



FEDERATION VOWS NOT TO CONDONE PRICE SURGE IN STAPLES

Co-ops extol price disclosure platform

'Relationships' key

Kuwait informed of anti-desecration law

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said Saturday that his Danish counterpart Lars Rasmussen had notified him of a proposed draft law that would make it illegal to desecrate religions and beliefs. He said that the Danish minister told him that his government had proposed a piece of legislation that would make it illegal to desecrate the Holy Quran and religious leaders under the pretext of freedom of expression and opinion. He quoted Rasmussen as saying that the Danish government attaches much attention to this issue and seeks to maintain its relationships of friendship and cooperation with the entire international community. Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah thanked the Danish minister for informing him of the law, along with his country's response to the requests of the State of Kuwait and all Muslim countries and organizations. He regarded this as a positive step towards the prevention of crimes of burning copies of the Holy Quran and condemnable practices that fuel grudge and hatred.

CIA-orchestrated '53 coup still haunts Iran

TEHRAN, Aug 26, (AP): Seventy years after a CIA-orchestrated coup toppled Iran's prime minister, its legacy remains both contentious and complicated for the Islamic Republic as tensions stay high with the United States. While highlighted as a symbol of Western imperialism by Iran's theocracy, the coup unseating Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh - over America's fears about a possible tilt toward the Soviet Union and the loss of Iranian crude oil - appeared backed at the time by the country's leading Shiite clergy. But nowadays, hard-line Iranian state television airs repeated segments describing the coup as showing how America can't be trusted, while authorities bar the public from visiting Mossadegh's grave in a village outside of Tehran. Such conflicts are common in Iran, where "Death to America" can still be heard at Friday prayers in Tehran while many on its streets say they'd welcome a better relationship with the U.S. But as memories of the coup further fade away along with those alive during it, controlling which allegory Iranians see in it has grown more important for both the country's government and its people. "Maybe the U.S. did this out of fear of the emerging power of the Soviet Union, but it was like wishing for an earthquake to get rid of a bad neighbor," said Rana, a 24-year-old painter who like some others who spoke to The Associated Press gave only her first name for fear of reprisals. For Iranians, "the rancor has never melted."

Access

The August 1953 coup stemmed from U.S. fears over the Soviet Union increasingly wanting a piece of Iran as Communists agitated within the country. The ground had been laid partially by the British, who wanted to wrest back access to the Iranian oil industry, which had been nationalized earlier by Mossadegh. Though looking initially like it failed, the coup toppled Mossadegh and cemented the power of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. It also lit the fuse for the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which saw the fatally ill shah flee Iran and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini usher in the theocracy that still governs the country. Today, several who spoke to the AP about the coup and possible relations with the U.S. put it in the context of Iran's ailing economy, which has been battered by years of sanctions after the collapse of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Lower tensions with the U.S. "will bring more money for my business," said Hossein, 47, who runs a canteen for cab drivers in southern Tehran. "Now taxi drivers spend less compared to the past years and it is because of these bad relations, sanctions." "I know about this bitter history but it should come to end sometime soon," added Majid Shamsi, who works as a parcel carrier in central Tehran. "Young people in Iran seek a better life and it cannot come as a result of enmity with" the U.S. Even during increasingly common protests by teachers, farmers and others in Iran, some of the regular chants include: "Our enemy is here; they lied to us (that the enemy) is the U.S." "Iran today should accept a deal with the U.S. like what it did to release dual nationals," added teacher Reza Seifi, 26. "I need it for my better future, for a better future for all." But like with the exchanges with the U.S., there are limits to how far Iran's government will go in remembering Mossadegh. Last weekend, State television's English-language Press TV aired a segment with a journalist standing on Mossadegh Street in northern Tehran. However, over the last 20 years, police have restricted access to those wanting to visit his grave in his ancestral home in the village of Ahmadabad, some 90 kilometers (55 miles) northwest of Tehran. In the village, tall walls and a locked gate keep those wanting to pay their respects out, while officers question those who look like they don't live there.

Day by Day

ALL evidence regarding the thief's illicit acquisition of an aircraft, an apartment, and parcels of land, as well as his acts of deceit, have been submitted to the relevant authorities in the countries where these assets were unlawfully obtained. In response, the European Union institutions and the US Treasury have issued directives barring the thief's entry into European nations, and he has been expelled from a Gulf country after concrete evidence emerged of his associations with the 'party of Satan' linked to malicious intent and his involvement in money laundering on behalf of that party. Likewise, the countries that granted him the citizenship or a passport will be informed of his activities and actions. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

98 released after pardon

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: A total of 98 prisoners breathed fresh air after they were included on the list of prisoners set free by Amiri pardon, reports Al-Qabas daily. Those released include citizens, Bedoun, and expatriates at dawn today. On the list of the Amiri pardon are the names of 917 other prisoners who got their sentences reduced citing good behavior and dropping fines and/or quashing the deportation order.

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Bid to rein in surging commodity prices

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): Chiefs of Kuwaiti cooperative societies have welcomed and commended a recently launched price disclosure platform as a significant step in the right direction to rein in surging commodity prices.

Newly announced by the Kuwaiti Federation of Cooperative Societies, the platform involving the prices of 139,000 types of commodities, would unquestionably ensure stable commodity price levels and prop up cooperative-consumer confidence, they said in separate remarks to KUNA. The federation's chairman Abdulwahab Al-Fares said his agency is doing its utmost to curb purposefully hiking prices at all cooperatives with a view to protecting middle-income families and buttressing the purchasing power of all governorates. He vowed that the federation is not going to condone any surge in sta-

ple prices amid uncontrollably increasing inflation, which, as a matter of course, impacts citizens and merchants alike. Al-Rawda and Hawally Co-op Society Chairman Mohammad Al-Kandari spoke highly of the price platform as being a commendable move that mainly aims at maintaining price balance and helping people know genuine prices at all cooperatives. Cooperatives in general are keen to offer commodities at reasonable prices in order to protect citizens and residents and fend off unjustified price hikes, he added. He noted that all products and commodities in general and rice and sugar in particular are being provided by several companies at competitive prices, thus creating positive competition for the interest of consumers. Al-Kandari pointed out that the State provides citizens with subsidized supply commodities in a step that certainly contributes to ensuring stable prices nationwide.

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KUNA photo

Al-Barhi hangs on the sides of the palm trees like yellow chandeliers. Within the market's vibrant stalls, a delightful sight awaits - the trays laden with Kuwaiti Al-Barhi dates, meticulously presented and trustworthy in their allure. These dates extend a warm invitation to every customer who steps into the shops. Earning a cherished spot within the hearts of Kuwait's populace, this fruit stands as

an undisputed gem in the realm of Arabian Gulf produce. It garners unanimous praise, both from the diligent farmers who cultivate it and the discerning consumers who savor its excellence. What sets the Al-Barhi dates apart is the exceptional quality of their fruit, showcasing its splendor across various stages of maturation.

NewsWatch

ABU DHABI: The Arab Monetary Fund declared on Friday that the market capital in Arab bourses reached USD 4.5 trillion in the end of last week's trade, climbing by 1.2 percent. The fund's weekly report said the market capital of Boursa Kuwait amounted to USD 137.5 billion, that of the Abu Dhabi stock exchange reached approximately USD 777 billion while that of Dubai market settled at USD 186.5 billion. The capital market of the Saudi stock exchange reached some USD three trillion, that of the Qatari bourse USD 170 billion, Muscat market USD 62 billion, Casablanca market USD 62 billion, the Egyptian bourse USD 39 billion and the Bahraini bourse USD 20 billion. (KUNA)

MONACO: An investigation into Najib Mikati and family has been concluded, resulting in the dismissal of all allegations and closure of the case. Following a comprehensive investigation, Monaco's Judicial Police confirmed on August 23 that there was no evidence of any wrongdoing regarding money laundering allegations made more than three years ago. In a letter, Monaco's Deputy Attorney General stated that the case, which was entrusted to Monaco's Judicial Police on July 15, 2020, had been closed. (Business Wire)

BEIRUT: Lebanon's interim central bank governor called on the country's ruling class Friday to quickly implement economic and financial reforms warning that the central bank won't offer loans to the state and does not plan on printing money to cover the huge budget deficit to avoid worsening inflation. Wassim Mansouri's comments came nearly a month after he took over the leadership at the central bank after the term of his predecessor, Riad Salameh, ended on July 31. Lebanon is in the grips of the worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history. Since the financial meltdown began in October 2019, the country's political class - blamed for decades of corruption and mismanagement - has been resisting economic and financial reforms requested by the international community. (AP)

Three-year jail term or KD 5,000 fine

Lawmaker stiffens penalties on driving under-the-influence

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: MP Saad Al-Khanfour has submitted a bill on amending Article 38 of the Traffic Law in order to impose harsher penalties on whoever drives under the influence of alcohol, drugs, intoxicants or any substance that affects one's mental state. The bill stipulates the following penalties: three years imprisonment or a minimum fine of KD5,000 and cancellation of the driving license for three years, which will be extended to five years for repeat offenders. In case of an accident resulting in damages, injuries or deaths, the driver who is under the influence of any of the abovementioned substances will be imprisoned for 15 years and fined KD20,000 minimum; in addition to the cancellation of the driving license for seven years

or 15 years for repeat offenders. Meanwhile, MP Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi asked Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah about the appointment of Kuwaitis in Arab and international organizations like the ambassador, secretary general or director; if they are appointed after the publication of recruitment advertisements for qualified citizens to apply; regulations for the renewal of the tenure of those who occupy such positions and if the ministry has rejected anyone nominated for these posts. Al-Ajmi forwarded queries to Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, State Minister for Economic and Investment Affairs and acting Minister of Finance Saad Al-Barrak about the information he obtained that the Secretariat General of Kuwait Focal Point for Environment Projects announced that all

jobs for Kuwaitis, except the Secretary General position, have been vacant for almost one year. He also cited the report of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) on the low productivity of the Secretariat General, which focuses on vegetation and soil pollution. He wants to know the reasons for the dismissal of Kuwait employees despite the large number of projects lined up for the coming years. He requested for copies of the approval of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) on the dismissal of these workers. He also inquired about the rationale behind the payment of indemnity to the secretary general and directors even if they are still in office. Al-Ajmi asked Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and acting Minister of Education Jassem Al-Ostad to provide

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Jenin raid casualty

Palestinian dies of wound

JENIN, Aug 26, (AP): The Palestinian news agency reported Saturday that a 20-year-old died of wounds a month after being shot during an Israeli army raid in the occupied West Bank. The Wafa news agency said Ezzedin Kanan, from the town of Jaba near Jenin, was shot in the head on July 3 during one of the most intense Israeli military operations in the West Bank since an armed Palestinian uprising against Israel's open-ended occupation ended two decades ago. An offshoot of the secular nationalist Fatah party, the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, claimed Kanan as one of its "fiercest fighters" and pledged to avenge his loss. Armed and masked militants flanked the mourning procession for Kanan as his body, wrapped in a Palestinian flag and adorned with a headband from the group, was carried through his home village of Jaba.



Palestinian mourners carry the body of Ezzedin Kanan, 20, who succumbed to his wounds sustained during an Israeli army operation last month, during his funeral in the West Bank city of Jenin, Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023. (AP)



OPINION OTHER VOICES



Republican presidential candidates, from left, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Vice President Mike Pence, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, businessman Vivek Ramaswamy, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum stand at their podiums during a Republican presidential primary debate hosted by FOX News Channel Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, in Milwaukee. (AP)

Republicans hold first 2024 presidential debate

Eight 'cowboy up' ... bash Bidenomics

Follow along for live updates on the first 2024 Republican presidential debate. The field's early front-runner, Donald Trump, skipped the event and conducted an interview with Tucker Carlson instead.

GOP candidates tangle in Milwaukee as they vie to be the leading alternative to Trump — The key moments from Wednesday night's debate — Trump attacks rivals in online interview with Tucker Carlson while skipping debate — Trump's decision to back out tests Fox News' ability to pivot again — The GOP presidential debate puts the spotlight on swing-state Wisconsin

The front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination is set to surrender to authorities at an Atlanta jail on Thursday, a day after he skipped the contest's first debate.

Former President Donald Trump is expected to make a historic first, becoming the first former U.S. president to have a mug shot taken. He is surrendering on charges related to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election in the state.

Regardless, his criminal proceedings played little role in Wednesday's debate, with six of his eight rivals on the stage saying they would still support Trump if he wins the 2024 GOP nomination.

The Fulton County prosecution is the fourth criminal case against Trump since March, when he became the first former president in U.S. history to be indicted. Since then, he's faced federal charges in Florida and Washington and, this month, was indicted in Atlanta with 18 others — including his ex-chief of staff, Mark Meadows, and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani — under a racketeering statute normally associated with gang members and organized crime.

Trump and his co-defendants have denied wrongdoing.

Like all debates, this one was unruly at times.

Things started off quietly as the candidates beat up on President Joe Biden's economic policies. But when the participants turned against one another, Fox News moderators Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum struggled to control the action.

Ron DeSantis helped set the tone early by rejecting the moderators' request for candidates to raise their hands if they believed human behavior caused climate change.

"We're not schoolchildren," DeSantis snapped. The moderators abandoned their request.

At one point, Vivek Ramaswamy and Nikki Haley shouted over each other for more than 30 seconds when the conversation turned to foreign policy. The moderators stayed silent.

Baier and MacCallum let the candidates drive the action for much of the night — which is typically what the audience wants, although there will be critics who preferred a more orderly affair.

The North Dakota governor wasn't going to let a basketball injury ruin his debate night.

Doug Burgum told reporters after Wednesday night's debate in Milwaukee that he ended up rupturing his Achilles tendon, despite initially thinking it might have only been a tear.

He hurt his leg playing basketball on Tuesday and said he saw a Milwaukee Bucks doctor on Wednesday.

He stood for the full debate despite the injury and said he hadn't canceled any campaign events yet. He plans to take it "one day at a time," he said.

Burgum said he was "standing on one leg behind that podium" but took inspiration from a quote that's popular in his home state to get through it. "Cowboy up," he said, "You got to just get up and do it."

Vice President Kamala Harris is reacting to the Republican presidential debate on behalf of President Joe Biden's reelection campaign, saying, "No one on stage 'won' tonight's debate."

"Instead," she said, "the American people heard how much they stand to lose from an extremist agenda."

Harris has been a leading Biden administration voice on abortion, which was frequently discussed during the debate, and has increasingly stepped up political attacks against top Republicans. While the Republican candidates repeatedly laid into Biden during the debate, however,

Harris herself was little mentioned.

Still, she said in a statement moments after the debate ended that the candidates had "laid out a vision for an America that is less fair, less free, and less safe."

"These extremists focus on unnecessary debates meant to divide our nation in hopes that the American public will not notice they have no affirmative agenda," Harris said.

Former Vice President Mike Pence is campaigning on his reputation as a statesman and experienced elected official, but he also showed off his debate chops during Wednesday night's faceoff with his GOP rivals.

Pence had back-and-forth moments with several others on stage over some of the biggest dividing lines in the Republican nominating contest. Drawing a contrast with former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley over abortion, among his signature issues, Pence called Haley's push for consensus over the issue "the opposite of leadership."

Perhaps some of Pence's fiercest moments came as he sparred with biotech entrepreneur and political newcomer Vivek Ramaswamy, saying, "Now is not the time for on-the-job training." He also feuded with Ramaswamy over criticism of the decision by some candidates — Pence included — to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The former vice president said it represented "a pretty small view of the greatest nation on earth" to think the U.S. can't simultaneously work on domestic and foreign issues.

He also drew applause when he said former President Donald Trump wasn't above the law. Pence himself was also the subject of a pivotal debate question, with the candidates largely agreeing that he had been correct to protect the results of the 2020 election against Trump's pressure campaign.

President Joe Biden and the Democrats are responding to the Republican presidential debate by rushing to agree with an unlikely source — GOP White House hopeful Nikki Haley.

Haley, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, wasted little time during the early stages of the debate slamming her fellow Republicans, rather than Biden, for running up the national debt.

She noted that many of her opponents on stage were former members of Congress. "You have Ron DeSantis. You've got Tim Scott. You've got Mike Pence. They all voted to raise the debt. And Donald Trump added 8 trillion to our debt."

"What she said," Biden said on Instagram, posting a video of Haley's answer.

Kevin Munoz, a spokesperson for Biden's reelection campaign, also released a statement saying, "Nikki Haley is right."

"Republicans are responsible for some of our country's worst economic decisions," Munoz said.

Biden has made his handling of the economy a centerpiece of his campaign, trying to turn "Bidenomics" into a rallying cry even as top Republicans slammed it as a failure.

The first Republican presidential debate illustrated the deep divisions within the GOP, with the candidates on stage arguing over issues including U.S. support for Ukraine, when and how to best restrict abortion nationwide, and support for the party's eventual 2024 nominee.

Most of the candidates vowed to support Ukraine in its war with Russia, but the notable exception was Vivek Ramaswamy. He suggested that supporting that country when the U.S. hasn't fixed its own problems was "disastrous." That drew rebukes from many of his rivals, including former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, who told the 38-year-old technology entrepreneur, "You have no foreign policy experience, and it shows."

There was disagreement on abortion, with Haley calling for "consensus" and Pence saying that was the "opposite of leadership." The candidates largely agreed that Pence was right to protect the results of the 2020 election against Donald Trump's pressure campaign.

Trump skipped Wednesday night's event and was not a major focus of what was said. But both Christie and Hutchinson were booed for saying they wouldn't support him as their party's nominee, though Christie faltered in

his answer. Despite so much consensus on Trump, however, Pence drew applause when he said the former president wasn't above the law.

After recent campaign stumbles, Ron DeSantis was expected to have to defend himself and project likeability on the debate stage — but he had done relatively little of either as the two-hour broadcast neared its end.

The Florida governor instead seemed to take a back seat to more vocal candidates, speaking significantly less than biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, his closest GOP competitor besides former President Donald Trump in recent polls.

Ramaswamy garnered both massive applause and barbs from competitors on stage on topics from foreign policy to climate change.

In the second half of the night, DeSantis was given the first chance to answer a question about education, one of the topics he campaigns on most passionately.

He responded with ease, citing Florida legislation to remove mentions of gender identity and so-called critical race theory in the classroom.

But Ramaswamy was quick on his tail. The novice candidate pleased the crowd with calls to "shut down the head of the snake, the Department of Education," end teachers unions, and require civics tests to graduate high school.

Is the truth really out there?

There was a UFO question posed near the end of the GOP debate. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was asked if he would "level" with the American people about what was known about what was "out there."

Christie took mock offense, saying he'd been asked that because he was from New Jersey and that his home state is "different but not that different."

He didn't otherwise take the bait, saying those on stage had better things to talk about.

When asked by the moderators who would not support more funding to Ukraine, the only candidate to raise their hand was Vivek Ramaswamy.

"I think this is disastrous that we are protecting against an invasion across somebody else's border when we should be using those same military resources to prevent the invasion of our own southern border here in the United States," Ramaswamy said, drawing cheers from the crowd.

Ramaswamy also took a swipe at his fellow Republicans, including former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Vice President Mike Pence, who have met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"I find it offensive that we have professional politicians on the stage that will make a pilgrimage to Kyiv to their Pope Zelenskyy without doing the same thing for people in Maui or the South Side of Chicago or Kensington," Ramaswamy said. "I think we have to put the interests of Americans first, secure our own border instead of somebody else's."

This prompted a rebuke from Pence: "Anybody that thinks that we can't solve the problems here in the United States and be the leader of the free world has a pretty small view of the greatest nation on earth."

At the center of the stage, and at the center of the hottest exchanges in the first part of the debate, was a 38-year-old novice candidate and technology entrepreneur named Vivek Ramaswamy.

Though he's well behind Trump, Ramaswamy has crept up in recent polls, leading to his position next to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis at center stage. And he quickly showed why when he showcased his ready-for-video, on-message approach, talking about how his poor parents moved to the U.S. and he had the ability to found billion-dollar companies.

Then Ramaswamy tried to show he wasn't a regular politician and started to throw elbows. At one point he declared, "I'm the only person on the stage who isn't bought and paid for." He slammed his rivals as "super PAC puppets" who were using "readymade, pre-prepared slogans" to attack him.

He seemed to be betting that primary voters preferred something memorable said to something done. His rivals were having none of it.

The Republican presidential candidates at Wednesday's debate largely said they agreed with former Vice President Mike Pence's actions on Jan. 6, 2021.

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editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr	03:59	Asr	15:24
Sunrise ..	05:22	Maghrib ..	18:17
Zohr	11:50	Isha	19:38

Local

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

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Very hot with moderate to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-45 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

Weather

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-32 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

Station
Kuwait City

Max Exp
48

Min Rec
36

Kuwait Airport	48	36
Abdaly	48	30
Jahra	49	32
Salmiyah	44	36
Ahmadi	45	37
Nuwaisib	48	31
Wafra	48	29

Debate

Pence eschewed then-President Donald Trump's demands to stop the certification of Joe Biden's election, a decision that led some in a mob of Trump supporters to chant for his hanging that day.

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott said, "Absolutely."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis didn't immediately answer the question, saying, "We've got to look forward." Under pressure from both Pence and the moderators, DeSantis ultimately said, "Mike did his duty. I've got no beef with him," prompting Pence to reply, "I'm relieved."

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie leaped to Pence's defense, saying the then-vice president "deserves not grudging credit, he deserves our thanks as Americans."

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley agreed that Pence "did the right thing" and deserved credit, as did North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum.

Donald Trump skipped the Republican presidential debate to instead lean into his bogus claims about the 2020 election in a conspiracy-dabbled interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson.

The former president praised the crowd he spoke to on the morning of Jan. 6, 2021, before his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol, saying, "There was love in that crowd. There was love and unity."

Trump also did not dismiss a suggestion from Carlson about whether his political opponents might choose violence or threaten his life.

"They are savage animals. They are people that are sick. Really sick," Trump said.

He also called the four criminal cases he faces "nonsense."

Trump attacked President Joe Biden and suggested he was physically unfit for office. He also derided his rivals for the GOP nomination and said he skipped the debate because he didn't want to be "harassed" by people he said "shouldn't even be running for president."

"I'm going to have all these people screaming at me, shouting questions at me, all of which I love answering. I love doing, but it doesn't make sense to do them so I've taken a pass."

The top Republicans vying to be the leading alternative to Donald Trump are finally getting a chance to weigh in on his four indictments — sort of.

Nearly an hour into the GOP debate, Fox News Channel showed a live image of Atlanta's Fulton County jail, where the former president is set to surrender on charges on Thursday, drawing boos from the audience. The moderators said they'd spend a "brief moment about the elephant not in the room" and ask about the cases against Trump.

Those on stage were then asked to raise their hands if they would support Trump if he wins the GOP presidential nomination. Six of the candidates raised their hands, while former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie half-raised his hand and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson kept his hand down.

The candidates on stage were required to sign a pledge vowing to support the eventual nominee before joining Wednesday's debate.

All of the Republican candidates on Wednesday night's debate stage say they oppose abortion, but their differences on where lines should be drawn became evident on stage.

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley — the only woman in the GOP race — says there's a need for "consensus" over abortion, noting that she feels it unlikely that a federal ban would pass until there are 60 senators who would support it. Haley, who often cites her own fertility struggles and the fact that her husband is adopted, says America needs to "humanize the issue and stop demonizing" it.

Former Vice President Mike Pence challenged her position, saying that "consensus is the opposite of leadership" on the issue.

Pence is the only major candidate who has said he supports a federal ban on abortion at six weeks, before many women know they're pregnant. In an interview with The Associated Press, Pence went even further, saying abortion should be banned even when a pregnancy isn't viable.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who signed a six-week abortion ban into law, said "you've got to do what you think is right" when asked what he felt about potential criticism that such a narrow restriction could possibly harm GOP candidates in a general election.

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie lashed out at biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy during a discussion on climate change, accusing the outsider candidate of sounding like an artificial intelligence chatbot after Ramaswamy called efforts against carbon energy "a wet blanket on our economy."

"I've had enough already tonight of a guy who sounds like ChatGPT standing up here," Christie said. "The last person at one of these debates who stood in the middle of the stage and said, 'What's a skinny guy with an odd last name doing up here?'" was Barack Obama. And I'm afraid we're dealing with the same type of amateur."

"Give me a hug just like you did to Obama," Ramaswamy responded, a nod to the then-president placing his hand on Christie's shoulder during a visit after Superstorm Sandy. "And you'll help elect me just like you did to Obama too."

Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley jumped in after the feisty exchange, distinguishing herself as the only woman onstage.

"I think this is exactly why Margaret Thatcher said, 'If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman,'" she said, acknowledging that climate change is real and arguing that to address it, the U.S. needs to pressure China and India to lower their emissions.

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Nikki Haley smoothly took the first swipe of the night on a question about excessive federal spending and nodded to her accounting degree from Clemson.

The former South Carolina governor and former United Nations ambassador didn't blink in turning to her rivals with congressional experience to blame them — not Joe Biden — for the nation's debt.

"You have Ron DeSantis. You've got Tim Scott. You've got Mike Pence. They all voted to raise the debt. And Donald Trump added 8 trillion to our debt," Haley said.

Scott is a South Carolina senator, DeSantis a former Florida representative and Pence a former congressman from Indiana. Haley said, "So, you tell me. Who are the big spenders? I think it's time for an accountant in the White House."

It was Donald Trump's famous line on "The Apprentice," but at the debate, "You're fired!" was taken over by one of his top GOP challengers.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said that "a major reason" for America's current struggles is "because how this federal government handled COVID-19 by locking down this economy."

DeSantis, who has talked often on the campaign trail about how he "kept Florida open" during the pandemic, said at the debate that, "As your president, I will never let the deep state bureaucrats lock you down."

Of Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert during the pandemic, DeSantis said, "You don't take somebody like Fauci and coddle him. You bring Fauci and you sit him down and you say, 'Anthony, you are fired.'"

Donald Trump may have a dominating early lead in the Republican presidential primary, but he was barely mentioned during the GOP debate's opening minutes.

The former president is skipping the debate, and his name was little spoken in its opening 25 minutes.

And that's despite former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who has promised to build his presidential run around stopping Trump, giving a lengthy answer defending his own record in his home state.

Former Vice President Mike Pence defended the record of the "Trump-Pence administration" and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis took a page from Trump's political playbook by pledging to fire Dr. Anthony Fauci, drawing applause from the crowd in Milwaukee.

But most of the early debate focused on the candidates on stage ripping President Joe Biden and his administration's economic policies.

Vivek Ramaswamy emerged as a popular target early in the debate, drawing cheers from the audience when he introduced himself.

"Let me just address a question that is on everybody's mind at home tonight," the biotech entrepreneur said. "Who the heck is this skinny guy with a funny last name?"

Former Vice President Mike Pence called him a "rookie," saying people should not elect people without experience.

Christie accused Ramaswamy of trying to imitate Barack Obama and said the country had already tried that.

"The last person in one of these debates who stood in the middle of the stage and said, 'What's a skinny guy with an odd last name doing up here?'" was Barack Obama, and I'm afraid we're dealing with the same type of amateur," Christie said.

To start off the debate, candidates were asked to lay out their economic arguments by way of explaining why a viral song decrying high taxes and the wealth of the elite had caught fire.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis used his response to the popularity of Oliver Anthony's "Rich Men North of Richmond" to blame President Joe Biden for what he characterized as "American decline."

DeSantis also took an opportunity to go after Biden's son Hunter, saying he made "hundreds of thousands of dollars on lousy paintings" while Americans "are working hard, and you can't afford groceries a car or a new home."

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said he agreed "predominantly" with DeSantis' response but argued he can be a consensus builder since he was "elected as a conservative Republican in a blue state."

Former President Donald Trump isn't on the debate stage, but the audience seems firmly in his corner.

The crowd booed former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson as they were introduced at Wednesday night's debate on Fox News. The two are among the most prominent anti-Trump candidates in the GOP field.

Trump skipped the event for an interview with Tucker Carlson instead. He told Carlson: "Do I sit there for an hour or two hours, whatever it's going to be and get harassed by people that shouldn't even be running for president? Should I be doing that at a network that isn't particularly friendly to me?"

The first Republican presidential debate of the 2024 election cycle has begun.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former Vice President Mike Pence, anti-woke activist Vivek Ramaswamy, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum took the stage Wednesday night for the Fox News event.

Fox News anchors Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum are moderating.

Former President Donald Trump appeared poised to post on his Truth Social platform during the debate. He skipped the debate and instead conducted a prerecorded interview with Tucker Carlson that was airing at the same time. (AP)

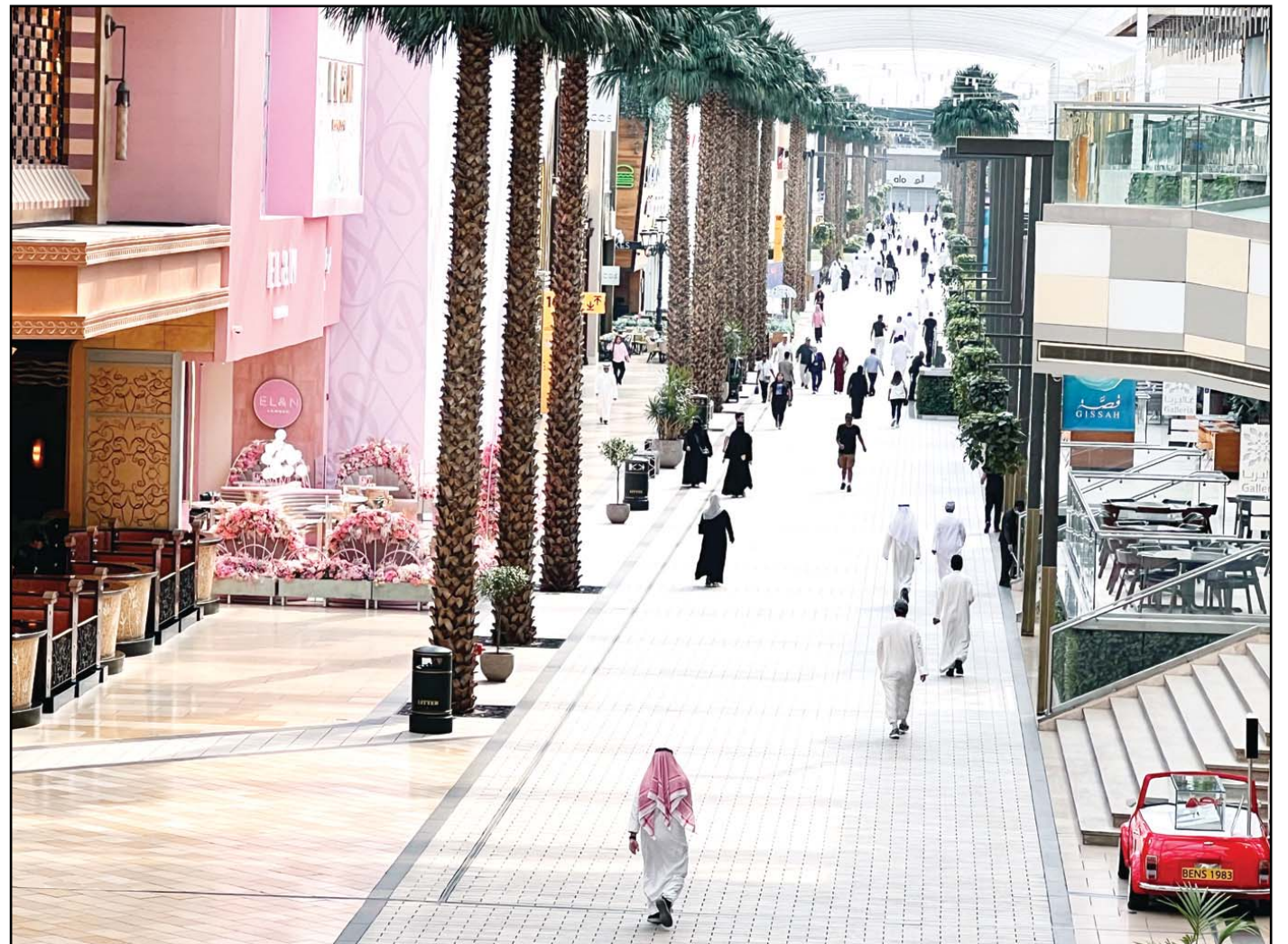


Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Kuwaitis and expats take to the Avenues Mall in Al-Rai area for long walk in the mall's corridors as an exercise. Hot weather, sometimes humid, sometimes dry hot forces the public inside the mall. They can walk around in their normal clothes as the place is airconditioned. At the same time one can sit for a coffee or light snacks at the various outlets available, be it alone or with friends.

Amir congratulates Uruguay President

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President of Uruguay Luis Lacalle Pou on Friday on his country's National Day, wishing him a long healthy life and more prosperity and development for Uruguay and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President of Uruguay Luis Lacalle Pou on Friday on his country's national day, wishing him a long healthy life and more prosperity and development for Uruguay and its people.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President of Uruguay Luis Lacalle Pou on Friday on his country's National Day.

National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun on Thursday addressed a cable of congratulations to his Ukrainian counterpart Ruslan Stefanchuk on his country's national day.

MoE alert to prevent 'AC' crisis in schools

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: With the beginning of each academic year, and in light of the hot weather, the air conditioning crisis in public schools has become a recurring crisis for more than 10 to 15 years, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This problem shows its ugly face annually, and teachers, students and school administrations suffer as a result of this, which has become an obsession for everyone.

Sources told the daily that all air-conditioning maintenance contracts have been extended and are now valid, which means that the companies with which the contracts were extended can be obligated to carry out their duties and maintain the devices.

Statistics indicate that the number of education schools has reached 980 between kindergarten, primary, intermediate and secondary, including schools for general education, others for special education, religious education, literacy centers and adult education.

These school buildings include more than 45 thousand separate air conditioning units and about 8 thousand Central air-conditioning, all of which require maintenance and periodic follow-up to ensure the continuity of its operation, in addition to the presence of a small number of schools that were built recently and have a different kind of air-conditioning system. This also requires periodic maintenance to be ready for operation.

In 2015, His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad had donated 14,000 separate air-conditioning units to address the air-conditioning problem at the time, and in 2020 in light of the health crisis and closure measures as a result of the spread of the "Corona" virus, His Highness ordered education officials at the time to take advantage of students not physically attending the schools to deal with the problems of schools and maintain them, including air conditioners.

Returning to the students, their number in government schools at various levels and types exceeds 500,000 male and female students, and they will return to their schools starting from Sept 17, and most of them will attend the following day, and they and their teachers have every right to obtain an appropriate educational environment.

Ill-intentions: The Ministry of Interior officers have arrested two expatriates for putting a mobile phone inside the women's toilet at a bank in Farwaniya Governorate, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, the Public Relations and Security Media Department in the ministry revealed that the Criminal Security Sector took the necessary action that led to the arrest of the two expatriates.

Case number 45/2024 was filed at the Misdemeanor Court in Firdous.

MoH gets KD12m to buy heart, cancer medicines

Clinics, hospitals supply continues

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Ministry of Health (MoH) said the supply of medicines, medical supplies and equipment continues to provide the best healthcare for all patients and visitors, and to ensure that their treatment protocols prescribed by doctors in government clinics and hospitals are not affected, especially patients suffering from chronic diseases, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources added that the ministry, within the framework of its role entrusted to it in providing medicines and medical supplies, has finally obtained the approvals from the regulatory authorities regarding the supply of separate medicines for the treatment of cancer and heart diseases, believed to be worth 12 million dinars.

The daily indicated that it was approved

to import more than one drug for cancer patients, at different prices, noting the Ministry of Health's keenness on patients' safety and the continuation of patients receiving their treatment without any significant obstacles in all health facilities.

The ministry added that the recent approvals included the supply of medicines for diabetes in centers and hospitals at a cost of 3.8 million dinars, in addition to other medicines for the treatment of respiratory diseases at 3.6 million dinars, and treatments for heart and high blood pressure patients at 5.2 million dinars, and medicines for the treatment of rheumatoid patients at 2 million dinars, pointing to the imminent supply of other medicines for the treatment of patients with anemia worth 2.2 million dinars.

The sources pointed out that there are strict instructions for officials in public health centers and hospitals to monitor the medicines and medical supplies disbursed through the pharmacies to prevent misuse or waste and to preserve public money.

In the meantime, the sources said the ministry is closely monitoring any observations it receives related to the weakness or lack of availability of any pharmaceutical items in all its facilities.

MoC cautions expats

Pay dues before departure: MEW

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) said like other ministries, it is currently pushing for the completion of the electronic link with the Ministry of Interior before the end of this month to help it collect electricity and water debts owed by expatriates before leaving the country, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily quoting ministry sources said systems are ready and will only need a few days with the signing of some special agreements with the linking mechanism.

The sources told the daily that the next stage will include all the country's ports and will not be limited to Kuwait International Airport with regard to paying these debts.

The sources explained that some expatriates have overdue debts for years especially those who have moved to new apartments but the bills of their old apartments are still outstanding in their names. These tenants are said to have signed contracts with new real estate owners without getting a clearance from the ministry.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Communications has advised expatriates to settle their bills before traveling, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry pointed out it is better for the expatriates to pay their bills on time and to avoid the accumulation of unpaid bills in order to ensure the smooth flow of procedures whenever they travel.

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Aggregate value of contract, agency transactions reached approximately 210 million dinars

Data reveals notable surge in real estate liquidity

'Kuwait eager to partake in int'l economic development events'

Six new countries invited to become members

By Abdulaziz Al-Mijrin

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26, (KUNA): Kuwait is eager to take part in international events that support development and economic growth, said a senior Kuwaiti official.

The remarks were made to KUNA by Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban in a phone call on Saturday, after the conclusion of the Brics Summit last Thursday in South Africa.

Al-Aiban said that during the event, he met with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Brazilian President Lula da Silva and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, where they discussed food security and sustainable development.

General session

Kuwait took part in the open general session titled "Brics and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism. The session was attended by world leaders and other officials from about 50 countries.

At the event's conclusion, Brics announced inviting six new countries to become members, notably Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Argentina, Iran and Ethiopia, starting January 2024.

Brics consists of five of the world's fastest economically growing countries, including South Africa, Brazil, China, India and Russia. These countries represent about 23 percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), 42 percent of the world population and over 16 percent of world trade.



Kuwait Minister of Commerce and Industry meets with UN chief.



KUNA photos
Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry meets with the South African President and Brazilian President.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: According to the most recent data available from the Ministry of Justice's Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department, there has been a notable surge in liquidity within the real estate sector during the initial 18 days of August compared to the corresponding period in July, reports Al-Rai daily.

The aggregate value of contract and agency transactions in this period reached approximately 210 million dinars. This reflects a substantial increase of 46.44 percent in comparison to the liquidity levels recorded during the same period in July, which amounted to about 143.4 million dinars.

Transactions

The transactions during the first 18 days of August were divided into roughly 208.77 million dinars for contracts and approximately 1.217 million dinars for agency transactions. This period saw a total of 271 real estate deals, consisting of 268 contracts and 3 agency agreements.

Of these deals, the Al-Ahmadi Governorate exhibited the highest number with 114 transactions, constituting approximately 42 percent of the total real estate deals during this period. The Hawalli Governorate followed with 53 deals, making up around 19.55 percent. The Capital Governorate accounted for approximately 40 deals, or 14.76 percent, while the Jahra Governorate had the

lowest number of deals with 17 transactions, equivalent to about 6.27 percent.

In terms of specific categories, the value of transactions in the private housing segment totaled roughly 77.73 million dinars during the first 18 days of August. This marks a decrease of 5.2 percent compared to July 2023, when the value was around 82 million dinars. Consequently, the contribution of private housing activity to the overall value of real estate transactions dipped to about 37 percent, down from 57 percent in the same period in July.

Conversely, the investment sector displayed a significant uptick in trading activity, with transactions amounting to approximately 109.567 million dinars. This represents a noteworthy surge of about 151.8 percent compared to the corresponding period in July, which recorded around 43.575 million dinars. The investment sector's contribution to the total liquidity surged to about 52.17 percent, compared to 30.4 percent in the same period of July.

Furthermore, the value of commercial activity transactions rose to about 18.6 million dinars during the first 18 days of August, signifying a 59.8 percent increase compared to July's value of 11.64 million dinars. This contributed about 8.85 percent to the overall value of real estate transactions, as opposed to 8.11 percent during the same period in July.

Strengthening bilateral relations

Indian minister ends visit to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: V. Muralidharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, paid an official visit to Kuwait from 23-24 August, 2023. This was the first ministerial visit from the Indian side to Kuwait in the last 2 years, says a press release issued by the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

During the visit, the minister called on Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister of State of Kuwait, Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He also met the Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The meetings provided an opportunity to discuss avenues to further strengthen bilateral relations in different areas. There was a clear interest on both sides to give more content to the economic partnership. Diversification of bilateral trade and greater bilateral investments was stressed by both delegations. The minister expressed his appreciation to the Kuwaiti side for the welfare of Indian community in Kuwait and discussed issues affecting the Indian community.

The minister had a number of interactions with the large and vibrant Indian community in Kuwait. He attended a gathering of over 300 members of Indian community from diverse fields and applauded their role in contributing to the development of Kuwait and strengthening of the bilateral relations between both countries.



Indian minister with Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister.

The minister also separately met some community and professional groups and attended a business event organized by the Indian Business and Professional Council in Kuwait.

The minister also inaugurated the Shilapalakkam at the premises of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait on August 23 to honor the sacrifices of the freedom fighters of the Indian Independence.

The visit was an opportunity to strengthen our bilateral relations and identify new areas of cooperation to deepen our economic partnership, said the Indian embassy.

Dev't project estimated at KD 55 mln

Preserving cultural and heritage identity of Mubarakiya market goal: Al-Dabbous

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Eng. Saud Al-Dabbous, the Acting Director General of Kuwait Municipality, has outlined the primary objectives of the Mubarakiya Market Development Project. These goals encompass the preservation and strengthening of the cultural and heritage identity of the Mubarakiya market. Additionally, there is an emphasis on gradually restoring the heritage features of the buildings that have been impacted by unplanned interventions, reports Al-Rai daily.

This information was conveyed through a memorandum from the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs, Fahd Al-Shula. The memorandum was in response to a parliamentary inquiry raised by Representative Saud Al-Asfoor. The inquiry specifically addressed the development project for Mubarakiya market, along with its associated parking facilities and nearby commercial zones.

Al-Dabbous clarified that the Kuwait Municipality's Construction Department is responsible for implementing the project. This responsibility was granted by the Council of Ministers on August 8, 2022, and reinforced by the Municipal Council's decision on February 22, 2016.

Cost Estimation

The total cost of the Mubarakiya development project has been estimated at 55 million dinars. Al-Dabbous attributed this cost estimation to the expertise of the designer consultant, Dar Al-Arabi Office for Engineering Consultations. This consultancy was appointed to conduct studies, design work, and prepare project documentation in alignment with the Mubarakiya market's development, including parking lots, commercial areas, and a municipal park.

Adherence to Standards

In terms of approval criteria for the project, Al-Dabbous pointed out that the project received approval based on the fulfillment of requirements outlined by the Municipal Council. These requirements included the assignment of a consulting firm to conduct economic, technical, and environmental studies. The project underwent scrutiny by the projects and environment sector to ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations.

The results of the consultant's study were then presented to the Municipal Council for decision-making.

Consulting Engagement

Kuwait Municipality entered into a consulting contract with an office responsible for conducting comprehensive studies and design work. These studies encompassed economic, financial, heritage, traffic, environmental, sustainability, waste management, and renewable energy aspects. The project was greenlit due to its alignment with the stipulated components while also guaranteeing a viable economic return. The preservation of the area's heritage identity remained a priority.

Adaptation and Heritage Preservation

Certain land use changes were introduced in the Mubarakiya Market Development Project to align with the recommendations of the state's third structural plan. Al-Dabbous clarified that these modifications were in sync with the evolving urban landscape. A heritage design guide was developed in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Literature. This guide was utilized to document the heritage aspects of Mubarakiya market and to incorporate traditional design patterns. The design received approval from the heritage committee established by the Council of Ministers.

Project Scope and Considerations

Covering a total area of 37,034 square meters, the project encompasses parts of commercial areas, including the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth plots. The phased implementation of the project is designed to ensure uninterrupted access to parking areas, mitigating disruptions to market activities.

Regulatory Approvals

Al-Dabbous detailed the relevant authorities whose approval was secured for the Mubarakiya Market Development Project. These authorities encompassed the Ministry of Interior for traffic study approvals, the Environment Public Authority for environmental impact assessments, and the Ministry of Electricity and Water for the network plans. Approval was also sought from the Ministry of Communications for the telephone network.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'New media document flagrantly breaches the Kuwaiti constitution'

"THE Ministry of Information has released the "New Media Draft Law," a document containing clauses and provisions that flagrantly breach the Kuwaiti constitution. Some of these clauses curtail the freedom of expression and critique enshrined in Article 36 of the constitution, while others impose unwarranted limitations on the freedom of publication, which directly contradicts Article 37 of the constitution," columnist **Dr Muhammad Al-Maqtati** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"Furthermore, this proposed legislation takes a divergent path from the principles of the Kuwaiti constitution, which, in its legislative philosophy, is grounded in a punitive framework that regulates freedoms. Rather than adhering to this philosophy, the project adopts a preventive approach that restricts and undermines both freedoms and democracy -- characteristics typical of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes.



Dr Al-Maqtati

"It is baffling that such a pattern of policing and authoritarian thought has infiltrated our legal system through this "metamorphosis" project. This compelled me to express in a recent tweet that the "new media bill constitutes a shameful revision of the constitution and serves as a tool for dismantling the constitutional state and its institutions.

"This regressive thinking is the driving force behind the project, representing a counter-clockwise rotation against the tide of progress and development." Additionally, the bill seems to aim at shielding individuals and suppressing legitimate criticism of public figures -- criticism that is central to a democratic state and is supported by the pillars of the Kuwaiti judiciary.

"From a pragmatic standpoint, this bill represents a departure from the constitution and attempts to grant immunity to individuals who were not granted such protection by the constitution. It positions them at the forefront of those whose actions and criticisms in public roles can be pursued, allowing some to evade scrutiny from their residences or hold significant positions without facing critique.

"This approach is entirely incompatible with our constitutional system. Even Articles 110 and 111, which offer temporary immunity to parliamentary members for their speech within Parliament and its committees, do not shield them from criticism, correction, or the consequences of their actions.

"This unconstitutional trajectory is sadly being initiated by the Ministry of Information, under the stewardship of its youthful minister. It is evident that this minister is ill-suited for the position, as he has forsaken the constitution and embraced a project that undermines its very foundations and principles. It is imperative that he departs without reservation.

"Corrupt representatives who support this trajectory should realize that their intentions have been exposed, and the people will unite to thwart their plans and expose their exploitation of parliamentary positions for personal gains.

"If any government ministers have allied with them and endorsed this misguided path, they should also understand that their fate will be similar. Soon, the truth will come to light, and everyone will bear the consequences of their actions.

"I deem it necessary to address the Prime Minister, urging him to review the actions of his ministerial team before they embroil him in this unconstitutional project or other endeavors that run counter to the constitution. These actions may stem from personal egos, ambitions, attempts to settle debts, or to placate parliamentary members.

"The Prime Minister must realize that his tenure could be at risk if these matters are not rectified promptly. Furthermore, he should be wary of any advisors who steer him away from crucial issues and topics included in the agenda of his previous 2022 government program.

"These advisors might harbor ill intentions, aiming to thwart his success, endorsement, and the broad support he received when presenting his previous government's agenda to the Council. I'd like to recall the instance where the public policy project was omitted from the previous government's program -- a project that could have fortified the state's policies and responsibilities, transcending personal whims and deals pursued by certain ministers.

"The Prime Minister should exhibit a deep sense of patriotism by safeguarding the state's institutions, the Council of Ministers, and its genuine authority over the state's interests, as enshrined in Article 123 of the Constitution. Numerous other projects that bolster the state's framework, identity, and sovereignty have been overlooked, despite being embraced in the program of

his previous government.

"He must remain vigilant and not allow his term to conclude like those of past prime ministers, avoiding being overshadowed and making way for others. It is crucial to ensure that this isn't a precursor to the emergence of new leaders, as he maintains his legacy."

Also:

"Shifting from a path of corruption to a path of reform is an arduous and formidable challenge, demanding resolute decisions, unwavering determination, patience, and persistent effort. Initiation necessitates embracing the principle of "uprooting before nurturing." Reform cannot commence nor progress unless corruption is fully eliminated, its foundations eradicated, its enablers held accountable, and a clean and conducive environment is established for the launch of reform initiatives," columnist **Dr Abdullah Saud Al-Otaibi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"The presence of sporadic pockets of corruption, backed by influential individuals or individuals resisting reform, poses a significant obstacle. This situation can potentially thwart reform endeavors, as groups entangled in corruption, deriving strength and influence from it, will staunchly resist any changes that entail accountability, demise, and exposure of their misconduct.

"The path forward requires no clemency, pardons, or leniency towards the corrupt. Accountability must be swift and unwavering. Corruption and its backers must be extricated from the political landscape, and embezzled public funds must be recovered under all circumstances.

"These essential yet challenging measures are akin to an unyielding hurricane, relentlessly surging forward, impervious to obstacles, and determined to uproot corruption at any cost. At this juncture, the wheels of reform will set in motion, unimpeded, aiming to achieve its objectives.

"The outcomes of these reform actions will reverberate across society, industry, development, education, healthcare, and housing, safeguarding public funds and propelling progress.

"Many nations benefit from electoral systems, oversight and accountability mechanisms, and written constitutions, enabling a shift from corruption to reform. Such frameworks facilitate leaders in pursuing reform pathways and reaping its benefits with minimal friction.

"While the existence of systems, laws, and constitutions doesn't prevent corruption outright, it undoubtedly assists in combating and eradicating it when coupled with genuine intentions, supported by willpower, rationality, and strength."

"In the coming days, the educational districts will be preparing for the new academic year, which will begin with the reception of the educational staff and then the students in various educational stages," columnist **Khalid Al-Arafah** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Every year, we hear about the readiness of the Education Ministry, but after the first working day of the educational body, problems appear successively, such as breakdown of air conditioning units, cleaning contracts and technical issues despite the announcement of the ministry's sectors that they are ready for the new academic year.

"The official opening of the new academic year is just a few days away, yet until now, we have not heard from the ministry -- no statement or press conference confirming the readiness of facilities. Similarly, we have not heard about the ministry officials' plan for the new academic year. Online or distance education should be part of the plan as an option during emergency, without the need to wait for a decision from the government, in which the ministry is one of the decision-makers.

"We know very well that there is no minister of education by name, and this is also the case with the under-secretary, as both are in acting capacity. They have a big responsibility that requires them to go to the field, meet with the directors of the educational districts and oblige these directors to submit reports on the schools under them; including the deficiencies and problems they are suffering from like cleaning contracts, lack of books and malfunctioning air conditioning units or water cooling devices. These problems surface every year.

"The minister, whom we hope will succeed in his mission after reviewing the reports of the directors of educational districts, must conduct random inspection tours in schools to ensure their safety, and to hold accountable all those who fail in the event of any contradiction in the reports. Otherwise, his fate will be in the crosshairs of parliamentary questions and political accountability.

"Thus, we reiterate: Do not depend on others. Go down to personally look into the preparations, and then confidently announce the start of the academic year."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**

Co-ops extol

Continued from Page 1

In addition, price controllers and the Federation of Cooperative Societies always make inspection tours at the market so as to make sure that all available products are approved by the federation and that all cooperatives follow price guidelines.

Hateen Cooperative Society Chairman Nawaf Al-Matar voiced the greatest admiration for the federation's role and effort to control market prices by means of launching a platform involving 139,000 products.

He commended the step as a great achievement that would certainly shore up the cooperative sector's capabilities for offering services to people.

This step obviously reflects the aspiration of the federation and its member cooperatives for digital transformation and modern advancement in the world of trade and marketing, Al-Matar pointed out.

He, further, underlined the significance of such initiatives as contributing to developing the cooperative sector and promoting its role in serving the society, saying that the federation plays an impressive role in this regard.

For his part, Jaber Al-Ahmad Cooperative Society Chief Fahad Al-Harran said the price platform would undoubtedly serve the interest of consumers and buyers, citing this as clear-cut proof of the crucial role played by the federation to put price levels under control.

The step would make it very easy for citizens and residents to find commodities at reasonable prices, stressing that all cooperative societies nationwide stick to the federation's price guidelines.

98 released

Continued from Page 1

Sources told the daily that the released 53 expatriates were referred to the deportation prison who will soon be sent to their respective countries.

The daily added, the Amiri pardon benefits 300 people who were staying illegally in the country who were ordered to be deported by the court.

The sources indicated that the Amiri Pardon Committee has studied about 2,500 files of prisoners, pointing

out that the release of these prisoners came in accordance with the noble habit of His Highness the Amir who meet the conditions of amnesty, which is part of Kuwait's strategic perspective to protect human rights and consecrate freedom and justice.

Lawmaker stiffens

Continued from Page 1

him with a copy of the executive regulations for the Secretariat General of the Private Universities including the number, names, positions and monthly allowance of the members. He inquired if the Secretariat General conducted studies on developing education. If yes, he demanded for copies of such studies. He wants to know the requirements and conditions to obtain a license for the establishment of private universities, appointment of lecturers, procedures and laws adopted to follow up private universities and ensure their commitment to the relevant regulations, list of private colleges and institutes, date of inception, list of chairpersons and deans, number of Kuwaiti employees compared to expatriates, amount paid to every private university since 2018 till date, and expenses on those studying industrial engineering, mechanic engineering, mass media, international relations and information technology.

MP Jenan Bu Shehri forwarded queries to Al-Ostad about the measures taken by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) regarding plagiarism cases, copies of such cases from 2010 till date and disciplinary action taken against those involved.

MP Bader Nashmi Al-Anzi asked Al-Ostad if the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) has allocated land for the establishment of public parks in Jaber Al-Ahmad City and copies of contracts in this regard, if any.

He also forwarded queries to Minister of Health Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi about the number of Kuwaiti doctors in public hospitals and clinics, number of Kuwaiti doctors who graduated recently or interns who been accepted by the Kuwaiti medical board in the last five years, if any of the interns have been accepted by the Saudi or Jordanian medical board, if expatriate doctors were appointed to administrative posts, and if these expatriate doctors are still receiving the same allowances granted to their colleagues in the hospitals and clinics.

'Fashionista' allegedly jumps red traffic light, kills 2 in crash

73 people held for committing immoral acts

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: While investigations are continuing with a "woman who is well-known in social circles" and is believed to be primarily responsible for causing the death of two Kuwaiti citizens and serious injury to two others, security sources told **Al-Qabas** daily that the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, **Sheikh Talal Al-Khalid**, is personally following up the investigations.

The sources pointed out that the investigations into this accident, which occurred at dawn Thursday between two cars at the intersection in the Capital Governorate, revealed that the cause of the accident was the 'Fashionista' who had apparently jumped the red traffic light.

The source stressed that the instructions issued by the Minister of Interior are clear and explicit to apply the law to everyone without discrimination, "not tolerating transgressors or reckless people who endanger lives," and not to allow any interference or attempts to influence the progress of investigations.

The source told the daily after the Operations Department of the Ministry of Interior received a report on the terrible accident the traffic men, emergency medical personnel and firemen went to the site removed the two men trapped on the back seat of the car and rushed them to the intensive care unit of a hospital and the remains of the two other men -- the driver and the man in the passenger seat -- were sent to Forensics. The condition of the injured men is believed to be critical.

The source explained the damaged vehicles were removed to facilitate traffic flow.

The source pointed out that the accused was detained at the police station and charged with "manslaughter and crossing a red traffic light. The investigations are still underway to know the causes and circumstances surrounding the horrific traffic accident."

73 people held: Personnel from the Criminal Security Sector and the Public Morals Protection and Combating Trafficking in Persons Department, have arrested 73 men and women of different nationalities in 12 differ-



The 2 forgers and (right) fingers showing surgery marks.

'Biometrics' reveals ID of 2 forgers

The Criminal Security Sector managed to seize two Asians who entered the country illegally, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

Personnel from the Mafan Hawali Investigation Office arrested the Asians through biometric fingerprint and the results showed

their original data.

The men had performed surgeries on the fingers of the hand to hide their basic identity and entered the country illegally. They have been referred to the competent authority for legal action.

ent incidents on charges of practicing immoral acts in several regions of the country, in exchange for sums of money, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The seizures took place in Mahboula, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Salmiya, Adan, South Surra, Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Al-Jahra.

Dead body found: The Public Relations and Media Department at Kuwait Firefighting Force (KFF) confirmed that the coordinated efforts of the Coast Guard, Ministry of Interior, Kuwait Navy and KFF led to the discovery of a body believed to be that of a missing person, reports **Al-Anba**.

According to the department, the body was found in Arifjan Sea and investigations are ongoing to establish the identity.

4 expats arrested: Security men have arrested 4 Asians, one of whom was the guard of a plot under construction in the city of Al-Mutla'a, for attempting to steal building material, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior stated that the criminal security sector interacted with a circulating video clip, showing two Asians

attempting to steal building materials from a plot under construction and escaping after discovering the presence of security cameras.

The department added that the efforts resulted in the arrest of two men after conducting research, investigation and information gathering, they admitted that the theft was in agreement with the guard and then led police to the fourth accomplice.


'Reimburse KD50': First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior **Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled** has instructed the Public Authority for Manpower to quickly reimburse the KD50 deducted from the labor subsidy of citizens working in the private sector due to a technical glitch, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The minister also ordered the immediate formation of a committee that will investigate this issue.



Gas leak controlled: The firefighting teams rushed to one of the cooperative societies and controlled a refrigerant gas leak, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The situation was controlled by firefighting teams from the Hawali and Al-Shadadiya centers for hazardous materials.

No injuries have been reported.




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Norway to spend \$6 million a year stock-piling grain

Norway will spend 63 million kroner (\$6 million) per year until the end of the decade stocking up on grain as the COVID-19 pandemic, a war in Europe and climate change have made it necessary, the government said Friday.

Starting next year, Norway will start storing 15,000 tons of grain and do so yearly until 2028 or 2029, according to Norway's minister for agriculture and food, Geir Pollestad, who said the aim

is to always have a three-month worth of consumption in storage.

Toward the end of the decade, 82,500 tons of grain should be in stock. Pollestad didn't elaborate on the type of grain to be stored.

Pollestad told the Norwegian news agency NTB that they must take into consideration "the unthinkable" happening. "In a situation with extreme prices on the world market, it will still be possible to buy grain, but if we

have done our job, we will not be so dependent on the highest bidder at auction. We can help keep prices down."

Norwegian Finance Minister Trygve Slagsvold Vedum told NTB that "food preparedness is about security for everyone. The Norwegian Parliament will have to approve the plan before moving forward. The storage location of these potential grain stockpiles has not been decided. (AP)

Heineken sells its Russian operations for 1 euro

Dutch brewer Heineken has completed its withdrawal from Russia, 18 months after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, selling its business in Russia for just 1 euro, the company announced Friday.

Heineken said it would incur a total loss of 300 million euros (\$325 million) for the sale to Russian manufacturing giant the Arnest Group.

Heineken had faced criticism

for the slow pace of its exit in the wake of the outbreak of war, but insisted it was seeking to look after its local employees in Russia.

In March last year, Heineken had said it was quitting Russia as its business there was "no longer sustainable nor viable in the current environment," but added that it wanted to ensure an "orderly transfer" to a new owner.

"While it took much longer

than we had hoped, this transaction secures the livelihoods of our employees and allows us to exit the country in a responsible manner," Heineken CEO Dolf van den Brink said in a statement. The sale covers all of Heineken's assets in Russia, including seven breweries. The company said that Arnest has guaranteed the employment of Heineken's 1,800 local staff for three years. (AP)

Market Movements

25-08-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.34	11,405.30	UAE	- DFM	-0.18	4,099.49
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+0.41	18,207.82	JAPAN	- Nikkei	-2.05	31,624.28
				PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-0.19	47,683.04
				PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	-1.05	6,160.61

Business

Economy's 'solid growth' could require more Fed hikes to fight inflation, Powell says at Jackson Hole

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming, Aug 26, (AP): The continued strength of the U.S. economy could require further interest rate increases, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Friday in a closely watched speech that also highlighted the uncertain nature of the economic outlook.

Powell noted that the economy has been growing faster than expected and that consumers have kept spending briskly - trends that could keep inflation pressures high. He reiterated the Fed's determination to keep its benchmark rate elevated until inflation is reduced to its 2% target.

"We are attentive to signs that the economy may not be cooling as expected," Powell said. "We are prepared to raise rates further if appropriate and intend to hold policy at a restrictive level until we are confident that inflation is moving sustainably down toward our objective."

"Although inflation has moved down from its peak - a welcome development - it remains too high."

Powell's speech, at an annual conference of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, highlighted the uncertainties surrounding the economy and the complexity of the Fed's response to it. It marked a contrast to his remarks here a year ago, when he bluntly warned that the Fed would continue its campaign of sharp rate hikes to rein in spiking prices.

"When it comes to another rate hike, the chair still very much has his finger on the trigger, even if it's a bit less itchy than it was last year," said Omair Sharif, chief economist at Inflation Insights.

Substantially higher loan rates, a direct result of the Fed's rate hikes, have made it harder for Americans to afford a home or a car or for businesses to finance expansions. At the same time, items like rent, restaurant meals and other services are still getting costlier. "Core" inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, has remained elevated despite the Fed's streak of 11 rate hikes beginning in March 2022.

The overall economy has nevertheless powered ahead. Hiring has remained healthy, confounding economists who had forecast that the spike in rates would cause widespread layoffs and a recession. Consumer spending keeps growing at a healthy rate. And the U.S. unemployment rate stands exactly where it did when Powell spoke last year: 3.5%, barely above a half-century low.

"He is still very concerned how rapid the economy is growing because that does actually mean, all else equal, we need higher interest rates just to be restrictive," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at KPMG.

In his speech, Powell did not mention the possibility that the Fed will eventually cut interest rates. Earlier this year, many on Wall Street had expected rate cuts by

early next year. Now, most traders envision no interest rate cuts before mid-2024 at the earliest.

Powell said the central bank's policymakers believe their key rate is high enough to restrain the economy and cool growth, hiring and inflation. But he acknowledged that it's hard to know how high borrowing costs must be to slow the economy, "and thus there is always uncertainty" about how effectively the Fed's policies are in reducing inflation.

The Fed's officials "will proceed carefully as we decide whether to tighten further or, instead, to hold the policy rate constant and await further data," he said.

Since Powell spoke at last summer's Jackson Hole conference, the Fed has raised its benchmark rate to a 22-year high of 5.4%. From a peak of 9.1% in June 2022, inflation has slowed to 3.2%, though still above the Fed's 2% target.

Powell acknowledged the decline in inflation, which he called "very good news." Consumer prices, excluding the volatile food and energy categories, have begun to ease.

"But two months of good data," he added, "are only the beginning of what it will take to build confidence that inflation is moving down sustainably toward our goal."

Wall Street climbs to clinch its first winning week in a month

Asian shares mostly decline

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (AP): Stocks rose Friday to send Wall Street to its first winning week since July after the head of the Federal Reserve said it will "proceed carefully" as it decides what to do with interest rates.

The S&P 500 climbed 29.40, or 0.7%, to 4,405.71 after flipping between small gains and losses a few times through the day. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 247.48 points, or 0.7%, to 34,348.90, and the Nasdaq composite gained 126.67, or 0.9%, to 13,590.65.

In a highly anticipated speech, Fed Chair Jerome Powell said again that it will make upcoming decisions on interest rates based on what incoming data reports say about inflation and the economy, and he made no promises about what's coming next.

Wall Street had the speech circled on calendars because it was hoping Powell would say the Fed was done with its hikes to interest rates, which grind down inflation at the cost of slowing the economy and hurting prices for investments.

Powell instead said the Fed may raise interest rates again, if needed. Even though inflation has come down from its peak last summer, Powell said it's still too high.

But he also took care to say he's aware of the risks of going too far on interest rates and doing "unnecessary harm to the economy." Altogether, the comments weren't very different from what Powell said before, analysts said.

But one word of Powell's stood out to Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management, particularly as it relates to Powell's speech last year at the same Fed event. That 2022 speech caused stocks to fall sharply.

"Carefully is the new forcefully," Jacobsen said. "Last year, Powell said the Fed would respond forcefully, and they sure did. Now they can tread carefully. Any adjustments to rates now will be more like fine tuning."

The Fed has already hiked its main interest rate to the highest level since 2001 in its drive to grind down high inflation. That was up from virtually zero early last year.

The much higher rates have already sent the manufacturing industry into contraction and helped cause three high-profile U.S. bank failures during the spring. They've also helped to slow inflation, but a string of stronger-than-expected reports on the economy has raised worries that upward pressure remains. That could force the Fed to

Oil calmly coming down despite the OPEC+ cuts

By Kamel Al-Haram
Independent Oil Analyst

Today, the price of oil is \$84 a barrel -- down from its peak of \$87 several weeks ago. Here are some fundamental reasons behind the decline: higher supply in the market and the USA's interest is going up, making oil more expensive.

Two OPEC members are increasing their production, with the US administration closing its eyes over the increased volume. Iran is pushing more crude into India and China to respect the embargo and accord or understanding with the USA. Still, it is not moving any oil to Europe.

The other is Venezuela, which is moving its oil to the USA. This allows US companies to settle their outstanding debts and monies like Chevron that is heavily invested in the country, knowing the need for more oil. Venezuela has the biggest oil reserve in the world despite its heavy oil deposits, which need a more advanced technology that Chevron and American oil companies can provide.

Both countries are exempted from quota restrictions, which could go for maximum production until supply stabilizes and they are insured from any imposed sanctions. The USA remains relaxed and silent, while Iran is pushing its maximum crude oil production.

So far, the OPEC+ is satisfied with the current oil price -- as long as the price remains above \$70 a barrel. It cannot enforce its production

quotas on the two countries that have been suffering from financial losses and have been deprived of daily cash. Perhaps, time has come for the OPEC+ to accommodate the new volume from its founding members.

Iran's oil production stands at 3.1 million barrels -- the highest since 2018, most of which is heading towards India and China. Iran's production capacity is around 3.8 million barrels per day, which can easily be achieved once the boycott and embargo end.

India is almost saturated with Russian oil. Its refineries can no longer accept Russian oil, considering its refining limit. Thus, there is no more room for Russian oil.

OPEC+ is maintaining its production cuts until next month. Aramco announced its plan to continue the one million barrels cut until October of this year. Perhaps, OPEC+ is making room for its deprived members to increase production.

On the other hand, Venezuela is struggling with its oil production. It is keen on improving its volume to about 900,000 barrels per day from its low of 700,000 in 2022.

The new volume coming out of OPEC+ is a good and positive sign for the US administration to regulate the price of oil in the coming election year and to control inflation, taking into consideration that the global demand for oil will reach 102 million by the end of the current year.

The oil price decline could be bad if it reaches the level that stimulates growth and prosperity, leading to higher consumption of oil and firmer crude oil price.



Al-Harami

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Detroit companies targeted

Auto workers vote 'massively' to let union leaders declare strikes

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Aug 26, (AP): Auto workers have voted overwhelmingly to give union leaders the authority to call strikes against Detroit car companies if a contract agreement isn't reached.

The United Auto Workers union said Friday that 97% have voted in favor of authorizing one or more strikes against Stellantis, General Motors and Ford. Such votes are almost always approved by large margins.

Contracts between the union representing about 146,000 workers at Stellantis, General Motors and Ford expire at 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 14. UAW President Shawn Fain said earlier this week that negotiations with the companies are not progressing fast enough. But he also said a strike is not inevitable.

Contract talks with the Detroit Three began in July, but Fain has consistently said the companies aren't bargaining seriously.

In a statement Friday, the UAW said the vote does not guarantee that a strike will be called.

Fain told members on Facebook Live Friday that the union still hasn't picked a target company for a strike and could walk out against all three. "Things could always shift in bargaining if something miraculous happened with one of the companies, it could change," he said. "We want contracts by Sept. 14 with all three."

The companies have said they're bargaining in good faith at a time of unprecedented change in the auto business. The industry is spending billions to make the transition from internal combustion engines to battery power to cut pollution and fight climate change.

Stellantis, which has drawn much of Fain's ire in recent weeks, said Friday that negotiations "continue to be constructive and collaborative." The company said it wants an agreement that will balance employee concerns and

position Stellantis to "meet the challenges U.S. marketplace and secure the future for all of our employees, their families and our company."

Ford said it's working with the UAW on "creative solutions during this time when our dramatically changing industry needs a skilled and competitive workforce more than ever."

President Joe Biden said Friday he is concerned about the possibility of a mid-September strike, one that could cripple an industry responsible for about 3% of the nation's economy.

Speaking to reporters from his vacation in South Lake Tahoe, California, Biden said UAW members should get the first shot at new jobs -- appearing to refer to positions at factories that will make battery cells for electric vehicles. Salaries at the new plants "should be commensurate" with current wages paid to UAW workers, he said.

In the contract talks, the UAW is seeking a 40% pay increase, restoration of pensions for new hires, elimination of wage tiers and other items. Fain has often told workers they have to be ready to strike in order to achieve gains from the profitable automakers.

The union also wants to represent joint venture electric vehicle battery plants being built by the companies, and it's seeking top union wages at those factories.

Jason Hale, an assembly line inspector at Ford's Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville, said he voted to authorize a strike.

He hopes the union will be able to win general pay raises and restore cost-of-living pay increases and pensions for all workers. Cost of living is the most important, he said.

"They're just making too much money and not giving us enough."

He thinks the union should strike all three companies at the same time. "That would show solidarity and we're here to mean business," he said.

Study reveals how much carbon damage would cost corporations

The world's corporations produce so much climate change pollution, it could eat up about 44% of their profits if they had to pay damages for it, according to a study by economists of nearly 15,000 public companies.

The "corporate carbon damages" from those publicly owned companies analyzed - a fraction of all the corporations - probably runs in the trillions of dollars globally and in the hundreds of billions for American firms, one of the study authors estimated in figures that were not part of the published research. That's based on the cost of carbon dioxide pollution that the United States government has proposed.

Nearly 90% of that calculated damage comes from four industries: energy, utilities, transportation and manufacturing of materials such as steel. The study in Thursday's journal Science by a team of economists and finance professors looks at what new government efforts to get companies to report their emissions of heat-trapping gases would mean, both to the firm's bottom lines and the world's ecological health.

Earlier this year, the European Union enacted rules that would eventually require firms to disclose carbon emissions and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and the state of California are looking at similar regulations.

Study co-author Christian Leuz, a finance and accounting professor at the University of Chicago, said the idea "of shining the light on corporate

activities that have costs to society is very powerful, but it is not enough to save the planet." An earlier study of his found that after fracking firms disclosed their pollution rates, those contamination levels dropped 10% to 15%, he said.

The idea is consumers and stockholders would see the damage and pressure firms to be cleaner, Leuz said.

Outside economists agreed. Leuz and his colleagues used a private analysis firm that finds or estimates carbon emissions of some publicly owned companies and analyzed the carbon pollution from 14,879 firms. Then they compared them to company revenues and profits.

That calculation shows "which activities are particularly costly to society from a climate perspective," Leuz said. Still, he cautioned that "it would not be correct to just blame the companies. It is not possible to divide responsibility for these damages between the firms that make the products and consumers who buy them."

The calculations are for only a fraction of the world's corporations, with many public companies not included and private firms not listed at all, Leuz said. The economists didn't identify or tease out single companies but instead grouped firms by industry and by country. And they only used direct emissions, not what happens downstream. So the gas in a person's car does not count toward an oil company's emissions or corporate carbon damages.

workers win raises at GM joint venture battery plant

Unionized workers at a General Motors joint venture electric vehicle battery plant in Ohio will see pay raises while they continue to negotiate a contract, if they ratify an interim deal announced.

The United Auto Workers union said that the 1,100 workers at the Ultium Cells plant near Warren, Ohio, will get \$3 to \$4 per hour increases as well as thousands of dollars in back pay. They'll vote on the interim deal in the coming days.

Ultium Cells said the average increase is 25%, and it would be effective on Aug. 28. Since it's retroactive, workers would get \$3,000 to \$7,000 as well, based on the hours they have worked.

Workers at the plant, jointly owned by battery maker LG Energy Solution, now start at \$16.50 per hour, which UAW President Shawn Fain has criticized as too low.

UAW Vice President Mike

Booth said the interim deal is still far short of what the workers should get given the skill level needed to do the jobs.

"We have been clear with Ultium: This wage increase is just the start," Booth said in a statement.

"Providing this wage increase is the right thing to do for our team members, all of whom contribute so much to Ultium Cells' growth and success," Ultium Cells said. "This is just a first step." (AP)

JetBlue says it could raise fares on some routes

JetBlue Airways estimates that it could raise fares on some routes by up to 40% if it succeeds in buying Spirit Airlines and eliminating the low-fare carrier as a competitor on those routes.

The internal calculations appeared in court filings made earlier this week, and which JetBlue says were not properly redacted.

JetBlue said Thursday that information from the filings is being taken out of context to distort the facts.

Consumer advocates jumped on the news, saying that the accidental disclosure supports the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit aiming to block JetBlue's \$3.8 billion purchase of Spirit, the nation's largest discount airline.

Even before the government lawsuit, lawyers for about two dozen consumers sued JetBlue and Spirit last November in U.S. district court in Boston, claiming that the merger would reduce

competition and lead to higher prices.

Documents filed Tuesday in that case were redacted, but in a way that made it possible to see the hidden information by copying and pasting the text into a new document.

The revelation was first reported by Law360, which covers legal news. Law360 told USA Today that the documents are no longer posted publicly. (AP)

India is making all efforts to give MSMEs continuous support

'G20 Trade, Investment Meeting focuses on economic growth, prosperity'

NEW DELHI, Aug 26, (KUNA): Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting would focus on fostering economic growth and prosperity for all by easing barriers to international trade and investment.

paperless trading is a critical step towards streamlining cross border transactions especially for reducing administrative delays and improving the pace in trade operations.

He also stressed the need for reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO) to have a more dynamic and inclusive trade environment. "He said that India can provide leadership to the Global South in the realm of trade and investment and integrate the world economy making it more inclusive. The Minister said that the spirit of collaboration and mutual understanding defines G20 whose decisions shape the trajectory of economies, livelihoods of people, and the future of the world," it added.

On his part, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the opening session through video conferencing that trade plays a vital role in our life as it led to the exchange of ideas, cultures, and technology in addition to bringing people closer. "Trade and globalization have also lifted hundreds of millions out of extreme poverty", Modi said.

He also highlighted possibilities of Indian economy. "Today, India is seen as a combination of openness, opportunities and options," he said.

He said that India has become the fifth-largest global economy because of the sustained efforts by the government.

He added that there was increased competitiveness and enhanced transparency, expanding digitization and the promotion of innovation.

The two-day G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting under India's Presidency that began today in the Jaipur city of Rajasthan is expected to see participation of around 300 delegates from across the world including G20 ministers, ministers from invited nations, representatives of multinational and regional trade and investment institutions.

Addressing the opening session of two-day G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting in Jaipur city of Rajasthan, the Indian minister said that boosting productivity and output would be a major focus of the deliberations, Indian ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement.

He also appealed to G20 Ministers to work collectively to achieve concrete, decisive and action-oriented outcomes.

The meeting will also focus on formulating shared outcomes on issues related to the multilateral trading system, inclusive trade and ease of trade and business.

The G20 meeting will have sessions on multilateral trade for global growth & prosperity; inclusive and resilient trade and leveraging technology for paperless trade, he said, adding that these sessions are expected to bring out significant outcomes especially in addressing current multinational challenges.

"He noted that in today's interconnected world, the concept of global value chains has revolutionized the way nations engage in trade and investment," the minister said.

The minister also underlined the role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the global economy and said that India is making all efforts to give them continuous support. He also stated that MSMEs are creating jobs and contributing significantly to overall economic growth and are functioning as backbone of economies.

The Minister also told the G20 trade and investment ministers that

BRICS welcomes new members: What does it mean to the world?

'A new starting point for BRICS cooperation'

BEIJING, Aug 26, (AP): BRICS leaders agreed on Thursday to invite six countries, namely Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, to join the group.

The announcement was made at a press conference during the 15th BRICS Summit, attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping and other BRICS leaders including South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Russian President Vladimir Putin participated virtually.

The six countries' membership will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Speaking at the press conference, the Chinese president called on BRICS members to work together to write a new chapter of solidarity and cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries for development.

Fresh vitality, new impetus

At the press conference, the five BRICS leaders offered their congratulations to these six countries and expressed confidence in the bloc's future development.

"The BRICS expansion is historic and a new starting point for BRICS cooperation," said President Xi.

He hailed the expansion, saying it will inject fresh vitality into the BRICS cooperation mechanism and further strengthen the forces for world peace and development.

Xi said he believes that as long as the BRICS countries pull together, a lot can be achieved through BRICS cooperation, and a promising future awaits the member countries.

Noting BRICS countries have reached agreement on the guiding principles of the BRICS expansion process, Ramaphosa, who chaired the press conference, told reporters, "We value the interests of other countries in building the partnership of BRICS."

Through the summit, BRICS has begun a new chapter in its efforts to bring about a world that is fair, inclusive and prosperous, he added.

Lula pointed out that the interest of other countries to join the BRICS showed how relevant its pursuit of a new world economic order is.

Showing full support for BRICS expansion, Modi said, "India has always believed that the addition of new members will further strengthen BRICS as an organization, and it will give our shared efforts a new impetus."

BRICS expansion "will also strengthen the belief of many coun-

tries in the multipolar world order," he added.

On the other hand, Putin vowed to establish practical interaction with new members and continue working to expand the association's influence in the world.

Why do countries want to join BRICS?

According to President Ramaphosa, more than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining BRICS, and 22 have formally asked to be admitted.

The Chinese president's remarks at the press conference shed light on why joining the BRICS group has become an attractive goal for countries in the developing world.

"The expansion reflects the resolution of the BRICS countries to unite and cooperate with other developing countries, meets the expectations of the international community, and serves the common interests of emerging markets and developing countries," Xi said.

Despite turbulence in the international landscape, BRICS, covering over 40 percent of the global population and accounting for a quarter of the global economy, has made remarkable achievements in cooperation, helping promote common development and address global challenges, including the widening economic gap between the North and the South, climate change and digital governance.

The BRICS-founded New Development Bank (NDB), headquartered in Shanghai, offers a glimpse into the group's efforts to tackle the infrastructure and development challenges faced by emerging economies while advancing the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As the first global multilateral financial institution initiated wholly by developing countries, the NDB has approved 98 projects with a total value of \$33.2 billion, providing a strong guarantee for infrastructure construction and sustainable development in emerging markets and developing economies and contributing to global growth.

The NDB has also deepened its green and sustainable credentials, as around 40 percent of the bank's projects are focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In the digital field, the group has drawn up the BRICS Digital Economy Partnership Framework, emphasizing the commonalities and complementarities of BRICS members in the digital economy.

China is a key investor and trade partner in the BRICS group. China's imports and exports with other BRICS members expanded 19.1 percent year on year to 2.38 trillion yuan (about \$330.62 billion) during the January-July period, data from the General Administration of Customs showed.



Top and above photos taken from the event.

Lulu ONAM celebrations witness thrilling tug of war competitions

As part of the vibrant and joyous Lulu ONAM Celebrations, a high-energy Tug of War (Vadamvali) competition took place on August 25, 2023, at the Lulu Alrai Outlet. The event was marked by fierce competition and enthusiastic participation, creating an electrifying atmosphere that brought the community together.

The Lulu Tug of War competition was proudly sponsored by prominent companies including Alwazzan, Afia, IFFCO, and Noor Oil, whose support contributed significantly

cantly to the success of the event. A total of 12 teams participated, each showcasing their strength, teamwork, and determination to claim victory.

The coordination of the participating teams was expertly managed by the Kuwait Kerala Tug of War Association (KKTA), ensuring fair play and a well-organized competition. The event was graced by the presence of Lulu Kuwait's top management and representatives from the sponsoring companies, who handed over the coveted cash

prizes and trophies to the deserving winning teams.

1st Prize winners team "AHA KUWAIT BROTHERS" received KD 400, the 2nd prize winner team "KKDA" gets KD 300, 3RD prize winner team "KKB SPORT CLUB KUWAIT" gets KD 200, the 4th winners team "FRIENDS OF KUWAIT" gets KD 100 and Every participating team received consolation prizes as a token of appreciation.

In the spirit of sportsmanship and appreciation for all participants, consolation prizes were also

awarded to every team that took part in the competition. This gesture underscored the importance of participation and camaraderie in events like these.

The Lulu ONAM Celebrations Tug of War competition was not only a test of physical strength but also a celebration of unity, teamwork, and the rich cultural heritage that ONAM represents. It brought together people from diverse backgrounds to create cherished memories and promote the values of sportsmanship.

'Deliberately sabotaging a govt program'

Dems accuse tax prep firms of 'undermining' new effort by IRS

WASHINGTON, Aug 26, (AP): Congressional Democrats are accusing big tax preparation firms including Intuit and H&R Block of undermining the federal government's upcoming electronic free file tax return system and are demanding lobbying, hiring and revenue data to determine what's going on.

The lawmakers accuse the companies of lobbying against the new program, hiring former government workers to sway public interest against free file for all, and deliberately sabotaging a government program that had previously offered free tax prep services, according to letters obtained by The Associated Press.

On Thursday, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Rep. Katie Porter, D-Calif., sent letters to the executives of Intuit, H&R Block, the American Coalition for Taxpayer Rights and the Free File Alliance, a group of tax preparation companies that provide free online services through the IRS website.

Warren and Porter are seeking specifics on the amount of money firms have made since being members of the Free File Alliance, and information on the number of former government workers who've joined their firms in the past two years.

"Tax prep companies have engaged in a long and aggressive lobbying campaign to prevent the IRS from offering taxpayers a direct filing option," the lawmakers' letter to Intuit CEO Sasan K. Goodarzi reads.

Derrick Plummer, an Intuit spokesman, said his firm will respond to the lawmakers' letter, adding that taxpayers already have the ability to file taxes free of charge. "An IRS Direct File system is redundant and will not be free - not free to build, not free to operate, and not free for taxpayers," he said.

Plummer said a free-file system built by the government "is a solution in search of a problem, and that solution will unnecessarily cost taxpayers billions of dollars."

An H&R Block spokesperson also said that there are free file options for taxpayers and that the "IRS should focus additional funding on improving its

existing services for taxpayers."

An agreement with the Free File Alliance prevented the IRS from creating its own free tax return filing system in exchange for the companies providing free services to taxpayers making \$73,000 or less annually, but the agreement's key provision ended in 2019. Tax experts and government reports say the program largely failed to reach its intended audience, with only 3% of eligible taxpayers using it.

The IRS in May announced that it would launch a pilot program for the 2024 filing season to allow taxpayers to file directly to the agency for free. If the effort is successful it could be implemented nationwide in the future, potentially saving taxpayers the added cost of going through a tax prep company.

As it moves forward under the helm of new IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel, groups on both sides of the issue have mobilized to sway the public and Congress over the usefulness of the program.

An April analysis by the AP found that Intuit, H&R Block and other private companies and advocacy groups for large tax preparation businesses, as well as proponents of electronic free file, have reported spending \$39.3 million since 2006 to lobby on free file and other matters. Federal law doesn't require domestic lobbyists to itemize expenses by issue, so the sums are not limited to free file.

Tim Hugo, executive director of the Free File Alliance, said Friday in an email to the AP that his organization "does not lobby, does not hire lobbyists, has not hired lobbyists in the past, and has never had a PAC."

And David D. Ransom, counsel for the American Coalition for Taxpayer Rights, said by email that the new IRS free file program will not be free and easy to implement and that the U.S. tax code is too complex for the planned free file program to be successful.

"Proponents of Direct File often suggest that we ought to have tax administration systems that are like those in Denmark or Estonia," he said. "We deliver social benefits through our tax code; most European countries do not."

COP28 UAE Presidency announces priorities to drive water up the agenda

STOCKHOLM, Aug 26, (AP): The COP28 UAE Presidency has launched its Water Agenda during World Water Week in Stockholm, which took place from August 20 to 24.

COP28 announced its top priority areas, which include conserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems, enhancing urban water resilience, and bolstering water-resilient food systems.

Furthermore, the COP28 Presidency announced a partnership with the Netherlands and Tajikistan to serve as COP28 Water Champions.

This partnership aims to build upon outcomes and momentum from the UN

2023 Water Conference held in March, which was co-hosted by the Netherlands and Tajikistan, and resulted in the Water Action Agenda.

COP28 aims to give unprecedented attention to water risks and opportunities across the agenda, from agriculture to disaster prevention.

This partnership unites the COP28 Presidency, Tajikistan, and the Netherlands to deliver water policy, technology, and financing results at COP28.

Support from the Netherlands and Tajikistan is essential to ensuring progress and commitments from the UN Water Conference are driven forward. Her Excellency Razan Al Mubarak,

UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, spoke on the launch of the Water Agenda and partnership, saying, "Climate change profoundly affects water through flooding, droughts, and sea level rises, impacting homes, ecosystems, and livelihoods. Yet water is not only essential for human survival, health, and food systems, but it's also fundamental to nature's balance and the flourishing of biodiversity. With the COP28 Water Agenda, in collaboration with the Netherlands and Tajikistan, we seek to bridge the insights from the UN Water Conference with the climate community, amplifying our adaptation and

mitigation efforts."

Tajik Minister of Economic Development and Trade, His Excellency Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, welcomed the partnership and expressed his commitment to co-lead COP28's Water Agenda.

"I am pleased that Tajikistan and the Netherlands have recently been invited by the UAE to co-lead the Water Agenda at COP28. We are honored to have this great role and express our strong commitments to work hard to bring water on the top of the climate agenda, since water plays a critical role both in terms of climate adaptation and mitigation and thus greatly contributes to achieving climate resilience," he said.

German economy in Q2 stable

BERLIN, Aug 26, (KUNA): Data from the German Federal Statistical Office showed Friday the stability of Germany's economy, the largest in Europe, in Q2 2023, after contracting slightly in Q1 of the same year.

Economic growth remained zero percent in Q2 2023, after a contraction of 0.1 percent in Q1 and by 0.4 percent in Q4 of last year, it said in

a report from its headquarters in the south central city of Wiesbaden.

The government office commented on these figures by saying that Germany's economy has returned to stability after two quarters of contraction, noting that these figures indicate that this economy, which relies heavily on exports, will remain stuck between stagnation on the one hand and growth on the other.

Subscription period ends on Sunday, 10 Sep 2023

ABK starts the subscription process to raise its capital by 26.7%

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the commencement of the subscription process to its capital increase by offering 500 million shares at a value of KD 100 million, following the approvals obtained from regulating authorities.

Through the capital increase, ABK aims to strengthen its capital base in line with the requirements of the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Basel III accord capital adequacy requirements. Proceeds from the capital increase will be used to continue to provide customers with exceptional banking services, while developing and enhancing the Bank's operations in accordance with its corporate strategy.

The subscription will be available to shareholders registered in the Bank's shareholder register as of the Record Date on Thursday, 24 August 2023, and holders of pre-emptive rights. Said shareholders Shareholders who wish to increase their entitled shares, and non-shareholders who wish to participate in the capital increase may buy pre-emption rights during the pre-emption rights trading period, which will begin on Sunday, 27 August 2023 and end on Sunday, 3 September 2023 (inclusive).

The subscription process will continue for 15 calendar days, until

Sunday, 10 September 2023 (inclusive and ending at 1:00 p.m.), with a subscription price of 200 fils per share (which includes a nominal value of 100 fils and an issuance premium of 100 fils).

The subscription process is led by Kamco Invest as the Lead Manager and Subscription Agent, and ABK Capital as the Joint Lead Manager and Subscription Agent. Eligible subscribers interested in subscribing to the capital increase may submit their subscription applications through Kuwait Clearing Company's online subscription platform www.ipo.com.kw during the subscription period. The prospectus and additional information related to the offering and subscription process are now available on the websites of ABK and the subscription agents.

It is worth noting that the new shares to be offered represent 26.7% of the current issued and paid-up capital, raising ABK's share capital from KD 187.4 million to KD 237.4 million following the completion of the transaction. The capital increase will bolster the Bank's financial position, increasing shareholders' equity by KD 100 million.

For more information, please visit www.eahli.com or follow the Bank on social media @abk_kuwait.



ABK-building

KIB marks first half of '23 with many achievements

Part of efforts to elevate digital infrastructure

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that its Retail Banking Department continues to spare no effort to provide its customers with a wide range of innovative and comprehensive digital services that adhere to the highest international standards and the latest technologies across the global banking industry. This is further supported by the Bank's relentless effort to build and reinforce a reliable and advanced digital infrastructure, capable of ensuring a smooth banking experience for all customers, and with it guaranteeing the highest levels of customer satisfaction. As proof of the Bank's earnest pursuits, the Retail Banking Department recorded a wide range of achievements during the first half of 2023, further instilling KIB's position as a leading banking institution in Kuwait.

Commenting on the Bank's achievements in H1 2023, Nawaf Al-Khrayef, Assistant General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, said: "In order to deliver the best quality of services and products, we are always monitoring the market for any behavioral changes or any newly rising needs and aspirations on the customers' end. By constantly being up to date with their evolving lifestyles, we are able to innovate bespoke products and services that address their specific needs and enable them to realize their dreams in an unprecedented smart way. With the rapidly evolving technologies, we have to always be one step ahead of the market."

Banking services with digital solutions

Al-Khrayef further noted that KIB recorded around 95 million digital transactions in H1 2023 that the customers carried out through the KIB Online service and the KIB Mobile application. An additional 422,000 transactions were conducted using KIBPay, signifying a massive shift toward digital banking channels.

Besides the digitally fulfilled transactions, Al-Khrayef reported banking accounts opened during H1'23 increased by 198%, while the number of deposits grew by 93%. Further statistics reinforce the customers' growing adoption of digital banking, such as the 1,387% rise in the use of push notifications on the KIB Mobile application since the feature's launch, which allows users to stay up to date with their accounts' and transactions' details in a timely manner.

Widespread expansion across Kuwait

Stemming from its dedicated pursuit of reaching the biggest number of customers across all market segments, and as part of its comprehensive strat-



Nawaf Al-Khrayef



Dawri Zain Aug Launch 2023



Dawri Zain Aug Launch 2023

Over KD 60k of cash prizes for athletes and fans

Dawri Zain returns, promises a thrilling season

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: The thrills of Kuwait's top football flight, the Kuwait Premier League (Dawri Zain), has finally returned with the 62nd season (2023-2024). With the official kick-off of the new spell, Zain promises fans and football enthusiasts an exciting season in partnership with the Kuwait Football Association.

Last year, the company announced its official sponsorship of the KFA's competitions for the 2022-2026 seasons, which include the biggest two contests: the Kuwait Premier League (Dawri Zain), won by Kuwait SC, and the Zain First Division League, won by Al Shabab SC. Under this partnership, Zain also extends its support to H.H. the Amir's Cup, H.H. the Crown Prince's Cup, and the KFA Cup (Zain Cup).

Zain drew the curtains on last season with the prestigious Excellence Awards ceremony, where it awarded the top-performing athletes. The very best players were recognized on-stage after being selected by the technical committee for their top performance, winning them the affection of fans and the wider sports community alike.

SHASHA, the leading local streaming platform, recently announced it has reached an agreement with the KFA to purchase the broadcasting rights for this season of Dawri Zain. All of this season's games will be broadcasted for free on the online platform via its widely available apps for smartphones and smart TVs.

Continuing its pledge to support athletes and promote excellence in the league, Zain has dedicated, this season alone, over KD 60,000 worth of cash prizes for players and fans, the biggest prize pool in the local league's history.

egy for expansion and digitally fulfilling the market's needs with ease and simplicity, KIB announced that it has 125 domestic ATMs spread across Kuwait. The Bank's widespread network of ATMs has facilitated around 430,000 cash withdrawal transactions between January and June of 2023, in addition to 68,000 ATM deposit transactions.

Call center and social media
In light of the Bank's commitment to maintaining open channels of communication with its customers, allowing them to receive top-notch care and service 24/7, Al-Khrayef clarified that the KIB Contact Center received around 194,000 calls during the first six months of 2023, in addition

The company remains a strong supporter of local athletes and believes that last season's prizes contributed to elevating the league's performance and quality. For this, Zain has pledged not only to continue this support, but to even add new prize categories to reflect its interest in shouldering the local sports sector.

This season, Zain's cash prizes for athletes in the top flight are as follows: Player of the Season: KD 10,000, Best Player in the Round: KD 500 (per round), Season's Top Scorer: KD 5,000, Season's Top Local Scorer: KD 5,000, Season's Best Goalkeeper: KD 5,000, Season's Best Coach: KD 3,000, Season's Rising Star: KD 2,000, and Best Photo of Season: KD 1,000. For the Zain First Division League, the company will also present a new Best Player in the Round prize of KD 200 (per round).

The Kuwait Football Association has formed a special committee to outline the standards and criteria on which the prize winners will be selected. The committee is membered by former international players and experts Abdulaziz Hamadah (committee head), Hamad Al Enzi, Ahmad Mousa, Hussain Hakem, and Hussain Al Mutairi.

Zain also outlined its plan to interact with fans, where it is preparing many activities and events for the entire season. The company will set up special fan zones, host local-based restaurants and cafes, and more to create the best atmosphere for fans, especially during big games like classics, derbies, and finals. Spectators at stadiums and followers on social media will both get the chance to compete in special contests to win valuable prizes.

Continuing last season's success,

to 325,000 automated calls, and 5,487 chat inquiries. These figures attest to the ease and accessibility of KIB's customer service channels, as well as their speed and efficiency in responding to and resolving customers' needs and inquiries whenever and wherever they are. To ensure all customers are easily served and supported all week long, KIB offers its customer service via multiple channels, including KIB Mobile, Live Chat, KIB Online, in addition to www.KIB.com.kw, the video call service, and lastly, KIB's WhatsApp service.

New services

It serves to note that among KIB's top digital banking achievements in H1 2023 is the launch of Apple Pay, as well

as extending KIBPay services to corporate customers, not to mention providing the password visibility service on the app. Other digital services that were introduced or improved in 2023 include opening Al Dirwaza accounts through KIB Mobile, as well as relaunching the all-improved KIB Mobile application, with its transformed interface that enables customers to enjoy a smooth, safe, and trusted mobile banking experience. The last of KIB's digital services included providing Eidiya notes through ATMs during this year's Fitr and Adha holidays and receiving requests to open Al Dirwaza accounts via ATMs.

Zain also announced this season's Dawri Zain Fantasy League; the first-ever local fantasy football game exclusively dedicated to the Kuwaiti Premier League. The winners of the top three places will share a prize pool of KD 10,000 in cash at the end of the season. The game will officially kick-off with matchweek 3 after the transfer window closes.

Last season's edition of the game was wildly successful, having attracted thousands of local football enthusiasts and Dawri Zain fans. Holders of the top three places in the leaderboards were crowned on-stage during Zain's prestigious Excellence Awards ceremony, held to recognize last season's top performing athletes.

With this launch, Zain brings the thrills of Kuwaiti football to the digital space. Fantasy Football is one of the most popular online games in European and international sports leagues, and the company has brought this thrilling and highly competitive experience to local fans with a platform that is exclusively dedicated to the Kuwaiti Premier League. The game is available on the web at dawrizain.com, and on smartphones via the Dawri Zain app for iOS on the App Store and for Android on the Play Store.

The game offers a thrilling experience for users to pick their own lineup, compete with other players, and collect the most points to achieve the fantasy league title. Users must buy 15 players from the available KD 100m budget to form their team, and all prices and points scored reflect the actual performance in the Kuwaiti Premier League. The game is highly competitive and relies on each player's intuition and how much they know about the league.



Campaign photo.

Draw in collaboration with VISA

KFH announces the winners of 'Your Card ... Your Dreams Gate' Campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 26: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the winners of the first draw of its summer campaign with VISA: (Your Card..Your Dreams Gate). The draw was attended by a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the names were announced as follows:

- Jaber Abdulredha Aamer

- Al-Beloushi

- Abdullah Mohammed

- Abdulkader Al-Hashemi

- Seeta Raheel Nahar Al-Khaldi

- Rashed Ahmed Saud Allamee

- Nawaf Abdulkareem Al-Yahya

This draw is part of three campaign draws in which 15 winners will win a trip of their dreams that include:

■ Round trip ticket on Business or an equivalent class for international flights to the selected destination.

■ Accommodation in a 5-star, or equivalent hotel.

■ One companion.

■ Transportation from and to the airport.

■ Pocket money amounting to KD 2,000.

■ Variety of activities during the trip (available for some destinations).

KFH also allows the winners to pick their preferred travel destinations available which are:

■ Japan.

■ India (Delhi, Jaipur, Udaipur, Mumbai).

■ USA, Mexico & Cuba (New York, Cancun, Havana, Miami).

■ Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand (Bali, Singapore, Koh Samui, Bangkok).

■ Maldives.

■ England (Manchester, London).

■ South Africa (Johannesburg, Kruger National Park, Cape Town).

■ Egypt (Alexandria, Sharm El Sheikh).

■ Austria and Switzerland (Zurich, St. Moritz, Geneva).

The campaign will continue until September 18th, during which all KFH Visa debit, credit and prepaid cardholders can qualify for the draw for every purchase transaction of KD 1 and more.

KFH Visa credit or prepaid cardholder gets one chance to qualify for the draw for every KD 1 spent on local purchasing transactions, or e-commerce transactions in the Kuwaiti dinar currency, and ten chances for every KD 1 spent on international purchasing transactions, or e-commerce transactions made in foreign currencies.

KFH Visa debit cardholder is qualified to enter the draw only through purchasing transactions made via POS outside Kuwait, or through e-commerce transactions in foreign currencies.

Thanks to its high-demand campaigns, KFH is keen to enhance its cooperation with Visa and partners to execute other positively impacting campaigns to boost its customers' satisfaction, usage rates, expand market share and strengthen its leadership in the banking cards market.

Citi simplifies its retail banking to help customers achieve financial potential

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (Business Wire): Citi's U.S. Retail Bank introduces simplified banking, a more straightforward way of banking. By retiring account packages and introducing Relationship Tiers, Citi is streamlining its benefits and services and enhancing the customer experience. New customers can benefit from these changes immediately and Citi will begin converting existing customers to simplified banking in 2024.

"Customers are at the heart of everything we do, and we are excited to offer even more enhanced offerings with convenient benefits and services that grow with customers as they move through life's stages," said "These latest changes are designed to create a more seamless experience for our customers and make it easier for them to get personalized advice and access their finances."

Similar to an airline or hotel rewards program, as a customer's Combined Average Monthly Balance grows, clients may unlock Relationship Tiers, allowing access to more benefits and services from Citi Priority, Citigold® or Citigold® Private Client. Relationship Tiers will allow access to enhanced Citi benefits and services including waived Monthly Service Fees on checking and savings accounts, waived Citi fees at non-Citi ATMs, professional financial planning and much more. Citi will automatically link a customer's eligible deposit and investments accounts to provide a Combined Average Monthly Balance that will place them in the appropriate Relationship Tier.

Citi is expanding on its commitment to make banking more accessible and inclusive for people across the income spectrum. Customers not in a Relationship Tier can avoid Monthly Service Fees in their Citi Checking account by making Enhanced Direct Deposits of \$250 or more each month; in their Citi Savings account by having \$500+ or more in Average Monthly Balance or owning both a Citi Checking and Savings account; and during the month they open an account and for three calendar months after account opening. Since summer 2022,

Citi has defined Enhanced Direct Deposits to include deposits via Zelle® and other peer-to-peer payments when made via the Automated Clearing House using providers such as Venmo or PayPal. This policy helps to remove a barrier that workers may face who primarily receive income through peer-to-peer payments.

Beginning in 2022, Citi has eliminated a number of its retail consumer banking fees, including overdraft fees, returned item fees, and overdraft protection fees with plans to remove additional retail banking fees in the coming months.

Citi is making family financial management simpler and more convenient by enhancing Family Linking. When customers enroll in Family Linking, they can unlock higher Relationship Tiers and access their benefits faster by combining average monthly balances with those of eligible family members who live with them in the same household. In addition, customers do not need a joint deposit account to share benefits with family members, so they can enjoy the perks of Family Linking while maintaining their own financial freedom.

Existing customers can learn more and get early access to simplified banking at citi.com/earlyaccess, on the Citi Mobile® App, or by speaking with a Citi banker. Visit citi.com/simplifiedbanking to learn more about the newest benefits of banking with Citi. Depository products offered by Citibank, N.A. Member FDIC.

Citi is a preeminent banking partner for institutions with cross-border needs, a global leader in wealth management and a valued personal bank in its home market of the United States. Citi does business in nearly 160 countries and jurisdictions, providing corporations, governments, investors, institutions and individuals with a broad range of financial products and services. Additional information may be found at www.citigroup.com | Twitter: @Citi | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/citi | YouTube: www.youtube.com/citi | Facebook: www.facebook.com/citi.

early Apple computer sells at auction for \$223,000

One of the first personal computers built by Apple and signed by company co-founder Steve Wozniak has sold at auction for more than \$223,000.

The Apple-1 has been restored to a fully operational state and came with a custom case with a built-in keyboard, according to Boston-based RR Auction, which held the sale that closed Thursday.

About 200 were manufactured in Apple co-founder Steve Jobs' garage in Los Altos, California, in 1976 and 1977

and helped launch the company that in June became the first publicly traded business to close a trading day with a \$3 trillion market value. Originally sold for \$666, it was expected to sell for about \$200,000, RR said.

The Apple-1 was signed "Woz" by Wozniak at an event at Bryant University in 2017.

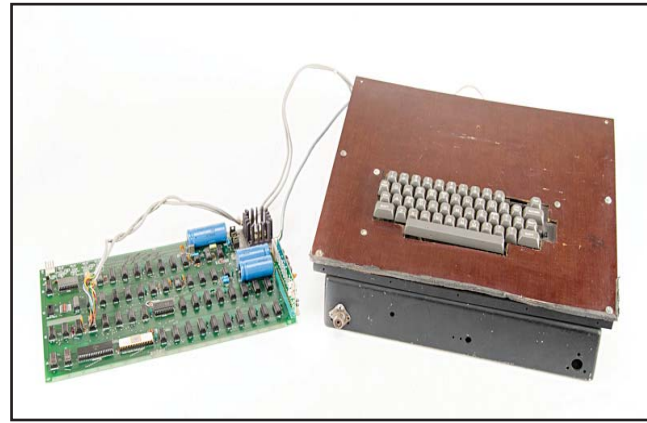
It was acquired used by the person who sold it in 1980 at a computer hobbyist show in Framingham, Massachusetts, and was used throughout the

1980s. It was brought to an operational state earlier this year by Apple expert Corey Cohen, the auction house said.

It was purchased by a collector who wishes to remain anonymous, RR Auction said.

An original handwritten advertisement for the Apple-1 Computer written by Jobs sold for almost \$176,000 at the same auction, RR said.

Apple company check No. 2 signed by Jobs and Wozniak and dated March 19, 1976, sold for more than \$135,000. (AP)



This photo provided by RR Auction shows a vintage Apple computer built in the 1970s and signed by company co-founder Steve Wozniak. (AP)

The Conversation

Products generated by AI tools are novel and useful

AI scores in the top percentile of creative thinking

By Erik Guzik

University of Montana

Operates with minimal land usage

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

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Of all the forms of human intellect that one might expect artificial intelligence to emulate, few people would likely place creativity at the top of their list. Creativity is wonderfully mysterious - and frustratingly fleeting. It defines us as human beings - and seemingly defies the cold logic that lies behind the silicon curtain of machines.

Yet, the use of AI for creative endeavors is now growing.

New AI tools like DALL-E and Midjourney are increasingly part of creative production, and some have started to win awards for their creative output. The growing impact is both social and economic - as just one example, the potential of AI to generate new, creative content is a defining flashpoint behind the Hollywood writers strike.

Generating

And if our recent study into the striking originality of AI is any indication, the emergence of AI-based creativity - along with examples of both its promise and peril - is likely just beginning.

When people are at their most creative, they're responding to a need, goal or problem by generating something new - a product or solution that didn't previously exist.

In this sense, creativity is an act of combining existing resources - ideas, materials, knowledge - in a novel way that's useful or gratifying. Quite often, the result of creative thinking is also surprising, leading to something that the creator did not - and perhaps could not - foresee.

CyrusOne introduces Intelliscale, future of AI workload data centers

DALLAS, Aug 26: CyrusOne, a global data center developer and operator known for its unmatched speed in delivering cost-effective, cutting-edge digital infrastructure solutions, has announced its most recent innovative product: Intelliscale™. This state-of-the-art, artificial intelligence (AI) workload-specific data center solution has been developed specifically to address the rapidly growing needs of AI applications and services.

AI workloads are demanding increased performance and density, requiring a unique solution that accommodates increased scale and bespoke design. As a cornerstone of its design practice, CyrusOne developed Intelliscale as an enhancement to its build-to-suit solutions, partnering with several leading-edge technology companies. The Intelliscale data center is built upon an ultra-high-density found-

ation, optimizing space utilization and presenting the ideal solution for companies aiming to effectively scale their AI infrastructure. Intelliscale data centers can occupy just 25% of the space of typical data centers, depending on the application and needs.

"The exponential increase in AI workloads will inevitably further impact the unprecedented demand that our industry is facing," said John Hatem, Chief Operating Officer at CyrusOne. "In this environment, planning for long-term AI growth is imperative and ensuring cloud service providers have the infrastructure to support it is central to making this a reality. Deploying Intelliscale today will allow organizations to secure their AI future. With this global solution, our objective is to establish an AI environment for our high-density customers that is efficient and flexible, empower-

ing customers to enter the market more swiftly and cost-effectively."

CyrusOne has designed Intelliscale to operate with minimal land usage offering a variety of redundancy configurations tailored to individual needs. The company's leading modular manufacturing approach to data center development enables customers to utilize liquid-to-chip cooling technology, rear door heat exchanger cooling systems, and immersion cooling to achieve efficient cooling up to 300kW per rack, delivering unparalleled performance even under the most demanding AI workloads.

Intelliscale offers the ability to create a super high-density environment in a smaller building to maximize efficiencies across the board, and in some instances, existing facilities can be retrofitted to address dense AI deployments. In addition to space, there are additional converged infrastructure

savings depending on their application. Intelliscale also offers sustainability benefits, including using less concrete and steel.

Innovation

Eric Schwartz, Chief Executive Officer at CyrusOne, highlighted the company's unwavering commitment to innovation: "We are constantly challenged to deliver next generation solutions for what our customers desire, and Intelliscale is just one example of how we are responding. We're thrilled to be offering the data center industry's first-of-its-kind AI solution, a game changer for the industry."

CyrusOne is a leading global data center developer and operator specializing in delivering state-of-the-art digital infrastructure solutions across the globe. With more than 50 high-performance mission-critical facilities

worldwide, the Company ensures the continued operation of digital infrastructure for nearly 800 customers, including approximately 200 Fortune 1000 companies.

CyrusOne's leading global platform of hybrid-cloud and multi-cloud deployments offers customers colocation, hyperscale, and build-to-suit environments, which help enhance the strategic connections of their essential data infrastructures and support the achievement of sustainability goals. CyrusOne data centers offer world-class flexibility, enabling clients to modernize, simplify, and rapidly respond to changing demands.

Combining exceptional financial strength, a broad global footprint, and continued investment in key digital gateway markets, CyrusOne provides the world's largest companies with long-term stability and strategic advantage at scale.

It might involve an invention, an unexpected punline to a joke or a groundbreaking theory in physics. It might be a unique arrangement of notes, tempo, sounds and lyrics that results in a new song. So, as a researcher of creative thinking, I immediately noticed something interesting about the content generated by the latest versions of AI, including GPT-4.

When prompted with tasks requiring creative thinking, the novelty and usefulness of GPT-4's output reminded me of the creative types of ideas submitted by students and colleagues I had worked with as a teacher and entrepreneur.

The ideas were different and surprising, yet relevant and useful. And, when required, quite imaginative.

Consider the following prompt offered to GPT-4: "Suppose all children became giants for one day out of the week. What would happen?" The ideas generated by GPT-4 touched on culture, economics, psychology, politics, interpersonal communication, transportation, recreation and much more - many surprising and unique in terms of the novel connections generated.

Novelty

This combination of novelty and utility is difficult to pull off, as most scientists, artists, writers, musicians, poets, chefs, founders, engineers and academics can attest.

Yet AI seemed to be doing it - and doing it well.

With researchers in creativity and

entrepreneurship Christian Byrge and Christian Gilde, I decided to put AI's creative abilities to the test by having it take the Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking, or TTCT.

The TTCT prompts the test-taker to engage in the kinds of creativity required for real-life tasks: asking questions, how to be more resourceful or efficient, guessing cause and effect or improving a product. It might ask a test-taker to suggest ways to improve a children's toy or imagine the consequences of a hypothetical situation, as the above example demonstrates.

The tests are not designed to measure historical creativity, which is what some researchers use to describe the transformative brilliance of figures

like Mozart and Einstein. Rather, it assesses the general creative abilities of individuals, often referred to as psychological or personal creativity.

In addition to running the TTCT through GPT-4 eight times, we also administered the test to 24 of our undergraduate students.

All of the results were evaluated by trained reviewers at Scholastic Testing Service, a private testing company that provides scoring for the TTCT. They didn't know in advance that some of the tests they'd be scoring had been completed by AI.

Since Scholastic Testing Service is a private company, it does not share its prompts with the public. This ensured that GPT-4 would not have been able to scrape the internet for past prompts

and their responses. In addition, the company has a database of thousands of tests completed by college students and adults, providing a large, additional control group with which to compare AI scores.

Our results?

GPT-4 scored in the top 1% of test-takers for the originality of its ideas. From our research, we believe this marks one of the first examples of AI meeting or exceeding the human ability for original thinking.

In short, we believe that AI models like GPT-4 are capable of producing ideas that people see as unexpected, novel and unique. Other researchers are arriving at similar conclusions in their research of AI and creativity. (AP)

'Automation for anyone, anywhere'

Universal Robots empower over 200K to use collaborative robots

NOVI, Mich., Aug 26: Since 2016, Universal Robots, the world's leading collaborative robot (cobot) company, has offered robotics training to customers and others with an interest in collaborative robots.

And now, after having grown increasingly popular in the past years and with 119 onsite training centers across the globe, more than 200,000 robotics enthusiasts have joined the Universal Robots Academy.

"It is amazing to see that so many robotics enthusiasts from all over the world have joined us to enhance their robotic skills and benefit from the training we offer," says Mikkel Vahl, Global Head of Academy and Education. "We're a company on a mission - automation for anyone, anywhere. A key part of this is providing our customers and robotics enthusiasts with high quality training that gives them the skills they need to unleash the full potential of their cobots."

With customers ranging from big global companies to small, family-owned businesses, Universal Robots helps automate anything from bin picking to heavy-load palletizing and ship welding. This variety is reflected in the Universal Robots Academy which offers a range of courses from free virtual e-learning to in-depth and in-person classroom training.

"No matter the task or the size of your company, you can find relevant training that can help you become even more successful with your automation. And we can see it works - customers who do take training with us are ultimately more successful and confident," says Mikkel Vahl.

Connection

The explanation for this connection is simple, he adds. "Compared to other industrial robots, cobots are simpler to program and operate. But no matter if you are an application engineer, a robotics expert or new to robotics you will benefit from taking instructor-led training."

One customer, who went through the Academy training, is Jon Gelston, owner of Colorado-based injection molding company Aim Processing. Gelston had very little direct experience with robot programming and used the resources he found through the free online portion of the UR Academy. "There were self-training modules in both video and read-along formats that were very helpful for us to learn from in terms of applications and improvements in procedures that would benefit a variety of our applications," he says.



The popular Universal Robots Academy now has more than 200,000 users learning how to use collaborative robots. Curriculum is offered both in free online, interactive modules, in classroom settings, and at authorized training centers.

Protect intellectual property

Huawei & Ericsson sign global 'patent' licensing agreement

SHENZHEN, China, Aug 26: Huawei and Ericsson have signed a long-term global patent cross-licensing agreement that covers patents essential to a wide range of standards such as 3GPP, ITU, IEEE, and IETF standards for 3G, 4G, and 5G cellular technologies. The agreement covers the companies' respective sales of network infrastructure and consumer devices, granting both parties global access to each other's patented, standardized technologies.

"We are delighted to reach a long-term global cross-licensing agreement with Ericsson," said Alan Fan, Head of Huawei's Intellectual Property Department. "As major contributors of standard essential patents (SEPs) for mobile communication, the companies recognize the value of each other's intellectual property, and this agreement creates a stronger patent environment. It demonstrates the commitment both parties have forged that intellectual

property should be properly respected and protected."

Over the past 20 years, Huawei has been a major contributor to mainstream ICT standards, including those for cellular, Wi-Fi, and multimedia codecs. In 2022, Huawei topped the European Patent Office's applicant ranking for number of patent applications filed, with 4,505 applications. "Our commitment to sharing leading technological innovations will drive healthy, sustainable industry development and provide consumers with more robust products and services," added Fan.

Huawei is both a holder and implementer of SEPs and seeks to take a balanced approach to licensing. Through the signing of this agreement, it is both giving and receiving access to key technologies. Fan said, "This agreement is the result of intensive discussions that ensured the interests of both patent holders and implementers are served fairly."

from more than 130 different countries and have all taken some of the free online courses or participated in either virtual or in-class robotics training led by highly-skilled specialists from either Universal Robots or an Authorized Training Partner.

DSA aims to protect Europeans' rights

Europe's sweeping rules for tech giants have kicked in

Users can opt out of AI ranking

Online life to change in EU after Big Tech crackdown

LONDON, Aug 26, (AP): Starting Friday, Europeans will see their online life change.

People in the 27-nation European Union can alter some of what shows up when they search, scroll and share on the biggest social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram and Facebook and other tech giants like Google and Amazon. That's because Big Tech companies, most headquartered in the US, are now subject to a pioneering new set of EU digital regulations. The Digital Services Act aims to protect European users when it comes to privacy, transparency and removal of harmful or illegal content.

Here are some things that will change when you sign on:

Automated recommendation systems decide, based on people's profiles, what they see in their feeds. Those can be switched off.

Meta, owner of Facebook and Instagram, said users can opt out of its artificial intelligence ranking and recommendation systems that determine which Instagram Reels, Facebook Stories and search results to show. Instead, people can choose to view content only from people they follow, starting with the newest posts.

Search results will be based only on the words they type, not personalized based on a user's previous activity and interests, Meta President of Global Af-

fairs Nick Clegg said in a blog post.

On TikTok, instead of being shown videos based on what users previously viewed, the "For You" feed will serve up popular videos from their area and around the world.

Turning off recommender systems also means the video-sharing platform's "Following" and "Friends" feeds will show posts from accounts users follow in chronological order.

Experience

Those on Snapchat "can opt out of a personalized content experience."

Algorithmic recommendation systems based on user profiles have been blamed for creating so-called filter bubbles and pushing social media users to increasingly extreme posts. The European Commission wants users to have at least one other option for content recommendations that's not based on profiling.

Users should find it easier to report a post, video or comment that breaks the law or violates a platform's rules so that it can be reviewed and taken down if required.

TikTok has started giving users an "additional reporting option" for content, including advertising, that they believe is illegal. To pinpoint the problem, people can choose from categories such as hate speech and harassment, suicide and self-harm, misinformation or frauds and scams.

The DSA "will have a significant impact on the experiences Europeans have when they open their phones or fire up their laptops," Nick Clegg, Meta's president for global affairs, said in a blog post.

Facebook and Instagram's existing tools to report content will be easier to access. Amazon opened a new channel for reporting suspect goods.

TikTok gave users an extra option for flagging videos, such as for hate speech and harassment, or frauds and scams, which will be reviewed by an additional team of experts, according to the app from Chinese parent company ByteDance.

Google is offering more "visibility" into content moderation decisions and different ways for users to contact the company. It didn't offer specifics. Under the DSA, Google and other platforms have to provide more information behind why posts are taken down.

Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat also are giving people the option to turn off automated systems that recommend videos and posts based on their profiles. Such systems have been blamed for leading social media users to increasingly extreme posts.

The DSA also prohibits targeting vulnerable categories of people, including children, with ads.

The Conversation

Screen time contributes to chronic sleep deprivation in teens

By Maida Lynn Chen
University of Washington

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

With the start of a new school year comes the inevitable battle to get kids back into a healthy bedtime routine. In many cases, this likely means resetting boundaries on screen use, especially late in the evenings. But imposing and enforcing those rules can be easier said than done.

A growing body of research is finding strong links between sleep, mental health and screen time in teens and tweens - the term for pre-adolescent children around the ages of 10 to 12. Amid an unprecedented mental health crisis in which some 42% of adolescents in the US are suffering from mental health issues, teens are also getting too little sleep.

And it is a vicious cycle: Both a lack of sleep and the heightened activity involved in the consumption of social media and video games before bedtime can exacerbate or even trigger anxiety and depression that warrant intervention.

I am the lead physician of the sleep center at Seattle Children's Hospital, where I study various pediatric sleep disorders. Our team of physicians and providers routinely observe firsthand the negative effects of excessive screen time, and particularly social media, both of which affect not only sleep, but also the physical and mental health of our patients.

Insomnia

Research has long shown a clear relationship between mental health and sleep: Poor sleep can lead to poor mental health and vice versa. People with depression and anxiety commonly have

insomnia, a condition in which people have trouble falling or staying asleep, or both, or getting refreshing sleep. That ongoing sleep deprivation further worsens the very depression and anxiety that caused the insomnia in the first place.

What's more, insomnia and poor-quality sleep may also blunt the benefits of therapy and medication. At its worst, chronic sleep deprivation increases the risk of suicide. One study found that just one hour less sleep during the week was associated with "significantly greater odds of feeling hopeless, seriously considering suicide, suicide attempts and substance use."

And what do young people do when lying in bed awake, frustrated and unable to sleep? You guessed it - far too often, they get on their smart devices.

Studies across the world in over 120,000 youth ages 6 to 18 who engage in any sort of social media have repeatedly shown worsened quality and decreased quantity of sleep. This is happening across the globe, not just in the US.

Although social media has some benefits, I believe research makes it clear that there are significantly more downsides to social media consumption than upsides.

For one, scrolling social media requires being awake, and hence, displaces sleep.

Second, the light emitted from most hand-held devices, even with a night filter, a blue light filter or both, is enough to decrease levels of melatonin, the primary hormone that signals the onset of sleep.

When melatonin release is inhibited by staring at a lit device near bedtime, falling asleep becomes more challenging. For some people, melatonin supplements can help with inducing sleep. However, supplements cannot over-

come the highly stimulating powers of internet content and light.

Third, and perhaps most problematic, is the content that young people are consuming. Taking in fast-paced imagery like that found on TikTok or video games before bedtime is disruptive because the brain and body are highly stimulated by these exposures, and require time to settle back into a state that is conducive to sleep.

But it's not just the speed of the imagery flitting by. Media content can disrupt both non-REM and REM sleep. Have you ever fallen asleep watching a disturbing thriller or a horror movie and had scenes from that movie enter your dreams? And it's not just dreams that are affected - the brain also may not sustain deep non-REM sleep since it is still processing those fast-paced images. These intrusions in your sleep can be very disruptive to overall quality and quantity of sleep.

Worst of all, social media can contribute to FOMO - short for the fear of missing out. This can occur when a teen becomes enmeshed with an influencer or role model through posts, reels and stories, all of which are cultivated to reflect unrealistic perfection, not reality.

Worse

In addition, research has found a clear link between social media consumption and poor body image in kids and teens, as well as overall worse mental health and worsened sleep problems.

These issues are troubling enough that in May 2023, the surgeon general issued a statement warning of the dangers of social media and encouraging caregivers, teachers and policymakers to work together to create a safer online environment.

Making sleep a high priority is a cornerstone of overall health and mental health, and it is also key to staying alert and attentive during the school day.

Multiple professional medical and scientific organizations have recommended that teens sleep eight to 10 hours per night. But only 1 in 5 high schoolers come close to that.

Some of this is due to school start times that don't align with the natural rhythms of most teens, so they don't fall asleep early enough on weekdays.

Teens who don't get enough sleep may suffer from weak academic performance, a lack of organizational skills and mediocre decision-making. Teens don't have fully formed frontal lobes, the part of the brain that controls impulse and judgment. Sleep deprivation further impairs those behaviors. This, in turn, may lead to poor decisions regarding drug and alcohol use, driving under the influence, sexual promiscuity, fighting or the use of weapons, and more. And these behaviors can start in middle school, if not earlier.

In addition, sleep deprivation is directly linked with high blood pressure, heart attacks and the development of diabetes in adulthood. Lack of adequate sleep is also linked with childhood and adolescent obesity. Undesired weight gain occurs with sleep deprivation through a series of complex mechanisms, including shifts in metabolism, a more sedentary lifestyle and poor dietary choices.

So what can be done to pry teens and tweens away from their screens? Keeping goals realistic is key, and sometimes it is helpful to start by focusing on just one goal.

Parents need to prioritize sleep for the entire household and model good screen time habits. Caregivers too often send mixed messages around screen time use, given their own bad habits. (AP)

Poor sleep can lead to poor mental health

BostonGene, NEC and JIP form joint venture in Japan

Fresenius, Lupagen to bring cell and gene 'therapies' to bedside

GEHC introduces wireless handheld ultrasound device

GE's Vscan enables clinicians to make quick cardiac assessments

LAKE ZURICH, Ill., Aug 26: Fresenius Kabi and Lupagen Inc have announced the companies have entered into a development and supply agreement for technologies designed to bring the delivery of cell and gene therapies to the bedside.

Cell and gene therapies have shown great promise for a wide array of conditions including cancers and hematologic, autoimmune, and rare diseases. However, long manufacturing times, complex logistics and high costs have limited patient access.

Under the terms of the agreement, Fresenius Kabi will provide their expertise in apheresis collection and automated cell processing equipment to advance Lupagen's Extracorporeal Cell and Gene Therapy Delivery System, which focuses on simplifying and reducing costs for cell and gene therapy through a bedside procedure. The agreement covers both technology development and supply agreements.

"Cell and gene therapies have helped treat or cure some of society's most complex and challenging diseases but more needs to be done to bring the delivery of these technologies closer to patients. We believe this agreement is a great step in the goal of more affordable and scalable therapies for patients by enabling treatment at the bedside," said Bryan Blickhan, senior vice president, R&D and Device Production, Transfusion Medicine and Cell Therapies at Fresenius Kabi.

"Lupagen's mission is to make cell and gene therapy as common and widely accessible as standard blood transfusion or dialysis procedures. Therefore, we are excited about our collaboration with Fresenius Kabi, a global leader in blood and cell technologies, which accelerates deployment of our solution to patients who need these treatments the most," said Nipon Das, M.D., co-founder and CEO of Lupagen.

Fresenius Kabi (www.fresenius-kabi.com/us) is a global health care company that specializes in medicines and technologies for infusion, transfusion, and clinical nutrition. The company's products and services are used to help care for patients with critical and chronic conditions. The company's US headquarters is in Lake Zurich, Illinois. The company's global headquarters is in Bad Homburg, Germany. T

Lupagen Inc. (www.lupagen.com) is a privately held company developing first-in-class cell and gene therapy delivery technologies for autologous in-vivo or ex-vivo CAR-T, gene editing and immunotherapy products based on its proprietary extracorporeal delivery platform. Lupagen is headquartered in Dallas, TX with a development site in the Greater Chicago area.

Also:

TOKYO: BostonGene, a leading provider of AI-based molecular and immune profiling solutions, NEC Corporation (NEC; TSE: 6701), a leader in IT, network and AI technologies, and Japan Industrial Partners, a leading Tokyo-based private equity firm, today announced the formation of BostonGene Japan Inc., a Tokyo-based joint venture aimed at advancing per-

sonalized medicine and dramatically improving patient outcomes. The new company will utilize BostonGene's high-complexity molecular technology and advanced biocomputational algorithms, including BostonGene Tumor Portrait™ tests, to accelerate the development and validation of novel precision medicine approaches.

BostonGene's AI-powered cloud-based solutions, bioinformatics capabilities, analytical tools, and advanced next-generation molecular and immune profiling provide a comprehensive view of a cancer patient at a molecular level and identify actionable targets to make evidence-based treatment decisions. In addition, BostonGene uses its solution platform to provide a broad range of services for biopharma customers, including biomarker discovery, clinical trial testing, assay design and develop-



The Vscan Air SL is a handheld, wireless ultrasound imaging system designed for rapid cardiac and vascular assessments at the point of care.

and secure viewing of images. In addition, through Vscan Air + Digital Tools, clinicians have access to subscriptions that can connect them to a suite of easy-to-use solutions designed to improve workflow with secure collaboration, image, and device management features.

"Vscan Air SL enables clinicians to make quick cardiac assessments and adds to our broad portfolio of ultrasound technologies to help further inform clinical decision making at the point of care," said Dietmar Seifriedsberger, Global General Manager, Point of Care and Handheld Ultrasound at

GE HealthCare. "This newest innovation demonstrates our commitment to providing integrated solutions resulting in better standard of care delivery - and ultimately helping clinicians improve patient outcomes."

GE HealthCare pioneered the first color pocket-sized ultrasound, Vscan, in 2010 and has since continued to revolutionize the way clinicians treat patients. In 2021, GE HealthCare introduced one of the smallest and most lightweight handheld ultrasound devices with the Vscan Air CL. To date, there are more than 50,000 systems from the Vscan product suite in the pockets of clinicians, impacting the care of more than an estimated 100 million patients worldwide. Vscan Air CL and SL continue the company's commitment to innovation and transforming the clinical exam by making it easier to acquire high quality ultrasound images.

Vscan Air SL is currently commercially available in key countries throughout Europe and Asia as well as Australia and New Zealand. In the United States, Vscan Air SL is 510(k) cleared by the US Food and Drug Administration and will become commercially available this quarter.

GE HealthCare's Vscan Air offers two flexible, wireless, dual-probe handheld ultrasound options: the new Vscan Air SL, which includes a sector-phased array transducer for rapid cardiac assessments, and the Vscan Air CL, which includes a curved array transducer for abdominal imaging, obstetric assessments, and more. Uniquely, both models also include a linear array transducer bringing shallow and deep scanning together on a single dual probe device suitable for a wide range of assessments.

ment, and companion diagnostics. Data show that one in four deaths in Japan is caused by cancer, with recent numbers indicating that mortality is steadily rising (*). By equipping cancer care centers with BostonGene solutions, a greater number of patients will be able to benefit from genomic testing and personalized treatments. Furthermore, by utilizing BostonGene industry solutions, Japanese researchers and biopharma companies will benefit from biomarker-driven therapy development.

"We look forward to bringing BostonGene solutions to the Japanese market. Our deep molecular and immune profiling and biocomputational power drastically improve patient outcomes and therapy development. Already widely adopted in the United States, we firmly believe that our solutions will significantly improve the standard of cancer

care in Japan by enabling personalized treatments and improving therapy development," said Andrew Feinberg, President and CEO, BostonGene.

"NEC is actively promoting the growth of its healthcare and life science business, centered on its hospital DX business, which has a strong customer base. By collaborating with NEC's healthcare solutions, which utilize powerful AI/digital technologies, we expect BostonGene's solutions to transform cancer care in Japan and aid Japanese pharmaceutical companies in developing the most effective therapies," said Takayuki Morita, President and CEO, NEC Corporation. "JIP is delighted to be able to support NEC's efforts to create a healthcare and life science business by utilizing the technology of BostonGene," said Hidemi Moue, CEO, Japan Industrial Partners.

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Prominent Lebanese journalist Salman dies at age 85

BEIRUT, Aug. 26, (AP)—Journalist Talal Salman, who founded one of Lebanon's largest Arabic-language independent newspapers, died Friday after a long illness, the state-run National News Agency said. He was 85.

An Arab nationalist whose role model was late Egyptian President Gamal Abdul-Nasser, Salman devoted much of his writing to the Palestinian cause and calls for Arab unity.

Salman worked for several publications before founding the daily As-Safir in March 1974. The newspaper, which quickly became one of the country's largest, identified itself as "Lebanon's newspaper in the Arab World and the Arab World's newspaper in Lebanon" and published under the slogan "Voice of the Voiceless."

Prominent journalists and writers from Lebanon and the region wrote for As-Safir and Salman was editor-in-chief until the paper closed down on Dec. 31, 2016, because of financial difficulties. After the newspaper ceased publication, Salman continued to write on a website that carried his name.

An early contributor to As-Safir was the late Palestinian cartoonist Najji al-Ali, who created a character known as Handala that became a symbol of Palestinian identity. Readers also anticipated the editorials in which Salman analyzed the latest developments in Lebanon, the Middle East and the world.

In 1984, at the height of Lebanon's 15-year civil war, Salman survived an assassination attempt in front of his Beirut apartment. There were earlier attempts to blow up his house and As-Safir's printing offices.

Born in 1938 in the northeastern town of Shmustar in Lebanon's fertile Bekaa Valley, Salman later moved to Beirut and lived there much of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Afaf al-Asaad, daughters Hanadi and Rabia, and sons Ahmad and Ali. Salman also had several grandchildren.

Five high school students from Florida to Utah have been selected as this year's National Student Poets, a program founded more than a decade ago. Each winner represents a different region in the country, and brings their own distinctive background and perspective.

The student poets, each of whom receive \$5,000, will help oversee workshops, readings and other activities. Previous poets have appeared at the White House and Lincoln Center among other venues.

Kallan McKinney is a queer and trans poet from Norman, Oklahoma, who uses writing to explore identity and communication. **Gabriella Miranda**, a rising high school senior in Salt Lake City, credits her passion for words to her visits to the library and the bedtime stories her family read to her. The high school student representing the Midwest, Shangri-La Houn of St. Louis, has a strong affinity for the natural world.

Brooklyn resident **Miles Hardingwood** has read poetry throughout New York City and hopes his work will help create social change. **Jacqueline Flores**, currently attending Fort Meade Middle Senior High School in Zolfo Springs, Florida, believes poetry can help make more

visible the lives of her fellow Mexican Americans.

The National Student Poets Program is a partnership of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the nonprofit Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, presenter of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, from which the winning poets were selected.

"The smart, engaging, imaginative poetry of these five young poets will be an inspiration to their peers and their elders as it has been to the judges and the IMLS. We are proud to present them to our country," **Crosby Kemper**, director of the museum and library institute, said in a statement.

Also:

NEW YORK: Child star and activist **Mia Armstrong** has a picture book coming out next year about her experiences with Down syndrome, what her publisher calls "all the joys and challenges."

Random House Children's Books recently announced that Armstrong's "I Am a Masterpiece!" will be released next January. Illustrated by **Alexandra Thompson** and co-written by Armstrong and author **Marissa Moss**, the book is Armstrong's way of helping kids see the world as she sees it.

Armstrong has spoken often about Down syndrome, and has called it her "superpower."

"I wrote this story because I want to inspire other people to love their own stories and be proud of who they are," the 12-year-old Armstrong said in a statement.

Books

Variety



SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher poses for a portrait, Wednesday, Aug. 23, at the SAG-AFTRA offices in Los Angeles. (AP)

Film

'Dune: Part 2' release postponed to 2024

'Actors strike is an inflection point'

NEW YORK: A lawyer for the family of a Marine killed in Afghanistan said Thursday that a new version of a lawsuit accusing actor **Alec Baldwin** of unleashing his social media followers against them will soon be filed after a federal judge dismissed the original lawsuit but invited the family to rewrite it and submit it again.

Attorney **Dennis Postiglione**, representing the sisters and widow of Lance Cpl **Rylee McCollum**, said he'll meet a Sept. 12 deadline set by the judge to renew allegations that Baldwin subjected family members to online threats and harassment after he posted and commented on a photo shared online by one of McCollum's sisters, **Roico McCollum**, who had been in Washington during the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection.

Earlier this week, Judge **Edgardo Ramos** in Manhattan dismissed the family's defamation lawsuit, which sought \$25 million in damages, but he invited a refiling of the lawsuit to correct deficiencies and renew claims of defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

In tossing out the original lawsuit, Ramos made various conclusions in Baldwin's favor, including that his comments were protected by the First Amendment, that actual malice was not sufficiently alleged and that private messages, comments and social media posts did not support defamation claims.

Postiglione said in an email that a rewritten lawsuit will be filed by the deadline that will address issues the judge raised.

He added: "Without getting into specifics, we disagree with the analysis by the Court but believe an amended Complaint will address the issues presented."

Luke Nikas, Baldwin's lawyer, responded Friday to a request for comment with a statement, saying the dismissal of the lawsuit by Ramos was "a victory for the First Amendment."

He added: "We have successfully had this lawsuit dismissed twice, and Plaintiffs have already amended their complaint three times. We fully expect the Court will uphold Alec Baldwin's First Amendment rights and dismiss this lawsuit yet again."

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 26, (AP)—Fran Drescher believes that the walkouts that have shut down Hollywood are about something much bigger than the actors union she leads, or the writers striking alongside them, or the entertainment industry.

Drescher told The Associated Press the moment is about the entire world of work, and a larger stand against corporate leaders who value shareholders over the people who create their product.

"At some point you have to say no more," Drescher, the former "Nanny" star who is now president of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, said in an interview at the union's headquarters Wednesday. "I think that it's taken on a bigger scope, it's greater than the sum of its parts. I think it's a conversation now about the culture of big business, and how it treats everybody up and down the ladder in the name of profit."

Drescher, 65, has been president of the actors guild since September of 2021, when she defeated "Stranger Things" actor Matthew Modine in a union election.

But for many members and observers, the day she truly became president was July 13, when Drescher gave a rousing, fiery and for some inspiring speech at the news conference announcing that talks had broken off and a strike was about to begin.

She lashed out at the leaders of the studios and streaming services, saying "Shame on them. They stand on the wrong side of history."

Drescher told the AP that she had no intention of getting on a soap box that day. She was supposed to read a written statement, then take questions.

"I looked at it quickly and I said, 'You know what, I can't say this, I really feel like I have to speak from the heart,'" she said. "That just kind of came out of my mouth, and I'm glad that I was able to express myself as succinctly and sincerely and authentically as I did. And I think that it's fascinating when you speak from the heart, people are so responsive. Because I guess they see a lot of people that don't."

Drescher is the first president of the guild to preside over a film and TV actors strike since 1980. At the time, only one woman had led the union. Now, seven have,

including three of the past five.

The Screen Actors Guild has had plenty of famous presidents, from James Cagney to Ronald Reagan to Charlton Heston.

But few in recent decades have had as recognizable a name, face, voice or laugh as Drescher. She made her film debut with a tiny part in the 1977 John Travolta disco classic "Saturday Night Fever," and after many similar small but memorable roles, nearly always as brash New Yorkers, she starred for six seasons on the sitcom "The Nanny" from 1993 to 1999.

On the show, which she co-created, Drescher played Fran Fine, a character who becomes a children's caretaker for an upper-crust Manhattan family. The similarities between her character and herself went beyond her name: born and raised in Queens, New York, frank to a fault, and punctuating sentences with a nasal giggle.

Business

She said the business has changed vastly since then. "I'm very grateful that I got my big break during that time and not this time," Drescher said. "When I started on 'The Nanny' at CBS, that was still a family owned business. You knew who the owners were and you could talk to them. And everything has changed."

In a very different caretaking role today, she has a very different view.

"Now, when you have a business model where the CEOs are more connected to the shareholders and not to the people that actually make the product that they're selling," she said. "I think that you have a breakdown that is unsustainable."

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, the group representing the employers, recently restarted talks with the Writers Guild of America, whose members have been on strike for nearly four months. The negotiations have yielded little. Drescher says the AMPTP has yet to reach out to SAG-AFTRA leadership about resuming talks.

"I'm not really understanding what the silent treatment is," Drescher said. "It could be a tactical strategy to see if we they can wait us out until we lose our resolve and then they can make a better deal for themselves."

Drescher said nothing like that is going to happen.

"This is an inflection point," she said. "I don't think anybody that's in charge of the AMPTP quite understands that. 'This is not like any past negotiation. We're in a whole new ball game. And if things don't change radically, quite frankly, I think that they're going to ultimately get very hurt by this strike.'"

Also:

NEW YORK: The release of "Dune: Part Two," one of the fall's most anticipated films, has been postponed from November until next year, Warner Bros. confirmed Thursday.

Denis Villeneuve's science-fiction sequel had been set to open Nov. 3, but will instead land in theaters March 15 next year. With the actors strike entering its second month, "Dune: Part Two" had been rumored to be eyeing a move. Variety earlier this month reported Warner Bros.' was mulling the delay.

Warner Bros. is opting to wait until its starry cast can promote the follow-up to the 2021 Oscar-winning "Dune." "Part Two" stars **Timothée Chalamet**, **Zendaya**, **Rebecca Ferguson**, **Dave Bautista**, **Javier Bardem**, **Stellan Skarsgård**, **Austin Butler**, **Florence Pugh** and **Léa Seydoux**.

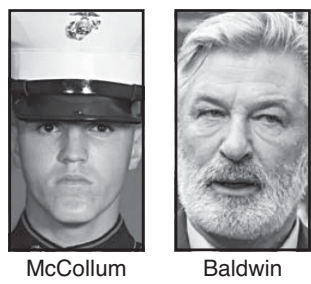
"Dune: Part II" is one of the biggest 2023 films yet postponed due to the ongoing strikes by actors and screenwriters. Recent releases have mostly opted to go ahead, despite lacking their stars on red carpets or on magazine covers. SAG-AFTRA has asked its members not to promote studio films during the work stoppage.

Luca Guadagnino's "Challengers," an MGM Studios release starring Zendaya, earlier withdrew from its Venice Film Festival opening night slot and postponed its debut to next April. Sony also pushed its next "Ghostbusters" film from December to next year, and removed the early 2024 release "Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse" from its schedule.

As part of the "Dune" delay, Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures are shifting "Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire" one month, to April 12. Warner Bros.' "Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim" will vacate that April date and move to December 2024. (AP)

Baldwin had donated \$5,000 to the family after learning of the death of Rylee McCollum in a bombing at the airport in Kabul in August 2021, just weeks before his daughter was born. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Israel's far-right national security minister lashed out at supermodel **Bella**



Hadid on Friday for criticizing his recent fiery televised remarks about Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

In an interview earlier this week with Channel 12 following two deadly Palestinian attacks on Israelis in the occupied territory, National Security Minister **Itamar Ben-Gvir** argued that his

right to freedom of movement as a settler outweighs the same right for Palestinians.

Addressing **Mohammad Magadi**, a well-known Israeli-Arab television host who was in the studio, Ben-Gvir added: "Sorry, Mohammad. But that's the reality."

Hadid, a supermodel and social media influencer whose

father is Palestinian, shared an excerpt from Ben-Gvir's interview with her 59.5 million followers on Instagram on Thursday, writing: "In no place, no time, especially in 2023 should one life be more valuable than another's. Especially simply because of their ethnicity, culture or pure hatred." (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

People & Places

Museum

Director resigns

UK museum recovers some of stolen items

LONDON, Aug 26, (AP) — The head of trustees at the British Museum said Saturday that the museum has recovered some of the 2,000 items believed to have been stolen by an insider, but admitted that the 264-year-old institution does not have records of everything in its vast collection.

Chairman of trustees George Osborne acknowledged that the museum's reputation has been damaged by its mishandling of the thefts, which has sparked the resignation of its director and raised questions about security and leadership.

Osborne told the BBC Saturday that 2,000 stolen items was a "very provisional figure" and staff were working to identify everything missing. The items include gold jewelry, gemstones and antiquities as much as 3,500 years old. None had been on public display recently.

He said the museum was working with the antiquarian community and art recovery experts to get the items back.

"We believe we've been the victim of thefts over a long period of time and, frankly, more could have been done to prevent them," he said. "But I promise you this: it is a mess that we are going to clear up."

Museum director, **Hartwig Fischer**, announced his resignation on Friday, apologizing for failing to take seriously enough a warning from an art historian that artifacts from its collection were being sold on eBay. Deputy director, Jonathan Williams, also said he would step aside while a review of the incident is conducted.

In early 2021, British-Danish art historian and dealer Ittai Gradel contacted the Museum bosses with his suspicions, but they assured him nothing was amiss. However, at the start of this year, the museum called in London's Metropolitan Police force.

The museum fired a staff member more than a week ago and said legal action would be taken against that person. London's Metropolitan Police are investigating and the museum has ordered an independent review of security as well as a "vigorous program to recover the missing items."

Collection

Gradel told The Associated Press Friday he became suspicious after buying one of three objects a seller had listed on eBay. Gradel traced the two items he didn't buy to the museum. The object he bought wasn't listed in the museum's catalog, but he discovered it had belonged to a man who turned over his entire collection to the museum in 1814.

The historian said he found the identity of the seller through PayPal. He turned out to be the museum staff member who has since been fired.

Gradelsaid Williams had assured him that a thorough investigation found no improprieties. "He basically told me to sod off and mind my own business."

Fischer said in his resignation statement that "it is evident that the British Museum did not respond as comprehensively as it should have in response to the warnings in 2021." He also apologized to Gradel.

The thefts, and the museum's bungled response, have plunged the institution into crisis. The 18th-century museum in central London's Bloomsbury district is one of Britain's biggest tourist attractions, visited by 6 million people a year. They come to see a collection that ranges from Egyptian mummies and ancient Greek statues to Viking hoards, scrolls bearing 12th-century Chinese poetry and masks created by the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

The thefts have been seized on by those who want the museum to return items taken from around the world during the period of the British Empire, including friezes that once adorned the Parthenon in Athens and the Benin bronzes from west Africa.

"We want to tell the British Museum that they cannot anymore say that Greek (cultural) heritage is more protected in the British Museum," Despina Koutsoumba, head of the Association of Greek Archaeologists, told the BBC this week.

Osborne, a former UK Treasury chief, said the museum has launched an independent review led by a lawyer and a senior police officer. He said it also had built a state-of-the-art off-site storage facility so the collection would no longer be housed in an "18th-century basement."

Review

"I don't myself believe there was a sort of deliberate cover-up, although the review may find that to be the case," he said.

"But was there some potential groupthink in the museum at the time, at the very top of the museum, that just couldn't believe that an insider was stealing things, couldn't believe that one of the members of staff were doing this? Yes, that's very possible."

On Wednesday, Fischer had issued a statement saying that the museum had taken the allegations seriously in 2021. But he said concerns had only been raised about a small number of items and said it was frustrating to learn that Gradel, whom he did not name, had "many more items in his possession."

Gradel said it was an "outright lie" he withheld information from the museum and said it appeared that Fischer never read the documents he sent. He said he offered any assistance they needed and they never contacted him.

"I also misjudged the remarks I made earlier this week about Dr. Gradel," Fischer said Friday. "I wish to express my sincere regret and withdraw those remarks."

Fischer, a German art historian, said he would leave as soon as a temporary leader could be appointed.

George Osborne, chair of the museum trustees, said the board accepted Fischer's resignation and that he acted "honorably in confronting the mistakes that have been made."

"I am clear about this: we are going to fix what has gone wrong," Osborne said. "The museum has a mission that lasts across generations. We will learn, restore confidence and deserve to be admired once again."

The museum had said it would take legal action against the dismissed staff member.



Fischer



Maise Peters performs during the Glastonbury Festival in Worthy Farm, Somerset, England, on June 23, 2023. Peters, who released her sophomore album 'The Good Witch' in June, is currently on tour in the US and Canada. (AP)

Music

British pop singer looking forward to play Sacramento

Touring US, Peters comes of age

NEW YORK, Aug 26, (AP) — With British pop singer Maise Peters' tour across North America underway, there's one city she's particularly looking forward to playing: Sacramento, California.

Why? The Greta Gerwig effect. "That's like a 'Lady Bird,' Greta Gerwig pilgrimage," Peters told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "So I'm excited for that."

Peters' tour in the US and Canada follows the June release of her sophomore album "The Good Witch." Interviewed are five dates opening for Ed Sheeran, who signed Peters to his Gingerbread Man Records in 2021, and whom she has already opened for in Europe and Australia. But New York's Radio City Music Hall presented a new achievement - her biggest headlining show so far.

"It was very surreal, it was like a real moment," Peters, 23, said in a Zoom call ahead of her show in Montreal. "Not many artists get to do something like that."

Moment

That moment was one Tina Hizon, Peters' keyboardist and friend of more than five years, had been anticipating.

"I felt quite emotional when we were on stage," Hizon told the AP. "Like, oh, we've come a long way."

These are hardly the biggest crowds Peters and her band have seen - they played Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage in June and Chicago's Lollapalooza, their first US festival, earlier this month. Two shows at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, with Sheeran in March, brought in a record 215,000 fans.

But this tour is their own. And it is a celebration of "The Good Witch," an album Peters says she feels "at peace with," because it accomplished her goal: reflecting who she is now. The album is about growing up ("Coming of Age"), moving on ("Run"), taking control ("You're Just a Boy (And I'm Kinda the Man)"), letting go ("There It Goes") and being, well, unhinged ("BSC"). It debuted at No. 1 on the UK charts.

It is also music that easily soundtracks what people online have fondly labeled the "summer of girlhood" - a celebration of all things nostalgic and angsty, pink and sequined, emotional and overly analytical - in the wake of events like Taylor Swift's Eras Tour and the release of Gerwig's "Barbie." Peters embraces that categorization.

"It's the classic teenage girl in their 20s, fun. And I'm such a teenage girl in my 20s," she said of her shows, using the tongue-in-cheek phrase that's been the subject of thousands of tweets and TikToks, often referencing fan-doms, avoidant adulating and nostalgia. In the best way possible, she says, the shows feel "like a birthday party when you're in middle school."

The album, and that energy, "feels

Burmese singer jailed for 20 yrs for criticizing Myanmar leaders

BANGKOK, Aug 26, (AP) — A 38-year-old Burmese hip-hop artist has been found guilty of criticizing Myanmar's military-controlled government and sentenced to 20 years in prison, a family member said Thursday.

The sentence given Wednesday to Byu Har, also known as Min Oat Myanmar, appeared to be the most severe so far given to any of the celebrities detained for criticizing the military rulers who seized power from the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021.

Byu Har was arrested at his apartment in Yangon on May 24, hours after he strongly criticized Min Aung Hlaing, the head of the military government, and the electric power minister. In a livestream on his Facebook page, he alleged they had failed to supply enough electricity to Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city.

In the livestream he called Min Aung Hlaing "incompetent" and the electricity minister a "fool," saying electricity had been better supplied during Suu Kyi's government.

Five days after his arrest, state-run media announced he had been taken into custody for incitement and spreading propaganda that could destabilize the state.

In Myanmar, also known as Burma, prolonged power outages have

become a major burden.

Between March and early June, daily power cuts to save energy were doubled to eight hours a day in Yangon, though are now back to four hours daily.

A family member of Byu Har told The Associated Press on Thursday that she received information about the verdict against him from the country's notorious Insein Prison on Wednesday.

She said he had been charged with incitement for allegedly causing fear, spreading false news or agitating against a government employee, as well as under the state statute for treason, but that it was unclear what he had been convicted of.

She spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of being arrested herself.

Local media also reported the verdict.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, an advocacy group that monitors arrests in Myanmar, about 4,000 people have been killed and 24,410 people arrested since the army takeover.

Celebrities have been specifically targeted for supporting protest movements or showing sympathy for civilians killed by the military.

very right," she said. "It's very calming and nice to feel so secure and confident in what you made, and to get to share that with the world."

At Radio City earlier in August, fans wore beaded friendship bracelets and baby tees embroidered with Peters' most mused lyrical quips: "Little miss unstable," "I am unhinged" and the line she wore on her own shirt at Glastonbury, "Women's hearts are lethal weapons." Halfway through her set, Peters - ever the fangirl herself - wove a cover of One Direction's "Night Changes" into a medley of songs spanning her discography, in homage to her own growth, but also her fans'.

Experiences

Part of Peters' appeal is that earlier discussed quality - being a teenage girl in her 20s. Her lyrics are personal, but also aim to more broadly capture the experiences of existing as a young woman in 2023. She name-drops celebrities - real and fictional - with a specificity that feels like an already established inside joke with listeners. She alludes to her past works, strengthening her own mythology.

Kaitlyn Cunningham, 28, discov-

ered Peters' music on an Apple Music playlist in 2019. She has attended all four of her shows in New York City.

"I love that she's been able to pull from past lyrics and her personal life and create these songs that everybody can relate to - that's my favorite part of music," Cunningham said.

One of the album's pillars is "The History of Man," its closing track. The bridge begins: "He stole her youth and promised heaven, the men start wars yet Troy hates Helen. Women's hearts are lethal weapons, did you hold mine and feel threatened?"

"I sort of half jokingly always say, it's about the unending pain of being a woman," Peters said of the song. "It also feels very 'Little Women,' Jo March-coded and Greta Gerwig-coded, very 'Barbie'-coded, as I've had people say to me since the song came out."

Cunningham brought as many fake sunflowers as she could to Peters' Radio City show, in honor of two lyrics in "There It Goes." She handed them out to fans in the pit, and (after asking that the flowers not be thrown) instructed everyone to hold them up during the song.



Burmese hip-hop artist Byu Har poses for a photo in Yangon, Myanmar, in 2021. Byu Har, now 38 years old, has been found guilty of criticizing Myanmar's military-controlled government and sentenced to 20 years in prison, a family member said Thursday, Aug. 24. (AP)

Variety

FLORHAM PARK, NJ: Jerome Kapp went from undrafted rookie wide receiver to social media sensation after doing his best Eminem impression.

And the New York Jets wide receiver's performance on HBO's "Hard Knocks" even got the rap superstar's attention.

Eminem posted a "salute" emoji on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter, on Thursday night while quote-tweeting Kapp's performance of the rapper's freestyle from the 2002 film "8 Mile."

Kapp, a former standout at Division II Kutztown University in Pennsylvania, participated in the Jets' rookie talent show during training camp, which was included in the "Hard Knocks" episode that first aired Tuesday night.

The 24-year-old Kapp took the microphone - wearing a beanie and a hoodie like Eminem in the film - and performed for nearly two minutes in front of the entire Jets team with the background tracks playing.

And many teammates joined in rapping the expletive-filled lyrics word for word with Kapp, who received a standing ovation - including from quarterback Aaron Rodgers. (AP)

NEW YORK: Even without lead contender Donald Trump, an estimated 12.8 million people watched the first Republican presidential primary debate on two Fox News television channels and its streaming service.

There seemed little evidence that Trump's attempt to counter program the debate, by appearing in an online interview with Tucker Carlson at about the same time on Wednesday, appreciably affected the number of people who were interested in checking out the eight alternatives.

The viewership was a little more than half the 24 million people who watched Trump appear in his first presidential debate in August 2015, the Nielsen company said. But it outpaced a January 2016 GOP candidates debate on Fox that Trump also skipped and was seen by 12.5 million people.

Television is a vastly different world than it was eight years ago, with streaming more established and thousands of cable customers cutting the cord. The most-watched program seen live last week on either broadcast or cable TV was a "60 Minutes" rerun on CBS that reached 5.3 million viewers. (AP)

SAYREVILLE, NJ: A power outage that cut electricity to a New Jersey community was due to an unlikely culprit - a fish that was apparently dropped by a bird and landed on a transformer, officials said.

Sayreville police said Jersey Central Power and Light Company workers

working on the Aug. 12 outage that cut power to a large area of Lower Sayreville found a fish on the transformer in the New Jersey community southwest of New York's Staten Island.

"We are guessing a bird dropped it as it flew over," police said on their Facebook page. In a later post, they had a bit of fun, asking readers to remember the fish as "the victim in this senseless death," dubbing him "Gilligan" and calling him "a hard working family man"



Kapp



Eminem

and "a father to thousands." The suspect, they said, "was last seen flying south" - and readers were urged not to try to apprehend him because "although he isn't believed to be armed he may still be very dangerous."

Jersey Central Power and Light Company spokesperson Chris Hoening said animals - usually squirrels - are a common cause of power outages but "fish are not on the list of frequent offenders." (AP)

Health

Fires fuel asthma ER visits

US to 'develop' new coronavirus vaccine

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, California, Aug 26, (AP): President Joe Biden said Friday that he is planning to request more money from Congress to develop another new coronavirus vaccine, as scientists track new waves and hospitalizations rise, though not like before.

Officials are already expecting updated COVID-19 vaccines that contain one version of the omicron strain, called XBB.1.5. It's an important change from today's combination shots, which mix the original coronavirus strain with last year's most common omicron variants. But there will always be a need for updated vaccines as the virus continues to mutate.

People should be able to start rolling up their sleeves next month for what officials hope is an annual fall COVID-19 shot. Pfizer, Moderna and smaller manufacturer Novavax all are brewing doses of the XBB update but the Food and Drug Administration will have to sign off on each, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must then issue recommendations for their use.

"I signed off this morning on a proposal we have to present to the Congress a request for additional funding for a new vaccine that is necessary, that works," Biden, who is vacationing in the Lake Tahoe area, told reporters on Friday.

He added that it's "tentatively" recommended "that everybody get it," once the shots are ready.

The White House's \$40 billion funding request to Congress on Aug. 11 did not mention COVID-19. It included funding requests for Ukraine, to replenish US federal disaster funds at home after a deadly climate season of heat and storms, and funds to bolster the enforcement at the Southern border with Mexico, including money to curb the flow of deadly fentanyl. Last fall, the administration asked for \$9.25 billion in funding to combat the virus, but Congress refused the request.

For the week ending July 29, COVID-19 hospital admissions were at 9,056. That's an increase of about 12% from the previous week. But it's a far cry from past peaks, like the 44,000 weekly hospital admissions in early January, the nearly 45,000 in late July 2022, or the 150,000 admissions during the omicron surge of January 2022.

Approved

Meanwhile, a "rock star" doctor who tested tens of thousands of people for COVID-19 in the pandemic's early months in a badly-stricken California desert community has pleaded guilty to misbranding cosmetic drugs, authorities said Thursday.

Dr. Tien Tan Vo acknowledged in a plea agreement that none of the injectable botulinum toxin, or lip fillers, used by his Imperial Valley clinics from November 2016 to October 2020 were approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, federal prosecutors said.

Vo, who endeared himself to patients for his boundless energy to contain the virus' spread, admitted purchasing most of the cosmetic drugs from the operator of a "med spa" in Mexicali, Mexico, who smuggled them into the United States without declaring them.

Vo said he received \$100,767 for services performed with unapproved drugs and devices.

As part of his plea agreement, the 47-year-old doctor agreed to return the payments and pay a fine of \$201,534. He also agreed to pay restitution to victims.

No one answered the phone at Vo's offices Thursday night. Motorists lined up for hours at Vo's clinics in 2020 to get tested for COVID-19 in California's often-forgotten Imperial County. At one point, the farming region along the Mexican border had the state's highest infection rate and its two hospitals were overwhelmed. The county is largely Latino and low income.

Alex Cardenas, a former mayor of El Centro, called Vo "a rock star" at the time. The doctor's two clinics did more than 27,000 tests during the pandemic's first five months, with a positive rate between 25% and 30%.

Vo, who emigrated from Vietnam as a teenager, often delivered meals and checked on patients at home during the pandemic.

"They really need a doctor here," he said in 2020. "They're not very hard to please. They chat with me. They text me every day."

Vo is scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 16 for receipt of misbranded drugs and being an accessory to an accomplice who smuggled the unapproved drugs from Mexico. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison.

"All members of our community should be able to trust that their doctor is acting in their best interest," said Andrew Haden, acting US attorney for the Southern District of California. "Through this prosecution, we are protecting patients from unapproved and potentially unsafe drugs and will always seek to thwart those who would exploit patients for financial gain."

Also:

NEW YORK: The smoke from Canadian wildfires that drifted into the U.S. led to a spike in people with asthma visiting emergency rooms - particularly in the New York area.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published two studies Thursday about the health impacts of the smoke, which shrouded city skylines with an orange haze in late spring. A medical journal also released a study this week.

When air quality worsens, "an asthmatic feels it before anyone else," said Dr. Adrian Pristas, a pulmonologist based in Hazlet, New Jersey, who remembered a flood of calls from patients in June during the days of the heaviest smoke.

People with asthma often wheeze, are breathless, have chest tightness and have either nighttime or early-morning coughing.

"I have no doubt that every asthmatic had an uptick in symptoms," Pristas said. "Some were able to manage it on their own, but some had to call for help."

Each of the studies looked at different geographic areas - one was national, one was specific to New York state and the last focused on New York City.

Nationally, asthma-associated ER visits were 17% higher than normal during 19 days of wildfire smoke that occurred between late April and early August, according to one study that drew data from about 4,000 U.S. hospitals.

Hospital traffic rose more dramatically in some parts of the country during wildfire smoke: 46% higher in New York and New Jersey.

A second study released by CDC focused on New York state only, not New York City, because the state and city have separate hospital data bases, one of the authors said.

It found asthma-associated ER visits jumped 82% statewide on the worst air quality day, June 7. The study also said that the central part of New York state saw the highest increases in ER visits - more than twice as high.

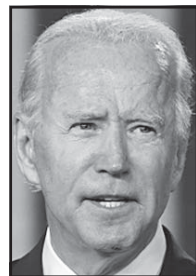
The third study, published by the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Medicine, focused solely on New York City. It found more than a 50% increase in asthma-associated ER visits on June 7, said the study's lead author, George Thurston of New York University.

None of the studies looked at other measures of health, such as increases in heart attacks or deaths.

Wildfire smoke has tiny particles, called PM2.5, that can embed deep in the lungs and cause severe problems for asthmatics. But problematic as the wildfire smoke was, an analysis showed it had lower amounts of some toxic elements found in urban air pollution, Thurston said.

The third study also attempted to compare the surge in ER visits during the wildfire smoke with what happens at the height of a bad pollen season - and the wildfires led to about 10% more ER visits.

"That's reassuring. It may not have been as bad as it looked," Thurston said



Biden



Russian cosmonaut Konstantin Borisov, Danish astronaut Andreas Mogensen, NASA astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli and Japanese astronaut Satoshi Furukawa, (from left), prepare to leave the Operations and Checkout Building early Saturday, Aug. 26, before heading to the launch pad to board the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on a mission to the International Space Station, in Cape Canaveral, Fla. (AP)

Space

Mission to study lunar mineral composition, atmosphere

India's rover keeps walking on moon

NEW DELHI, Aug 26, (AP): India's lunar rover continued its walk on the moon Friday after the historic touchdown of India's spacecraft near the moon's south pole earlier this week, the country's space agency said. The rover's data collection and experiments could help determine if there is oxygen and hydrogen on the moon.

The Chandrayan-3 Rover is expected to conduct experiments over 14 days, including an analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface, the Indian Space Research Organization has said.

"The rover has successfully traversed a distance of about 8 meters (26.2 feet)," ISRO said Friday. "All payloads on the propulsion module, lander module, and rover are performing nominally."

The rover will also study the atmosphere of the moon and seismic activities, ISRO Chairman S. Somnath said.

Experiments

"These experiments would pave the way for new scientific research about the availability of oxygen and hydrogen on the surface of the moon and can give us a direct or indirect answer as to whether there was life on the moon," the Press Trust of India news agency cited India's Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh as saying.

Pallava Bagla, a science writer and co-author of books on India's space exploration, said the rover crawls, or moves at low speed, for safety reasons to minimize shocks and damage to the vehicle on a rough surface and negotiating obstacles. It also has limited battery power.

On Thursday, Somnath said the lander had touched down close to the center of the 4.5-kilometer-wide (2.8-mile-wide) area that had been targeted for the landing. "It landed within 300 meters (985 feet) of that point."

After a failed attempt to land on the moon in 2019, India on Wednesday joined the United States, the Soviet Union and China as only the fourth country to achieve this milestone.

The successful mission showcases India's rising standing as a technology and space powerhouse and dovetails with the image that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to project: an ascendant country asserting its place among the global elite.

The mission began more than a month ago at an estimated cost of \$75 million. Somnath said that India would next attempt a manned lunar mission.

Many countries and private companies are interested in the moon's South Pole region because its permanently shadowed craters may hold frozen water that could help future astronaut missions, as a potential source of drinking water or to make rocket fuel.

New crew for ISS launches with 4 astronauts from four countries

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Aug 26, (AP): Four astronauts from four countries rocketed toward the International Space Station on Saturday.

They should reach the orbiting lab in their SpaceX capsule Sunday, replacing four astronauts living up there since March.

A NASA astronaut was joined on the predawn liftoff from Kennedy Space Center by fliers from Denmark, Japan and Russia. They clasped one another's gloved hands upon reaching orbit.

It was the first US launch where every spacecraft seat was occupied by a different country - until now, NASA had always included two or three of its own on its SpaceX taxi flights. A fluke in timing led to the assignments, officials said.

"We're a united team with a common mission," NASA's Jasmin Moghbeli radioed from orbit.

Moghbeli, a Marine pilot serving as commander, said her crew's makeup demonstrates "what we can do when we work together in harmony." With her on the six-month mission are the European Space Agency's Andreas Mogensen, Japan's Satoshi Furukawa and Russia's Konstantin Borisov.

"To explore space, we need to do it together," the European Space Agency's director general, Josef Aschbacher, said minutes before liftoff. "Space is really global, and international cooperation is key."

The astronauts' paths to space couldn't be more different.

Moghbeli's parents fled Iran during the 1979 revolution. Born in Germany and raised on New York's Long Island, she joined the Marines and flew attack helicopters in Afghanistan. The first-time space traveler hopes to show Iranian girls

that they, too, can aim high. "Belief in yourself is something really powerful," she said before the flight.

Mogensen worked on oil rigs off the West African coast after getting an engineering degree. He told people puzzled by his job choice that "in the future we would need drillers in space" like Bruce Willis' character in the killer asteroid film "Armageddon." He's convinced the rig experience led to his selection as Denmark's first astronaut.

Furukawa spent a decade as a surgeon before making Japan's astronaut cut. Like Mogensen, he's visited the station before. Borisov, a space rookie, turned to engineering after studying business. He runs a freediving school in Moscow and judges the sport, in which divers shun oxygen tanks and hold their breath underwater.

One of the perks of an international crew, they noted, is the food. Among the delicacies soaring: Persian herbed stew, Danish chocolate and Japanese mackerel.

SpaceX's first-stage booster returned to Cape Canaveral several minutes after liftoff, an extra treat for the thousands of spectators gathered in the early-morning darkness. Liftoff had been delayed a day for additional data reviews of the capsule's life-support system.

Another NASA astronaut will launch to the station from Kazakhstan in mid-September under a barter agreement, along with two Russians.

SpaceX has now launched eight crews for NASA. Boeing was hired at the same time nearly a decade ago, but has yet to fly astronauts. Its crew capsule is grounded until 2024 by parachute and other issues.

planning its first mission to the International Space Station next year, in collaboration with the United States.

A lunar rover slid down a ramp from the lander of India's spacecraft within hours of its historic touch-down near the moon's south pole, Indian space officials said Thursday, as the country celebrated its new scientific accomplishment.

"India took a walk on the moon," the state-run Indian Space Research Organization said, adding that the Chandrayan-3 Rover would conduct experiments over 14 days, including an analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with the Crew Dragon spacecraft with astronauts on a mission to the International Space Station lifts off from pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Saturday, Aug. 26. (AP)

Discovery

Recreational fishing closes: The 2023 recreational fishing season for greater amberjack is drawing to a close in the Gulf of Mexico as catch limits for the fishery have been met, federal regulators said Thursday.

During the closure - which starts at 12:01 am Friday and lasts until next August - recreational harvest or possession of greater amberjack is prohibited in state and federal waters.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's news release said the closure is necessary to protect the greater amberjack population, which is considered overfished in the Gulf. Catch limits are set by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

Greater amberjack are big silver fish named for the long amber line along each side from nose to first dorsal fin. They can grow up to 6 feet (1.8 meters) long and weigh 200 pounds (90 kilograms), although up to 40 pounds (18 kilograms) is most common, according to NOAA Fisheries. (AP)

Tijuana faces water crisis: Luis Ramirez leapt onto the roof of his bright blue water truck to fill the plastic tank that by day's end would empty into an assortment of buckets, barrels and cisterns in 100 homes.

It was barely 11 am and Ramirez had many more stops to make on the hilly, grey fringes of Tijuana, a sprawling, industrial border city in northwestern Mexico where trucks or "pipas" like Ramirez's provide the only drinking water for many people.

"Each time, it gets farther and farther where we have to go," he said, blaming the city's water problems on drought and population growth, before jumping into the driver's seat next to 16-year-old assistant Daniel Alvarez.

Among the last cities downstream to receive water from the shrinking Colorado River, Tijuana is staring down a water crisis driven also by aging, inefficient infrastructure and successive governments that have done little to prepare the city for diminishing water in the region. President of Mexico is Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Entire neighborhoods on Tijuana's hilly and sometimes grassy far reaches remain unconnected to the city's water mains and pipes. Accessing water there is a daily struggle - and an expensive one, as trucked-in water usually costs much more than what people connected to the city pay.

Taxi driver Aurelio Hernandez lives in one of roughly 150 houses in a remote development near vast industrial parks that make aviation parts in the city's south. Dirt roads so steep they seem vertical lead

to the village.

"It is the biggest problem we have," said Hernandez, who has lived in Rancho el Chicote for 20 years, about the lack of running water. Hernandez, his wife and two daughters use about 1,585 gallons (6,000 liters) of trucked-in water per month, he said, which costs about 2,000 pesos or \$116. The average US family uses more than five times as much water each month, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, yet



Regan



Obrador

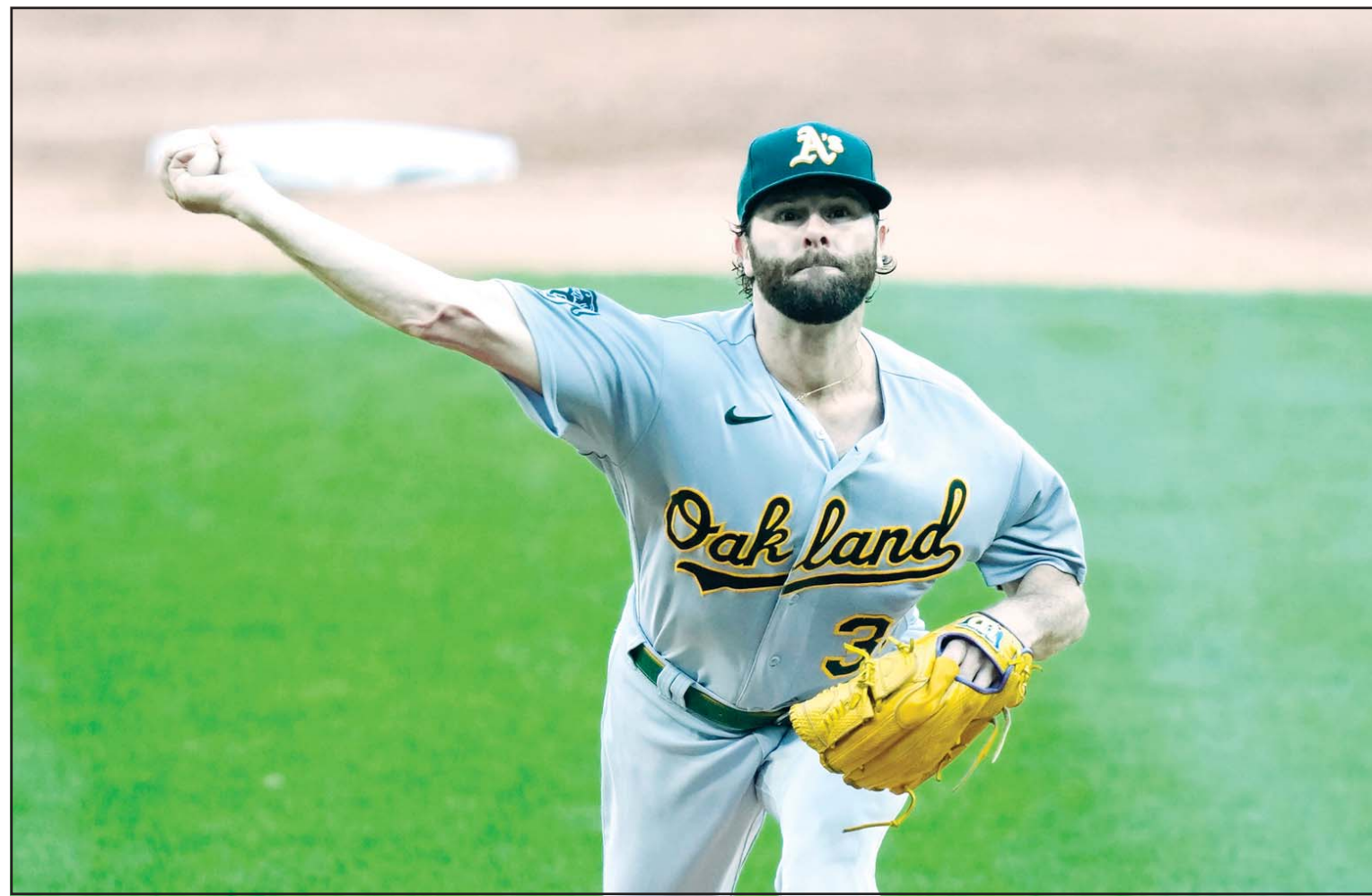
pays less, despite Mexico's much lower wages. EPA's administrator is Michael S. Regan.

"Every year it's the same. Politicians come and promise you things, but nothing ever changes," Hernandez said.

Even in middle class neighborhoods, like homemaker Martha Muñoz's in Tijuana's fast-growing south, neighbors have to share updates on WhatsApp about possible shutoffs and coordinate requests to city officials when it's cut. (AP)

SPORTS

Strider becomes 1st 15th-game 'winner' as Atlanta routs Giants



Oakland Athletics starting pitcher Zach Neal delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox in Chicago. (AP)

Nationals edge sliding Marlins

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 26, (AP): Spencer Strider became the major leagues' first 15-game winner, pitching three-hit ball over seven innings in leading the Atlanta Braves over the slumping San Francisco Giants 5-1 on Friday night.

Michael Harris II had three hits and drove in three runs, helping the major league-best Braves (83-44) to their eighth win in 10 games.

San Francisco has lost 13 of 18 and is one game behind the Chicago Cubs for the NL's final wild card berth.

Seven days after beating San Francisco with one-hit ball over seven innings, Strider (15-4) was dominant again while out-dueling Logan Webb (9-10) in a match-up of NL Cy Young Award contenders. Strider struck out nine to increase his big league-high total to 236. He extended a shutout streak to 20 innings before Joc Pederson tripled in the seventh and scored on J.D. Davis' groundout.

Strider also made a strong defensive play after jamming Paul DeJong with a pitch his weakly toward first. Strider raced over and picked up the ball in front of first baseman Matt Olson then beat DeJong to the bag for the out.

Joe Jiménez and Raisel Iglesias retired three batters each to complete the six-hitter.

Nationals 7, Marlins 4

In Miami, Joan Adon pitched six scoreless innings of two-hit ball as Washington built a six-run lead and beat sliding Miami.

Carter Kieboom homered, Michael Chavis had two hits and Joey Meneses drove in three runs for the Nationals, who have won 10 of 13.

Adon (2-0) kept Miami hitless until Jazz Chisholm Jr.'s two-out single in the sixth. Chisholm's grounder, which got under shortstop CJ Abrams, originally was ruled an error but the scoring decision reversed after Luis Arraez lined a single to center.

Miami has lost five of six and is 12-25 since the All-Star break.

Joey Meneses had an RBI groundout in the first after Abrams' leadoff single, and Kieboom's second homer this season, a two-run drive off Braxton Garrett (7-5) built a 3-0 lead in the sixth. Washington doubled its lead in the seventh.

Miami snapped a 21-inning scoreless skid in the seventh on Jesús Sánchez's two-run triple and Nick Fortes' RBI double against Mason Thompson, who faced five batters without retiring any.

Pirates 2, Cubs 1

In Pittsburgh, Mitch Keller pitched eight scoreless innings and Pittsburgh scored twice in the first inning before holding on to beat Chicago.

Keller (11-8) allowed four hits and one walk while striking out six in a 94-pitch outing. The All-Star won back-to-back starts for the first time since May 26 and 31.

The Cubs lost for the second time in seven games. They entered play Friday holding the second National League wild card and trailing first-place Milwaukee by three games in the NL Central.

Ian Happ hit a leadoff home run in the ninth inning off closer David Bednar to avoid the shutout and pull the Cubs within one. Bednar retired the next three batters for his 28th save in 31 chances.

The Pirates scored their runs within the first four batters of the game against Kyle Hendricks (5-7), who gave up six hits with four strikeouts and one walk in 5 2/3 innings.

Angels 3, Mets 1

In New York, Shohei Ohtani doubled to key a two-run third inning, leading the Angels to a win in the first game after Los Angeles announced the two-way superstar had torn an elbow ligament.

Ohtani, hurt while pitching Wednesday against Cincinnati, finished 1 for 2 with three walks.

New York (59-70) dropped below Washington into last place in the NL East - the latest the Mets have been in

sole possession of the cellar this late in a season since 2005.

Patrick Sandoval (7-10) allowed one run over six innings of two-hit ball. He threw 107 pitches, his most since a career-high 115 on July 30, 2021. Carlos Estévez earned his 27th save with a one-hit ninth.

Francisco Lindor homered in the third to extend his hitting streak to 11 games - the longest for the Mets this season. Kodai Senga (10-7) gave up two runs and struck out 10 in 6 2/3 innings.

Yankees 6, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, DJ LeMahieu homered twice for the first time in two years, Gerrit Cole won on the road for the first time in two months and sliding New York got just their second win in 12 games.

LeMahieu put the last-place Yankees ahead with a fifth-inning homer off Zach Eflin (13-8) and homered in the eighth against Trevor Kelley. It was the seventh multihomer game for LeMahieu and first since May 5, 2021.

Cole (11-4) had been 0-2 in six road starts since beating the Los Angeles Dodgers on June 3. He matched his season high of 11 strikeouts, allowing two runs - one earned - and three hits in 7 2/3 innings. His AL-leading ERA dropped from 3.03 to 2.95.

Braves 5, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Spencer Strider became the major leagues' first 15-game

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winner, pitching three-hit ball over seven innings to lead Atlanta.

Michael Harris II had three hits and drove in three runs, helping the major league-best Braves (83-44) to their eighth win in 10 games.

San Francisco has lost 13 of 18 and is one game behind the Chicago Cubs for the NL's final wild card berth.

Seven days after beating San Francisco with one-hit ball over seven innings, Strider (15-4) was dominant again while out-dueling Logan Webb (9-10) in a match-up of NL Cy Young Award contenders. Strider struck out nine to increase his big league-high total to 236. He extended a shutout streak to 20 innings before Joc Pederson tripled in the seventh and scored on J.D. Davis' groundout.

Diamondbacks 10, Reds 8

In Phoenix, Tommy Pham lost a homer due to a bizarre fan interference after stretching his hitting streak to 15 games, and surging Arizona held off Cincinnati

Pham followed Jace Peterson's two-run triple with a two-run double off Hunter Greene (2-6), giving the Diamondbacks a 5-1 lead in the fourth inning.

With Arizona leading 8-4 in the seventh, Pham sent a towering shot to the wall in left. Reds outfielder Spencer Steer timed his leap perfectly and had the ball in his glove, seemingly robbing Pham of the homer. One problem: a kid stole the ball from Steer. Also wearing a glove, the kid reached into Steer's glove and pulled the ball out, leaving the left fielder slumped against the wall. The



Cleveland Guardians' Ramon Laureano hits an RBI double against the Toronto Blue Jays during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Toronto. (AP)

umpires initially ruled Pham's shot a homer but it was negated after review.

Will Benson hit a grand slam in the ninth, cutting Arizona's lead to 10-8 before Kevin Ginkel struck out the final two batters for his fourth save in five chances.

Mariners 7, Royals 5

In Seattle, Eugenio Suárez had three hits and three RBIs, including a go-ahead, two-run single in the fourth inning, and Seattle beat Kansas City to move into a tie for the AL West lead.

Seattle was 10 games out of first at 47-48 before play on July 20, but the Mariners have gone on a 25-8 run to tie Texas atop the division. At 128 games into the season, this is the latest the Mariners have had a share of first place since 2003.

Kansas City led 3-2 before Suárez's fourth-inning single. Seattle built a 6-3 lead in the fifth when Teoscar Hernández scored on Austin Cox's wild pitch, and Josh Rojas had an RBI single.

Kyle Isbel cut the gap to 6-5 with a two-run homer in the seventh against Matt Brash. Suárez hit a run-scoring double in the eighth against Taylor Hearn.

Guardians 5, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Ramón Laureano homered and had three RBIs, and Tanner Bibee pitched six innings to win for the third time in four starts as Cleveland beat Toronto.

Andrés Giménez and Bo Naylor hit solo home runs to help the Guardians rebound after losing two straight.

Bibee (10-3) allowed two runs and six hits, including two home runs. He walked one and struck out five. Enyel De Los Santos and Trevor Stephan each worked one inning. Emmanuel Clase finished for his 34th save in 43 chances.

George Springer and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. both hit solo home runs for the Blue Jays but Toronto lost its third straight. The slumping Blue Jays have scored five total runs over the past three games.

Dodgers 7, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Freddie Freeman had four hits, including a tie-breaking double, Mookie Betts doubled and scored two runs in his return to Fenway Park and Los Angeles beat Boston.

Betts, back on the field in Boston for the first time since he was traded by the Red Sox in 2020, was given a standing ovation prior to his first at-bat and went 1 for 4 against the franchise where he spent his first six major league seasons.

Dodgers starter Lance Lynn (10-9) allowed four runs and 10 hits over six-plus innings, yielding two home runs. Evan Phillips allowed a hit and struck out two in the ninth to get his 20th save.

The NL West-leading Dodgers have won five of six. Max Muncy added three RBIs, including a two-run double in the seventh inning that made it 6-3.

Tigers 4, Astros 1

In Detroit, Rookie Parker Meadows hit his first career homer with two out in the ninth inning, lifting Detroit to the win.

The Astros led 1-0 going into the ninth and Houston closer Ryan Pressly struck out the first two batters. Miguel Cabrera, Zach McKinstry and Javier Báez then

singled, and pinch-runner Carson Kelly scored from second on Báez's liner into center.

Meadows, playing his fourth career game, then homered to right field.

Alex Lange (6-3) worked the ninth for the win. It was the fifth blown save for Pressly (3-4) in 33 opportunities.

Orioles 5, Rockies 4

In Baltimore, Gunnar Henderson hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, and Baltimore rallied against Colorado's struggling bullpen.

Ryan Mountcastle and Austin Hays homered for the AL East-leading Orioles, who moved three games in front of Tampa Bay. Shintaro Fujimori (6-8) worked two innings for the win.

Baltimore's victory was marred by an apparent injury to closer Félix Bautista, who slipped awkwardly off the mound after delivering a pitch with two outs in the ninth. Danny Coulombe finished for his second save.

Ezequiel Tovar hit his 15th homer for the Rockies. Brent Suter (4-3) got the loss.

Brewers 7, Padres 3

In Milwaukee, Rowdy Tellez hit his first homer in more than three months and Milwaukee got its season high-tying sixth straight victory.

Brandon Woodruff (3-1) struck out 11 and allowed only one run in six innings as the NL Central-leading Brewers (71-57) moved a season-high 14 games above .500. The Brewers also won six consecutive games from April 1-7.

Tellez hit a three-run shot to center that capped the Brewers' five-run outburst against Yu Darvish (8-10) in the third inning. His 406-foot drive off a 1-1 curve was his first homer since May 22 and ended a career-high string of 128 straight at bats without going deep. He added an RBI single in the seventh inning for his first multi-hit game since June 13.

Phillies 7, Cardinals 2

In Philadelphia, Cristopher Sanchez shrugged off an early homer to pitch six strong innings. Alec Bohm and Kyle Schwarber homered and Philadelphia beat St. Louis.

Sanchez (2-3) and three relievers retired the final 21 Cardinals hitters. Nine of those outs came on strikeouts.

Garrett Stubbs added an RBI double for the Phillies, who remained atop the National League wild-card standings while gaining ground on second-place Chicago - increasing that margin to three games.

Paul Goldschmidt hit his 21st homer of the season in the first inning for St. Louis' only runs of the night. Third baseman Nolan Arenado left in the seventh inning with what the club described as lower-back tightness.

Athletics 12, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Nick Allen homered and drove in a career-high five runs. Zach Neal won his first start in seven years and Oakland beat Chicago.

The Athletics tagged Dylan Cease (5-7) for a career-high nine runs on the way to their fourth win in five games. Chicago lost for the 10th time in 13 games.

Allen hit RBI singles in a five-run second and in the fourth before chasing Cease with a two-run single in the fifth. Allen and Ryan Noda hit consecutive homers in the seventh, the sixth time this season Oakland went deep back to back.

Neal (1-0) gave up four runs - two earned - and five hits in five innings while making first start since Sept. 6, 2016, for Oakland against Baltimore.

Twins 12, Rangers 2

In Minneapolis, Minnesota Twins took advantage of erratic pitching early, drawing four walks and scoring four runs in the first inning en route to a big win.

The AL West-leading Rangers lost their season-high eighth straight game and dropped into a tie for the division lead with Seattle. Texas had held sole possession of the lead since before play on May 6.

Rangers starter Dane Dunning walked three of the first four batters he faced and eventually walked the bases loaded. Matt Wallner delivered a bases-loaded triple to put the AL Central-leading Twins up 3-0 in the first inning.

Young looks sharp in final tuneup

Purdy runs for a TD, Chargers backups roll past 49ers 23-12

SANTA CLARA, Calif., Aug 26, (AP): Brock Purdy ran for a 5-yard touchdown during a brief tune-up for the season opener for San Francisco before the Los Angeles Chargers backups beat the 49ers 23-12 in the exhibition finale on Friday night.

The teams took different approaches in the final preseason game with San Francisco (1-2) playing Purdy and several other starters for two drives, while the Chargers (2-1) used almost exclusively second and third-string players.

The game took place only a few hours after the Niners traded former quarterback of the future Trey Lance to Dallas for a fourth-round draft pick. Lance became expendable less than three years after San Francisco traded three first-round picks to draft him third overall because of the emergence of Purdy.

Purdy won the job after Lance got hurt last season and appears ready to build on a strong rookie campaign. He moved the offense easily on his two drives with the first ending when Jordan Mason lost a fumble at the goal line and the second ending with his TD run. Purdy went 5 for 9 for 73 yards.

Sam Darnold, who beat out Lance for the backup job, struggled to get the Niners offense moving in his first three drives but ended the night by throwing a 6-yard TD pass to Willie Snead.

Brandon Allen, who is now in line to be the third-stringer if San Francisco keeps three quarterbacks, threw an interception on his first pass of the game. The Chargers have been searching for options at running back behind

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starter Austin Ekeler and Joshua Kelley made a good case for it with a 75-yard run touchdown in the first quarter.

Backup quarterback Easton Stick also led a field-goal drive in the first half. Stick finished 9 for 11 for 38 yards.

Third-string QB Max Duggan threw a 3-yard pass to Hunter Kampmoyer.

Lions 26, Panthers 17

In Charlotte, Bryce Young completed 7 of 12 passes for 73 yards and a touchdown in his final tuneup before the regular season, and the Carolina Panthers lost 26-17 to the Detroit Lions.

The No. 1 pick in the NFL draft looked sharp leading scoring drives on his only two possessions, the second culminating in his first TD pass - a 16-yard strike to veteran wide receiver Adam Thielen for a 10-0 lead. The heady 22-year-old rookie from Alabama also showed outstanding pocket awareness, scrambling three times for 21 yards and two first downs.

Young led a 14-play, 52-yard drive to open the game, resulting in a 41-yard field goal by Eddy Pineiro. A pass interference penalty on the Lions extended Carolina's second drive. Young took advantage when he found Thielen, who beat third-string nickelback Will Harris near the left sideline for the score.

49ers trade QB Lance to Cowboys

SANTA CLARA, Calif., Aug 26, (AP): The San Francisco 49ers have traded quarterback Trey Lance to the Dallas Cowboys for a fourth-round pick less than three years after trading three first-round picks to draft him third overall.

Lance had lost the competition to Sam Darnold to be the backup to Brock Purdy in San Francisco earlier in the week, setting the stage for his departure on Friday just hours before the Niners played their exhibition finale against the Los Angeles Chargers.

"When we told him that he was going to be the three, if he could find another opportunity that was good, we'd allow him to do that, and he did," coach Kyle Shanahan said. "We feel he'll be better for it, and I think we will, too."

The move is a remarkable backtrack following the hefty investment the Niners made in hopes of Lance becoming a franchise quarterback. San Francisco traded three first-round picks and a third-rounder to Miami in 2021 to move up from No. 12 and draft the untested Lance third overall.

But the 49ers are now cutting ties with a 23-year-old quarterback who was given only four starts in the NFL.

"We take full accountability," general manager John Lynch said. "We own that. And. But I think his story is very much unwritten. I have got a lot of belief in the kid. I think with his talent, his work ethic, he's going to forge a nice career in this thing."

Lance started only 17 games at FCS-level North Dakota State before the Niners drafted him, and he never got much of a chance to gain the experience he needed in the NFL.

He spent his rookie season backing



Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Max Duggan, top, is tackled by San Francisco 49ers linebacker Dee Winters during the second half of a preseason NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif. (AP)

Thielen finished with four catches for 48 yards after shaking off an early back injury. The Lions rested starting quarterback Jared Goff.

Teddy Bridgewater played the entire first half and led four scoring drives for Detroit (2-1). He finished 13 of 22 for 178 yards, including a 70-yard catch-and-run touchdown pass to rookie Antoine Green in the closing seconds of the first half.

Green, the team's seventh-round pick from North Carolina, finished with three catches for 97 yards.

Craig Reynolds ran for 41 yards and a 5-yard touchdown as the Lions built a 20-10 halftime lead. Rookie cornerback Steven Gilmore returned a Jake Luton interception for a touchdown with 3:01 left to seal the win.

Andy Dalton made his preseason debut for the Panthers (0-3) after being sidelined with a back injury. He finished 6 of 11 for 60 yards and an interception in the end zone.

Titans 23, Patriots 7

In Nashville, Mike Vrabel wants to see his Tennessee Titans start faster, especially now that the preseason is over.

The Titans coach does like how one of his young quarterbacks shook off a rough start.

Malik Willis passed for 211 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Titans to a 23-7 victory over the New England Patriots in the teams' preseason finale.

"Love the way that he competed," Vrabel said of Willis shaking off a pair of interceptions. "Loved it. And, you know, got to eliminate the mistakes."

Tennessee QB Ryan Tannehill started and handed off three times in his lone action this preseason before putting on a ballcap for the rest of the night.

Bailey Zappe started at quarterback as New England (1-2) rested many of its starters. The Patriots managed just 79 yards total offense.

"Obviously, we got a chance to look at a lot of guys here tonight," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said.

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out every way to do that."

Purdy, taken with the last draft pick in 2022, came on late in the season and won his first seven starts to take over the starting role headed into this season.

"It sort of goes to show you when you're in the NFL, positions and how everything looks and depth chart, it all can change overnight," Purdy said. "It is wild, sort of a, 'Welcome to the NFL' thing."

San Francisco signed Darnold in free agency after he flamed out with the Jets and Carolina after also being drafted third overall in 2018 by New York. Darnold ended up doing enough in practices and the first two preseason games to beat out Lance. With Purdy set to get almost all of the practice time once the season starts and Darnold tasked with running the scout team, the Niners didn't believe Lance could get the playing time he needed to improve.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 26, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Friday.															
NY Yankees	6	Tampa Bay	2	Seattle	7	Kansas City	5								
Detroit	4	Houston	1	Pittsburgh	2	Chicago Cubs	1								
Baltimore	5	Colorado	4	Philadelphia	7	St. Louis	2								
Cleveland	5	Toronto	4	Washington	7	Miami	4								
Oakland	12	Chicago W. Sox	4	Milwaukee	7	San Diego	3								
LA Dodgers	7	Boston	4	Atlanta	5	San Francisco	1								
LA Angels	3	NY Mets	1	Arizona	10	Cincinnati	8								
Minnesota	12	Texas	2												
American League															
East Division							National League								
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	80	48	.625	—	Atlanta	83	44	.654	—						
Tampa Bay	78	52	.600	3	Philadelphia	70	58	.547	13-1/2						
Toronto	70	59	.543	10-1/2	Miami	65	64	.504	19						
Boston	68	61	.527	12-1/2	Washington	60	69	.465	24						
New York	62	66	.484	18	Washington	59	70	.457	25						
Central Division							West Division								
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	67	62	.519	—	Milwaukee	71	57	.555	—						
Cleveland	61	68	.473	6	Chicago	67	61	.523	4						
Detroit	59	69	.461	7-1/2	Cincinnati	67	63	.515	5						
Chicago	50	79	.388	17	Pittsburgh	58	71	.450	13-1/2						

Norris is second fastest

Verstappen takes pole position at Dutch GP for 3rd straight year

ZANDVOORT, Netherlands, Aug 26, (AP) — Red Bull driver Max Verstappen produced a typically strong final lap on Saturday to take pole position at the Dutch Grand Prix for the third straight year.

The runaway Formula One leader beat McLaren driver Lando Norris' leading time in qualifying on his way to clocking a 28th career pole. The two-time defending F1 champion will aim for a ninth straight win of the season on Sunday — to equal former Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel's F1 record from 2013 — and 11th overall of a crushingly dominant season.

"After five wins in a row, Seb texted me (and said) 'Well done (for) what you're doing at the moment, keep it up and you're going to do it,'" Verstappen said. "Nine wins in a row is something very impressive, and I never thought I would be already on eight. If it's possible tomorrow, of course I go for it but it's not something I have in the back of my head."

Verstappen has won the Dutch GP from pole in the past two years, and this time he will start ahead of Norris and Mercedes driver George Russell

in third. Williams driver Alex Albon — Verstappen's former Red Bull teammate — continued his impressive form with fourth place.

Fernando Alonso will start fifth for Aston Martin ahead of Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. and Red Bull's Sergio Perez — who was more than one second behind his teammate Verstappen — and McLaren's Oscar Piastri in eighth.

On a track difficult for overtaking, Verstappen is well poised to extend his 125-point lead over second-place Perez in the overall standings.

The final part of qualifying, known as Q3, was delayed by two red flags after American driver Logan Sargeant crashed his Williams and Charles Leclerc lost control of his Ferrari after going too wide.

Leclerc starts from ninth with Sargeant 10th on the grid.

The rain had stopped in time for qualifying but the Zandvoort track by the seaside was still wet and even Verstappen found it tough.

"What the (expletive) is going on with the car? I have no grip," Verstappen said. "I'm spinning everything, everywhere."

But it didn't take him long to adapt as the 4.3-kilometer (2.7-mile) track started drying and he placed second in Q1, the first part of qualifying. Leclerc twice went wide on his final run in Q1 and only just squeezed into Q2.

Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton had a dismal run and starts 13th.

Sargeant, who is in his debut season and under pressure to keep his seat next year, reached Q3 with a strong last lap. But he went off into gravel moments into the last session, bringing out a red flag and causing a delay as barriers were repaired.

MOTOR RACING

"It's disappointing, obviously you never want to leave the team with a damaged car, and one that's pretty damaged as well," said Sargeant, who reached Q3 for the first time this season. "I touched the white line, which must have been wet, but there was no saving it. So I'm sorry to the team."

Soon after the restart, Leclerc went far too wide on Turn 9 and slid off into the

barriers, bringing out another red flag. It was a bad mistake from a driver with five F1 wins, 27 podiums and 20 poles.

"Sorry guys," said Leclerc, before pensively watching the end of qualifying while sat on a chair near the track.

AlphaTauri's Liam Lawson starts from last place on his F1 debut after replacing the injured Daniel Ricciardo.

Earlier Saturday, Verstappen topped the rainy third and final practice ahead of Russell and Perez.

Verstappen had done a lawnmower impersonation a few minutes into it, going wide on the high-banking Turn 3 and rolling over a stretch of grass as he narrowly missed the barriers.

"It's always easy to make a mistake when it's quite slippery," Verstappen said. "It's definitely more challenging than most places we go to."

A few moments later, a red flag came out after Haas driver Kevin Magnussen lost control and spun into the barriers on the same barrier.

A second red flag came out when Alfa Romeo's Zhou Guanyu slid backward, ran off track and into some gravel, and briefly a third near the end when Lawson lost control at the final corner



Dutch Formula One driver Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing steers his car during the qualifying session ahead of Sunday's Formula One Dutch Grand Prix auto race, at the Zandvoort racetrack, in Zandvoort, Netherlands. (AP)

and found himself stuck on track, facing the wrong way.

Lawson, a 21-year-old New Zealander, finished third in the F2 cham-

FIFA 'suspends' Luis for 90 days

GENEVA, Aug 26, (Agencies) — FIFA has decided to suspend Spanish football chief Luis Rubiales as a punishment for improper behavior toward Spanish Women's World Cup player Jenni Hermoso during the recent ceremony for crowning the Spanish women's soccer team as world's champion.

According to the official television, Rubiales will be suspended as of today and for at least 90 days, covering all activities related to the game at the national and international levels.

Rubiales made the indecent move toward Hermoso, 33, after the Spanish women team beat Britain 1-0 in the final match of the women cup, held in Australia and New Zealand, last Sunday, drawing widespread wrath in and outside Spain.

His suspension came after 81 Spanish women players including 23 who were in the team that won the cup declared that they would boycott the national team as long as Rubiales remains in the post.

Their firm stance was in retaliation for his declaration that he would not give in and quit the post over the incident.

FIFA declared on Thursday start of punitive measures against Rubiales noting that his unaccepted behavior breached the federation disciplinary codes.

Local media had originally reported that Rubiales would announce his resignation to Friday's general assembly of the federation. Instead, he defiantly dug in and accused Hermoso of having consented to a "mutual" kiss on the lips.



Rubiales

US shake off slow start, top NZ in opener

Greece dominate Jordan

MANILA, Philippines, Aug 26, (AP) — Paolo Banchemo scored 21 points off the bench, Anthony Edwards added 14 and the U.S. shook off a slow start to beat New Zealand 99-72 on Saturday in the Basketball World Cup opener for both teams.

Jaren Jackson Jr. and Austin Reaves each scored 12 for the Americans, who remained unbeaten in six games this summer — the first five of them exhibitions. This game was the first that counted for the Americans, who are trying to win the World Cup for the sixth time and erase the memory of finishing seventh in FIBA's biggest tournament four years ago in China.

BASKETBALL

It wasn't easy for the pre-tournament favorites: Their lead was only 12 with 2:01 to go in the third before Banchemo hit 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions to give the U.S. its biggest edge of the night to that point, and the Americans kept control from there.

Reuben Te Rangi led New Zealand with 15 points.

New Zealand's players performed a pregame haka — the traditional show of national pride expressed through dance and chanting by the entire 12-man roster — with the U.S. players standing at the other end and watching in silence.

The haka worked; New Zealand took a quick 14-4 lead.

Eventually, though, the U.S. started figuring things out. A 12-2 run tied the game, Tyrese Haliburton's 3-pointer with 6:58 left in the half put the Americans up for good, the lead was 45-36 by the half and they wouldn't trail again.

The U.S. could secure a spot in the second round as early as Monday, when it takes on Greece (1-0) in a rematch of an exhibition game in Abu Dhabi earlier this month. The Americans won that game 108-86, with both teams holding some things back knowing they'd play for higher stakes in Manila.

Greece coach Dimitrios Itoudis said he expected his team's opening game — a 21-point win over Jordan on Saturday — to be tough. He was asked postgame what he expected from the matchup with the U.S.

"Tougher one," Itoudis said. "Much tougher one."

Puerto Rico 101, South Sudan 96 OT

In Manila, South Sudan's Carlik Jones hit a 3-pointer late to send the game into overtime — a game that South Sudan led at halftime 52-42. Puerto Rico pulled away in overtime against the second-lowest ranked team in the tournament after Cape Verde.

Jones wound up with a game-high 38 points and was 44% from 3-point range. Wenyen Gabriel added 15 for the losers.

Stephen Thompson Jr. led Puerto Rico with 21 points, with balanced scoring throughout the lineup. Tremont Waters had 19, George Condit had 18 and Ismael Romero added 16. Puerto Rico shot 36% on 3-pointers.

Puerto Rico faces Serbia on Monday and South Sudan goes against China.

Georgia 85, Cape Verde 60

In Okinawa, Tornike Shengala had 16 points and seven rebounds to lead Georgia over Cape Verde, the lowest-ranked team in the tournament, according to FIBA's rankings.

Georgia led 48-22 at the half as never challenged. Goga Bitadze added 15 points and Duda Sanadze had 12 for the winners.

Kenneti Mendes led Cape Verde with 11 points and Keven Gomes had 10. Cape Verde shot only 12%



Brazil guard Raul Neto Togni (19) and Iran forward Jalal Agha Miri (30) go after a loose ball during the Basketball World Cup group G match between Iran and Brazil at the Indonesia Arena stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia. (AP)



U.S. forward Jaren Jackson Jr. (13) grabs a rebound under New Zealand forward Yannick Wetzell (7) during the first half of a Basketball World Cup Group C match in Manila. (AP)

on 3-pointers, and Georgia made 37%.

Cape Verde faces Venezuela on Monday and Georgia plays Slovenia.

Greece 92, Jordan 71

In Manila, Giannoulis Larentzakis led Greece with 19 and Ioannis Papapetrou and Thomas Walkup each added 13 for the winners.

Jordan's Rondae Hollis Jefferson led his team with 24 points and nine rebounds. Ahmad Dwairi added 14 with nine rebounds.

Jordan faces New Zealand on Monday and Greece plays the United States.

Brazil 100, Iran 59

In Jakarta, former NBA player Raul Neto's World Cup campaign is in doubt after being stretchered off with a leg injury to sour Brazil's opening victory. Neto collapsed to the court in the third quarter after slipping in transition.

Several of his teammates were in tears and the incident stopped play for several minutes.

Neto, who had eight points and five steals, recently signed with Turkish club Fenerbahce after eight seasons in the NBA.

Former NBA player Bruno Caboclo had 16 points for Brazil, which led 33-12 after the first quarter. Matin Aghajpour led Iran with 11 points.

Brazil plays defending champions Spain on Monday and Iran faces Ivory Coast. Brazil's Marcelo Huertas became the second oldest to play in the basketball World Cup in Brazil's victory over Iran. He scored

Another Dortmund disappointment at Bochum

BERLIN, Aug 26, (AP) — Robin Gosens scored twice after his first-ever Bundesliga start in 10-man Union Berlin's 4-1 win at Darmstadt, and Borussia Dortmund was again held 1-1 by Bochum on Saturday.

Another Dortmund disappointment at local rival Bochum rekindled memories of their 1-1 draw last season, when Dortmund was denied what officials later agreed was a clear penalty decision. That draw arguably cost Dortmund the title.

United States midfielder Brenden Aaronson was sent off with two early cards in Union's win, but the 29-year-old Gosens starred as the visitors recovered to score four goals for the third consecutive game across all competitions. Union also beat Atlanta 4-1 in its final warmup game.

Maximilian Philipp scored in the sixth minute of injury time for Freiburg to beat Werder Bremen 1-0.

Heidenheim wasted a two-goal lead in its first-ever Bundesliga home game as Hoffenheim came back to win 3-2.

Jonas Wind scored twice for Wolfsburg to come from behind to beat Cologne 2-1.

Leipzig scored five times in the second half to come from behind and beat Stuttgart 5-1 Friday for its first Bundesliga win of the season.

Goals from Benjamin Henrichs, Dani Olmo, Lois Openda, Kevin Kampl and Xavi Simons all came after the home team was aggrieved not to be awarded a penalty at the end of the first half.

Serhou Guirassy, who put Stuttgart ahead in the 35th minute, brought down Leipzig captain Willi Orban from behind after falling into him. But Guirassy had been pushed by Yussuf Poulsen and referee Frank Willenborg awarded a free kick for the Leipzig forward's foul — a decision upheld after a video check.

Leipzig coach Marco Rose was booked for his furious reaction and was still arguing as he departed down

10 points. Huertas is 40 years and 3 months. The only older player in tournament history was Eduardo Mingas, who was 40 years and 7 months when playing in two games for Angola at the 2019 World Cup.

the players' tunnel, then apparently used that anger to rouse his players during the interval.

Stuttgart goalkeeper Alexander Nübel, who joined on loan from Bayern Munich in the offseason, endured a second half to forget after impressing in the first.

Nübel's attempted knockout was charged down by Henrichs for the equalizer in the 61st, before another

SOCCER

mistake gifted Openda a goal two minutes later that was ruled out by VAR for offside. It was only brief respite for Stuttgart as Olmo put Leipzig ahead in the 63rd and the home team pushed on from there.

Leipzig, which finished third last season, started the league with a 3-2 loss at Bayer Leverkusen last weekend, while Stuttgart opened with a 5-0

rout of Bochum.

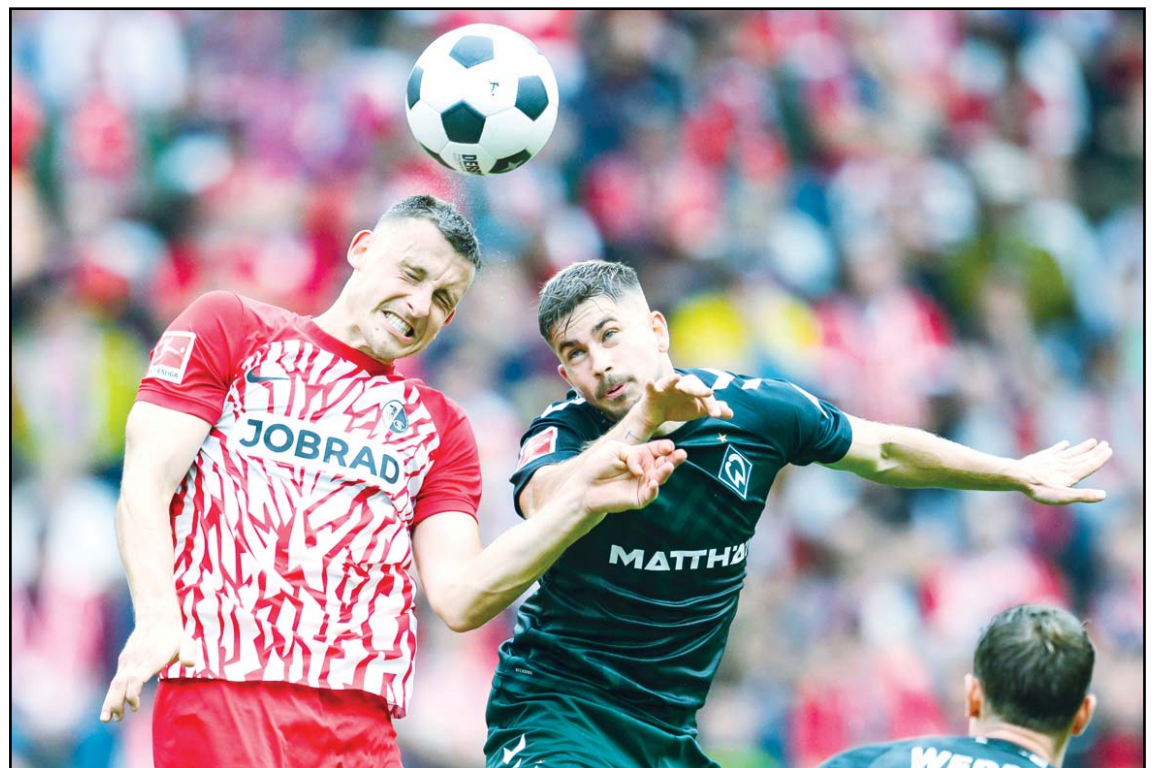
Jude Bellingham did it again, scoring a fourth goal in three games to lead Real Madrid to a 1-0 win at Celta Vigo and make it three victories in as many games in the Spanish league.

Madrid's top signing of the offseason scored once in the team's 2-0 win at Athletic Bilbao in their opener and twice in the 3-1 win at Almeria last weekend.

The England midfielder joined Madrid on a 130-million-euro (\$142 million) move from Borussia Dortmund this summer, and is proving to be worth the price.

At Vigo, Bellingham slipped into the area and was in position to head home the winner in the 81st minute and snatch a victory against a Celta side that had squandered its scoring chances.

Bellingham was set up by Joselu Mato, who replaced Vinicius Junior in



Freiburg's Maximilian Eggstein (left), in action against Bremen's Romano Schmid during the German Bundesliga soccer match between SC Freiburg and Werder Bremen at the Europa Park Stadium in Freiburg in Breisgau, Germany. (AP)



Brentford's Kevin Schade (left), celebrates scoring their side's first goal of the game during the English Premier League soccer match between Crystal Palace vs Brentford FC at the Gtech Community Stadium in London. (AP)

Sports

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Tottenham maintain unbeaten start under Postecoglou

Resilient Man U edge Nottingham Forest as Arsenal held by Fulham

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 26, (AP) — Manchester United came from two goals down to beat Nottingham Forest 3-2 in the Premier League on Saturday as Bruno Fernandes' 76th-minute penalty completed a comeback after the visitors went down to 10 men.

United had its worst-ever start to a Premier League game as poor defending helped give Forest a 2-0 lead after less than four minutes. Taiwo Awoniyi put Forest ahead on a counterattack after just 86 seconds, with Willy Boly quickly doubling the lead from a free kick.

It was the first time United trailed by two goals four minutes into a Premier League match, but Christian Eriksen pulled one back by converting a cross from Marcus Rashford in the 17th.

Casemiro wasted a great chance to level but made amends shortly after halftime when the midfielder slotted home at the end of a clever free kick routine.

Joe Worrall was shown a straight red card for denying Fernandes a goal-scoring opportunity in the 67th, and the United captain then scored the winner from the spot after Danilo was

SOCCER

adjudged to have brought down Rashford.

It secured a second win in three games for United, after falling to a 2-0 loss at Tottenham last weekend.

Arsenal 2, Fulham 2

Joao Palhinha scored in the 87th minute to give 10-man Fulham a 2-2 draw at Arsenal.

Arsenal gifted Fulham the lead after just 57 seconds after a defensive howler but came back to lead 2-1 thanks to second-half goals from Bukayo Saka and Eddie Nketiah. But the hosts couldn't see out the win as Palhinha was left unmarked to slot home a corner for the late equalizer. That was despite Fulham going a man down when Calvin Bassey was shown a second yellow card in the 83rd.

Arsenal striker Gabriel Jesus came on for his first appearance of the season after a knee injury but the Gunners couldn't find a winner through nine minutes of injury time. It was Arsenal's first dropped points of the campaign after opening with two wins, and the setback was largely self-inflicted.

Fulham took an early lead when Saka misplayed a back pass, sending Andreas Pereira through on goal with goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale stranded well outside his area. As Ramsdale backpedaled toward goal, Pereira calmly slotted the ball past him into the open net.

Arsenal missed a handful of decent chances to equalize in the first half, with Gabriel Martinelli drawing three saves from Bernd Leno alone. Kai Havertz had the best chance in the 11th minute when Saka met a cross at the far post and poked the ball across goal toward the German, who lunged in but only managed to poke it wide of the net.

Arsenal gifted Fulham another chance when Ben White let the ball drop to Raul Jimenez, who nearly scored with a spectacular overhead kick that sailed just wide of the post.

Jimenez returned to the Emirates for the first time since 2020 when a head collision while playing for Wolverhampton left him with a fractured skull that sidelined him for nearly a year.

Tottenham 2, Bournemouth 0

James Maddison scored his first goal for Tottenham in a 2-0 win over Bournemouth that maintained Spurs' unbeaten start under Ange Postecoglou.

Maddison put Spurs ahead in the 17th minute with a precise finish and Dejan Kulusevski doubled the advantage with his first goal of the season in the 63rd as Tottenham followed up last weekend's home win over Manchester United with another impressive performance.

The team now has two wins and a draw under Postecoglou while playing the attack-minded style of football that the manager has brought to the club. Though with Richarlison struggling badly up front for a third game in a row and still looking for a first goal of the season - he was taken off an hour into the game - some Spurs fans might still be wondering just how good this team could have been had the club not sold talismanic striker Harry Kane to Bayern Munich on the eve of the season.

Crystal Palace 1, Brentford 1

Joachim Andersen's equalizer secured Crystal Palace a 1-1 draw against unbeaten Brentford.

A first-half stunner from Kevin Schade gave the Bees an early lead at the Gtech Community Stadium before Andersen leveled in the 76th minute.

After a dominant 3-0 win away at Fulham last week, Thomas Frank's Brentford failed to put the game to bed which allowed the Eagles to claim a point in west London.

After a quiet start from both sides, Palace a burst into life through the crea-



Everton's James Tarkowski (left) and Wolverhampton Wanderers' Fabio Silva vie for the ball, during the English Premier League soccer match between Everton and Wolverhampton Wanderers, at Goodison Park, in Liverpool, England. (AP)

Shankule weathers hot conditions to 'lead' 1-2 finish by Ethiopia at worlds

Jackson edges ever closer to Flo-Jo's record in 200

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Aug 26, (AP) — Amane Beriso Shankule led a 1-2 finish by Ethiopia in the women's marathon on a warm Saturday morning at the world championships.

Shankule powered through the city streets of Budapest to finish in a time of 2 hours, 24 minutes, 23 seconds to edge defending champion and teammate Gotytom Gebreslase. Fatima Ezzahra Gardadi of Morocco took bronze.

The 31-year-old Shankule said the Ethiopian team worked together to make it difficult on the rest of the runners to keep up.

"After we got rid of the rest, then

ATHLETICS

it was a battle with my tough teammates," Shankule said. "Gebreslase is a strong athlete and she wanted to defend her title."

Of the 77 runners who started, 65 finished in a race that began with temperatures at 23 degrees Celsius (73 degrees Fahrenheit) and soared to 29 Celsius (84 Fahrenheit) by the end. There were heat warnings in effect for later in the day when it's expected to climb to around 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit).

"I know it is very hot but for me it was not so difficult," Shankule said. "I

tive Eberечи Eze. The midfielder, recently linked with a move to Manchester City, hustled to win back the ball before feeding Odsonne Edouard who was dispossessed before testing Mark Flekken.

Wolves 1, Everton 0

Wolverhampton substitute Sasa Kalajdzic scored a late winner two minutes after coming on to secure a 1-0 victory at Everton and leave the host still without a point or a goal.

Everton dominated large parts of the game and had 15 shots, but it was the visitors who scored with their only effort on target in the 87th minute.

Kalajdzic rose highest to glance in Pedro Neto's hanging, inswinging cross and give Wolves their first points after two opening losses.

Everton still hasn't scored in three straight defeats, though, and is off to its worst start to a season since 1990.

Everton manager changed his lineup

to include youngsters Lewis Dobbin and Jarrad Branthwaite and the hosts looked more vibrant going forward than in the two previous weeks. But the team still lacks a cutting edge up front with Dominic Calvert-Lewin out injured.

Chelsea 3, Luton 0

Raheem Sterling scored twice and set up the third goal to help Chelsea beat Luton 3-0 and give Mauricio Pochettino his first win as Blues manager.

Nicolas Jackson added his first Chelsea goal in the 75th after being on hand to tap in a low cross from Sterling, helping ease concerns about Chelsea's scoring prowess following a loss and a draw in the team's opening two games of the season.

"I'm so happy because it is important to have that winning feeling again," Pochettino said. "It is always good when the offensive players are involved in the goals."

That one was nice, she said, "but the 200 is my baby."

Her 21.41 goes next to the 21.45 she ran to win worlds last year in Eugene, Oregon. She and Jamaican teammate Elaine Thompson-Herah are the only women other than Flo-Jo to run under 21.6, though American Gabby Thomas has a 21.6 on her resume.

Jackson beat Thomas by .4 seconds in this one, while Thompson-Herah, slowed by injuries this year, was not in the race.

When Noah Lyles powered into the straightaway and started pulling away in the 200-meter final, only a few questions remained on a night when track's best sprinters backed up the hype at world championships.

None of them had to do with whether he would win.

While it didn't happen Friday, there's a sense it might happen soon.

Jackson defended her world title at 200 meters in 21.41 seconds, a scant .07 off the mark Florence Griffith-Joyner set at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

Until two years ago, no other woman had cracked 21.6, so when somebody asked Jackson if she was disappointed not to break Flo-Jo's mark, she scoffed.

"For me to run 21.41 and you ask me if I'm disappointed - definitely not," Jackson said. "It's a personal best. So I am just grateful."

The victory came four nights after Jackson finished second in the 100.

The man who wants to someday be more than a mere sports star stayed on that trajectory in a 19.52-second runaway to become the first man to complete the 100-200 sprint double at worlds since Usain Bolt did it for the third time back in 2015.

This was Lyles' third straight world championship in his better race, the 200.

As for the biggest questions left: Will he meet his stated goal of 19.10 seconds in the 200, and can he reach superstar status at the Olympics - well, those answers will be teased out over the 11 1/2 months between now and the Paris Games.

A huge part of that, of course, is getting the work done on the oval. Consider that done, at least for now. The 26-year-old American surprised pretty



Haruka Kitaguchi, of Japan, makes her last, and best, attempt in the Women's javelin throw final during the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary. (AP)



Women's marathon gold medalist Amane Beriso Shankule, of Ethiopia, (center), silver medalist and compatriot Gotytom Gebreslase (left), and bronze medalist Fatima Ezzahra Gardadi, of Morocco, (right), show their medals during the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary. (AP)

Simone surges to Championships lead

SAN JOSE, Calif., Aug 26, (AP) — Laurent Landi stood on the mat, arms slightly outstretched. He took one small step to his right. Then another.

Above him, above everyone really, Simone Biles soared through the air. Her arms clasped behind her knees. Her legs at a perfect 90-degree angle from her body.

Landi's decision to stand there was one of his conditions if Biles wanted to attempt a Yurchenko Double Pike, a vault so daunting few men have attempted it and no woman has ever completed it in international competition.

On Friday night at the U.S. Championships, all it did was

GYMNASTICS

give Landi, Biles' longtime coach, a close-up view of an athlete that somehow at age 26 appears to be as good as ever. Maybe better.

Biles rotated perfectly and landed with a small hop. The arms Landi had extended just in case instead led a cheer that sent a jolt through the SAP Center.

Those two seconds of brilliance provided the signature moment during two hours that showcased that now, a full decade into her run atop her sport, there is Biles and then there is everyone else.

much everyone but himself by winning the 100 last weekend. Then, he came out and worked on his specialty, the 200.

Lyles looked a bit lumbering over the first 50 meters, but after he rounded the bend and moved into the final 80 meters, he overtook and then sprinted away from Erriyon Knighton by .23, holding off any thought of a true rivalry with the 19-year-old American for another year.

Letsile Tebogo of Botswana finished third and adds the bronze to his silver in the 100.

Lyles conceded he wished he'd run faster.