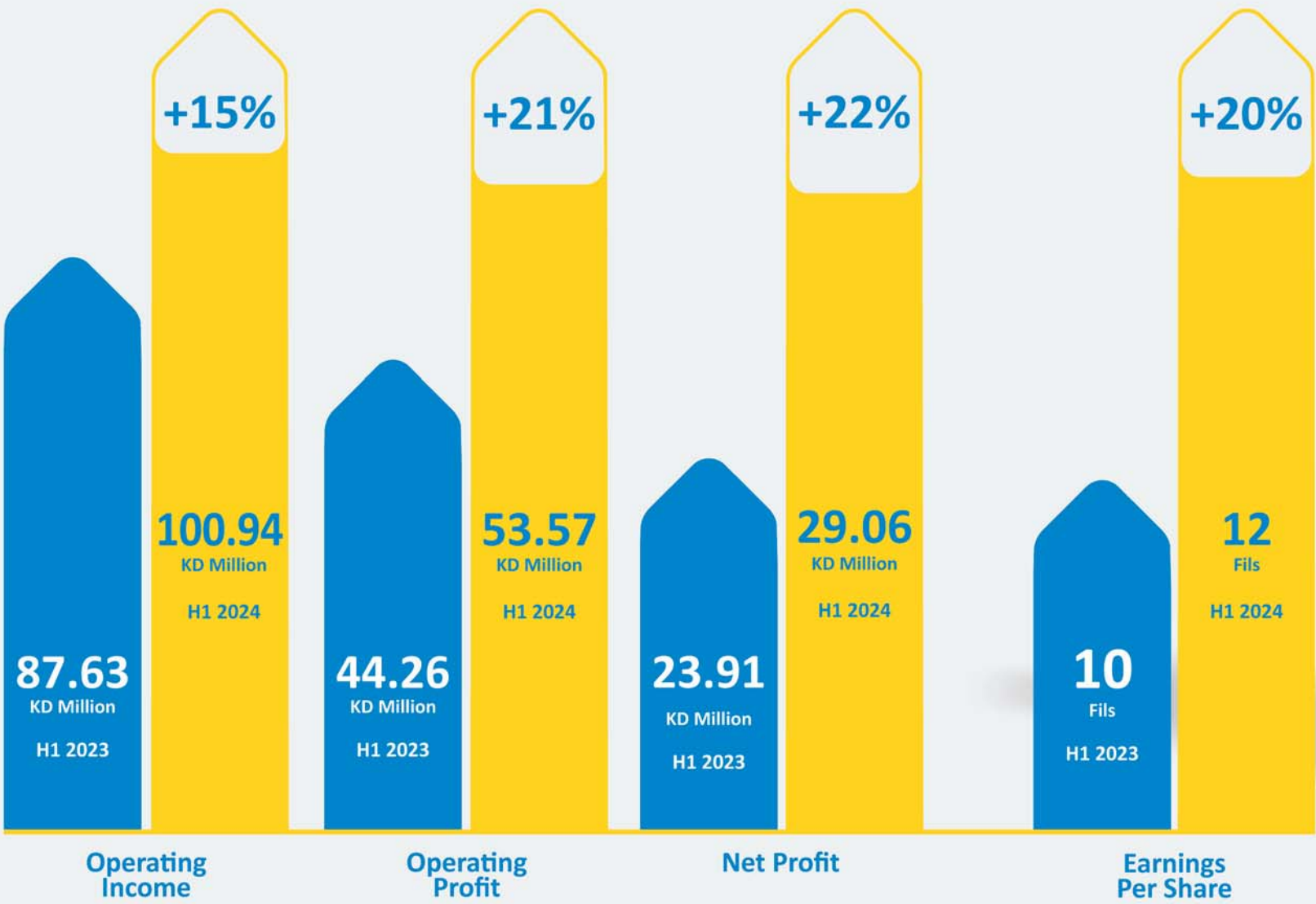
Mr. Al Sumait added that the Group also participated in global events and conferences during H1 2024, such as the Global Digital Banking Conference as well as the Visa Payments Forum, and the Dubai FinTech Summit. He stated, "This provided the opportunity to stay abreast of the latest developments in payment technologies as well as the global banking industry to deliver the same standard to customers across all the markets we operate in." This effort falls in line with ABK's consistent endeavor to achieve financial inclusion in the communities it serves.

In this spirit, ABK was keen on enhancing its community presence by sponsoring various events, such as Amiri Hospital's Eighth Medical Scientific Day and the final football match of HH the Amir, as well as several job fairs.

ABK also continues to support the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association's 'Let's Be Aware' banking awareness campaign. This includes spreading financial awareness about various banking services and solutions, providing tips on how to combat financial fraud, and informing customers of their rights and responsibilities when dealing with banks.

Mr. Al Sumait concluded his statement stating, "I would like to express my appreciation to our customers for their unwavering loyalty and trust. I also commend the efforts of all our employees and encourage them to continue their pursuit of excellence that allows us to maintain our position as a leading bank in the sector."

## 2024 H1 RESULTS





13 KFH employees assist customers across 7 Turkish cities

KFH deploys team to Turkey for summer customer assistance

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) deployed a team of employees to Turkey this summer to assist customers and visitors at KFH-Turkey branches.

For the third consecutive year, KFH presents this initiative to further solidify its leadership in customer service. This program caters to the growing number of customers who travel to various regions within Turkey during their summer vacations. Additionally, it addresses the needs of KFH-Turkey customers who own property or investments in the country and visit throughout the year.

The team comprises 13 employees spread across 13 branches in 7 cities: Istanbul, Bursa, Izmit, Sapanca, Kusadasi, Trabzon, and Bodrum. They will continue to serve customers until the end of August this year.

KFH Deputy General Manager – Products, Nehal Almosalem, affirmed the bank’s commitment to providing a distinguished customer service experience that surpasses the standards of the Kuwaiti banking sector.

She emphasized that KFH is dedi-



Nehal Almosalem

■ **Almosalem:** KFH's initiative continues for the third consecutive year to deliver the best customer experience

■ KFH-Turkey service center in Khalidiya branch served over 8,000 customers since opening



Several employees of KFH in front of KFH Turkey branch.

cated to continuously improving its services and products. This ensures a mutually beneficial relationship with its customers, by streamlining their financial transactions both locally and internationally.

Almosalem explained that this three-year initiative is the culmina-

tion of significant efforts across various KFH departments. Notably, the Group’s Human Resources department and the Retail Banking department collaborated. She further explained that employees were selected based on specific criteria, and KFH developed a comprehensive action plan to ensure the best possible customer service.

Highlighting the benefits of cooperation, she mentioned the opening of the KFH-Turkey service center at the Khalidiya branch late last year. This center has been a great success, serving over 8,000 customers since its launch. Conveniently located in Kuwait, the center allows customers to conduct various banking transactions with KFH-Turkey, including opening new accounts, updating data, and activating the application – all without needing to travel to Turkey.

Almosalem explained that all KFH customers can benefit from the bank’s services, which include instant transfers. This allows customers to transfer money to Turkey even on official holidays, free of charge.

‘Diverse opportunities for startups’

KIB launches new initiative to empower Kuwaiti SMEs

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has announced the launch of a new initiative titled “Empowering Kuwaiti Startups”, designed to support local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that play a vital role in the economy. The new initiative underscores KIB’s commitment to fostering local business growth and providing greater opportunities for collaboration and success. It also solidifies the Bank’s continuous support of the country’s vision and efforts to position Kuwait as an economic and commercial hub within the region.

Commenting on the occasion, Nasser Al-Osaimi – Head of Procurement at KIB, said: “The new initiative is designed with the objective of fostering the growth and development of Kuwaiti startups by providing them with essential procurement support and collaboration opportunities with KIB. The step reflects the Bank’s dedication to nurturing local talent and businesses, lending a hand to startups to achieve greater success, and helping to create a robust ecosystem where Kuwaiti entrepreneurs and SMEs can flourish and thrive.”

Al-Osaimi added: “KIB’s Procurement Department is at the forefront of this effort, offering a range of support services, including identifying sourcing opportunities and providing startups with access to KIB’s procurement needs, giving them the chance to become our suppliers if they meet the required standards and are awarded contracts. Additionally, KIB is introducing supplier development programs that provide training and guidelines to help startups improve their processes



Nasser Al-Osaimi, Head of Procurement at KIB.

and meet the Bank’s high standards.”

This initiative opens the door to partnerships with a diverse array of startups, including tech companies, catering services, flower shops, freelancers, videographers, and photographers, Al-Osaimi explained, adding that all Kuwaiti SMEs and entrepreneurs interested in this initiative can apply anytime by sending all supporting documents to Procurement@KIB.com.kw.

“By offering these opportunities and resources, we are not only empowering businesses; we are building a community of innovators and creators who will shape the future of Kuwait’s economy. KIB looks forward to building new partnerships with local businesses and contributing to their growth and development,” Al-Osaimi said.

It is worth noting that in addition to providing innovative banking solutions, KIB is dedicated to supporting the success of entrepreneurship and SMEs in Kuwait. As part of its efforts, the Bank launched KIB Mubader

Center – a start-up incubator and accelerator – in 2022 and has since then sought to help local entrepreneurs and start-ups scale their businesses to new heights. A long-standing patron of community and business development, KIB continues to contribute significantly to the country’s economy.

**About KIB**

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

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

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

New app features simplify user navigation

Weyay Bank unveils personalized and customizable app homepage

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Weyay Bank redefines the way users interact with their own banking app by providing a more personalized and customizable banking experience. This step sheds light on the Bank’s continuing efforts to optimize its mobile app in a way that allows users to add their own touch to the homepage and make it as unique as their individual preferences.

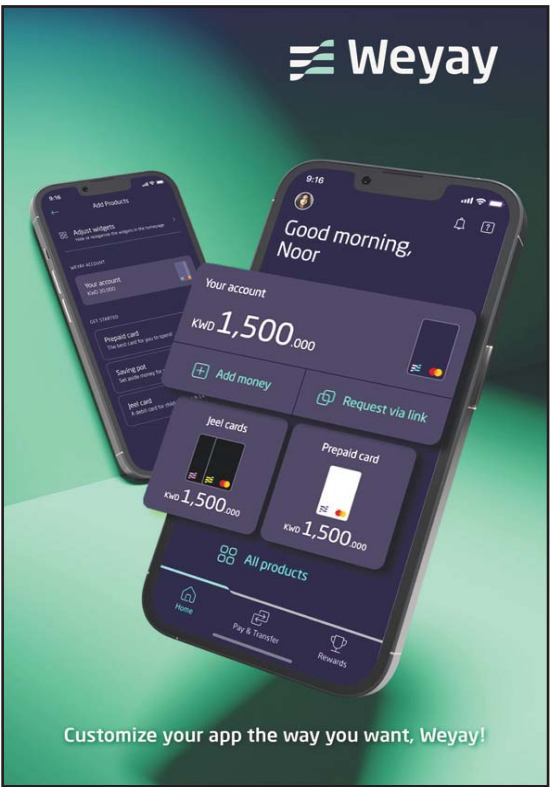
The new homepage design features a sleek and intuitive layout that aims to improve user engagement and navigation. With a focus on simplicity and functionality, it ensures that users can easily access the app digital features and products with just a few taps, making their overall experience seamless and enjoyable.

Some of the key highlights of the new update include:

- Customizable widgets that help users personalize their homepage by showing, hiding, or rearranging products in a way that suits their individual style.
- A visually appealing layout that showcases the app’s features and user’s products.
- Simplified navigation for easy access to the new features and products introduced by the Bank.

“As we believe in providing our customers with a banking experience that is not only convenient but also tailored to their individual needs, we aim for refreshing our app homepage with some enhancements that add to its personalization and customization features,” mentioned Mohammad Al-Hunaidi, Product Owner at Weyay Bank. “With these enhancements, we think of our app users as owners who are empowered and able to take control of their own banking experience and customize their homepage the way they want.”

The updated interface is now live and available for all Weyay users. For more information about the Weyay Bank app, please visit [www.weaybank.com](http://www.weaybank.com) or download the app from the App Store or Google Play Store.



Weyay Bank app

The Conversation

Modernizing math content to align with career needs

‘Real equity in math education is about more than good grades and test scores’

By Megan Staples  
University of Connecticut

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

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Math education outcomes in the United States have been unequal for decades. Learners in the top 10% socioeconomically tend to be about four grade levels ahead of learners in the bottom 10% – a statistic that has remained stubbornly persistent for 50 years.

To advance equity, policymakers and educators often focus on boosting test scores and grades and making advanced courses more widely available. Through this lens, equity means all students earn similar grades and progress to similar levels of math.

With more than three decades of experience as a researcher, math teacher and teacher educator, I advocate for expanding what equity means in mathematics education. I believe policymakers and educators should focus less on test scores and grades and more on developing students’ confidence and ability to use math to make smart personal and professional decisions. This is mathematical power – and true equity.

To understand the limitations of thinking about equity solely in terms of academic achievements, consider a student whom I interviewed during her freshman year of college.

Jasmine took Algebra 1 in ninth grade, followed by a summer online geometry course. This put her on a pathway to study calculus during her senior year in an AP class in which she earned an A. She graduated high school in the top 20% of her class and went to a highly selective liberal arts college. Now in her first year, she plans to study psychology.

Did Jasmine receive an equitable mathematics education? From an equity-as-achievement perspective, yes. But let’s take a closer look.

Jasmine experienced anxiety in her math classes during her junior and senior years in high school. Despite strong grades, she found herself “in a little bit of a panic” when faced with situations that require mathematical analysis. This included deciding the best loan options.

In college, Jasmine’s major required statistics. Her counselor and family encouraged her to take calculus over statistics in high school because calculus “looked better” for college applications. She wishes now she had studied statistics as a foundation for her major and for its usefulness outside of school. In her psychology classes, knowledge of statistics helps her better understand the landscape of disorders and to ask questions like, “How does gender impact this disorder?”

These outcomes suggest Jasmine did not receive an equitable mathematics education, because she did not develop mathematical power. Mathematical power is the know-how and confidence to use math to inform decisions and navigate the demands of daily life – whether personal, professional or civic. An equitable education would help her develop the confidence to use mathematics to make decisions in her personal life and realize her professional goals. Jasmine deserved more from her mathematics education.

Experiences like Jasmine’s are unfortunately common. According to one large-scale study, only 37% of U.S. adults have mathematical skills that are useful for making routine financial and medical decisions.

A National Council on Education and the Economy report found that coursework for nine common majors, including nursing, required relatively few of the mainstream math topics taught in most high schools. A recent study found that teachers and parents perceive math education as “unengaging, outdated and disconnected from the real world.”

Looking at student experiences, national survey results show that large proportions of students experience anxiety about math class, low levels of confidence in math, or both. Students from historically marginalized groups experience this anxiety at higher rates than their peers. This can frustrate their postsecondary pursuits and negatively affect their lives.

In 2023, I collaborated with other educators from Connecticut’s professional math education associations to author an equity position statement. The position statement, which was endorsed by the Connecticut State Board of Education, outlines three commitments to transform mathematics education.

1. Foster positive math identities: The first commitment is to foster positive math identities, which includes students’ confidence levels and their beliefs about math and their ability to learn it. Many students have a very negative relationship with mathematics. This commitment is particularly important for students of color and language learners to counteract the impact of stereotypes about who can be successful in mathematics.

A growing body of material exists to help teachers and schools promote positive math identities. For example, writing a math autobiography can help students see the role of math in their lives. They can also reflect on their identity as a “math person.” Teachers should also acknowledge students’ strengths and encourage them to share their own ideas as a way to empower them.

2. Modernize math content: The second commitment is to modernize the mathematical content that school districts offer to students. For example, a high school mathematics pathway for students interested in health care professions might include algebra, math for medical professionals and advanced statistics. With these skills, students will be better prepared to calculate drug dosages, communicate results and risk factors to patients, interpret reports and research, and catch potentially life-threatening errors.

3. Align state policies and requirements: The third commitment is to align state policies and school districts in their definition of mathematical proficiency and the requirements for achieving it. In 2018, for instance, eight states had a high school math graduation requirement insufficient for admission to the public universities in the same state. Other states’ requirements exceed the admission requirements. Aligning state and district definitions of math proficiency clears up confusion for students and eliminates unnecessary barriers.

As long as educators and policymakers focus solely on equalizing test scores and enrollment in advanced courses, I believe true equity will remain elusive. Mathematical power – the ability and confidence to use math to make smart personal and professional decisions – needs to be the goal. (AP)

Pastry chef Ashutosh crafts Lazy Dabdoub dessert

Four Seasons Kuwait presents ‘Lazy Dabdoub’ dessert delight

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: In the heart of the Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya, nestled within the cozy ambiance of Al Soor Lounge, resides a very special guest – Lazy Dabdoub. This adorable teddy bear, resting on a fluffy cloud, has captured hearts with his delightful charm and irresistible sweetness. But what is the story behind this little bear?

Once upon a time, Lazy Dabdoub embarked on a grand adventure, leaving his chilly home at the North Pole. Drawn by tales of the luxurious hospitality and warmth of Kuwait, he decided to visit and stayed at the renowned Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait. The moment he stepped into the hotel, its beauty and the incredible comfort it offered enchanted him.

Lazy Dabdoub was so captivated by the hotel’s luxurious amenities and the

vibrant atmosphere that he overstayed his visit. The sun-drenched days, the hustle and bustle of Souk Al-Mubarak-iyah, and the allure of modern shopping malls made it impossible for him to leave. And so, he found himself lounging comfortably in Al Soor, soaking up the Kuwaiti sun and the delightful ambiance of the hotel.

With his passport expired and the North Pole far behind, Lazy Dabdoub decided to embrace his new life in Kuwait. The scorching summer sun and the unparalleled comfort of Four Seasons made him the laziest bear around, content to doze off and dream sweetly. And what better way to commemorate his stay than by transforming into a delectable dessert?

Our talented Pastry Chef, Ashutosh,

has crafted Lazy Dabdoub with the finest ingredients: Luscious Valrhona milk chocolate mousse, hazelnut dacquoise & crunch, and lemon sponge. This delightful creation, resting on a cloud of lemon cake covered in white and sky blue icing, is not just a treat for the eyes, but a journey of flavors that will leave your taste buds longing for more.

Now, Lazy Dabdoub is waiting for adventurers like you to wake him up and indulge in his sweetness. Whether you’re exploring the vibrant streets of Kuwait City, shopping at the luxurious malls, or simply relaxing in the serene environment of the Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya, make sure to visit Al Soor Lounge. Come meet (or eat!) the adorable Lazy Dabdoub and create your own sweet adventure.



A delectable treat at Al Soor Lounge.



‘Deadpool & Wolverine’ is already breaking records, with more possible soon

Marvel teases post-‘Deadpool & Wolverine’ plans at Comic-Con

SAN DIEGO, July 27, (AP): Marvel Studios is returning to San Diego Comic-Con for its iconic Saturday night panel, which is expected to feature big announcements and surprise guests.

After Marvel skipped the convention last year due to the Hollywood strikes, which prevented writers and actors from speaking on panels, anticipation for its session in Comic-Con’s famed Hall H is palpable among fans.

The studio is expected to announce news teasing their upcoming titles in its “Phase 5” plan and beyond, with Marvel President Kevin Feige as the only confirmed speaker. He will be joined by several special guests, who may include stars of upcoming Marvel titles like “Captain America: Brave New World,” “Thunderbolts(asterisk)” and “The Fantastic Four.”

Fans are speculating that Marvel will confirm cast members and show clips or trailers for upcoming films and Disney+ series.

Marvel already took over Hall H on Thursday with an electric panel celebrating “Deadpool & Wolverine,” in which the audience was treated to a full screening and surprise guests joining stars Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman on stage.

The mounting enthusiasm for the film at Comic-Con was reflected across the country as the fans rushed to see it in theaters, securing the film as the new record holder for the Thursday preview for an R-rated movie. The comic book film sold an estimated \$38.5 million worth of movie tickets from preview screenings Thursday.

The “Deadpool & Wolverine” success woke up a sleepy year for Marvel and assuaged worries about its box-office underperformance in late 2023. The superhero factory hit a record low in November with the launch of “The Marvels,” which opened with just \$47 million.

Prior to the studio’s latest opening, which is on track to break more records, the idea of “superhero fatigue” became a popular talking point in the film world.

“Deadpool & Wolverine” and Thursday’s packed panel have dampened discussion of audience apathy for comic book movies.

**Previews**

Meanwhile, “Deadpool & Wolverine” has gotten off to a supercharged start at the box office, breaking the Thursday preview record for an R-rated movie. The comic-book film sold an estimated \$38.5 million worth of movie tickets from preview screenings Thursday, Disney said Friday.

The previous R-rated record-holder was “Deadpool 2,” released by Fox’s 20th Century Studios in May of 2018. That made \$18.6 million from Thursday previews and went on to make \$125.5 million in its first weekend.

In fact, the previews played more like “Star Wars: The Rise of the Skywalker” (\$40 million) and “Avengers: Infinity War” (\$39 million) than the previous two “Deadpool” movies.

The arrival of “Deadpool & Wolverine” has been long awaited by

both audiences and theater owners. The box office as a whole continues to trail last year (down 17%), partially due to ripple effects of the actors strike affecting release schedule and a lack of major hits. Compared to the pre-pandemic 2019, 2024 is down over 34%.

“Deadpool & Wolverine” is also the first Marvel movie of the summer season – a crucial 123 day earnings corridor for Hollywood that often accounts for some 40% of the annual box office total. Unlike many summers over the past decade, this year did not kick off with a blockbuster Marvel film; The business has been struggling to regain that footing since.

Also at play is the idea of “superhero fatigue” at the box office, in which there have been more disappointments than runaway hits lately. But “Deadpool & Wolverine” seems to be immune from that crisis.

With positive reviews and genuine fan enthusiasm, it is cruising to break more records over the weekend, where it’s playing on over 4,200 screens in the United States and Canada. Analysts expect it to earn at least \$160 million through Sunday, which would make it the biggest R-rated opener of all time, unseating the first “Deadpool,” and the biggest debut of 2024.

To crack the top 10 openings of all time, however, “Deadpool & Wolverine” would have to vastly overperform and make at least \$191.3, or enough to bump “Avengers: Age of Ultron” into 11th place.

It’s also playing in 48 markets internationally where it’s earned \$64.8 million in its first two days.’

Variety



This image released by Bleecker Street shows, (from left), Susan Sarandon, Megan Mullally, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Bette Midler in a scene from ‘The Fabulous Four.’ (AP)

Film

Midler, Sarandon and Ralph cherish longtime friends

Third-act buddy comedy in ‘Fabulous Four’

By Lindsey Bahr

**LOS ANGELES:** Justin Timberlake’s lawyer said Friday that the pop singer wasn’t intoxicated during a traffic stop last month, as he seeks to get his drunken driving charge in **New York’s** Hamptons dismissed, citing errors in documents submitted by police.

But Sag Harbor Village Justice **Carl Irace** ordered Timberlake to be re-arraigned Aug. 2 with the corrected paperwork.

He also agreed the former NSYNC member, who is currently on tour in **Europe**, could appear virtually for the proceeding. Timberlake didn’t attend Friday’s hearing as his appearance was waived in advance.

Timberlake’s lawyer, **Edward Burke**, said after the hearing that police made “very significant errors” and expects the charge to be dismissed. He also maintained that Timberlake didn’t drive drunk.

“He was not intoxicated,” Burke told reporters outside court. “I’ll say it again. Justin Timberlake was not intoxicated.”

**Suffolk County** District Attorney **Ray Tierney’s** office, which is prosecuting the case, described the paperwork issue as a “ministerial error” and that an amended charging document was filed July 2.

“The facts and circumstance of the case have not been changed or amended,” spokesperson **Emily O’Neil** said in an email. Burke, in a follow-up statement, suggested there were other problems with the arrest documents but didn’t elaborate.

“The police made a number of very significant errors in this case,” he said. “In court today, you heard the district attorney try to fix one of those errors. But that’s just one and there are many others. Sometimes the police make mistakes and this is just one of those instances.”

Timberlake respects law enforcement and the judicial process and cooperated with officers and treated them with respect throughout his arrest last month, Burke added.

Tierney’s office declined to respond to Burke’s comments.

“We stand ready to litigate the underlying facts of this case in court, rather than in the press,” O’Neil said.

Timberlake was charged with the misdemeanor on June 18 after police said he ran a stop sign and veered out of his lane in Sag Harbor, a onetime whaling village mentioned in **Herman Melville’s**

Scheduling a movie’s release date is an imperfect science and occasionally an art. Just look at the masterpiece that was “Barbenheimer.”

While most are open to experimentation in figuring out just what audiences want and when in the wild west of modern theatrical moviegoing, there’s also an unwritten rule that it’s best to leave big superhero movie weekends clear of competition. But whoever thought to open the third-act female friendship comedy “The Fabulous Four” alongside “Deadpool & Wolverine” deserves a raise. Because if any audience is being underserved on the opening weekend of an oxygen-sucking, violent and self-referential superhero mashup, it’s women over 60.

So, what better way to escape the merc with a mouth than a trip to Key West with Bette Midler, Susan Sarandon, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Megan Mullally?

In the vein of “80 for Brady” and “Book Club,” “The Fabulous Four” may not be a great movie, but it’s also better than it looks. Although it strains for raucousness with edibles and a parasailing expedition gone wrong, there is something admirably sane about it too even if you don’t believe a single moment. It begins, as many of these kinds of films do, with a somewhat tortured explanation of why these women became friends in their youth. Though it nods at a slight age difference between college peers Lou (Sarandon) and Marilyn (Midler) and the two gals they met in New York, Alice (Mullally) and Kitty (Ralph), it’s better to not do the math.

Besides, the more interesting question is not why four single girls in the same building became friends, but rather how they maintained that closeness over the decades. This big life mystery goes largely unexplored, instead focusing on the 40-year estrangement between Lou (now a heart surgeon) and Marilyn. It’s a drama that for utterly incomprehensible reasons Alice (a rock star, seriously) and Kitty (a cannabis entrepreneur grandma) are still entangled in.

Marilyn, recently widowed, is newly engaged and desperately wants Lou to be at her wedding. Alice and Kitty lure Lou to Key West under false pretenses, telling her that she’s won a polydactyl (six-toed) cat and

can visit the Hemingway House. They don’t have anything more elaborate in store in this lie. Their plan, it seems, is just to roll up to Marilyn’s house and surprise their unwitting hostage. This seems misguided at best but becomes retroactively cruel when the cause of the fallout is finally revealed. Why meddle now?

The movie was directed by Jocelyn Moorhouse, the Australian filmmaker behind great and varied female-focused films like “How to Make an American Quilt,” “The Dressmaker” and “Muriel’s Wedding,” and written by Jenna Milly and Ann Marie Allison. And it never quite harmonizes. These characters, fabulous as they may be individually or on paper, aren’t greater together somehow.

**Character**

As Marilyn and Lou dance around this ancient feud, you start to feel bad for Alice and Kitty, who would have much more fun ditching them and going off on their own adventure. Midler plays Marilyn so big and broad that she’s more parody than person, although there is a grain of intrigue in the 70-something who gets engaged two months after her beloved husband dies and becomes obsessed with creating TikToks. Sarandon’s Lou is the most thoughtfully developed character, as a rule-abiding woman whose life is in desperate need of a shakeup. She has some cringey moments too (the aforementioned edibles), but also several charming flirtations with the bachelors of Key West (Bruce Greenwood and Timothy V. Murphy).

This is a movie that should have probably leaned far less on wild hijinks with diminishing returns and more into the smaller moments of what it means to be friends for 40 years. But it’s not without its charms, either. I’m not going to argue with them breaking into song out of nowhere. That kind of break from reality, especially with this cast, is always welcome.

Meanwhile, from “Beaches” to “First Wives Club” and “Hocus Pocus,” Bette Midler has starred in a number of projects where women aren’t just at the center of the story - but also female friendship is a major theme.

“The most fun ones are the women ones, I have to say,” said Midler in a recent interview.

Her latest project is working alongside Susan Sarandon, Sheryl Lee Ralph and Megan Mullally in “The

Fabulous Four.” Midler plays Marilyn, a widow getting married who wants her besties from her 20s to be bridesmaids. The production was granted a waiver to film last year during the Hollywood strikes which meant they had to be nimble and open to last-minute changes to get the job done quickly.

“It was like someone blew the whistle and we all got on a plane,” recalled Sarandon. “It really was lucky that we had four women who were such pros and who were game to go under those circumstances.”

While she and her co-stars were focused because they were working under a special circumstance, Sarandon says they made a point to cheer each other on for a big on-camera moment or scene.

“When it was somebody’s time to be celebrated, we celebrated that person. And when somebody else had their scene, we were all standing around while they got their moment,” Sarandon said, adding that on some sets, actors choose to “not be really involved when it’s not about them.”

As for friendships, Midler says “there’s nothing like having an old friend because they knew you when.” Two particular people come to mind when she thinks about her own friendships. One is the sister of a close friend who died. “The other is the girl that I came to New York with when we were both 19.”

“They don’t take any bs from you, and you really can be yourself,” said Midler.

Sarandon relies on “six women” and “scores of gay guys that have been in my life for 30, 40 years.”

“We’ve been through kids and divorces and whatever, and I definitely count on them and sometimes disagree with them, but they are definitely in my tribe,” she said.

Ralph, an Emmy winner for her role on ABC’s “Abbott Elementary,” still keeps in touch with her childhood best friend, Elizabeth. “I’ll hear from her on social media every now and again,” she said.

“My friend Carol - we met at the Miss Black Teenage America pageant. We’re still friends to this day. All the ladies from ‘Dreamgirls,’ - Loretta Devine, Jenifer Lewis, Jennifer Holliday - we still talk. There are just so many of those relationships, and you don’t have to start from the beginning. You can just pick up right where you were.” (AP)

classic novel “Moby-Dick” that’s nestled amid the Hamptons, around 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of **New York City**. (AP)

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**BALTIMORE:** Kevin Spacey’s \$5.6 million waterfront condominium in Baltimore has been sold at auction amid the disgraced



Timberlake



Spacey

actor’s financial struggles following a slew of sexual misconduct allegations.

Last summer, a **London** jury acquitted Spacey on sexual assault charges stemming from allegations by four men dating back 20 years. That was his second court victory since he saw off a \$40 million lawsuit in 2022 in **New York**

brought by “Star Trek: Discovery” actor **Anthony Rapp**.

But Spacey said in an emotional interview with British broadcast host **Piers Morgan** last month that he was millions of dollars in debt, largely because of unpaid legal bills, and facing foreclosure on the Baltimore property.

Spacey moved to the Baltimore

area when he started shooting the hugely popular political thriller “House of Cards” there in 2012. Speaking through tears during the interview, Spacey said he would have to go back to Baltimore and put all his things in storage. He said he nearly had to file for bankruptcy a couple times but managed to dodge it. (AP)



People & Places

Books

Cher’s memoir soon

Brown offers a raw look on hacktivism

NEW YORK, July 27, (AP): His talents in full flower and basking in public admiration, gonzo journalist and inveterate anti-establishment troublemaker **Barrett Brown** is jailed in his native Texas on various federal felony charges.

It is 2013 and Brown’s adventures have included helping Anonymous hacktivists publicly expose private US intelligence contractors engaged in deep-state power abuses at a time of rising concerns over Big Brother surveillance.

Brown has done this in swashbuckling style – often in a drug-altered state, chatting with executives whose hacked emails have been dumped online while on opiate maintenance medication. Brown was in withdrawal from antidepressants and opioids, he would later testify, when he threatened an FBI agent in a video posted to YouTube.

“I wanted to become famous for overthrowing things,” Brown writes in his much-awaited memoir, “My Glorious Defeats: Hacktivist, Narcissist, Anonymous.”

Mainstream press coverage at the time of Brown’s prosecution was uneven and sometimes just plain inaccurate. Beyond seeking to set the record straight, the book snapshots a pivotal moment in online activism, and pulls no punches.

Although not a hacker, Brown was a well-known actor/provocateur in the rise of hacktivism, a powerful skein of political activism pioneered by the likes of WikiLeaks that tapped the internet to expose wrongdoing and spur change. That includes supporting Tunisia’s 2011 popular uprising.

Those shenanigans preceded Edward Snowden’s 2013 revelations of wholesale unauthorized National Security Agency surveillance of the US public, which would erase doubts about their righteousness.

**Freedom**

Brown is a showman, a gifted writer in the tradition of William Burroughs and Hunter S. Thompson. He also has a knack for self-sabotage and has struggled with heroin addiction and depression. He is currently in Britain engaged in a legal struggle for political asylum.

A self-described “anarchist revolutionary with a lust for insurgency,” Brown became a cause celebre of press freedom champions a decade ago, a hero of stick-it-to-the-man radicals.

The bulk of the charges he faced in 2013 were unfounded computer crimes, absurd overreach. The likes of the Committee to Protect Journalists and Electronic Frontier Foundation insisted they be dropped — and they were. But Brown had crossed too many folks at the Department of Justice and FBI. Pleading guilty to reduced charges, including for interfering with a federal investigation, Brown would end up spending four years in prison, ordered to pay more than \$800,000 in restitution.

His escapades would extend to prison activism and, later, exposing allegedly racist police misconduct. Among observations from his experiences with Aryan gangs behind bars: “An American prison is many things, among them a Nazi training camp.”

Before his 2015 sentencing, Brown was for a time under a judicial gag order because he wouldn’t stop discussing his case with reporters. So he began penning a series of jailhouse articles that included a scathing takedown of the novelist Jonathan Franzen. Some netted him a National Magazine Award.

“The public wants to be entertained. And unlike most wrongfully prosecuted political dissidents the world over, I just so happened to be an entertainer,” Brown writes of his winning formula.

Indeed, Brown’s persona in those articles is pretty much what we get in the memoir — “charmingly self-deprecating, winkingly narcissistic, comprehensively self-aware — and even candid.” Publications that carried his byline have included The Guardian, Vanity Fair, The Huffington Post and The Intercept.

But the fun-and-games end after Brown’s 2016 prison release. Some former close allies become “despised enemies.” A close collaborator dies of an overdose. An ambitious online project for researching and exposing wrongdoing — Pursuance — fizzles.

This is far from a happily-ever-after story. Having alienated many who once held him in high esteem, Brown attempted suicide in 2022, alerting the world on Twitter.

In an email exchange this week, Brown said he’s now “actually pretty happy on a day-to-day basis” but also said “I don’t read anymore and I’m no longer able to bring myself to write, which hurts a great deal.”

The memoir’s last chapter was difficult to pen. “I was deeply wounded by much of what I discovered about the last decade when it became my job to see all this completely and accurately,” he writes.

Long gone is the “formidable and serious network of noble saboteurs” who encouraged Brown to action, in the words of NBC News at the time, as “a defiant and cocky 29-year-old college dropout” who called himself a senior strategist for Anonymous.

This reviewer will refrain from further delving into the drama of Brown’s troubled legacy and current legal predicament. Between the memoir and continued online feuding, there’s plenty more to come.

It’s pretty much all out there on the internet.

Also:

**NEW YORK:** Cher has long known only one person could take on the job of telling her story. And she’s telling it in two parts.

Dey Street Books announced Wednesday that “Cher: The Memoir, Part One” will come out Nov. 19, with the second volume to follow in 2025. Dey Street, a HarperCollins imprint, is promising a “true story, in intimate detail,” starting with her “often-chaotic” childhood and famed and troubled partnership with **Sonny Bono**.

“With her trademark honesty and humor, ‘Cher: The Memoir’ traces how this diamond in the rough succeeded with no plan and little confidence to become the trailblazing superstar the world has been unable to ignore for more than half a century,” the publisher’s announcement reads in part. “Cher: The Memoir, Part One” follows her extraordinary beginnings through childhood to meeting and marrying **Sonny Bono** - and reveals the highly complicated relationship that made them world-famous, but eventually drove them apart.”

Cher, 78, is the only woman to top the Billboard charts in seven consecutive decades, her hits including “Dark Lady,” “Believe” and “DJ Play a Christmas Song.” She won an Oscar for her starring role in “Moonstruck” and has received numerous other honors, including membership in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



Bassist Mike Dirnt, (from left), singer Billie Joe Armstrong and drummer Tre Cool of the band Green Day perform on ABC’s ‘Good Morning America’ at Rumsey Playfield/SummerStage on Friday, July 26, in New York. (AP)

Asia

‘Melania,’ a powerful and inspiring story

Melania to tell her story in memoir

NEW YORK, July 27, (AP): Former first lady Melania Trump has a memoir coming out this fall, “Melania,” billed by her office as “a powerful and inspiring story of a woman who has carved her own path, overcome adversity and defined personal excellence.” It’s the first memoir by Trump, who has been mostly absent as her husband, former President Donald Trump, seeks to return to the White House.

“Melania” will be released by Skyhorse Publishing, which has published such Donald Trump supporters as former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and attorney Alan Dershowitz. Skyhorse also has worked with third-party candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and former Trump insider Michael Cohen, who later became one of his harshest critics. Some Skyhorse books include forewords by Trump ally Steve Bannon.

Intimate

Melania Trump’s memoir was announced Thursday by her office, which neither provided a specific release date nor mentioned whether it would come out before Election Day in November. Trump has been the subject of other books, including one by former adviser Stephanie Winston Wolkoff, but she has never told her own story at length before.

The former first lady “invites readers into her world, offering an intimate portrait of a woman who has lived an extraordinary life,” the announcement reads in part. “‘Melania’ includes personal stories and family photos she has never before shared with the public.”

A spokesperson said no information was available beyond what was included in the release, which made no reference to financial terms, promotional plans or if she worked with a co-author.

Melania Trump, Donald Trump’s third wife, has been an enigmatic figure since her husband announced he was running in the 2016 election. She has sought to maintain her privacy even as she served as first lady, focusing on raising their son, Barron, and promoting her “Be Best” initiative to support the “social, emotional, and physical health of children.” While she appeared at her husband’s campaign launch event for 2024 and attended the closing night of last week’s Republican National Convention, she has otherwise stayed off the campaign trail. Her decision not to deliver a speech at this year’s convention marked a departure from tradition for candidates’ wives, and from the 2016 and 2020 Republican gatherings.

According to her office, the memoir will come in two versions: a \$150 “Collector’s Edition,” 256 pages, “in full color throughout, with each copy signed by the author,” and a “Memoir Edition,” 304 pages, including 48 pages of never-before-seen photographs. The book is listed at \$40, with signed editions going for \$75.

Both editions are available for pre-order exclusively through the first lady’s web site, MelaniaTrump.com. A spokesperson did not have any immediate comment on when or whether it could be ordered elsewhere.

Unlike other former presidents and first ladies, Donald and Melania Trump have not released any post-White House books through mainstream New York publishers. Donald Trump published numerous books before his presidency, working with Random House and Simon & Schuster among others, but many shunned him after the siege of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

LONDON, July 27, (AP): Prince Harry said his crusade against the British tabloids has contributed to his royal family rift, according to a documentary airing Thursday.

In his most extensive comments since he won a major victory last year when a judge found phone hacking was “widespread and habitual” at the UK’s Mirror Group Newspapers, the Duke of Sussex told the broadcaster ITV that he wished his family had joined him in his invasion of privacy litigation.

Harry said his ongoing battle with the tabloids in public - becoming the first senior royal in over a century to testify in court - was a “central piece” to his family fallout.

“The mission continues, but it has, yes, it’s caused, as you say, part of a rift,” Harry said in “Tabloids On Trial.” Harry, 39, the younger son of King Charles III, broke with the family’s attitude of “never complain, never explain” by taking the press to court.

His father opposed his litigation, Harry said in legal filings. He also revealed that his older brother William, Prince of Wales and heir to the throne, had secretly settled a complaint against Rupert Murdoch’s News Group Newspapers for a “huge” sum.

The lawsuits, however, are not the only source of family friction. Harry literally distanced himself from his kin when he and his wife, Meghan, opted to leave royal life for the U.S. in 2020. They cited intrusions and a racist attitude by the media toward Meghan, who is biracial. The couple later suggested there was racial bias within the royal family, an allegation likely to have further alienated Harry before his memoir, “Spare” removed all doubt there was a division.

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His father opposed his litigation, Harry said in legal filings. He also revealed that his older brother William, Prince of Wales and heir to the throne, had secretly settled a complaint against Rupert Murdoch’s News Group Newspapers for a “huge” sum.

The lawsuits, however, are not the only source of family friction. Harry literally distanced himself from his kin when he and his wife, Meghan, opted to leave royal life for the U.S. in 2020. They cited intrusions and a racist attitude by the media toward Meghan, who is biracial. The couple later suggested there was racial bias within the royal family, an allegation likely to have further alienated Harry before his memoir, “Spare” removed all doubt there was a division.

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Louis Puech Scigliuzzi, (from left), Melissa McBride, and Norman Reedus pose for a portrait to promote ‘The Walking Dead: Daryl Dixon-The Book of Carol’ during Comic-Con International on Friday, July 26, in San Diego. (AP)



Nyong'o



Weinstein

Variety

**NEW YORK:** A starry group of veteran Public Theater actors - including **Lupita Nyong'o**, **Peter Dinklage**, **Jesse Tyler Ferguson** and **Sandra Oh** - will help reopen the newly revitalized Delacorte Theater in **Central Park** in a free production of “Twelfth Night.”

“To say that we are reopening this next phase of the Public and we’re doing it with these four performers who have history and roots at the Public Theater just felt like an extraordinary way to imagine the production,” said **Saheem Ali**, the Public’s associate artistic director and resident director.

Ali picked **William Shakespeare**’s romantic comedy “Twelfth Night” to christen the return in the summer of 2025, featuring immigrant characters among the shifting identities and revenge plots.

“I wanted something with life and joy and vitality that celebrated the city of **New York**,” he said. “The different levels of identity that the play operates under - I’ve always been fascinated by that.”

There’s also a personal reason: “Twelfth Night” in Central Park was the first show Ali saw in New York when he first arrived from **Boston** in 2002. It was a Monday - the day Broadway traditionally is dark - so he went to Central Park. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Former film mogul **Harvey Weinstein** has been transferred from a **New York City** jail to a hospital to undergo treatment for a variety of health problems including COVID-19 and pneumonia in both lungs, his representatives said Thursday.

Weinstein, who is awaiting trial in New York on rape and sexual assault charges, was moved from the city’s Rikers Island jail complex to a locked ward at Bellevue Hospital. The other conditions he was to be treated for included diabetes, high blood pressure, spinal stenosis, and fluid on his heart and lungs, according to a statement released by Weinstein’s publicist that attributed the health information to **Craig Rothfeld**, Weinstein’s prison consultant.

“We continue to express our gratitude to the officers, doctors and nurses” in the city’s corrections and public hospital systems “who saw to it that Mr. Weinstein was immediately transferred to the Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward,” said the publicist,

to the officers, doctors and nurses” in the city’s corrections and public hospital systems “who saw to it that Mr. Weinstein was immediately transferred to the Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward,” said the publicist,

**Juda Engelmayer.** (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Former President **Donald Trump**’s selection of **JD Vance** as his



Dutch-Turkish singer and pianist Karsu Dönmez known as Karsu, from Amsterdam, performs during an open air concert, a mixture of classical music, jazz, pop and Turkish folklore, in Ankara, Turkey, late Friday, July 26. Karsu’s concert was part of celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the Friendship Treaty between The Netherlands and Turkey. (AP)

running mate has led to a surge in sales for “Hillbilly Elegy,” his best-selling memoir that came out in 2016.

A spokesperson for HarperCollins told The Associated Press that more than 650,000 copies have been sold since Trump’s announcement on July 15. The total includes physical books, audio books and e-books.

Vance’s book already had sold more than 3 million copies before Trump chose him for the Republican ticket. “Hillbilly Elegy,” which **Ron Howard** adapted into a feature film released in 2020, tells of Vance’s childhood in **Ohio** and his family’s roots in rural **Kentucky**. (AP)

**AMMAN:** The artists of China’s Yunnan Culture and Art Troupe’s artists presented on Friday a dazzling performance at the 38th Jerash Festival in **Jordan**.

The performance at the main square of the archaeological site of Jerash consisted of traditional dances that reflected the diversity of Chinese folk arts, along with acrobatic shows and Yunnan Opera.

The troupe used traditional costumes and musical instruments, which added a unique artistic touch to its performance.

Present at the event were Chinese Ambassador to **Jordan Chen Chuandong**, Jordanian Minister of Culture **Haifa Najjar**, as well as members of the organizing committee of Jerash Festival and members of the Chinese culture center in Amman. (Xinhua)



10% of the global population affected by chronic pain

# New treatments bring hope for chronic pain sufferers

**By Rachael Rzasa Lynn**  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

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

Hundreds of millions of people around the world experience chronic pain – meaning pain that lasts longer than three months. While the numbers vary from country to country, most studies estimate that about 10% of the global population is affected, so more than 800 million people.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in 2021, about 20% of U.S. adults – or more than 50 million people – were experiencing chronic pain. Of those, about 7% experienced what’s called high-impact chronic pain, which is pain that substantially limits a person’s daily activities.

In the past, physicians have been quick to prescribe medication as an easy solution. But the opioid crisis in the US has led doctors to reevaluate their reliance on drugs and look at new treatments for patients with chronic pain.

The Conversation spoke with Rachael Rzasa Lynn, a pain management specialist from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus for our podcast The Conversation Weekly. She explains some of the new developments in pain treatment and why there’s hope for patients with chronic pain.

In general, pain is a complex interplay between tissue injury or inflammation, nerves and brain processing.

There are several different biological processes that can result in pain. The one that’s happening to most people when they experience acute pain is called nociceptive pain. This is pain that occurs when tissue is being injured or potentially harmed in some way, which triggers the activation of surrounding nerves. These nerves are like electrical wires that send signals from the injured tissue, through the spinal cord and to the brain, where pain is ultimately perceived.

But activation of those nerves alone does not equal pain, because those electrical signals are amplified or diminished at multiple points throughout their transit

to the brain. The brain’s perception of pain is critical because pain does not occur when people are unconscious.

Nociceptive pain can also result from ongoing tissue injury or inflammation, as in the case of arthritis. With these injuries, the peripheral nerves are chronically reporting to the brain, resulting in an ongoing perception of pain.

There are other disease processes, such as diabetic peripheral neuropathy, in which nerves themselves become injured. In these cases, the nerves send pain signals to the brain that are reflective of injury to the nerves themselves, not the tissues they report from. This is called neuropathic pain.

In other forms of chronic pain called nociplastic pain, the initial tissue injury may fully heal, but the brain and nervous system continue to generate pain signals.

Many chronic pain conditions actually involve a combination of all three of these phenomena – nociceptive, neuropathic and nociplastic pain – which adds to the difficulty of diagnosis and treatment.

**Complex**

I think everybody who’s been to a hospital, at least in the United States within the past decade, is familiar with the numerical scale where you’re asked to rate your pain. That is a one-dimensional assessment of pain that only asks how severe it is.

But pain is a very complex phenomenon that has a lot more pieces to it than just the severity. So a single numerical value based on severity of pain really misses the impact that pain may be having on a patient’s daily life, such as their activities, their relationships, their ability to sleep, their happiness and their overall satisfaction with their life.

I think the most difficult thing about all pain, truly, but especially many forms of chronic pain, is that you cannot see it. There’s no external, validated way to really know how much pain someone is in. We do have newer methods for measuring pain that attempt to get at some of those more complex aspects, but it’s still a very incomplete science. It’s all still subjective based on what the patient tells you their experience is.

One newly popular treatment is called pain reprocessing therapy, which takes a behavioral approach to eliminating pain.

Here at our medical campus, therapists guide patients in understanding what causes chronic pain and then reevaluating the sensations they experience as painful – for example, while engaging in typically painful movements. The goal of pain reprocessing therapy is to help patients perceive the pain signals being sent to their brain as less threatening, so that their brain “unlearns” the pain.

Another approach being applied in new ways is called nerve ablation, a procedure in which the nerves around an area of pain are numbed with medication and then purposely damaged. In those cases, doctors inject a chemical around the nerves or gently heat them so they can no longer effectively send pain signals for months or even years. This approach has been used for spine pain for decades, but it is now being applied more widely to pain from other areas of the body.

A similar approach is to use electricity to stimulate the nerves serving a painful area in order to alter or block the way pain signals flow through them. This method involves placing a tiny electrical device alongside the nerve to deliver the low level of electricity. This is an example of neuromodulation, which is increasingly being used to treat a wide variety of chronic pain conditions throughout the body, from foot pain to migraines. It has even shown promise in the management of acute pain after surgeries like knee replacement.

A classic example of neuromodulation is spinal cord stimulation, which is used to treat a variety of conditions that cause chronic pain. A surgeon places wires underneath the bones of the back, but outside of the spinal cord and the spinal fluid. The wires connect to a battery, much like a pacemaker battery, that delivers electrical signals to the nerves in the spinal cord in order to scramble the pain signals.

These new treatment options for patients with chronic pain may not have progressed as quickly as they have if not for the opioid crisis.

For decades, opioids were too widely prescribed for chronic pain. However, there are some patients with chronic pain for whom opioids truly provide benefit in terms of pain relief and quality of life. In my view, doctors have overcorrected a bit to the point where it can now be difficult for such patients to gain access to the opioid therapies that have worked so well for them. Due in part to a slowdown in manufacturing opioids over the past several years, in some parts of the US, many patients are no longer able to access these drugs at all. (AP)

## A neurological disorder stole her voice

# Wexton uses AI to reclaim her voice in historic House speech after illness

NEW YORK, July 27, (AP): When Jennifer Wexton rises Thursday to speak on the House floor, something she has done countless times before, the congresswoman will be using a voice she thought was gone forever.

After a rare neurological disorder robbed her of her ability to speak clearly, Wexton has been given her voice back with the help of a powerful artificial intelligence program, allowing the Virginia Democrat to make a clone of her speaking voice using old recordings of speeches and appearances she made as a congresswoman. She will use that program to deliver what is believed to be the first speech on the House floor ever given via a voice cloned by artificial intelligence.

“It was a special moment that I never imagined could happen. I cried happy tears when I first heard it,” Wexton told The Associated Press in the first interview she’s participated in since attaining her new voice.



In this image from video Rep. Jennifer Wexton, D-Va., uses an AI program on her iPad to speak in the chamber of the House of Representatives, Thursday, July 25, at the Capitol in Washington. A rare neurological disease robbed Wexton of her ability to speak clearly. (AP)

her office several weeks ago and Wexton’s aides provided the company with several recordings, mostly speeches she had given as a member of Congress.

“Our technology gives individuals who have lost their voice the ability to speak as they once did, with the emotion and passion they feel, and we hoped to help the Congresswoman do just that,” said Dustin Blank, Head of Partnerships at the company. “She’s an incredible public servant and a remarkable leader for those with impairments.”

### Diseases

Wexton said she first used the cloned voice to speak with President Joe Biden in the Oval Office earlier this month when he signed the National Plan to End Parkinson’s Act, a bill that Wexton called the “most consequential action we have taken in decades to combat Parkinson’s and related diseases, like my PSP.” A few days later, Wexton publicly debuted her cloned voice in a video, leading to an outpouring of support and thrusting the congresswoman into a debate over artificial intelligence.

“This is never a situation I imagined myself in” and it is “not the way I thought I would be leaving Congress,” she said. “I didn’t anticipate being at the forefront of a debate over the future of AI.”

Using AI-powered cloning to give Wexton her voice back is one of the positive applications of this technology. However, voice cloning has also been used nefariously, like defrauding people and pushing fake political messaging. The most notable of these instances was when an AI-generated robocall impersonating President Joe Biden urged voters ahead of the New Hampshire primary not to vote. The call was quickly reported and resulted in serious consequences for those behind it, but the incident raised serious questions about the future of this technology and the companies behind it.

Wexton, whose district is home to scores of data centers that power AI, harbors those questions, too. After she debuted her voice clone, Wexton jokingly texted a few friends the same message: “AI isn’t entirely evil, just mostly.”

The congresswoman, whose run-away win in 2018 signaled the success Democrats would have that year, initially announced a Parkinson’s diagnosis in April 2023, striking an upbeat tone by telling supporters they were “welcome to empathize” with her, but not to “feel sorry for me.” Her tone in September 2023 was vastly different: She described her PSP diagnosis as “Parkinson’s on steroids” and said she would not seek reelection in 2024.

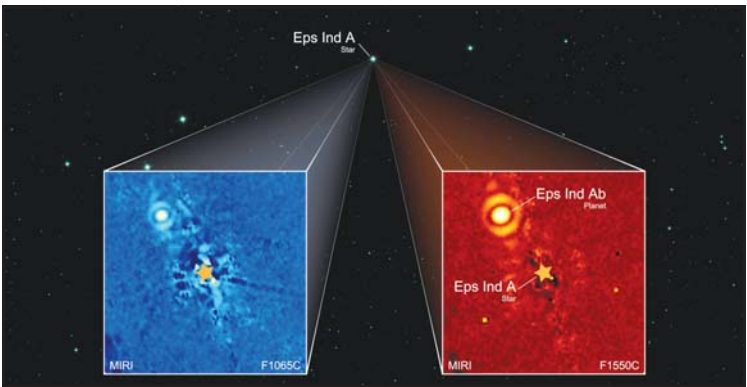
“This new diagnosis is a tough one. There is no ‘getting better’ with PSP. I’ll continue treatment options to manage my symptoms, but they don’t work as well with my condition as they do for Parkinson’s,” she said at the time.

The diagnosis has changed Wexton’s personal and professional life. The congresswoman doesn’t look like she once did. Her posture slumped, her movements less precise, her natural voice muted – all impacts of the disease. As it became more difficult for Wexton to use her voice, she turned to a traditional text-to-speech app that many people with speech disorders often use. The voice sounded more like a robot than a human, but Wexton used it to conduct interviews and give speeches.

ElevenLabs, a start-up with one of the most widely used AI-powered voice cloning models, saw Wexton speak using the older technology. They contacted

## Experts work on Earth-space data transmission

# NASA rover discovers rock that suggests microbial life on Mars



This image provided by the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in July 2024 shows the exoplanet Epsilon Indi A b captured in different infrared wavelengths by the James Webb Space Telescope. Light from the star Epsilon Indi A, whose position is indicated by star symbols, is blocked by a coronagraph allowing the orbiting planet to be visible. An international team led by Max Planck Institute for Astronomy’s Elisabeth Matthews in Germany collected the images in 2023 and published their findings Wednesday, July 24, in the journal Nature. (AP)

WASHINGTON, July 27, (Xinhua): NASA’s Perseverance Mars rover has discovered a spotty, arrowhead-shaped rock with features that could hint at microbial life billions of years ago on Mars.

During its exploration on July 21 of Neretva Vallis, an ancient river valley on Mars, the Perseverance rover encountered a captivating rock known as “Cheyava Falls.”

The Perseverance science team analyzed the rock using X-rays and lasers. Their analysis revealed the presence of white calcium sulfate veins, a reddish middle area, and small off-white splitches on the rock.

“On Earth, these types of features in rocks are often associated with the fossilized record of microbes living in the subsurface,” said David Flannery, an astrobiologist at Queensland University of Australia and a member of the science team.

While the features observed in the rock suggest the possibility of microbial life on Mars during a warmer and wetter period, alternative explanations such as high temperatures rendering the environment uninhabitable cannot be ruled out. To confirm whether the rock indeed contains evidence of microbial life, further examinations on Earth are required.

## NASA spots a super Jupiter

# NASA says no return date for astronauts, Boeing capsule

NEW YORK, July 27, (AP): Already more than a month late getting back, two NASA astronauts will remain at the International Space Station until engineers finish working on problems plaguing their Boeing capsule, officials said Thursday.

Test pilots Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams were supposed to visit the orbiting lab for about a week and return in mid-June, but thruster failures and helium leaks on Boeing’s new Starliner capsule prompted NASA and Boeing to keep them up longer.

NASA’s commercial crew program manager Steve Stich said mission managers are not ready to announce a return date. The goal is to bring Wilmore and Williams back aboard Starliner, he added.

“We’ll come home when we’re

ready,” Stich said.

Stich acknowledged that backup options are under review. SpaceX’s Dragon capsule is another means of getting NASA astronauts to and from the space station.

### Also:

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.:** A super Jupiter has been spotted around a neighboring star by the Webb Space Telescope – and it has a super orbit.

The planet is roughly the same diameter as Jupiter, but with six times the mass. Its atmosphere is also rich in hydrogen like Jupiter’s.

One big difference: It takes this planet more than a century, possibly as long as 250 years, to go around its star. It’s 15 times the distance from its star than Earth is to the sun.

**Also:**

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand and Australian researchers have been collaborating on projects transmitting large volumes of data between Earth and space, addressing a critical need in modern space exploration and communication, as well as innovative space traffic management.

The newly funded space research projects will foster innovation in space communication and the responsible use of space, according to the University of Auckland on Thursday.

A system for managing an international network of optical ground stations to help transmit large volumes of data between Earth and space, has been developed by researchers from the University of Auckland and the University of South Australia.

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Kuwait youth team secures first win

Asian Junior Volleyball Championship kicks off in Bahrain

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

MANAMA, July 27: Today marks the beginning of the Asian Junior Volleyball Championship in the Kingdom of Bahrain, running through August 4. Kuwait kicks off its campaign with a match against India at 4:30 pm in Group 4 of the preliminary round. Also scheduled for today are matches

VOLLEYBALL

between the Philippines and China, Lebanon and Iran, and South Korea and Pakistan.

In other news, Kuwait youth volleyball team secured its first victory in the 22nd Asian Youth Championship, currently taking place in Surabaya, Indonesia. Kuwait beat Hong Kong 3-1 in its opening match of Group 7 in the consolation round, which determines

Leclerc inherits pole from Max

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium, July 27, (AP): Charles Leclerc will start the Belgian Grand Prix from pole position after clocking the second best time in qualifying behind Max Verstappen, who faces a 10-place grid penalty for the race.

Verstappen topped the time sheets in his Red Bull on Saturday on the rainy track in the forested hills of the Ardennes. But the Formula One leader will start positions from 9-16.

In another Group 7 match Australia defeated Bangladesh, 25-21, 31-29, and 25-17. As a result, Australia leads the group with a point's difference over Kuwait, with both teams earning 3 points. Hong Kong and Bangladesh remain without points, placing them in third and fourth positions, respectively.

Kuwait will face Australia at 7:00 AM today in the second and final round of Group 7.



Kuwaiti players in action

Australia power past Spain to kick off Oly basketball tourney



Josh Giddey of Australia shoots in front of Willy Hernangomez of Spain in a men's basketball game at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Saturday, July 27, 2024, in Lille, France. (AP)

Germany beat Japan in Group B

**VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ, France, July 27, (AP):** In the days before Australia was set to open the Paris Olympics against Spain, coach Brian Goorjian looked to the past.

He made his team watch one of the Aussies' most painful moments in international play - a double-overtime loss to the Spaniards in the semifinals of the 2019 World Cup.

"We showed a little video of the past to have them locked in," Goorjian said. "There's a fear that no matter how much you outwork or outplay, in a three-minute period they can go 'whack, whack, whack' and you're in trouble."

It turned out to be just the jolt his team needed.

BASKETBALL

Jock Landale had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Australia beat Spain 92-80 Saturday to open the group stage of the Olympic basketball tournament in Lille.

Patty Mills added 19 points and Josh Giddey contributed 17 to lift Australia to the victory in Group A, which also includes Greece and Canada. Australia next meets Canada on Tuesday while Spain will face Greece.

"They made two heavy runs at us and then took the lead. I thought we were fearless and were courageous, and I thought we had great guard play," Goorjian said. "Just a good contribution from everybody."

Australia led by as many as 14 points before Spain surged and used a 9-0 run to take its first lead of the game, 56-54, in the third quarter. The Aussies responded with a 15-4 spurt to close the period and never trailed again.

"Not flinching is kind of one of the things we spoke about," Giddey said. "They're going to have their runs, we're going to have ours. It's just who can withstand the storm better."

Santi Aldama finished with 17 points for Spain. Sergio Llull added

**By Hassan Musa**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: Kuwait Club will wrap up its training camp in Turkey tomorrow after playing its final friendly match against the Saudi Neom team. The team will continue its daily training in preparation for the upcoming match against Al-Qadisiya before traveling to Manama for the AFC Champions League 2 playoff against Al-Ahly of Bahrain on August 14.

In related news, Kuwait Club has turned down a request from Algerian club Ittihad Al-Djazair to acquire Tunisian professional Yassin Al-Khenisi. Al-Khenisi, who missed the latter part of the previous season due to injury, has now recovered and rejoined the team.

Al-Qadisiya drew 2-2 with Egyptian Club Wadi Degla in its Cairo training camp, marking its second draw of the camp. It previously tied 1-1 with Al-Arabi of the



Al-Khenisi at Kuwait's recent training.

UAE. Al-Qadisiya's goals against Wadi Degla were scored by Brazilian Igor Rossi and Moroccan Mehdi Berrahma.

The Yellows are set to play its third friendly match against the Saudi team Ohod, before returning to Kuwait to resume its training and prepare for its local competition. Al-Qadisiya will face Kuwait Club in the first round of the Zain Premier League on August 8.

Al-Qadisiya coach Mohammed Al-Mishaan described the match

was disrupted by a heated exchange late in the first quarter.

With 2:13 remaining in the period, Spain's Usman Garuba set a hard screen on Australia's Josh Green, sending him stumbling backward. Green took exception and got in Garuba's face. Garuba slapped Green's hand away and Will Magnay stepped in to defend his teammate, prompting Garuba to shove him.

Referees reviewed the incident and accessed double unsportsmanlike fouls on Garuba and Magnay.

Two more incidents also resulted in brief game stoppages.

Franz Wagner had 22 points and six rebounds, and Germany pulled away from Japan in the second half to secure a win in Group B play.

Daniel Theis added 18 points and

against Wadi Degla as a "strong experience," noting that the game was divided into three 40-minute halves to evaluate the players' fitness.

Al-Mishaan defended the signing of Brazilian Igor Rossi, 35, against criticism, stating that performance should be assessed regardless of age. He emphasized that Rossi will be a valuable addition to Al-Qadisiya for the new season, while also leaving room for potential changes in the squad.

Rossi expressed his enthusiasm for joining Al-Qadisiya, noting his previous experience in Saudi Arabia and his belief in the team's potential. He is eager to contribute more goals in the future.

Al-Fahaheel lost 1-2 to Al-Ittihad Alexandria in a friendly match during their camp in Egypt. The "Heroes" will conclude their friendly matches tomorrow against the Egyptian Roxy team before returning to Kuwait the following day.

seven rebounds. Moritz Wagner added 15 points for the defending World Cup champions, who never trailed. Germany has Brazil next in group play on Tuesday. Japan takes on Olympics host France.

Germany had five players in double-figures.

Rui Hachimura finished with 20 points for Japan, which has only 13 wins in its seven Olympic appearances.

Germany entered the Olympics ranked third in FIBA's world rankings behind the the U.S. and Spain.

It played like it against the Japanese, never trailing and taking a 16-point lead in the second quarter. The Germans scored 46 points in the paint and also got a big contribution from their bench, which contributed 38 points.

Paolini advances

Swiatek, Alcaraz and Djokovic start the 2024 Oly tennis event with wins

PARIS, July 27, (AP): Iga Swiatek and Carlos Alcaraz got the Paris Olympics tennis competition started with first-round victories Saturday under closed roofs at Roland Garros, the site of their French Open titles less than two months ago.

Novak Djokovic also won in straight sets as he, like Swiatek and Alcaraz, opened a bid for a first Olympic gold medal. Djokovic's second-round opponent could be longtime rival Rafael Nadal, who was scheduled to play his opening singles match Sunday.

Nadal, the Spaniard who won a record 14 of his 22 Grand Slam titles at the French Open and owns two Summer Games golds, was a surprise torch



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain gestures to the spectators after defeating Hady Habib of Lebanon in the men's singles tennis competition, at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

TENNIS

carrier during the rain-soaked opening ceremony along the Seine River on Friday night and was slated to compete alongside Alcaraz in doubles on Saturday night.

The No. 1-ranked Swiatek claimed four of her five career major championships in Paris and grabbed the last four games to beat Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu 6-2, 7-5, while reigning French Open and Wimbledon champ Alcaraz defeated Lebanon's Hady Habib 6-3, 6-1.

Serbia's Djokovic, who is seeded No. 1 in the men's field after Jannik Sinner pulled out with tonsillitis, needed less than an hour to dismiss Australia's Matthew Ebden - a doubles player participating in a tour-level singles match for the first time in two years. Ebden got into the singles bracket because he was in Paris to play doubles and thus available when 16th-ranked Holger Rune of Denmark withdrew with an injured wrist.

Ebden's lone game came after he was already down 6-0, 4-0 - and he celebrated by pulling the front of his yellow shirt over his head and baring his chest to roars from the flag-dotted crowd.

Poland's Swiatek, who won a third consecutive championship at Court Philippe Chatrier just seven weeks ago, got broken in that same stadium to trail 5-3 in the second set before getting back to her usual clay-court expertise. She wrapped up the victory by breaking at love when Begu double-faulted on the last point.

Warner Bros. Discovery sues NBA for not accepting matching offer

WASHINGTON, July 27, (AP): Warner Bros. Discovery has sued the NBA after the league did not accept the company's matching offer for one of the packages in its upcoming 11-year media rights deal.

The lawsuit was filed on Friday in New York state court in Manhattan.

WBD, the parent company of TNT Sports, is seeking a judgement that it matched Amazon Prime Video's offer and an order seeking to delay the new media rights deal from taking effect beginning with the 2025-26 season.

The NBA signed its deals with Disney, NBCUniversal and Amazon Prime Video on Wednesday after saying it was not accepting Warner Bros. Discovery's \$1.8 billion per year offer. The deals will bring the league around \$76 billion over 11 years.

"Given the NBA's unjustified rejection of our matching of a third-party offer, we have taken legal action to enforce our rights," TNT Sports said in a statement. "We strongly believe this is not just our contractual right, but also in the best interest of fans who want to keep watching our industry-leading NBA content with the choice and flexibility we offer them through our widely distributed WBD video-first distribution platforms - including TNT and Max."

NBA spokesman Mike Bass said in a statement that "Warner Bros. Discovery's claims are without merit and our lawyers will address them."

WBD says in the lawsuit that "TBS properly matched the Amazon Offer by agreeing to telecast the games on both TNT and Max. The Amazon Offer provides for Cable Rights, including TNT Rights, because the offer is for games that TBS currently has the right to distribute on TNT via Non-Broadcast Television, which includes both cable and Internet distribution."

WBD also claims under its contract it "has the right to 'Match a Third Party Offer that provides for the exercise

of (NBA games) via any form of combined audio and video distribution."

The lawsuit is another chapter in a deteriorating relationship between the league and Turner Sports that has gone on nearly 40 years. Turner has had an NBA package since 1984 and games have been on TNT since the network launched in 1988.

TNT's iconic "Inside the NBA" show has won numerous Sports Emmy Awards and has been a model for studio shows.

However, the relationship started to become strained when Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav said during an RBC Investor Conference in November 2022 that Turner and WBD "don't have to have the NBA."

Warner Bros. Discovery and the league were unable to reach a deal during the exclusive negotiating period, which expired in April. Zaslav and TNT Sports Chairman/CEO Luis Silberwasser said throughout the process, though, that it intended to match one of the deals.

WBD had five days to match a part of those deals after the NBA's Board of Governors approved the rights deals on July 17.

WBD received all of the contracts the next day and informed the league on Monday that it was matching Amazon Prime Videos offer.

The NBA announced on Wednesday that it was not considered a true match.

"Throughout these negotiations, our primary objective has been to maximize the reach and accessibility of our games for our fans," the league said when it did not accept the WBD deal. "Our new arrangement with Amazon supports this goal by complementing the broadcast, cable and streaming packages that are already part of our new Disney and NBCUniversal arrangements. All three partners have also committed substantial resources to promote the league and enhance the fan experience."





### Argentina shake off chaos of opening match

Argentina got its Olympic men's soccer campaign back on track by beating Iraq 3-1 on Saturday in Lyon.

Argentina, one of the pre-tournament favorites, suffered a shock 2-1 loss to Morocco in its Group B opening game marred by a pitch invasion from Moroccan fans and a two-hour delay.

While Iraq threatened to pull off another surprise when Aymen Hussein leveled the game in first-half stoppage time, goals from Luciano Gondou and Ignacio Fernandez sealed victory for Argentina.

Thiago Almada, who Argentina coach Javier Mascherano said had a watch stolen when the team's training base was robbed earlier this week, opened the scoring with a volley in the 14th minute at Stade de Lyon.

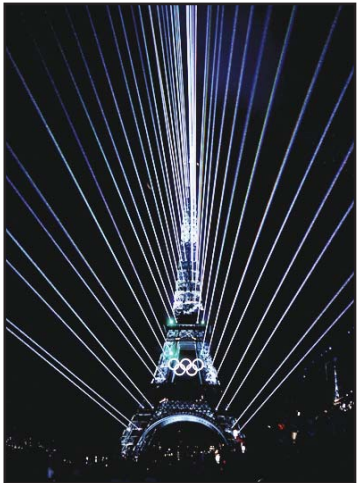
But Hussein's header in the fifth minute of first half-time added time evened the game before the break.

Gondou's far-post header in the 62nd restored Argentina's lead and Fernandez curled in a long-range shot from the edge of the box in the 85th.(AP)



Australia's Ben Dowling, (left), scores a try despite a tackle by Fiji's Joseva Talacolo during the men's semifinal Rugby Sevens match between Fiji and Australia at the 2024 Summer Olympics, in the Stade de France, in Saint-Denis, France. (AP)

## PARIS 2024



The Olympic rings are illuminated as lights emanate from the Eiffel Tower at the Trocadero during the opening ceremony for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)



Wataru Tanigawa, of Japan, competes on the vault during a men's artistic gymnastics qualification round at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

# China secure first diving gold in pursuit of unprecedented sweep

One down, 7 to go

**SAINT-DENIS, France, July 27, (AP): One down. Seven to go.**

China won its first gold medal in diving on Saturday on the first full day of competition in the Paris Olympics, a perfect start for the team of Chang Yani and Chen Yiwen.

China has ruled diving for decades, and three years ago in Tokyo it won seven of eight gold medals. But it has never pulled off the elusive gold sweep. That's the goal this time.

The Chinese were first on Saturday in the women's synchronized 3-meter springboard with 337.68 points on five dives. They were followed by Sarah Bacon and Kassidy Cook of the United States 314.64 points and the British team of Yasmin Harper and Scarlett Mew Jensen with bronze and 302.28 points.

The same Chinese duo also won gold in the last three world championships and were heavy favorites going in.

"We're very happy to get the gold medal, of course," Chen said.

The Americans followed China on all of their dives, seeing their performance and knowing what they had to do to match it. They also performed the same five dives as China.

"The Chinese have been the gold stan-



China's Chen Yiwen and Chang Yani hold their gold medals on the podium of the women's synchronised 3m springboard diving final at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Saint-Denis, France. (AP)

dard in diving for decades," Cook said.

"But we are peers with them, and the goal is to beat them one day. They are amazing competitors and hardly ever mess up.

"We're not too far off," Cook added.

"You may see another flag being raised for a gold medalist at these Olympic games."

Cook and Bacon noted that, as the favorites, the pressure is always on China. Less so on everyone else.

"Following China certainly helped us dive better," Bacon added.

The crowd, heavy with Chinese fans and flags, chanted "jiayou" - roughly translated "let's go" - each time the Chinese walked out to dive.

### First 10-time female Olympian

## Georgian shooter makes history

CHATEAUROUX, France, July 27, (AP): Georgian shooter Nino Salukvadze has become the first woman to compete at 10 Olympic Games in a career which began representing the Soviet Union.

Salukvadze has competed at every Summer Olympics since 1988 - when she won gold as a 19-year-old Soviet prodigy. She set her latest record when she stepped into the shooting range for qualification in the women's 10-meter air pistol Saturday.

Salukvadze placed 38th and didn't advance to Sunday's eight-shooter final, but she gets another shot at a medal Friday in qualification for the 25-meter pistol event.

In a career spanning five decades, Salukvadze has competed on three different Olympic teams - first with the Soviet Union in 1988, then the Unified Team which was organized for ex-Soviet athletes in Barcelona in 1992 after the Soviet Union collapsed. For the last eight

Summer Olympics, she's represented her home country of Georgia following its independence.

Salukvadze was in the spotlight again in 2008, when Russia fought a brief war with Georgia during the Beijing Olympics. Salukvadze won bronze and embraced Russian silver medalist Natalia Paderina on the podium in what was widely seen as a gesture for peace.

"Why did this gesture surprise everyone? We are athletes, there is no conflict between us," she said at the time.

In 2016, Salukvadze and her son Tsotne Machavariani, who's also a pistol shooter, became the first mother-and-son duo in Olympic history to compete at the same Games.

Salukvadze had considered retiring after the last Summer Olympics in Tokyo three years ago but was persuaded to continue by her father and coach Vakhtang, who died this year.

## Olympic officials issue apology for SKorean athletes' NKorea 'mix-up'

PARIS, July 27, (AP): Olympic Games organizers said they "deeply apologize" for introducing South Korea's athletes as North Korea during the opening ceremony in Paris.

As the South Korean athletes waved their nation's flag on a boat floating down the Seine River on Friday evening, they were announced in both French and English as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. South Korea is the Republic of Korea.

"We deeply apologize for the mistake that occurred when introducing the Korean team during the opening ceremony broadcast," the International Olympic Committee said in a post on X in Korean.

Jang Mi Ran, the second vice minister of South Korea's Culture, Sports and Tourism Ministry, requested a meeting with IOC President Thomas Bach over the incident, the ministry said in a statement Saturday.

It said the ministry also asked South Korea's Foreign Ministry

to file "a strong government-level complaint" with the French government.

The statement said South Korea's Olympic committee separately asked the organizers of the Paris Games to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents.

IOC spokesperson Mark Adams on Saturday called the error "clearly deeply regrettable."

"An operational mistake was made. We can only apologize, in an evening of so many moving parts, that this mistake was made," Adams said in response to a question from a South Korean journalist during a news conference.

The Korean peninsula has been bitterly divided into South Korea and North Korea since the end of World War II in 1945.

The blue sign on the boat carrying the South Korean athletes did show the correct name.

The mix-up echoed another during the 2012 Olympics in London, where organizers posted the South Korean flag on a jumbo screen as a North Korean player was introduced before a women's soccer match, leading the North Koreans to refuse to take the field for nearly an hour.

In another opening ceremony glitch Friday, the Olympic flag featuring the five rings was upside down when it was hoisted toward the end of the ceremony.

"It's regrettable," Adams said.

"In a four-hour show occasionally things happen. We can all move on from that one, it's not the end (of the world)."

After the flag was raised, the broadcast by the IOC's own television operations did not show any close-up images of it. Typically, flagpoles at Olympic ceremonies have a mechanism that blows a breeze across the flag to stretch it out. On Friday, the Olympic rings flag hung limply down next to the pole.



South Korea's Kim Seo-yeong and Woo Sang-hyeok carry their country's flag on a boat in Paris, France, during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summer Olympics. (AP)



Officials and members of Al-Tomooh Club pose for a group photo after watching the opening ceremony in Kuwait.

### Al-Tomooh Club celebrates Paris Olympics in Kuwait

Members of the Al-Tomooh Sport Club for the disabled, experienced euphoric moments on Friday with the onset of the Summer Olympics in Paris.

The club members were entertained by watching the international sports event on a large

screen.

They were accompanied by Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Affairs, Ambassador Najib Al-Badr; Chairperson of Special Olympics Kuwait, Hanaa Al-Zawawi; Public Relations Director at the Public Authority for

the Handicapped, Doha Khamis; General Director of the Human Building Society, Awatef Al-Salman; Chairperson of the Kuwait Society for Families of the Handicapped, Rehab Bouresli; and Honorary Chairperson of the Kuwait Club

for the Handicapped, Sheikha Sheikha Al-Abdullah.

The estimated 150 members of Al-Tomooh Club engage in various sports, including field and track, swimming, shooting, racing, horse riding, and other games. (KUNA)

### Debutant Arfa racks up six unanswered points to start the bout

# Historic Olympic streak ends in a shock upset as Szilagyi finally beaten

PARIS, July 27, (AP): An era-defining winning streak in Olympic fencing was snapped in a shock upset Saturday as Hungarian fencer Aron Szilagyi lost his opening bout while chasing a fourth consecutive gold medal.

Szilagyi won Olympic gold in men's individual saber in 2012, 2016 and 2021 - the only male fencer to be a three-time individual champion. In Paris, he was trying to become the only fencer in Olympic history with four individual gold medals.

Instead, the streak ended in Szilagyi's first bout of the Paris Games as he was beaten 15-8 by the 27th-seeded Canadian Fares Arfa in the round of 32 for one of the biggest upsets so far at the 2024 Olympics. Arfa, a first-time Olympian, racked up six unanswered points to start the bout. Szilagyi closed the gap to 6-4 but couldn't catch the Canadian.

"I'm in a bit of shock right now, so I'm not even disappointed or angry at myself yet. It happened so fast, and I've never

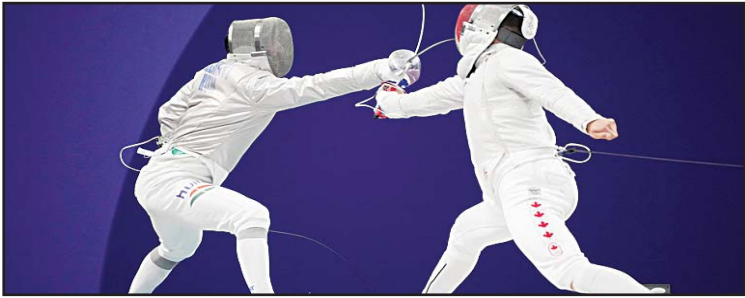
thought that my individual competition here in Paris would be so short," Szilagyi said.

"It's really a shock. It's like my opponent read me. I was an open book to him," he added. "In every touch, what he wanted, it happened. All his parries worked, all his attacks landed."

Szilagyi was on a run of 15 wins in individual saber competition at the Olympics and had not lost in that event since a defeat to Keeth Smart of the United States in the round of 16 at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Arfa won

team gold with Canada at last year's Pan-American Games but

hadn't fenced at the Olympics before.



Hungary's Aron Szilagyi, (left), and Canada's Fares Arfa compete in the Men's Individual Sabre Round of 32 competition during the 2024 Summer Olympics at the Grand Palais in Paris, France. (AP)

"It was like as if he'd been the three-time Olympic champion, and I was some kind of first-time Olympian," Szilagyi added.

Szilagyi's early exit wasn't the only big upset in fencing Saturday.

Last year's men's saber world champion Eli Dershwitz of the United States was beaten 15-10 by Hungarian Csana Gemesi in the round of 32. Sun Yiwen, the defending Olympic champion in women's epee, lost her opening bout 14-13 to Miho Yoshimura of Japan.





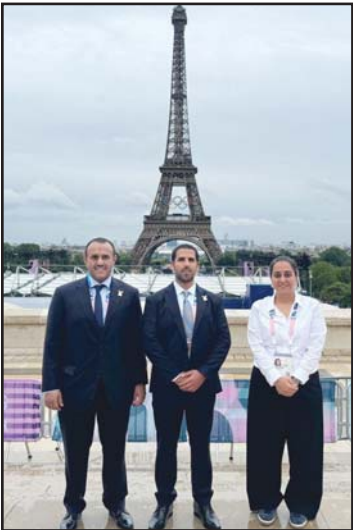
Palestinian athletes wave flags on the athletes' parade team boat as it makes its way along the Seine in Paris, France, during the opening ceremony for the 2024 Summer Olympics. (AP)

# Sports

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Suad Al-Faqaan



KUNA photos

Left: The delegation of the State of Kuwait participating in the Olympic Games. Right: Chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and head of the Kuwaiti delegation Sheikh Fahad Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Vice Chairman of the Committee Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah, and Chairperson of the Women's Committee and member of the Committee Fatima Hayat attend the opening ceremony of the 33rd Olympic Games held in Paris. 2nd Right: Kuwait's fencer Yusuf Al-Shamlan.

## Al-Faqaan keeps hopes alive as Shamlan makes early exit

PARIS, July 27: Kuwaiti rowing champion Suad Al-Faqaan finished fourth in the preliminary qualifiers for the Women's Individual race at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

With this result, Al-Faqaan will have another chance to advance to the next round during the requalification round for athletes who placed fourth to sixth in the individual qualifiers, scheduled for today.

Al-Faqaan completed the qualifiers with a time of 8:16.32 minutes. The race was led by American Kara Kohler, who finished in 7:32.46 minutes. Austrian Magdalena Loebing secured second place with a time of 7:39.39 minutes, while Serbian Jovana Arsek came in third with a time of 7:48.29 minutes.

The rowing competitions took place at the Vaires-sur-Marne course in the Seine-et-Marne region of Ile-de-France.

Suad Al-Faqaan's participation in marine sports marks the first time a

Kuwaiti female athlete has competed in this type of event at the Olympic Games.

Kuwait's fencer Yusuf Al-Shamlan was defeated 6-15 in the 32nd round at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games on Saturday, exiting the competition early.

In a press release, Hamad Al-Awa-

### OLYMPICS

dhi, Secretary of the Kuwait Fencing Association, expressed pride in Al-Shamlan, who is ranked 24th globally. He noted that Al-Shamlan delivered a commendable performance against his German opponent, Matyas Szabo.

Al-Awadhi highlighted that Al-Shamlan worked hard to qualify for the Olympic Games and gained valuable experience from participating in the event.

Al-Shamlan is the first Kuwaiti fencer to compete in the Olympic Games.

## Kuwait welcomes Gulf teams for U-18 Asian Youth Cup qualifiers



The Oman players arrive for the qualifiers.

KUWAIT CITY, July 27: The head of the Kuwaiti Basketball Association, Dhari Burjas, confirmed that all technical and organizational preparations are complete for the launch of the Asian Youth Cup qualifiers for the Gulf region (under 18 years old), which is set to begin tomorrow in Kuwait. The tournament will feature teams from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar, in addition to the host nation, Kuwait, and will last for five days.

Burjas, who also heads the organizing committee for the championship, announced in a press statement that the Federation Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex for Indoor Halls is fully prepared to host this Gulf sporting event. He highlighted the coopera-

### BASKETBALL

tion of the Public Authority for Sports with the committee, which ensured the successful completion of all arrangements for the championship.

He noted that the delegations of the participating teams began arriving in the country, with all arrivals completed yesterday in preparation for the start of the qualifiers. On the first day, the Kuwaiti national team will face Bahrain, while

the Saudi team will play against Oman. The teams finishing in the first and second places will qualify for the Asian Championship scheduled to take place in Jordan next September.

Burjas emphasized the remarkable development of Gulf basketball in recent years, both at the national and club levels, which has made the region a strong competitor in Arab and Asian championships. He expects the tournament to feature intense competition as teams vie for the two qualification spots for the continental championship.

He also confirmed that the Kuwaiti players are ready to perform at their best in these crucial qualifiers following their recent training camp in Turkey. Burjas welcomed the Gulf delegations to Kuwait, expressing his hospitality and support.

The technical staff of the Kuwaiti national team, led by Bahraini coach Salman Ramadan, has selected 12 players to represent the (Blue Youth) in this important event. The squad includes Adel Al-Saeed, Ali Al-Shehab, Mohammed Al-Dahes, Talal Fahd, Hamza Asad Allah, Adam Asad, Adnan Adhbiah, Ahmed Al-Rashid, Abdulaziz Al-Muslim, Rashid Al-Rashid, Abdulaziz Al-Qattan, and Wael Al-Enezi.

PARIS, July 27, (AP): A hot-air balloon brought an Olympic ring of fire into a rainy sky and singer Celine Dion belted from the Eiffel Tower as Paris kicked off its first Summer Olympics in a century Friday, with a four-hour-long, rule-breaking opening ceremony that unfurled along the Seine River.

On-and-off showers did not seem to hamper the enthusiasm of the athletes. Some held umbrellas as they rode boats down the river in a showcase of the city's resilience as authorities investigated suspected acts of sabotage targeting France's high-speed rail network.

With the ambitious ceremony, the stakes for France were immense. Dozens of heads of state and government were in town, and the world was

### OLYMPICS

watching as Paris turned itself into a giant open-air theater. Along the Seine, iconic monuments became stages for dancers, singers and other artists.

That included the Louvre Museum, near where French judo champ Teddy Riner and three-time Olympic champion runner Marie-Jose Perec lit the Olympic cauldron, which was attached to a giant balloon that floated into the night - an homage to early French pioneers of manned flight.

"We survived the rain, but it didn't spoil any of our fun," USA beach volleyball player Kelly Cheng said. "This was one of the most magical nights of our lives."

Despite the weather, crowds crammed the Seine's banks and bridges and watched from balconies, "ooh-ing" and "aahing" as Olympic teams paraded in boats down the waterway that got increasingly choppy.

Many of the hundreds of thousands of spectators huddled under umbrellas, plastic ponchos or jackets as the rains intensified, others danced and sang, and some dashed from their seats for shelter.

"The rain can't stop us," said U.S. basketball star LeBron James, sporting a plastic poncho along with the other American flag bearer, tennis player Coco Gauff.



The Olympic rings are illuminated as lights emanate from the Eiffel Tower at the Trocadero during the opening ceremony for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

### Medal winners

PARIS, July 27, (AP): The 2024 Olympics are underway. The first gold medal of the Paris Games went to China, but more winners will join the list every day from July 27-Aug. 11.

#### CYCLING

##### WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL TIME TRIAL

**Gold:** Grace Brown, Australia  
**Silver:** Anna Henderson, Britain  
**Bronze:** Chloe Dygert, United States

#### DIVING

##### WOMEN'S SYNCHRONISED 3M SPRINGBOARD

The weather made for some bizarre scenes at the show combining prerecorded and live performances: a stiff upper-lipped pianist played on even as small puddles formed on his grand piano. A breakdancer flipped her moves on the sheen of a rain-drenched platform. Some athletes in Bermuda-style colorful shirts looked dressed for the beach, not a deluge.

Organizers said the weather forced them to scrap some elements of the show considered too dangerous in the slippery conditions.

Still, as global audiences tuned in, Paris put its best foot forward - quite literally, with a spectacular Olympic

**Gold:** Chang Yani and Chen Yiwen, China

**Silver:** Sarah Bacon and Kassidy Cook, United States

**Bronze:** Yasmin Harper and Scarlett Mew Jensen, Great Britain

#### SHOOTING

##### 10M AIR RIFLE MIXED TEAM

**Gold:** Huang Yuting and Sheng Lihao, China

**Silver:** Keum Jihyeon and Park Hajun, Korea

**Bronze:** Alexandra Le and Islam Satpayev, Kazakhstan

launch that lifted spirits and joyous French cancan dancers early on. A humorous short film featured soccer icon Zinedine Zidane. Plumes of French blue, white and red smoke followed.

Lady Gaga sang in French in a prerecorded bit, with dancers shaking pink plumed pompoms, injecting a cabaret feel. On the Eiffel Tower, Dion closed the show with her first live performance since the French-Canadian singer was diagnosed stiff person syndrome, a rare neurological disorder, at the end of 2022.

More than three hours into the show, French President Emmanuel Macron declared the Games open. In a gaffe

before that, the five-ring Olympic flag was raised upside down at the Trocadero across from the Eiffel Tower.

Grace Brown of Australia won the first cycling gold medal of the Paris Olympic Games on Saturday when she won the women's time-trial by an impressive margin of a minute and 31 seconds.

Brown covered the 32.4-kilometer course in 39 minutes, 38 seconds, with the British rider Anna Henderson claiming the silver medal in 41 minutes, 9 seconds, and the American Chloe Dygert a second behind Henderson in third.

The race was contested in horrible conditions, with constant rain making the course very slippery and dangerous on corners, with Dygert among a number of riders who suffered a crash. Enditem World champion shooters Huang Yuting and Sheng Lihao set off China's Paris Olympics campaign to a golden start, winning the Games' first gold medal with victory in the 10m air rifle mixed team event here on Saturday.

The Chinese teenage duo defeated Keum Ji-hyeon and Park Ha-jun of South Korea 16-12 in the gold medal match at the Chateauroux Shooting Center. Earlier on Saturday, Kazakhstan's Alexandra Le and Islam Satpayev beat Germany's Anna Janssen and Maximilian Ulbrich 17-5 to claim the bronze medal.

"I feel very happy and privileged to win this gold medal," said a calm Huang at the press conference. "This medal is a periodical result, but at the same time a new beginning." The gold medal match was intense with China taking a 6-2 lead, but South Korea gnawed closely behind. Chinese sharpshooters were once one-step away from the title at 14-8, but the South Koreans refused to give up, closing the gap to 14-12, thanks to a double 10.7 points.

Seeing the chance to equalize, Keum shot 10.5 and Park 10.6, putting pressure on the Chinese team. Sheng responded with a 10.7, leaving the final shot to Huang, who secured the victory with a 10.8.

"I was extremely nervous at the moment," recalled 17-year-old Huang on the key moment of her Olympic debut. "I kept telling myself to focus on my performance and stay concentrated, giving myself positive mental cues."

The victory echoed China's triumph in the event's Olympic debut three years ago in Tokyo, where Yang Qian and Yang Haoran were crowned. After the win, the Chinese teenagers allowed themselves a moment of celebration, with Sheng raising his fist in response to their excited coach Yao Ye.