



Opinion

Dear gov't, recover  
the looted money

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

CERTAIN crimes are not subject to the statute of limitations. For example, crimes against public funds never expire. This allows the government to pursue legal action against such crimes, because they represent serious corruption that negatively affects the state and its citizens.

Many countries worldwide, including some Gulf countries seek to fight such corruption.



Al-Jarallah

In these countries, when cases of corruption and embezzlement of public funds were discovered, their leaders directly supervised the implementation of the deterrent measures that led to the recovery of those funds and the imprisonment of the looters, regardless of their status in society. This is because corruption is like cancer that

leads the state to destruction.

Some countries publicize their achievements in their fight against corruption and the recovery of the embezzled funds. Some others take further steps to seize the amounts obtained through corruption and illicit means.

In Kuwait, since its liberation from the brutal Iraqi invasion, there has been a trend of systematic looting of public funds through legal channels, either in large-scale projects or through fraudulent activities within institutions. There are some who became wealthy overnight and smuggled their money abroad. All of this occurred under the watchful eyes of the very institutions and agencies that are tasked with combating corruption, characterized by concepts like "the gamekeeper turned poacher," "scratch my back, I scratch yours," and "don't spit where you eat."

Kuwait today suffers from inadequate implementation of major projects where corruption has been apparent for years. Some of these projects remain incomplete to this day due to the influence of the corrupt networks. The deep state still have their fingers in most institutions, and are able to plunder public funds at any time.

Indeed, reform cannot be achieved overnight, but treating the root cause of the disease is much more important than alleviating the pain. This is because the state needs a lot of money to be pumped into future projects. Because of that, it must start holding accountable those who have been looting public funds for the past three decades, similar to what Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Qatar, and the Sultanate of Oman did in their struggle towards reforms. Each of these countries has adopted effective methods that have enabled them to combat and reduce corruption. As a result, they are currently ranked among the highest internationally in terms of transparency and the absence of corruption.

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KUFPEC plans to expand  
oil exploration 'globally'

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) is exploring opportunities to expand its oil and gas exploration activities in Egypt, Pakistan, Malaysia, and several other Asian and European countries.

Reliable sources told the Arab Times that KUFPEC aims to increase its international business footprint and enhance profitability in the coming years.

Discussions on these expansion plans are ongoing between KUFPEC and the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), led by CEO Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah.

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Newswatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences Monday to President of Ethiopia Sahle-Work Zewde over demise of landslide victims, south of the country.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed sincere condolences over fatalities and wished speedy recovery for the injured. (KUNA)



**TEHRAN:** Kuwait has agreed to transfer 22 Iranians imprisoned in the Arab state to their home country to serve the rest of their jail terms.

Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Toutounchi made the announcement in a post on social media platform X on Monday. (Xinhua)



**CAIRO:** Secretary-General of the Arab League Ahmad Abul-Gheit expressed on Monday his concerns of possible escalated military confrontations between Hezbollah and the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon that might lead to a regional war.

In a press statement, Abul-Gheit expressed full solidarity with Lebanon and condemnation of the Israeli occupation's threats against Lebanon, stressing that any escalation would constitute a threat to the security and stability of the entire region. (KUNA)

Deportation underway for  
visit overstayers, sponsors

Stricter residence law aims to purge Kuwait of illegals

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 29:** Several visit visa holders, along with their sponsors, have been referred for deportation for exceeding their legal stay in the country.

According to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, the decision to deport their sponsors, despite having valid residency, was taken because they failed to adhere to the signed pledge and the visit visa regulations.

Such a decision was taken by the Ministry of Interior based on directives of His Excellency the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

The Ministry of Interior affirmed that it will spare no effort to holding accountable the violators of the residency law, which include both the sponsor and the sponsored.

The statement explained that a group of women residing in the country had obtained visit visas for their husbands and children, using which the later entered the country. However, these visitors had exceeded their legal stay period. This was discovered by the General Department of Residency Affairs Investigations' Department of Violators Follow-up, and other concerned authorities after following up these cases.

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Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr Noura Al-Mashaan and other senior officials at the Mubarakia site.

Government agencies collaborate to fast-track project

Mubarakia Market revamp on with 13-month timeline

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan has announced the start of the first stages of the reconstruction of the damaged part of the Mubarakia Market, particularly the excavation and rehabilitation works for the infrastructure, while affirming that the project will be fully completed within 13 months.

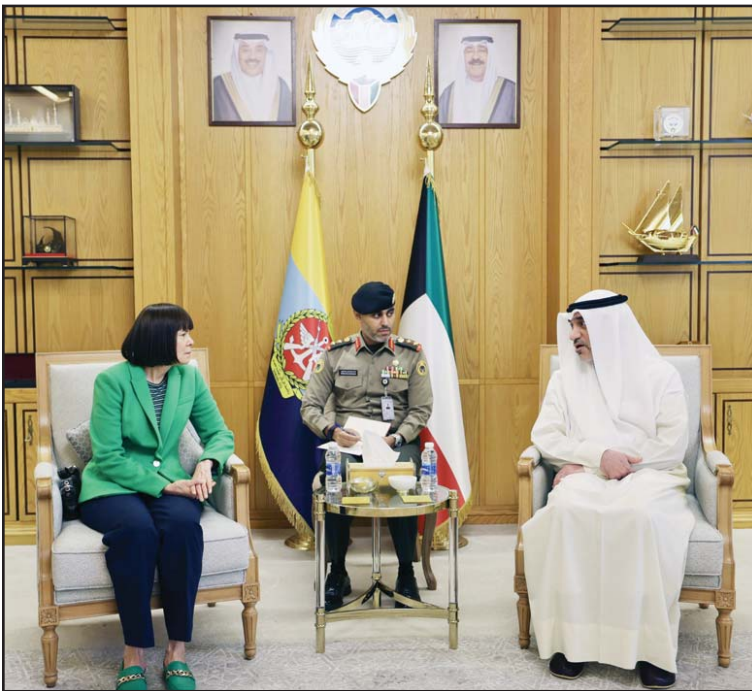
Al-Mashaan made the announcement on the sidelines of the field inspection tour on Monday to look into the latest developments regarding the project, along with Head of the Volunteer Work Center Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

She said the Kuwait Municipality coordinated with the government agencies concerned with the project to remove all obstacles, and completed the issuance of demolition and construction permits. She expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the concerned government agencies with the Municipality to expedite the completion of the project.

Meanwhile, Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad disclosed that her participation in the inspection tour is out of her interest in the artifacts and documents that are extracted during the excavation operations.

She said these artifacts are being handed over to the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) which, in turn,

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KUNA photo  
First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah receives the US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara.

Kuwait, US seek boost in defense ties

First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah deliberated Monday with American Ambassador to Kuwait, Karen Sasahara, mechanisms of bolstering defense cooperation.

In a press release, the Ministry

of Defense explained that Minister Al-Sabah received the American diplomat in his office, where the two exchanged perspective on issues of common interest. Latest developments on regional and international fronts were also touched upon during the meeting. (KUNA)

'Teach students to  
save power, water'

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Mishal Al-Manea, Director of the Consumer Protection Society, and Maryam Al-Enezi, Undersecretary of Educational Activities at the Ministry of Education, have agreed to develop a strategic plan aimed at raising awareness among school students on rationalizing electricity and water consumption, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative is in line with the recommendations of His Highness the Prime Minister to reduce wasteful consumption.

In a statement to Al-Seyassah, Al-Manea outlined the plan, which includes lectures, awareness activities, and competitions designed for school students. Senior specialists from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and other relevant authorities will participate in these efforts to emphasize the importance of reducing electricity and water waste in schools.

The plan features an awareness lecture to be organized in each school across the six governorates of Kuwait, ensuring comprehensive coverage.

Moreover, it includes organizing competitions, presenting prizes, and distributing the "Little Consumer" magazine to all schools. This magazine aims to educate students on smart shopping by highlighting the types of purchases and how to choose them based on quality and health standards.

'Domestics wages steady in Gulf'

Kuwait rejects Ethiopia pay hike demand

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Khaled Al-Dakhnan, head of the Union of Domestic Workers Offices, voiced the union's strong opposition to the Ethiopian Ministry of Labor's recent announcement to raise the minimum wage for domestic workers.

Al-Dakhnan noted that this move significantly impact the labor market, especially given the

current hike in prices.

Al-Dakhnan told the Arab Times, that other Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have maintained the wages for domestic workers at 1,000 riyals and 1,000 dirhams respectively, both equivalent to 80 Kuwaiti dinars and said was surprised at Ethiopia's wage increase which apparently applies only to Kuwait.

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Bids to run parliament  
cafeteria raise concern

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The announcement by the National Assembly Secretariat to invite bids for operating a cafeteria at the National Assembly building has sparked debate, given that the Assembly was dissolved in May, reports Al-Rai daily.

Observers question the practicality of bidding for such a service in light of the reduced number of administrative staff at the parliament building.

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Kuwait support for Palestinians principled, unshakable

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): Kuwait has been and continues to be a firm backer of the Palestinian people and their rights on the international stage, out of deep belief in the fairness of their cause and its importance for both the Arab and Muslim worlds.

This Kuwaiti stance has been renewed by His Highness the Amir, the then Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his participation in the Cairo Peace Summit in October 2023.

His Highness Sheikh Mishal stressed Ku-

wait's unequivocal rejection of Israeli occupation officials call for forcibly evicting Palestinians out of their lands. He also urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility, provide protection for Palestinian civilians, and stop the occupation's devastating war on the Gaza Strip.

Kuwait also uses every regional and international platform to defend the Palestinian rights and call for ending the occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the pre-June 5 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital.

Delivering Kuwait's speech before a UN Security Council session on the situation in the Middle East on July 17, Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya renewed Kuwait's firm solidarity with the brotherly Palestinian people, and support to their legitimate rights, topped with establishing their independent state and achieving a comprehensive and fair peace.

"This will lead to achieving security, stability and development in the region", Al-Yahya said.

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The primary goal of these fake accounts is also to fulfill the aims and agendas of specific parties by undermining the social fabric.

Regarding this matter, security expert Major General Eng. Hamad Al-Saree stated that those behind the fake accounts are manipulated by global intelligence agencies with the aim to undermine the unity of Gulf countries and damage Kuwait's relations with its neighboring nations.

He said Kuwait, given its staunch support for the people of Palestine and Gaza, is specifically targeted by Israeli intelligence agencies.

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	03:36	Asr .....	15:30
Sunrise ..	05:06	Maghrib ..	18:42
Zohr .....	11:54	Isha .....	20:09

# Local

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

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.  
**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with

Weather			
light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	48	35	

Kuwait Airport	48	35
Abdaly	48	32
Jahra	48	33
Salmiyah	43	35
Jal Aliyah	47	32
Nuwaisib	49	33
Wafra	48	33

## 11-member committee to work for a period of three months

# Move to update data of real estate properties, plots on Failaka Island

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Director General of Kuwait Municipality Saud Al-Dabbous issued an administrative decision to update the data of real estate properties and plots on Failaka Island.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the decision with the following articles:

Article One: A committee consisting of 11 members shall be formed with the director of the Real Estate Identification Department as the chairman, the director of the Coordination Department as vice chairman; while the members include the general supervisor of the Building, Audit and Follow-up Department in the Capital Governorate Municipality branch; the supervisor of Maps and Plans Unit at the Survey Department Faisal Muslim Al-Hubaida, the senior civil engineer at the Urban Planning Department, a representative of the State Property Contracts Department in the Ministry of Finance, a representative of the Legal Department (deputy director), a representative of the Expropriation Department for Public Benefit at the Ministry of Finance, a representative of the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department at the Ministry of Justice, specialist in the Property Identification Department Eng. Safaa Al-Khatib, and a representative of the Coordination Department as a member and rapporteur.

Article Two specifies the committee's responsibilities like updating the data about real estate and plots on Failaka Island.

Article Three mandates the committee to meet outside official working hours upon the invitation of the chairman, and the vice chairman replaces the chairman in case of the latter's absence.



Al-Dabbous

The meeting is not valid unless the absolute majority of members are present, including the chairman or vice chairman in case of the chairman's absence.

Article Four states that the committee has the right to address all administrative units in Kuwait Municipality to exercise its powers.

The committee has also the right to seek assistance from those with experience and expertise whenever the need for information, data or documents arises to help the committee accomplish its tasks.

The committee's work period is three months from the date of issuance of the decision. All concerned parties and sectors, each within its jurisdiction, must implement the decision and inform those concerned and implement it from the date of its issuance.

On the other hand, the Technical Office at the Legal Advice and Legislation Department issued an administrative circular to all ministries and State agencies about the requirements that must be fulfilled in requesting a legal opinion on topics and transactions specific to government agencies to guarantee the smooth flow of work.

The newspaper got a copy of the circular that emphasized the need to attach the relevant data to a government agency's request for legal opinion from the department, including a statement of whether there is a lawsuit related to the same topic that is the subject of the request for an opinion or not. In this case, copies of the judicial rulings issued regarding this lawsuit are attached, along with all documents related to the subject of the dispute.

This is in addition to stating whether the topic on which a legal opinion is required is the subject of investigations by the Public Prosecution, Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority or the Investigations General Department. In this case, all documents related to this matter are attached, as well as the result of the investigations conducted by the judicial or supervisory authorities related to the topic of the request.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Chief of General Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, during his reception of the Turkish Military Attaché, Colonel Gokhan Tekin.

## Kuwaiti, Turkish officials discuss common military issues

Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, the Chief of General Staff of the Army, held a meeting with Colonel Gokhan Tekin, the Military Attaché of Turkey to

Kuwait. They discussed topics of common interest, particularly those related to military cooperation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, friendly exchanges and significant military matters were addressed. The discussion emphasized enhancing bilateral military relations

between Kuwait and Turkey.

The Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Army, Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad, also attended the meeting.

# Supermarkets experience sales slump amid rising competition

Consumer trends and economic factors said drive shift

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Local supermarkets are experiencing a noticeable downturn in sales, a trend that both consumers and shop owners attribute to several factors beyond seasonal variations.**

The main factors contributing to market stagnation can be summed up as follows:

Increased competition and variety – one of the residents, who identified himself as Bu Hamad, highlighted the rise in the number of food sales centers as a key factor.

The proliferation of supermarkets and specialty stores has provided consumers with a broader range of options and competitive pricing, impacting the performance of traditional markets.

Growth of e-commerce – a market analyst, Al-Hajri, pointed to the resurgence of online shopping as a significant driver behind the contraction of traditional retail markets.

The convenience and variety offered by e-commerce platforms have shifted consumer preferences away from physical stores.

Add to this the travel trends. In this respect Ghazi Al-Ali noted that the summer travel season has led to a sharp decline in sales of food, perfumes, and electrical appliances.

Many consumers spend their 'extra' income on travel and related expenses, cutting down their spending in local supermarkets.

Shop owners and consumers also cited the high cost of living, including rising rents in shopping malls, as a factor in the current market stagnation. The increased financial pressure on households has resulted in more cautious spending.

A field investigation by the Arab Times daily revealed calls from the public for the government to address several issues to help revive the market.

Some of the key suggestions include salary increases. There is a push for the government to reconsider the salary freeze that has been in place for years.

Many believe that adjusting salaries in response to inflation would provide consumers with more spending power, potentially boosting market activity.

There is also a call for stricter enforcement against counterfeit products, which are perceived to undermine legitimate businesses and affect market dynamics.

The economists argue that the current recession in the supermarket sector is not solely attributable to inflation or rising rents. They suggest that the decline in traditional retail sales is more closely related to shifts in consumer behavior and market dynamics rather than broader economic conditions.

Looking ahead, experts believe that the easing of travel restrictions and the resumption of family visits could help stimulate sales in local markets.

As consumers return to their regular routines, there may be a rebound in spending that could alleviate some of the current stagnation in the retail sector.

## Other Voices

## Why Khorasan? What is its importance?

By Ahmed alsarraf

The Khorasan Group, associated with ISIS, chose the name "Khorasan" due to the historical significance and symbolic value of the region. Khorasan, which historically encompasses parts of modern-day Iran, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, was an important center of Islamic scholarship and culture during the early Islamic period.

By adopting this name, the group seeks to evoke the glory and influence of the historical region, leveraging its renowned legacy to bolster their ideological narrative and recruitment efforts.

The origins of many early Islamic scholars and jurists from the Khorasan region reflect the historical prominence of this area in Islamic intellectual history. During the early Islamic centuries, Khorasan was a thriving hub of cultural and scholarly activity, attracting and producing numerous influential figures. These scholars, such as Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawud, and others, contributed significantly to the development of Islamic thought, hadith collection, and jurisprudence. Despite their non-Arab ethnic backgrounds, they adopted Arabic names and contributed to Arabic literature and Islamic sciences, which were conducted in Arabic, the lingua franca of the Islamic world at that time.

The prevalence of scholars and literary figures from Khorasan and their adoption of Arabic names highlight the region's integration into the broader Islamic civilization. It also underscores the multicultural and multi-ethnic nature of the Islamic Golden Age, where contributions to Islamic knowledge and culture came from diverse backgrounds, unified by the Arabic language and Islamic faith. This contrasts with the fewer philosophical figures from Arab regions like al-Kindi, reflecting the unique historical, social, and cultural dynamics of the Islamic world.

This topic raises dozens of puzzling questions, which no one has ever volunteered to answer!

Germany has historically shown a deep interest in the Islamic East, more so than many other European countries. This interest is reflected in its robust tradition of academic studies on Arabs



alsarraf

and Muslims.

The establishment of the Enlightenment Institute for Early Islamic History and the Qur'an in Germany in 2007 as an independent, non-profit research organization highlights this tradition. This institute's focus helps explain the presence of a significant number of Islamic jurists and imams from non-Arab regions who have profoundly impacted the Arabic language and Islamic religion.

Despite being Persians, Afghans, and Tajiks, many of these scholars adopted classical Arabic as their scholarly language. Their names and cultural contributions often align them more closely with the Arabs.

The Enara Institute, through its diverse team of scholars specializing in Arabic and Semitic studies, linguistics, theology, history, Spanish studies, classics, legal history, numismatics, epigraphy, and religious studies, has published significant research on this topic. Scholars like Karl Ohlig, Gerd Puin, Muhammad al-Masih, and Christopher Luxenberg have contributed to this body of work, with findings disseminated in eleven volumes, two of which have been translated into English.

Among the "scientific conclusions" reached by the Enara Institute is the idea that the Khorasan region had a substantial population of Aramaic-speaking Arabs, whose origins traced back to the Levant. These individuals were originally Christians and monotheists, closely aligned with Islamic beliefs.

They were forcibly relocated to Khorasan to populate the area and secure caravan routes. There was also a Jewish presence among them.

To legitimize their presence in Khorasan, Abbasid-era writings claim that these "Arabs of Khorasan" were descendants of Arab soldiers who invaded the region. However, historical records do not support an Arab invasion of Khorasan. Instead, the Enara Institute's research suggests that it might have been the opposite: the Arabs in these regions, after converting to Islam from Christianity, played a significant role in shaping the Arab-Islamic culture.

This topic is both fascinating and complex, requiring extensive research to fully understand. For those interested in delving deeper, the German Enlightenment Institute's website offers more information and resources.

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## 'South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project'

## PAHW launches bids for 2 main power stations

By Mohammed Al-Musleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has launched the first and second tenders for the supply, installation, implementation and maintenance of two main power stations for South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project.

Sources told the newspaper that the two tenders are for the supply, installation and implementation of two main power stations -- 1Z and 2Z -- with a voltage of 400 kV; indicating the closing date for bidding will be on Sept 5.

Sources said these tenders will be offered to local and interna-

tional companies, provided they present evidence of the implementation of the same works for projects in Kuwait and prove the absence of any comments preventing the operation of the same contracts.

Sources affirmed that PAHW is proceeding to complete the offering of contracts for the infrastructure of the rest of the residential suburbs in the next few weeks.

In a related development, PAHW opened bidding envelopes for two tenders to supply and implement 20 main transformer stations with a voltage of 132/11 kV in seven suburbs in South Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City. The lowest bid for both tenders amounted to

KD87.6 million.

Sources revealed that PAHW will study the organizational, financial and accounting aspects of these bids; confirming that the authority is proceeding with issuing tenders and signing contracts to expedite the completion of projects.

Sources said three companies submitted their bid for the first tender for the supply and installation of 10 main transformer stations in four residential suburbs, adding that the lowest bid is KD44 million.

Sources also confirmed that three companies submitted bids for the second tender -- to supply and install 10 main stations in three suburbs, indicating the lowest bid is KD43.6 million.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

## Kenyan envoy meets with PAM official

# Kuwait & Kenya talks focus on bilateral ties, manpower co-op

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Kenyan Ambassador to Kuwait, Halima Mahmood, expressed her satisfaction with the outcomes of her recent meeting with the Public Authority for Manpower officials on the issue of strengthening bilateral relations between Kenya and Kuwait with a focus on manpower cooperation, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, Mahmood highlighted ongoing negotiations concerning the recruitment of Kenyan workers in both the private and public sectors. Currently, about 4,000 Kenyans are employed in Kuwait, primarily in the hospitality industry.

She revealed that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) regarding the recruitment of domestic workers is in progress and expected to be finalized soon.

Ambassador Mahmood extended her gratitude to Kuwait and the Public Authority for Manpower for their support of

the Kenyan community, emphasizing the mutual desire to enhance relations across various fields.

Acting Director-General of the Public Authority for Manpower, Marzouq Al-Otaibi, commended the meeting's results, noting the discussion on enhancing joint cooperation in labor affairs. Al-Otaibi stressed the importance of attracting skilled workers to meet the needs of Kuwait's business sectors and the continuous efforts to improve worker recruitment processes.

The meeting also focused on providing legal protection and ensuring a suitable work environment for all workers, reflecting the Public Authority for Manpower's commitment to Kuwait's developmental and humanitarian goals. Discussions included the recruitment of Kenyan professionals and addressing urgent labor issues in collaboration with relevant parties.

## KISR obtains new patent in Nano-fluid technology

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) obtained a new patent in the field of Nano-fluid technology on Monday from the US Patent and Trademark Office of the US Department of Commerce.

The institute said in a press statement on Monday that this invention works on developing a system capable of producing hydrogen gas and Nano-fluids using effervescent tablets, funded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

The project is titled (Dual Hydrogen and Suspension Production System Using Effervescent Tablets Containing Hydrogen Active Production Metallic Particles).

The research was a joint achievement between Dr. Nasser Al-Sayegh, a participating scientific researcher in the Nano-technology and Advanced Materials Program at KISR, and Dr. Husain Bahzad, professor of chemical engineering at the College of Technological Studies at the

Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

Professor of mechanical engineering at the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University Dr. Nawaf Al-Juwayhel and a doctoral student on a scholarship from the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning Ali Al-Sayegh also participated in completing the project.

Dr. Nasser Al-Sayegh pointed out the possibility of supplying vehicles with electricity through the hydrogen gas produced by the effervescent tablets, in addition to increasing the efficiency of cooling the internal combustion engine by the Nano-fluids resulting from the chemical reaction.

He explained that this method of producing hydrogen is safer for hybrid vehicles than using hydrogen in its gaseous or liquid form in the event of traffic accidents, and it also requires much less storage space than that used to contain liquid or gaseous hydrogen.



# ‘Iraq ... stories of the past and hopes of the present’

“I WAS pleased with the visit of the First Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, Minister of Defense and Interior, to Iraq to participate in a conference on drugs. His presence in Baghdad at this critical stage in the relations between the two countries holds significant strategic dimensions. Sheikh Fahad is known for his disciplined approach in evaluating his actions and ensuring they are balanced and thoughtful, which adds considerable value to his list of responsibilities,” columnist, former permanent envoy of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations (UN), the former Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“I was in London in the past few days and recorded from my meetings with some British diplomats who frequent Iraq and former ambassadors, a tone of optimism about the future of Iraq now, especially in the economic field and the diplomatic track, and especially the aspirations of the current Prime Minister, and the realism of his assessment of Iraq’s relations with the neighborhood with the rise of confidence in his efforts and future optimism, with indications of hopes that Kuwait will intensify its activities towards Iraq in the fields of trade, development and project partnership.



Bishara

“I went to Dar Al-Hikma in London to search for the latest publications issued from Iraq about the invasion and its effects. I collected what I could carry, hoping to present its summary to the Kuwaiti reader first as his duty to understand what is coming out of Iraq about Kuwait, because the invasion, quite clearly, revealed the hidden and pulled back the curtain on the intensity of the foggy tact that Saddam Hussein managed in his relations with Kuwait, and what it recorded in revealing the extent of the expansionist appetite towards Kuwait.

“Among the books I have read is what was recorded by the Minister of Industry and Minerals, member of the Revolutionary Command Council, member of the Regional Command of the Baath Party in Iraq, Engineer Taher Tawfiq Al-Ani in his memoirs ‘The Sudden Collapse of Iraq and Its Repercussions’, expressing his surprise at the absence of resistance against the American invasion, and more than that, wondering and questioning, more than thirty years after the liberation of Kuwait, about the disdain of Saddam Hussein and those close to him, especially his son Qusay, who was the future heir, of the American threat to liberate Kuwait, and their perceptions that it would not exceed a few missiles and then America would disappear in withdrawal, as it was not in reality determined to liberate Kuwait or even invade Iraq.

“The writer points out three steps taken by Saddam Hussein that led to the collapse of Iraq. The first was the sudden invasion of Kuwait, without party or popular approval. The second was the concentration of power in his hands and the monopoly of decision-making, in the name of the Revolutionary Command Council and in the name of the party, with the members agreeing to be content with reading the decisions issued in the name of the council from the press after they gave Saddam all the powers.

“The third was the reliance on relatives, most of whom were semi-educated and had street behavior, with the absence of tact and kindness and the lack of desire on Saddam’s part to intervene to stop their actions, which led to the absence of intervention from the leadership of the party and the revolution, and the confinement of everything to Saddam’s house.

“The writer touches on Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations, beginning with Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, advising Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, that the Iraqi leadership should pay attention to the internal situation, which is the source of danger to the regime, saying that you should pay attention to the interior.

“Saddam Hussein hastily convened the ninth Qatari conference and removed more than half of the members, including the author of the book, Minister of Industry Taher Al-Ani. This response followed a warning from Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, advising Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, to focus on internal threats to the regime.

“This warning marked the birth of an internal danger complex, which grew over time until the occupation. Large security and military capabilities were prepared and trained to confront internal threats, ultimately hindering their effectiveness in resisting the occupation.

“The writer recounts his visit to Kuwait on September 19, 1980, as an envoy of President Saddam Hussein. He met Sheikh Saad, in the absence of Sheikh Jaber, to discuss the rapid deterioration in Iraq’s relations with Iran, its threats, and the possibility of conflict. Sheikh Saad suggested calming the situation, but the envoy replied that Iraq considered all Gulf ports available to the Iraqi Navy, adding that ‘Saddam says this is your day’. Sheikh Saad responded that Kuwait was ready to support Iraq.

“In 1981, the writer visited Kuwait

again and met Sheikh Jaber to discuss Iraq’s need to install radar devices on the islands of Warba and Bubiyan, suggesting a joint presence with Kuwaitis and Iraqis, which Sheikh Jaber agreed to. From Kuwait, he traveled to Abu Dhabi, where Sheikh Zayed provided \$500 million in support for Iraq.

“He then moved on to Riyadh, where he met King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd, requesting the extension of the Iraqi oil pipeline to the Saudi port of Yanbu. The Saudi leaders immediately approved and ordered the implementation of the pipeline extension.

“The writer also discusses the proliferation of secret reports from security and intelligence agencies about hostile activities affecting all social classes. These reports became mechanisms for those seeking promotions and rewards, encouraged by groups of relatives who controlled the security agencies, most notably his son Qusay, who was being groomed as Saddam’s heir.

“The writer questions Saddam’s failure to stop the looting carried out by his relatives in Kuwait, particularly by Ali Hassan al-Majid, the governor of Kuwait authorized by Saddam. Despite the rampant looting, Saddam did not deter any of them.

“The writer refers to Saddam Hussein’s satisfaction with the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa, for receiving his family and building a large house for them. Saddam also praised the Al Saud rulers of the Kingdom for their honesty and loyalty to their promises, as well as Sheikh Zayed.

“He maintained distinguished relations with King Hussein, despite his conviction that Jordan lacked the components of a state, which affected King Hussein. The writer notes that Saddam and others, while in American detention, exchanged comments during breaks. Saddam often expressed his vision of returning as the ruler of Iraq and marrying one of the young women of Iraq.

“In the period preceding his execution in 2006, Saddam was busy writing novels, sending them to an Egyptian writer for review and transformation into complete works. He also wrote poetry but did not succeed due to a lack of talent, leading to a decline in his poetic interests.

“The writer mentions that Saddam’s relatives turned against him after the American invasion, criticizing his management of the government and blaming him for the failures. His half-brother Barzan al-Tikriti maintained a boycott and refused to visit him before his execution.

“Navigating the legacy of Saddam Hussein, as both a president and a human being, is inevitable for Kuwaiti citizens, as we experienced the worst of his betrayal and cruelty. We must explore all aspects of the invasion to uncover the secrets and identify the planners, participants, and executors, ensuring their names and actions are recorded for future Kuwaiti generations. In the history of peoples, with their victories and pains, there is no such thing as oblivion.”

## Also:

“Whoever advised the Ministry of Information to file lawsuits against the Kuwaiti people, whether justified or not, has ultimately harmed their reputation and credibility in the long term”, columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“According to the rule, a government by the people means it should not provoke its own citizens or file complaints against them. Unfortunately, they forgot this rule, and instead listened to advice to intimidate them with lawsuits!

“All of this is simply because the majority of Kuwaiti people reject this “Al-Bayoumi”. They believe Kuwaitis have committed a crime and deserve to be referred to the Public Prosecution.

“They were advised to refer them to the prosecution, thinking that merely taking such action would silence them. However, they forgot that Kuwaiti people are bold in expressing their views and do not fear criticism for speaking the truth.

“Kuwaiti political tradition does not endorse the gagging of mouths. This was evidenced during the period of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Despite the killings, imprisonment, and oppression by the Iraqi forces, they could not suppress the voices of Kuwaitis. Publications continued despite the invasion’s brutality. It did not deter Kuwaitis from expressing their opinions or intimidate them. Hence, do you think a milder form of intimidation will frighten them, silence them, or muzzle their voices?

“For the information of the Ministry of Information, all Kuwaitis, except for the beneficiaries, are dissatisfied with the “Coffee” and its owner. So will the media refer one million Kuwaiti citizens to the prosecution?

“Instead of widening the gap between us, and increasing the public resentment and animosity towards you, returning to the truth is courageous. Perhaps you can ask yourselves - Did your complaints truly succeed in silencing the people or did they only succeed in gagging mouths? Have they intensified public dissatisfaction?

“Engage in dialogue with those who disagree with you, especially if their intentions are for the public good. Listen to the voices of the Kuwaiti people and avoid letting pride lead to sin. It is unreasonable to assume everyone else is wrong while you alone are right. Learn from those who have come before you; ask them - Did they last?”

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



Mol photo

Maj-Gen Eng. Essam Naif receives the UAE delegation.

## Kuwait’s National Guard receives UAE’s NG delegation

The Administrative Support Assistant of the National Guard Major General Eng. Essam Naif received a delegation from the National Guard of the United Arab Emirates at the Liberation Camp, reports **Al-Shahed** daily.

The UAE delegation was led

by the Commander of the UAE National Guard Brigadier Ahmed Hassan Al-Zaabi, and included the UAE Military Attaché to Kuwait Colonel Muhammad Al-Muhri.

The delegation was given a field tour to review the National

Guard’s capabilities in search and rescue operations.

They examined the advanced equipment used to facilitate the missions assigned to the Administrative Support Department, which supports all important state institutions.

# KOC leader, CEO given 10 years jail for \$46 mln embezzlement

## Ex-MP Al-Fikr sentenced to 3 years in jail

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Criminal Court, under the direction of Counselor Nayef Al-Dahoum, has sentenced a leader from the Kuwait Oil Company and the CEO of an oil company to 10 years in prison with hard labor each. Additionally, the court has imposed a joint fine of \$92 million on them for charges of embezzling public funds.**

The Public Prosecution accused the first defendant, a public employee at Kuwait Oil Company, of facilitating the embezzlement of \$46 million from his employer by allowing the second defendant’s company to fraudulently claim the funds. This was achieved by inflating the work and services provided by the two companies involved.

The second defendant was charged with conspiring and aiding the first defendant in the crime. He allegedly assisted by providing falsified service and work performance records, which were used to justify the improper disbursement of funds from Kuwait Oil Company. The fraudulent records allowed the first defendant to secure unjustified payments, leading to the crime as detailed in the investigation.

□ □ □

**2 sentenced in terror-tied case:** The Criminal Court sentenced two Kuwaiti citizens, who were accused of joining a banned group, to jail terms of 17 years and 12 years respectively with hard labor, and placed them under police surveillance for a period of five years after serving the sentence.

The Public Prosecution had charged them with joining a group whose purpose is to spread principles aimed at undermining the basic systems through illegal means, engaging in activities that would harm the country’s national interests, carrying out hostile acts against foreign countries, and financing a terrorist group through illegal means with knowledge of the purpose for which it is used.

They were charged with publicly insulting the Amir using words, attempting to use explosives with the intent to kill people, spreading panic among the public, manufacturing explosive materials without obtaining a license, receiving training about the use and manufacture of explosives with the intent to achieve an illegal purpose with knowledge of that, and misusing telephone communication means.

□ □ □

**Former MP Al-Fikr given 3 years jail:** Former MP Anwar Al-Fikr has been sentenced to three years in jail with

## Certificate of Origin eyed

## MoCI to track counterfeiters

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 29:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has introduced a new electronic service for reporting counterfeit trademarks.

This service allows users to report counterfeit brands through the ministry’s electronic trademark system at trademark.moci.gov.kw.

The users can select the option to report a counterfeit trademark, complete the necessary details, and attach the required documents.

Moreover, the ministry has streamlined the process for issuing a Certificate of Origin for exporting national products.

The new service, accessible through the ministry’s electronic portal, allows users to upload the required documents for industrial licenses and export invoices.

## Last 3 months

## Farwaniya security refers 260 drug, alcohol cases to anti-narcotics dept

**KUWAIT CITY, July 29:** Farwaniya security has reported that between April 1 and June 30, 2024, a total of 260 drug and alcohol cases were forwarded to the General Department for Combating Drugs, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

During this period, Farwaniya security personnel established 5,481 checkpoints. These operations resulted in 243 drug and alcohol seizures, 17 alcohol possession cases, the raiding of a liquor factory, and the issuance of 14,184 traffic violations. Additionally, they managed 1,831 traffic accidents, arrested 142 residency violators and 124 absentees, dealt with 221 fights, and impounded 246 vehicles wanted by security or judicial authorities. They also arrested 13 criminals and 8 illegal expatriate workers, who were referred to the Residence Affairs Investigations, along with 112 street vendors.

These efforts are part of the Public Security Sector’s mission to maintain order, uphold the rule of law, and prevent crime. Their intensive security presence across all governorates aims to apprehend violators, wanted individuals, and outlaws.

## PAFN destroys 262 kilos of spoiled fish

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

**KUWAIT CITY, July 29:** The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) has intensified its efforts to monitor and inspect food items being sold to citizens and expatriates, confirming the confiscation and destruction of more than a quarter ton of fish found unfit for human consumption in the Mubarakiya Fish Market.

Mubarakiya Center Director Mohammad Al-Kandari told the newspaper that the inspection teams of the center checked the food establishments in the Capital Governorate, including the Mubarakiya Market, over the past few hours, which resulted in the issuance of 26 citations for various violations and destruction of 262 kilograms of spoiled fish and shrimp.

He confirmed that the inspection teams recorded many violations such as the display of food supplies for sale if they are unfit for human consumption as the natural properties like color, shape and smell changed; sale of adulterated food; workers selling food without a health certificate; recruitment of workers without a health certificate; non-compliance with the public and personal sanitation rules and regulations at work; and failure to present the inspection record card to the PAFN employees upon request.

## 12 stores shut

## Two held for drugs; 221 traffic citations issued

**KUWAIT CITY, July 29:** The Ministry of Interior said during recent intensive security campaigns in Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City, conducted by the Ahmadi Governorate Security Directorate’s Al-Zour Command, the men in uniform made several arrests and issued citations, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

During the campaigns between July 21 and July 27, 221 traffic citations were issued, two men arrested for possessing drugs, one person was arrested for staying in the country illegally.

The law enforcement officials arrested two men who had been sentenced to jail terms in absentia, referred five men to deportation center citing various reasons and shut down 12 grocery stores and lifted four stores on wheels.

This is in addition to filing six reports related to violating public morals.

The daily added, these actions are part of the ministry’s ongoing efforts to enhance security and enforce regulations in the area.

Meanwhile, the Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) has administratively closed 32 shops and facilities across various governorates for failing to obtain fire licenses and not adhering to safety and fire prevention regulations, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

These closures follow previous warnings issued to the businesses to address the violations.

Meanwhile, the Public Relations Department of the Kuwait Municipality reported that recent field tours in the Capital Governorate led to the issuance of 92 violations related to advertisements.

Additionally, 17 reconciliation orders were issued, and 50 warnings were given to businesses to review and comply with the municipality’s regulations and laws, while an inspection tour by the Engineering Audit and Follow-up Department in Jahra Governorate led to 46 building violations and 358 warnings issued.

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# Awqaf & Information Ministry forge new media partnership

Better project coordination and coverage

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

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Acting Deputy Secretary-General for Administration and Support Services at the General Secretariat of Awqaf, Amal Al-Dallal, stated, “Based on the Council of Ministers’ directives

to ensure ongoing coordination among all government agencies to unify efforts and harness resources to accelerate the implementation of strategic development projects in the country, as well as to enhance the media’s role in highlighting the government’s achievements in a way that meets the aspirations of the Kuwaiti people, a delegation from the secretariat



A delegation from the General Secretariat of Awqaf, headed by Acting Deputy Secretary-General for Administration and Support Services Amal Al-Dallal, presented a commemorative shield to Dr. Nasser Al-Muhaisen, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information.

recently visited the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Al-Muhaisen.”

The delegation included Director of the Department of Media and Awqaf Development Hamad Jassim Al-Mir and the Public Relations and Media Supervisor Wael Al-Shatti.

The purposes for the delegation’s meeting with Dr. Al-Muhaisen were the following:-

1. To finalize coordination procedures for the cooperation protocol previously agreed upon in earlier meetings
2. To strengthen communication and collaboration between the General Secretariat of Awqaf and the Ministry of Information.
3. To highlight the role of the General Secretariat of Awqaf’s activities and projects in promoting community development both locally and internationally.

Al-Dallal reviewed some of the projects and achievements of the General Secretariat of Awqaf as models for highlighting in the media. These include the Center for Listening and Reconciliation, the International Children’s Story Competition, the Autism Center, and the support for charity and civil projects both locally and internationally, among other initiatives.

Meanwhile, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information praised the pioneering role played by the General Secretariat of Awqaf in community development internally and externally.

He expressed appreciation and gratitude for the visit of the delegation of the General Secretariat of Awqaf.

## Endowments, Islamic Heritage launch global learning project

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Acting Secretary-General of the General Secretariat of Endowments, Nasser Al-Hamad, has announced a new collaboration with the Islamic Heritage Revival Society to launch the “Global Technical Learning System – Useful Knowledge” project, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This agreement will see the allocation of the project’s budget by the Endowments Secretariat to establish

a comprehensive technical learning system.

The initiative aims to develop technical programs and applications to facilitate the delivery of Islamic knowledge and the Holy Quran to students both within Kuwait and globally; offer specialized platforms providing free courses and curricula in various fields of Islamic sciences and support the teaching and memorization of the Holy Quran.

## Crown Prince, PM extend warm wishes

### Kuwait HH Amir congratulates Moroccan King on the 25th Throne Day celebrations

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to Moroccan King Mohammad VI, congratulating him on the celebrations of the 25th Throne Day. His Highness the Amir commended King Mohammad VI for his numerous contributions to the development of the Kingdom of Morocco since ascending the throne, wishing him and the Moroccan people more progress and success.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled

Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Monday a congratulation cable to King of Morocco Mohammad VI on the advent of the 25th Throne Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Moroccan King good health and prosperity and his country more progress and development.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to the King of Morocco, congratulating him on the advent of the 25th Throne Day.



Nadia Al-Hajji, the CEO of the company, presented a commemorative shield to Sheikh Hamoud Al Jaber, the Governor of Ahmadi, in the presence of company representatives.

## Governor commends PIC for its contributions

Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Al-Jaber received the CEO of the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), Eng. Nadia Al-Hajji, and her accompanying delegation at his office, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The visitors congratulated the

Governor for earning the confidence of the political leadership and wished him success in his role.

During the meeting, Governor Al-Jaber was briefed on PIC’s key activities, current and future projects, and its production achievements in

local, regional, and global markets. He appreciated the company’s relentless efforts and its significant economic and societal contributions to the Kuwaiti economy, wishing PIC continued success and excellence.

## Latest project boosts recovery techniques

### KISR advances oil recovery with new carbon dioxide resource assessment

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), through its Petroleum Research Center, has completed a project assessing and estimating underground carbon dioxide resources in improved oil production applications within Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Dr. Narges Abul, the associate scientific researcher leading the project, explained that the initiative aimed to evaluate carbon dioxide locations using rock and fluid data from various oil fields in northern Kuwait.

The project also focused on developing an effective monitoring tool for tracking carbon diox-



The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research building. Inset: Dr. Narges Abul, the associate scientific researcher leading the project.

ide distribution within oil reservoirs.

The findings revealed the capability to create an advanced petroleum systems model to simulate

carbon dioxide generation and storage mechanisms in Kuwaiti oil fields. This model will be utilized for enhanced oil recovery (EOR) applications.

## Education officials ensure smooth start

### New school openings under review

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Affairs Mansour Al-Dhafiri has instructed the educational districts to inform him if they intend to open new schools other than the 19 new schools scheduled for opening in the new academic year, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the letter that Al-Dhafiri sent to the educational districts as follows: “With reference to the letter of the Administrative Affairs and Administrative Development Sector regarding the 19 schools expected to open in 2024/2025 academic year, please submit your request to open more schools within two days from the date of this letter. You should also inform us about the justifications for opening more schools in the upcoming academic year, level of preparations, equipment, planning and procedures that must be taken in this regard.”

In a related development, the cleaning workers will start cleaning schools on Aug 15 and this will be closely monitored by the concerned educational sector officials. Sources disclosed that about five to eight cleaning workers will be assigned in each school, noting that the student density has been taken into consideration. Sources asserted that everything is reassuring and the Services Department is working hard to provide workers in coordination with the specialized companies for the schools

## KU accepts 8,880 students for 2024/25 academic year

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Kuwait University has announced the acceptance of 8,880 students for the 2024/2025 academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Fadel Abbas, Acting Dean of Admissions and Registration, confirmed that this number includes both male and female students who met the admission requirements and chose all available specializations during the application period.

This figure does not account for students accepted into foreign missions or Abdullah Al-Salem University, who opted to pursue their studies elsewhere. Additionally, some applicants were not admitted due to their chosen preferences not meeting the minimum academic criteria required for those specializations.

Dr. Abbas also noted that while no amendments can be made to specializations after the application period, students who wish to apply for the second semester can submit new applications once the relevant dates are announced by the Deanship of Admission and Registration.

to be ready for the new academic. They thanked the education minister and the undersecretary for their role in removing obstacles to ensure the smooth opening of the new academic year.

## MoHE wraps up successful 3rd edition of ‘Guide Me’ campaign

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The third edition of the campaign titled “Guide Me” by the Ministry of Higher Education for the students who wish to enroll for overseas scholarships has concluded, reports Al-Shahed daily.

The campaign kicked off on May 12 on all official platforms of the Ministry of Higher Education with the aim of informing the Kuwaiti students who graduated from Arabic or foreign high schools and their parents about the ways to apply for overseas scholarships and the conditions they need to meet.

During the closing ceremony, the Acting Undersecretary of Ministry of Higher Edu-

cation Lamia Al-Melhem explained that the campaign was held under the patronage of the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al Adwani

It was divided into three phases with the aim of guiding students in meeting the required conditions, and informing them about the scholarship programs, as well as for organizing orientation meetings with the accepted students to provide them with information about the procedures to carry out after the admission.

Al-Melhem highlighted the efforts exerted by the public and private sector institutions which led to the success of the campaign.

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Periodic reports proposed to highlight regional advancements

55th session of PCHR to be held in Kuwait next February

KUWAIT CITY, July 29, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikhha Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah announced Monday that the 55th session of the Permanent Committee for Human Rights will be held in Kuwait next February.

Sheikha Jawaher said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) during the 54th session of the Permanent Committee that the Kuwaiti delegation suggested to the committee to prepare a periodic report every six months which includes the most important activities and achievements, highlight the progress made in the field of human rights as well as the activities they have organized in this field.

She pointed to the intervention she had during the agenda discussions, in which the Committee's vital role in establishing and spreading the culture of human rights was emphasized through holding events related to human rights and periodic meetings.

Regarding the Arab Charter on Human Rights, she stressed that necessary measures are taken in Arab countries through the exchange of expertise and best practices, as well as supporting the role of the Arab Charter Committee in order to carry out its responsibilities and desired goals.

She added that the member states agreed to adopt March 16, 2025 as the celebration slogan of (right to food) in line with the suffer experience that is happening in the occupied territories in obtaining food.

Sheikha Jawaher thanked the Secretariat of the League of Arab States for preparing the executive plan for the Arab Strategy for Human Rights.



KUNA photo  
Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador.

Course on radiation safety for PET Imaging kicks off at KIMS

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Ministry of Health's Radiation Protection Department has kicked off the fifth course on "Radiation Safety for Positron Emission Tomography (PET) with Magnetic Resonance Imaging" at the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This event is part of a series of training sessions initiated by the department last March.

Dr. Hanan Al-Dosari, head of the organizing committee, announced that the two-day course is held under the patronage of Dr. Al-Mundhir Al-Hasawi, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs. It involves 99 specialists from nuclear medicine, diagnostic radiology, Kuwait University, and the Gulf Cooperation Council's Emergency Center.

Dr. Al-Dosari highlighted the significance of the PET device, which integrates positron emission tomography and magnetic resonance imaging

to provide detailed and accurate tissue images and assess cellular metabolic activity. This integrated approach offers a more precise diagnosis compared to performing either test separately.

The Ministry of Health has introduced this innovative device in the nuclear medicine departments of Jahra and Farwaniya hospitals.

Dr. Al-Dosari emphasized the Ministry's commitment to enhancing the skills of healthcare workers and ensuring the highest standards of radiation safety for patients and the public. The training courses aim to equip workers in both ionizing and non-ionizing radiation fields with advanced knowledge and safety practices.

The course is led by Dr. Adnan Al-Watban, Director of the Research Facilities Department in Saudi Arabia and a Medical Physics Consultant, along with a team of specialists from the Ministry of Health's Radiation Protection Department.

MoH and CSC verify 'Pay for Work' employees' secondary gov't roles

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Ministry of Health is currently coordinating with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to ensure that employees under the 'pay for work' system of the ministry are not hired for other positions on the second contract or the bonus system in other government agencies, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources told the daily that the ministry sent the list of employees under the 'pay for work' system to the CSC to verify if they are working in other government agencies through the integrated systems,

as this is a conflict of interests.

In addition, the ministry recently carried out the rotation and redistribution of employees under the 'pay for work' system in primary healthcare centers, hospitals, health districts and specialized centers. It took this step after redistributing 485 Kuwaiti administrative employees last week. This decision is aimed at ensuring the fair distribution of human resources, achieve equal opportunities among employees and improve the services provided by health facilities, sources revealed.

Dear gov't,

Continued from Page 1

In this regard, there are many examples of comparisons between sound planning, preserving public funds, and blatant embezzlement, as seen in Kuwait. For instance, the cost of the "Empty Quarter Road," which is a road of length 564 kilometers that links the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman, was USD 250 million. Meanwhile, the Jaber Bridge, which is a length of 50 kilometers, incurred a cost of USD 3.6 billion.

Also, the cost for the construction of the university city has so far reached KD 2.782 billion, approximately equivalent to USD 1 billion.

In addition, the total costs for the two cultural centers are around USD 1.161 billion, which is much higher than the budget of the Cultural District (Katara) project in Doha, Qatar.

Here we will not discuss about the rest of the projects, such as the roads that have been suffering since 2005 due to poor asphalt quality, loose gravel, and deliberate delays in completion, or other infrastructure projects, all of which have their own costs and challenges.

Most projects in other countries are conducted directly between the government and the contractor, but in our case, every corrupt person has a share in the projects.

Therefore, it is imperative for the state, specifically the government, to open these files and address these issues of corrupt enrichment at the expense of public funds if it is seriously committed to reform and recovery of the looted assets, as the state has signed many agreements with other entities in this regard, otherwise, the state will continue to face deficits like a pan with a hole.

Mubarakiya Market

Continued from Page 1

will keep them to be displayed in the museum that will be established as part of the project.

Head of the reconstruction team for the affected area in Mubarakiya Market Eng. Hassan Al-Kandari clarified that the field inspection tour aimed to ensure the progress of work

in the project, specifically the first stages of implementation, after the Municipality removed all obstacles in coordination with the concerned authorities; in addition to reorganizing the entire area in terms of ownership in conjunction with the issuance of licenses and approvals to start the first stages of implementation.

Al-Kandari added the project consists of commercial buildings, confirming that the archaeological and historical elements will be preserved and transformed into a museum featuring the urban history of the area.

He added the historical and archaeological elements have been observed at the project site, dating back to more than a hundred years; hence, the need to preserve them.

He said those in charge of the project faced a major challenge in highlighting the place and choosing a design that reflects its authentic and distinctive history, so it could be a unique destination for tourists and for the future generations to learn about the history of the area.

He expressed optimism about the upcoming stages of the project and the commitment of the contractor to the contractual period of completion, which is 13 months.

He also confirmed that the Municipality and the concerned authorities, headed by the Council of Ministers, are ready to remove obstacles that may arise during implementation.

He stressed that the Municipality is keen on linking the reconstruction project for the damaged area in the market with the comprehensive project to develop the entire Mubarakiya Market that is characterized by a special nature, considering its distinctive urban and heritage design; while focusing on the security and safety requirements during reconstruction.

Deportation underway

Continued from Page 1

Consequently, legal action has been initiated in preparation for the deportation of the sponsors, the women, and the sponsored, their husbands and children, for failing to abide by the pledge that was signed when applying for the family visit visa and for violating the relevant conditions.

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Correctional Institutions General Department at the Interior Ministry confirmed that the new building for the deportation prison ('Talha') will be handed over in early October, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting sources.

Sources told the daily that the department will soon lay down a plan to transfer prisoners from the old Talha Prison to the new building. Sources revealed the new deportation prison used to be the Juvenile Prison Administration building located in the prison area in Sulabiya, adjacent to the Special Security Forces General Department building. Sources added this building, which has been completely renovated, can accommodate around 1,500 to 2,000 deportees in the men's section; while the women's section has a capacity of 500 deportees.

Sources said the new building

The Ministry of Interior stressed that all visitors are required to adhere strictly to the specified time limit for their visit and must leave the country upon the expiry of their visit visa in order to avoid facing legal consequences.

Meanwhile, Brigadier-General Mohammad Al-Wazzan, Director of the Capital Residence Affairs Department, said new amendments to the residence law are in the offing to regulate Kuwait's labor market which is infested with illegals.

During an interview talking to NewsKtv on the program 'Pulse of the Street', Al-Wazzan explained the new measures have been prompted by the increasing number of residence law violators necessitating a review of the existing laws.

He went on to say, the new amendments will introduce stricter penalties for both workers and sponsors who violate the law, streamline recruitment procedures, and enhance oversight on law enforcement.

Al-Wazzan emphasized the need to organize the labor market and accurately assess labor requirements. He noted that the amendments are designed to protect workers' rights, create suitable job opportunities for citizens, and contribute to the country's security and stability.

He urged violators to legalize their stay in the country by correcting their status while at the same time highlighting the importance of cooperation between the authorities and citizens to regulate expatriate labor.

Al-Wazzan said he is confident the new amendments will significantly reduce the number of resident labor who stay illegally in the country.

He announced that the ministry will embark on intensive awareness campaigns to educate expatriate workers about the new laws.

Kuwait rejects

Continued from Page 1

Al-Dakhnan emphasized the union and office owners' rejection of any unilateral salary increases, stressing that any wage adjustments should be in line with prior agreements that ensure parity with other Gulf countries. He urged the relevant authorities to intervene and uphold the agreed-upon wage structure.

He also pointed out that the sala-



The new deportation prison in Sulabiya

consists of flight reservation offices, other offices affiliated with the Criminal Evidence General Department, two clinics -- one for women and one for men, administration offices and some service offices. Sources clarified the old Talha Prison building is dilapidated and it is no longer in line with security and safety regulations.

On the other hand, sources con-

firmed that for the first time this year; the Correctional Institutions General Department completed the academic tests for prisoners who are continuing their studies at various educational levels in the evening, in cooperation with the Farwaniya Educational District Administration and the Education Ministry.

Sources pointed out that for the

ries of some domestic workers in Kuwait are higher due to their specialized experience, leading to a variation in wages.

Al-Dakhnan warned against unauthorized statements by individuals without the legal authority to represent office owners.

KUFPEC plans

Continued from Page 1

The focus is on identifying and financing new exploration projects. Concurrently, KUFPEC is reviewing its existing investments and considering exiting projects that no longer align with its strategic objectives, as seen with its recent withdrawal from Norway and China.

Moreover, KUFPEC is working to discover more wells in the Gulf of Suez Basin, particularly in the "Jisum and West Tawila" concession, with the most recent discovery reported at the end of last year.

Established in 1981, KUFPEC continues to pursue exploration, development, and production of oil and natural gas outside Kuwait, aligning with the broader vision of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

The company has a track record of successful foreign explorations across various Arab and regional markets.

'Kuwait targeted

Continued from Page 1

Major General Al-Saree emphasized the importance of the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) in monitoring and taking action against fake accounts.

He called for CITRA to track these accounts and suspend Internet services for individuals found to be operating fake accounts on X platform, as well as advocating for their immediate prosecution in accordance with the law.

Al-Saree stressed the need for coordination among Gulf countries and for launching media campaigns in Kuwait and other Gulf and Arab nations to eradicate fake accounts and bring an end to their destructive impact.

He suggested that Kuwait should revoke the citizenship of individuals who offend and tarnish its reputa-

tion from abroad, asserting that such individuals should not retain Gulf citizenship while instigating disputes among Gulf nations.

Kuwait support

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait's top diplomat also condemned the Israeli massacres against Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

"Gaza has turned into a bleak landscape of destruction, with 40,000 deaths, mostly women and children. The total number of victims under the rubble is unknown," he regretted.

"Israel has turned schools into battlefields and hospitals into landscapes of pain and powerlessness".

Despite the efforts to end to these attacks, Israel continues to cut lives short without any distinction, he noted.

He went to say that the Israeli authorities are committing war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

Calling for unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance across Gaza, Al-Yahya underlined the essential role of UNRWA in supporting the Palestinian people in their darkest hour.

first time, inmates studying in high school were able to take the tests inside the prison building and those in transfer classes took the tests successfully.

Sources said the department is waiting for the response of Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) about the need for a mechanism for inmates to continue their academic and technical studies.

Sources went on to affirm that there is a new development in the services provided by correctional institutions to inmates and their families, as the department has created a new authorization form for an inmate to sign authorizing one of his relatives to complete his transactions in any of the ministries and other government entities.

Sources added the Prison Security Department provides a full report on the inmate's case and the length of his sentence, and this report is attached to the authorization and stamped by the correctional institutions for completion of the inmate's transactions in government institutions.

Al-Yahya further warned against double standards and expressed support for all initiatives to reach a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question.

He highlighted Israeli's continued criminal practices and violations of international law, referring to its unilateral decisions aiming to change the current legal and historic status of the occupied territories amid the failure of the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities.

On sidelines on his participation in the Jordan-hosted international conference for the urgent humanitarian response for Gaza as a Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya affirmed that Kuwait will remain a strong supporter to the Palestinian people and ready to do all in power to end their suffering.

"Kuwait will not hesitate to extend a helping hand to the brotherly Palestinian people and will continue to support them as they face injustice and aggression," Minister Al-Yahya said.

Kuwait Amir's Representative highlighted that Kuwait's governmental and popular campaigns to collect and provide aid to Palestinian people.

He pointed out that Kuwait, since the start of the Israeli offensive on Gaza, has launched an air-bridge through which 50 aircraft loaded with 1.3 million tons of humanitarian and relief aid were dispatched to the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, Kuwait has also organized 100-land and sea aid convoy loaded with relief supplies and shelter materials to Palestinian people during the same period, the Minister said.

He added that Kuwait has also sent medical teams to the Gaza Strip to help support the collapsing healthcare sector there.

"Kuwait acts out of principled and firm position supporting the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights," the Minister said.

He stated that Kuwait will always among the main defender of the Palestinian cause and the leading advocates for a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions to meet the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is the establishment of their independent state on the borders of June 4, 1967.



World News Roundup

Europe

**6 UK lawmakers running to lead Conservative:** Six British lawmakers have announced they are running to lead the defeated Conservative Party, ahead of a Monday deadline, in a contest that will decide whether the opposition party tacks to the right or steers toward the political center ground.

Contenders include former Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and lawmaker Tom Tugendhat from the party’s centrist grouping. Former Home Secretary **Priti Patel** and ex-Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch have support from the right of the party.



Patel

Former immigration minister Robert Jenrick and veteran lawmaker Mel Stride also have secured the required support of 10 Conservative lawmakers before the deadline of 2:30 p.m. (9:30 a.m. EDT, 1330GMT) on Monday.

Badenoch, who came third in the party’s last leadership election in 2022, was the early favorite with bookmakers. The Nigeria-raised lawmaker used language reminiscent of Conservative icon Margaret Thatcher, saying the party should lead “a renewal for capitalism” built around a smaller state and seek to persuade voters “why conservatism should matter.”

In the wake of the party’s devastating election defeat this month, which saw it lose votes to parties on both right and left, Conservatives are split between moderates who want to try to win back centrist voters and hard-liners who want tougher migration and law and order policies to regain political territory lost to the Reform UK party led by anti-immigration firebrand Nigel Farage.

Former Home Secretary Suella Braverman, a standard-bearer for the party’s right, said Sunday she would not run. (AP)

**‘Previous govt covered up financial turmoil:** Britain’s new Treasury chief is alleging that the previous government covered up the dire state of the nation’s finances, as she prepares to deliver a major speech to Parliament on Monday that is widely expected to lay the groundwork for higher taxes.

In extracts of her speech released late Sunday, Rachel Reeves professed shock at the scale of the problems she discovered following a department-by-department review of public spending commissioned shortly after she took office three weeks ago. While the excerpts included no figures, Reeves is expected to outline a 20 billion-pound (\$26 billion) shortfall in public finances.

“It is time to level with the public and tell them the truth,” Reeves will tell the House of Commons. “The previous government refused to take the difficult decisions. They covered up the true state of the public finances. And then they ran away.”

Prime Minister Keir Starmer ‘s left-leaning Labour Party won a landslide election victory earlier this month, ending 14 years of Conservative Party rule. (AP)

**Russia stops drone barrage on its soil:** Russian air defenses thwarted a nighttime barrage of 39 Ukrainian drones over five of the country’s regions, Russian authorities said Monday, while Kyiv officials said the Kremlin’s forces made a new push to overwhelm battlefield defenses on the front line in eastern Ukraine.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said the drones were “intercepted and destroyed” in regions bordering Ukraine as well as in the Leningrad region roughly 700 kilometers (430 miles) north of the Ukrainian border. A power plant, a bridge and a power line were damaged by drone debris, it said.

Ukraine has employed high technology in its campaign of increasingly ambitious drone strikes deep inside Russia that target critical infrastructure in an attempt to make the war that is now in its third year more costly for Moscow and hinder its war machine.

Russian troops, meanwhile, are intensifying their weekslong drive to breach Ukrainian defenses around Pokrovsk, a town of around 60,000 people before the war, the Ukrainian General Staff said Monday. (AP)

**Putin vows ‘mirror measures’:** Russia may deploy new strike weapons in response to the planned US stationing of longer-range and hypersonic missiles in Germany, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday.

Speaking at a naval parade in St Petersburg, Putin vowed “mirror measures” after the US earlier this month announced that it will start deploying the weapons in 2026, to affirm its commitment to NATO and European defense following Moscow’s all-out invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

“If the US implements such plans, we will consider ourselves free from the previously imposed unilateral moratorium on the deployment of intermediate and shorter-range strike weapons, including increasing the capability of the coastal forces of our navy,” Putin said. He added that Moscow’s development of suitable systems is “in its final stage.”

Both Washington and Moscow have in recent weeks signaled readiness to deploy intermediate-range ground-based weapons that were banned for decades under a 1987 US-Soviet treaty. (AP)

**Thousands in Ukraine honor soldiers:** Ukrainians urged their government to do more to get Russia to release prisoners of war, voicing their anger on Sunday at a ceremony commemorating the second anniversary of an explosion that killed more than 50.

Several thousand soldiers and civilians gathered at Kyiv’s Independence Square Sunday to commemorate the second anniversary of an explosion that killed more than 50 Ukrainians that Russia held in the Olenivka prison barracks.

Impassioned speakers at the ceremony urged the Ukrainian government to work harder to get the soldiers freed in a prisoner exchange.

The Olenivka explosion was one of the most painful pages in the war, according to many soldiers.

“I was there in Olenivka. I was rocked by the explosion,” said Sgt Kyrylo Masalitin, who was later released. (AP)

**1 dead as Latvia, Lithuania hit by storm:** One person died and some 200,000 households were left without electricity in Lithuania and neighboring Latvia as strong storm winds and heavy rain pounded the Baltic nations overnight.

A 50-year-old woman was killed in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, by a falling tree on Monday, authorities said. Fire and rescue officials in both countries have received hundreds of emergency calls for fallen trees, damaged cars and flooded roads and fields.

In Lithuania, authorities warned people to travel only in urgent situations as the storm was bringing more severe winds and catastrophic levels of rain into most regions in the country of 2.8 million. In the districts of Siauliai, Telšiai and Šilalė, a month’s worth of rain was recorded on Sunday and Monday, Lithuanian meteorologists said.

Weather experts said prevailing strong winds in Latvia are set to continue to raise water levels along the coast of the Gulf of Riga, and the Daugava river which runs through the capital, Riga, may flood. (AP)

**8 hurt in England stabbings, man held:** At least eight people, some of them children, were injured in stabbings in northwest England on Monday, emergency services said. Police said they had detained a man and seized a knife.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the attack “horrendous and deeply shocking.”

Merseyside Police said officers were called at about noon to an address in Southport, a seaside town near Liverpool, to what it called a “major incident,” but said there was no wider threat to the public. (AP)

**Vandalism hits France communication lines:** The French government says multiple telecommunications lines have been hit by acts of vandalism, affecting fiber lines and fixed and mobile phone lines as cities around France are hosting events for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The scale of the impact is unclear, as is whether it has affected any Olympic activities. The vandalism came after a rson attacks hit train networks around France on Friday, hours before the Olympics opening ceremony.

Marina Ferrari, secretary of state in charge of digital affairs, posted on X that damage in several regions overnight Sunday to Monday affected telecommunications operators. She said that led to localized impact on access to fiber lines and fixed and mobile telephone lines. (AP)



US Republican presidential candidate former president Donald Trump and Republican vice presidential candidate Sen. JD Vance, greet each other at a campaign rally on July 27 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. (AP)

Politics

‘Harris raised \$200m, signed up 170K volunteers’

Trump, Vance campaign in Minnesota

ST. CLOUD, Minn., July 29, (AP): As the presidential campaign enters a critical final 100 day stretch, Republican nominee Donald Trump and his running mate, JD Vance, rallied supporters in a state that hasn’t backed a GOP candidate for the White House since 1972.

The rally in St. Cloud, Minnesota, was designed as a sign of the campaign’s bullishness about its prospects across the Midwest, particularly when President Joe Biden was showing signs of weakness ahead of his decision to exit the campaign. Trump, who won Michigan and Wisconsin in 2016 only to lose them four years later, has increasingly focused on Minnesota as a state where he’d like to put Democrats on defense.

The rally is something of a gamble, potentially forcing the likely Democratic nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, and Democrats to devote resources in a state they would likely otherwise ignore. But it could also be a risk for Trump if he spends time in places that might prove to be a reach with Harris leading the ticket when he could otherwise focus on maintaining his support in more traditional battlegrounds.

Escalating

Trump spoke for more than an hour and a half to cheering crowds holding signs supporting police and calling for the deportation of migrants in the country illegally. He continued a pattern of escalating attacks against Harris on immigration and crime.

He called her a “crazy liberal” and accused her of wanting to “defund the police,” while he said by contrast, he wants to “overfund the police.”

“She has no clue, she’s evil,” Trump said, suggesting Harris had failed at her tasks related to the border as vice president. “Kamala Harris’ deadly destruction of America’s borders is completely and totally disqualifying for her to be president.”

Trump called out Harris for a 2020 post she made after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of police. The post had encouraged peo-

ple to help protesters by donating to the Minnesota Freedom Fund, which had been working on reforming the bail system and posted criminal bail for people as part of a campaign to address inequities in the system.

Though Harris did not contribute to the fund herself, her tweet was among those from celebrities and high-profile people that helped donations flow into the cash-strapped nonprofit, helping it quickly raise \$34 million. In the immediate aftermath of the protests and unrest, the group actually spent little bailing out protesters.

Ammar Moussa, a spokesperson for the Harris campaign, called Trump’s attack line “a desperate lie from a desperate campaign” that can’t change the fact that its candidate has been convicted of multiple felonies.

Attack

Trump also knocked Harris as an “absolute radical” on abortion, seemingly sensing an opening to attack her on the issue after she has become the Biden administration’s most vocal proponent of abortion rights. He wrongly suggested Harris wants abortion “right up until birth and after birth.” Infanticide is criminalized in every state, and no state has passed a law that allows killing a baby after birth.

Yet the former president also recycled much of his past material targeting Biden, showing how his campaign has sought to keep Biden’s pitfalls fresh in voters’ minds even after the president has ended his candidacy and endorsed Harris.

Trump’s remarks followed a spirited speech from Vance, in which he leaned heavily into issues that animate the GOP base, particularly security at the U.S.-Mexico border and crime. He also took a broadside against the news media, arguing that journalists were comparing the first Black woman and person of south Asian descent to lead a major party ticket to Martin Luther King, Jr.

In May, Trump headlined a GOP fundraiser in St. Paul, where he boasted he could win the state and made

explicit appeals to the iron-mining range in northeast Minnesota, where he hopes a heavy population of blue-collar and union workers will shift to Republicans after years of being solidly Democratic.

Appealing to that population has also helped Minnesota Gov Tim Walz land on the list of about a dozen Democrats who are being vetted to potentially be Harris’ running mate.

Also:

**WASHINGTON:** US Vice President **Kamala Harris’** campaign has raised \$200 million since she emerged as the likely Democratic presidential nominee last week, an eye-popping haul in her race against the Republican nominee, former president **Donald Trump**.

The campaign, which announced its latest fundraising total on Sunday, said the bulk of the donations - 66% - comes from first-time contributors in the 2024 election cycle and were made after President **Joe Biden** announced his exit from the race and endorsed Harris.

Over 170,000 volunteers have also signed up to help the Harris campaign with phone banking, canvassing and other get-out-the-vote efforts. Election Day is 100 days away.

“The momentum and energy for Vice President Harris is real - and so are the fundamentals of this race: this election will be very close and decided by a small number of voters in just a few states,” **Michael Tyler**, the campaign’s communications director, wrote in a memo.

Her campaign said it held some 2,300 organizing events in battleground states this weekend as several high-profile Democrats under consideration to serve as Harris’ running mate stumbled for her.

Harris campaigned in **Pittsfield, Massachusetts**, on Saturday, drawing hundreds to a fundraiser that had been organized when Biden was still at the top of the Democratic ticket. The fundraiser had originally been expected to raise \$400,000 but ended bringing in about \$1.4 million, according to the campaign.

in the western United States, but further evacuations and resources have been necessary as thousands of personnel tackle the flames.

The so-called Park Fire, the largest wildfire in California this year, was one of more than 100 blazes burning in the US on Sunday, according to the National Interagency

Fire Center. Some were sparked by the weather, with climate change increasing the frequency of lightning strikes as the western US endures blistering heat and bone-dry conditions.

The Park Fire had scorched an area greater than the city of Los Angeles as of Sunday, darkening the sky with smoke and engaging



The Park Fire burns along Highway 32 near Butte Meadows, Calif on July 28. Firefighters made progress and were aided by improving weather Sunday in the battle against wildfires covering massive areas and leaving a trail of damage in the western United States. (AP)



Keller



Newsom

America

**Maryland mall shooting kills 1:** One person was killed in a shooting inside a shopping mall in a suburb of Baltimore and Washington on Saturday, police said.

Authorities received a call after gunfire in the food court area of the mall in Columbia, Maryland, at about 6:10 pm. Officers found Angelo Little, 17, of Columbia, dead from a gunshot wound, Howard County police said.

Police determined that the suspect left the mall following the shooting, and detectives believe the victim was targeted.

Authorities say the investigation is ongoing.

Officers worked to evacuate people in an orderly fashion, and the mall was fully cleared by 9:00 pm Saturday, police said.

The mall also was the scene of a shooting in January 2014, when three people died after a man with a shotgun killed two people and then himself. (AP)

**7 shot, 1 dead at NY park:** One person is dead and at least six others were injured following a mass shooting Sunday at a park in upstate New York.

Rochester police said they responded to Maplewood Park around 6:20 pm to a large gathering with shots fired and found several people suffering from gunshot wounds.

An adult in their 20s was killed, another person suffered a life threatening injury and five people were hospitalized with minor injuries, Capt Greg Bello said.

The identity of the victim fatally shot has not yet been released pending the notification of family, Bello said.

Several police agencies responded to the park including the Irondequoit Police, Monroe County Sheriff’s Office, Rochester Police and New York State Police. Rochester police did confirm a party was happening in the area at the time of the shooting.

“At this point we don’t know how many people were shooting,” Bello said. “We are trying to work our way through as many witnesses as we can.” (AP)

**Calif firefighters make progress:** Firefighters made progress and were aided by improving weather Sunday in the battle against wildfires covering massive areas and leaving a trail of damage



Britain’s King Charles III attends a Sunday church service at St Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham, Norfolk, England on July 28. (AP)

thousands of firefighters. The blaze spanned more than 562 square miles (1,455 square kilometers) of inland Northern California. California governor is **Gavin Newsom**.

Millions of people were under air quality alerts Sunday in the northwestern US and western Canada.

The Park Fire started Wednesday, when authorities say a man pushed a burning car into a gully in Chico and then fled. (AP)

**Body found in Phoenix warehouse:** Authorities believe they have found the body of a Phoenix warehouse worker missing for three days after a micro cloud burst caused the roof of a commercial building to partially collapse.

Phoenix police said they’re waiting for the Maricopa County medical examiner’s office to confirm the victim’s identity before his name is released.

The search for the 22-year-old man began around 10 pm Wednesday after a brief, violent storm hit the Freeport warehouse.

City fire rescue crews worked 12-hour shifts until the body was located around 1 pm Saturday.

“This is not the outcome we wanted,” Phoenix Fire Department Captain **Todd Keller** said.

Keller said the missing man had been working in the warehouse for about a year.

Authorities said he was the only one who didn’t make it out of the building when the severe storm hit the Phoenix area. (AP)



Lat/Am

‘Cartel leader kidnapped’

Venezuelan president, opposition lock horns

CARACAS, Venezuela, July 29, (AP): Venezuela’s opposition and President **Nicolas Maduro**’s government were locked in a high-stakes standoff after each side claimed victory in a presidential vote that millions in the long-suffering nation saw as their best shot to end 25 years of single-party rule.

Several foreign governments, including the US, held off recognizing the results of Sunday’s election, and officials delayed the release of detailed vote tallies after proclaiming Maduro the winner with 51% of the vote, to 44% for retired diplomat Edmundo González.

“Venezuelans and the entire world know what happened,” González said.



Maduro

On the streets of Caracas, a mix of anger, tears and loud pot banging greeted the announcement of results by the Maduro-controlled National Electoral Council. “This isn’t possible,” said Ayari Padrón, wiping away tears. “This is a humiliation.” The election will have ripple effects throughout the Americas, with government opponents and supporters alike signaling their interest in joining the exodus of 7.7 million Venezuelans who have already left their crisis-plagued home for opportunities abroad should Maduro win another six-year term.

Advanced

Venezuela sits atop the world’s largest proven oil reserves, and once boasted Latin America’s most advanced economy. But it entered into a free fall after Maduro took the helm. Plummeting oil prices, widespread shortages of basic goods and hyperinflation that soared past 130,000% led first to social unrest and then mass emigration.

Economic sanctions from the US seeking to force Maduro from power after his 2018 reelection - which the U.S. and dozens of other countries condemned as illegitimate - only deepened the crisis.

Voters lined up before dawn to cast ballots Sunday, boosting the opposition’s hopes it was about to break Maduro’s grip on power.

The official results came as a shock to opposition members who had celebrated, online and outside a few voting centers, what they believed was a landslide victory for González.

“I’m so happy,” said Merling Fernández, a 31-year-old bank employee, as a representative for the opposition campaign walked out of one voting center in a working class neighborhood of Caracas to announce results showing González more than doubled Maduro’s vote count. Dozens standing nearby erupted in an impromptu rendition of the national anthem.

“This is the path toward a new Venezuela,” added Fernández, holding back tears. “We are all tired of this yoke.”

Gabriel Boric, the leftist leader of Chile, called the results “difficult to believe,” while U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington had “serious concerns” that they didn’t reflect the voting - or the will of the people.

Stationed

Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado said the margin of González’s victory was “overwhelming,” based on voting tallies the campaign received from representatives stationed at about 40% of ballot boxes.

Authorities delayed releasing the results from each of the 30,000 polling booths nationwide, promising only to do so in the “coming hours,” hampering attempts to verify the results.

González was the unlikely of opposition standard bearers. The 74-year-old was unknown until he was tapped in April as a last-minute stand in for opposition powerhouse Machado, who was blocked by the Maduro-controlled supreme court from running for any office for 15 years.

The delay in announcing a winner - which came six hours after polls were supposed to close - indicated a deep debate inside the government about how to proceed after Maduro’s opponents came out early in the evening all but claiming victory.

After finally claiming to have won, Maduro accused unidentified foreign enemies of trying to hack the voting system.

“This is not the first time they have tried to violate the peace of the republic,” he said to a few hundred supporters at the presidential palace. He provided no evidence to back the claim but promised “justice” for those who try to stir violence in Venezuela.

Authorities set Sunday’s election to coincide with what would have been the 70th birthday of former President Hugo Chávez, the revered leftist firebrand who died of cancer in 2013, leaving his Bolivarian revolution in the hands of Maduro. But Maduro and his United Socialist Party of Venezuela are more unpopular than ever among many voters who blame his policies for crushing wages, spurring hunger, crippling the oil industry and separating families due to migration.

Also:

**HOUSTON:** The lawyer of a powerful Mexican drug cartel leader who is now in US custody pushed back Sunday against claims that his client was tricked into flying into the country, saying he was “forcibly kidnapped” by the son of Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán.

**Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada** had eluded authorities for decades and had never set foot in prison until a plane carrying him and Joaquín Guzmán López, a son of notorious drug kingpin “El Chapo,” landed at an airport in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, near El Paso, Texas, on Thursday. Both men, who face various U.S. drug charges, were arrested and remain jailed.

**Frank Perez, Zambada’s** attorney, said his client did not end up at the New Mexico airport of his own free will.

“My client neither surrendered nor negotiated any terms with the U.S. government,” Perez said in a statement. “Joaquín Guzmán López forcibly kidnapped my client. He was ambushed, thrown to the ground, and handcuffed by six men in military uniforms and Joaquín. His legs were tied, and a black bag was placed over his head.” Perez went on to say that Zambada, 76, was thrown in the back of a pickup truck, forced onto a plane and tied to the seat by Guzmán López.

Known as an astute operator skilled at corrupting officials, Zambada has a reputation for being able to negotiate with everyone, including rivals. He is charged in a number of US cases, including in New York and California. Prosecutors brought a new indictment against him in New York in February, describing him as the “principal leader of the criminal enterprise responsible for importing enormous quantities of narcotics into the United States.”



This undated photo provided on July 29, 2024 by the North Korean government, shows a flood-hit area in North Phyongan province, North Korea. Inset: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects a flood-hit area in North Phyongan province, North Korea on July 28. (AP)

5,000 rescued from flooding in North Korea, state media says

More than 5,000 people isolated by flooding in northwestern North Korea were rescued by airlift and other evacuation work after heavy summer rains caused a river on the Chinese border to swell, state media reported Monday.

The official Korean Central News Agency did not mention any deaths or how much damage the flooding on Saturday caused.

Summer floods in North Korea often cause seri-

ous damage to farmlands due to poor drainage, deforestation and dilapidated infrastructure.

About 10 military helicopters and navy and government boats were mobilized for the evacuation efforts in Sinuiju city and Uiju town where flooding had stranded residents. KCNA said that about 4,200 people were rescued by airlifts. KCNA credited leader Kim Jong Un with overseeing the rescue operation on Sunday, likely aiming to portray him as an able leader handling a dis-

aster and caring about public livelihoods.

During his weekend visit to the flooded region, KCNA quoted Kim calling the rescue works “miraculous” and ordering food and other necessities to be provided to the affected people.

Kim scolded officials for failing to prepare for floods despite his orders to prevent flood damage, KCNA said, in a possible effort to shift blame while North Korea struggles with economic difficulties. (AP)

Asia

Indonesia’s leader starts working in new capital

Quad FMs work to improve maritime safety

TOKYO, July 29, (AP): Top diplomats from Japan, the US, Australia and India meeting Monday in Tokyo compiled a set of measures to reinforce maritime safety and cybersecurity and to support other Asia-Pacific countries in improving their defenses during growing tensions in the regional seas.

After the meeting, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmayam Jaishankar said they were “seriously concerned” about the tensions and expressed “strong opposition” to unilateral changes to the status quo by coercion.

They noted “the militarization of disputed features, and coercive and intimidating maneuvers in the South China Sea” as examples, but carefully avoided identifying China in their joint statement.

Crucial

Several regional governments dispute China’s sweeping territorial claims over the South China Sea, which has crucial maritime trade routes and potential energy reserves. Beijing also claims self-governing Taiwan as its territory, to be annexed by force if necessary.

At what are known as the Quad talks, the four ministers agreed on a number of initiatives to counter cyberattacks, ensure maritime security and deal with disinformation. They also announced expanded support for other countries, including in Southeast Asia and Pacific islands, to bolster their abilities in those areas as the Quad seeks to expand its partnerships.

The ministers plan to launch a maritime legal dialogue to focus on the international law of the sea. They said they were determined to contribute to maintaining and developing free-and-open maritime order consistent with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in the Indian and the Pacific

Oceans and to enhance cooperation and coordination on it.

The four countries are expanding their partnership to include the Indian Ocean to enhance maritime domain awareness, Kamikawa said.

Their initiatives included support for installing a secure telecommunications network in Palau and building cybersecurity capacity in the Philippines and India, according to the joint statement. The ministers reaffirmed their commitment to improving the region’s connectivity through the development of resilient infrastructure such as undersea cables.

“We are committed to putting our collective resources, our collective strength to work to benefit people across the region that we share,” Blinken told a joint news conference after the talks. “We continue to work with partners to ensure that freedom of navigation, overflight, the unimpeded flow of lawful maritime commerce that these continue to go forward. They are critical to the region’s security. They’re critical to its ongoing prosperity.”

Citing Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and North Korea’s missile advancement, Kamikawa said: “The international situation is becoming increasingly uncertain.”

Also:

**CLARK, Philippines:** France renewed a commitment to help defend freedom of navigation and overflight in the Asia-Pacific Sunday and said that its supersonic fighter jets - a pair of which landed for the first time in the Philippines - and advance military power would enable it to respond rapidly to any humanitarian or security crisis in the region.

France is also working to quickly conclude a defense pact that would allow it to deploy a larger number of forces for joint exercises to the Philippines, French Ambassador to Manila **Marie Fontanel** said.

France has moved to broaden its defense engagements in the Indo-Pacific region, including with the Philippines and other Southeast Asian nations.

That dovetails with the effort of the administration of Philippine President **Ferdinand Marcos Jr.** to boost his country’s territorial defense by allowing a larger US military presence in the Philippines under a 2014 defense agreement and by building security alliances with Asian and Western nations as it deals with China’s increasingly assertive actions in the disputed South China Sea.



**PENAJAM PASER UTARA, Indonesia:** Outgoing Indonesian President **Joko Widodo** started work Monday from the new presidential palace in his country’s ambitious new capital, where he intends to spend the last few months of his presidency.

“Today I have started receiving officials for meetings here, in the president’s office,” Widodo told reporters at the new presidential palace, as authorities race to complete other key infrastructure projects in the future capital city of Nusantara before Independence Day celebrations next month. The capital, also known as IKN, is located in East Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo.

Widodo said his first agenda item on Monday was a meeting with executives of the Nusantara development authority. He is also scheduled to meet with provincial leaders.

To facilitate the move, the presidential secretariat is preparing all the necessary furniture for the presidential office, including tables, chairs and lighting, while the supply of clean water, electricity and internet is “all running well,” Widodo said.

He is optimistic that the new “Garuda Presidential Palace” will serve as the backdrop of the country’s independence day ceremony on Aug. 17.

Monday after he formed a new political party that contested the country’s recent elections.

Zuma’s uMkhonto we Sizwe Party, also known as the MK Party, received nearly 15% of the national vote and became the third largest party in the country. That contributed significantly to the ANC losing its parliamentary majority for the first time since it came into power in 1994.

The ANC has since formed a unity government with several parties including its biggest rival, the Democratic Alliance.

Despite denouncing the ANC and leading the MK, which is now South Africa’s official opposition party, Zuma has insisted that he remains a member of the ANC. (AP)



**Ethiopia boat accident kills 19:** At least 19 people died in a boat accident in Ethiopia’s war-torn region of Amhara, according to the Ethiopian Press Agency.

The incident happened on Saturday, as a group of 26 was traveling to a funeral on a home-made wooden vessel on the Tekeze River, near Ethiopia’s border with Eritrea.

Efforts are underway to retrieve the victims’ bodies, with only two recovered so far, according to the Ethiopian Press Agency.

The Tekeze is a gateway for illegal migrants and civilians escaping conflict in Amhara and the neighboring region of Tigray.

At the peak of the Tigray civil war, thousands of Ethiopians crossed to Sudan using the river. (AP)



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Jose Ramos-Horta in the Northern Hall of the Great Hall of the People prior to their talks in Beijing, capital of China on July 29, 2024. Xi held talks with Ramos-Horta on Monday. (Xinhua)



Bumba



Ruto

Africa

DRC non-sporting activities halted:

All non-sporting activities will be suspended until further notice at sports venues in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a day after a stampede killed at least nine people during a concert at Stade des Martyrs, a main sports center in the national capital, Deputy Prime Minister for Interior Jacquemain Shabani said Sunday.

Both Stade des Martyrs and Stade de Tata Raphaël, also in Kinshasa, have been put on the list for the ban, said Shabani after a crisis meeting held Sunday. Saturday’s stampede occurred during musician Mike Kalam-bayi’s concert at Stade des Martyrs in Kinshasa, where at least nine people, including a pregnant woman and children, died.

The decision, taken during the crisis meeting that gathered five other ministers, the governor of Kinshasa, and musician Mike Kalam-bayi, led to the cancellation of several concerts and cultural activities in the coming days.

Kinshasa Governor **Daniel Bumba** announced the opening of an investigation into the incident, according to a statement published Saturday evening, referring to “overflows” that “led to deaths.” (Xinhua)



**2 terrorists killed in Kenya:** Kenyan security forces killed two al-Shabab militants while others escaped with injuries Saturday in a thwarted terrorist attack in eastern Kenya’s Garissa County near the border with Somalia.

The police said in a security report released Saturday evening that its multi-agency security team acting on intelligence foiled the planned attack in Alango, along the Garissa-Dadaab road.

The police said its security forces disrupted their plans, killing two al-Shabab militants on the spot while others escaped with injuries.

Among the items recovered from the hideout were two AK-47 rifles, seven magazines, and improvised explosive devices making materials and assorted food items.

Security teams are on the trail of the fleeing militants in the border region which has since suffered a series of terrorist attacks,

the police said.

Kenya’s northeastern region has borne the brunt of grenade and gun attacks in the last several years since Kenya took its troops to Somalia in 2011 to fight the al-Shabab militia group. Kenya’s president is

**William Ruto.** (Xinhua)





**Zuma expelled by ANC:** Former South African president Jacob Zuma was expelled by his former African National Congress party on



President Nicolas Maduro dances outside the Miraflores presidential palace after electoral authorities declared him the winner of the presidential election in Caracas, Venezuela on July 29. (AP)



Market Movements				29-07-2024							
	DUBAI	-	DFMGI	+28.15	4,308.49		SAUDI	-	TASI	-54.03	12,121.40
	JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	+801.22	38,468.63		PHILIPPINES	-	PSEI	-76.78	6,649.23
	PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	+776.40	78,920.56		EGYPT	-	EGX 30	-185.09	28,851.23

# Business

## Kuwait advances Shaqaya renewable energy project

Project to boost economic growth and job creation

By Mohammed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, the Public-Private Partnership Authority and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research are co-ordinating to advance the Shaqaya Renewable Energy Project.

Reliable sources told Al-Seyassah daily that the project initiated in 2019 and which has been segmented into four phases -- first phase: 1,100 megawatts, second phase: 200 megawatts, third phase: 1,500 megawatts and fourth phase: 1,700 megawatts -- aims to achieve a total production capacity of at least 4,500 megawatts.

As for the first stage, the authority has launched the qualification documents and is evaluating them and then issuing a decision on the qualified candidates.

The qualification documents for the second stage are currently being prepared to be launched in the coming months.

### 100% reduction in Q1 2024 losses

## KFIC completes establishment of new agricultural subsidiary

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: KFIC Investment Company has announced the successful completion of all official procedures for the establishment of its new subsidiary, Mustaqbal Al Wafra for Agricultural Contracting, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This new entity has been created to focus on agricultural activities, following the Board of Directors' approval in mid-May 2024.

In a statement to the Kuwait

Currently, the Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority is evaluating the qualification documents submitted for the project. Qualification documents for the second phase are being prepared and will be presented in the coming months.

A consulting firm was appointed to conduct feasibility studies, focusing on the optimal use of land and the integration of various renewable energy technologies, including solar,

Stock Exchange, KFIC clarified that the establishment of this subsidiary has no immediate financial impact on the company.

KFIC also reported a significant improvement in its financial performance.

For the first quarter of 2024, the company's losses were reduced by 100%, amounting to just 1.20 thousand dinars, compared to losses of 250.82 thousand dinars in the same quarter of 2023.

photovoltaic, and wind energy.

The Al-Shaqaya project is a pivotal development aimed at reducing government expenditure on electric energy production, enhancing economic growth, creating job opportunities, and strengthening Kuwait's position in the global clean energy sector.

It aligns with Kuwait's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 and supports the global shift toward zero-emission energy sources.

### Ranking based on engineering and IT talent group

## stc ranked as ideal employer of choice in Kuwait by Universum

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling digital transformation in Kuwait, announced that it was ranked the number one ideal employer of choice for engineers and IT professionals in Kuwait according to Universum's custom research in comparison with 19 of the strongest brands in Kuwait. The recognition serves as a testament to stc's progressive approach to fostering a dynamic and innovative work environment.

Universum conducted a research-based report this year highlighting the most attractive employers in Kuwait based on talent's overall opinion and perception of different companies. Universum's ranking methodology prioritizes statistical validity, relevance, and independence in order to effectively rank employers, and set a standard benchmark within the industry. As part of this research, Universum created separate rankings based on different talent groups within certain fields such as engineering and IT, amongst others. This year, stc managed to secure the number one ideal employer position for engineers and IT professionals in Kuwait in the custom research.

In a statement, stc indicated that the Company had set a progressive strategy to continuously enhance the work culture and environment to retain and attract professional talent. The comprehensive strategy incorporates a variety of attributes that were set by stc to improve the quality of the Company's work environment and provide ample space for employees to innovate, collaborate, and grow. The Company actively introduces different opportunities that focus on employee well-being, professional development, and activities that promote a culture of inclusivity.



Employer of Choice.

Abdulaziz Al-Mathkoor, Acting Chief Human Resources Officer of stc, said, "We are honored to be recognized as the number one ideal employer for engineers and IT professionals in Kuwait by Universum. This recognition is a testament to our commitment to creating a dynamic work environment that promotes innovation, collaboration, and employee satisfaction. Our progressive approach in fostering an empowering culture is driven by the talent and dedication of our employees, and we remain committed to our efforts to provide them with the best possible experience."

Al-Mathkoor added, "At stc, we believe that attracting and retaining top talent is crucial for our success. Our strategy focuses on providing a supportive and inclusive environment where professionals can thrive. As a pioneer in Kuwait's telecom market and the private sector, we take pride in setting the benchmark within our industry in the engineering and IT fields in Kuwait. Looking forward, we will continue to invest in our employees, ensuring they have the resources and opportunities needed to excel and drive the Company towards future growth and success."

### 33,000 SMEs in Kuwait to benefit from new initiative

## Union of Investment Companies calls for proposals to 'boost' SME National Fund

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: In a move to support the national economy, the Union of Investment Companies (UIC) has called on its corporate members to submit proposals to enhance the National Fund for the Care and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Union is seeking innovative ideas on financing SMEs with capital not exceeding half a million dinars and on the necessary legislative changes to facilitate this support.

According to informed sources, the Union is focusing on revitalizing the economic landscape for small and medium-sized enterprises by exploring various financing methods.

The discussions include utilizing investment portfolios and shares to finance SMEs, involving interested investment companies, project owners, and the National Fund.

The Union is preparing a program based on the proposals from investment companies, aiming to establish a specific mechanism and formula for supporting SME development. This program will utilize stagnant liquidity as a new investment channel for this sector.

The establishment of a specialized stock exchange is seen as a potential solution to finance small projects that may not meet traditional financing conditions. This stock exchange could provide an important opportunity for young Kuwaitis to develop and market their projects, generating cash flow and fostering economic growth.

Currently, there are 33,000 small and medium enterprises in Kuwait. The Union plans to formulate a program to assist and support these enterprises by collecting and evaluating proposals from investment companies.

The program will be discussed in collaboration with the National Fund for the Development and Sponsorship of SMEs and the Union of Investment Companies.

Additionally, financing options through a crowd-funding platform licensed by the Capital Markets Authority will be explored. The focus will be on value-added projects that create job opportunities for youth and support economic diversification. A special study will determine target markets and develop policies and initiatives to support SME growth, addressing potential challenges or legal obstacles.

An electronic platform is also being developed to aid SMEs in areas such as business development, market access, legal procedures, training, and funding sources.

### ECB holds rates steady after June cut

## Global bond markets eye US Fed rate cut in September 2024

By KAMCO Invest

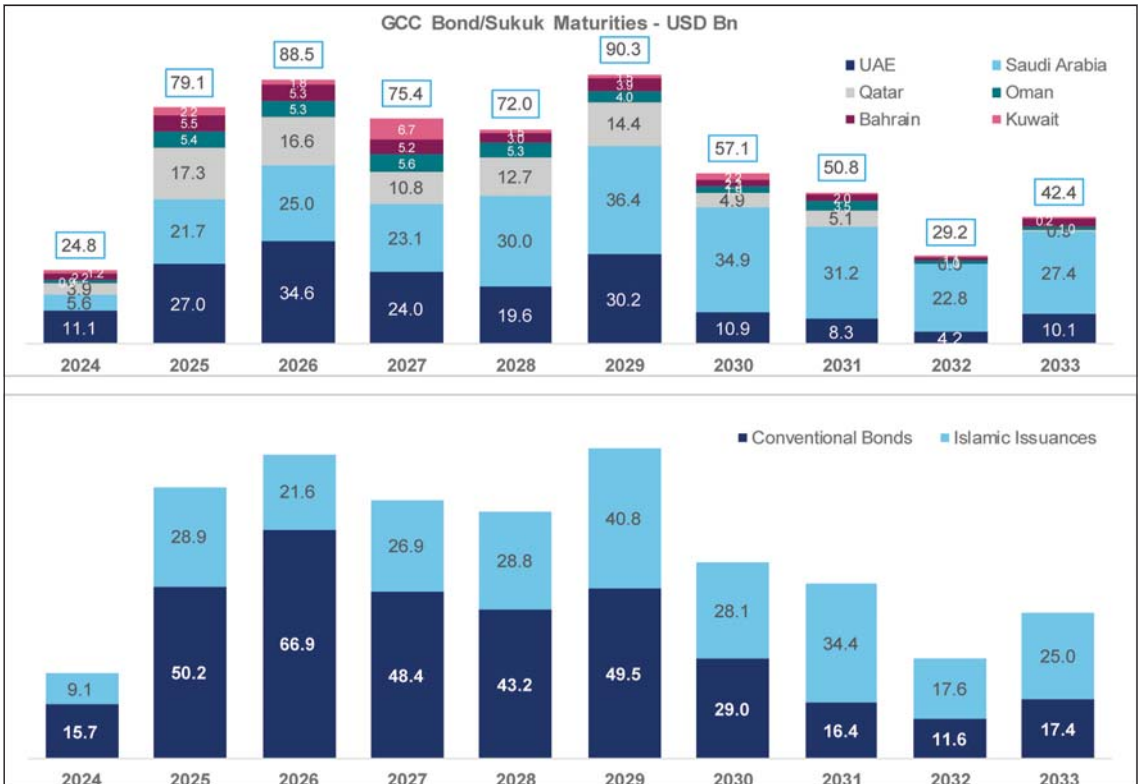
Global bond markets are expected to see a confluence of expected fiscal policy, post the elections in the US, and the most likely monetary policy in light of the recent data on inflation. For the latter, the markets are pricing in a 25 bps Fed rate cut in the September-2024 meeting with a probability of over 90%. Traders are also eyeing the data on PCE and the trend in future inflation that would determine the rate path beyond September-2024. For the near term, the key question would be that how much the economy is slowing and how would that impact the Fed's policy making. There is also a risk of going in for rate cuts too early and by too much. As of now, policymakers in the US are expected to keep interest rates unchanged for the eighth meeting next week and keeping the rates at current level since the last one year. In terms of market implied rates, the rate cut expected in September-2024 has narrowed the spread between longer dated treasury bonds and two-year bonds to one of the lowest levels since the start of the year. Elsewhere, the ECB, after having implemented its first rate cut in June-2024, kept rates stable during July-2024. China, meanwhile, implemented a surprise rate cut this week to give a boost to the economy and its financial markets.

In the GCC, there is minimal pressure on currency pegs as seen from short term rates and as such, the central banks are expected to replicate Fed's policy on future interest rates. A rate cut would essentially benefit banks in the region that have recently started feeling the heat of higher interest rates. In addition, the strong pipeline of projects would also result in an increase in issuances as lower interest rates would motivate corporate issuers to issue debt towards the end of the year. The recent trend in oil prices that hovered over the USD 80/b mark also indicate that governments in the region would continue to tap the fixed income market to finance investment requirements.

In the primary market, GCC bonds and sukuk issuances continued to exceed our expectations with record issuances from the region backed by several big-ticket issuances during the first half of the year. Issuances during the first six months of 2024 exceeded full year 2023 levels to reach USD 113.7 Bn and were almost double when compared to y-o-y issuances during 1H-2023. Total issuances witnessed y-o-y growth across the board when compared to 1H-2023. Saudi Arabia accounted for almost 50% of the y-o-y growth in issuances during 1H-2024 followed by UAE and Qatar accounting for the rest.

#### Inflation and interest rate hikes

The trend in inflation remained uneven since the start of the year. The year started with a decline in inflation but that was followed by two consecutive months of growth, thereby derailing the progress made last year. The decline that followed during



the subsequent two months were also lower than market expectations that resulted in several economists completely ruling out any chances of a rate cut this year. However, the decline in PCE during May-2024 followed by lower-than-expected inflation during June-2024 once again revived up rate cuts bet. The probability of a rate cut in September-2024 saw significant change going up to 95% as we speak from around 50% a few weeks back. The y-o-y CPI for the US for June-2024 came in at 3.0%, the lowest level since 2021 led by a long-awaited slowdown in rent increases. In terms of m-o-m performance, the CPI declined by 0.1% as against consensus expectation of an increase of 0.1%. The figures for core CPI were also better than expected at +3.3% y-o-y and +0.1% m-o-m, the smallest advance in three years, also aided by cheaper gasoline prices and a fall in service prices. In addition, unemployment claims also increased, indicating a rapidly cooling labor market and a build-up of stress in the economy. In the euro area, June-2024 inflation came in at 2.5% down from 2.6% in May-2024 while core

inflation stayed at 2.9% from the prior month, missing analyst estimates of 2.8%. Persistent services inflation that held up at 4.1%, in line with May-2024, was the key reason for the higher than expected reading and was mostly driven by Germany. The HICP inflation in Germany dropped to 2.5% during June-2024 from 2.8% in the previous month led by fall in fuel costs. However, sticky wages, core inflation is expected to show slower progress than headline inflation. In the UK, inflation came in above expectation at 2.0% during June-2024, in line with May-2024 which was the lowest reading in three years. Both services inflation and core inflation held up at May-2024 levels at 5.7% and 3.5%, respectively.

In terms of interest rate cuts, the consensus is pricing in one rate cut in September-2024 in the US with a 95.5% probability followed by another rate cut in December-2024, also with a high probability of 91.2%. In the euro area, consensus estimates show two more rate cuts this year with a probability of over 75.0%. Nevertheless, inflation reading for the next

few months would determine the rate cut path to be adopted by the ECB which as clearly said that inflation would determine future interest rates. The stubborn inflation in the UK has prompted traders to axe a rate cut in August-2024 resulting in a boost for the GBP as rates continue to remain higher.

In the emerging market, inflation in China came in at just 0.2% indicating weak consumer demand in the country. This prompted the PBOC to implement a surprise rate cut this week in the hopes of supporting economic growth in the country. This was the first reduction in almost a year and although economists believe this to have limited impact, they said the move is the right direction and more needs to be done to boost economic growth. On the other hand, CPI in India rose to 5.1% in June-2024 from 4.8% in May-2024, reversing a consistent downward trend seen since December-2023. The increase came despite a fall in core inflation to 3.3% during the month and was mainly led by elevated food prices. The higher-than-expected inflation is likely to delay rate cuts by India's central bank to later during the year.

#### Bond/Sukuk Maturities

Fixed income maturities in the GCC are expected to remain elevated over the coming five years backed by issuances made during the pandemic years aimed at supporting economic growth as seen globally. According to data from Bloomberg, GCC sovereign maturities stands at USD 174.3 Bn over the next five years (2024-2028), whereas corporate maturities stand slightly lower at USD 165.5 Bn. Bonds and sukuk maturities in the region are expected to remain elevated until 2029 followed by a steep decline starting from 2030. A majority of these maturities are denominated in USD at 61.1% followed by local currency issuances in SAR and QAR at 11.7% and 7.3%, respectively. In addition, due to the credit rating profile of the GCC governments, a majority of these maturities are in the high investment grade or A rated instruments. Around 40.9% of the overall maturities in the coming five years are for investment grade instruments. In terms of type of instruments, conventional bonds dominate with USD 224.5 Bn in maturities over the next five years, whereas sukuk maturities are expected to be at USD 115.3 Bn. In terms of country split, the UAE is expected to see the biggest fixed income maturities in the coming years (2024-2028) at USD 116.3 Bn followed by Saudi Arabia which is forecasted to see maturities of USD 105.3 Bn until 2028. Maturities in Qatar and Oman were next at USD 61.3 Bn and USD 22.4 Bn, respectively. In terms of sector maturities, Banks and other Financial Services sector have USD 128.6 Bn in maturities in the next five years, accounting for around 77.7% of the total corporate maturities and 37.8% of the total maturities in the GCC until 2028, respectively. The Energy sector was a distant second with maturities of USD 13.7 Bn or 8.3% of GCC corporate maturities until 2028 followed by Utilities and Communications at USD 7.9 Bn and USD 5.0 Bn, respectively.



hitting 10,000 trips in less than 200 days, China-Europe freight train service witnesses accelerated dev’t

Earlier this month, with the sound of a long whistle, a China-Europe freight train slowly departed from Wujiashan Station in Wuhan, the capital of central China’s Hubei Province. Fully loaded with 55 containers of textiles, medical supplies, electronic products and other goods, the train set off on its westward journey to Duisburg, Germany, thousands of miles away.

This trip marks a significant milestone. As of July 10, this year’s China-Europe freight train trips had surpassed 10,000, breaking the mark 19 days earlier than last year.

According to China State Railway Group Co., Ltd (China Railway), the freight train service network currently reaches 224 cities in 25 European countries and connects over 100 cities in 11 Asian countries, covering almost the entire Eurasian continent. Moreover, the trains have transported more than 1.08 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containers of goods this year, up 11 percent yearly.

These achievements testify to the trips’ increasing efficiency and volume, profoundly impacting international trade and logistics.

Launched in 2011, the China-Europe freight rail transformed land transportation between China and Europe. The inaugural journey covered 11,000 km from Chongqing, China, to Duisburg, Germany, in just 16 days. This success prompted the expansion of routes, connecting Chinese cities like Chengdu, Wuhan, Zhengzhou and Yiwu to European destinations such as Warsaw, Madrid, London and Moscow.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), introduced in 2013, bolstered the China-Europe freight train service. The initiative seeks to enhance trade and connectivity between China and countries along the ancient Silk Road, including Europe. Consequently, the China-Europe freight train service has become a critical part of the BRI, facilitating trade and fostering economic ties between the two regions.

Previously, coastal cities dominated trade due to their proximity to seaports. However, with the advent of the China-Europe freight train service, inland cities have emerged as essential logistics centers and trade gateways. This connectivity has opened up new business opportunities in these cities, attracting foreign investment, promoting international trade and driving economic development.

Xi’an, the capital city of Shaanxi Province in northwest China, has become a key hub for BRI and the China-Europe freight train service. As the starting point of the ancient Silk Road, Xi’an has become a vital node linking Asia and Europe. (Xinhua)

GDP report also shows inflation continues to ease

US economic growth increased last quarter to a healthy 2.8% annual rate

WASHINGTON, July 29, (AP): The nation’s economy accelerated last quarter at a strong 2.8% annual pace, with consumers and businesses helping drive growth despite the pressure of continually high interest rates.

Thursday’s report from the Commerce Department said the gross domestic product - the economy’s total output of goods and services - picked up in the April-June quarter after growing at a 1.4% pace in the January-March period. Economists had expected a weaker 1.9% annual pace of growth.

The GDP report also showed that inflation continues to ease, while still remaining above the Federal Reserve’s 2% target. The central bank’s favored inflation gauge rose at a 2.6% annual rate last quarter, down from 3.4% in the first quarter of the year. Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core PCE inflation increased at a 2.9% pace. That was down from 3.7% from January through March.

The latest figures should reinforce confidence that the U.S. economy is on the verge of achieving a rare “soft landing,” whereby high interest rates, engineered by the Fed, tame inflation without tipping the economy into a recession.

Helping boost last quarter’s expansion was consumer spending, the heart of the U.S. economy. It rose at a 2.3% annual rate in the April-June quarter, up from a 1.5% pace in the January-March period. Spending on goods, such as cars and appliances, increased at a 2.5% rate after falling at a 2.3% pace in the first three months of the year.

Business investment was up last quarter, led by a 11.6% annual increase in equipment investment. Growth also picked up because businesses increased their inventories. On the other hand, a surge in imports, which are subtracted from GDP, shaved about 0.9 percentage point from the April-June growth.

Fed officials have made clear that with inflation edging toward their 2% target level, they’re prepared to start cutting interest rates soon, something they’re widely expected to do in September.

“The Fed will be reassured” by Thursday’s GDP report, said Bill Adams, chief economist at Comerica Bank. “With inflation trending lower ..., the Fed thinks that it’s getting close to the time to cut interest rates.”

Rate reductions by the Fed would, over time, reduce consumers’ borrowing costs for things like mortgages, auto loans and credit cards.

The state of the economy has seized Americans’ attention as the presidential campaign has intensified. Though inflation has slowed sharply, to 3% from 9.1% in 2022, prices remain well above their pre-pandemic levels.

This year’s economic slowdown reflects, in large part, the much higher borrowing rates for home and auto loans, credit cards and many business loans resulting from the Fed’s aggressive series of interest rate hikes.

The Fed’s rate hikes - 11 of them in 2022 and 2023 - were a response to the flare-up in inflation that began in the spring of 2021 as the economy rebounded with unexpected speed from the COVID-19 recession, causing severe supply shortages. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 made things worse by inflating prices for the energy and grains the world depends on. Prices spiked across the country and the world.

Economists had long predicted that the higher borrowing costs would tip the United States into recession. Yet the economy kept chugging along. Consumers, whose spending accounts for roughly 70% of GDP, kept buying things, emboldened by a strong job market and savings they had built up during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

The slowdown at the start of this year was caused largely by two factors, each of which can vary sharply from quarter to quarter: A surge in imports and a drop in business inventories. Neither trend revealed much about the economy’s underlying health.

Ready to tackle shortfall in public finances

UK is ‘broke and broken’: New govt

LONDON, July 29, (AP): Britain’s new left-leaning government said Sunday that the nation is “broke and broken,” blaming the situation on its predecessors ahead of a major speech on the state of the public finances that is widely expected to lay the groundwork for higher taxes.

In a sweeping assessment three weeks after taking power, Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s office professed shock at the situation they inherited after 14 years of Conservative Party rule, while releasing a department-by-department analysis of the perceived failures of the previous government.

The critique comes a day before Treasury chief Rachel Reeves is expected to outline a 20-billion-pound (\$26 billion) shortfall in public finances during a speech to the House of Commons.

“We will not shy away from being honest with the public about the reality of what we have inherited,” Pat McFadden, a senior member of the new Cabinet, said in a statement. “We are calling time on the false promises that British people have had to put up with and we will do what it takes to fix Britain.”

Starmer’s Labour Party won a landslide election victory earlier this month following a campaign in which critics accused both major parties of a “conspiracy of silence” over the scale of the financial challenges facing the next government.

Labour pledged during the campaign that it wouldn’t raise taxes on “working people,” saying its policies would deliver faster economic growth and generate the additional revenue needed by the government. The Conservatives, meanwhile, promised further tax cuts in the autumn if they were returned to office.

As proof that the previous government wasn’t honest about the challenges facing the country, Starmer’s office pointed to recent comments from former Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt confirming that he wouldn’t have been able to cut taxes this year if the Conservatives had been returned to power.

Those comments came in an interview with the BBC in which Hunt also accused Labour of exaggerating the situation to justify raising taxes now that they’ve won the election.

“The reason we’re getting all this spin about this terrible economic inheritance is because Labour wants to raise taxes,” Hunt said on July 21. “If they wanted to raise taxes, all the numbers were crystal clear before the election. ... They should have levelled with the British public.”

The government on Sunday released an overview of the spending assessment Reeves commissioned shortly after taking office. She will deliver the complete report to Parliament on Monday.

Those findings led the new government to accuse the Conservatives of making significant funding commitments for this financial year “without knowing where the money would come from.”

It argued that the military had been “hollowed out” at a time of increasing global threats and the National Health Service was “broken,” with some 7.6 million people waiting for care.

And despite billions spent to house migrants and combat the criminal gangs ferrying migrants across the English Channel on dangerous inflatable boats, the number of people making the crossing is still rising, Starmer’s office said. Some 15,832 people have crossed the Channel on small boats already this year, 9% more than during the same period in 2023.

“The assessment will show that Britain is broke and broken - revealing the mess that populist politics has made of the economy and public services,” Downing Street said in a statement.

The quandary the government finds itself in should be no surprise, said Paul Johnson, the director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, an independent think tank focused on Britain’s economic policies.

At the start of the election campaign, the institute said that the U.K. was in a “parlous fiscal position” and the new government would have to either raise taxes, cut spending or relax the rules on public borrowing.

“For a party to enter office and then declare that things are ‘worse than expected’ would be fundamentally dishonest,” the IFS said on May 25. “The next government does not need to enter office to ‘open the books.’ Those books are transparently published and available for all to inspect.”

Barcelonans are not alone in facing such challenges. Other cities around the world also are struggling to reconcile the housing needs of year-round residents, the rights of landlords and the allure of the economic benefits that being a top tourist destination can bring.

Measures to limit the free-for-all of investors converting apartments into holiday rentals have included partial bans, caps on the number of days units can be let out and registration requirements for frequent hosts.

New York cracked down on short-term apartment rentals in September with rules requiring owners to remain in their residence when they host overnight visitors and capping the number of guests at two. Maui’s mayor said last month that he wants to end condo rentals to tourists to help deal with a housing shortage made worse by last year’s devastating fire on the Hawaiian island.

In Italy, a 2022 amendment to national legislation allowed the lagoon city of Venice to limit short-term rentals, but the city administration has not acted on it.

Before moving to eradicate tourist apartments altogether, Barcelona officials tried more limited approaches. Its previous mayor, a former housing activist, made several moves to regulate the market, including a ban on the rental of individual rooms in apartments for stays under 31 days in 2020. The city also has moved aggressively to get unlicensed tourist apartments removed from online platforms.

“We have accumulated lots of know-how in Barcelona that we are ready to share with other cities that want to have this debate,” Bonet said.

Residents of the city, which has a population of about 1.6 million, have campaigned against “overtourism” for several years, but the anti-tourism sentiment has grown more heated: During a protest in Barcelona’s Las Ramblas district this month, some participants shouted “Go home!” and squirted water pistols at people seated at outdoor tables.

Residential real estate prices in Barcelona have increased by an average of 38% over the past decade, a period in which the average rent soared by 68%, according to the municipal government. Like in other popular urban areas, many young people who grew up there struggle to afford a place of their own. Authorities say a lack of supply is partly to blame.

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Will others do the same?

Barcelona wants to get rid of short-term rental units

BARCELONA, Spain, July 29, (AP): Imagine planning a vacation and not being able to check Airbnb or another online booking site for an apartment in which to spend a few days walking, shopping and eating among the locals. Would a hotel do?

That’s the future confronting visitors to central Barcelona in four years. To safeguard and expand the housing supply for full-time residents, local authorities want to rid the Spanish city known for its architecture, beaches and Catalan culture of the 10,000 apartments licensed as short-term rentals.

Barcelona City Hall announced last month that it would not renew any tourist apartment licenses after they expire in 2028. Deputy Mayor Laia Bonet said the city wants tourism, which accounts for 15% of the local economy, but must help residents cope with skyrocketing rents and real estate prices.

“Our housing emergency obligates us, forces us, to change the way we do things and to put the priority on housing above our policies for accommodating tourists,” Bonet told The Associated Press.

Property owners plan to fight the decision, arguing that eliminating short-term rentals would threaten their livelihoods and leave the city without enough temporary lodging: Some 2.5 million tourists stayed in an apartment last year, according to the Association of Tourist Apartments of Barcelona, also known as Apartur.

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“We have accumulated lots of know-how in Barcelona that we are ready to share with other cities that want to have this debate,” Bonet said.

Federal Reserve edges closer to cutting rates



The Federal Reserve is seen in Washington, on Nov. 16, 2020. The Federal Reserve is expected to signal this week that it will likely reduce borrowing costs as soon as September 2024. (AP)

Question will soon be, how fast?

WASHINGTON, July 29, (AP): Two years after launching an aggressive fight against inflation and one year after leaving its benchmark interest rate at a near-quarter-century high, the Federal Reserve is expected to signal this week that it will likely reduce borrowing costs as soon as September.

A rate reduction this fall - the first since the pandemic - would amount to a momentous shift and a potential boost to the economy. Fed rate cuts, over time, typically lower borrowing costs for such things as mortgages, auto loans and credit cards.

A single cut in the Fed’s key rate, now at roughly 5.3%, wouldn’t by itself make much difference to the economy. Financial markets widely expect it. Some borrowing costs have already dropped slightly in anticipation of the move. As a result, the main question for the central bank will be: How fast and how far will the policymakers ultimately cut rates?

It’s a question of keen interest to both major presidential candidates, too. Any signal that the Fed will rapidly cut rates could boost the economy and potentially lift Vice President Kamala Harris’ election prospects. Former President Donald Trump has argued that the Fed shouldn’t cut rates until its next meeting, in November, which will come two days after the election.

Futures markets have priced in a 64% likelihood that the Fed will cut rates three times this year, in September, November and December, according to CME FedWatch. As recently as last month, Fed officials had collectively forecast just one rate reduction in 2024 and four in 2025 and 2026, suggesting that they lean toward a more measured pace of cutting rates about once a quarter.

How the economy fares in the coming months will likely determine how quickly the Fed acts. Should growth remain solid and employers keep hiring, the Fed would prefer to take its time and cut rates slowly as inflation continues to decline.

“They want to be very gradual in how they pull back,” said Gennadiy Goldberg, head of US rates strategy at TD Securities. “But if the labor market actually looks like it’s slowing down,” Goldberg suggested, Fed officials might conclude that “they should be moving a little bit quicker than they otherwise would.”

There are signs that the labor market is cooling, as the Fed has intended. Job growth has averaged a decent but unspectacular 177,000 a month for the past three months, down from a red-hot three-month average of 275,000 a year ago.

It’s not yet clear whether that cooling reflects a return of the economy to a more sustainable, less inflationary, post-pandemic period of growth or whether the cooling will continue until the economy slides into a recession.

“That’s the million-dollar question at this point,” Goldberg said.

Chair Jerome Powell and other Fed officials have underscored that they’re paying nearly as much attention to the threat posed by a hiring slowdown as they are to inflation pressures. That shift in the Fed’s emphasis toward ensuring that the job market doesn’t weaken too much has likely boosted market expectations for a rate cut.

“Elevated inflation is not the only risk we face,” Powell said in congressional testimony earlier this month, after the most recent jobs report showed the unemployment rate ticking up for a third straight month to a still-low 4.1%. Yet Powell also characterized the job market and growth at that time as “strong.”

And on Thursday the government reported that the economy grew at a healthy 2.8% annual rate in the April-June quarter, though that figure followed a tepid 1.4% expansion in the first three months of the year.

Average rate on a 30-year mortgage inches up to 6.78%, first uptick in 3 weeks

LOS ANGELES, July 29, (AP): Mortgage rates inched higher this week, keeping the average rate on a 30-year mortgage essentially flat and near the 7% range it’s been in most of this year.

The rate rose to 6.78% from 6.77% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. A year ago, the rate averaged 6.81%.

Borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, popular with homeowners refinancing their home loans, also edged up this week, pushing the average rate up to 6..07% from 6.05% last week. A year ago, it averaged 6.11%, Freddie Mac said.

“Mortgage rates essentially remained flat from last week but have decreased nearly half a percent from their peak earlier this year,” said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac’s chief economist. “Despite these lower rates, buyers continue to pause, as reflected in tumbling new and existing home sales data.”

After jumping to a 23-year high of 7.79% in October, the average rate on a 30-year mortgage has mostly hovered around 7% this year - more than double what it was just three years ago.

The elevated mortgage rates, which can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, have discouraged home shoppers, extending the nation’s housing slump into its third year. Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes fell in June for the fourth month in a row. And sales of new single-family homes fell last month to the slowest annual pace since November.

Mortgage rates are influenced by several factors, including how the bond market reacts to the central bank’s interest rate policy decisions. That can move the trajectory of the 10-year Treasury yield, which lenders use as a guide to pricing home loans.

Recent signs of cooling inflation have raised expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut its benchmark rate in September. If bond yields decline in anticipation of a Fed rate cut, that could lead mortgage rates to ease.



Kuwait Defense Undersecretary lauds growing military cooperation

Chinese embassy celebrates 97th year of PLA's establishment

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Embassy of China in Kuwait celebrated the 97th anniversary of the establishment of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in the presence of distinguished guests, including:

- Commander of Land Force, Major General Khalid Ali Zayed, representing the Chief of General Staff
- Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah
- Commander of Armament and Preparation Department, Major General Faisal Khalifa Al-Saif
- Commander of Mubarak Al-Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College, Major General Fahad Falah Al-Khrainej
- Commander of Air Defense, Major General Khalid Daraj Al-Shuraian
- Heads and members of diplomatic missions to Kuwait

On this occasion, the Defense Attaché of the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait Senior Colonel Xue Chuanlai delivered a speech on behalf of His Excellency the Ambassador of China to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei and his spouse Madam Miao Haiyan.

He warmly welcomed all the guests and highlighted the historical significance of the PLA, which was founded by the Communist Party of China (CPC).

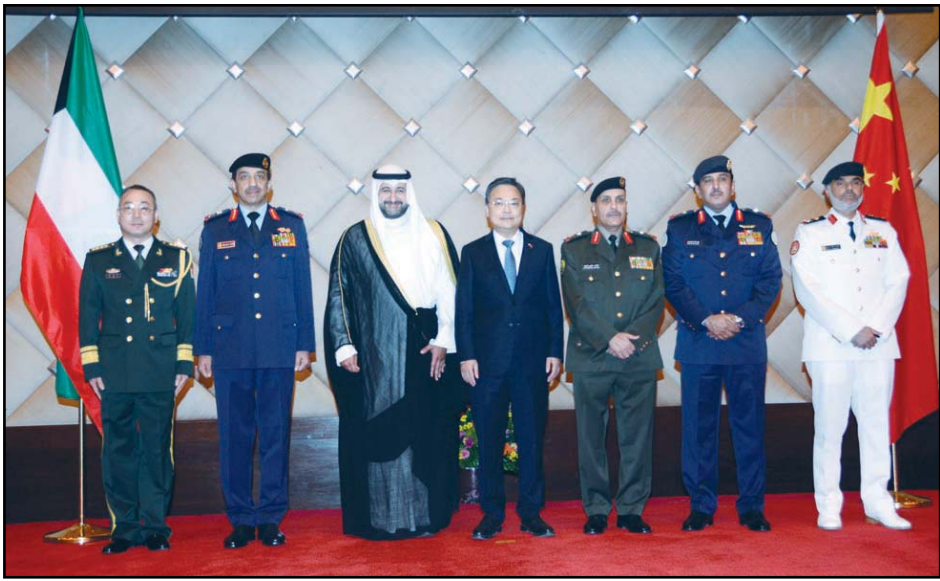
Senior Colonel Xue Chuanlai stated that the PLA, since its foundation, went fighting through thick and thin, and made significant contributions to China's independence, liberation, sovereignty, and socialism with Chinese characteristics, as well as to regional stability and world peace.

He said, "Today, with the reality that all nations face a shared future and intertwined interests, challenged by the historic question of "what kind of world to build and how to build it", China has responded to the call of the times by advocating for a community with a shared future for mankind".

Senior Colonel Xue Chuanlai said it is imperative for all countries to collaborate in implementing global development initiatives, security measures, and civilization advancements.

He emphasized China's permanent commitment to supporting global peace, highlighting its significant role in addressing crises such as the Ukraine crisis, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and issues related to the Korean Peninsula, Iran, Myanmar, and Afghanistan.

Senior Colonel Xue Chuanlai affirmed the cordial and friendly relations between Kuwait and China, indicating that Kuwait was the first Gulf state to establish diplomatic relations with China on March 22, 1971, and it also was the first Gulf state to sign



Photos during the event.

a memorandum of understanding on military cooperation with Beijing in March 1995.

He stressed that both sides have been steadily expanding and enhancing cooperation across various fields.

"Under the joint guidance of President Xi Jinping and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the future of bilateral relations is promising and bright," Senior Colonel Xue Chuanlai stated.

He commended the cooperation between Kuwait and China in the military field, highlighting the significant achievements in military exchanges, defense industries, and military trade between the two friendly countries.

Meanwhile, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah, delivered a speech in which he emphasized that the deep-rooted bilateral relations between Kuwait and China are founded on joint action, cooperation, mutual respect, and shared interests.

He praised the high efficiency, advancement, and professionalism of the PLA, affirming the keenness of both friendly countries to enhance cooperation across all fields, particularly in the military field, which has recently seen notable growth, especially in military education and training.

Sheikh Dr. Abdullah cited the example of increasing cooperation in the field of ammunition production, noting that achieving targeted goals necessitates further cooperation.

He stated that his participation in this event reflects the commitment of Kuwait's political leadership, represented by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid, to further develop the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

Sheikh Dr. Abdullah affirmed that Kuwait is looking forward to a future of cooperation and success, and expressed his hopes for continued ad-



Bank offers tips for online transactions

ABK reinforces commitment to Diraya Let's Be Aware campaign

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) reaffirmed its dedication to the Diraya Let's Be Aware campaign, a collaborative effort with the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association. The Bank's unwavering focus is on educating customers and keeping them abreast of the latest updates in the banking industry.

Continuously striving for excellence, ABK's staff tirelessly innovate cutting-edge digital solutions. These are part of the Bank's digital transformation efforts to enhance customer service and offer state-of-the-art banking technologies. The range of digital services provided by ABK is extensive, including account opening, card issuance, loan applications, money transfers, and more, all designed for seamless user experience. Emphasizing the significance of digital services,



ABK logo

ABK views them as a cornerstone of its operations and a key element of the 'Diraya' campaign.

Through tailored digital solutions, the Bank aims to promote financial literacy and address the diverse needs of all customer segments in Kuwait. In line with its commitment to cus-

tomers education and security, ABK provides informative awareness videos to guide customers on using digital services securely, avoiding fraudulent activities, and ensuring data accuracy during online transactions.

The Bank's proactive approach includes continuous development of digital platforms to offer cutting-edge technologies, aligning with the evolving landscape of the banking industry and the objectives of the Diraya campaign.

A multitude of information is also available on the Bank's website, facilitating access to worthwhile tips and important protective measures. Through its various endeavors and efforts, ABK remains dedicated to providing advanced banking solutions and empowering customers to embrace digital banking for a seamless and secure financial experience.

Al Dirwaza account offers up to 2% annual profit

KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza draw

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The fifth weekly draw based on customers' June deposits recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. The KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Fatemah Abdullah Abdulaziz Alrasheed Albader, Gharisah Meaidh Mesfer Alajmi, Abdulaziz Nassar Ghadhban Alkhaldi, Kamal Mohammad Kamal Nehme, and Ali Issam Elsamra, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Mohammad Ali Nabaa, Abrar Saleh Abdullah Johar Hayat, Khawla Mohammad Abdullah Almesfeer, Asma Shakir Assi Alshiblawi, Bader Faisal Mulla Jassim Ben Hussain, Waleed Khaled Sadkhan Alfadhli, and Yaqoub Taleb Ali Abdullah.

It serves to note that AlDirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a two-month cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

Al Dirwaza account is also in compliance with the provi-



Al Dirwaza account

sions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer, and the customer's ability to open it remotely without visiting a branch through KIB Online on the Bank's website or KIB Mobile application on smartphones.

Additionally, Al Dirwaza account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account. To open the account and participate in its draws, a minimum of KD 100 is required and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each

KFH announces winners of AlRabeh draw

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AlRabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 28th and 29th week of 2024.

The winners of KD 1,500 each are: Khaled Ghseen, Sarah Al-Mutairi, Khaled Sulaiman, Naji Al-Foudari, Rajeev Behal, Khaled Al-Farhan, Maram Al-Shammari, Fatemah Al-Aqal, Biltayib Amer, Dhari Al-Mutoutah, Adel Abdulhafez, Badreyah Al-Senafi, Abdulrahman Radwan, Mashael Al-Dakheel, Fahad Shateel, Mohammad Al-Azmi, Taiseer Ghwair, Saleh Al-Azmi, Yaqoub Al-Mutairi, Jaseem Al-Khulaifi.

The AlRabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The Al-Rabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to Al-Rabeh account is constant.

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer can deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the



The campaign visual

account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for K.D 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers' requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.



'Empower Her' Graduates.

Bank receives multiple ISO certifications

Burgan Bank celebrates 18 graduates of 'Empower Her' internship program

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Burgan Bank recently hosted a ceremony celebrating 18 young women who completed "Empower Her", the Bank's summer internship program for undergraduate students. The event took place at the Bank's head office in the presence of Burgan's Executive Management, female leaders, and the graduates' families, featuring the interns' graduation project "My Female Role Model", and highlighting their numerous achievements throughout the three-week program.

The internship program stems from Burgan Bank's comprehensive social responsibility program, human capital development strategy, and dedicated efforts to empower women, aiming to pave a path toward a brighter future by supporting and developing the rising professional calibers and preparing them for leadership positions that will help shape the community.

"We are immensely proud to celebrate the graduation of 18 talented female students from the 'Empower Her' summer internship program. Their dedication, hard work, passion and impressive achievements throughout the program are a testament to their potential and drive," said Mr. Bashar Al-Qattan, Acting Executive Manager – Learning



Mr. Bashar Al-Qattan, Acting Executive Manager – Learning and Talent Development at Burgan Bank.

and Talent Development at Burgan Bank. "We are committed to nurturing such talent and providing opportunities for professional growth and excellence. These young women have demonstrated exceptional skills as well as embodied the spirit of innovation and leadership that we value highly. We look forward to witnessing their continued success and contributions to the soci-

ety and industry."

Designed to enrich their skills after the academic knowledge by on-ground professional experience, "Empower Her" offered its participants the opportunity to experience different layers of the banking industry through one-week rotations. In addition to visiting different branches and gaining exposure to various departments, the interns were matched with female mentors from Burgan's suite of female leaders based on their personalities and interests, guaranteeing that empowered female leaders continue to empower future generations of aspiring women.

The summer internship program also focused on introducing and honing vital soft skills necessary for succeeding in today's workplace, such as communication skills, emotional intelligence, teamwork, and social skills.

It serves to note that Burgan is among the most achieved banks in Kuwait on the gender equality front, with women forming 45% of its staff. "Empower Her" is among many programs that Burgan Bank develops to guarantee the continuous growth and development of its female calibers within its workforce and across the Kuwaiti talent pool.



‘Deadpool & Wolverine’ tops charts with \$205m opening

LOS ANGELES, July 29, (AP): Marvel is back on top with “Deadpool & Wolverine.” The comic-book movie made a staggering \$205 million in its first weekend in North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday. It shattered the opening record for R-rated films previously held by the first “Deadpool” (\$132 million) and notched a spot in the top 10 openings of all time. Including international showings, where it’s racked up an addition \$233.3 million from 52 markets, “Deadpool & Wolverine” is looking at a global opening of over \$438.3 million.

Fittingly for both characters’ introduction to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, “Deadpool & Wolverine” played less like earlier X-Men or Deadpool movies and more like an Avengers pic. In the top domestic opening weekends ever, “Deadpool & Wolverine” is seated in 8th place between “The Avengers” (\$207.4 million) and “Black Panther” (\$202 million), bumping “Avengers: Age of Ultron” (\$191.3 million) out of the top 10.

It’s by far biggest opening of the year, unseating Disney’s “ Inside Out 2 ” (\$154.2 million) and the most tickets a movie has sold in its debut weekend since “Barbie” (\$162 million) stormed theaters last July. Playing in 4,210 locations, “Deadpool & Wolverine” also surpassed 2019’s “The Lion King” (\$191.8 million) to become the biggest July opening ever, and is the 34th consecutive MCU movie to debut in first place. And these are numbers previously thought impossible for an R-rated film.

The Walt Disney Studios release arrived at a pivotal time for an industry grappling with box office returns that continue to run at a

double-digit deficit from last year. The success is also an important moment for Marvel Studios, which has had several high-profile disappointments lately; Most notably in “ The Marvels ” which opened to an MCU low of \$47 million last November.

Superheroes have been struggling even more elsewhere: Sony, which reached a high point with “Spider-Man: No Way Home” (\$1.9 billion worldwide) had a new low with “Madame Web,” which barely crossed \$100 million. Warner Bros. Discovery, after a string of disappointments with “The Flash” and “Blue Beetle,” is currently working on restarting their DC universe under the supervision of James Gunn.

Earnings

Marvel’s savior came in the form of two characters who got their start outside of the MCU, and carried a Motion Picture Association rating that seemed to have an earnings cap.

Both Deadpool and Wolverine, played by Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman, existed previously under the 21st Century Fox banner which for two decades had the rights to Marvel characters like the “X-Men” and “Fantastic Four.” That changed when Disney acquired the studio’s film and TV assets in early 2019 and plans started to take shape of how all these characters would fit into Kevin Feige’s MCU. In some cases, as with “Fantastic Four,” Marvel Studios is starting fresh. With “Deadpool & Wolverine,” the stars were as crucial as their characters.

Going into the weekend, \$200 million domestic seemed like a pipe dream. Analysts were more conservative with predictions in the \$160 million range. But from the start of the 3 p.m. Thursday preview screenings it was clear that “Deadpool & Wolverine” was more powerful. By the end of Friday, it had already made \$96 million and recieved a coveted A CinemaScore from audiences. Critics, too, have been mostly positive. Premium screens, including IMAX and other large formats, accounted for 18% of the total box office.

The top domestic opening of all time still firmly belongs to “Avengers: Endgame” with \$357.1 million. It’s followed by “Spider-Man: No Way Home” (\$260.1 million), “Avengers: Infinity War” (\$257.6 million), “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” (\$247.9 million) and “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” (\$220 million).

Second place went to Universal’s “Twisters,” now in its second weekend with \$35.3 million. The standalone sequel to “Twister” has now earned \$154.9 million in North America. Universal also claimed third place with “Despicable Me 4,” which added \$14.2 million in its fourth weekend, bringing its domestic total to nearly \$291 million.

“Inside Out 2” landed in fourth place with \$8.3 million. The Disney and Pixar release this week became the biggest animated release ever with \$613.4 million domestically (surpassing “Incredibles 2”) and \$1.5 billion globally. It also passed “Top Gun: Maverick” to become the 12th highest-earning global release of all time.

Variety



This image released by Focus Features shows Joan Chen, (left), and Izaak Wang in a scene from ‘Didi.’ (AP)

Film

TIFF lineup includes movies from Jolie, Leigh, more

‘Dìdi,’ a warm, nostalgic hug from 2008

By Kaitlyn Huamani

Coming of age films are nothing new. We’ve seen the awkwardness, the raucous, lewd humor and the emotional complexity that accompanies teen years on screen before, but films that balance those three things - all while keeping the story of a child of immigrants at its heart - are harder to come by.

“Didi,” the semi-autobiographical debut from director, writer and producer Sean Wang, delivers just that. It follows 13-year-old Chris Wang, or “Wang Wang,” as his friends call him, during the summer between middle and high school. His family, who affectionately call him Didi, Mandarin for “little brother,” are Taiwanese Americans living in Fremont, California, in 2008 - something viewers could likely pick up on even quickly with the use of flip phones, instant messaging and Myspace throughout.

At the core of this story of a young boy wanting to fit in, navigating his first crush and feeling the ebbs and flows of young friendships is his mother, the only person who sees him for who he is. As many 13-year-old boys feel at times, Chris just finds his mom, beautifully played by Joan Chen, to be unbearably irritating and embarrassing.

Throughout the well-paced story, Chris grapples with wanting to push away those closest to him, saying cruel things that can’t be unsaid, and simultaneously wanting their approval and love more than ever before.

In a wistful moment, after Chris and his mom, Chungsing, have cooled down from a big fight, Chris asks her if she’s ashamed of him. Through a poignant monologue, Chungsing tells him she could never be ashamed of him and that he is her dream. It’s a sweet moment and a sweet thought, but it also hits on a pressure many children of immigrants feel: to live up to their parents’ wildest dreams.

Izaak Wang, a revelation as Chris, seamlessly portrays those feelings of pressure and fear of disappointing family. His performance makes you appreciate that fraught time on the cusp of high school for what it taught you, but it also makes you appreciate that it’s over.

For all the emotional punches he packs as we follow Chris’ journey, Wang is also effortlessly hilarious in the film’s lighter moments.

From searching “how to kiss” on YouTube to fretting over how to respond to his crush’s IMs with his buddies, Wang pulls you in right away and doesn’t let go.

“Didi” premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, winning the audience award and a special jury award for its ensemble. It was one of the festival’s biggest discoveries and it was praised at the time for how it fostered nostalgia for the aughts - although many millennial viewers were shaken by the idea of a film set in 2008 being a period piece.

Creating something that feels nostalgic or captures a moment in time is no easy task, but the film pulls it off, largely thanks to the stellar performances. Several of the teen characters are played by first-time actors, which creates a palpable authenticity. The young actors also, refreshingly, don’t look far off from 13 in a departure from many films with teen characters that cast older actors.

Memorable

That realness is already there, given that Wang infused much of his childhood into the story and filmed on location in his hometown. He also cast his own 86-year-old grandmother as the endearing Nai Nai, who delivers comedic relief as if she was a veteran actor.

In a memorable scene, and a glimpse at Chris’ soft spot for his grandmother, he films her to feed his hobby of creating YouTube videos. As he gets closer to her face with the camera, she says she’s ugly and he responds that she is beautiful, and they exchange “I love yous.” It’s a quick yet moving reminder that under the layers of angst and the uncertainty that comes with times of transition, Chris is just a kid who loves his family and wants to do right by them. And then the moment is over.

“Didi’s” greatest strength lies in the balance it strikes between moments of levity and gravity, often prompting waves of laughter seconds after evoking tears.

Several shots throughout the film show Chungsing affectionately staring at her son, waiting for him to acknowledge her to no avail. Once Chris has experienced

more of the messiness that is being 13, he doesn’t just look back at her. He finally sees her.

“Didi” simply makes you wish you could turn back time and hug your mom.

“Didi,” a Focus Features release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for “language throughout, sexual material, and drug and alcohol use - all involving teens.” Running time: 93 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

Also:

**TORONTO:** The Angelina Jolie-directed war film “Without Blood,” a documentary about Bruce Springsteen and Mike Leigh’s contemporary tragicomedy “Hard Truths” will have their world premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival this fall. The festival announced its gala and special presentation lineup Monday.

Jolie’s film stars Salma Hayek and Demián Bichir and is based on the Alessandro Baricco novel “Without Blood.” The Springsteen film, “Road Diary: Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band” charts behind the scenes of his world tour. Leigh’s film, his first in six years, has him reuniting with his “Secrets & Lies” star Marianne Jean-Baptiste.

Also announced were the world premieres of Gia Coppola’s “The Last Showgirl,” starring Pamela Anderson, Jamie Lee Curtis, Dave Bautista and Kieran Shipka, and Rachel Morrison’s directorial debut “The Fire Inside,” about the first woman to win an Olympic gold medal in boxing. Barry Jenkins wrote the screenplay.

Edward Burns has a new film, “Millers in Marriage” with Minnie Driver and Morena Baccarin, as does David Mackenzie with the thriller “Relay” starring Riz Ahmed and Lily James. Jennifer Lopez co-stars in the Ben Affleck-produced sports drama “Unstoppable” about American wrestler Anthony Robles. And Hugh Grant leads the eerie Scott Beck and Bryan Woods-directed A24 pic “Heretic.”

One year after TIFF went on through the actors strikes, the star power has returned to the prestigious film festival which helps inform the conversation around the season’s awards hopefuls. (AP)

**HOUSTON:** The gold bikini-style costume that Carrie Fisher wore as Princess Leia while making “Return of the Jedi” in the “Star Wars” franchise has sold for \$175,000, according to the auction house that handled the sale.

The costume was made famous when Fisher wore it at the start of the 1983 film when Leia was captured by Jabba the Hutt at his palace on Tatooine and forced to be a slave.

The costume, one of the most memorable in the “ Star Wars ” movies, was sold on Friday by Dallas-based Heritage Auctions.

Joe Maddalena, Heritage’s executive vice president, said the costume that was sold was one that was screen tested and worn by Fisher on the movie’s set but ultimately did not make it onto the final version of the film as it was switched out for one that was more comfortable.

The auction house said the costume sparked a bidding war among collectors.

Maddalena said he wasn’t surprised by the attention bidders gave to the costume as well as to a model of a Y-wing fighter that took on the Death Star in the original “Star Wars” film that sold for \$1.55 million. He said “Star Wars” and “Star Trek” have very avid fan bases.

“The power of ‘Star Wars’ proves itself again. These movies are just so impactful,” Maddalena said.

In a November 2016 interview with NPR’s “Fresh Air,” Fisher said wearing the costume was not her choice.

“When (director George Lucas) showed me the outfit, I thought he was kidding and it made me very nervous. I had to sit very straight because I couldn’t have lines on my sides, like little creases. No creases were allowed, so I had to sit very, very rigid straight,” said Fisher, who died about a month after the interview.

Richard Miller, who created the costume, said in an interview that’s included in a “Star Wars” box set that he used soft material to build the costume so that Fisher could move around more freely.

“However, she still didn’t like it. I don’t blame her,” said Miller, who was the chief sculptor for Industrial Light & Magic, the visual effects company founded by “Star Wars” creator George Lucas. “I did put leather on the back of it to help it feel better.” The costume

had its share of critics, who thought it sexualized Fisher for the franchise’s male fan base.

In “Interview” magazine in 2015, Fisher told actor Daisy Ridley, who starred in “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” “You’re going to have people have fantasies about you. That will make you uncomfortable, I’m guessing.” She



Fisher



Swift

pushed back against the idea of being a sex symbol and told Ridley to “fight for your outfit.” (AP)



**MUNICH:** Thousands of Taylor Swift fans have gotten free seats to her concerts in Munich on a grassy hill near the concert venue.

The Swifties packed the

Olympic Hill, or Olympiaberg, one of the highest elevations in the southern German city, for the second straight day Sunday. That gave them a high perch for watching the singer’s sold-out concert in the nearby Olympic Stadium.

On Saturday, they braved the heat, which reached 31 Celsius (88 Fahrenheit) and claimed their spots

hours before the concert began.

Police estimated that about 25,000 gathered on the hill on Saturday, according to the dpa news agency.

On Sunday, fans returned, once again packing the grassy hill with so many people that from a distance the scene looked like an anthill. (AP)



People & Places

Obit

Defiant and brave

Irish literary legend O'Brien dead at 93

NEW YORK, July 29, (AP): **Edna O'Brien**, Ireland's literary pride and outlaw who scandalized her native land with her debut novel "The Country Girls" before gaining international acclaim as a storyteller and iconoclast that found her welcomed everywhere from Dublin to the White House, has died. She was 93.

O'Brien died Saturday after a long illness, according to a statement by her publisher Faber and the literary agency PFD.

"A defiant and courageous spirit, Edna constantly strove to break new artistic ground, to write truthfully, from a place of deep feeling," Faber said in a statement. "The vitality of her prose was a mirror of her zest for life: she was the very best company, kind, generous, mischievous, brave."



O'Brien

O'Brien published more than 20 books, most of them novels and story collections, and would know fully what she called the "extremities of joy and sorrow, love, crossed love and unrequited love, success and failure, fame and slaughter." Few so concretely and poetically challenged Ireland's taboos on religion, sex and gender. Few wrote so fiercely, so sensually about loneliness, rebellion, desire and persecution. A world traveler in mind and body, O'Brien was as likely to imagine the longings of an Irish nun as to take in a man's "boyish smile" in the midst of a "ponderous London club."

O'Brien was an unknown about to turn 30, living with her husband and two small children outside of London, when "The Country Girls" became one of Ireland's most polarizing works of fiction in memory. Written in just three weeks and published in 1960, for an advance of roughly \$75, "The Country Girls" follows the lives of two young women - Caithleen (Kate) Brady and Bridget (Baba) Brennan journey from a rural convent to the risks and adventures of Dublin.

Admirers

Admirers were as caught up in their defiance and awakening as would-be censors were enraged by such passages as "He opened his braces and let his trousers slip down around the ankles" and "He patted my knees with his other hand. I was excited and warm and violent."

Fame, wanted or otherwise, was O'Brien's ever after. Her novel was praised and purchased in London and New York while back in Ireland it was labeled "filth" by Minister of Justice Charles Haughey and burned publicly in O'Brien's home town of Tuamgraney, County Clare. Detractors also included O'Brien's parents and her husband, the author Ernest Gebler, from whom O'Brien was already becoming estranged.

O'Brien would be recognized well beyond the world of books. The 1980s British band Dexy's Midnight Runners named her alongside Eugene O'Neill, Samuel Beckett and Oscar Wilde among others in the literary tribute "Burn It Down." She dined at the White House with then-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Jack Nicholson and befriended Jacqueline Kennedy, whom she remembered as a "creature of paradoxes. While being private and immured she also had a hunger for intimacy - it was as if the barriers she had put up needed at times to be battered down."

O'Brien's other books included the novels "August Is a Wicked Month," the story of a woman's sexual liberation that was banned in parts of Ireland; "Down By The River," based on a true story about a teenage Irish girl who becomes pregnant after being raped by her father, and autobiographical "The Light of Evening," in which a famous author returns to Ireland to see her ailing mother. Her most recent work, "Girl," a novel about victims of Boko Haram, came out in 2019.

"Long Distance" arrives at the end of an affair as a man and woman struggle to recapture their feelings for each other, haunted by grudges and mistrust.

"A Scandalous Woman" follows the stifling of a lively young Irish nonconformist - part of that "small solidarity of scandalous women who had conceived children without securing fathers" - and ends with O'Brien's condemning her country as a "land of shame, a land of murder and a land of strange sacrificial women." In "My Two Mothers," the narrator prays for the chance to "begin our journey all over again, to live our lives as they should have been lived, happy, trusting, and free of shame."

O'Brien is among the most notable authors never to win the Nobel or even the Booker Prize. Her honors did include an Irish Book Award for lifetime achievement, the PEN/Nabokov prize and the Frank O'Connor award in 2011 for her story collection "Saints and Sinners," for which she was praised by poet and award judge Thomas McCarthy as "the one who kept speaking when everyone else stopped talking about being an Irish woman."

Contradictions

Josephine Edna O'Brien was one of four children raised on a farm where "the relics of riches remained. It was a life full of contradictions. We had an avenue, but it was full of potholes; there was a gatehouse, but another couple lived there." Her father was a violent alcoholic, her mother a talented letter writer who disapproved of her daughter's profession, quite likely out of jealousy. Lena O'Brien's hold on the author's imagination, the force of her regrets made her a lifelong muse and a near stand-in Ireland itself, "the cupboard with all things in it, the tabernacle with God in it, the lake with the legends in it."

By her early 20s, she was working in a pharmacy in Dublin and reading Tolstoy, Thackeray and O'Connor among others in her spare time. She had dreams of writing since sneaking out to the nearby fields as a child to work on stories, but doubted the relevance of her life until she read a biography of James Joyce and learned that "Portrait Of An Artist As a Young Man" was autobiographical. She began writing fiction that ran in the literary magazine The Bell and found work reviewing manuscripts for the publishing house Hutchinson, where editors were impressed enough by her summaries to commission what became "The Country Girls."

"I cried a lot writing 'The Country Girls,' but scarcely noticed the tears. Anyhow, they were good tears. They touched on feelings that I did not know I had. Before my eyes, infinitely clear, came that former world in which I believed our fields and hollows had some old music slumbering in them, centuries old," she wrote in her memoir.

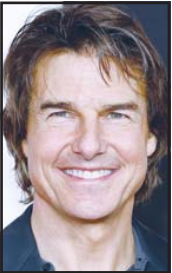
"The words poured out of me, and the pen above the paper was not moving fast enough, so that I sometimes feared they would be lost forever."



Contestants of the Miss Lebanon 2024, sing as they perform in their dress during the Miss Lebanon 2024 contest in Beirut, Lebanon, late Saturday, July 27. (AP)



Former US swimmer Katie Hoff wears a creation by July Bet and Sneek Footwear, during the first gender equal Olympic Games fashion show, at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, Sunday, July 28, 2024. To celebrate gender equality at the Olympics, PARITY Paris hosted a runway show in conjunction with the Coca-Cola House. (AP)



Cruise



Chastain

Variety

**PARIS:** It may be too early to call these Paris Olympics the Fashion Olympics. But, in the city widely considered the capital of fashion, the word "fashion" has surely been mentioned so far more by now than in any other Games.

And so it made sense to **Angela Ruggiero**, a four-time US Olympic medalist in ice hockey, that if she was going to launch a celebration of gender parity in these Games, it should be with a fashion show. And that's how some 20 or so former or current Olympians wound up sashaying down a makeshift runway on Sunday at a Paris restaurant, to whoops and high-fives from a supportive audience.

For years, says Ruggiero, who runs a market research firm focused on the intersection of sport and innovation, she's been following "this trend of sport and fashion colliding." (AP)

**PARIS:** The Palais Omnisports was the place to be on the second day of the Paris Olympics. To watch **Simone Biles**, of course, and to be seen.

A star-studded crowd attended the return to the Olympics of Biles, the most decorated athlete in the history of gymnastics.

Among the high-profile fans were Hollywood star **Tom Cruise** and Oscar-winning actor **Jessica Chastain** sitting under the roof of the packed Bercy Arena on Sunday.

**Lady Gaga**, who delivered a dazzling performance as the first musical act during the opening ceremony earlier this week, was also in the mix. The Grammy-winning performer posted a video of Biles' routine on the beam on her Instagram account, with the caption: "She nailed it, what an honor to be so close!"

**Snoop Dogg** had front-row seats while **Greta Gerwig**, **Ariana Grande**, **Cynthia Erivo**, **John Legend** and **Chrissy Teigen**, **Nick Jonas** and **Anna Wintour** also attended Biles' competition. (AP)

**CAIRO:** Mohammad Ali Mosque, known as the Alabaster Mosque for the marble paneling on its interior and

Art

A visual narrative of life, culture in the US

Stewart's artistic legacy on display

CHADDS FORD, Pa., July 29, (AP): At first glance, it looks like an aerial photo of a cemetery destroyed by war, with charred coffins ripped from broken concrete vaults and arched marble tombstones flattened by a bomb blast.

Then, the viewer begin to discern details: the coffins and vaults are actually parts of a keyboard. Instead of names and dates, the apparent tombstones are inscribed with words like "vibrato" and "third harmonic."

"It looks like a graveyard," photographer Frank Stewart said.

Stewart's ghostly photograph of a New Orleans church organ ravaged by the floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina is part of a career retrospective of his decades documenting Black life in America and exploring African and Caribbean cultures.

"Frank Stewart's Nexus: An American Photographer's Journey, 1960s to the Present," is on display at the Brandywine Museum of Art through Sept. 22. Brandywine is the fourth and final stop for the exhibition, which was organized by The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., and the Telfair Museums in Savannah, Georgia.

"I wanted to talk about the Black church and what influence they had on the culture," Stewart said of his post-Katrina work in New Orleans. "This organ, the music and everything corresponds. It all comes together. I just wanted to show the devastation of churches and the music and the culture."

Music is elemental to Stewart's practice. He was the long-time photographer for the Savannah Music Festival, and for 30 years he was the senior staff photographer for Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, which paired him with artistic director and Grammy-winning musician Wynton Marsalis.

"He's like my brother," said Stewart, whose exhibition includes

"Stomping the Blues," a 1997 photograph of Marsalis leading his orchestra off the stage during a world tour of his Pulitzer Prize-winning jazz oratorio "Blood on the Fields."

Stewart, who was born in Nashville, Tennessee, and grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, and Chicago, has his own ties to jazz and blues. His stepfather, Phineas Newborn Jr., was a pianist who worked with the likes of musicians Lionel Hampton, Charles Mingus and B.B. King.

Describing himself as a child of the "apartheid South," Stewart has drawn inspiration from photographers such as Ernest Cole and Roy DeCarava, who was among Stewart's instructors at New York's Cooper Union, where Stewart received a bachelor of fine arts degree. DeCarava's photographs of 1950s Harlem led to a collaboration with Langston Hughes on the 1955 book, "The Sweet Flypaper of Life."

**Chronicle**

Cole, a South African photographer, achieved acclaim in 1967 with "House of Bondage," the first book to inspire Stewart. It chronicled apartheid using photographs he smuggled out of the country. Cole was never able to replicate his early success and fell on hard times before dying at age 49 in New York City. A documentary about him, "Ernest Cole: Lost and Found," premiered at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

"He came to New York and he was homeless in New York, so I would see him on the street and we would talk," said Stewart, who is quick to draw a distinction between his work and Cole's.

"I consider myself an artist more than a documentarian," explained Stewart, who attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago before enrolling at Cooper Union and was a longtime friend and collaborator of

artist Romare Bearden.

That's not to say Stewart doesn't have journalistic instincts in his blood. He recounts a work history that includes the Chicago Defender, the largest Black-owned daily in the country at the time, and stringing for Ebony, Essence and Black Enterprise magazines. He looks back less fondly on a short stint of large-format work photographing fine art for brochures and catalogs, an undertaking he described as "tedious."

Through it all though, Stewart has maintained an artistic approach to his work, looking to combine pattern, color, tone and space in a visually appealing manner while not leaving the viewer searching for the message.

"It has to still be 'X marks the spot,'" he explained. "It still has to be photographic. It can't be just abstract."

Or maybe it can. How else to explain the color and texture seen in "Blue Car, Havana" from 2002?

"It's all about abstract painting," Stewart said in wall text accompanying the photo.

The retrospective shines a light on how Stewart's work has evolved over time, from early black-and-white photographs to his more recent prints, which feature more color.

"It's two different languages," he said. "English would be the black and white. French would be the color."

"I worked in color the whole time, I just didn't have the money to print them," he added.

While photography can inform people about the world around them, Stewart has noted there is a gulf between the real world and a photograph.

"Reality is a fact, and a photograph is another fact," he explained. "The map is not the territory. It's just a map of the territory."

exterior walls, is one of Cairo's most famed monuments, built by order of **Egypt's Mohammad Ali Pasha** in the year 1830.

Located in the Citadel of **Salah Al-Din Al-Ayyubi**, the Alabaster Mosque stands as an architectural marvel with its

unsurpassed 84-meter tall minarets.

The Mosque was built in Turkish style of multiple domes in varying sizes, with Islamic adornments flowing through its design.

In the southwestern corner is the marble tomb of Mohammad Ali Pasha, lying



Ayenda formally known as Afghanistan youth, wear creations by 4TheWalk and Sneek footwear, during the first gender equal Olympic Games fashion show, at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, Sunday, July 28. To celebrate gender equality at the Olympics, PARITY Paris hosted a runway show in conjunction with the Coca-Cola House. (AP)

in the midst of gold-gilded brass cabin. (KUNA)

**ULAN BATOR:** The 15th International Buryat Mongol Festival was held in **Mongolia** on Sunday, with the aim of promoting its culture and traditions, local media reported on Monday, citing the governor's office of the northern Bulgan province.

More than 50,000 people wearing the traditional attire of Buryats, from Mongolia, north **China's** Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and Russia's eastern Siberian Republic of **Buryatia** as well as **Irkutsk Oblast**, participated in the Altargana-2024 festivities in **Bulgan**, according to the report.

This year the Altargana festival was co-organized by the Office of the President of Mongolia, the Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Governor's Office of Bulgan province.

During the event, qualifying competitions in Buryat national wrestling known as Buryat Buhe-Barildaan, Buryat archery tournament and horse racing were held.

Buryats are a Mongolian ethnic group native to southeastern Siberia who speak the Buryat language. Buryats share many customs with other Mongols, including nomadic herding, and erecting gers for shelter.

The festival is held once every two years. (Xinhua)



Calls for nonsurgical alternatives to treat disorder

Infants’ tongue-tie overdiagnosed, needlessly treated: AAP

NEW YORK, July 29, (AP): Tongue-tie -a condition in infants that can affect breastfeeding - may be overdiagnosed in the US and too often treated with unnecessary surgery, a prominent doctors’ group said Monday.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is the latest, and largest, medical society to sound an alarm about the increasing use of scissors or lasers to cut away some infants’ tongue tissue when breastfeeding is difficult.

“It’s almost an epidemic,” said Dr. Maya Bunik, a Colorado-based co-author of the report.

Experts say there isn’t a good count of how many infants each year are being treated for tongue-tie with surgery, though Bunik believes the annual tally may exceed 100,000. Research suggests many of those treatments are not necessary, she added.

The academy’s new report encourages pediatricians and other medical professionals to consider nonsurgical options to address breastfeeding problems. The report cites a study that suggests less than half of the kids with the characteristics of tongue-tie actually have difficulty breastfeeding.

Ankyloglossia, or “tongue-tie,” occurs when an infant is born with a tight or short band of tissue that tethers the bottom of the tongue’s tip to the floor of the mouth. The condition can make it hard for the infant to extend and lift their tongue to grasp a nipple and draw milk - which in turn can be painful for the mother.

Doctors say it’s critical to get breastfeeding on track in the first three to four weeks, and surveys indicate most parents want to breastfeed, so it’s natural that they want a quick solution to a problem, Bunik said.

Breastfeed

Ankyloglossia diagnoses have been increasing worldwide, though there is no uniform diagnostic criteria for this condition and no consensus on how to treat it. One common approach is to cut the tissue with scissors, but dentists increasingly are using lasers to vaporize the tissue - some charging \$800 or more.

But the procedures can cause pain and sore mouths, potentially deterring babies from trying to breastfeed, Bunik said.

“The practice (of treating tongue-tie) got to be very common without a lot of good data,” said Wisconsin pediatrician Dr. Jennifer Thomas, who also co-authored the report.

The report also recommends lactation experts, pediatricians and surgeons and other medical professionals work with parents to evaluate possible reasons for breastfeeding challenges and make the best treatment decision.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, which has 67,000 members who specialize in treating children, started working on the report in 2015 after some pediatricians began to notice that



This combination of photos provided by Dr. Maya Bunik in July 2024, shows a baby with ankyloglossia where the tongue does not extend beyond the gums, (left), and a baby with an indentation at the tip of a tongue which may be a sign of ankyloglossia. (AP)

Drug shows 76% efficacy

FDA okays new antibiotic Pivya for UTIs in women

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: For the first time in 20 years, doctors will have a new antibiotic to treat urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Pivya, an oral antibiotic made by Utility Therapeutics, for adult women with uncomplicated UTIs, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This approval is significant as bacteria causing UTIs are becoming increasingly resistant to existing medications.

Uncomplicated UTIs, primarily bacterial infections of the bladder affecting women, can now be treated with Pivya, which is effective against Escherichia coli, Proteus mirabilis, and Staphylococcus saprophyticus.

According to health statistics, nearly half of all adult women experience a UTI at least once in their lifetime.

Dr. Peter Kim, director of the Division of Anti-Infectives in the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research,

emphasized that the approval provides an additional treatment option for this common condition. Utility Therapeutics plans to launch Pivya in the US in 2025.

Pivya contains pivmecillinam, a type of aminopenicillin that disrupts bacterial cell wall synthesis. This antibiotic has been successfully used outside the United States for over 40 years to treat uncomplicated UTIs.

Clinical trials showed that Pivya had a higher response rate of up to 76% compared to similar antibiotics and ibuprofen after 8 to 14 days of use.

Common side effects include nausea and diarrhea, with warnings for hypersensitivity reactions, carnitine deficiency, and severe skin reactions. It is contraindicated for patients with severe hypersensitivity to beta-lactam drugs and may interfere with newborn screening tests for isocarboxazidemia.

claims that using lasers is superior to other techniques.

A year later, the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, an international group, issued a position called for more research into tongue-tie treatment and stressed that decisions “require a high level of clinical skill, judgment, and discernment.”

The American Dental Association didn’t directly respond to The Associated Press’ questions about the new report.

Some offer high accuracy, no FDA approval yet

Alzheimer’s blood tests may be coming to your doctor’s office

WASHINGTON, July 29, (AP): New blood tests could help doctors diagnose Alzheimer’s disease faster and more accurately, researchers reported Sunday - but some appear to work far better than others.

It’s tricky to tell if memory problems are caused by Alzheimer’s. That requires confirming one of the disease’s hallmark signs - buildup of a sticky protein called beta-amyloid - with a hard-to-get brain scan or uncomfortable spinal tap. Many patients instead are diagnosed based on symptoms and cognitive exams.

Labs have begun offering a variety of tests that can detect certain signs of Alzheimer’s in blood. Scientists are excited by their potential but the tests aren’t widely used yet because there’s little data to guide doctors about which kind to order and when. The US Food and Drug Administration hasn’t formally approved any of them and there’s little insurance coverage.

“What tests can we trust?” asked Dr. Suzanne Schindler, a neurologist at Washington University in St. Louis who’s part of a research project examining that. While some are very accurate, “other tests are not much better than a flip of a coin.”

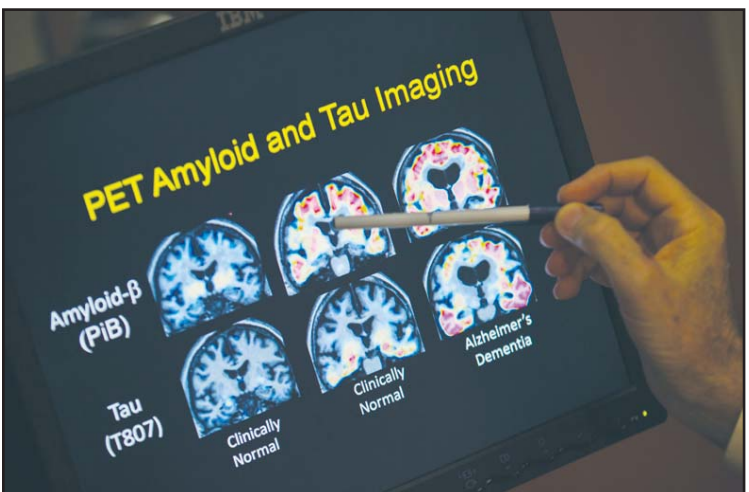
Dementia

More than 6 million people in the United States and millions more around the world have Alzheimer’s, the most common form of dementia. Its telltale “biomarkers” are brain-clogging amyloid plaques and abnormal tau protein that leads to neuron-killing tangles.

New drugs, Leqembi and Kisunla, can modestly slow worsening symptoms by removing gunky amyloid from the brain. But they only work in the earliest stages of Alzheimer’s and proving patients qualify in time can be difficult. Measuring amyloid in spinal fluid is invasive. A special PET scan to spot plaques is costly and getting an appointment can take months.

Even specialists can struggle to tell if Alzheimer’s or something else is to blame for a patient’s symptoms.

Blood tests so far have been used mostly in carefully controlled research settings. But a new study of about 1,200 patients in Sweden shows they also can work in the real-world bustle of doctors’ offices - especially primary care doctors who see far



A doctor points to PET scan results that are part of a study on Alzheimer’s disease at Georgetown University Hospital, on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, in Washington. (AP)

Greece enforces nationwide controls to fight ‘goat plague’

ATHENS, Greece, July 29, (AP): Authorities in Greece ordered nationwide restrictions for goat and sheep Monday to combat a deadly viral outbreak that is a fresh blow to the domestic livestock industry.

Costas Tsiaras, the minister of agriculture and rural development, announced the ban on the commercial slaughter of goats and sheep as well as movement for reproduction - expanding measures already in effect in parts of central Greece where the outbreak

was first reported.

Also known as the “goat plague,” the PPR virus is a highly contagious disease affecting goats and sheep, causing severe illness and death. It has no adverse effect on human health, according to Greek officials.

So far, some 7,000 animals in herds where the disease has been identified have been culled in the hardest-hit central Thessaly region, with another 1,200 to be added early this week, regional governor Dimitris Kouretas said Monday.

more people with memory problems than specialists but have fewer tools to evaluate them.

In the study, patients who visited either a primary care doctor or a specialist for memory complaints got an initial diagnosis using traditional exams, gave blood for testing and were sent for a confirmatory spinal tap or brain scan.

Blood testing was far more accurate, Lund University researchers reported Sunday at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Philadelphia. The primary care doctors’ initial diagnosis was 61% accurate and the

specialists’ 73% - but the blood test was 91% accurate, according to the findings, which also were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

There’s almost “a wild West” in the variety being offered, said Dr. John Hsiao of the National Institute on Aging. They measure different biomarkers, in different ways.

Doctors and researchers should only use blood tests proven to have a greater than 90% accuracy rate, said Alzheimer’s Association chief science officer Maria Carrillo.

Two meteor showers to light up sky in late July

Lunar soil from Chang’e-5 on display in Bangkok

BANGKOK, July 29, (Agencies): A rare opportunity to see soil from the moon in person captivated crowds as the lunar sample from China’s Chang’e-5 mission was under the spotlight in Bangkok.

Under collaboration between the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT) and the China National Space Administration (CNSA), the lunar sample was featured as one of highlights at Sci Power for Future Thailand Fair that concluded on Sunday.

Enclosed in a rotating crystal sphere, the 75-milligram sample named “The Moon Shines Bright On Me” invited visitors on a microscopic journey to

the moon’s surface and they marveled at the extraterrestrial material up close.

Experiencing the mysterious substance for the first time, elementary school student Tannya Neesanant was filled with excitement. “The lunar sample’s unusual color intrigued my curiosity, as it appeared to be sand rather than soil,” the seven-year-old told Xinhua.

The exhibit is a portion of samples that Chang’e-5 lunar probe collected, one of the most complicated and challenging missions in China’s aerospace history.

Being able to get “closer than ever” to the moon really inspired people from diverse backgrounds who visited the display, particularly children, to

fuel their passion for learning and pursuing their goals, said Suppawat Zhou, a staff member at the exhibition.

NARIT head Saran Poshyachinda said the exhibition also showcased advanced technologies Thailand has developed for astronomical research, such as an instrument designed to observe cosmic radiation and space weather from a lunar perspective, which will be aboard China’s Chang’e-7 moon exploration mission.

□ □ □

Get ready for a meteor shower doubleheader.

The Southern Delta Aquariid meteor shower peaks in late July. And this year, it will coincide with a sec-

ond smaller meteor shower, the Alpha Capricornids.

The Delta Aquariids occur every year in North America’s late summer. This year’s peak activity happens early Tuesday morning, with an expected 15 to 20 meteors visible per hour in the Northern Hemisphere, under dark skies. Viewing should be even better in the Southern Hemisphere. The shower lasts through August 21, according to the American Meteor Society.

Around the same time, the Alpha Capricornid meteor shower should produce around five meteors per hour and lasts through August 15.

Here’s what to know about the Delta Aquariids and other meteor showers.



A woman takes photos of the lunar sample from China’s Chang’e-5 mission during the Sci Power for Future Thailand Fair in Bangkok, Thailand, July 23. (Xinhua)

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Al-Arabi to face Turkish team Erbaaspor

Kuwait Club signs Abu Al-Fath to replace injured Victor

By Hassan Musa  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff  
KUWAIT CITY, July 29: Kuwait Club has officially signed Moroccan professional Al-Amin Abu Al-Fath, who will replace Argentine player Sergio Victor, sidelined for at least six months due to a cruciate ligament injury.

SOCCER

The 26-year-old former Wydad player Abu Al-Fath was recommended by his compatriot Yahya

Jabrane, a former Wydad captain, who also recently signed with Kuwait Club. Born in 1997, Abu Al-Fath previously played for Moroccan club Youssoufia Berrechid and was recently close to joining Bahraini club Al-Khaldiya.

Abu Al-Fath is expected to join Kuwait Club's training sessions after the team returns from its training camp in Turkey. With this signing, Kuwait Club completes its roster of foreign players, which includes Tunisians Yahya Jabrane and Yassin Al-Khenisi, Bahraini Mohammed Marhoun, and Congolese Arsène

Zola "Malik," along with Abu Al-Fath.

Kuwait Club is preparing for the new season, starting with a play-off match to qualify for the AFC Champions League against Al-Ahli of Bahrain in Manama on August 14. It will also face a strong challenge against Al-Qadisiya on August 8 in the opening of the Zain Premier League competitions.

Al-Arabi will play against Turkish team Erbaaspor at 5:00 pm today as part of its training camp in Erzurum, Turkey. This will be Al-Arabi's second friendly match, following a goalless draw with

Azerbaijan's Araz in its first match. The camp began last week and will continue until August 3.

Al-Qadisiya will face Saudi team Ohod in a friendly match at 6:00 pm, marking its third friendly match during its training camp in Cairo, Egypt. Previously, Al-Qadisiya played to a 1-1 draw with UAE's Al-Orobah and a 2-2 draw with Egypt's Wadi Degla.

The Al-Qadisiya delegation is set to return from the Egyptian camp and will resume training in the preparation for their Zain Premier League opener against Kuwait Club.



Al-Arabi players in Türkiye camp.

Al-Youha making 2nd Oly appearance

AAW through INTERSPORT equips Kuwaiti champions for Olympics

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: As the 33rd Olympic Games kick off in Paris, Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW) through INTERSPORT, one of its leading sports brands, announced today its support for Kuwait's qualified Olympians by equipping them with gear and equipment for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

INTERSPORT opened its doors to Kuwait's swimming Olympians Lara Dashti and Mohammad Al-Zubaid, as well as athletics Olympians Yaqoub Al-Youha, to select the sportswear and equipment they need in preparation for their competitions. Through this initiative, INTERSPORT is one of the first supporters of Kuwait's 2024 Olympians.

Lara Dashti, Kuwait's first female Olympic flag-bearer in Tokyo 2020 opening ceremony, returned to compete in the women's 100m breaststroke on Sunday, July 28, 2024 and set a new personal record, finishing fifth in the race.

Mohammad Al-Zubaid, the youngest swimmer in Kuwait's Olympic history, will compete in the men's 100m freestyle on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 12:21 PM local time.

As for the runners, Amal Al-Roumi, selected after achieving a personal record in the 800m indoor event in Spain last February, will compete in her first Olympic race, the women's 800m, on Friday, August 2, 2024. Yaqoub Al-Youha, also making his second Olympic appearance after Tokyo 2020, will compete in the men's 110m hurdles on Sunday, August 4, 2024.

The 33rd Olympic Games, taking place in Paris from July 26 to August 11, will feature approximately 10,500 athletes from over 200 countries participating in 32 different sports. Kuwait is proudly represented by nine athletes competing across six sports: Lara



Lara Dashti and Mohammad Al-Zubaid



Yaqoub Al-Youha

Dashti and Muhammad Al-Zubaid in swimming; Yacoub Al-Youha and Amal Al-Roumi in athletics; Khaled Al-Mudhaf and Mohammed Al-Dihani in archery; Youssef Al-Shamlan in fencing; Souad Al-Faqaan in rowing; and Amina Shah in sailing.

INTERSPORT has a strong commitment of supporting sports initiatives in Kuwait, such as the Gulf Bank 642 Marathons, the charity race RunKuwait organized by the FSHN, among others. INTERSPORT offers a wide range of sports gear, accessories, and apparel for sports such as running, training, football, swimming, tennis, padel, squash, and badminton, from global brands such as Speedo, Nike, adidas, Reebok, On Running, New Balance, Under Armour, Babolat, and more.



United States' Samantha Coffey, (left), vies for the ball with Germany's Sjoek Niesken during the women's Group B soccer match between the United States and Germany at the Velodrome stadium, during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Marseille, France. (AP)

Australia complete stunning comeback against Zambia

Al-Qadisiya one of participants

Jassim Al-Rumaihi confirms August draw for Gulf Clubs Championship

MARSEILLE, France, July 29, (AP): Coach Emma Hayes tempered expectations as the United States cruised to a 4-1 win over Germany for a spot in the quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics.

Sophia Smith had a pair of goals for the Americans, who have won their opening two matches in France. Mallory Swanson and Lynn Williams also scored against Germany.

SOCCER

"We haven't done anything, let's be frank," Hayes said. "We've got three points against a really good German team. That's all it is, nothing more." The Americans are playing their first major tournament under Hayes, who took over the U.S. team in late May.

Hayes is tasked with leading the Americans as they seek to distance themselves from the disappointment of last summer's Women's World Cup when they crashed out in the round of 16.

The United States is the winningest team in the Olympics, with four gold medals. The Americans won the bronze medal at the Tokyo Games under former coach Vlatko Andonovski, who resigned following the World Cup.

Smith started for the United States after leaving the opener in the first half with what appeared to be an ankle injury.

Ten minutes into the match, Smith struck a cross from Trinity Rodman that sailed past German goalkeeper Katrin-Ann Berger.

Giulia Gwinn equalized in the 22nd minute with a low, bouncing shot from well outside the penalty area that eluded diving U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naecher.

Swanson put the United States back in front on the 26th. Berger punched out an attempt from distance by Smith, but Swanson picked up the rebound for a goal. It was Swanson's third goal of the Olympics.

Swanson is the second player to score three goals in the group at an Olympics, joining Abby Wambach in 2012.

Smith scored her second in the 44th minute on a high-arching shot that hit the far post and caromed into the goal.

"Anytime I'm in a position to get a touch, shift and shoot. I'm doing to take it," Smith said.

Williams, a substitute, added the final goal in the 89th minute and fans in Marseille chanted "USA! USA!" as

U.S. defender Tierna Davidson left the match with an injury and was replaced by Emily Sonnett.

Alexandra Popp left in the 76th minute with what appeared to be a right leg injury. It was a blow to Germany, which was already playing without midfielder Lena Oberdorf (knee).

The United States plays Australia in Marseille on Wednesday to conclude group play. Germany, which defeated Australia in its Olympic opener 3-0, plays Zambia in Saint-Etienne.

Vanessa Gilles scored in the 12th minute of stoppage time against France to keep Canada's hopes of advancing.

Canada looked to be heading out of the tournament before its final Group A match when the game was tied 1-1 in Saint-Etienne.

A six-point deduction for the drone-spying scandal meant only a win would be enough to give the defending Olympic champion any chance of advancing.

Gilles converted via the post from close range to seal the comeback win after Jordyn Huitema's shot was saved.

Marie-Antoinette Katoto had put France ahead in the 42nd and Jessie Fleming evened the match in the 58th to give the Canadians hope.

The win still leaves Canada on zero points despite back-to-back wins because of the sanctions by FIFA.

Canada was looking into an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport over the ruling.

Australia produced a stunning

comeback to beat Zambia in Nice and boost its chances of advancing to the quarterfinals of the tournament.

Michelle Heyman's goal in the 90th minute at Stade de Nice settled a thrilling match that Zambia led 5-2 early in the second half, with Barbra Banda scoring a first-half hat trick.

"We would not have wanted it to go exactly how it did, but I think the way that the game ended says so much for the hardened spirit of this team," said Australia's Steph Catley, who scored twice. "We knew we could get back into it, we knew we could score more goals." Zambia had been involved in the highest-scoring game in the history of women's soccer at the Olympics - beaten 10-3 by the Netherlands at the Tokyo Games three years ago, with Banda scoring a hat trick in that match too.

An own goal by Ngambo Musole sparked Australia's fightback in the 58th.

Two more goals from Catley - a free kick in the 65th and a penalty in the 78th - evened the score and set up the dramatic finale.

Heyman had come on as a substitute in the 57th and slotted home the winner for the Matildas, who were World Cup semifinalists last year.

Australia lost 3-0 to Germany in its opening game in Group B and was looking set for a second defeat after Zambia raced to a commanding lead.

As well as Banda's hat trick, Rachael Kundananji scored twice. Alanna Kennedy and Hayley Raso scored in



GCC Club Cup logo.

tournament alongside Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq, the UAE's Al-Nasr, Qatar's Al-Arabi, Bahrain's Al-Riffa, Iraq's Dohuk, Oman's Dhofar, and Yemen's Al-Ahly Sana'a.

SOCCER

It's noteworthy that Al-Ettifaq received the green light to participate after Jeddah Union, which finished fifth in the Roshn League standings last season, withdrew from the tournament.

The first half for Australia, which plays the United States in its final group game.

Zambia plays Germany.

Momoko Tanikawa scored a long-range goal deep in stoppage time to clinch Japan's comeback win over Brazil.

The spectacular goal followed Saki Kumagai's equalizer from the penalty spot after Yasmin was called for a handball at the end of regulation at Parc des Princes in Paris.

Brazil was leading 1-0 after Jheniffer's goal in the 56th minute until Japan's late goals, capped with Tanikawa's strike from well outside the top of the box that caught Brazilian goalkeeper Lorena out of position.

Brazil's Marta put her head in her hands in disbelief on the bench. A victory would have all but assured Brazil a spot in the knockout round.

Brazil started Marta, the team's longtime captain who is playing in her sixth Olympics.

A record six-time world player of the year, Marta has said this will be her last major tournament with Brazil. Every time that the 38-year-old got a touch on the ball Sunday night the Paris crowd cheered.

She nearly scored in Brazil's 1-0 victory over Nigeria in the team's opener, but the goal was called back by video review. But the win over Nigeria was a valuable three points for the Brazilians who won't know their fate in Paris until after the last group matches on Wednesday.

Rahm wins LIV Golf title; Vegas takes 3M Open to end drought

ROCESTER, England, July 29, (AP): Jon Rahm won LIV Golf UK on Sunday for his first victory on the Saudi-funded tour when Legion XIII teammate Tyrrell Hatton three-putted his final hole for a bogey.

Rahm closed with a 4-under 68 to finish at 13 under at JCB Golf & Country Club, a stroke ahead of Hatton (69), season points leader Joaquin-Niemann (65) and defending champion Cameron-Smith (69).

On the par-4 18th, Hatton hit a 75-foot putt to 5 feet and missed the par try to hand Rahm his first victory since the 2023 Masters. Rahm and Hatton led Legion XIII to the team title.

Rahm is one seven LIV players in the Olympics next week at Le Golf National outside Paris. The 29-year-old Spanish star joined LIV in December. He has fought a foot problem this season.

Jhonattan Vegas won for the first time in nearly seven years, holing a 3-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole for a 1-under 70 and a one-shot victory over Max Greyserman in the 3M Open.

Vegas finished at 17-under 267 at the windy TPC Twin Cities. The 39-year-old from Venezuela won his fourth PGA Tour title and first since his second straight Canadian Open victory in 2017.

Greyserman, a 29-year-old PGA Tour rookie, made a charge with a 63.

Maverick McNealy (70) and Matt Kuchar (71) finished third, two shots back. Lauren Coughlin won the CPKC Women's Open for her first LPGA Tour title, pulling away from Haeran Ryu with a two-stroke swing on the par-3 17th.

Tied for the lead after Ryu three-putted for bogey on the par-4 16th, Coughlin hit a 6-iron to 8 feet and birdied the 195-yard 17th. Ryu then missed a 3-foot par try to fall two shots back.

Coughlin finished at 13-under 275, closing with a 1-under 71 for a two-stroke victory over Mao Saigo in mostly calm conditions at Earl

Grey Golf Club.

Saigo shot 69 a day after breaking the tournament record with a 61. The 22-year-old Japanese player is an LPGA Tour rookie after winning six times on the JLPGA.

Ryu also bogeyed the 18th in a 75 that left her tied for third with Jenny Shin (67) at 10 under.

K.J. Choi won the Senior British Open to become the first South Korean senior major champion, finishing with a 2-under 70 for a two-stroke victory over Richard Green of Australia.

The 54-year-old Choi took a one-shot lead into the final round at Carnoustie and held off Green for his second PGA Tour champions victory. He finished at 10-under 278.

GOLF

Green shot a 71. England's Paul Broadhurst (70) was third, three strokes back. He won the 2016 title.

Thomas Rosenmueller won the NV5 Invitational for his first Korn Ferry Tour title, closing with a 5-under 66 for a two-stroke victory.

Rosenmueller finished at 25-under 259 to match the tournament record. The 27-year-old German former North Texas players holed out from 32 yards for eagle in the par-4 15th.

Rosenmueller jumped to 15th in the season points race with seven events remaining. The top 30 will earn PGA Tour cards. Karl Vilips of Australia was second after a 63.

Conor Purcell of Ireland won the Black Desert NI Open for his first Challenge Tour title. He closed with a 1-over 71 to finish at 13 under, a stroke ahead of Joakim Lagergren of Sweden at Galmorm Castle in Antirrhya, Northern Ireland. ... Barend Botma of South Africa shot a 5-under 67 for a one-stroke victory in the PGA Tour Americas' Commissionaires Ottawa Open. The former Toledo player finished at 26-under 262 for his first tour title.



Organizers cancel training again

Concerns about the water quality in the Seine River led officials to call off the swimming portion of an Olympic triathlon training session for a second straight day Monday.

Organizers overseeing the event at the Paris Games are optimistic that triathletes will be able to swim in the city's famed waterway when the competition starts Tuesday. The sport's governing body, World Triathlon, its medical team and city officials are banking on sunny weather and higher temperatures to bring the bacteria levels below the necessary limits to stage the swim portion of the race, which also includes biking and running.

World Triathlon made the decision to cancel the swim workout early Monday following a meeting over water quality in the Seine, which is closely linked to the weather. Rain deluged Friday's opening ceremony and showers persisted Saturday, forcing some tennis matches and the skateboarding competition to be postponed.

The representatives for Paris 2024 and triathlon's international federation said tests conducted in the Seine on Sunday showed water quality levels leading into the training session that "did not provide sufficient guarantees to allow the event to be held." The delegation blamed the recent rain. (AP)



Germany's Michael Jung, riding Chipmunk Frh, competes in the equestrian jumping at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Versailles, France. (AP)



Algeria's Lynda Loghraibi plays against China's Chen Meng during a women's singles round of 64 table tennis game at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)



China's Lian Junjie and Yang Hao celebrate on the podium after winning the gold medal in the men's synchronised 10m platform diving final at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Saint-Denis, France. (AP)



Ahmed Adel, (right), of Egypt, attempts to score against Niclas Kirkeloeke, of Denmark, during a men's handball match at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

Coco wins title in Japan 1-2 finish

PARIS, July 29, (Xinhua): Japan's Coco Yoshizawa and Liz Akama took gold and silver medals respectively in the women's street skateboarding final at the Paris Olympics, while Brazil's Rayssa Leal settled with the bronze.

China's Cui Chenxi finished fourth, achieving the country's best result in the event at the Olympics.

The street skateboarding competition at the Paris Olympics consisted of two runs and five trick displays, with the final score decided by the sum of highest run score and highest score of two tricks.

SKATEBOARDING

Yoshizawa was in second place after two runs, but with a score of 96.49 for her fourth trick and steady play on the fifth, she surpassed Akama and secured the gold medal with a combined score of 272.75.

Cui made mistakes in both runs, but she scored 86.98 and 89.11 for her first two tricks, surviving the hope of winning a medal. Leal was only ranked sixth before the fifth trick, but she managed to overtake Cui and finish third after her final jump. In the last trick, Cui attempted a more difficult move but failed to deliver.



Coco Yoshizawa, of Japan, celebrates after winning the gold medal in the women's skateboard street final at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

China make it 2-for-2 in diving

Daley and new partner Williams settle for a silver

SAINT-DENIS, France, July 29, (AP): With Tom Daley out of the way, China is another step closer to an unprecedented sweep at the Olympic diving pool.

Lian Junjie and Yang Hao breezed to gold in the 10-meter synchronized platform Monday to give the Big Red Machine its second straight gold medal of the Paris Games.

The three-time reigning world champions finished with a whopping 490.35 points, receiving several perfect 10s from the judges and no marks lower than 8.0. They nailed their final dive, a forward 4 1/2 somersaults in the tuck position, to clinch the gold.

Before the final marks were even posted - all 9.0s and 9.5s - the Chinese coaches were hugging and celebrating. Fans waved Chinese flags in the stands at the new Olympic Aquatics Centre, next door to the Stade de France in suburban Saint-Denis.

China, which has dominated the sport in the post-Greg Louganis era, is trying to become the first country to claim every diving gold medal since synchro was added in 2000, doubling the program from four to eight events.

Since that expansion, China has won 40 of 50 golds, including seven of eight at each of the last two Summer Games.

In Tokyo three years ago, China's only setback came in the men's 10-meter synchro, when Daley and Matty Lee pulled off the upset for Great Britain as China took silver.

This time, the roles were reversed. Daley and new partner



Ukraine's Olga Kharlan, (right), competes with Azerbaijan's Anna Bashta in the women's individual Sabre Round of 16 competition during the 2024 Summer Olympics at the Grand Palais in Paris, France. (AP)

Noah Williams settled for a silver at 463.44. The bronze went to Canada's Rylan Wiens and Nathan Zsombor-Murray with 422.13, edging out fan favorite Mexico (418.65).

The United States did not qualify for the one of the eight Olympic berths.

Egypt's Elsayed wins bronze

Kiefer retains title, Kano makes history

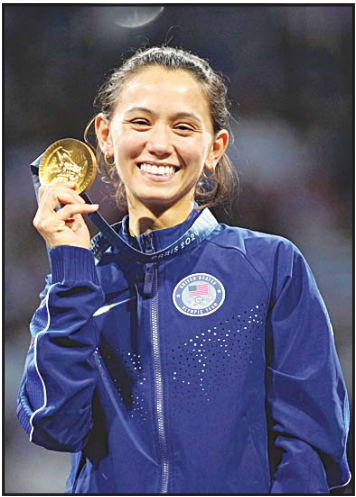
PARIS, July 29, (Xinhua): Host nation France's quest for a much-anticipated fencing gold again fell short, as Yannick Borel lost to Koki Kano of Japan in the men's epee individual final at the Paris Olympics, while America's Lee Kiefer retained her foil title against compatriot Lauren Scruggs.

Borel eased past Mohamed Elsayed of Egypt to reach the final, taking on world No. 3 Kano, who beat Hungary's Tibor Andrasi. The Frenchman trailed from the very first point and couldn't find a way to close the gap en route to a 15-9 loss.

FENCING

"It feels good to have a medal, but it feels bad to lose the match," said 35-year-old Borel. "I know Kano really well. We've already fenced against one another in team or individual, so I had some tips for the win, but this time it went his way." Kano became the first Japanese fencer to claim an epee individual medal at the Olympics, after an historic men's epee team gold at the Tokyo Olympics. "I wanted to come here and get gold in the individual and I did it," he said.

Despite ambitions of winning two gold medals in Paris, defending cham-



United States' Lee Kiefer celebrates on the podium after winning the gold medal of the women's individual Foil competition during the 2024 Summer Olympics at the Grand Palais in Paris, France. (AP)

tion and home favorite Romain Canone lost to Ruslan Kurbanov of Kazakhstan 15-10 in the round of 16.

"I was really proud to have been able to express myself from the begin-

ning. Not everyone is capable of doing this. It's a chess match, trying to anticipate the strategies, and I was surprised," said the 27-year-old.

"What counts for me is that there were some very good touches and action. That's the beauty of fencing and the Olympics. I wanted to enjoy it, and that's what I did," he added.

The bronze medal went to Elsayed. China's Wang Zijie beat Venezuela's Francisco Limardo 15-12 before losing to Kano 15-4 in the round of 16.

Defending champion Kiefer and Scruggs met in the first-ever all-American women's foil final in Olympic history, with Kiefer cruising to a 15-6 victory, becoming only the third women's foil fencer to retain the title.

Eleanor Harvey pocketed the bronze, becoming the first Canadian to win an Olympic fencing medal. Despite holding positions two, three and four in the current world rankings and leading the medal table in this event among National Olympic Committees, Italian fencers failed to live up to expectations.

China's Chen Qingyuan, Huang Qianqian and Wang Yuting also took part in the women's foil individual event, but none made the last eight.

Tom defends mountain bike crown

ELANCOURT, France, July 29, (AP): Tom Pidcock stepped down from the top step of an Olympic podium for the second time, the British anthem giving way to cheers from even the French fans, and spotted a blown-up cardboard photo of his face held aloft by one of the spectators.

Pidcock took it and gave it a sheepish wave after a decidedly outsized performance of his own.

After a punctured tire cost him the lead in the Olympic mountain bike race, the 24-year-old from Leeds recovered to track down Victor Koretzky. The two engaged in a dramatic last-lap game of cat-and-mouse, and with an audacious move where a single lane split into two, Pidcock squeezed ahead and pulled away for his second straight

gold medal.

The mountain bike judges closely examined the final pass, where Pidcock went left around a tree, Koretzky went right, and they bumped when they came back together - Koretzky nearly hitting another tree. But result was allowed to stand.

Koretzky was left with a silver medal, one day after Pauline Ferrand-Prevot delivered gold for France in the women's race. Alan Hatherly wound up with bronze in the best mountain bike finish ever for South Africa.

Pidcock, who had to withdraw from the Tour de France about two weeks ago when he contracted COVID-19, joined Paola Pezzo and Julien Absalon as the only riders with two mountain bike gold medals from the Summer Games.

No double-double gold for Abe siblings, Hifumi wins but Uta has 'shocking' loss

PARIS, July 29, (AP): Right after Hifumi Abe violently threw his final opponent to the tatami and secured his second Olympic judo gold medal, he stood up and looked directly at his sister crying in the stands at the Champ-de-Mars Arena.

The Abe siblings' dream of winning gold medals for Japan on the same day in their second straight Olympics ended early. Uta Abe, a four-time world champion who hadn't lost in five years, was beaten in her second bout in Paris by eventual gold medalist Diyora Keldiyorova of Uzbekistan in a mind-boggling upset.

But her big brother had her back.

Hifumi Abe made sure this first family of judo will head home with at least one more gold to add to a collection that still might not be complete.

Hifumi Abe defeated Willian Lima of Brazil in the men's 66-kilogram final, but the double victory the Abe siblings had chased for three years didn't happen.

They both won gold on the same day in their home Tokyo Olympics, and both won world championships in each of the two years since 2021.

They missed their chance to go home from the Paris Games with another matching set of medals when Keldiyorova surprised Abe, who was leading 1-0, with a tani otoshi throw for a spectacular ippon 3:04 into their match.

Uta Abe was disconsolate for hours. Neither sibling had been beaten in any competition since 2019, and it was only the 24-year-old Uta's second loss since 2016.

After standing up with her hands on her temples in utter disbelief, she struggled to leave the tatami before kneeling and weeping in the arms of

her coach for at least three minutes. Her sorrow delayed the next match in the women's 52-kilogram category, which she has dominated for years.

Many minutes later, her sobbing could be heard from dozens of yards outside the tent where she was gathering herself outside the arena.

The Abe siblings are huge celebrities in Japan and in the judo world with their photogenic smiles and uncommonly demonstrative personalities, but Uta's loss was devastating to both the family and its millions of fans.

Hifumi Abe was shaken but not deterred.

His first match ended in 59 seconds with a vicious ippon of Bence Pongracz of Hungary, and he fought through a bloody nose to reach the semifinals an hour later with another

JUDO

ippon victory over Nurali Emomali of Tajikistan, who badly injured his left arm while attempting to break his fall.

Hifumi Abe got his toughest test from top-ranked Denis Vieru of Moldova in the semifinals, but he won with a brilliant harai goshi hip sweep 9 seconds into golden score.

In the final, Hifumi Abe gradually broke down Lima. He scored on a waza ari with 2:12 left in the match before ending it with an impressive throw with 1:24 left.

Japan's vaunted judo team won nine gold medals and 12 total medals in this Japanese-born sport three years ago at its home Olympics.

The team is so good that winning two gold medals from four events so far in Paris qualifies as a rocky start.



Japan's Hifumi Abe and Brazil's Willian Lima compete during their men -66 kg final match in team judo competition at Champ-de-Mars Arena during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, France. (AP)

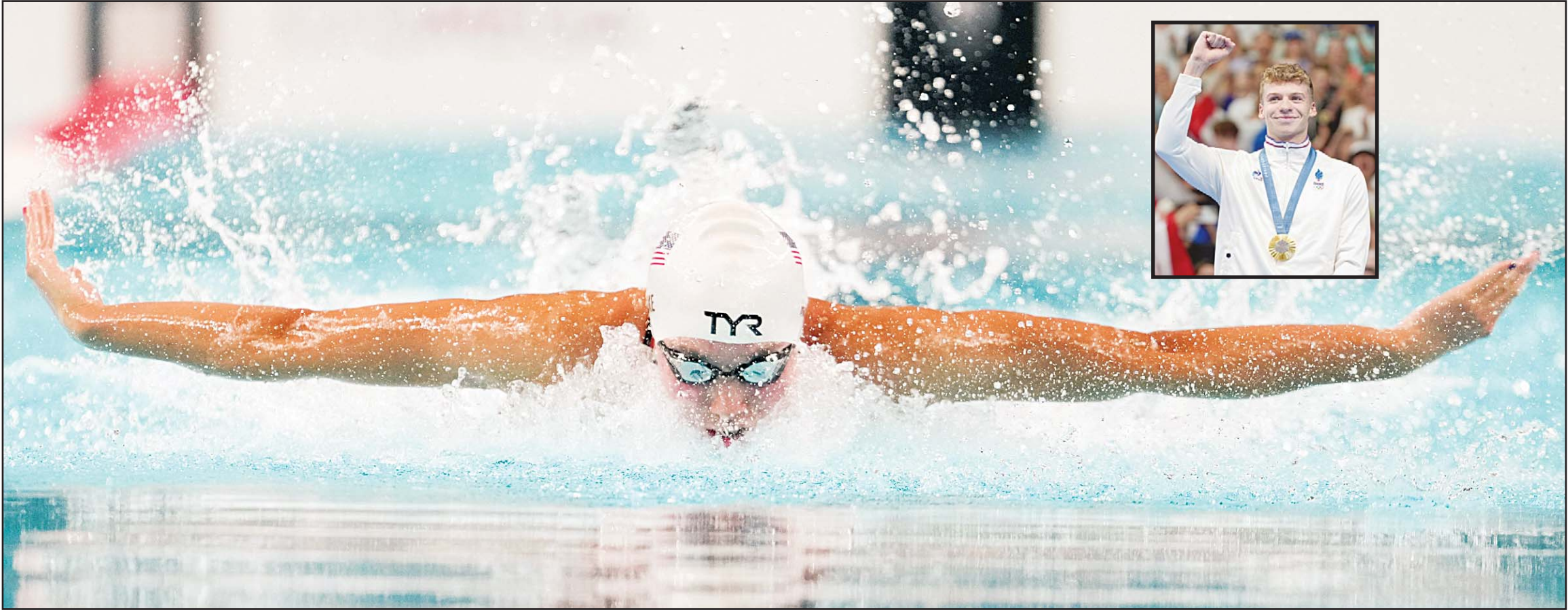




Serbia's Novak Djokovic backhands to Spain's Rafael Nadal during their men's singles second round match at the 2024 Summer Olympics at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France. (AP)

# Sports

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Torri Huske of the United States competes during the women's 100-meter butterfly final at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Nanterre, France. Inset: Leon Marchand of France celebrates after receiving a gold medal. (AP)

## Marchand lives up to hype as Martinenghi stuns Peaty

Huske edges teammate Walsh by just .04 seconds in 100 butterfly

PARIS, July 29, (Xinhua): Emotions ran high at the Paris La Defense Arena as local hero Leon Marchand clinched France's first Olympic swimming gold medal since the London 2012 Games.

Willed on by frenzied support from home fans, Marchand led the men's 400m individual medley relay final at every turn to finish ahead of Japan's Tomoyuki Matsushita and Carson Foster of the United States in an Olympic record time of four minutes, 2.95 seconds.

"I definitely dreamed of that before, every one of us did. Doing this in my hometown is pretty cool," Marchand said.

### SWIMMING

"The atmosphere was amazing, I don't know how to explain it. I had goosebumps before, and during the race too. On the breaststroke section I could hear everyone just cheering for me. That was special and winning today was really amazing for me." Marchand entered the race with lofty expectations having set a new world record in the event last year, smashing Michael Phelps' previous mark that had stood for 15 years.

The 22-year-old appeared on track to break the record again on Sunday before fading slightly in the final 50m.

"The freestyle was a little tough at the end, but 4:02 is amazing, so I'm really amazed by today." The packed arena was still buzzing from Marchand's performance when Torri Huske upstaged United States teammate and world record holder Gretchen Walsh to win a thrilling women's 100m butterfly final.

PARIS, July 29, (Agencies): Kuwaiti shooter Khaled Al-Mudhaf kicked off his 2024 Paris Olympics campaign on Monday, finishing the first day of the men's shooting trap competition in 16th place with a cumulative score of 72 points.

With up to 50 points available over two rounds on the second day of competition, Al-Mudhaf aims to be among the top six out of 30 shooters who will qualify for the knockout stages, according to a statement by the Kuwaiti National Olympic Committee.

The statement highlighted that Kuwaiti shooters have a history of success on the international stage, with shooting being the sport in which Kuwait has achieved most of its Olympic accomplishments.

Al-Mudhaf, the first Kuwaiti athlete to qualify for the Paris Olympics, is making his fourth Olympic appearance this year. His best performance was a fourth-place finish at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, emphasized the political leadership's commitment to



Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila honored.

supporting youth due to their crucial role in shaping the future.

Dr Al-Huwaila, leading the Kuwaiti delegation at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, expressed this sentiment after meeting with the Kuwaiti sports delegation at the Olympic Village in Seine-Saint-Denis, Paris. She stated, "We have a great responsibility towards our youth. It is our duty to support and empower them to achieve their aspirations and elevate the State of Kuwait's stature on the international stage under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness

the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister."

Minister Al-Huwaila reiterated the ministry's dedication to addressing key issues affecting youth and ensuring their aspirations are met in collaboration with all state agencies.

### OLYMPICS

She explained that her visit to the mission headquarters aimed to support and motivate the youth, urging them to strive hard and benefit from this unique experience to contribute to their country's development.

Minister Al-Huwaila praised the administrative and technical delegation for their organization and thorough preparations upon their arrival, ensuring all arrangements were in place for the players.

She also expressed pride in the participation of female athletes in the Kuwaiti sports delegation at this Olympics, hoping for even greater representation of both genders in future sports events.

"Last time I just missed the podium and I'm not going to lie, that was devastating," Huske said.

Walsh, who set a world record in the event at the US Olympic trials in June and broke the Olympic record in Saturday's semifinal, said she had hoped for better.

## Saudi Crown Prince endorses 'bid' for FIFA 2034 World Cup



Prince Mohammed bin Salman endorsing Saudi Arabia's 2034 World Cup bid.

RIYADH, July 29, (KUNA): Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman has officially endorsed Saudi Arabia's bid to host the FIFA World Cup 2034. This endorsement follows the completion of the bid's detailed requirements, preparing for the submission of the bid book to FIFA in Paris, according to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

The Saudi delegation, led by Minister of Sport and President of the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki bin Faisal Al-Saud, and President of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) Yasser Al-Misheal, will present the bid.

Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki expressed deep gratitude to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince for their support and guidance, emphasizing their role in transforming Saudi Arabia into a global sports hub. He stated, "The Kingdom is experiencing unprecedented growth and transformation in sports, thanks to the King's support."

He further noted, "We are dedicated to hosting an exceptional FIFA World Cup, featuring 48 teams in one country for the first time. The Crown Prince's direct involvement in this bid highlights his commitment to advancing Saudi sport in alignment with Vision 2030, aiming to develop a generation of athletes ready for global competition."

### SOCCER

The bid book submission will be officially presented at a FIFA ceremony in Paris. The bid process began on October 4, 2023, when Saudi Arabia announced its intention through the Saudi Arabian Football Federation. The bid's identity, branded under the slogan 'Growing. Together', was also revealed.

The final decision on the host nation for the FIFA World Cup 2034 will be announced by FIFA during a General Assembly meeting in December this year.

## 100 players born in 2011 participate

## KFA launches talent discovery festival

KUWAIT CITY, July 29: The Acting Chairman of the Kuwait Football Association's Board of Directors, Haif Al-Mutairi, inaugurated the inaugural talent discovery festival for players born in 2011. This event, organized by the Association's Blue Academy, saw the presence of Bashar Abdullah, Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, Ahmed Aqla Al-Enezi, and Vice Chairman of the Association's Board, Dr. Mansour Pasha, a Board Member, and Salah Al-Qanaei, the Association's Secretary-General.

Held at the subsidiary stadium of Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, the festival is part of the Talent Development Program (TDS) in

collaboration with FIFA. Approximately 100 players born in 2011 participated, following an electronic registration process that included submitting a short video.

The festival featured various technical, physical, and tactical stations, where talents were evaluated based on specific criteria by the technical staff of the Association's Cubs and Juniors teams.

Bashar Abdullah emphasized that the Authority supports such festivals for various unions both financially and logistically. He highlighted the Authority's commitment to backing the Football Association's strategy and efforts to advance sports.

Haif Al-Mutairi expressed the Association's dedication to supporting

and organizing these festivals, noting their significant benefits for national teams. He affirmed that the Association plans to continue hosting these festivals to enhance players' skills and technical abilities, and to nurture their ambition to play football.

Al-Mutairi also mentioned that

### SOCCER

similar festivals will be held for other age groups, extending his gratitude to all involved in the festival's success.

The Director of the Blue Academy, Youssef, stated that the festival reflects the academy's commitment to discovering and fostering foot-

ball talents to form age-appropriate teams. He added that the Academy will work on developing the capabilities of selected players using modern methods to enhance their skills and physical fitness.

Youssef announced plans for 20 similar festivals, including five dedicated to girls. He noted that about 350 players born between 2011 and 2016 have registered, following the Federation's call for electronic registration and video submissions.

He encouraged parents of talented and passionate young footballers to register through the Federation's website, providing an opportunity for their children to be scouted by both local and international federations.



Bashar Abdullah poses with the Kuwait Football Association officials after the inauguration.