



baseball

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# GCC-CENTRAL ASIA SUMMIT OPENS NEW HORIZONS Hope voiced for strong strategic ties

Roadmap set

**JEDDAH, July 20, (KUNA):** The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivered Kuwait's speech at the GCC and five countries of Central Asia, also known as C-5, summit held in Jeddah on Wednesday.

His Highness the Crown Prince said at the outset, "I would like to convey to all of you greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah."

He went on to express appreciation to the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, and to the Saudi government and its generous people for their warm reception and hospitality.

His Highness the Crown Prince added that he was pleased at the participation of Kuwait in the first meeting of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the leaders of the Central Asian countries, which represents a new building block and a great addition to the path of relations between the two sides, and noted that such cooperation reflects on the

common desire to move forward to develop and strengthen such relations to include broader and more comprehensive cooperation in various fields.

His Highness the Crown Prince added that such cooperation would serve the common interests of both sides, and will strengthen and deepen relations.

He also hoped that such meeting would contribute to strengthen and consolidate the strategic partnership relations between the two sides through what was approved in the Joint Ministerial Council meeting on September 7, 2022 and the adoption of the Joint Action Plan (2023-2027).

His Highness the Crown Prince also noted that they look forward to more cooperation in the political, security, economic, cultural, scientific and trade fields, stressing the importance of continuous consultation in order to continue further cooperation in all fields, and to enhance security and stability and achieve prosperity in all our countries.

The Representative of Kuwait Amir added that he is pleased to commend the positions of the Central Asian countries, which are highly appreciated by the GCC countries for their constant and unwavering commitment to just international issues and their continuous cooperation and coordination with the GCC countries to lay the foundations for security and stability in the region.

His Highness the Crown Prince also praised the Central Asian countries for their positions on various Islamic, Arab, regional and international issues, expressing confidence in the keenness of the Central Asian countries to continue this path



Kuwait Crown Prince delivers a speech at GCC-Central Asia summit.

KUNA photo

and efforts.

The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, His Highness the Crown Prince said have a firm belief and a firm conviction that the current circumstances require more work and coordination of efforts at the regional level, which makes it imperative to work together to face the challenges surrounding the region through cooperation between the countries of

the Cooperation Council and the countries of Central Asia.

His Highness the Crown Prince considered such work is essential in enhancing the security and stability, including development for the region, progress and the well-being.

Continued on Page 4



Protesters scale a wall at the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad Thursday, July 20, 2023. Protesters angered by the burning of a copy of the Holy Quran stormed the embassy early Thursday, breaking into the compound and lighting a small fire. (AP)

Man desecrates Quran in Stockholm

## Iraq expels Swedish envoy; embassy attacked

**BAGHDAD, July 20, (AP):** Protesters angered by the planned burning of a copy of the Holy Quran by an Iraqi man in Sweden stormed the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad Thursday, overrunning the diplomatic compound and starting a fire.

Hours later, Iraq's prime minister cut diplomatic ties with Sweden in protest over the desecration of the Islamic holy book.

Protesters stormed the diplomatic post early Thursday, waving flags and signs showing the influential Iraqi Shiite cleric and political leader Muqtada al-Sadr, and set a small fire. The attack on the embassy came ahead of a planned burning of the Quran in Stockholm by an Iraqi asylum-seeker who had burned a copy of the Islamic holy book in a previous demonstration last month.

Following the incident, the Swedish Embassy announced that it had closed to visitors, without specifying when it would reopen.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said in a statement after meeting with security officials that Iraqi authorities would prosecute those responsible for the arson as well as referring "negligent security officials" for investigation.

However, the statement also said that the Iraqi government had informed its Swedish counterpart on Wednesday that Iraq would cut off diplomatic relations should the Quran burning go forward.

Hours later, Sudani announced he had ordered the expulsion of the Swedish ambassador from Iraq and the withdrawal of the Iraqi charge d'affaires from Sweden.

The announcement came after two men held an anti-Islam protest on a lawn about 100 meters (300 feet) from the Iraqi Embassy in Stockholm. One of them, identified by Swedish media as Salwan Momika, an Iraqi Christian living in Sweden, stepped on and kicked the Quran, but didn't set it on fire.

Momika also stepped on and kicked an Iraqi flag, as well as photographs of al-Sadr and of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

About 50 people including journalists and a handful of counter-demonstrators who chanted religious slogans watched

the demonstration from behind police barricades as plainclothes and uniformed officers stood by.

Following the protest and Sudani's announcement, the head of Iraq's Media and Communications Commission announced it had suspended the license of Swedish communications company Ericsson to operate in Iraq.

Before the planned protest in Stockholm, dozens of men climbed over the fence at the complex containing the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad. Video footage showed men trying to break down a door, setting a fire and standing, some shirtless in the summer heat, inside what appeared to be a room at the embassy, an alarm audible in the background.

Others later performed predawn prayers outside of the embassy.

As dawn broke, police and other security officials gathered at the embassy as firefighters tried to douse the flames from the ladder of a fire truck. Some demonstrators still stood at the site, holding placards showing Sadr's face, apparently left alone by police.

The Swedish Foreign Ministry said in a statement that its staff were safe.

"We condemn all attacks on diplomats and staff from international organizations," the ministry said. "Attacks on embassies and diplomats constitute a serious violation of the Vienna Convention. Iraqi authorities have the responsibility to protect diplomatic missions and diplomatic staff."

In a statement, Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billström called the attacks "completely unacceptable" and said the ministry would summon Iraq's charge d'affaires in Stockholm, slamming Iraqi authorities for "seriously failing" in their responsibility to protect the embassy and its personnel.

The Finnish embassy in Baghdad is adjacent to the Swedish embassy, in an area enclosed by blast walls. Finland's ambassador to Iraq, Matti Lassila, told the Finnish public broadcaster YLE that the staff of the Swedish and Finnish embassies were proactively evacuated Wednesday and were uninjured.

### Newswatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Economist Intelligence Unit indicated in an analysis issued by it that inflation in Kuwait continued at about 3.7 percent on an annual basis last May (it rose to 3.83 percent in June), after it reached this level last March, according to data from the Central Administration for Statistics.

The unit stated that the inflation rate in Kuwait is the highest among the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, noting the lack of data on inflation in the UAE, reports Al-Rai daily.

It expected inflation to continue to pressure real domestic consumption in the near term, which reinforces the unit's expectations that real GDP growth will slow this year to 0.4 percent.

The Economist Intelligence Unit pointed out that with the continued slowdown in consumer price hikes in the Gulf, it seems that Kuwait is facing difficulty in reducing the relatively high rate of inflation, which increased sharply in the wake of the Corona pandemic, due to the very narrow housing market, where the costs of housing services constitute more than one-third of the consumer price basket.

The unit indicated that, in addition to that, the long-term political blockage continues to impede progress in housing construction to meet the requirements of the growing number of residents, which causes a rise in rental and purchase costs.

### Heat to worsen

**KUWAIT CITY, July 20:** Kuwaiti Meteorologist Issa Ramadan expects exacerbation of the heat wave in the coming days, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Ramadan forecasts an unusual heat wave — the hottest days of the year — with temperatures ranging from 48 to 52 degrees Celsius in the next few days.

He advised the public to take the necessary precautions against sunstroke, heat exhaustion and fires during these days, due to the expected extreme heat and drought.

See Also Page 10



An Emirati man walks under the trading board at the Dubai Financial Market in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Oct. 10, 2019. Buoyed by a surge in real estate activity, the Dubai Financial Market has reached its highest point in nearly eight years and extended year-to-date gains to nearly 25%, though it pulled back to close to 3,986, Thursday, July 20, 2023. (AP)

GloBE takes 15 pct

## Millions lost in failure to apply corporate tax

**KUWAIT CITY, July 20:** At a time when about 138 countries are preparing to apply a tax on multinational companies at the rate of 15 percent of the profits on companies whose annual revenues exceed 750 million Euros (about 157.6 million dinars), after those countries signed the Global Minimum Tax Agreement (GloBE), Kuwait is still tweeting outside the flock, as it is the only Gulf country that has not joined the agreement yet, which would miss Kuwait's opportunity to benefit from revenues of tens of millions of dinars annually, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the agreement, companies whose revenues exceed 750 million Euros and own subsidiaries or branches and legal entities abroad, and operate in countries that have signed the global minimum tax agreement, are obligated to pay the 15 percent tax annually.

If we know that Kuwait currently collects taxes on all companies, totaling about 3.5 percent annually (zakat and labor support), then the country's failure to join the "GloBE" agreement means that it waives the tax difference of 11.5 percent in favor of other countries, as Kuwaiti companies operating in other countries that signed a 15 percent tax agreement will be obligated to pay this difference in those countries, and the result is the loss of millions in annual revenues for the state treasury.

However, the question is, "What prevents income tax from being applied to multinational corporations locally?"

Informed sources stated that Kuwait's failure to join the global minimum tax agreement is tantamount to a waiver for the country to collect taxes on companies whose revenues exceed 750 million Euros (157.6 million dinars) for the benefit of other countries.

The sources pointed out that at a time when 138 countries are preparing to apply a tax of 15 percent of the profits on multinational companies whose annual revenues exceed 750 million Euros at the end of this year, Kuwait is still tweeting out of the flock, as it is the only Gulf country that did not join the global agree-

ment, which would waste tens of millions of dinars on the state treasury annually.

Sources added that Kuwait seeks to support non-oil revenues through activities and measures that diversify sources of income in the future, noting the endeavor to involve the private sector in strategic roles within the framework of ensuring real development in the country.

It is no secret that in Kuwait there are dozens of financially solid groups and companies known for their spread regionally and globally, which makes them able to achieve revenues that exceed the limits set at 750 million Euros, which requires taking proactive and adequate measures to deal with tax developments, especially since other GCC countries have already started preparing to apply the tax, led by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

The sources estimated the number of companies and institutions whose combined revenues exceed 750 million Euros (257.6 million dinars), and multinational companies on which tax applies at 15 percent of profits annually, are no less than 20 companies and institutions, stressing that these companies must take into account the upcoming tax changes, while the state should prepare to adopt the new tax updates and deal with what is happening around the world.

The leaders of the 27 European Union countries approved, during a summit in Brussels in December last year, the imposition of a minimum tax of 15 percent on the profits of multinational companies, in a unanimous decision, with the measure to enter into force on December 31.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had previously revealed the completion of a global agreement for about 136 countries out of a total of 140 targets (which later increased to 138 countries) to impose a minimum tax on profits of multinational companies at 15 percent, as the agreement was scheduled to enter into force last June, while it is currently likely to start at the end of this year.

## Dubai market up over real estate

**DUBAI, July 20, (AP):** Buoyed by a surge in real estate activity, the Dubai Financial Market has reached its highest point in nearly eight years and extended year-to-date gains to nearly 25%.

The city-state's bourse peaked at 4,022 on Tuesday before pulling back to 3,986 on Thursday. It's trading at the highest levels since August 2015.

This year the Dubai Financial Market has outperformed the S&P 500, which is up nearly 20%, and the MSCI All Country World Index, a benchmark for global equities, which is up 16%.

Dubai, a global business hub home to 3.5 million people, weathered the pandemic while keeping its vital tourism industry afloat.



## SPECIAL REPORT

# The jewel of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad's crown

## AN INTERPLAY OF LIGHT AND SHADOW ... MUSIC, THEATER & FILM

something for everyone

Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre

editor's choice



By Andrea Lauria

Informally known as the Kuwait Opera House, The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre (JACC) is located on the Gulf Road in the capital Kuwait City. JACC is the centerpiece of Kuwait's new national cultural district comprising a Theatre Centre, Music Centre, Conference Centre and National Library for Historical Documents.

All center's buildings are linked and accessed via a landscaped podium which houses the parking and a public park that includes a Musical & Dancing Fountain which shoots water up to 80m height, providing a mesmerizing experience to the public.

JACC was named the Best Cultural Design Project at the prestigious Index Architecture & Design Awards 2018 (IADAs), on 27 March at Dubai World Trade Centre, as part of the annual Index Exhibition. JACC is the largest cultural center and opera house in the Middle East and together with the Al Shaheed Park Museums and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Centre, which I have already described in a previous article here on this paper, are part of the Kuwait National Cultural District (also known as the KNCD).

The KNCD is a multibillion-dollar development project in Kuwait that focuses on the arts and culture and is one of the largest cultural investments in the world today. The Kuwait National Cultural District is a member of the Global Cultural Districts Network. The JACC, named after Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was inaugurated on October 31, 2016 under the auspices of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and with the Emir in attendance.

The Project was procured on a Design & Build basis and completed in 22 months. Dar SSH was appointed by Al Hani Company as the Design Consultant. The Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Centre (JACC), that is located on the western shores of the KNCD, showcases the performing arts and creates a world-class theatre quarter in a spacious parkland setting.

Together with the Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Cultural Centre, it forms Kuwait's new national cultural district. Owned by the Amiri Diwan the JACC is a multidisciplinary public space striving to entertain, educate and inspire the people of Kuwait. The center program is open for every generation and sector of society with huge range of events, in music, theatre, film, workshops and spoken word.

The JACC was designed by the Kuwaiti architectural studio SSH that has projected many interesting public buildings but all located in Middle East not in EU or other continents. All those buildings are only in the Middle East and the SSH studio is not an international Archi-star, like Jean Nouveau that we have mentioned many times and that has

Continued on Page 3

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	03:29	Asr .....	15:29
Sunrise ..	05:01	Maghrib ..	18:47
Zohr .....	11:54	Isha .....	20:16

# Local

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

## Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-42 km/h.

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot with

light to moderate freshening over coastal areas northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-42 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	48	36
Kuwait Airport	49	29

Abdaly	48	28
Jahra	49	32
Salmiyah	45	34
Ahmadi	46	37
Nuwaisib	49	30
Wafra	49	28



An inside view of the centre.

## The jewel

designed Louvre A.D. and National Museum of Qatar, but the SSH studio project for the JACC is very interesting and I like it.

JACC Centre consists of four constructions, with revolutionary design, composed of geometric forms inspired by Islamic architecture. This decoration creates richly textured, sparkling outer skin of steel encased in titanium and glass, with some varying-density mashrabiya panels.

This both offers climatic protection and generates dramatic public spaces with interplay of light and shadow. Inner structures are concrete, regulating temperature through thermal mass. Over 8,000 square meters of decorative calligraphy integrated into interior cladding features the eponymous Sheikh's sayings promoting culture and development.

The aesthetic outside light effect, mostly made by titanium panels, is amazing. The buildings never look the same, they change due to the light, weather conditions and the daytime.

The JACC complex was designed to resemble jewels, reflecting rays of sun lights and I must say it works perfectly. The center's decoration is complex and as I already said the buildings have composite geometric forms, inspired by Islamic traditional decoration that creates a richly textured outer skin of each building, resulting very sophisticated and modern.

The buildings look like big monoliths, not squat but imposing, a space object from outer that has just landed there. The effect is very interesting and intriguing at the same time. The buildings sit like jewels within a larger public park, the buildings all together are a spectacular Landmarks with a strong impact on the territory, changing the coast site of the Kuwait city.

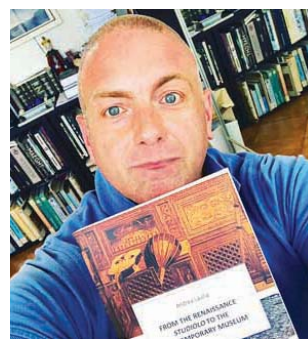
The JACC is not only a strong land-mark complex but at the same time is creating also im-

portant public spaces below that benefit from the interplay of light and shadow.

Visitors can circulate via air-conditioned lifts and escalators. The JACC interior is sophisticated as well, the foyers feature decorative calligraphy across the four pavilions, where more than 8,000 sq meters of calligraphy is designed into the cladding of the theatres, concert halls and libraries. Each Internal building is clad in a palette of stone, patterned glass, golden calligraphic forms and other luxurious interior finishes and textures.

A major interior feature at the complex is a monolithic signature chandelier weighing 22 Tons with 220,000 LEDs which illuminates the entrance foyer of the Theatre building and presents itself in a tiered array of falling glass providing an arresting spectacle for visitors. All the venues inside these buildings employ state-of-the-art technologies and software systems for their operation.

These venues hold capacities of around 5700 seats all together. The JACC mission is very ambitious it wants to be a platform for educational and cultural exchange; moreover, it functions as an influential entertainment and culture powerhouse and productive space for the region.



Prof. Andrea Lauria (right) is an Italian museologist graduated from Rome's Academy of fine arts. He also holds a History of Art degree from University di Roma Tre in Rome. Andrea Lauria lectures a Masters course in museology at Rome's Universities Tor Vergata and American Temple University (Rome Campus). In 2020 he has become a published author of the book: "From the Renaissance studiolo to the contemporary museum" which is also his course manual. Lauria's field of research is the phenomenon of hyper-museums with special attention to the Arabian countries in comparison with the western world.

The center offers a space for dialogue to share and showcase skills and knowledge, giving younger voices a forum in which to speak. The final JACC's goal is to assist in exploring Kuwait's past, cultivating its present and imagining potential futures. To become a leading social and creative hub for Kuwait and the region but opened to the international events as well.

The opening combined international and local music, ensuring a dynamic diversity that preserves Kuwaiti heritage while maintaining a global perspective. The inauguration ceremony was graced with a performance by renowned opera singer Andrea Bocelli, cementing the center's international standards of excellence and vision for outstanding cultural activity for years to come.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Amir congratulates Colombia president

KUWAIT CITY, July 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable to the President of Colombia Gustavo Petro, congratulating him on his country's national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished him everlasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity to his country and people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable to the President of Colombia Gustavo Petro, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown prince wished him everlasting health and further progress and prosperity for his people and country.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable to the President of Colombia Gustavo Petro, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

## CONDOLENCES

### Kuwait Amir condoles with Algeria president

KUWAIT CITY, July 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Wednesday a cable of condolences to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune over the sorrowful road accident occurred in Tamanrasset Province, south of Algeria, which left dozens dead and wounded.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow mercy upon the souls of the victims, wishing a rapid recovery to the injured.

Earlier, at least 34 people died and 12 were injured when a bus and a car collided in Algerian city of Tamanrasset.

### Crown Prince

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### Prime Minister

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### KTS reviews strategies, visions 'sixty years' on

KUWAIT CITY, July 20, (KUNA): Since the establishment of Kuwait Teachers Society (KTS), 60 years ago, it has been the beating heart of teachers and the education process, as well as the right arm of the Ministry of Education in Kuwait.

On the society's 60 year anniversary, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) has reviewed KTS visions and strategies to achieve its national goals, especially regarding providing better services and care teachers.

In this context, the society's Chairman Hamad Al-Holi said that the Kuwait Teachers Society went through different historical phases that directly influenced the education process in Kuwait, most notably the Iraqi invasion 1990 where education stopped for about a year and resumed after, adding that COVID-19 epidemic was another challenge that the education process faced.

He said that KTS, as an entity for those entrusted with implementing the educational process in the country, history records its national, educational and societal role in contributing to dealing with the repercussions of COVID-19 in different governmental authorities, such as supporting the National Assembly's decisions, ensuring the continuation of online education while taking in consideration the students' safety.

## News In Brief

**Schengen support vowed:** Kuwaiti Assistant Deputy Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Sadeq Maarafi discussed bilateral ties, and regional and international issues of common interest, with the Spanish Director General for Morocco, Mediterranean and the Middle East at the Foreign Ministry, Alberto Ucelay.

The Kuwaiti embassy in Spain mentioned in a statement on Thursday that Kuwaiti Ambassador to the country Khalifah Al-Khurafi was in attendance of the meeting held at the foreign ministry's headquarters.



Sadeq Maarafi

Ambassador Maarafi congratulated Spain on presiding over European Union until December, and the two discussed Spain's priorities as chair of the union.

He added that Kuwait is working on easing visa procedures for Kuwaiti nationals wishing to attain the multi-visit entry visa.

Ucelay, on his part, affirmed Spain's full support to relieving Kuwaitis from the Schengen visa and the serious steps Kuwait took in that regard, and took note of the sturdy relations between the two nations. (KUNA)

**KFAS honors students:** The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has honored outstanding Kuwaiti high school students.

In a press release Tuesday, head of KFAS Dr. Amina Farhan said the annual honoring ceremony comes upon directives of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, chairman of KFAS, in support of Kuwait's youth; the country's pillars of progress and renaissance.

Farhan stressed keenness of KFAS, through its varied programs and centers, on disseminating proper scientific culture and creating an appropriate environment to support science and knowledge, as well as research.

She noted the foundation's belief in youth's ability to achieve the country's foremost ambitions, as they are the foundation of sustainable development. (KUNA)

## Residents threatened by criminal-minded singles

Bachelors flood Jahra area

**KUWAIT CITY, July 20: In a new chapter of the series of the intrusion of bachelors into private housing areas and homes, Jahra area is witnessing an unfamiliar case of bachelors threatening their neighbors after the latter reported them. Also, inspection teams to find bachelors in such areas are being harassed by the owners of rental properties to prevent their eviction, reports Al-Rai daily.**

Head of the Jahra Municipality's Emergency Team and a member of the Bachelors Committee Eng. Thuwaini Al-Mutairi affirmed that the team received many complaints from neighbors who stated that they are being threatened by violators in the event that they inform the regulatory authorities, especially those who practice immoral acts.

In an interview, Al-Mutairi explained that Jahra Governorate is one of the large governorates in which expatriate and marginal workers accumulate. The phenomenon of buying houses and converting them into housing for bachelors has increased recently, and with it, the number of complaints has increased as well.

The team is currently dealing with complaints related to five areas affiliated with the governorate. During the field visits carried out by the supervisory team, multiple violations were detected, including conversion of private housing into offices for domestic workers or a den for practicing immoral acts, or conversion of private housing into an international liaison office or a central kitchen or a central food market.

The efforts exerted by the team to com-

bat the presence of bachelors among families were greatly appreciated by the popular committees in the governorate.

Al-Mutairi said, "We therefore confirm our commitment to follow up the work according to the period specified by the committee, which is six months.

The law will extend to both the property owner and his investor, if any, as well as employees. A report will be issued regarding the property owner's violation of bachelors' housing, after which a block will be put on the property, and a letter will be sent to cut off the electricity supply through the parties participating in the bachelors' committee."

He explained that the procedures taken by the concerned authorities will be according to the following:-

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Water - It checks on the extension of the network, and then issues a report about the theft of electric current, and the need for cutting off power from the property.

2. The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) - It verifies the identity of the workers, allocates a code, and then issues a violation report against the labor companies.

3. The Environment Public Authority (EPA) - It checks the external sewage connections. In case of pollutants next to the property, it issues fines of up to KD 5,000.

4. The Ministry of Interior - It seizes workers who violate the residency law, and refers them for deportation.

Al-Mutairi said, "In the end, the electrical current will not be restored until the bachelors are evicted, and all building violations and violations related to other parties are removed. It will be returned only after the owner takes a pledge that he will not repeat the violation again."

It is worth highlighting that bachelors in Jahra Governorate are concentrated in a number of areas, which, according to the density of bachelors, are - Waha, Qasr, Old Jahra, Oyoun, and Qasayem Al-Othman.

## Focus on voluntary report

NEW YORK, July 20, (KUNA): Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) Dr. Khaled Mahdi reviewed Kuwait's second national voluntary report on its response to the Covid-19 pandemic and relevant international cooperation, mainly with World Health Organization (WHO).

Speaking to KUNA about the document late Wednesday, Mahdi said it included the national plan and its harmony with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), given that the national agenda comes first and SDGs are nothing but output of the policies of the development plan.

He added that the report also contained the under-review goals of clean water, electricity, sustainable cities, industry, innovation, governance and companies.



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# Kuwait marks 62nd year of bolstering joint Arab action

'Kuwait's active role in organization stems from wise leadership vision'

By Mohammad Al-Mutairi

**CAIRO, July 20, (KUNA):** Kuwait's accession to the Arab League on July 20, 1961, constituted a milestone in its foreign policy, as it fully supported the joint Arab action since then.

Kuwait spared no effort in defending the interests of the Arab nation and their aspirations towards development, security and stability, as well as their political approach, which defends the basic rights of Arabs.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt and its permanent representative to the Arab League, Ghanim Al-Ghanim affirmed that Kuwait will remain politically fair, which is a reflection of its Arab and Gulf affiliation and is respected by the international community.

### Leadership vision

Al-Ghanim stated to KUNA on the 62nd anniversary of Kuwait's accession to the Arab League, Kuwait's active role in the organization stems from its wise leadership vision, adding that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah adopt a fair political approach that emphasizes Kuwait's Arab and Gulf affiliation.

He also recalled Kuwait's diplomatic role by the efforts made by His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in supporting the joint

Arab action, adding that His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah continues these efforts.

He added that Kuwait has contributed a major role in resolving many Arab differences and problems that have passed through the Arab countries, including the Yemeni crisis, the Lebanese crisis and civil war.

He stressed that since Kuwait's accession to the Arab League, it played a pioneering role in supporting the Palestinian cause, assisting the Palestinian people and adopting decisions that support this cause.

He said that Kuwait was active in all the meetings of the Arab League's councils and organizations, as well as its developmental and social role in the Arab countries, pointing to its hosting the first development summit in 2009.

He added that Kuwait hosted and participated in many development conferences to help the Arab countries, whether in Syria, Iraq, Sudan or Somalia, through its economic and development funds in the Arab countries.

### Cooperation

Kuwait did not hesitate to extend cooperation to enhance unity in the reconstruction of Iraq, it also provided assistance to Arab countries, and contributed whether it was economic development projects, or loans through its economic and development funds.

Kuwait hosted the first Arab economic, development and social summit in 2009, which sets a new plan that defines the features of the role that the Arab League should take, he added.

League of Arab states high officials, in separate remarks to KUNA, touted Kuwait's pivotal regional role and dubbed its presence in Arab political, developmental and cultural scenes an indispensable pillar.

Assistant Secretary General of Arab League Ambassador Saeed Abu Ali spoke of Kuwait's astuteness in representing Arab nations in international events.

The Ambassador recalled Kuwait's six-decade long journey since joining the Arab bloc in 1961, and its cultural, humanitarian, economic and developmental impact.

He further commended its shrewdness in navigating arab-arab conflicts and its commitment to Arab issues.

As for Kuwait's stance from Arabs' topmost issue, the Pales-

tinian case, Abu Ali head of Palestine and occupied Arab Lands division, commented that it remains a priority to Kuwaiti leadership and people, saying that their support has been essential to the empowerment of Palestinian people.

As for Arab League Assistant Secretary General for Arab Affairs and National Security, Ambassador Khalil Al-Thawadi, he hailed Kuwait's pioneering role in bolstering joint Arab work.

When speaking to KUNA, Al-Thawadi recounted late Kuwait Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah role as foreign minister and his keenness on Arab consensus in league ministerial meetings.

Kuwait was the first country to host Arab economic developmental summit in 2009, expounded Al-Thawadi, called for by the late Amir stemming from his intent on bolstering economic, social and developmental Arab cooperation.

Ambassador Al-Thawadi also noted Kuwait's humanitarian role and efforts in boosting unity, integration and peaceful resolution of conflicts, saying that Kuwait extends a helping hand to both Arab and African nations.

The bloc's Assistant General Secretary for International Political Affairs, Ambassador Khalid Minzlawi, stated that Kuwait's Arab stances are a true testament to nation's desire for unity and solidarity, and underscored its constructive role in strengthening joint Arab work.

The state of Kuwait had joined the League of Arab states after having announced its independence in 1961.

## Hope voiced

Continued from Page 1

At the end, His Highness the Crown Prince asked Allah Almighty to protect all of the participants homelands and provide them with security, safety, development and prosperity, and to grant them success.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah returned to the homeland this evening from Saudi Arabia after leading Kuwait delegation to the 18th consultative meeting of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Central Asian countries (5C) in Jeddah on Wednesday.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to thank him for the warm hospitality offered to him and Kuwait delegation during their participation in the 18th GCC-Central Asia Summit.

The meetings, hosted in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, gathered leaders of the six GCC countries and five Central Asian countries. His Highness the Crown Prince appreciated, in his cable, the great efforts made by the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the delegations to the meetings and the outstanding role of the kingdom on the regional and international arenas.

He hailed the outcomes of the meetings which will have positive impacts on the development of the partnership between the countries of both regions.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Saudi King everlasting wellbeing and the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia more progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to thank him for the warm hospitality offered to him and Kuwait delegation during their participation in the 18th GCC-Central Asia consultative meeting and the GCC-Central Asia Summit.

### Historical

The warm hospitality reflected the depth of the historical relationship between the State of Kuwait and the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Highness the Crown Prince noted.

He appreciated, in his cable, the great efforts made by the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host the delegations to the meetings and the outstanding role of the Kingdom on the regional and international arenas.

He hailed the outcomes of the meetings which will have positive impacts on the development of the partnership between the countries of both regions.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman everlasting wellbeing, expressing hope for more progress and prosperity for the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Arab Parliament said Thursday that the GCC-Central Asia Summit, recently held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, was deemed "a significant opportunity" to broaden cooperation and notch up further accomplishments.

In a press release, the parliament's Speaker Adel Al-Asoumi commended the first-of-its-kind summit between the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Central Asia, which are rich in such natural resources as oil and gas, something that makes bilateral deals and partnerships beneficial to all countries of the region.

He also acclaimed the GCC leaders' far-sightedness and fervent endeavor to devise joint blueprints for working with such blocs, citing the strategic dialogue and cooperation plan recently adopted by both sides' foreign ministers in Riyadh for 2023-2027.

The plan is based on people-to-people communication and effective partnerships between the business sectors of the GCC and Central Asia countries, the top Arab lawmaker elaborated.

Al-Asoumi spoke highly of the constructive efforts and intensive diplomatic mobility of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, mainly the recent Jeddah Summit, in the context of efforts aiming at promoting cooperation and integration with Central Asia.

However, he underlined that it is essential to forge more partnerships with major world blocs amidst successive crises pertinent to food and energy, which are predicted to aggravate due to Russia's failure to extend the Black Sea grain deal.

Leaders of the six GCC member states and the five Central Asian countries (5C) adopted a joint statement at the conclusion of the GCC-Central Asia Summit on Wednesday, affirming the importance of strengthening cooperation in various areas to promote regional stability.

The meeting, chaired by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, gathered the leaders of the GCC and Central Asian countries, and Secretary-General of the GCC Jassem Mohammad Al-Budaiwi.

The leaders congratulated Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, on the success of the Hajj season for the year 1444H, and the high level it achieved in serving the pilgrims and providing them with the necessary care, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported, citing the joint statement.

"Based on common values, interests, and deep historical ties between the GCC countries and Central Asian countries, the leaders stressed the importance of strengthening political and strategic relations between the two sides at the collective and bilateral levels, and continuing political coordination in order to achieve regional and international security and stability, face challenges, and work to ensure the flexibility of supply chains, transportation and communication, food security, energy security, and water security, pushing for building cooperation relations in developing green and renewable energy sources and technologies, creating business opportunities, supporting investment opportunities, and increasing trade exchange.

"The leaders praised the cultural diversity, openness and rich history of the countries of the Cooperation Council and Central Asia, and they stressed that tolerance and peaceful coexistence are among the most important values and principles for relations between nations and societies.

"In this regard, the leaders welcomed the adoption of (the UN) Security Council Resolution 2686, by which the Council recognised that hate speech, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, gender discrimination and acts of extremism can contribute to the

outbreak, escalation and recurrence of conflicts," the statement reads.

"They expressed concern about the growing rhetoric of racism and Islamophobia, and acts of violence against Muslim minorities and Islamic symbols.

"The leaders praised the results and goals of the Conference of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which has been held in Kazakhstan since 2003 in order to discuss global guidelines for achieving respect and tolerance among races and religions.

"The leaders praised the results of the Bahrain Dialogue Forum "East and West for Human Coexistence", which was held in 2022 in the Kingdom of Bahrain, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in cooperation with the Sheikh of Al Azhar and Pope of the Vatican.

"The leaders stressed the importance of strengthening the strategic and political dialogue between the countries of the Cooperation Council and Central Asia, and strengthening this partnership towards new horizons in various fields, including political and security dialogue, economic and investment cooperation, enhancing communication between peoples, and exchanging best practices and expertise in all fields such as education, culture, youth affairs, tourism, media and sports, in accordance with the agreed joint action plan for the period 2023-2027.

"The leaders commended the outcomes of the joint ministerial meeting of the strategic dialogue between the GCC and Central Asian countries, which was held on September 7, 2022, and the technical meetings held between officials and specialists from both sides in the fields of economic cooperation, trade, investment, health, culture, youth and sports.

"The leaders also urged the concerned authorities to take the necessary measures for the immediate implementation of the joint action plan, at the bilateral and multilateral levels, to enhance joint cooperation in various fields.

"In the economic field, the leaders stressed the importance of continuing efforts to enhance trade and economic cooperation and encourage joint investment by strengthening relations between financial and economic institutions and business sectors on both sides to explore areas of cooperation and available opportunities and provide an attractive climate for business, trade, joint investments and economic cooperation, in order to achieve mutual benefit.

"The leaders also called for achieving integration between available opportunities and developing investment fields, discussing development priorities and exchanging experiences in light of the joint action plan.

"The leaders affirmed their support for the candidacy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to host Expo 2030 in Riyadh, to exert all efforts to support this nomination, stressing the importance of organising international and regional exhibitions and active participation in them to stimulate economic and cultural exchanges between Central Asia and the GCC region.

"The leaders emphasised the importance of continuing cooperation between the Cooperation Council and Central Asia in international forums and organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to confront the economic challenges facing the world.

On climate change, the joint statement said, "The leaders praised the pioneering role played by the two sides in confronting the climate change phenomenon and renewed their welcome and support to the United Arab Emirates for hosting the COP28 conference to support international efforts in this regard."

"As developing countries, the leaders emphasised the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, especially fairness and the principle of shared responsibilities, taking into account different national circumstances and priorities, and taking into account in the implementation of the two agreements the negative social and economic impacts resulting from response measures to climate change, especially those affecting developing countries that are the most susceptible to these effects.

### Agreements

"COP28 will provide an opportunity to assess these issues and progress in collective efforts to implement these international agreements," according to the statement.

"The leaders stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of environment and climate change, protecting glaciers and water resources, and attracting more investments to the main sectors of the economies of Central Asian countries to adapt to climate change through integration and cooperation on the risks and consequences of natural disasters between the two sides.

"The leaders stressed the importance of developing connected transportation routes between the two regions, building strong logistical and commercial networks, and developing effective systems that contribute to the exchange of products.

"The leaders agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of higher education, scientific research and vocational training, encourage cooperation between universities and scientific research centres on both sides, and provide educational opportunities in technical universities, wherever possible, for students from the GCC and Central Asian countries, as well as exchange of experience and expertise through communication between experts and education specialists.

"The leaders expressed their aspirations to enhance cooperation in the health field, exchange experiences among specialised institutions in various health fields, and support global initiatives to address current and future epidemics, health risks, and challenges.

"In this context, the leaders highlighted Kazakhstan's initiative to create a special multilateral body in the United Nations - the International Agency for Biosafety - which was announced at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

"The Agency is intended to contribute to the prevention of biological threats and the exchange of data on dangerous diseases.

"In the field of cultural and humanitarian cooperation, including the media and social fields, the leaders stressed the importance of protecting the common cultural heritage between the two sides, elevating joint cultural and media cooperation, encouraging cultural dialogue between the two sides, and discussing opportunities to develop cooperation in all fields to serve joint interests.

"The leaders emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of youth and sports, exchanging experiences, and coordinating electoral positions in regional, continental, and international sports federations. They noted that Qatar will host the 2023 AFC Asian Cup matches.



# July

## Room Promotion





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# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Abusers arrows can never pierce castle of Kuwaiti-Saudi relations'

"THE Saudi-Kuwaiti relations are as old as history and whoever thinks that anyone accepts insulting or harming the ruling family or any individual in both countries is mistaken," columnist **Riyad Abdullah Al Mulla** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"We were surprised by the behavior of one of the tweeters who insulted the Saudi Minister of Interior, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef Al Saud, and this behavior has nothing to do with Kuwaitis.

"It only represents the person who offended, and the Kuwaiti government has taken the necessary legal measures to deter such tweets. Those who exceed the limits must know his worth and value.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the land of the Two Holy Mosques, and its rulers defended the land of Kuwait and contributed to its liberation from the Iraqi invasion.

"Kuwaitis and Saudis are united by religion, genealogy, tribe and intermarriage, as they are an extension of one geography since ancient times.

"As for the Minister of Interior, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef Al Saud, it suffices him to be proud for preserving Saudi Arabia's security and internal stability, despite the conspiracies being hatched to undermine it, given that it is the cradle of Islam and the message of tolerance and brotherhood.

"It is no secret that Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud is the head of the Supreme Hajj Committee, and the whole world witnessed a remarkable success for the Hajj in 2023.

"He also previously held several advisory positions, beginning with the Royal Court, then the Office of the Minister of Defense until he became an advisor to the former Minister of Interior, Prince Mohammad bin Nayef Al Saud.

"Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are too great for their close and fraternal relationship to be undermined by a tweet. No one accepts or approves of insulting any Saudi, let alone a prince from the ruling family and a minister of interior.

"Let the law take its course, and refer this case to the competent authorities so that this abuser receives his just punishment.

"Some understand that freedom is to undermine the dignity of others and insult them, and they think that everything is permissible to talk about through the communication means even if it leads to soiling the relations and destabilization of countries.

"Some people, unfortunately, understand democracy in a wrong way, and think everything is permissible, no matter what they say or do, and this is a wrong and deficient understanding, so does this tweeter accept that someone insults his dignity or offends his person, or are things treated with double standards, and the homeland, its security and stability have no value in these accounts.

"We will not accept fishing in murky waters, and this act of harassment and sedition between the two countries.

"As long as the Saudi-Kuwaiti relations are full of affection, respect and brotherhood, and no matter what happens, the arrows of the abusers will not penetrate the castle of relations, and Kuwait and the Kingdom are greater than heedless negligence, ignorance, and the abuse of a sharp tongue, and I remind everyone that these means of communication are not intersection and convergence."

### Also:

"The world celebrates World Hepatitis Day on July 28 of each year to raise awareness of hepatitis, strengthen national and international efforts to combat hepatitis, and encourage the need for a global response to combat this disease," columnist **Hind Al-Shumer** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"This day was chosen because it coincides with the birthday of Dr. Baruch Samuel Blumberg, the Nobel Prize winner in medicine, who is credited with discovering the hepatitis B virus and developing a test for its diagnosis and an anti-vaccine.

"The World Health Organization has defined the slogan for this day as 'one life, one liver', as hepatitis C can destroy life and the liver, especially since the liver silently performs more than 500 vital functions every day to keep a person alive, but infection with viral hepatitis also remains silent. Symptoms do not appear until the disease has progressed.

"Among the most important gaps that should be filled in order to achieve the goals of eliminating the disease in the world by 2030 is the level of coverage of diagnostic testing and treatment, as work must be done to raise that coverage for early diagnosis and treatment of cases.

"Viruses are the most common cause of hepatitis in the world, but other infections, toxic substances such as alcohol, some medications, and autoimmune diseases can be the cause of hepatitis.

"Viral hepatitis is the seventh leading cause of death worldwide, and it is the only infectious disease in which deaths are increasing.

"There are 5 main viruses for viral hepatitis, namely: (A, B, C, D, E), and viral hepatitis usually

occurs (A) and (E) due to eating or drinking contaminated water.

"As for viral hepatitis B, C and D, it occurs as a result of contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person. Hepatitis B and C are the most worrisome and cause about 8,000 new infections every day and often go undetected.

"It is estimated that around 350 million people worldwide suffer from chronic viral hepatitis infection, and more than one million cases of hepatitis-related die every year, with a new chronic infection every ten seconds, and for this reason, liver health is fundamental to human health.

"Many deaths could be prevented because there are effective hepatitis B vaccines and treatments and a cure for hepatitis C.

"Globally, there are a large number of people with hepatitis, who have not been diagnosed or treated, and most people discover that they have hepatitis B or C after many years of silent infection and do not know the infection until after the seriousness of the disease or cancer.

"In order to eliminate hepatitis and achieve the WHO goals by 2030, there must be a guarantee of primary care services with hepatitis B vaccination, treatment for all pregnant women who have it, vaccination for their children, and hepatitis C prevention by screening blood donor and ensuring safe injection practices."

"A few months ago, the Council of Ministers and Civil Service Commission (CSC) demanded to stop exceptions for filling up supervisory positions in some government sectors," columnist **Khalid Al-Arrafa** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The demands mentioned at the time include the empowerment of employees by putting them in supervisory positions based on the recommendation of this or that official, without regard for the law stipulating special conditions for occupying such positions.

"There were demands and calls for officials to abide by the law and to give everyone his right, away from parachute appointments that we witness from time to time.

"Administrative reform will not be achieved due to these exceptions and abuses that are unfortunately issued with the blessing of the CSC to some employees through nepotism, without the fulfillment of the conditions for filling up positions like the manager, observer or department head.

"In its first meeting after the formation of the new government, the CSC responded to these demands and issued the 'expected' decision to stop the exception from conditions for promotion to fill up supervisory positions to ensure justice for all.

"After this reform decision, we hope His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to hold accountable everyone who transgressed the law — whether a minister or an official. He should cancel all decisions that brought benefits to some people under this exception, which destroyed the hopes and ambitions of many qualified people in their field of work."

"The most important feature that distinguishes a member of the current National Assembly is not his role and power in legislation and oversight, but his ability to market bills!" columnist **Dr Hamad Al-Jadaei** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Yes... His ability to adopt a draft law and market it to his fellow parliamentarians, the government and citizens. After the success of the marketing process, buying queues multiply, propaganda spreads and we say: 'Congratulations on passing the law'."

"Another belief which is not new to me is that Assembly member **Dr Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi** is one of the smartest representatives of the nation who is able to market draft laws, mobilize supporters for them, and communicate information easily to everyone, due to his skill in persuasion and presenting issues in a full, undiminished and smooth manner.

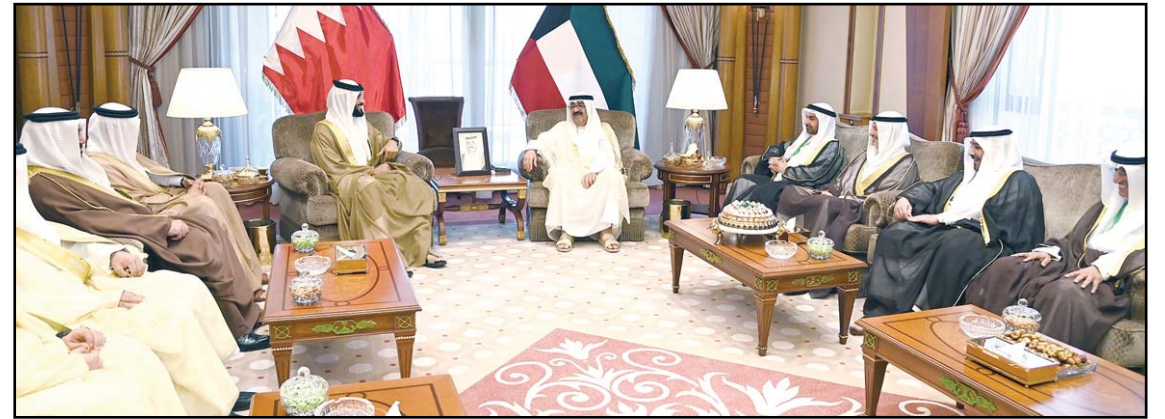
"Therefore, we saw how the passage of the Housing Cities Law succeeded with distinction and with honors as it obtained 62 votes although the marketing period was short.

"I know that the Assembly did not pluck a star from the sky. It did not invent the wheel, and that the Housing Cities Law is not the only solution to the delay in development and the decline of the State at all levels. It seems that the beginning is promising in light of the agreement to find development solutions.

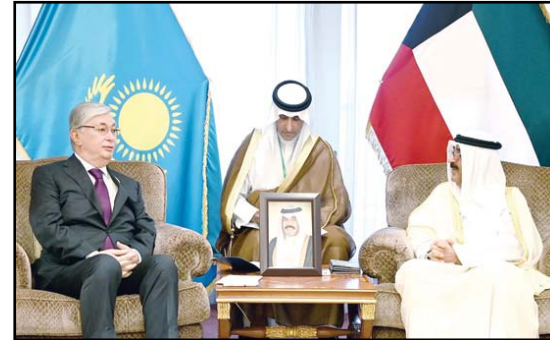
"The most important aspect is the ability of some lawmakers to market laws, and involve public oversight in the process of marketing and monitoring. This is a point that counts for the current Assembly.

"Finally, we hope that the implementation of the Housing Cities Law will begin soon, and that it will not be a dead letter. We also hope that the lawmakers will stick to monitoring the implementation of this law, because it guarantees the immortalization of the current Assembly in the history of the nation's assemblies, and whoever adopts an important and beneficial law for Kuwait."

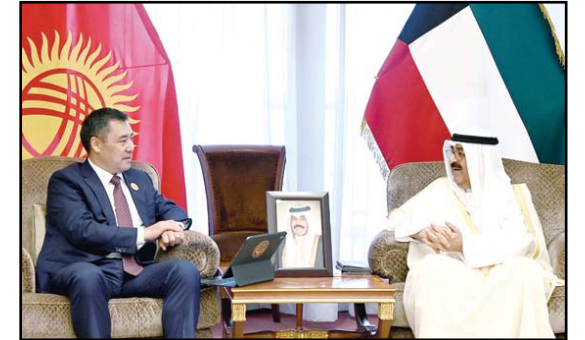
— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**



HH the Amir's Representative receives Bahrain's King Rep in Jeddah.



HH Amir's Rep receives Kazakhstan's president.



HH Amir's Rep receives Kyrgyzstan's president.

## HH receives Kazakhstani, Kyrgyzstani leaders in Jeddah

## HH the Amir's Rep receives Bahrain's King Rep

JEDDAH, July 20, (KUNA): The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad bin Issa Al-Khalifa's Representative Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al-Khalifa.

During the meeting, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings on behalf of His Highness the Amir to Bahraini King and to the Bahraini leadership.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister, Oil Minister and Acting Finance Minister **Dr. Saad Al-Barrak**, Minister of Foreign Affairs **Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**, His Highness the

Crown Prince Office Director **Jamal Al-Theyab**, His Highness the Crown Prince Foreign Affairs Undersecretary **Mazen Al-Issa**, Minister of Foreign Affairs Assistant for GCC Affairs Ambassador **Salem Al-Zamanan**, and Kuwait Ambassador to Saudi Arabia **Sheikh Sabah Nasser Al-Sabah**.

The Representative of His Highness the Amir headed the Kuwaiti delegation in the 18th GCC consultative summit and the meeting between GCC states and Central Asian countries, in Jeddah.

Meanwhile, the Rep. of HH the Amir **Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad**, HH the Crown Prince **Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad** received the President of Kazakhstan **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev**.

During the meeting, HH the Crown Prince conveyed greetings on behalf of His Highness the Amir to Kazakhstani leadership.

The meeting also highlighted bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in various areas.

The two sides also delved into the latest development in the region and international arena.

Also, the HH the Crown Prince **Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad** received the President of Kyrgyzstan **Sadyr Japarov**.

During the meeting, HH the Crown Prince conveyed greetings on behalf of His Highness the Amir to the Kyrgyzstani leadership, discussed bilateral ties, and latest regional and international developments.

## 2 Africans trying to pump fake dollars in local market nabbed

Prison inmate dies on way to hospital

**KUWAIT CITY, July 20: Two Africans who attempted to pump counterfeit dollars into the local market have been arrested and handed over the Criminal Investigation Department, reports Al-Anba daily.**

The daily added, the suspects were arrested after receiving a tip-off from a police agent and the suspects were subsequently picked up from their apartment in Hawalli.

The daily added, armed with a search and arrest warrant issued by the Public Prosecution the apartment was raided and the suspects were caught red-handed in possession of a quantity of counterfeit dollars, equipment and special dyes used in counterfeiting currency.

**Prisoner dies:** A security source said an unidentified prisoner who was rushed to the Farwaniya Hospital after he suddenly fell ill, reportedly died on the way, reports Al-Rai daily.

The security source said the hospital investigator has ordered the referral of the corpse to the forensic medicine department to find out the causes of death.

**Drugs found on man:** An unidentified person was taken by an ambulance to the Jahra Hospital by paramedics after he was found fast asleep inside his car in a suburb of Al-Qasr, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, police patrols and paramedics rushed to the spot after several people called the Operations Department of the Ministry of Interior in the belief the man had passed away because several attempts had failed to wake him up.

The securitymen then inspected the vehicle and found seven sachets of hashish, one cigarette filled with hashish powder, 10 small sachets of chemicals, two sachets (big and small) of marijuana, rose paper, tools for use, a sensitive scale, empty bags, and a sum of money.

Police are waiting for the man to regain consciousness to interrogate him and hand him over to the concerned authorities.

## KGAC denies confiscation of food items

## Firemen rescue residents of house

**KUWAIT CITY, July 20:** The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGF) stated that after a report was received by the Central Operations Department, Wednesday evening, that a fire broke out in a house in Waha and that some people were trapped inside, firefighting teams from the Jahra and Jahra Al-Harfi centers rushed to the house and put out the fire, reports Al-Rai daily.

The firemen also rescued the people who were trapped inside the house and handed them over to the emergency medical personnel.

**KGAC denies report:** Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC) has vehemently denied the alleged confiscation of large quantity of food supplies at an undisclosed border checkpoint recently, reports Al-Rai daily.

KGAC released its official statement on the issue when a video clip showing the confiscation of a huge quantity of food products went viral on various social media platforms. It clarified that there were several confiscation operations, not just one as hinted in the viral video. It also affirmed that all the confiscated items were handed over to the Ministry of Commerce, which will then take the necessary measures.

**56K citations issued:** The operations and traffic sector of the General Traffic Department from July 8 to July 14, issued more than 56,000 traffic violations and arrested 78 motorists for committing serious traffic offenses and juveniles for driving without license, 38 for possessing and abusing narcotics, and impounded about 150 vehicles and motorcycles for various reasons, reports Al-Anba daily.

## 'Pay outstanding GTD dues before leaving Kuwait'

**KUWAIT CITY, July 20:** The General Traffic Department said since the issuance of the decision by the Ministry of Interior not to allow Gulf-registered vehicles to leave the country without paying traffic fines, the GTD is said to have collected nearly 38 thousand dinars since the implementation of the decision two weeks ago, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily added, 21 GCC citizens were barred from leaving the country and told to check with the Department of Violations Investigation of the General Traffic Department and that until outstanding fines imposed against them are paid, they are not allowed to leave the country with their vehicles.

The sources said that the deci-

sion to collect traffic violations issued by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, **Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled**, was implemented two weeks ago under the supervision of the Director-General of the General Traffic Department, **Major General Youssef Al-Khadha** following the establishment of the automatic link between the General Administration of Information Systems and the General Administration of Traffic of the Ministry of Interior and the General Administration of Customs.

The daily added, the customs officials at the border crossings do not allow any vehicle to leave except after paying the fines, pointing out that this decision is one of the most important traffic decisions issued dur-

ing the recent period after the State Treasury, had earlier dropped fines because of the failure to collect them from vehicles which had already left the country.

The sources added **Major General Al-Khadha** has ordered the establishment of sections to collect traffic fines at the border crossing points around the clock.

On the other hand, the security and traffic campaigns carried out by the traffic departments in the six governorates during the past week resulted in issuing 35,000 traffic violations, arresting 46 reckless motorists, referring 64 vehicles and 54 motorcycles to the ministry garage, and referring 31 juveniles to the Juvenile Prosecution, after they were caught driving vehicles without driving licenses.

## CONDOLENCES

Management and Staff of  
**AQ Global & Al Qabandi United Company**

extend their heartfelt  
condolences to  
**Mathew Thomas**  
(CEO of Al Qabandi United Company)  
on the sad demise of his father



**A C Thomas**  
(17/8/1934 - 19/7/2023)

Condolences also extended  
to his wife **Litty Mathew**  
and brother **Cherian Thomas**

Funeral on  
**Saturday 22nd July at Pune, India**

**May his soul Rest in Peace**

## Kuwait's June trade surplus with Japan down 33.4 Pct

Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan narrowed 33.4 percent from a year earlier to JPY 67.9 billion (USD 487 million) in June, down for the third consecutive month due to weak exports, government data showed on Thursday. But Kuwait stayed in black ink with Japan for 15 years and five months, as exports offset imports in value, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report. Overall Kuwaiti exports to the

world's third-biggest economy plunged 22.7 percent year-on-year to JPY 93.0 billion (USD 667 million), down for the second straight month. Imports from Japan jumped 36.4 percent to JPY 25.1 billion (USD 180 million), up for the 14th month in a row. Middle East's trade surplus with Japan narrowed 47.8 percent to JPY 606.9 billion (USD 4.4 billion) last month, with Ja-

pan-bound exports from the region sliding 35.4 percent from a year earlier. Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 94.7 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, plunged 35.5 percent. The region's overall imports from Japan jumped 30.0 percent on demand for automobiles and machinery. (KUNA)

## Nokia profits fall as clients shun investments

Wireless and fixed-network equipment maker Nokia on Thursday reported a fall in second quarter profit as clients postponed investments due to a slowdown in economic growth and rising financing costs. The Espoo, Finland-based company reported net profit of 414 million euros (\$464 million) for the April-June period, down 29% from 585 million eu-

ros a year earlier. Net income attributable to shareholders was 415 million euros, down from 582 million euros the previous year. Nokia's sales were down 3% at 5.7 billion euros. Among other network products, Nokia is one of the world's main suppliers of 5G, the latest generation of broadband technology, along with Sweden's Ericsson, China's Huawei and

South Korea's Samsung. "Earlier in the year I highlighted that we were starting to see signs of macroeconomic challenges along with inventory digestion impacting customer spending and this has intensified through the second quarter," CEO Pekka Lundmark said in a statement, pointing particularly to "significant decline in major North American operators' investments." (AP)

## Market Movements

20-07-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.75	45,426.58	UAE - DFM	-0.04	3,986.36
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+1.09	6,613.50	JAPAN - Nikkei	-1.23	32,490.52
SAUDI - Tadaawl	+0.03	11,755.94	EGYPT - EGX 30	-0.17	17,578.67

# Business

## Kuwait Airways partners Plusgrade to give passengers access to Cabin upgrades and more ways to acquire Oasis Club Miles

MONTREAL, July 20, (PR Newswire): Plusgrade, the leading provider of ancillary revenue solutions for the global travel industry, announces a multi-year partnership with Kuwait Airways, a distinguished national carrier in the Middle East and Africa (MEA), giving passengers access to the "Just Upgrade" service. Points, Plusgrade's loyalty business unit, will also power benefits for Oasis Club loyalty program members offering more choice and convenience in how miles balances are boosted to enhance their travel experience.

Through this partnership, Kuwait Airways passengers have access to the "Just Upgrade" service which allows passengers to enjoy an upgraded cabin experience by moving from Economy Class to Business Class, or from Business Class to Royal and First Class. Passengers can gain access to premium luxury services like priority check-in, boarding and lounge access, specially curated dining from global cuisines, by bidding on an upgrade up to twenty-four hours before their flight.

"We know that choice and great experiences matter to travelers. That's why we're incredibly proud to partner with Kuwait Airways and deliver leading solutions that make for a best-in-class passenger experience," said Ken Harris, Founder

and CEO of Plusgrade. "By offering this expanded suite of tools powered by Plusgrade, Kuwait Airways is creating an enhanced end-to-end journey for their customers - starting at booking and continuing through to arrival at their destination. We are thrilled to help enhance this journey."

Kuwait Airways also benefits from a seamless integration with Points, Plusgrade's loyalty business unit, offering Oasis Club members the ability to buy miles. Members will now have the opportunity to make an immediate lump-sum purchase to boost their balance and reach reward goals sooner, while giving Kuwait Airways the ability to increase their ancillary revenue and member engagement.

"Uncompromising customer experience is what distinguishes Kuwait Airways and our passengers have come to trust us to deliver seamless travel experiences," says Meshal Al Mutairi, Director Customer Services at Kuwait Airways. "We pay great attention to the comfort and needs of our valued customers and aim to offer the best services to make the journey enjoyable. We are pleased to expand our loyalty program offerings to give Oasis Club members even more ways to acquire their miles that will create memorable travel experiences."

Kuwait Airways passengers can learn more about "Just Upgrade" here, and Oasis Club Members can buy miles here (log-in required).

Kuwait Airways Company (KAC), the national carrier of State of Kuwait is an entity incorporated and existing under the laws of State of Kuwait. Set up in 1954, KAC has a rich past and has been for a long time, a preferred carrier for travel out of the region operating from Kuwait International Airport. Currently KAC operates flights to 40+ routes across the Middle East, Indian Sub-Continent, South Asia, Africa, Europe, UK and the USA. Kuwait Airways has been awarded as the 'World's Most Improved Airline' for 2023 according to global aviation rating company 'Skytrax'.

Plusgrade powers the global travel industry with its portfolio of leading ancillary revenue solutions. Over 200 airline, hospitality, cruise, passenger rail, and financial services companies trust Plusgrade to create new, meaningful revenue streams through incredible customer experiences. As an ancillary revenue powerhouse, Plusgrade has generated billions of dollars in new revenue opportunities across its platform for its partners, while creating enhanced travel experiences for millions of their passengers and guests. Plusgrade was founded in 2009 with headquarters in Montreal and has offices around the world.

## Issuance first part of \$3b eyed

### Masdar launches 1st US\$750 million 10-year 'Green Bond'

ABU DHABI, UAE, July 20, (PR Newswire): Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC - Masdar announced the successful completion of its first green bond issuance for US\$750 million 10-year senior unsecured Notes today. There was exceptionally strong appetite from regional and international investors with the orderbook peaking at US\$ 4.2bn, i.e. oversubscription of 5.6x. Pricing tightened 35bps between launch and final terms, with a final landing spread of 115bps over US Treasuries and a coupon of 4.875%. Allocation was finalized with a split of 87.5% to international investors and 12.5% to MENA investors.

The debut green bond demonstrates investor confidence in the financial strength of Masdar, which has credit ratings of A2 (Moody's) and A+ (Fitch), and its strong sustainability credentials. In line with Masdar's Green Finance Framework, net proceeds from this bond and future offerings will be used to invest exclusively in 'dark green' renewable energy projects, many of which will be in developing economies and climate-vulnerable countries that have a critical need for investment.

This bond is the first part of a program to raise up to US\$3 billion of bonds to meet Masdar's equity funding commitments on new renewable energy projects at home and overseas, as it seeks to grow its global portfolio to 100GW of capacity by 2030. Proceeds from all bond offerings under the program will be deployed towards the greenest projects in the renewables sector, namely solar, wind, renewable power transmission and distribution infrastructure, and battery storage assets, and strict ESG criteria will apply to restrict the eligibility of projects.

HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Chairman of Masdar and COP28 President-Designate, said, "It is vital to make finance more available, accessible and affordable for developing economies if we have any chance of meeting climate goals to supercharge sustainable development. Ahead of the UAE hosting the UN climate change conference, COP28, we must champion initiatives that advance climate finance and decarbonization. Today, the successful issuance of Masdar green bonds will support these twin aims, by helping to provide funding towards renewable energy projects where they are needed most."

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Masdar's Chief Executive Officer, said, "The success of this debut green bond issuance is testament to the pioneering spirit of all the people who have worked incredibly hard over the last 17 years to grow Masdar into one of the world's leading renewable energy companies. We are thankful for the trust that the financial community has placed in us and we look forward to the involvement of many top class investors in our journey to-

wards delivering renewable energy and accelerating the net-zero transition around the globe."

Niall Hannigan, Masdar's Chief Financial Officer, commented, "The proceeds from our inaugural bond offering will be deployed in developing new renewable energy projects around the world. These projects will make a major contribution towards mitigating climate change, but they will also make a real difference to the local communities they serve, and that makes us incredibly proud. We remain committed to maintaining a prudent approach to funding our ambitious growth plans, which includes maintaining our investment grade credit ratings from Fitch and Moody's."

The bond was rated A2 by Moody's and A+ by Fitch, in line with the corporate credit ratings of the company, and was priced at a coupon rate of 4.875% with maturity on 25 July 2033.

The issuance was arranged and offered through a syndicate of joint lead managers and bookrunners comprising of BNP Paribas, Citi, First Abu Dhabi Bank, HSBC, SMBC Nikko, Société Générale and Standard Chartered.

Masdar's Green Finance Framework, established in February 2023, was updated in May 2023 to reflect changes to the Green Loan Principles. Moody's has issued a Second Party Opinion on the Green Finance Framework.

Established in 2006, Masdar is the UAE's clean energy powerhouse. It is active in over 40 countries and has invested in a portfolio of renewable energy projects with a combined capacity of around 20GW. Masdar aims to grow this to at least 100GW by 2030. The company is also targeting green hydrogen production of 1 million tonnes per annum by the same year.

Contacts: For more information please visit: <http://www.masdar.ae> and connect: [facebook.com/masdar](https://www.facebook.com/masdar) and [twitter.com/masdar](https://www.twitter.com/masdar)

About Masdar Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) is the UAE's clean energy champion and one of the largest companies of its kind in the world, advancing the development and deployment of renewable energy and green hydrogen technologies to address global sustainability challenges. Established in 2006, Masdar is today active in over 40 countries, helping them to achieve their clean energy objectives and advance sustainable development. Masdar is jointly owned by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), Mubadala Investment Company (Mubadala), and Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA), and under this ownership the company is targeting a renewable energy portfolio capacity of at least 100 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 and an annual green hydrogen production capacity of up to 1 million tonnes by the same year.

## Wall Street rally fades after Tesla, Netflix fall



A currency trader watches monitors at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, July 20, 2023. Asian shares were mixed Thursday after Japan reported weaker than expected trade data for June, with imports falling nearly 13% from a year earlier. (AP)

### Asian shares mixed as Japan reports weaker than expected trade data

#### NEW YORK, July 20, (AP): Stocks were slipping Thursday following a mixed set of profit reports, forcing a cooldown for Wall Street's torrid rally.

The S&P 500 was 0.4% lower in afternoon trading, coming off its highest close since early April 2022 and its seventh gain in the last eight days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 264 points, or 0.8%, at 35,323, as of 12:35 p.m. Eastern time. The Nasdaq composite was 1.5% lower and on track for its worst drop in six weeks.

Two of the most popular stocks, Netflix and Tesla, helped weigh on the market after the companies reported how much profit they earned during the spring.

Tesla tumbled 7.7% despite reporting stronger profit and revenue than expected. Analysts said investors may be concerned about how profitable the electric vehicle maker will be after cutting prices. Planned factory downtime during the summer for upgrades could also weigh on its upcoming results.

Because Tesla is one of the most valuable companies on Wall Street, its stock movements carry extra weight on

the S&P 500 and other indexes.

Netflix sank 9.3% despite also reporting stronger profit than expected. One important measure for the company, how much revenue it makes from paid memberships on average, fell during the quarter from a year earlier.

Tesla and Netflix are two of the first huge tech-oriented companies to report their profits for the spring, and a lot is riding on the results. Big Tech stocks have rallied hard this year and been the primary reason for the S&P 500's big gains. Netflix is still up 47% for the year so far, and Tesla has more than doubled.

If big tech stocks don't produce the profits to justify the big moves, it could put the rally at jeopardy. Other huge winners from early this year also slid, weighing on the market. Nvidia fell 2.5%, though it remains 134% higher for the year so far.

Across the rest of Wall Street, companies reported a mixed set of results.

Zions Bancorp. rose 10.4% after reporting stronger profit and revenue for the quarter than expected. It also said customers added \$2 billion in deposits, or 3.2%, over the last three months, which it called a "solid" number.

Truist Financial sank 6% after reporting weaker revenue than expected. It also said average deposits decreased 2.1% from earlier this year, though its profit topped expectations.

Banks have been under heavy scrutiny since three failed earlier this year under the heavy weight of high interest rates. They all buckled under the pressure of customers suddenly pulling out their deposits all at once.

The biggest loss in the S&P 500 came from Discover Financial, which slid 15.9%. Its results for the latest quarter fell short of forecasts, and it disclosed it was working with regulators to resolve an accounting error dating back to 2007 that misclassified some credit card accounts. It also said it was pausing buybacks of its stock while it conducts an internal review.

Doing the most work to limit the S&P 500's losses was Johnson & Johnson. It rose 6.5% after reporting profit and revenue that both topped expectations for the latest quarter. It also raised forecasts for financial results for the full year.

#### Europe

France's CAC 40 gained 0.3% in early trading to 7,345.07. Germany's DAX rose 0.2% to 16,143.18. Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.6% to 7,636.32.

#### Asia

Asian shares were mixed Thursday after Japan reported weaker than expected trade data for June, with imports falling nearly 13% from a year earlier.

Shares rose in Sydney and Hong Kong but fell in Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul. U.S. futures slipped and oil prices were little changed.

Japan logged a trade surplus in June for the first time in nearly two years as imports sank, largely due to lower oil prices. Exports rose only 1.5% from a year earlier despite sharp increases in shipments of vehicles as supply chain problems eased. Economists say they anticipate weaker exports in coming months as demand in other major economies slows.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 declined 1.2% to 32,490.52. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added less than 0.1% to 7,326.00. South Korea's Kospi edged down 0.1% to 2,604.61. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was virtually flat at 18,954.78, while the Shanghai Composite shed 0.7% to 3,175.81.

#### Oil

In other trading Thursday, benchmark U.S. crude shed 7 cents to \$75.22 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 8 cents to \$79.38 a barrel.

#### Currencies

The U.S. dollar fell to 139.54 Japanese yen from 139.68 yen. The euro cost \$1.1207, up from \$1.1204.

## Canadian govt recruiting high-skilled foreigners in the US to move to Canada instead

TORONTO, July 20, (AP): The Canadian government is recruiting high-skilled foreigners working in the United States to move to Canada instead, and the program has been so successful that it met its target of 10,000 applicants in just two days.

The government this week launched a special work permit for foreign workers who already have obtained an H-1B visa in the U.S., who number nearly 600,000 and come mostly from India and China. The program's 10,000 quota was filled in the first two days of the week, a spokesman for Canadian Immigration Minister Sean Fraser said Wednesday.

"We even had a whole campaign to promote this and we had to put an end to that," spokesman Jeremy Bellefeuille said.

It is unusual for a country to so explicitly target the visa holders of another country. Bellefeuille said the Canadian program was a trial run, and that the minister would now consider next steps.

Each year, up to 85,000 people are selected for H-1B visas in the U.S., a mainstay for technology giants such as Amazon.com Inc., Google parent Alphabet Inc., Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc. and International Business Ma-

chines Corp.

The H-1B visa program allows U.S. companies to employ foreign workers in specialized occupations in sectors like technology, engineering and medicine. Usually, they're issued for three years and renewable. Most of the nearly 600,000 H-1B visa holders in the U.S. are from India and China.

If they are fired or let go from the company in the U.S. that sponsored them they have to find a job and be sponsored within 60 days.

Fraser promoted the Canadian work permit aimed at

America H-1B visa holders at the Collision tech conference in Toronto last month. The conference attracts technology workers from around the world.

The moves come as a wave of layoffs has hit the tech sector. Companies like Meta, Amazon and Google have made cuts.

The Canadian work permit includes study or work permit options for the accompanying family members of U.S. H-1B visa holders. It became available July 16 and was scheduled to remain in effect for one year, or until immigration authorities received 10,000 applications.









The Conversation

Heat waves becoming supercharged as climate changes

# As heat records fall, how hot is too hot for human body?

By W. Larry Kenney, Daniel Vecellio, Rachel Cottle, and S. Tony Wolf  
Penn State

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

Extreme heat has been breaking records across Europe, Asia and North America, with millions of people sweltering in heat and humidity well above "normal" for days on end.

Death Valley hit a temperature of 128 degrees Fahrenheit (53.3 degrees Celsius) on July 16, 2023 - not quite the world's hottest day on record, but close. Phoenix broke a record heat streak with 19 straight days with temperatures above 110 F (43.3 C), and had more in the forecast, accompanied by several nights that never got below 90 F (32.2 C). Globally, Earth likely had its hottest week on modern record in early July.

Heat waves are becoming supercharged as the climate changes - lasting longer, becoming more frequent and getting just plain hotter.

One question a lot of people are asking is: "When will it get too hot for normal daily activity as we know it, even for young, healthy adults?"

The answer goes beyond the temperature you see on the thermometer. It's also about humidity. Our research is designed to come up with the combination of the two, measured as "wet-bulb temperature." Together, heat and humidity put people at greatly increased risk, and the combination gets dangerous at lower levels than scientists previously believed.

**Limits of human adaptability**  
Scientists and other observers have become alarmed about the increasing frequency of extreme heat paired with high humidity.

People often point to a study published in 2010 that theorized that a wet-bulb temperature of 95 F (35 C) - equal to a temperature of 95 F at 100% humidity, or 115 F at 50% humidity - would be the upper limit of safety, beyond which the human body can no longer cool itself by evaporating sweat from the surface of the body to maintain a stable body core temperature.

It was not until recently that this limit was tested on humans in laboratory settings. The results of these tests show an even greater cause for concern.

**PSU H.E.A.T. project**  
To answer the question of "how hot is too hot?" we brought young, healthy men and women into the Noll Laboratory at Penn State University to experience heat stress in a controlled environmental chamber.

These experiments provide insight into which combinations of temperature and humidity begin to become harmful for even the healthiest humans. Each participant swallowed a small telemetry pill that continuously monitored their deep body or core temperature. They then sat in an environmental chamber, moving just enough to simulate the minimal activities of daily living, such as showering, cooking and eating. Researchers slowly increased either the temperature in the chamber or the humidity in hundreds of separate experiments and monitored when the subject's core temperature started to rise.

That combination of temperature and humidity at which the person's core temperature starts to continuously rise is called the "critical environmental limit."

Below those limits, the body is able to maintain a relatively stable core temperature over long periods of time. Above those limits, core temperature rises continuously and the risk of heat-related illnesses with prolonged exposures is increased.

When the body overheats, the heart has to work harder to pump blood flow to the skin to dissipate the heat, and when you're also sweating, that decreases body fluids. In the direst case, prolonged exposure can result in heat stroke, a life-threatening problem that requires immediate and rapid cooling and medical treatment.

Our studies on young healthy men and women show that this upper environmental limit is even lower than the theorized 35 C. It occurs at a wet-bulb temperature of about 87 F (31 C) across a range of environments above 50% relative humidity. That would equal 87 F at 100% humidity or 100 F (38 C) at 60% humidity.

**Dry vs. humid environments**  
Current heat waves around the globe are exceeding those critical environmental limits, and approaching, if not exceeding, even the theorized 95 F (35 C) wet-bulb limits.

In the Middle East, Asaluyeh, Iran, recorded an extremely dangerous maximum wet-bulb temperature of 92.7 F (33.7 C) on July 16, 2023. India and Pakistan have both reached hazardous levels in recent years, as well.

In hot, dry environments, the critical environmental limits aren't defined by wet-bulb temperatures, because almost all the sweat the body produces evaporates, which cools the body. However, the amount humans can sweat is limited, and we also gain more heat from the higher air temperatures.

Keep in mind that these cutoffs are based solely on keeping your body temperature from rising excessively. Even lower temperatures and humidity can place stress on the heart and other body systems.

A recent paper from our laboratory showed that heart rate begins to increase well before our core temperature does, as we pump blood to the skin. And while eclipsing these limits does not necessarily present a worst-case scenario, prolonged exposure may become dire for vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with chronic diseases.

Our experimental focus has now turned to testing older men and women, since even healthy aging makes people less heat-tolerant. The increased prevalence of heart disease, respiratory problems and other health problems, as well as certain medications, can put them at even higher risk of harm. People over the age of 65 comprise some 80% to 90% of heat wave casualties.

**How to stay safe**  
Staying well hydrated and seeking areas in which to cool down - even for short periods - are important in high heat.

While more cities in the United States are expanding cooling centers to help people escape the heat, there will still be many people who will experience these dangerous conditions with no way to cool themselves.

Even those with access to air conditioning might not turn it on because of the high cost of energy - a common occurrence in Phoenix - or because of large-scale power outages during heat waves or wildfires, as is becoming more common in the western US. (AP)

CatalYm publishes preclinical data

## GDF-15 a central factor in resistance of tumors to immunotherapy: study

Integrated develops tools to manipulate ISR

### 'Synthetic biology platform' enables aging-linked stress response control

MUNICH, July 20: CatalYm has announced the publication of preclinical data in Nature Communications under the title "Tumor-derived GDF-15 blocks LFA-1 dependent T cell recruitment and suppresses responses to anti-PD-1 treatment". The study reveals a central role of GDF-15 in the resistance of tumors to current immunotherapy. These findings further highlight the therapeutic significance of CatalYm's proprietary anti-GDF-15 antibody candidate, visugromab, currently in advanced Phase 2 clinical studies.

This foundational research, which was performed together with founder Jörg Wischhusen and collaborators, is the first to describe a mechanistic link between tumor-produced Growth Differentiation Factor-15 (GDF-15) and the LFA-1/ICAM-1 cell adhesion axis. The interaction between LFA-1/ICAM-1 is a critical step in the infiltration of T cells into the tumor microenvironment. This is essential for the extravasation of T cells from the blood vessels into the surrounding tissue. GDF-15 is primarily known for its function in fetomaternal tolerance, an immunosuppressive mechanism that protects the fetus from the mother's immune system.

The researchers demonstrated that GDF-15 blocks LFA-1-dependent T cell recruitment into the tumor microenvironment, a prerequisite for responses to anti-PD-1/L1 treatment but also other immunotherapeutic strategies. Conversely, the blockade of GDF-15 with antibodies like the anti-GDF-15 antibody visugromab improved T cell infiltration into tumors. Combined with a PD-1 inhibitor, it increased tumor clearance and survival with a synergistic effect. In line with these findings, serum analysis of melanoma patients showed that response to anti-PD-1 negatively correlates with GDF-15 serum levels.

**Growing**

Therefore, GDF-15 serum levels may be a predictive biomarker for the response to anti-PD-1 therapy and overall survival in these patients. These findings further underscore the immunosuppressive role of GDF-15 in the tumor and contribute to the growing body of data supporting GDF-15-neutralizing therapy as a promising approach for hard-to-treat tumors resistant or refractory to anti-PD-1/L1 treatment.

"Our publication is the first to demonstrate the effect of tumor-derived GDF-15 on the LFA-1/ICAM-1 axis. As this axis orchestrates cell-cell interactions that are essential for immune-mediated tumor control, GDF-15 likely contributes to immune escape across many different tumors and therapies," said Prof. Dr. Jörg Wischhusen, Co-Founder of CatalYm and Professor at the Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, who is the senior author of the publication.

"Unraveling the details of the underlying biologic pathways is crucial to develop effective therapeutic approaches that can reverse tumor-mediated immunosuppression resulting in drug resistance, one of the major

SAN CARLOS, Calif, July 20: Integrated Biosciences, a biotechnology company combining synthetic biology and machine learning to target aging, in collaboration with researchers at the University of California Santa Barbara, has announced a drug discovery platform that enables precise control of the integrated stress response (ISR), a biological pathway that is activated by cells in response to a wide variety of pathological and aging-associated conditions. A new publication, "Optogenetic control of the integrated stress response reveals proportional encoding and the stress memory landscape," authored by company founders and featured on the cover of describes a technique that triggers the ISR virtually using light and demonstrates how the accumulation of stress over time shifts a cell's reaction from adaptation to apoptosis (programmed cell death).

"In a very real way, our platform puts cells into a virtual reality, making them experience stress in the absence of physical stressors," said Maxwell Wilson, Ph.D., a co-founder of Integrated Biosciences and Assistant Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at the University of California Santa Barbara. "This work is an important advance because it relies on a light-activated switch to control the ISR, which is key to aging, rather than using the chemical poisons that are common in this field of research. Our synthetic biology platform enables previously impossible drug discovery because it avoids inducing the collateral damage caused by chemical poisons, enabling us to observe direct effects of drug candidates on the cell's stress response and perform fast and accurate target deconvolution."

Integrated Biosciences' "cellular virtual reality" system adapts optogenetics, a research method pioneered by neuroscientists to activate specific neurons by wiring them to fire in response to flashes of light. In In-



Integrated Biosciences has developed novel tools to manipulate the integrated stress response (ISR), a key hallmark of aging. The team is using optogenetics to activate the ISR in a "cellular virtual reality" system and has shown that manipulating the duration and intensity of this activation influences the cell's response. This platform can be combined with AI to identify anti-aging drug candidates.

egrated Biosciences' platform, neuroglioma and osteosarcoma cancer cells were genetically modified such that their ISR could respond to light. The research found that duration and intensity both dictate a cell's reaction to the virtual-reality stress, and that the accumulation of stress over time plays an important role in how the cell responds. Transient stress leads to an adaptive response that protects a cell from damage, but prolonged activation of the ISR leads to cell death. As the ISR represents a key hallmark of aging, these findings inform the cell fate decisions that cells make as they age.

The Cell Systems paper represents the second major publication associated with Integrated Biosciences. A Nature Aging paper, "Discovering small-molecule senolytics with deep neural networks," published in May demonstrated how artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to discover novel senolytics,

anti-aging compounds that selectively eliminate senescent "zombie" cells. These compounds have shown promise in their ability to treat age-related diseases such as fibrosis, neurodegeneration, and cancer, but have faced challenges in clinical studies. The Nature Aging paper identified three drug candidates that have comparable efficacy and superior medicinal chemistry properties than those of the most promising senolytics currently under investigation.

By combining cutting-edge technologies described in these two publications - AI-driven small-molecule drug discovery and precise synthetic control of aging-associated pathways - Integrated Biosciences is generating unprecedented types of data regarding the activities and properties of their anti-aging drug candidates, substantially derisking future clinical trials that target age-related diseases. (AP)

challenges in cancer medicine. We are committed to rapidly advancing our Phase 2 evaluation of visugromab on our mission to expand the treatment horizon for current and future immunotherapies," added Dr. Christine Schubert-Wagner, Chief Scientific Officer at CatalYm.

The published data adds further valuable mechanistic understanding to the clinical findings from CatalYm's GDF-15 Antibody (GDF-15 Antibody-mediaTed Human Effector Cell Relocation) trials with visugromab in combination with the anti-PD-1 inhibitor nivolumab in patients with advanced solid tumors. The Phase 1 (NCT04725474) study results an-

nounced in September 2022 showed an excellent safety and tolerability profile as well as significant clinical benefit in last-line tumor patients that were anti-PD-1/L1 relapsed or refractory. Interim data from the Phase 2 (NCT04725474) trial recently presented at ASCO continue to demonstrate a very good safety and tolerability profile and promising early responses in major cancer indications, including non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), bladder cancer and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Mature data readouts for efficacy and safety data of the core Phase 2a program as well as main biomarker-correlations are expected to become available by

late 2023. The GDFATHER-2a trial (GDF-15 Antibody-mediaTed Human Effector Cell Relocation Phase 2) (NCT04725474) is an ongoing Phase 2a trial with several cohorts investigating the effect of visugromab (CTL-002) as monotherapy and/or in combination with a PD-1 checkpoint inhibitor in patients in various advanced-stage, relapse/refractory solid tumor types and a biomarker-selected cohort. The study can enroll > 200 patients in Simon-2-stage designs and a biomarker-evaluation directed cohort to confirm certain response rates and potential biomarker-based responder patient selection. (AP)

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# Fans of Bruce Lee fondly remember his life philosophy

People

HONG KONG, July 20, (AP) — Fans of late martial arts legend Bruce Lee, who broke negative stereotypes around Asian men in films, gathered in Hong Kong this week to commemorate their idol's death half a century ago, remembering his legacy and his life philosophy on persistence.

Lee, who was born in San Francisco but raised in the Asian financial hub, was famous for his martial arts talent and his fight against racist portrayals of Asians on big and small screens in the 1960s and 70s. He died at the height of his fame due to an allergic reaction to painkillers when he was 32.

The 50th anniversary of Lee's death on Thursday drew fans to exhibitions in Hong Kong on his life and career. They also laid flowers at his statue at the Avenue of Stars, a tourist attraction modeled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on the Kowloon shore of Victoria Harbor.

A government-run museum organized a camp for students to learn about Lee's legacy by introducing them to Jeet Kune Do, the martial arts style that Lee invented and practiced. The museum also screened his films.

Many of Lee's supporters said his philosophy inspired them since they were young, even though many only learned about him and his works after his death.

Sophie Uekawa, a translator, said she was initially attracted to Lee's muscular body and smooth moves on TV. But she was later impressed by his words, including about how unhappy circumstances eventually pass. When Uekawa was bullied by schoolmates in secondary school, Lee's quotes helped her endure feelings of helplessness.

"It can be said that he is my savior," Uekawa said.

Lee began his career as a child actor in the 1940s and started learning Chinese kung fu when he was 13. He moved back to the US in 1959 and studied philosophy at the University of Washington.

The superstar fought hard against racist stereotypes in the US entertainment industry where Asian men were often portrayed as servants, unskilled workers or evil geniuses in Hollywood.

Lee eventually went back to Hong Kong and made hits like "The Big Boss" and "Fist of Fury." His last film, "Enter the Dragon," was released six days after his death and became his most popular movie. He was one of the first Asian actors to attain Hollywood megastardom and fanned a kung fu craze that swept the world.

## Tribute

On Thursday, W Wong, the chairperson of a Bruce Lee fan club in Hong Kong, was touched to see fans from different countries including Britain and Korea gathering at Lee's statue to pay tribute to him.

But Wong said demographics of the club established nearly three decades ago are changing as members grow older and that it has only one member in his 20s.

"We face problems in passing on our work," Wong said, although the group still has some 600 members.

An instructor at a martial arts institute in Hong Kong's Jordan district says more than half of the studio's Jeet Kune Do students came to learn the martial arts style because of Lee.

Teacher Ricky Fong said adaptability is important in Jeet Kune Do and life and pointed to one of Lee's most famous sayings: "Be water, my friend." The phrase was frequently used by protesters in Hong

Kong's 2019 pro-democracy movement to describe their guerrilla strategy of moving fluidly across the city.

One of Fong's students, Adrian Li, said he admired Lee's martial arts skills and philosophy. He added that Lee's eagerness to keep learning has influenced him deeply.

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** An investigation into **Tupac Shakur's** unsolved killing has been revived. It took nearly three decades, but a new twist came when authorities in Nevada served a search warrant this week in connection with the rap star's shooting death, they confirmed Tuesday.

Here's what to know about one of the most infamous fatal shootings in hip-hop history:

Las Vegas police served a search warrant in connection to the killing of Shakur, who was gunned down Sept. 7, 1996.

The warrant was executed Monday in the nearby city of Henderson. It's unclear what they were looking for or where they searched.

Citing the ongoing investigation, a police spokesperson said he couldn't provide further details on the latest development in the case, including whether a suspect has been identified.

The 25-year-old rapper was traveling in a black BMW driven by Death Row Records founder **Marion "Suge" Knight** in a convoy of about 10 cars, apparently headed to a nightclub, after watching **Mike Tyson** knock out **Bruce Seldon** in a championship fight at the MGM Grand.

After the fight, Shakur, Knight and associates were involved in a fight at the hotel.

## Variety

# Features



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Margot Robbie in a scene from 'Barbie.' (AP)

## Film

Film a celebratory homage to Mattel doll and her history

# Barbie's life in plastic looks fantastic

By Jocelyn Noveck

For someone who's 11.5 inches tall and weighs under 8 ounces, poor Barbie's had to carry an awfully heavy load over the years on that slender, plastic back of hers.

Welcomed as a trailblazer in 1959 - An adult doll! With actual breasts! - she was nonetheless branded an anti-feminist a decade later when women's rights marchers chanted "I Am Not a Barbie Doll," referring to her unrealistic body type (and perhaps ignoring the fact that she was single, a homeowner and a career woman).

As years went by, Barbie had her hits (adopting a more inclusive body type, running for president) and misses (exclaiming "Math class is TOUGH!" - ouch). Through it all, this lightning rod in tiny pink heels remained uniquely talented at reinventing herself.

Which is why it makes sense that now, writer-director Greta Gerwig takes Barbie in more than one direction - in every direction, really - in her brash, clever, idea-packed (if ultimately TOO packed) and most of all, eye-poppingly lovely "Barbie," the brand's first live action movie.

Is it a celebratory homage to Barbie and her history? Yes. Also a cutting critique, and biting satire? Yes, too. The film is co-produced by Mattel, and they must have felt skittish about some elements - perhaps not Will Ferrell's reliably buffoonish Mattel CEO, but a far more serious scene where a young girl accuses Barbie of making girls feel bad about themselves. The movie's also about gender dynamics, mothers and daughters, insidious sexism ... and more.

But the neatest trick is how "Barbie," starring a pitch-perfect Margot Robbie - and after a minute you'll never be able to imagine anyone else doing it - can simultaneously and smoothly both mock and admire its source material. Gerwig deftly threads that needle, even if the film sags in its second half under the weight of its many ideas and some less-than-developed character arcs.

In any case, boy - or should we say, girl - life in

plastic looks fantastic.

A head-spinning opening credits sequence begins with a Barbie history lesson, narrated by Helen Mirren. Then it's off to Barbie Land, where Barbie lives in her flamingo-pink Dreamhouse, surrounded by other Barbies in theirs.

Other Barbies? Well, we know how many Barbie versions exist on store shelves, and Gerwig and her writing (and life) partner Noah Baumbach take this one step further: If they're all Barbies, that means "Barbie" is all of them. There's no one Barbie - although Robbie, who plays Stereotypical Barbie (and also produced the film), is the focal point.

And every day's perfect for Stereotypical Barbie, who wakes in her heart-shaped bed, waves to neighbor Barbies, and heads to the shower, which is dry (there's no actual water, wind, sun or gravity in Barbie Land.) Her day's outfit awaits, perhaps a Chanel number, protected by shiny plastic as in a Barbie box. Then she swoops down her hot pink slide to the pool-with-no-water. The sky above is painted blue, the mountains purple. Gerwig was inspired by old soundstage musicals. Architectural Digest even did a piece on the house.

## Menace

Equally stunning is "Beach" - a place, and also the name of Ken's career. (Sorry Ken, we should have mentioned you before the 11th paragraph, but we had so much to say about Barbie). The beach is also apparently where Ken lives, because, have you ever heard of Ken's house? In any case, a very blond Ryan Gosling gleefully chews the scenery - or, inhales it - and is never better than when conveying Ken's forced enthusiasm with an edge of desperation plus a sprinkle of menace. Also, when dancing.

Speaking of dancing, one night at Barbie's "giant blowout party," she suddenly starts thinking about ... death. The next morning she has bad breath, and OMG, her famously arched feet go flat! Also gravity happens, so she falls off her house.

After consulting with Weird Barbie (Kate McKin-

non - who else?) Barbie heads to LA to solve a tear in the boundary between Real World and Barbie Land, singing the Indigo Girls' "Closer to Fine," her signature road song. (The film's high-powered soundtrack features Dua Lipa, Nicki Minaj, HAIM, Lizzo, Billie Eilish, and many others.) There, she and Ken encounter a world with a wrinkle: Men have the upper hand. No all-female Supreme Court here! Hmm, thinks Ken.

On the run from Mattel, Barbie encounters Gloria (America Ferrera), mother of tween Sasha, who has mixed feelings about Barbie, not to mention Mom. In her spare time, Gloria sketches ideas for new Barbies - as in Thoughts of Impending Death Barbie (not to be confused with Depression Barbie.) Gloria helps rescue Barbie and also proves of crucial help when they later discover that Ken and the other Kens - Simu Liu, Kingsley Ben-Adir and others - are up to no good.

There's so much more, and we're over our word limit - which may just be the feeling Gerwig had when trying to fit her ideas under two hours. And all her actors: It would've been great to see more Issa Rae as President Barbie, Emerald Fennell as pregnant, discontinued Midge, and Michael Cera as Allan-who-can-wear-Ken's-clothes. In any case, the snappy pace starts to lag.

Not to discount Ferrera's eloquent monologue, in which Gloria educates newly conscious Barbie about the landmines women face trying to navigate social rules that don't seem to apply to men, like how to be a mom and also a professional, the need to be "thin" but call it "healthy," and other things.

And if, Gloria concludes, all this is true for a doll just trying to represent a woman ... what does that mean for the rest of us? Which is, perhaps, the essential Barbie dilemma - she's always been judged by rather impossible standards.

Nevertheless, she persists. All 11.5 inches of her. And now she's Movie Star Barbie.

"Barbie," a Warner Bros. Pictures release, has been rated PG-13 "for suggestive references and brief language." Running time: 114 minutes. Three stars out of four. (AP)

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico:** American model **Gigi Hadid** and a friend went ahead with a vacation in the **Cayman Islands** after local authorities arrested the pair for marijuana possession and later released them.

Hadid, who arrived on a private aircraft from the US, was arrested after Customs and Border Control agents searched her luggage and found a small amount of cannabis, the agency said in a statement Tuesday.

Officials identified her as **Jelena Noura Hadid**, which is the 28-year-old model's legal name.

Hadid and her friend arrived in the Cayman Islands on July 10 and pleaded guilty on July 12 to importing a controlled drug and a drug utensil. They were fined more than \$1,200, with no conviction recorded, authorities said.

"All's well that ends well," Hadid posted Tuesday on Instagram, along with a photo of her and a friend at the beach.

A representative told The Associated Press that Hadid had bought the marijuana legally in **New York City** with a medical license, and that her record remains clear.

The Cayman Islands legalized medical marijuana in May 2017, but recreational use remains illegal. Local laws dictate a prison sentence of up to a year and/or a fine for possession of up to 12 grams of marijuana for a first offense. (AP)

**SANTA FE, NM:** The former weapons supervisor on the set of the movie "Rust" won't have to take a drug test as she confronts felony charges of evidence tampering and involuntary manslaughter in the on-set shooting death of a cinematographer by actor **Alec Baldwin**.

A New Mexico district court judge on Wednesday dismissed a request from prosecutors to test **Hannah Gutierrez-Reed** for illegal drugs, calling it "an ambush" against her defense lawyers.

Prosecutors say Gutierrez-Reed passed narcotics to another person to avoid legal consequences in the immediate aftermath of the fatal shooting in October 2021, while contending in court documents that the armorer was likely hungover on the day a live bullet was placed into the gun Baldwin used.

Defense attorney **Jason Bowles** said the drug use allegations are unsubstantiated and undocumented.

It's still unclear how general live rounds of ammunition got on set. Prosecutors say they have some evidence to support the theory that Gutierrez-Reed may be responsible for the introduction of



Baldwin

Hadid

the rounds.

Wednesday's hearing, held online, was the first for a recently filed felony charge against Gutierrez-Reed of tampering with evidence in the shooting, which killed cinematographer **Halyna Hutchins** and wounded director **Joel Souza**.

State District Court Judge

**Mary Marlowe Sommer** advised Gutierrez-Reed of her legal rights on the evidence-tampering charge, which carries a possible penalty of up to 18 months in prison. Gutierrez-Reed did not enter a plea.

An involuntary manslaughter charge against Baldwin was dropped in April. The actor was pointing a gun at Hutchins when

it went off, killing her. Baldwin has said the gun fired accidentally after he followed instructions to aim it toward Hutchins, who was behind the camera.

Evidentiary hearings may take place as soon as August to determine whether the case against Gutierrez-Reed advances toward trial. (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## People

## 'Inspired generations'

## Titanic expert killed in sub remembered

LOS ANGELES, July 20, (AP): Almost a month after he died in a submersible implosion on his way to see the Titanic wreck, a French explorer was remembered Wednesday by filmmaker James Cameron and others as someone whose deep-sea exploits inspired generations of ocean lovers and brought a greater understanding of the famous ship.

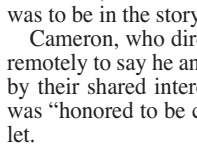
Paul-Henri Nargeolet, 77, died when the Titan submersible descended into deep North Atlantic waters on June 18 to explore the Titanic - something Nargeolet had done dozens of times before. Investigators believe the submersible, owned by a private company, imploded during the descent, killing everyone aboard.

The event, which was streamed live on Facebook, began with a video montage of Nargeolet and his accomplishments that showed him embarking on the first archeological mission to the site more than three decades ago. The presentation included his work to recover "the Big Piece," a 17-ton section of the Titanic's shell plating recovered in 1998.

The video said Nargeolet "inspired generations of ocean lovers, divers and explorers over the world." It also showed Nargeolet manning watercraft over the years and ended with him staring at the sea from the beach. Jessica Sanders, president of RMS Titanic Inc., then stepped to a podium decorated with pictures of Nargeolet and tearfully recounted his accomplishments, his legacy and his "devilish smile."

Sanders, speaking in English and using a French interpreter, said about 80% of the artifacts in the company's collection were recovered by Nargeolet. "PH was a giant of a man, and an inspiration in and of himself," Sanders said. "To listen to him tell a story was to be in the story itself."

Cameron, who directed the movie "Titanic," spoke remotely to say he and Nargeolet were drawn together by their shared interest in the wreck site. He said he was "honored to be considered as a peer" by Nargeolet.



Cameron

## Adventure

"He became over the years, a friend. He lived a large life, a life full of adventure," Cameron said.

"We took about all the things we could do. It seemed there were so many dives, so many adventures ahead," he continued. "For me the greater risk to humanity is to not go. The explorer's call is to go to the edge and go beyond. ... And humanity is better off for it."

Rory Golden, a deep-sea explorer who describes himself as the first Irish diver to visit the Titanic site, said he met Nargeolet three years ago and bonded quickly over their shared love of the wreck. They would swap stories about their various adventures and what they had learned on them.

"Like me, he loved being on the water and messing around in small boats," Golden said. "We laughed. We laughed a lot. PH never lost that inquisitive mind that made him so special ... He was constantly seeking knowledge about the Titanic. He always had time for others, especially the next generation of explorers."

Some mourners referred to Nargeolet by his nickname, "Mr. Titanic." Nargeolet's contributions to worldwide understanding of the Titanic wreck are without peer, said Malte Fiebing-Petersen, president of the German Titanic Society.

"A lot of the knowledge we have of the wreck site today is based on PH's work," Fiebing-Petersen said.

Hundreds watched the memorial online, with several welcoming the chance for lovers of the Titanic to gather and mourn the loss of Nargeolet.

"I take comfort from the thought that he is now where he always was drawn to. A place which he loved. How fitting for this great explorer," Alexander Korthus said in the chat.

"Amazing tribute. My heart hurts, taking some comfort that he died doing what he loved most," John Lamoreau said.

Nargeolet was the director of underwater research for RMS Titanic Inc., an Atlanta-based company that owns the salvage rights for the world's most famous shipwreck. His memorial service took place a day after the company opened an exhibit in Paris showcasing thousands of artifacts from the Titanic's debris field.

"Many of the artifacts on display were recovered by or recovered under the supervision of Paul-Henri Nargeolet and his dedicated team. An intrepid explorer with an indomitable pioneering spirit, PH fearlessly ventured into the depths of the ocean to unravel its mysteries and educate the public," the company said in a social media post.

The company said on its website that Nargeolet will be "always in our hearts and thoughts" and was "a true explorer of his time."

Nargeolet was a former French navy officer who has been remembered by friends as one of the world's great undersea explorers.

Also killed in the implosion were pilot Stockton Rush, founder of OceanGate Inc., the company that owned the submersible; two members of a prominent Pakistani family, Shahzada Dawood and his son Sulman Dawood; and British adventurer Hamish Harding.

The implosion remains under investigation by multiple authorities, including the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard has convened a Marine Board of Investigation, its highest level of investigation, and has said it will hold a public hearing in the future.

OceanGate, which was based in Everett, Washington, announced earlier this month that it suspended all operations. Its website was shuttered on Wednesday save for a single page acknowledging the suspension of operations.

## Also:

**JUNEAU, Alaska:** An Alaska man inadvertently filmed his own drowning on a glacial lake with a GoPro camera mounted on his helmet, but authorities who recovered the camera have not yet found his body, officials said Tuesday.

Alaska State Troopers said teams would continue to search Mendenhall Lake for the body of Paul Rodriguez Jr., 43, of Juneau.

Troopers said a helmet with a camera attached to it that was confirmed to have belonged to Rodriguez was recording on July 11 when his kayak overturned and he went into the water.

"The recording continued showing that the kayak overturned due to a strong current coming from the glacier," Troopers spokesperson Tim DeSpain said by email.

DeSpain said the helmet was found on the lakeshore. He said it was turned in to troopers on Monday.



English singer, songwriter Joss Stone performs during her concert at Veszpremfest festival in Veszprem, Hungary, Saturday night, July 15. (AP)

## Music

## A 'personal letter' to fans

## Ora bets on herself with 'You &amp; I'

NEW YORK, July 20, (AP): It's hard to imagine a paparazzi-followed, international pop star losing confidence, but that was Rita Ora.

"I think, as humans, we always tend to doubt ourselves. And so, I think over the course of my last album... a lot happened," said the 32-year-old singer, who recently married, changed record labels and became busier with more TV gigs. "I lost a bit of confidence."

Now, the multi-hyphenated entertainer is betting on herself with her new album, "You & I," out now, which she says is a "personal letter" to her fans. She partly credits her newlywed husband, filmmaker Taika Waititi, with regaining her musical mojo.

"The whole album is not just about him," she said. "But it definitely has a lot to do with my connections with my family and my friends... and everything that inspires me."

"You & I" marks Ora's third studio release following 2018's "Phoenix." The 12-track project boasts credits from executive producer Oak Felder (Alicia Keys, Usher, Ariana Grande), along with Rollo (David Guetta, BTS) and Keith Sorrells (John Legend, Demi Lovato).

It also signifies a personal milestone for Ora; she owns this album's master recordings - advice she says she received from icon Prince - and co-wrote every song, something she'd never done, by converting diary entries into songs.

"There are the artists who sort of take the reins of their creativity to kind of help tell their story a little bit better, and Rita definitely is one of those," said Felder. "Rita's life is a (expletive) movie... so emotionally dramatic and so emotionally entertaining and such a fulfilling thing that she has been able to live, and so I think that's why it's really easy for her to get to the studio to push the process and be like, 'I'm going to write about this.'"

the men had conspired - they didn't know each other - but because it was, as she said earlier in the case, Spacey's trademark move.

"There comes a stage when so many people are saying the same thing," Agnew told a London jury. "It just becomes,

The deeply personal album has only one collaboration, Fatboy Slim, on "Praising You" which hit No. 1 on Billboard's dance/mix show airplay chart - a rework of his 1998 hit, "Praise You."

The "Anywhere" artist released two other singles: "You Only Love Me" and her current single, "Don't Think Twice." Her "Thor: Love and Thunder" husband deployed his directorial skills for the latter's music video. Joining that trio of singles are the radio-friendly tune the infectious, four-on-the-floor "Unfeel It" as well as her ballad title track.

"You & I" is actually the song I wrote the day after I got married. And it was crazy because I was so hung over... my brain was like mush," recalled Ora, who has appeared in nearly a dozen feature films. "I basically wanted to write the ultimate love song... there's a lot of references of classic love songs."

## Dedicate

There are also introspective records layered beneath the drums and synths. She dedicates "Shape of Me" to her mother, a breast cancer survivor, and reveals pursuing therapy in the bouncy, self-reflective "Girl in the Mirror."

"Your voice - like your soul, like your spirit - experiences things and it changes it... When I hear Rita sing, I can hear those experiences," said the Grammy-nominated producer Felder. "I think the pressure of having gone through everything that she's gone through, the fact that this project was so important to her and so important to her career really, really, really informed how complex and how deep her vocals felt on the record. There is a rare sampling of artists that I have worked with where that is the case."

Creating pop smashes like "Let You Love Me," "Poison" and "Body on Me," Ora was born in Kosovo (formerly Yugoslavia) before her family fled to London due to the persecution

of Albanians as the war-torn region fell. Growing up in Notting Hill, she attended the Sylvia Young Theatre School and later signed with Jay-Z's Roc Nation. Her 2012 "Ora" album launched a successful debut career with hits like "R.I.P.," "How We Do (Party)," and "Hot Right Now." She would later sue the company, believing she wasn't a priority.

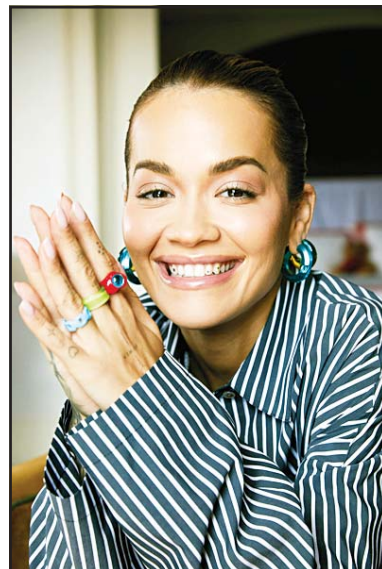
Currently, Ora is prepping a deluxe version of "You & I" loaded with star-studded features (which she's keeping under wraps), and will continue judging duties on "The Voice: Australia." She also appears in "Wonderwell," the final film by Star Wars actress Carrie Fisher, released last month.

But at this moment, she's focused on her first creative love, hoping it's a reflection of her endurance, during what she defines as her latest "era," a perspective weaved into her self-empowering, "Look at Me Now."

"When you get home and it's quiet and you're lying down in bed like everyone else, you ask yourself all these questions and self-doubts," reflected Ora. "I wanted people to listen to that and think there is a light on the other side, if you just really kind of keep at it and not give up."

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** The Grammy-winning rock band Greta Van Fleet is back with a "Starcatcher," a strong album that shows the quartet's maturity and embraces a more prog rock and psychedelic flavor. The first single, the sprawling, Woodstock-y "Meeting the Master," made the top 40 of Billboard's Hot Rock & Alternative Songs chart. Producer Dave Cobb took the guys back to their roots as a live band. A few days after the release, Greta Van Fleet kick off a new tour in Nashville at the Bridgestone Arena and will make stops at Madison Square Garden in New York and The Forum in Los Angeles and London's OVO Arena Wembley.



Rita Ora poses for a portrait to promote her new album 'You &amp; I' on April 26, 2023, at The Bowery Hotel in New York. (AP)



Spacey



Shakira

## Variety

**BARCELONA, Spain:** Pop star Shakira is facing more trouble from Spain's tax office after a court near Barcelona said Thursday that it had agreed to open an investigation into a second case of alleged tax fraud by the Colombian singer.

Shakira is already set to face trial at a date to be determined for allegedly failing to pay 14.5 million euros (\$13.9 million) in taxes on income earned between 2012 and 2014. The entertainer has denied any wrongdoing.

Now, a Spanish judge has agreed with state prosecutors to probe two possible cases of tax fraud by Shakira from 2018. The court said it had no information on how much money was in question.

Both cases are being handled by a court in the town of Esplugues de Llobregat, near Barcelona.

The first case that is set to go to trial hinges on where Shakira lived during 2012-14. Prosecutors in Barcelona have alleged the Grammy winner spent more than half of that period in Spain and should have paid taxes in the country, even though her official residence was in the Bahamas.

Shakira, whose full name is Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll, has been linked to Spain since she started dating the now-retired soccer player Gerard Pique. The couple, who have two children, lived together in Barcelona until last year, when they ended their 11-year relationship.

Spain has cracked down on soccer stars like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo over the past decade for not paying their full due in taxes. They were found guilty of evasion but both avoided prison time thanks to a provision that allows a judge to waive sentences under two years in length for first-time offenders. (AP)

**LONDON:** It was no coincidence that three of Kevin Spacey's four accusers described similar grabbing incidents, a prosecutor said Wednesday in her closing argument at his sexual assault trial.

Prosecutor Christine Agnew said the interactions with the Hollywood star that left the men feeling "small, diminished and worthless" were similar not because



Fans gather in front of the statue of martial artist Bruce Lee to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death in Hong Kong, July 20. (AP) — Details Page 11









Pakistan's Saud Shakeel plays a shot during the fifth day of the first cricket Test match between Sri Lanka and Pakistan in Galle, Sri Lanka. (AP)

# Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Pak and India agree to play each other as Asia Cup announces schedule

## Pakistan complete four-wicket win over Sri Lanka in first Test

GALLE, Sri Lanka, July 20, (AP): Pakistan made it a difficult chase at times but the visitors completed a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first cricket test on Thursday.

Pakistan kept losing wickets at regular intervals but opening batsman Imam-ul-Haq scored an unbeaten half-century, his eighth in test cricket, to see the tourists through before lunch on the fifth day.

Sri Lanka won the toss and batted, scoring 312, and Pakistan replied with 461 in its first innings. The home side scored 279 runs in its second at-bat, leaving Pakistan 131 runs to win.

Pakistan didn't get off to a good start and limped to 48 for three at stumps on day four.

When play resumed on the final day, Pakistan needed 83 runs and there were memories of the 2009 test at Galle. That's when the visitors needed 97 runs with eight wickets in hand chasing a target of 168 but collapsed and were bowled out for 117.

Babar Azam added 41 runs for the fourth wicket Thursday with Imam and the run chase looked a mere formality, but Prabath Jayasuriya trapped the Pakistan captain for 24 to give Sri Lanka some hope.

### CRICKET

Saud Shakeel and Imam then added 43 runs for the fifth wicket with the former being the more dominant partner with his clever footwork against the spinners. He had come down the track and executed an elegant cover drive off Ramesh Mendis but was caught behind the next ball to give Mendis his first wicket in the innings.

Jayasuriya claimed his fourth wicket when Sarfraz Ahmed, attempting to sweep, was caught at backward square leg by Kusal Mendis.

While wickets were falling on the other end, Imam was unbeaten on 50 having faced 84 deliveries and hit four fours and one six.

Agha Salman walked in at the fall of the sixth wicket with Pakistan needing four runs and he completed the victory by depositing Jayasuriya over long-off for six.

Shakeel was named man of the match, having posted a double century under tremendous pressure in the first innings.

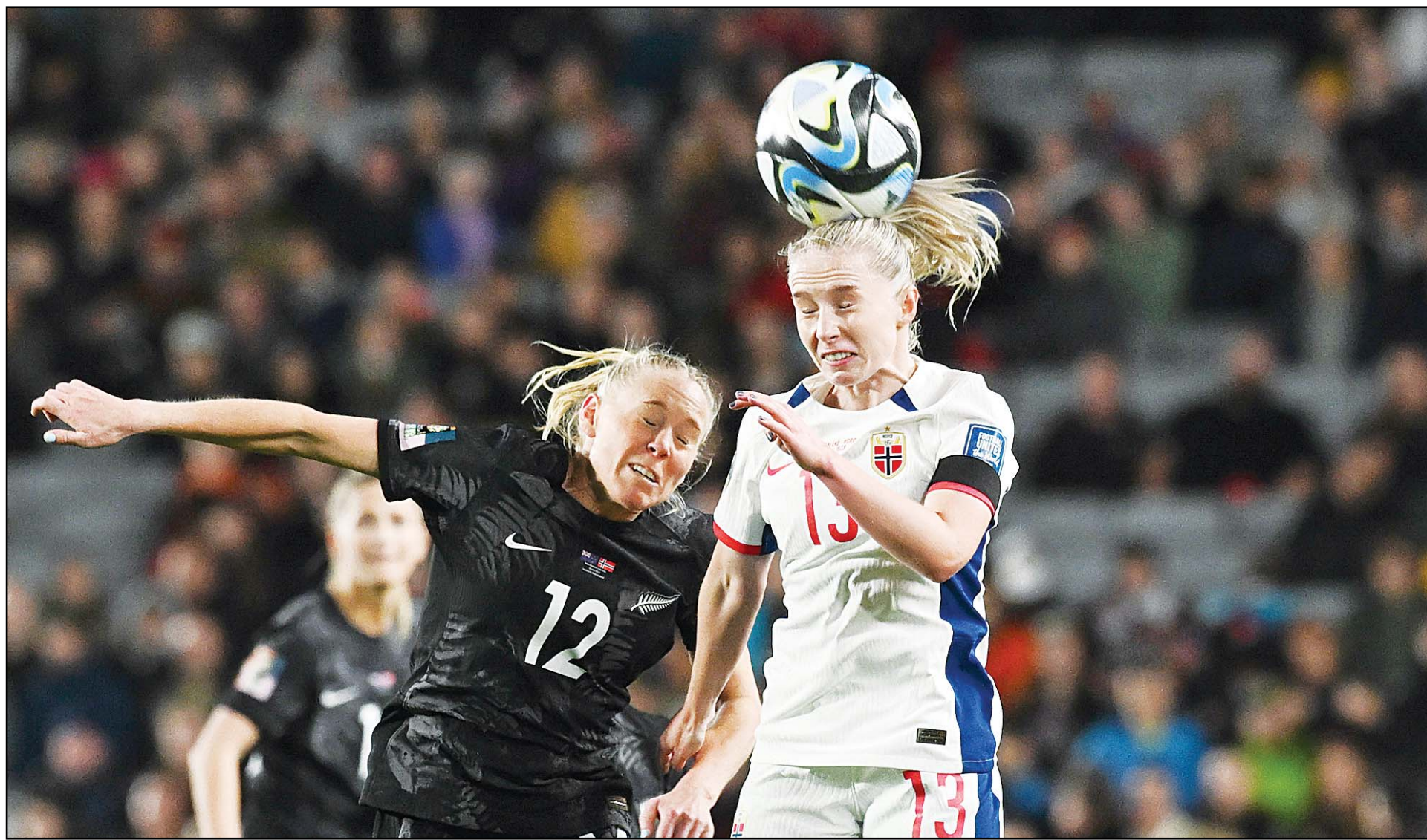
Pakistan captain Babar Azam praised Shakeel, who was playing just his sixth test match.

"Saud Shakeel was unbelievable," he said. "We are very happy for him. We lost early wickets in the first innings but the way he absorbed the pressure was superb. His effort helped us to get ahead of the game. Very satisfied with the way he went about things. Galle is not an easy wicket to bat but he made it look easy."

Sri Lanka skipper Dimuth Karunaratne also praised his deputy Dhananjaya de Silva, who scored 122 and 82 runs in the match.

"We have to learn from Dhanan-

## Ferns upset Norway on emotional day, Women's World Cup kicks off



Norway's Thea Bjelde (right), is challenged by New Zealand's Betsy Hassett competes for the ball during the Women's World Cup soccer match between New Zealand and Norway in Auckland, New Zealand. (AP)

jaya," Karunaratne said. "He showed how to bat when the bowling is on top. If someone had taken responsibility and hanged around with him, we could have posted decent totals. To win the toss and not to score big when conditions were best for batting was so disappointing." The second test begins next Monday in Colombo.

### Also:

**ISLAMABAD:** Delayed by political

tensions between cricket rivals Pakistan and India, the Asia Cup's long-awaited schedule was announced on Wednesday with Multan hosting the opening game between Pakistan and Nepal on Aug. 30.

The Asian Cricket Council accepted the Pakistan Cricket Board's hybrid model for the event after India refused to travel to Pakistan. Sri Lanka was chosen as joint host with Pakistan for the Aug. 30-Sept. 17 tournament. After its opener at home in Multan, Pakistan will travel to Sri Lanka where it will take on India at Kandy on Sept. 2. If both countries qualify for the Super 4s, they will play in Sri Lankan capital Colombo.

The schedule of the tournament went through several changes and in the original draft Pakistan was scheduled to host four games in Lahore. But after Zaka Ashraf replaced Namji Sethi as the new head of the PCB management committee, Multan was added into the plans by the PCB.

Sri Lanka will host nine matches. Pakistan, India and Nepal are in Group A while Group B comprises Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Except for Nepal, the other five nations have qualified for the Cricket World Cup in India, starting in October.

The top two teams from both groups qualify for the Super 4s at the Asia Cup with the top two then qualifying for the Sept. 17 final at Colombo.

### CYCLING



Denmark's Kasper Asgreen, (second right), crosses the finish line ahead of Netherlands' Pascal Eenkhoorn, (right), and the sprinting pack, (rear), to win the eighteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 185 kilometers (115 miles) with start in Moutiers and finish in Bourg-en-Bresse, France. (AP)

### Asgreen holds on to stage win, Jonas protects big lead

BOURG-EN-BRESSE, France, July 20, (AP): Another Danish rider took the limelight at the Tour de France on Thursday as Kasper Asgreen joined an early breakaway and then held on to win the 18th stage in a sprint finish.

His countryman Jonas Vingegaard took it easy this time, sitting comfortably in the main pack as he protected his huge overall lead. The defending champion leads two-time Tour winner Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia by 7 minutes, 35 seconds and Britain's Adam Yates by 10:45 with Sunday's finale in Paris getting closer.

But this was Asgreen's day and he spread his arms after beating Dutchman Pascal Eenkhoorn and Norwegian Jonas Abrahamson in their dash to the line.

"Obviously the situation of our breakaway was not ideal. I would have preferred to break with seven or eight riders. It's also one of the final stages of the Tour after really hard weeks," Asgreen said. "I didn't rule out the possibility of winning. My breakaway companions were just excellent out there. We all deserved to win because of how much work we put into the break."

They were all given the same time of 4 hours, 6 minutes, 48 seconds after holding off a large group of sprinters behind them who left it too late. Star sprinter Jasper Philipsen missed out on another stage win and finished fourth.

After Vingegaard took full control of the race with some jaw-droppingly fast riding to crush Pogacar in the Alps,

Thursday's stage offered respite to the main contenders on a flat 185-kilometer (114.6-mile) route from Moutiers to Bourg-en-Bresse.

Belgian rider Victor Campenaerts joined Asgreen and Abrahamson to form an early breakaway.

They worked well together and after the first hour had opened up a lead of around one minute. The gap remained the same, give or take a few seconds either way, with under 100 kilometers (62 miles) left.

But the peloton, after rolling along in the sunshine at a mercifully reduced pace compared to previous days, then eventually stepped it up, with Quentin Pacher and Fred Wright setting a higher tempo.

Eenkhoorn was the next to attack and he was the only one to join the trio to make it a four-man group.

The peloton left it too late, and they just held on as Asgreen raised his arms at the line. The huge effort took its toll as he dismounted and sat on the tarmac to get his breath back, before being congratulated by a Soudal Quick-Step teammate.

"It means so much with the period I had this year since I crashed at Tour de Suisse," Asgreen said. "I've come a long way, and to cap it off with a victory like this is amazing."

### Kerr's WC in doubt as Australia pip Ireland

**AUCKLAND, New Zealand, July 20, (AP):** On a day that started with tragedy, the Football Ferns triumphed.

Hannah Wilkinson scored to open the second half and New Zealand went on to upset Norway 1-0 on Thursday for its first-ever win at the Women's World Cup, hours after a shooting in downtown Auckland shocked the host nation.

A gunman stormed a high-rise construction site near Norway's team hotel and opened fire, killing two people. The gunman was found dead after a police shootout.

There was increased security at Eden Park stadium, where 42,137 - a record crowd for a soccer match in New Zealand - were on hand to cheer on the home team, co-hosts of the tournament with Australia. New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins was among those at the game. He went into the locker room after the game and thanked the team for an inspirational performance.

After an opening ceremony that honored New Zealand's Indigenous heritage, there was a moment of silence for the victims of the shooting. Five people were wounded in the attack, including a police officer.

New Zealand's Football Ferns had played in five previous World Cups, but hadn't won a match.

"We really wanted to inspire young girls across the nation and I think we did that tonight. We showed that anything is possible," said captain Ali Riley, who had happy tears in her eyes.

Norway couldn't finish off its chances in the first half while the Ferns defended well. Ada Hegerberg's attempt in the 37th minute was deftly defended by Rebekah Stott and the match was scoreless after the first half.

The first woman to win the prestigious Ballon d'Or award, Hegerberg has 43 goals in 77 international appearances. Currently playing professionally for Lyon, she has scored a record 59 goals in the Champions League. But she couldn't find the back of the net in Auckland.

Instead, Wilkinson scored in the opening moments of the second half. Jaqui Hand moved up the right side and placed a perfect cross at Wilkinson's feet for the goal. While the home crowd wildly celebrated, Norway goalkeeper Aurora Mikalson stood with her

hands on her hips.

Norway won the World Cup in 1995. At the last tournament in 2019, the team fell to England in the quarter-finals. At the Women's Euro in 2022, England routed the Norwegians 8-0. In the run-up to this game, winger Caroline Graham Hansen called the World Cup a chance to "start fresh."

Tuva Hansen nearly tied it for Nor-

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way in the 83rd but her shot caromed off the crossbar. The Ferns had a chance to double their lead in the 89th after video review awarded them a penalty, but Ria Percival's attempt hit the post.

Stoppage time stretched for more than 10 minutes before the whistle blew and New Zealand's bench rushed the field in celebration. Riley pounded her chest for the electrified fans.

"It's really hard to put into words, but absolutely surreal," Ferns defender Katie Bowen said of the drought-breaking victory. "I mean we made history tonight, but we can't rest on that. Our goal is to get out of the group."

Bowen said she was awakened by an early morning call from her brother, checking if she was OK after hearing about the Auckland shooting.

"I think everyone was just pretty taken aback, because this doesn't really happen in New Zealand," Bowen said. "But I think, especially on a game day, down to just each individual doing what they needed to do to process it

and make sure they could focus on the game at the same time."

New Zealand got the nod to stage the World Cup's first game, although co-host Australia's match against Ireland in Sydney started about an hour after fulltime in Auckland.

Considered the favorites in Group A, the Norwegians went into the game 5-1-1 all-time against New Zealand, with the only loss coming in a 2019 exhibition match.

Norway coach Hege Riise said her players were not impacted by the shooting, despite the incident happening near their hotel.

How much of a role Sam Kerr can physically play for Australia at the Women's World Cup remains completely uncertain.

Even if her time on the sidelines with a calf muscle injury is extended, though, Australia's iconic striker still has important role to play for the tournament co-hosts after helping to inspire the Matildas to a 1-0 opening win over Ireland on Thursday.

Both host nations were in action on the opening day. The Australians were expected to have too much star power against Ireland, which was on debut at the tournament. New Zealand had never won a game at the World Cup.

But the New Zealanders produced a 1-0 upset win over 1995 champion Norway in the tournament's first match, hours after a fatal shooting in downtown Auckland shocked their nation. A minute's silence was held before that match at Eden Park.



Australia's Mary Fowler (right), vies for the ball with Ireland's Ruesha Littlejohn during the Women's World Cup soccer match between Australia and Ireland at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia. (AP)