



Commerce, coop union join on prices

Memorandum signed

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation for monitoring and controlling prices of products and services in cooperative stores and similar markets.

The MoU was inked in presence of the Minister of Social Affairs, Sheikh Firas Saud Al-Malik Al-Sabah and Minister of

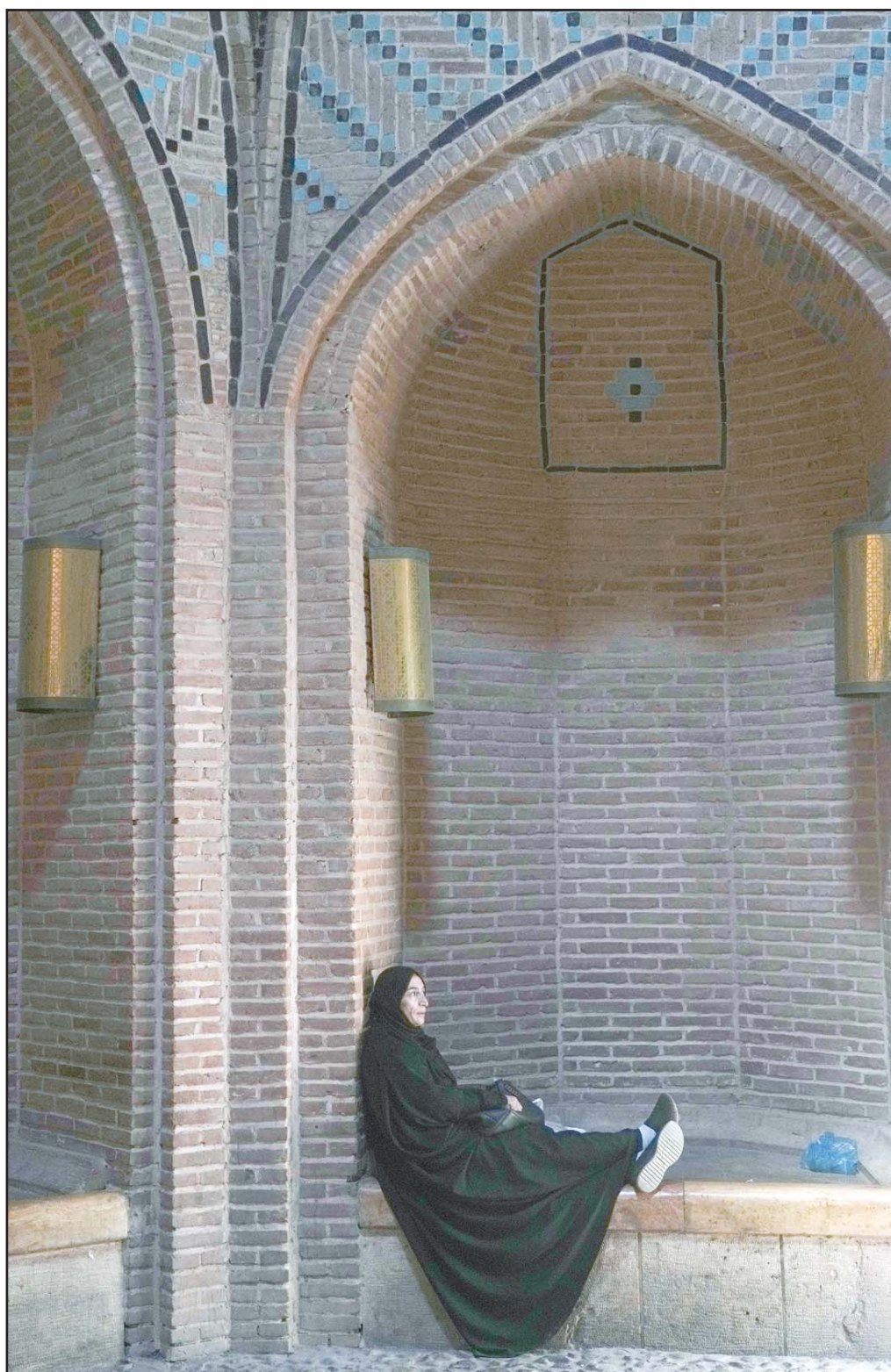
Trade and Industry Mohammed Al-Aiban, on Wednesday.

A joint press statement said the signing of the memorandum came to achieve cooperation between the ministry and the union. Both parties will develop and support joint frameworks of understanding FOR monitoring and controlling the prices of products and services through joint coordination and cooperation.

The MoU, effective as of date of signing until 12 months, can be renewed according to a new agreement between the two parties. The spectrum of data cooperation is represented by product name, brand, size, weight, country of origin, product price and product barcode.

Iran levels accusation

Israel accused of substitute sabotage bid



A woman sits at Saad ol-Saltaneh traditional market in the city of Qazvin, some 93 miles (150 kilometers) northwest of the capital Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, Aug 30, 2023. Saad ol-Saltaneh is a well-preserved historical site in Iran which originally was built as a caravansarai in Qajar era and now is turned to a traditional market. (AP)

DUBAI, Aug 31, (AP): Iran accused Israel on Thursday of trying to sabotage its ballistic missile program through faulty foreign parts that could explode, damaging or destroying the weapons before they could be used.

The Israeli prime minister's office declined to comment on the allegation, though it comes amid a yearslong effort by both Israel and the U.S. to target Iran. A reporter also said the parts could be used in Iran's extensive arsenal of drones, which have grown in prominence amid their use by Russia in its war on Ukraine.

The report described the alleged Israeli operation as "one of the biggest attempts at sabotage" it had ever seen. It accused Israeli Mossad agents of supplying the faulty parts, which the state TV report described as low-price "connectors."

Footage aired by state TV showed the alleged parts, some of them popping up into the air, as if affected by an explosive.

The pieces shown in the television report appeared to be military-style, high-density circular electrical connectors. Such connectors can be used to attach electronic components of a missile or a drone, such as its guidance computer, and pass both electricity and signals. Video released by Iran in the past showed missile scientists working with similar connectors.

Explode

"This was planted in a part called the connector, which is responsible for connecting the (computer) network of Iranian-made ballistic missiles, as well as drones," state television military correspondent Younes Shadloo said in the report. "Apparently the part contained a modified explosive kit planted in it and was timed to explode at a certain time."

The state TV report did not explain why Iran sought to purchase the connectors abroad, though some Iranian websites advertising such connectors suggest that Russian-made ones were the best in the market. Russia faces international sanctions over its war on Ukraine, which has seen its own supply of electronics needed for missile systems challenged.

Iranian-made drones used by Russia in the war also use circular connectors, according to reports by experts who have torn down the weapons.

The TV broadcast did not say when authorities discovered the faulty parts, nor if they had been installed in any ballistic missile prior. In May 2022, an explosion at a major Iranian military and weapons development base east of Tehran called Parchin killed an engineer and wounded another. Other blasts have struck as well, including failures in Iran's space program that the U.S. has long criticized as advancing Tehran's ballistic missile program.

Retaliation

Meanwhile, Iran's foreign minister condemned Wednesday an Israeli airstrike on the international airport of the Syrian city of Aleppo, saying such attacks would eventually face retaliation.

Hossein Amirabdollahian made his comments during a news conference in the Syrian capital, Damascus, where he was beginning a two-day visit.

On Monday, an Israeli airstrike damaged Aleppo's airport, putting the runway out of service. The airport has been targeted several times this year, including two attacks in March that also put it out of service.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled parts of Syria in recent years but it rarely acknowledges or discusses the operations. Often the strikes target Syrian military forces or Iranian-backed groups.

Tehran has been a main backer of the Syrian government since a 2011 uprising turned into full-blown civil war. It has sent thousands of Iran-backed fighters to Syria, helping to tip the balance of power in the favor of President Bashar Assad.

Israel has targeted airports and sea ports in the government-held parts of Syria in an apparent attempt to prevent arms shipments from Iran to militant groups backed by Tehran, including Lebanon's Hezbollah.

"The criminal practices by the Zionist entity in the region will not remain without retaliation," Amirabdollahian said.

Opinion

Court of Cassation, thank you for justice over those on a travel ban

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

IT IS a victory for the Constitution and the establishment of the principle of not curtail the freedom of citizens. Therefore, the Court of Cassation's ruling on neither confiscating a citizen's passport nor preventing him from traveling is an essential pillar in preserving the freedoms of all citizens without discrimination.

However, such measures are expected in case a criminal offense is committed against State security, against oneself, forgery or others when the court restricts the offender's freedom for a certain period, not a permanent ban.

In essence, this ruling strengthens the freedoms currently threatened by parliamentary proposals on restricting citizens within the outdated frameworks. At the same time, it ends physical coercion in misdemeanor civil cases.

It is also a milestone in Kuwaiti judicial practice, which is accustomed to making rulings in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Even if there is a setback, the Cassation Court turns the compass to the right direction.

Without a doubt; about 120,000 citizens suffer from restriction of their movement due to small debts, including the famous case of preventing a citizen from traveling because of unpaid debt of KD 10 or KD 5,000 or even KD 50,000 or KD 100,000.

Given that this person has no homeland other than Kuwait and as long as the case is pending in the judiciary, no executive action should be taken, except through a final ruling. It does not entail preventing him from traveling and returning to the country.

It is said that some Kuwaitis have been banned from traveling for 30 years and others for 40 years. Without a doubt, their suffering is much greater than the misdemeanor they committed.

This procedure does not exist in any other country throughout the world, except Kuwait; because of the incomplete reading of the meaning of constitutionally guaranteed freedoms, rather the meaning of the sovereignty of the Constitution, through which the State is organized.

Today, when the Court of Cassation — the highest judicial level — issues this type of ruling, it means that everyone must abide by the decision. All executive authorities in the State must make this historical text as their guide to practice in the future.

It is true that the creditor must preserve his rights, but he does not have the right to enjoy a right that is not permitted by the Constitution, because that would be a violation of the basic rules on which the State was founded.

Hence, the executive authority must not take any measure that restricts the freedom of citizens. Rather, the National Assembly must reconsider a series of legislation that contradicts the Constitution in letter and substance, as well as its explanatory memorandum, which conflicts with human rights guaranteed by the law constitutionality and internationally.

Whoever believes that the law is superior to the Constitution is delusional. One who believes that his temporary authority gives him an eternal right to practice injustice on others is ignorant.

Since time immemorial, Kuwait has been an oasis of freedom of opinion, movement and creativity. It was essentially based on these pillars that were crystallized by the constitutional texts and a series of rulings by the Court of Cassation. The greater is the boldness on the right established by the Cassation Court, the more certain we are that Kuwait is on the right path.

Therefore, the bats of backwardness lurking in the corridors of the National Assembly, the executive authority and the deep State must not be allowed to impose their vision that contradicts the Constitution.

Indeed, a big thank you to the Court of Cassation, which wrote a number of systematic rulings, restoring the true splendor and image of Kuwaitis and Kuwait — not the impurities that remained due to some people's ignorance of the Constitution.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The ministry of finance on Thursday launched the regular draw for the "Friday market" on its website to organize the granting of stands for applicants.

The system has been designed to respond to desire of the largest number possible of nationals, qualified to join and make business in the market -- including retirees, housewives, widows and divorcees.

Posting is on the website www.mof.gov.kw. (terms, more details available in the Arabic item). (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Secretary-General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) **Jamal Al-Loughani** praised Thursday role of the **United Arab Emirates** in providing support to the activities of the General Secretariat and its contribution to the development of its work.

This came in a press release issued by OAPEC during Al-Loughani's meeting in the office of the UAE Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, **Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi**.

Al-Loughani appreciated the efforts made by the UAE to prepare for the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28), expecting that the event will be exceptional this year, especially in light of changes and developments taking place in the energy industry globally.

For his part, the UAE Ambassador praised the Secretary General's efforts to develop the organization in a way that benefits the interests of member states, wishing him success in his work and success in the upcoming 12th Arab Energy Conference to be held in the **State of Qatar**.

The Secretary-General presented the OAPEC shield to the UAE Ambassador in appreciation of his contributions and efforts during his tenure as a member of the Executive Office representing the UAE. (KUNA)

IRBIL: The Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq announced Thursday registration of ten cases of cholera in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, northern **Iraq**.

During a press conference, the Director General of **Sulaymaniyah Health Sabah Hawrami** said that test results showed that 10 people were infected with cholera, meanwhile hundreds of patients visited hospitals daily in Sulaymaniyah suffering from diarrhea and vomiting.

Hawrami stressed, "the main reason for the spread of the disease is unhealthy water, mainly the water bought from tankers."

He explained that the spread of the disease requires caution by the citizens of Sulaymaniyah and the surrounding areas, as it is easy to spread, assuring that all necessary medications are available in hospitals. (KUNA)

LONDON: **Grant Shapps**, one of British Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak's** staunchest Cabinet allies, was named U.K. defense secretary on Thursday as Sunak began a Cabinet reshuffle ahead of a general election that is expected to take place next year.

The move came after **Ben Wallace** formally submitted his resignation earlier in the day, honoring a promise made last month. Wallace was defense secretary for four years, overseeing Britain's military response to the war in **Ukraine**.

Shapps, who supported Sunak during his campaign to become Conservative Party leader and prime minister last year, has been a Cabinet member since 2019, most recently serving as secretary of state for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.

Wallace used his resignation letter to press for increased funding for the military, long his primary issue. (AP)

CAIRO: The head of **Sudan's** army warned Thursday that the northeast African country will be divided if the conflict between the military and rival paramilitary force is not resolved.

Sudan was plunged into chaos after monthslong tensions between the military, led by Gen. **Abdel Fattah Burhan**, and the Rapid Support Forces, commanded by **Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo**, exploded into open fighting on April 15.

"We are facing a war, and if it is not resolved quickly Sudan will be fragmented," Burhan said in a speech addressed to the country's police force in the Red Sea city of Port Sudan.

Burhan's remarks echo those he made in **Egypt** on Tuesday, the general's first trip abroad since the conflict broke out. (AP)

Political impasse causes delays

Planned transport spend totals \$28bn

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The MEED magazine stated that in 2014, 2015 and 2016, the contract awarding activity in the construction and transportation sectors in Kuwait increased to about \$27 billion, but the situation now has dramatically changed due to the long-standing political impasse between the legislative and executive authorities, and the disruption of the decision-making process, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sources told the magazine after the project activity witnessed positive growth for two consecutive years in 2020 and 2021, the total project activity decreased significantly indicating at the moment transportation projects worth approximately \$28 billion are being planned in Kuwait, including contracts worth \$22.9 billion that are still in the early stages, projects worth \$2.3 billion in the design stage, and contracts worth \$2.8 billion in the bidding stage.

In the construction and transportation sectors combined, there are projects worth \$4.7 billion that have passed the pre-qualification stage and are now either in the bid-submission or bid-evaluation stages and if contracts are awarded at even half of this value, 2023 could become the best year for contractors since 2018, but most of this value is collected in very large projects and will depend on the resumption of major plans that may in turn need the approval of the National Assembly.

The construction and transportation projects market in 2022 witnessed a decline of about 40 percent

to settle at just under \$1.7 billion as a result of the decrease in the number of awarded projects. Since the beginning of this year so far, the country has awarded contracts worth \$1.2 billion in the construction and transportation sectors.

Construction was the second largest project sector in Kuwait last year, with contracts awarded at about \$627 million, and in 2023 and so far the volume of contracts has reached about \$440 million, which indicates that the current year is going in a similar direction, but the two numbers are much lower than the average of \$1.8 billion in awards between 2018 and 2022, or an average of the \$4 billion spent in the preceding five years.

As is the case in other project sectors in Kuwait, the construction sector is a victim of a significant reduction in public spending on projects in the country, because the plans got caught up in the internal political struggle over spending and debt.

At the same time, the volume of construction projects scheduled and awaiting award amounts to about \$22.9 billion, with projects worth \$8.7 billion under study, \$6.6 billion in the design stage, and \$7.6 billion in the bidding stage.

The transportation sector enjoyed the strongest project activity in Kuwait in 2022, with more than \$1 billion worth of contracts awarded, more than the average annual total awards of \$800 million between 2018 and 2022.

'Spirit of inclusivity'

Adhan broadcast in NYC

NEW YORK, Aug 31, (AP): The Muslim call to prayer will ring out more freely in New York City under guidelines announced Tuesday by Mayor Eric Adams, which he said should foster a spirit of inclusivity.

Under the new rules, Adams said, mosques will not need a special permit to publicly broadcast the Islamic call to prayer, or Adhan, on Fridays and at sundown during the holy month of Ramadan. Friday is the traditional Islamic holy day, and Muslims break their fast at sunset during Ramadan.

The police department's community affairs bureau will work

with mosques to communicate the new guidelines and ensure that devices used to broadcast the Adhan are set to appropriate decibel levels, Adams said. Houses of worship can broadcast up to 10 decibels over the ambient sound level, the mayor's office said.

"For too long, there has been a feeling that our communities were not allowed to amplify their calls to prayer," Adams said. "Today, we are cutting red tape and saying clearly that mosques and houses of worship are free to amplify their call to prayer on Fridays and during Ramadan without a permit necessary."

Day by Day

THE plane thief took off with the plane which was registered in his ex-wife's name to an unknown place and his son also fled to an African nation.

His young son and daughter have also vanished out of sight, after the thief blamed his problems on the cardiologist. The judiciary is now knocking on the door of the clinic and home of this cardiologist.

The plane thief has put the price tag of two dollars on the aircraft, as if he is buying a bird, not a plane.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



OPINION OTHER VOICES

Russia earns less from oil and spends more on war

Rate patch can't hide dilemma at heart of Russian economy

The Russian ruble's wobble in value has exposed a crack in President Vladimir Putin's fortress economy, a vulnerability quickly plastered over by the Kremlin's economic team in a move that allowed the currency to regain its footing, at least for now.

Yet the patch - an emergency interest rate increase - cannot hide the dilemma at the heart of the Russian economy: how to fund the military while not undermining the national currency and overheating the economy with corrosive and politically embarrassing inflation.

Life in Moscow presents a facade of normality despite sweeping sanctions tied to the war in Ukraine and the departure of hundreds of name-brand Western companies.

Outdoor seating at restaurants and bars on the popular Bolshaya Nikitskaya street were packed on a recent evening with well-dressed residents enjoying balmy August weather. Loud music from DJs boomed from a nearby courtyard eatery. Malls haven't changed at first glance, but where Zara and H&M once stood, shoppers find new clothing brands Maag and Vilet.

And doughnut seller Krunchy Dream could easily be mistaken for the

Krispy Kreme that once stood in its place in Evropeysky mall, even the branding is similar. In the absence of Apple Pay, banks provide stickers with a chip that enables mobile payment.

Key economic gauges are also in normal ranges. Unemployment is low, economic growth is better than many had expected and inflation is moderate by Russian standards - at 4% in July - though hard on those with limited incomes.

People in Moscow - where criticism of the military can bring jail time and some only provided their first names - expressed a mix of unease and resignation.

Retiree Vladimir Chermeshev, 68, recalled that the troubles after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 were delayed by several years.

"I think that although I am a pensioner, and there is not much income, I don't feel much yet," Chermeshev said, "but there is anxiety - sometimes my blood pressure rises."

Others noted how prices constantly changed.

Yuliana, a 38-year-old entrepreneur, was more concerned: "Our condition has deteriorated sharply, it's no good. ... It won't end today or

tomorrow, and not the day after tomorrow. I think more than one generation will pay for this story."

For businesses in need of supplies, they're turning to alternatives.

Andrei Lavrov, owner of the Smile Atelier dental clinic, said he's had to get sutures and silicone from Asia because he uses "quite a lot" of imported materials.

"But, by the way, no disaster happened," he said. "If something is no longer supplied, then it is easily replaced through parallel channels."

Some Russian-made sutures are "very high-quality material," he said, as local industry picks up the slack: "A certain substitution is taking place."

Still, imports to Russia are rebounding as goods come through nearby countries such as Kazakhstan and Armenia, avoiding sanctions. Government spending on the military and social programs is spreading cash to people and companies, who are using some of it on imported products.

Labor shortages, stemming from people leaving the country, also are supporting salaries, while government-subsidized mortgages help maintain real estate activity.

Continued on Page 3



In this image taken from video, smoke and flames rise from a crashed private jet near the village of Kuzhenkino, Tver region, Russia, Wednesday, Aug 23, 2023. Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny V. Prigozhin, the founder of the Wagner Group, reportedly died when a private jet he was said to be on crashed on Aug 23, 2023, killing all 10 people on board. Inset: Yevgeny Prigozhin, the owner of the Wagner Group military

company, right, sits inside a military vehicle posing for a photo with a local civilian prior to leaving an area of the HQ of the Southern Military District in a street in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, on June 24, 2023. Prigozhin made his name as the profane and brutal mercenary boss who mounted an armed rebellion that was the most severe and shocking challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin's rule. (AP)

Mystery shrouds Prigozhin's final days

You 'rock' ... you rise ... you fall

Yevgeny Prigozhin smiled as a crowd of adoring fans surrounded his black SUV on June 24 in Russia's southern city of Rostov-on-Don and cheered him on.

"You rock!" fans shouted while taking selfies with the chief of the Wagner mercenary group, who was sitting in the vehicle after nightfall. "You're a lion! Hang in there!"

Prigozhin and his masked, camouflage-clad fighters were leaving the city after a daylong mutiny against the country's military leadership. President Vladimir Putin decried it as "treason" and vowed punishment, but then cut a deal not to prosecute Prigozhin. Beyond that, his fate looked uncertain.

Two months later, on Aug. 23, Prigozhin's business jet plummeted from the sky and crashed in a field halfway between Moscow and St. Petersburg. All 10 people on board the plane were killed, Russian authorities said. Russia's Investigative Committee said Sunday that forensic testing confirmed Prigozhin was one of them.

The two scenes, which unfolded just two months apart, provide bookends to the mystery-shrouded final days of the outspoken, brutal mercenary leader who initially appeared to have escaped any retribution for the rebellion that posed the greatest challenge to Putin's authority in his 23-year rule.

Suspensions immediately arose that the crash of the plane, which also carried some of the Wagner founder's top lieutenants, was a Kremlin act of vengeance. The Kremlin denied it.

In on-camera remarks eulogizing Prigozhin, the Russian president sought to show that there was no bad blood between them. He described the head of Wagner as "a talented man" whom he had known for a long time and who made "serious mistakes" but was still apparently doing business with the government.

The last weeks of Prigozhin's life were overshadowed by questions about what the Kremlin really had in store for him. Had he already dodged a bullet? Or was his comeuppance just further down the road?

Shortly before footage emerged of Prigozhin driving off into the night in Rostov-on-Don, the Kremlin announced a deal to end the mutiny. Prigozhin would "retreat to Belarus," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said, without elaborating on whether that meant a permanent exile.

Prigozhin himself went silent, which was unusual for a man who used to release multiple written and spoken statements every day. Responding to an email from The Associated Press on June 25, the day after the mutiny, Prigozhin's press service said only that he "says hi to everyone" and would respond to all questions once he gets "proper connection."

An elaborate 11-minute statement from Prigozhin appeared the next day, but it contained nothing about where he was or what was next for him and his forces. Instead, he defended himself and the mutiny in his usual defiant and bullish manner.

He said his march on Moscow started because of an injustice - an alleged attack on his fighters in Ukraine by the Russian military. He taunted the military, calling Wagner's march a "master class" in how government soldiers should have carried out the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. He pointed out security breaches that allowed Wagner to advance 780 kilometers (500 miles) without resistance and to block all military units on its way.

The following morning, on June 27, Russian authorities announced they were dropping the criminal investigation into the revolt, with no charges for the Wagner leader nor any other participants - even though about a dozen Russian troops were killed in clashes and several military aircraft were shot down.

Later in the day, Putin hinted that there might be a new probe - this time into Prigozhin's finances. The Russian leader told a military gathering that the state paid Wagner almost \$1 billion in just one year, while Prigozhin's other company earned about the same from government contracts. Putin wondered aloud whether any of it was stolen and promised to "figure it out."

On the day the charges were dropped, Prigozhin's plane was spotted in Belarus, and Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko, who helped broker the deal to end the mutiny, said the Wagner chief had arrived. Belarusian activists soon reported that a camp was being erected there for fighters who decided to follow him.

In Russia, Prigozhin's major business asset - a media company called Patriot - shut down, and many of the news outlets it owned were blocked by authorities. Prigozhin's media operations included the infamous "troll factory" that led to his indictment in the U.S. for meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

Wagner also announced a halt to recruitment of new mercenaries "due to the move to Belarus."

On July 6, however, Lukashenko told reporters that Prigozhin was in St. Petersburg - or "maybe he went to Moscow, or maybe somewhere else, but he is not in Belarus." The remarks came amid media reports that cash and equipment seized during police searches of Prigozhin's property were returned to him.

"What will happen to him next? Well, anything can happen in a lifetime. But if you think that Putin is so malicious and vindictive that he will be offed somewhere tomorrow. ... No, this will not happen," Lukashenko assured.

As it turned out, Putin met with Prigozhin several days after the revolt.

Peskov, Putin's spokesperson, told reporters on July 10 that the meeting took place in the Kremlin and involved more than 30 Wagner commanders in addition to Prigozhin. The revelation came after Peskov repeatedly said the Kremlin knew nothing about Prigozhin's whereabouts - including on the day of the meeting with Putin, June 29.

Putin's spokesperson wouldn't offer any details about the meeting, saying only that the commanders pledged their loyalty to the Russian president.

Putin later echoed that idea, saying in a July 13 interview that "many were nodding" when he offered to let them continue serving under one of the Wagner commanders. But a defiant Prigozhin spoke for them and said they didn't like the proposal, according to the Russian president.

Comments from the Wagner chief himself became rare. Nothing more was posted by his spokespeople beyond the 11-minute audio message issued two days after the mutiny.

Words or visuals of Prigozhin instead appeared in one of several Telegram channels believed to be linked to Wagner. The relative quiet raised questions over whether keeping a low public profile was part of his deal with the Kremlin.

One such video on July 19 reportedly came from Belarus. Blurry footage showed a silhouette of a man looking like Prigozhin against the sky at dusk, and his distinctive gravelly voice was heard addressing rows of men in fatigues.

"Welcome guys! I am happy to greet you all. Welcome to Belarusian land!" he said.

Prigozhin repeated his criticism of the conduct of the fighting in Ukraine. "What is going on the frontline today is a shame in which we shouldn't take part," he said, adding that Wagner forces could return to Ukraine in the future.

In the meantime, Prigozhin said, Wagner would train in Belarus and then set off on a new journey to Africa, where his mercenaries have been active in several countries.

Another video, posted on Aug. 21 in a different Telegram channel, showed a close-up of Prigozhin toting a rifle while standing on a dusty plain. Prigozhin didn't say where the video was recorded, but he referenced the temperature being 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit).

"Just the way we like it," he boasted. He said Wagner was "making Russia even greater on all continents and Africa even more free."

Two days later came the plane crash - exactly two months after Prigozhin first announced his revolt.

Although the Kremlin rejected allegations that it was behind the crash, the reality of those two months likely didn't sit well with Putin, political analyst Abbas Gallyamov said.

The mutiny "showcased Putin's weakness to everyone," said Gallyamov, who once worked as a Kremlin speechwriter. After that, Prigozhin "was feeling normal." He was working on projects in Belarus and in Africa, and the case against him was closed.

That reality "completely dissatisfied Putin because it was an open invitation for potential mutineers," Gallyamov said. (AP)

editor's choice



Al-Masayel Cooperative Society's marketplace inaugurated

MoSA keen to support coops that contribute to their development

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Child Affairs, Sheikh Firas Saud Al-Malik Al-Sabah, reaffirmed his commitment on Wednesday to support and oversee cooperative societies in a manner that contributes to their growth. This affirmation was made during his presence at the inauguration of the Al-Masayel Cooperative Society's marketplace. He commended the remarkable dedication of the association's board of directors and all those who played a role in bringing this project to fruition.

Sheikh Firas Al-Sabah expressed optimism for a brighter future for the Al-Masayel Association and other similar organizations, as they continue on the path of successful cooperation.

Commitment

In a press statement, Mubarak Al-Qahtani, the Chairman of the Purchasing Committee at the Al-Masayel Cooperative Society, emphasized their commitment to enhancing public services using the latest automated systems. He highlighted that the market has been designed with contemporary aesthetics, drawing inspiration from renowned international retail markets. The layout of goods and products has been thoughtfully arranged to ensure a visually pleasing display. He extended his congratulations to the local community on the opening of this marketplace, which will primarily serve them and neighboring areas like Al-Funaites.

Furthermore, he added, "We anticipate that the attached mall will become a popular destination for residents from various other regions."



Minister of Social Affairs during his attendance at the opening of Al-Masayel Cooperative Society Market.



Top & above: The Minister of Social Affairs inspects the market of Al-Masayel Cooperative Society.

Kuwait households to spend KD 3.2 billion on food by '27

Domestic food production relatively weak

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Fitch Solutions expects that household food spending in Kuwait will be dominated by meat, fish and dairy products, and expects that households in Kuwait will spend about 18% of their budgets on food by 2027, down slightly from 18.6% in 2007, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily quoting the agency pointed out that the high levels of income among families Kuwaiti food will support increased spending in other categories, however, spending on food will be supported by demand for imported food with higher prices, given the relative weakness of Kuwaiti domestic food production.

The agency said in its report that these factors will lead to the growth of household spending in Kuwait on food by 4.6% annually between 2008 and 2027, which exceeds the average annual inflation in the country of 3% recently.

Household spending

Fitch predicted an increase in household spending in Kuwait on food from 1.5 billion dinars in 2008 to 3.2 billion dinars by 2027, noting that when dividing total spending on food, the average family in Kuwait will spend an average of 57% of its food budget on 3 categories until 2027, which are meat and poultry (32.6% of total food expenditure), fish (13.5% of total food expenditure), and dairy products (about 11% of total food expenditure).

Other basic items, according to the agency, will constitute the other 43% of household spending in Kuwait on food, and fresh and preserved fruits and vegetables will represent 9.6%, and bread, rice and cereals will represent 9.4%.

Fitch also said the household spending in Kuwait on meat and poultry will grow at an annual rate of 5.2% between 2007 and 2027, to rise from 451 million dinars

in 2007 to one billion dinars by 2027, pointing out that supporting growth in spending on meat and poultry will be achieved through relatively high levels of income in the country.

Fitch Solutions stated that fish will constitute one of the fastest growing food categories in Kuwait, with an annual average of 6.2% between 2012 and 2027, and spending on fish will witness an increase in the share of household spending from 12% in 2007 to 13.5% by 2027, expecting total spending to reach on fish and seafood from 182 million dinars in 2012 to 427.3 million dinars in 2027.

The agency went on to say, that despite the coastal geographical location of Kuwait, which is supposed to support the fishing sector, the local production, which represents 30% of the market's supply, is not sufficient to meet the demand and added that support for food spending in Kuwait will increase through the increasing numbers of foreigners working in the country saying the number of the workforce in Kuwait increased by 63 thousand people, bringing the total workforce in the country to 2.9 million people.

The agency expects that sugar and its products will constitute the fastest growing category of spending on food in Kuwait, as consumer spending on sugar and its products will grow at a rate of 6.5% annually until 2027, to increase spending on it from 44.3 million dinars in 2012 to 113.2 million dinars by 2027.

Fitch explained that the fluctuation of prices of imported sugar will pose risks to the growth of household spending in Kuwait in the future. Noting that the price of a kilo of sugar imported to Kuwait amounted to 0.8 dollars, and reached 1.5 dollars in 2021, after rising to 2.5 dollars in 2015, and declining again in 2018 to 0.9 dollars.

The agency said that labor shortages and environmental pollution pose risks to the fish sector in Kuwait, leading to pressure on fish and seafood prices. Poor production will increase the demand for imported fish. Turkey, Iran, India and Pakistan are major markets for fresh fish in Kuwait.

albander hotel & resort

September

Room Promotion

Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 57.173/-net	BHD 128.000/-net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 65.000/-net	BHD 145.000/-net

Promo period from 1st - 30th September 2023

Terms & conditions apply*



The Kuwaiti Office for Charitable Projects in Cairo.



KUN photos
Kuwait Mosque is part of the project plan of the Kuwaiti office in Cairo.

Kuwait, Egypt continue to strengthen ties

Kuwait Office for Charity Projects in Cairo... 36 yrs of humanitarian work

CAIRO, Aug 31, (KUNA): Kuwait Office for Charity Projects in Cairo continued to strengthen the bilateral relations between Kuwait and Egypt over the course of 36 years in the fields of charitable and humanitarian work.

Kuwait has always been a pioneer in unlimited humanitarian work to alleviate the suffering of countries in need without regard to political or ideological matters, with the Gulf country's annual celebration of the anniversary of naming the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah humanitarian leader.

In an interview with KUNA, Acting Director of Kuwait's Office for Charity Projects in Cairo, Sarah Al-Mutairi expressed her appreciation of Kuwait's honorable stances with suffering countries over the decades.

She said that the office has carried out nearly 430,000 projects, since 1987 until the first half of 2023, including construction projects, social and health assistance, and food baskets in all parts of Egypt.

She indicated that the office's main projects include building hospitals and medical centers, reconstructing old mosques, and turning them into integrated Islamic complexes in harmony with the Egyptian waqf (endowments) plans.

She added that the office also provides urgent relief on behalf of the Kuwaiti people during times of disasters, in addition to orphans and students' sponsorship, social and medical assistance, and seasonal projects.

Al-Mutairi stated the office also aims to assist Kuwaitis living in Egypt and other people who require assistance, in coordination with the Kuwaiti embassy.

Cooperation

She praised the cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and Egypt, and their keenness in facilitating the arrival of aid and personnel to implement projects, noting that this cooperation takes place in more than one Egyptian ministry.

Member of the Islamic Research Academy, and former Al-Azhar Deputy Dr. Abbas Shouman, said in a statement to KUNA that Kuwaiti Zakat (alms) House is a pioneer in the fields of charity and helping people in need.

Shouman praised Kuwait's role, which is not limited to providing financial support but through sustainable projects not consumed by spending, making their benefit invaluable. He added that Kuwait's Office for Charity Projects in Cairo is one of the most active charitable offices in the Islamic world, as it includes many activities such as sponsoring scholars in Al-Azhar and construction of many mosques.

Kuwait's Office for Charity Projects was established in 1987 under the name "Kuwait Zakat House" an independent government body, and it officially opened in December 1992.



Al-Mutairi

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Business environment competitive in Kuwait'

"DESPITE the numerous press statements issued by past and present governments in support of cultivating a favorable business environment for both small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and significant developmental initiatives, the reality paints a different picture. The current state of affairs remains uninviting for foreign investors, arduous for Kuwaiti entrepreneurs and business proprietors, and challenging for the private sector. Countless commercial licenses have been suspended, making their acquisition an intricate endeavor," columnist **Fawaz Al-Hamad** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Efforts to encourage the growth of SMEs and substantial projects have been stifled by various factors. The National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development ceased financing small ventures in the wake of the pandemic.

"Furthermore, the Kuwait Industrial Bank does not allocate industrial lands anymore; instead, it only finances select industrial projects.

"Entrepreneurs are compelled to rent industrial land, costing no less than 5,000 dinars per month, to establish their ventures. The inability to secure land hinders project continuity and often results in cancellations.

"The Public Authority for Industry no longer distributes industrial plots, only oversees the existing ones. This cessation, dating back over two decades, has brought the industrial sector to a standstill. Crucial industries, such as pharmaceutical, petrochemical, and food, are hampered by the lack of land availability.

"Recreational spaces face similar constraints. All spaces designated for recreational activities have been monopolized by the Tourism Projects Company along the Arabian Gulf Street. Without intermediaries, securing an investment space for children's entertainment or other recreational activities from tourism projects is exceedingly challenging.

"Alternately, obtaining such spaces in commercial complexes drives rental costs beyond reason. Notably, globally, the price of rental space for entertainment activities rarely surpasses two dollars per square meter.

"Adding to the obstacles, the current Build-Operate-Transfer (B.O.T.) Law No. 7 of 2008 deters foreign investors and the private sector while failing to incentivize investment within Kuwait.

"The challenge of attracting specialized foreign professionals is exacerbated by restrictions on the entry of workers from specific nationalities. The issuance of temporary commercial visas has also been curtailed due to pre- and post-pandemic regulations.

"Before Kuwait can aspire to become a hub for commerce and finance, the government must prioritize the revision of existing laws. Streamlining business procedures, simplifying the issuance of commercial licenses, dismantling the monopoly on certain licenses, facilitating foreign workers' entry, providing solutions for industrial land allocation, offering financing for SMEs, simplifying foreign investor entry processes, and amending the B.O.T. Law should be at the forefront of these reform efforts."

Also:

"Following the passing of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, a comprehensive long-term initiative has shaped discussions, focusing on dismantling the established framework he crafted in substance while maintaining its façade," columnist **Nasser Al-Abdali** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"This approach avoids riling the existing forces and allows the government to wield it when deemed appropriate. This project has indeed succeeded, but its efficacy hinges on prevailing circumstances. If the public sentiment remains feeble, as is currently observed, the project exploits this weakness. Conversely, if public sentiment re-surges strongly, its endeavors are postponed accordingly.

"The reintroduction of the 'old' new media regulation law is a component of this initiative. This law has been tabled on numerous occasions in varying forms. The government appears to have discerned that the timing

is opportune for its revival.

"If not fully embraced, the government anticipates securing partial approval while deferring other aspects for a more suitable juncture. Such opportunities arise repeatedly, particularly since public sentiment seems to have conveyed a message in the recent elections, inadvertently signaling, 'Proceed as you see fit.'

"Regrettably, the current Bu Fahd Council and its leadership, aside from a few members, seem unprepared to challenge this law. Notwithstanding, a handful of honorable voices within Parliament, including MPs Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Muhalhal Al-Mudhaf, Ahmed Lari, and Hani Shams, have raised concerns.

"It would not be astonishing if some Bu Fahd representatives in Parliament express their opposition. The government, however, does not seek to endorse this law in its existing configuration, as prior negotiations have defined a cap that the law must not surpass. This course is unlikely to be in the citizens' best interest.

"Curiously, amidst this context, the absence of civil society's voice is notable. From newspapers to public welfare organizations and unions, these institutions historically played a pivotal role in confronting any efforts to erode citizens' rights as enshrined in the Constitution since its establishment in 1962.

"However, a significant dearth of activity is evident, save for the progressive movement, which appears to be the sole entity still advocating opposition. Other political forces and institutions, some of which previously made noise on various occasions, seem dormant. Have these forces surrendered or been compromised? Alternatively, could the proposed law, in its current iteration, have negligible impact on citizens' freedoms? The silence of these once-vocal entities remains puzzling."

□ □ □

"Thanks to the wise leadership of His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz and the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad bin Salman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia opened the way for establishing friendly relations with neighboring countries, the latest of which was with Iran," columnist **Abdulmohsen Al-Hussaini** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Last week, Saudi Arabia received the Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister. Before that, it embarked on a fraternal relationship with Iraq. Several meetings took place between Saudi and Iraqi officials, and such contacts succeeded in removing all outstanding differences between the two brotherly countries.

"Also, Saudi Arabia has good and intimate relations with other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Through this political move, it is keen on establishing good direct relations, commercial and economic cooperation, and common markets with neighboring countries.

"Kuwait's relations with Iran still need more diplomatic work to solve the Durra oilfield problem and the border disputes. Kuwait has the ability to start deepening bilateral relations with neighboring countries. Although Kuwait is a small country, it has the capability to protect its interests.

"At this point, I would like to remind you that Kuwait passed through the ordeal of the Iraqi occupation. With its political ability, it succeeded in convincing the world about its just cause.

"What did Kuwait achieve in resisting the occupation? I want to make it clear that this comes from its political ability to form and maintain good relations with other countries. This is in addition to its important and remarkable role in the humanitarian field. The Kuwaiti contributions are a testimony in several areas through the implementation of many development projects in various countries. It also provides aid to many poor countries around the world.

"We hope that the Kuwaiti foreign policy will continue consolidating what was established during the era of HH the late Amirs Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad and Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, may God have mercy on them. In this manner, other countries will continue to respect Kuwait's position in the international community."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Al-Hamad

HH Amir congratulates Kyrgyzstan, Trinidad and Tobago on nat'l days

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, on Thursday, sent a congratulatory cable to Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov, on the occasion of his country's National Day, wishing Kyrgyz president health and wellness, and his people progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to President Sadyr Japarov, on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Sadyr Japarov, on the occasion of

his country's National Day.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad sent Thursday a congratulatory cable to President of Trinidad and Tobago Christine Kangaloo, on the occasion of her country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president good health, and progress and prosperity for her country and people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent a congratulatory cable to President Christine Kangaloo, on the occasion of her country's National Day.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf sent a congratulatory cable to President Christine Kangaloo, on the occasion of her country's National Day.

PAM transfers KD50 labor subsidy to bank

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has confirmed the transfer of the KD50 labor sub-

sidy to the bank accounts of citizens working in the private sector, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

CONDOLENCES

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Management and Staff of



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M A Mony
Ex-Marketing Manager

on his demise
on 31st August in India.

(The funeral service will be held
on September 1st, 2023)

May his soul Rest in Peace

Prosecution summons MEW techs, gets insight into fraud

Mol unit follows up developments on video on fights



KUNA photo
KU: The 'we make a smile' medical campaign examined and treated more than 900 humanitarian cases in Nepal.

Over 900 poor people aided

Kuwaiti dentistry students visit remote Nepal villages

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31, (KUNA): Kuwaiti students have carried out a humanitarian mission in remote villages in Nepal, aiding more than 900 people in need.

Kuwait University, in a statement on Thursday, said the medical campaign was organized by the society of KU dentistry students, themed, "we make a smile" -- in collaboration with Mercy and Mission organization.

Dr. Rashed Al-Azmi, the acting rector of the dentistry faculty, said in a press release on Thursday that the Kuwaiti students examined and treated

these cases in just three days, noting that the help included surgeries, teeth picking, other dentistry treatments, conducting blood tests to examine blood pressure and diabetes.

The humanitarian trip was successful for the students relieved the poor locals. Moreover, they had given medical advice, distributed toys and gifts to children in these remote villages.

The 17-member student team was accompanied by Dr. Fawaz Al-Zuabi, the acting rector assistant, and Dr. Kawthar Ali, an assistant professor.

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: As part of its investigations into the case of a bill fraud network in which 7 people are arrested, the Public Prosecution has summoned technicians from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to explain the mechanism for issuing electricity bills to consumers, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

The sources told the daily that customer service systems, the mechanism for issuing invoices, how to calculate consumer debt, and the mechanism used to access and deal with those systems are downloaded on the laptops and the technicians explained in detail that mechanism how manipulators access it and issue invoices to those with big debts and how they drop them.

He added that the investigations led to the identification of some of those involved in the tampering, pointing to two real estate dealers, one of whom is said to be outside the country, noting that Al-Jarida had pointed out a few days ago that a travel ban had been issued against another who is proven to be involved in tampering with invoices and withholding large sums of money from his real estate.

About a month ago, detectives arrested 7 people accused of tampering with electricity bills, and they were sent to prison to complete investigations into this file.

□ □ □

Follow-up on fights video: The Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Research and Investigation Unit, which is under the Criminal Investigation General Department in the Interior Ministry, is closely following up developments regarding the video uploaded on social media; showing some Egyptians engaged in a fistfight inside a commercial establishment in Qurain, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

A security source told the daily that the instruction to the securitymen is clear -- take all the necessary measures against anyone who violates the law and instigates chaos.

The source confirmed that all those involved in the fight have been identified and legal action will be taken against them soon. He added the results of preliminary investigations revealed that 10 Egyptians were involved in the fight and the action plan is to deport them.

KD 740.969m set aside for compensation

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The Ministry of Electricity and Water has earmarked KD 740.969 million for the compensation of its employees for fiscal 2023/2024 -- an increase of KD142.043 million or 24 percent compared to the amount allocated for this item in the last fiscal year -- KD 598.926 million, reports **Al-Rai** daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed the workers compensation item in the budget of the ministry or any government agency includes salaries, allowances, incentive and bonuses; in addition to appointments during the budget preparation

months through the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which is responsible for organizing appointments in government agencies according to the latter's actual manpower needs.

In another context, sources indicated that the Ministry of Finance specified KD 719 million as its estimated revenues for the current fiscal year, which is KD163 million or 29 percent higher than the previous year's estimate of KD 555.693 million. Sources revealed these revenues include water and electricity bills, connection of electricity to new homes and other fees.

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The Conversation

'Longing for something seems to shrink its duration in mind's eye'

Why vacations feel like they're over before they even start

By Selin Malkoc
The Ohio State University

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

When a vacation approaches, do you ever get the feeling that it's almost over before it starts?

If so, you're not alone. In studies Gabriela Tonietto, Sam Maglio, Eric VanEpps and I conducted, we found that about half of the people we surveyed indicated that their upcoming weekend trip felt like it would end as soon as it started.

This feeling can have a ripple effect. It can change the way trips are planned - you might, for example, be less likely to schedule extra activities. At the same time, you might be more likely to splurge on an expensive dinner because you want to make the best of the little time you think you have.

Where does this tendency come from? And can it be avoided? When people look forward to something, they usually want it to happen as soon as possible and last as long as possible.

We first explored the effect of this attitude in the context of Thanksgiving. We chose Thanksgiving because almost everyone in the US celebrates it, but not everyone looks forward to it. Some people love the annual family get-together. Others - whether it's the stress of cooking, the tedium of cleaning or the anxiety of dealing with family drama - dread it.

So on the Monday before Thanksgiving in 2019, we surveyed 510 people online and asked them to tell us whether they were looking forward to the holiday. Then we asked them how far away it seemed, and how long they felt it would last. We

had them move a 100-point slider - 0 meaning very short and 100 meaning very long - to a location that reflected their feelings.

As we suspected, the more participants looked forward to their Thanksgiving festivities, the farther away it seemed and shorter it felt. Ironically, longing for something seems to shrink its duration in the mind's eye.

Most people believe the idiom "time flies when you're having fun," and research has, indeed, shown that when time seems to pass by quickly, people assume the task must have been engaging and enjoyable.

We reasoned that people might be over-applying their assumption about the relationship between time and fun when judging the duration of events yet to happen.

Study

As a result, people tend to reflexively assume that fun events - like vacations - will go by really quickly. Meanwhile, pining for something can make the time leading up to the event seem to drag. The combination of its beginning pushed farther away in their minds - with its end pulled closer - resulted in our participants' anticipating that something they looked forward would feel as if it had almost no duration at all.

In another study, we asked participants to imagine going on a weekend trip that they either expected to be fun or terrible. We then asked them how far away the start and end of this trip felt like using a similar 0 to 100 scale. 46% of participants evaluated the positive weekend as feeling like it had no duration at all: They marked the beginning and the end of the vacation virtually at the same location when using the slider scale.

Our goal was to show how these two judgments of an event - the fact that it simultaneously seems farther away and is assumed to last for less time - can nearly eliminate the event's duration in the mind's eye.

We reasoned that if we didn't explicitly highlight these two separate pieces - and instead directly asked them about the duration of the event - a smaller portion of people would indicate virtually no duration for something they looked forward to.

We tested this theory in another study, in which we told participants that they would watch two five-minute-long videos back-to-back. We described the second video as either humorous or boring, and then asked them how long they thought each video would feel like it lasted.

We found that the participants predicted that the funny video would still feel shorter and was farther away than the boring one. But we also found that participants believed it would last a bit longer than the responses we received in the earlier studies.

This finding gives us a way to overcome this biased perception: focus on the actual duration. Because in this study, participants directly reported how long the funny video would last - and not the perceived distance of its beginning and its end - they were far less likely to assume it would be over just as it started.

While it sounds trivial and obvious, we often rely on our subjective feelings - not objective measures of time - when deciding how long a period of time will feel and how to best use it.

So when looking forward to much-anticipated events like vacations, it's important to remind yourself just how many days it will last.

You'll get more out of the experience - and, hopefully, put yourself in a better position to take advantage of the time you do have. (AP)

The Conversation

'Wrinkled skin adds grip'

Why do fingers, toes get wrinkly in water?

By Guy German

Binghamton University, State University of New York

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

Curious Kids is a series for children of all ages. If you have a question you'd like an expert to answer, send it to curiouskidsus@theconversation.com.

Why do fingers and toes get wrinkly and change color after a dip in a pool or a bath? - Raymond Y., age 12, Bothell, Washington

Skin is an awesome and weird organ. As the body's biggest organ, it does a lot to look after you, protecting you from the outside world of sunlight, harsh chemicals, nasty germs and severe cold. And it does all this while keeping water inside your body and enabling the sense of touch.

I'm a biomedical engineer. My research team and I try to better understand the mechanics and function of soft biological tissues.

Absorbs

We know skin wrinkles as you get older or when you pinch it between two fingers. But it's been somewhat of a mystery why skin gets wrinkly and even sometimes changes color after you take a leisurely bath or spend too long in the swimming pool.

Often people assume that these wrinkles form because the skin absorbs water, which makes it swell up and buckle. To be honest, I did too for a long time.

But researchers back in the 1930s discovered that in people with nerve damage in their fingers, the post-bath wrinkles didn't form. Wrinkly fingers can't just be due to water absorption then, or this would be a universal phenomenon, no matter how well your nerves are or aren't working.

So, if it isn't swelling due to water, then what is behind pruny fingers and toes after a long swim? Scientists have recently discovered what they think is the answer.

To explain what is happening, first you need to know a bit about the autonomic nervous system - the involuntary part of how your body works. Functions like breathing, blinking, your heart pumping or your pupils constricting in the sun all happen without your needing to consciously control them, thanks to the autonomic nervous system.

It also automatically controls the expansion and contraction of your blood vessels. Typically, temperature, medications or what you eat or drink can cause your blood vessels to expand or contract. Think of how your skin may flush of its own accord when you go out into a hot day, exercise or even blush.

This contraction of your blood vessels is also what causes the skin to wrinkle after a lengthy swim.

When your hands and feet

come into contact with water for more than a few minutes, the sweat ducts in your skin open, allowing water to flow into the skin tissue. This added water decreases the proportion of salt inside the skin. Nerve fibers send a message about lower salt levels to your brain, and the autonomic nervous system responds by constricting the blood vessels.

The narrowing of the blood vessels causes the overall volume of skin to reduce, puckering the skin into these distinct wrinkle patterns. It's like how a dried-out grape becomes a wrinkled raisin - it's lost more volume than surface area.

This constriction of blood vessels also causes the skin to become paler - it's the opposite of what happens when your skin gets redder when you get into a really hot bath, due to your blood vessels dilating. The color change is a little more obvious in people with lighter complexions.

With nerve damage, this constriction doesn't occur. The blood vessels never get a message to narrow, so the wrinkles never happen even if you stay in the bath for a really long time.

But does this skin wrinkling-when-wet serve any purpose?

Researchers have found that wrinkled skin has added grip underwater in comparison to unwrinkled skin. Better grip lets you grasp objects more firmly. It makes walking along an underwater surface easier, with less likelihood of slipping. I think this is a fantastic feature to have evolved over time.

Function

My research team and I have performed studies to look at changes in skin structure and function with prolonged immersion in water, but not to study wrinkles. We're interested in skin analyses that can be done to help forensic investigators after a crime or disaster. We also want to learn more about immersion foot syndromes - skin injuries caused by working in wet environments for long periods. They tend to affect military personnel, or farmers whose crops grow in flooded fields, such as rice paddies.

Prolonged immersion in water makes skin more likely to break, but this weakening can take weeks to occur. Just don't stay in the swimming pool too long and your pruny digits will go back to normal once you've dried off.

Hello, curious kids! Do you have a question you'd like an expert to answer? Ask an adult to send your question to CuriousKidsUS@theconversation.com. Please tell us your name, age and the city where you live.

And since curiosity has no age limit - adults, let us know what you're wondering, too. We won't be able to answer every question, but we will do our best. (AP)



Group photos from the event.



Philippine Ambassador H.E. Jose A. Cabrera III addresses audience



Philippine Embassy Vice Consul Josel N. Mostajo (center) leads the induction of officers

Philippine Ambassador Cabrera graces event

UAP Kuwait celebrates 8th Founding Anniversary

By Marlon Aquino Malinao
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 31: The United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) - Kuwait Chapter 139 held its 1st General Membership Meeting, Induction of New Set of Officers, and 8th Founding Anniversary celebration on Aug 25, 2023, at City Tower Hotel in Sharq, Kuwait City.

The event marked a significant milestone for the organization, as it recognized the achievements of the past year and welcomed a new leadership team. The highlight of the event was the presence of esteemed guest speaker, H. E. Jose A. Cabrera III, the Philippine Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, who graced the occasion with his insights and perspectives.

The event commenced with a sense of unity as members assembled for registration and camaraderie. The program started with invocations and the rendition of both the Kuwaiti and Philippine national anthems, followed by the UAP March and the recitation of the Architect's Credo.

The opening remarks were delivered by Ar. Christopher Martinez, the Chapter VP - Operations, who extended a heartfelt welcome to all attendees. Subsequently, the acknowledgment of distinguished guests and chapter members was carried out by Ar. Seraida M. Baidin, the Chapter Secretary.

The event's distinguished guest, H. E. Jose A. Cabrera III, the Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait, was

introduced by Vice Consul Josel N. Mostajo, representing the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait. Ambassador Cabrera's presence added a layer of prestige to the event, highlighting the strong ties between the architectural community and diplomatic circles.

Duties

A pivotal moment of the gathering was the induction of the new chapter officers. Ar. Christopher P. Sanan, Immediate Chapter Past President, proudly presented the new officers, and President Hernando G. Advento, UAP Area A Vice President, instilled a sense of responsibility by charging them with their duties. Vice Consul

Josel N. Mostajo conducted the induction rites, symbolizing the official assumption of their roles.

As a tribute to the chapter's progress, Ar. Rachel Joy S. Barela, the Chapter Past President, acknowledged the outgoing officers, while Ar. Christopher P. Sanan, the Immediate Chapter Past President, delivered a poignant valedictory address. The ceremonial act of passing on the gavel took place with Ar. Geroldin Garcia-Suede, UAP A6 District Director, signifying the transition of leadership.

In his inaugural address, Ar. Wilher John M. Bassig, the newly inducted Chapter President, shared his vision for the organization and articulated the goals for his tenure, emphasizing unity and progress.

The festivities continued with the recognition of new passers and the introduction of the 8th Founding Anniversary celebration. The event concluded on a celebratory note with wine toasting, cake cutting, pictorial sessions, award presentations, and raffle draws.

Closing remarks and announcements were expertly managed by Ar. Jannette B. Cruz, the Chapter VP - Programs, ensuring the event concluded with a sense of fulfillment and inspiration.

The UAP Kuwait Chapter's 8th Founding Anniversary and Officers' Induction event not only celebrated the organization's achievements but also showcased the dedication and commitment of architects to their profession and community. The event served as a platform to reinforce the bonds among members and set a positive trajectory for the coming year.



A photo from the induction of officers ceremony.



'Warba' announces winners of weekly draw

Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate banking services and investment banking services in Kuwait - announced the winners of the Sunbula weekly draws. Warba Bank will continue to hold draws for ten weekly winners for Al Sunbula account, in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

Farhan Salal Al-Anezi, Khaled Abdullah Shbikan Azeiran, Saleh Sanhat Ardini Al-Otaibi, Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ajmi, Ahmed Hani Khalil Al-Hamar, Jarrah Lafi Hlees Al-Husseini, Abdullah Adis Al-Husseini, Hammoud Saad Abdul Aziz Al-Mir, and Majed Awaid Saleh Al-Shalhi.

US jobless claims inch back down

U.S. applications for unemployment benefits fell slightly last week as companies held on to employees in an economy that has largely withstood rapidly rising interest rates, intended to cool hiring and spending, for more than a year.

The Federal Reserve, in its now year-and-a-half battle against inflation, has raised interest rates 11 times to 5.4%, the highest level in 22 years.

Market Movements 31-08-2023

Table with market movements for UAE, JAPAN, EGYPT, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, SAUDI, showing changes and closing points.

Business

Latest sign of slowing price increases

Fed's preferred inflation gauge shows a modest rise

WASHINGTON, Aug 31, (AP) - An inflation gauge closely tracked by the Federal Reserve remained low last month, adding to signs of cooling price increases and raising the likelihood that the Fed will leave interest rates unchanged when it next meets in late September.

market may be slowing enough to cool inflation pressures. The number of advertised job openings, for example, tumbled in July, and fewer Americans are quitting their jobs to seek better opportunities.

typically pay closer attention to monthly and quarterly inflation data than to yearly figures, which can be lagging indicators.

Wall St wavers on its way to a 'loss' in Aug

Asian mkts lower after Japanese factory activity and China services weaken

NEW YORK, Aug 31, (AP) - Stocks turned mixed in afternoon trading on Wall Street Thursday, on their way to closing out what has been a mostly miserable August.



A visitor looks at an electronic stock board at Tokyo Stock Exchange, Friday, Aug. 18, 2023 in Tokyo, Japan. Asian stock markets were mostly lower Thursday, Aug. 31, after Japanese factory activity and Chinese service industry growth weakened. (AP)

The S&P 500 gave up an early gain and fell 0.1%. The benchmark index is on track for its first monthly loss since February, though gains earlier this week helped chip away at the severity of the decline.

2023, according to CME's FedWatch tool. The Fed has maintained that it is ready to keep raising interest rates if it has to, but will base its next moves on the latest economic data.

complying taming interest rates without sending the economy into a recession. The likelihood of a recession, or at least a severe one, has seemingly been fading and in turn fueling confidence in the market in 2023, despite the recent August slump.

Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 index rose 0.4% on Wednesday after the U.S. government cut its estimate of economic growth for the second quarter to a still-robust level.

Cbank keeps an open mind on rates

Europe's inflation held steady in Aug

FRANKFURT, Germany, Aug 31, (AP) - Annual inflation held steady in Europe in August as food prices raced ahead of falling fuel costs, but there was no clarity about whether the European Central Bank will pause its record series of interest rate hikes.

decisively towards a hike or a hold," said Jack Allen-Reynolds, deputy chief eurozone economist at Capital Economics.

The government reported that a measure of inflation closely tracked by the Federal Reserve remained low in July. The latest update for personal consumption and expenditures, or the PCE report, is the latest sign that price increases are cooling.

Wall Street has one more big economic update to look forward to this week. On Friday, the government will report employment data for August. The strong job market, along with consumer spending, has so far helped thwart a recession that analysts expected at some point in 2023.

Europe In early trading, the FTSE 100 in London gained less than 0.1% to 7,475.07. The CAC 40 in Paris rose 0.2% to 7,378.61 and the DAX in Frankfurt advanced 0.6% to 15,984.44.

Traders hope that and this week's updates on hiring and consumer inflation will convince the Federal Reserve prices are under control and no more interest rate hikes are needed.

The consumer price index for the 20 countries that use the euro currency was unchanged at 5.3% from the July reading, supported by food, alcohol and tobacco prices that increased a painful 9.8% since last August, according to official figures Thursday from EU statistics agency Eurostat.

Inflation has fallen to lower levels in the U.S., at 3.2%, but U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has said more rate increases may be needed to return inflation to 2%.

Electric vehicles in Dubai... Increasing trend towards sustainable environ

By Salem Al-Methen

DUBAI, Aug 31, (KUNA) - In an effort to decrease carbon emissions and reduce pollution, the Emirate of Dubai in the UAE has witnessed an increased Electric Vehicles (EV) trend aimed at creating a more sustainable environment for future generations.

first public charging infrastructure for electric vehicles was developed in the region. In 2015, the authority developed and installed 100 EV Green Chargers in highly frequented areas across the city, to encourage electric vehicle adoption in Dubai.

with several users and EV clients to see their views on the issue. Omair Al-Sayed, a consumer, indicated that EVs used less energy than fuel-based cars, adding that maintenance was also reasonable.

Oil In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude oil lost 1 cent to \$81.62 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It rose 47 cents on Wednesday to \$81.63.

122-yr US Steel reviewing 'numerous' buyout offers

After receiving two buyout offers in the past month, U.S. Steel Tuesday said it is in the process of reviewing multiple offers for the storied company and symbol of American industrialization.

up between the two U.S. steelmakers would create "lower-cost, more innovative and stronger domestic supplier for our customers."

In recent years, Dubai has witnessed an increase in EVs in accordance with the EV Green Charger Initiative, which caused a rapid increase in users from 14 in 2015 to 11,000 until May of 2023.

Dubai aims at achieving its green economy and sustainable development strategy to meet the city's carbon neutrality goals of 2050. In Dubai, there are around 1,000 EV charging stations to encourage the use of environment-friendly transportation, an effort, which managed to reduce carbon emissions by about 237,700 tons by April of 2023.

Fellow consumer Ghazi Faisal touted the use of EVs, saying that it was quieter than using regular vehicles, which in turn reduced noise pollution.

Currencies The dollar declined to 145.97 yen from Wednesday's 146.20 yen. The euro edged down to \$1.0919 from \$1.0923.

U.S. Steel rejected a \$7.3 billion buyout proposal from rival Cleveland-Cliffs two weeks ago, and that offer was followed by \$7.8 billion bid from the industrial conglomerate Esmark. Shares of the Pittsburgh steelmaker soared more than 30% on speculation that a deal was imminent.

Prices have settled back to around \$800 per metric ton, but that remains at the top end of the spectrum for steel prices over the past six years. U.S. Steel has been a symbol of industrialization since it was founded in 1901 by J.P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie and others, and the domestic steel industry dominated globally before Japan, then China, became the preeminent steelmakers over the past 40 years. (AP)

Media

Late-night hosts team up for 'Strike Force Five' podcast

NEW YORK, Aug 31, (AP) — Something interesting: Stephen Colbert has in his possession a pair of pants belonging to the late Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza. It's a long story but his mom dated Somoza when she was younger (before he became a dictator, says Colbert). Speaking of pants, Jimmy Kimmel once bought a pair of Gary Coleman's pants off eBay.

These are just two of the wonderfully weird factoids shared by late-night hosts Colbert, Kimmel, Jimmy Fallon, John Oliver and Seth Meyers, in a new podcast called "Strike Force Five" — named after their personal text chain — which debuted Wednesday on Spotify.

Because their respective shows have been dark since the Writers Guild of America went on strike in May, all profits from the podcast will go to their respective staffs. The show is sponsored by Mint Mobile and liquor company Diageo, and Kimmel said the money will "largely" come from them. Kimmel served as the inaugural moderator and that responsibility will be shared among the hosts.

"What would happen if five of America's Top 11 most-beloathed talk show hosts all talked on top of each other for an hour? You're about to find out," said Kimmel at the beginning of the episode.

"There wasn't a lot of communication during the last WGA strike between late-night hosts and as a result there was a lot of nonsense that went on," he added, "so Stephen suggested we get together and we talk through our issues or whatever we're dealing with."

Oliver asked, "Would it be fair to say that in 2008 the hosts didn't along quite as well as we do? I know it's an incredibly low bar but that was a sequence of dying marriages that they were."

The late-night hosts in 2008 were Kimmel, Conan O'Brien, Jay

Leno, Dave Letterman, Craig Ferguson and Colbert and Oliver. Kimmel said their shows were all dark but eventually Letterman and Ferguson went back on the air first "and we were all mad," he said.

A lightning sound effect would play each time the words "Strike Force Five" were said and the hosts spent the hour-long episode sharing basically whatever they wanted. Meyers said their unpolished delivery was a tribute to why they really need a staff, including writers and researchers.

More wonderfully weird anecdotes included how Fallon went fishing with Kimmel over the summer in Idaho where Kimmel has a home. It was Fallon's first time fishing.

Confusing

"If you think it's confusing to talk to two Jimmys in a podcast, imagine to talking to two Jimmys in a boat. Imagine being a guy just like, 'Jimmy over here on your left,' and we both throw it left and we both end up tangling," said Kimmel.

This is when Meyers asked Kimmel about his A-list pals (including Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman and Kristen Bell,) who have been photographed visiting him in Idaho. "Kimmel, is there any truth to the rumor that you have scuba divers under the water who hook the fish to the rods of the A-listers?"

"Most celebrities don't fish, they just kind of hang around which enrages me," said Kimmel.

Oliver and Meyers performed a few comedy dates together where they took to the stage for a Q&A with the audience. Oliver, said Meyers, mocks the people who don't properly execute their opportunity to

ask a question, by taking too long or they fumbling their words. Oliver did not refute this observation.

Kimmel said he usually has summers off — a fact that annoys the other hosts who normally have shows during the summer months — and he prefers being on vacation knowing the other hosts are working.

"I enjoy the fact that you don't get them that makes it all the more sweeter. I like getting the summer off better when I'm getting paid to get the summer off," said Kimmel. "You're not getting paid to not work when normally you are paid to not work," Colbert responded.

Other facts included how Fallon's mom tried being a nun for a week but it wasn't for her. He says there is photo evidence of his mother wearing a habit, possibly holding a doll of a nun to which Meyers replied, "I have a picture of my dad holding a GI Joe, but I don't think he was in the army."

It was agreed that if Fallon finds the nun photos, Colbert will dig up Somoza's pants.

Colbert also said he's created "code names" for the others in case he loses his cell phone. Kimmel is Crank Yanker, Fallon is Steve Allen, Meyers is Boom Chicago, John Oliver is Joliver.

"You'd have to be a pretty dumb guy who stole Stephen's phone to not figure out Joliver," quipped Meyers.

They ended the podcast with a promise to drop another episode "this week." They plan to do at least 12 episodes.

Sarah Kobos, who worked as a photo research coordinator at "The Tonight Show" said, "There hasn't been any info or communication given internally about how this works. ... That said, we are extremely grateful that the podcast says it will go towards helping staff. It is much needed!"

Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures Entertainment shows Denzel Washington in a scene from 'The Equalizer 3.' (AP)

Film

Actor back as McCall to battle Italian mafia

Washington charms in 'Equalizer 3'

By Jake Coyle

There's an awful lot of talk about the end of movie stars considering Denzel Washington is right over here, walking around.

Antoine Fuqua's "Equalizer 3," a taut and textured sequel to Washington's vigilante series, isn't one of the actor's best films. It wouldn't crack his top 10. But it vividly encapsulates Washington's formidable on-screen potency.

You might think this would be in the movie's brutal action sequences, but no. It's the scenes of Washington fastidiously having a cup of tea at a sidewalk cafe or strolling the streets of a Sicilian town. This is a movie stitched together less by its plot mechanics than the pleasure of watching Denzel smirk, scowl and smile, in leisurely scenes mixed in with all the murder.

In that way, the "Equalizer" movies (the third of which is certainly the best of a so-so bunch), remind me of those great Walter Matthau thrillers like "Charley Varrick" and "Hopscotch" — movies about old men with expressive eyebrows who are set in their ways but have plenty of tricks left up their sleeve. (Washington, now 68, also took over Matthau's role in the remake of "Pelham One Two Three.")

There's no shortage these days of older stars plying their special sets of skills in action thrillers. Throw a stone in a movie theater and you're likely to hit (and risk drawing the lethal ire of) Liam Neeson, Harrison Ford or Tom Cruise. "Equalizer 3," an all-in-all good entry in the genre, is on the bloodier end of the spectrum.

Yet curiously neither the fight sequences (rapid and grotesque) nor the film's sense of suspense (perfunctory) are much of a selling point. The film, scripted by Richard Wenk, opens with a trail of bodies through the main house of an Sicily vineyard. In the wine cellar calmly sits Robert McCall (Washington), who shrugs, "Wouldn't let me in, so..."

"The Equalizer" is loosely based on an 1980s TV series about a former intelligence service agent who spends his retirement bringing the scales of justice back in balance for regular folks he happens to encounter. And there's a pleasantly episodic quality to the third

film in the series.

A bullet in the back leaves McCall laid up in recovery after he's taken in by a kindly village doctor named Enzo (Remo Girone). We're in Southern Italy. Most of the film was shot along the Amalfi coast, specifically the enchanting medieval fishing village of Atrani. If there's one truly implausible thing about "Equalizer 3," it's the fact that there isn't a tourist in sight. McCall, who once out of bed strolls the village's cobbled steps with a cane, seems to be the only American in town. He's quickly charmed by the people who warmly welcome the "Americano."

Vigilante

And the same time, the Camorra mafia is pushing harder into the village, with intentions of driving out locals to make room for hotels and casinos. They make a small army of designer-dressed, tattoo-covered thugs, and they descend on the village, unaware of the lurking elite vigilante quietly sipping tea across the street from their shakedown or eating pasta at the next table.

The well-traveled Fuqua, who helmed both prior "Equalizer" movies and first directed Washington in "Training Day," is in his genre wheelhouse here. He trails McCall patiently and soaks up the local color, with a few touches of Christian imagery from the church above the town. There's a sinister, ominous sense of evil scourges — a heinous drug from Syria, sold by the mafia in funding terrorists cells — seeping into a society of "good people."

The clear dichotomy of good and bad is cozy, and so, too, is Washington's savage, untroubled dispatching of the mafia ring. There are CIA officials in the mix, too, including Dakota Fanning's desk clerk turned operative. But they are mostly following McCall's lead. He — Washington really — is in a league of his own, and "Equalizer 3," smartly, doesn't even try to suggest it's a close race. Not all are created equal, after all.

"Equalizer 3," a Sony Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for strong bloody violence and some language. Running time: 109 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Also:

NEW YORK: AMTD Group Inc., AMTD IDEA Group (NYSE: AMTD; SGX: HKB), AMTD Digital Inc. (NYSE: HKD) ("AMTD Digital"), and AMTD World Media and Entertainment Group ("AMTD WME"), the multi-media, entertainment and cultures worldwide platform of AMTD Group, are thrilled to jointly announce that the highly anticipated movie titled "Moscow Mission" ("Movie"), is successfully scheduled for release to the public nationwide on Sept 29, 2023.

"Moscow Mission" was produced based on the true story of "China-Russia Train Robbery" happened in 1993 which led to China's first-ever cross-border manhunt. It gathers a group of top stars and heavy weights including Zhang Hanyu, Andy Lau, Huang Xuan, Janice Man, etc.. The Movie represents the third co-operation between AMTD Group and world's leading award-winning actor Andy Lau, following the movies titled "Shock Wave 2" and "The Trading Floor".

Dr. Calvin Choi, Chairman of AMTD Group as well as the founder of AMTD IDEA Group and AMTD Digital, serves as an executive producer of the Movie.

AMTD Group focuses on the development of a multi-media, entertainment and culture business platform as one of its long term core strategies. AMTD WME was established earlier this year to embark and focus on global developments in such areas. Leveraging upon its media resources, including L'Officiel's global fashion media platform; The Art Newspaper's (pending for closing conditions) globally renowned and authoritative art media voice; DigFin Asia's leading FinTech news portal; ValueChampion's lifestyle and financial knowledge hub, etc., AMTD WME endeavours to bridge the East to the West by providing extensive top cultural and social experience to clients around the world.

Xavier Zee, Chief Financial Officer of AMTD Digital, commented, "We are pleased release another movie featuring HK Global superstar Andy Lau and the up and rising actress Janice Man to further deepen our exposure and credentials during our journey of developments in global movie industry. We see many opportunities in the media and entertainment sector globally and will continue to focus our development in this area." (AP)

LONDON: Britain's Prince Harry says he didn't have the support he needed when he returned home from combat in Afghanistan as he reached out to other veterans in a new Netflix series about the Invictus Games for injured soldiers.

The new series launched on Wednesday on the streaming service.

In talking about post-traumatic stress disorder, Harry said that his return from Afghanistan in 2012 triggered emotions that he suppressed after the death of his mother, Princess Diana, when he was just 12 years old. The prince, whose troubles with the royal family have been chronicled in the past, said the impact of Diana's death was never discussed.

"The biggest struggle for me was no one around me really could help; I didn't have that support structure, that network or that expert advice to identify what was actually going on with me," Harry said. "Unfortunately, like most of us, the first time you consider therapy is when you are lying on the floor in the fetal position probably wishing you had dealt with some of this stuff previously."

"Heart of Invictus" features a group of injured soldiers as they prepared for last year's Invictus Games in The Netherlands.

Modeled after the Warrior Games in the United States, Harry founded the Invictus Games in 2014 as a Paralympic-style event designed to inspire military veterans around the world as they work to overcome battlefield injuries.

Harry and his wife Meghan Markle, signed a lucrative contract to produce content for Netflix after they stepped away from royal duties in 2020 and moved to Southern California. "Harry & Meghan," a six-part series detailing the couple's split from the royal family, premiered last year.

Harry, who is also known as the Duke of Sussex, appeared at a preview screening of the new series in California on Tuesday, telling the audience about the sacrifices veterans and their families make while serving their countries. (AP)

PITTSBURGH: A woman accused of intentionally abandoning her dog at a Pennsylvania airport before she boarded a flight to a resort in Mexico earlier this month has been charged with animal cruelty

and related charges, authorities announced.

Allegheny County Police say Allison Lyn Gaiser, 44, tried to bring her brown-and-white male French bulldog with her on a flight departing from Pittsburgh International Airport on Aug 4. But the dog was denied boarding by the airline because it did not meet the



criteria for an emotional support animal and did not have a proper kennel as required.

After leaving the ticket counter, Gaiser was seen on surveillance cameras pushing the dog in the stroller back toward a moving walkway enclosure, next to glass exit doors in the airport's short-term parking lot. She was later

seen heading to an area where a county police officer found the dog unattended in the stroller about 40 minutes later, authorities said.

The dog - who was unharmed - was licensed and had an identification microchip. It was turned over to an animal care facility and is now staying in a foster home, where authorities said the dog is doing well.

A county police sergeant was waiting for Gaiser when she returned to the airport about 12:30 am on Aug 10. Authorities said Gaiser admitted leaving the dog behind because the airline wouldn't allow it on the plane but said she made arrangements with her mother to pick up the animal at the airport. (AP)



Japan's team members celebrate after defeating Venezuela in their Basketball World Cup classification match in Okinawa, southern Japan. (AP)

Sports

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

South Sudan keep hopes alive

Japan rally to beat Venezuela at WC, close in on Olympic berth

MANILA, Philippines, Aug 31, (AP): Japan is one win away from getting back to the Olympics.

Makoto Hiejima scored 23 points, Yuta Watanabe added 21 and Japan roared back from a 15-point third-quarter deficit to beat Venezuela 86-77 on Thursday in a classification round game at the Basketball World Cup in Okinawa, Japan.

Yuki Kawamura scored 19 for Japan (2-2), which would clinch a berth in the Paris Olympics with a win over Cape Verde on Saturday.

Garlo Sojo led Venezuela (0-4) with 20 points, and Nestor Colmenares added 17.

A win Saturday would give Japan its second consecutive Olympic berth. The team played in the Tokyo Games two summers ago as the host nation, but fans could not attend because of restrictions related to the pandemic.

Lauri Markkanen scored 34 points and Finland (1-3) got its first win of the World Cup.

Ivan Almeida led Cape Verde (1-3) with 17 points.

BASKETBALL

At Manila, Carlik Jones nearly had a triple-double - 17 points, 14 assists and nine rebounds - as South Sudan (2-2) kept alive in the race to take the automatic Olympic qualifying berth from the African region.

Jordan Clarkson scored 24 for the Philippines (0-4).

France got 13 points from Elie Okobo and 12 from Nando De Colo to improve to 2-2 and now has a chance to leave this World Cup with a winning record.

Rudy Gobert returned from an ankle issue and had nine points, nine rebounds and four blocks for France. Benham Yakhchali and Meisam Mirzaei led Iran (0-4) with 11 points apiece.

Hu Jinqu scored 20 points for China (1-3). Childe Dundao led Angola (1-3) with 17 points.

Pako Cruz scored 27 points and Mexico (1-3) wasted most of a 19-point lead before holding on to top New Zealand.

Reuben Te Rangi led all scorers with 32 for New Zealand (1-3).

Assem Marei had 20 points and 14 rebounds, Ehab Amin added 20 points and Egypt (2-2) pulled away in the fourth quarter.

Zhang upsets Ruud at US Open



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, returns a shot to Bernabe Zapata Miralles, of Spain, during the second round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Remarkable show

Fast bowler Pathirana leads Sri Lanka to 5-wicket win over Bangladesh in Asia Cup

PALLEKELE, Sri Lanka, Aug 31, (AP): Young fast bowler Matheesha Pathirana grabbed a career-best 4-32 and led injury-hit Sri Lanka to a comfortable five-wicket win over Bangladesh in the Asia Cup on Thursday.

Pathirana consistently challenged the batters with his deceptive pace while spinners Dhananjaya de Silva and Dumith Wellalage dried up runs in the middle overs as Bangladesh was bowled out for 164 in 42.4 overs.

Charith Asalanka (62 not out) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (54) then hit half centuries and carried Sri Lanka to 168-5 with 11 to overs spare despite the top order hobbling against Bangladesh's pace and the leftarm spin of captain Shakib Al Hasan, who took 2-29.

Sri Lanka stuttered at 3-43 within the first 10 overs when fast bowler Taskin Ahmed had Dimuth Karunaratne clean bowled cheaply and Al Hasan knocked back the stumps of Kusal Mendis with a straight delivery.

But Asalanka and Samarawickrama rebuilt the chase with a 78-run stand before Mahedi Hasan had the latter stumped off a delivery that spun away from the righthander. Al Hasan then

had Dhananjaya de Silva's stumps rattled with a full pitched delivery before Asalanka ensured Sri Lanka got home with plenty of overs to spare.

It was a remarkable show by Sri Lanka's second string bowlers after injuries to multiple frontline bowlers ahead of the tournament, including ace legspinner Wanindu Hasaranga.

Al Hasan's decision to bat first under overcast conditions didn't go well. Offspinner Maheesh Theekshana struck off his second ball when he had Tanzid Hasan leg before wicket without scoring that encouraged Sri Lanka skipper Dasun Shanaka to deploy spinners inside the first 10 overs despite overcast conditions.

CRICKET

De Silva had Mohammad Naim (16) caught at point off a leading edge and Pathirana's pace outdone Al Hasan (5) who gloved a low catch to wicketkeeper Patham Nissanka as Bangladesh slipped to 3-36 in the 11th over.

Najmul Hossain Shanto top-scored with 89 off 122 balls but never looked

to threaten the pace and spin on a tricky wicket. Shanto shared a 59-run fourth-wicket partnership with Towhid Hridoy, who made 20 before Shanaka went for a successful television referral of lbw against Hridoy and broke the stand in the 24th over.

Bangladesh's most experienced player Mushfiqur Rahim (13) was one of the four batters to reach double-figures before he fell in Pathirana's return spell as he failed to clear the third man fielder with his uppercut. Pathirana made short work of the tailenders by claiming two more quick wickets as Bangladesh folded for a well below-par total.

Afghanistan is the other team in Group B, with the top two advancing to the Super 4. Pakistan inflicted a crushing 238-run defeat on newcomer Nepal in the opening Group A game on Wednesday and will take on archival India in its next group game on Saturday.

The Asia Cup is being hosted in Pakistan and Sri Lanka after India refused to travel to Pakistan because of political tensions between the two countries. Pakistan will host four games while Sri Lanka will host nine, including the final on Sept. 17.



Sri Lanka's Sadeera Samarawickrama plays a shot during the one day international cricket match between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh of Asia Cup in Pallekele, Sri Lanka. (AP) — See Also Page 15

Tiafoe into third round, Wozniacki ousts Kvitova

NEW YORK, Aug 31, (AP): Casper Ruud, the 2022 U.S. Open runner-up, was eliminated Wednesday night when Zhang Zhizhen became the first Chinese man to beat a player in the top five of the ATP rankings.

Zhang upset the No. 5 seed 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, 0-6, 6-2 to reach the third round of a Grand Slam tournament for the second time. It was his second five-set victory to open this tournament after he lost his first four five-setters.

He wasn't discouraged by those previous losses, with the breakthrough finally coming Monday when he outlasted J.J. Wolf in 4 1/2 hours.

"Try to just keep playing and keep believing yourself every single time," Zhang said. "(Even in) tough moments, still try to believe yourself. In the end, you'll make it."

Zhang became the first Chinese man to compete in the main draw at Wimbledon in the professional era when he qualified in 2021. He qualified last year at the U.S. Open, joining Wu Yibing as the first men from their country in the main draw of the year's final Grand Slam tournament.

The 26-year-old Zhang reached the third round of the French Open in June before falling to Ruud, who had been to the finals in three of the last six Grand Slam events.

Ruud, who lost to Carlos Alcaraz last year in Flushing Meadows, is the highest-ranked Norwegian in the history of the ATP rankings, which date to 1973. He had reached No. 2 last year and is currently No. 5.

Zhang will face Rinky Hijikata of Australia in the third round, and Ruud believes he can keep on going.

When Caroline Wozniacki finished off the biggest victory of her still-fresh comeback following 3 1/2 years away from tennis, she sat in her U.S. Open sideline chair, leaned forward and covered her face with both hands. Then she leaned back, glanced over at her husband and her father in the stands, and smiled.

Two gold chains dangled from her neck, each carrying a name written in cursive: Olivia, for her 2-year-old daughter, and James, for her 10-month-old son.

Yes, Wozniacki clearly made the right choice to come out of retirement



Stearns won 6-3, 6-0. (AP)

and try her hand at this tennis thing again, making it to the third round at Flushing Meadows by beating two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova 7-5, 7-6 (5) in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

This is the third event of Wozniacki's comeback and she looked quite capable of strong play in her 15th career matchup against the 11th-seeded Kvitova. There were some wobbles, including when Wozniacki held her first two match points at 5-4 in the second set and failed to convert either.

But her game was good enough to hang in there and pull out the tiebreaker.

There was not much drama involved in Frances Tiafoe's second-round victory at the U.S. Open. He quickly grabbed a lead and never let go. He only faced one break point - and saved it. He volleyed terrifically. His outmatched opponent needed some help from a trainer for a bothersome neck.

And you couldn't escape the feeling that the 10th-seeded Tiafoe was having the time of his life. This is where he wants to be, no matter the details of the match. Under the lights at a Grand Slam tournament, absorbing the attention of thousands of folks in the Arthur Ashe Stadium stands and reciprocating the love while getting past Sebastian Ofner of Austria 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 in a tad more than 1 1/2 hours.

He knew this was Ofner's U.S. Open debut and said after Wednesday's encounter that he wanted to use "the environment to my advantage."

Tiafoe took a step forward on a day

two highly seeded men exited on his half of the draw: No. 5 Casper Ruud, last year's runner-up, and No. 7 Stefanos Tsitsipas. With No. 4 Holger Rune out in the first round, three of the tournament's top seven men already are gone.

A year ago at Flushing Meadows, Tiafoe's career changed and his life did, too. He beat Rafael Nadal in the fourth round along the way to reaching the semifinals of a major for the first time, then pushing eventual champion Carlos Alcaraz to the limit before bowing out.

All the way, the fans - including some well-known ones, such as former first lady Michelle Obama and NBA All-Star Bradley Beal - showered Tiafoe with affection. And he certainly enjoyed basking in that adulation and the extra attention that came with his higher profile, including a role in the Netflix docuseries about tennis, "Break Point."

TENNIS

Tiafoe is part of a crop of American men in their 20s who have been steadily moving up the rankings and starting to show signs of threatening for major championships. Andy Roddick was the last man from the country to earn a Grand Slam trophy, at the U.S. Open 20 years ago.

Three other U.S. men joining Tiafoe in the third round with victories were No. 9 Taylor Fritz; No. 14 Tommy Paul, an Australian Open semifinalist in January who collected his first career comeback from two sets down to beat Roman Safiullin 3-6, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3; and Ben Shelton, who advanced when 2020 champion Dominic Thiem stopped playing in the second set after being visited by a physiotherapist.

Another man from the United States, No. 28 Chris Eubanks, lost in four sets to Benjamin Bonzi of France.

In earlier action Wednesday, defending champion Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff remained on course for a quarterfinal showdown with straight-set victories, while 23-time major champ Novak Djokovic also had little trouble moving into the third round.

And Tsitsipas, a two-time Slam finalist never past the third round in New York, was eliminated by 128th-ranked Swiss qualifier Dominic Stricker 7-5, 6-7 (2), 6-7 (5) 7-6 (6), 6-3.