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Kuwait expands sites for vaccination



The Saudi Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, the second largest after the UAE's, holds three Guinness World Records for longest interactive state-of-the-art water feature, largest LED mirror screen display, and largest interactive lighting floor. — See Page 2

Opinion

Afghanistan, tolerance not a distorted reading of Islam

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE trending question today is no longer "Will the Taliban rule Afghanistan in accordance with the established humanitarian teachings that Almighty Allah sent His Noble Messenger (PBUH) to guide peo-

Will this movement restore that state, which is exhausted from the wars that lasted half a century after being a haven for terrorists with their origins and branches like Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and other groups that the world is fighting against?

Here is where the international community meet, especially since the neighboring countries have varied cultural and religious nature compared to the Taliban before 2001. They are not ready to open the doors of terrorism to them - neither Russia, which experienced Afghan violence during its invasion of Afghanistan, nor China, the second neighbor, nor Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran or Pakistan. Each of them have their own concerns and problems, and they definitely have no room or appetite for new concerns.

Far from this geographically imprisoned country, the international coalition that fought for 20 years to neutralize the terrorist threat, especially after September 11, 2001, will not accept the reemergence of the same danger, not only at the military level, but also at the level of drug terrorism that Afghanistan has turned into after being the largest exporter of drugs in the last four decades.

Undoubtedly, the Taliban leaders must realize these facts and act in accordance with the requirements of international conventions in this regard. They must read the Iranian scene very carefully, so as not to fall into the sin that the Mullahs regime pushed 80 million Iranians into for the latter to become outcasts in the world and suffer the bitterness of the economic and financial blockade, while their regime spends about \$200 billion on a fake project to rule the region and turn it into sectarian

farms mired in sectarian strife. They also have to realize that the rule of the world will not be from the caves of Tora Bora, or the tunnels of Kandahar. They rule by what Almighty Allah has commanded if they seek to show the true face of Islam based on the noble verse - "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you ... '

To know nations necessitates tolerance and correct human relations, not murder and sabotage.

For the Taliban to be able to build a healthy state, it needs to exit from the tunnels and caves of the distorted reading of Islamic teachings. It should have the inclination to make peace with its neighbors and the world. Most importantly, it should devote itself to developing its people in accordance with what is prevalent throughout the world especially since Afghanistan is floating on a sea of precious metals that make it one of the richest countries.

All this can happen if the Taliban leaders realized that what happened in 2001 is no longer permissible under any circumstances.

> Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com Follow me on:





ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

'Qatari payments to Gaza to resume'

JERUSALEM, Aug 19, (AP): Israel on Thursday announced it reached an agreement with Qatar for the Gulf Arab country to resume aid payments to thousands of families in the Gaza Strip, a step aimed at easing tensions with the Hamas-ruled Palestinian territory in the wake of an 11-day war in May.

Qatar has provided hundreds of millions of dollars to Gaza's poorest families in recent years. The funds have been a key source of stability for the impoverished territory, where unemployment is hovering at around 50%

But since the May war, Israel has blocked the payments, insisting on safeguards that none of the money will reach Hamas. Under the system before the war, some \$30 million in cash was delivered in suitcases to Gaza each month through an Israeli-controlled crossing.

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz said that under the new arrangement, funds would be transferred by the United Nations directly to the bank accounts of Gaza families. Israel, he said, would maintain oversight over the list of re-

waving their national flag in scattered demonstrations, and the fighters again responded

Afghans protest Taliban rule

KABUL, Aug 19, (AP): Afghan protesters defied the Taliban for a second day Thursday, violently as they faced down growing challenges to their rule.

A U.N. official warned of dire food shortages and experts said the country was severely in need of cash while noting that the Taliban are unlikely to enjoy the generous international aid that the civilian government they dethroned did.

In light of these challenges, the Taliban have moved quickly to suppress any dissent, despite their promises that they have become more moderate since they last ruled Afghanistan with draconian laws. Many fear they will succeed in erasing two decades of efforts to expand women's and human rights and remake the country.

On Thursday, a procession of cars and people near Kabul's airport carried long black, red and green banners in honor of the Afghan flag - a banner that is becoming a symbol of defiance. At another protest in Nangarhar province, video posted online showed a bleeding demonstrator with a gunshot wound. Onlookers tried to carry him away.

In Khost province, Taliban authorities instituted a 24-hour curfew Thursday after violently breaking up another protest, according to information obtained by journalists monitoring from abroad. The authorities did not immediately acknowledge the demonstration or the curfew.

Protesters also took the streets in Kunar province, according to witnesses and social media videos that lined up with reporting by The Associated Press.

The demonstrations - which come as Afghans celebrated Independence Day and some commemorated the Shiite Ashoura festival were a remarkable show of defiance after the Taliban fighters violently dispersed a protest Wednesday. At that rally, in the eastern city of Jalalabad, demonstrators lowered the Taliban's flag and replace it with Afghanistan's tricolor. At least one person was killed.

Meanwhile, opposition figures gathering in the last area of the country not under Taliban rule talked of launching an armed resistance under the banner of the Northern Alliance, which allied with the U.S. during the 2001 invasion.

It was not clear how serious a threat they posed given that Taliban fighters overran nearly the entire country in a matter of days with little resistance from Afghan forces.

The Taliban so far have offered no specifics on how they will lead, other than to say they will be guided by Shariah, or Islamic, law. They are in talks with senior officials of previous Afghan governments. But they face an increasingly precarious situation.



A Lebanese Shiite supporter of Hezbollah listens to the story of Imam Hussein during activities marking the holy day of Ashoura, in southern Beirut, Lebanon, Aug 19. The leader of the militant Hezbollah group Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said Thursday that the first Iranian fuel tanker will sail toward Lebanon 'within hours warning Israel and the United States not to intercept it. The Arabic head band reads: 'Hussein'. (AP)

Cabinet mulls new projects

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabinet, in its extraordinary meeting on Wednesday, studied a series of new development projects and ordered state agencies to take all required measures to do their utmost efforts to speed up pace of development across the state.

islation Department, the Central Agency for Public Tenders, the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Ministry of Finance and the Kuwait Municipality to form special internal teams to accelerate launching and implementation of development projects while showing full compliance to relevant legal frameworks and the State Audit Bureau's recommendations, said Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. Sheikh Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohamad Al-Sabah in a statement following the Cabinet meeting.

The Cabinet expressed appreciation to the Municipal Council for its unanimous approval today of the proposed investment and development plans for four locations at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's causeway.

It hailed the council's cooperation to execute development projects of the Kuwait 2035 Vision.

The Cabinet also discussed a recommendation from its economic committee on putting up a tender for a project to implement and manage Al-Abdali economic zone and ordered the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) to go ahead with and put up the tender.

The Cabinet went on to discuss a proposal regarding an initial study for a modern exhibition-hosting venue at Subiya region with the Kuwait International Fair company tasked with the matter.

The company is tasked with conducting a study on the feasibility, expected revenues and deadline and requirements of the project, having been given 3-6 months to complete the role.

Given the diverse landscape of Kuwait's northern Subiya region, the Cabinet discussed plans to transform the area into a recreational location catering to all age groups, in addition to a platform for entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The plans include forming special lots that would allow food trucks and stalls to operate in an effort to boost local businesses, while moviegoers will be able to enjoy their favorite films in a drive-in cinema that will spring up in the area.

The Cabinet tasked the national SMEs fund and Kuwait's municipality to take the measures needed to ensure the timely completion of these projects.

In addition, the Cabinet studied the public service committee's recommendations on the unified government application of electronic services "Sahl" and the measures taken by the Public Authority for Civil Information, in coordination with the relevant bodies, in this

The Cabinet lauded efforts made in this regard to launch application as soon as possible in a way that will simplify the measures, and facilitate duties of the staff and services of the beneficiaries.

It also approved a decree on appointing Yousef al-Fadhala as chief executive officer of the central authority for addressing the status of illegal residents and referred it to His Highness the Amir.

Moreover, the ministers discussed the political affairs in light of the ongoing developments in the political arena at Arab and international levels.

Day by Day

THE best thing about the Corona pandemic is that it has put an end to men kissing men on their heads, noses and cheeks and the physical distancing has put an end to

hugging and embracing.
As for embracing and kissing between men and women, that is left to the degree of kin-

The best way of greeting people is the way the Japa-nese do it. It helps to keep away the coronavirus unlike what we do in the Arab countries and the Middle East.

In Japan, people bow their heads to greet each other. It is a sign of welcome and re-

Yet, tomorrow is just an-**Zahed Matar**

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: MP Muhannad Al-Sayer has submitted a proposal to implement a flexible working hours system in public institutions such that workers are divided into two — the first group starts working any time between 6:30 am to 9:30 am and the second group between 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm, provided they work six hours a day as per the regula-tions of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Al-Sayer decided to present the proposal after the country witnessed a huge traffic jam recently; affirming his proposal, once implemented, will solve the traffic problem.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee approved the proposal of MPs Hassan Jawhar, Mehalhal Al-Mudaf and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri to obligate banks and financing institutions to refund the interest payments they collected from their clients who obtained loans.

The proposal defines 'illegally collected interest' as the interest payments which turned out to be higher than the principal amount, which means interest is collected twice for the same loan.

KUWAIT CITY: Finance Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investments Khalifa Hamada has submitted his resignation to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sa**bah Al-Khaled**; thereby, opening the door for reshuffling in the government, reports Al-Rai daily quoting governmental sources.

Sources told the daily that the Cabinet reshuffle is expected to occur in the middle of September, and that the change could

include three to five ministers. Sources disclosed that Hamada discreetly submitted his resignation to HH the Prime Minister a few days ago. Sources clarified Hamada will continue working until the official announcement that his resignation is accepted or

if a new government is formed. Sources said one of the main reasons behind Hamada's resignation is the feeling that he is not a decision-maker on many issues. Sources then summarized the

reasons as follows:

■ Unlike his predecessors, Hamada did not participate in choosing the members of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Investment

■ An official decision was published in the Official Gazette to sell a plot of at an initial value. but the auction was cancelled a few days later.

■ Decisions related to markets whose contracts have expired were withdrawn and assigned to a committee from outside the ministry.

■ He has no significant role in preparing draft laws that address the risks of running out of liquidity, foremost of which is the preparation of the public debt bill. ■ Failure to approve nominees to

leadership positions in the ministry, including the position of undersecretary. ■ Exacerbated the liquidity crisis

without reaching quick solutions.

KUWAIT CITY: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) announced it has received applications for accrediting the graduation certificates from residents who are 55 years and above and work for the private sector, reports Al-Qabas daily.

However, PAM said these people must personally visit the concerned department in the au-

In a press statement, PAM said the accreditation is for those who hold scientific degrees, a diploma, and above in the Labor Market Standards Department.

The sources pointed out those who are below 55 must submit accreditation requests through the 'Ashal' electronic service.

Nod to jab

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (Agencies): Kuwait has expanded its list of designated sites to get COVID-19 shots, naming the headquarters of its agriculture and fisheries authority in the southern Wafra region as the latest location, the health ministry said on Wednesday.

The new center, which has the capacity to accommodate up to 5,000 people, will be serving Wafra residents only, said ministry spokesman Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad, adding that the facility is equipped with an emergency

ward and 14 other special units. Kuwait has seen new CO-VID-19 cases drop dramatically as its vaccination campaign picks up speed, with officials saying the country is likely to achieve herd immunity as early as next month.

Kuwait said incoming travelers who have been administered unapproved COVID-19 vaccines are required to take one more shot of one of four governmentapproved vaccines to enter the country.

The decision comes as the Kuwaiti government announced new conditions and regulations that will allow passengers who have obtained unapproved vaccines, including Sinopharm, Sinovac and Sputnik V, to enter the country, the Government Communication Center said in a statement via its Twitter account.

Approved

The Kuwaiti government only recognises Pfizer-BioNTech, Oxford-AstraZeneca, Moderna, and the single-shot Johnson & Johnson as approved vaccines against

Earlier regulations, namely for arriving passengers to obtain two shots of the approved vaccines or one shot of Johnson & Johnson, still stand, according to the deci-

People vaccinated inside Kuwait are asked to show their vaccination certificates as soon as they arrive in Kuwait via the "Immune" and "Kuwait Mobile ID" apps, it added.

However, passengers vaccinated out of the country should submit their documents, containing their names as written in their passports, the vaccine make, the date of immunisation, the administering body and the QR code for these documents to be verified electronically, it explained.

In case of the absence of the OR code, the documents can be uploaded via the Ministry of Health's link, it made clear.

Kuwait's daily coronavirus cases rose by 237 to 407,376 as deaths increased by two to 2.397. according to the health ministry on Wednesday.
Another 642 people were

cured of the virus, raising the total of those to have overcome the disease to 399,035, ministry spokesperson Dr. Abdallah Al-Sanad said in a statement.

Treatment

The number of people hospitalised with the virus currently stands at 398, with 182 of them in intensive care units, he added, revealing that another 5,944 are receiving regular treatment.

Some 9.900 swab tests were

conducted over the last day out of

a total of 3,631,090, mentioned the official. He went on to urge nationals and expatriates alike that abiding

by health precautions, mainly, following social distancing rules, is the only way to halt the spread of the virus. The Director of the Central

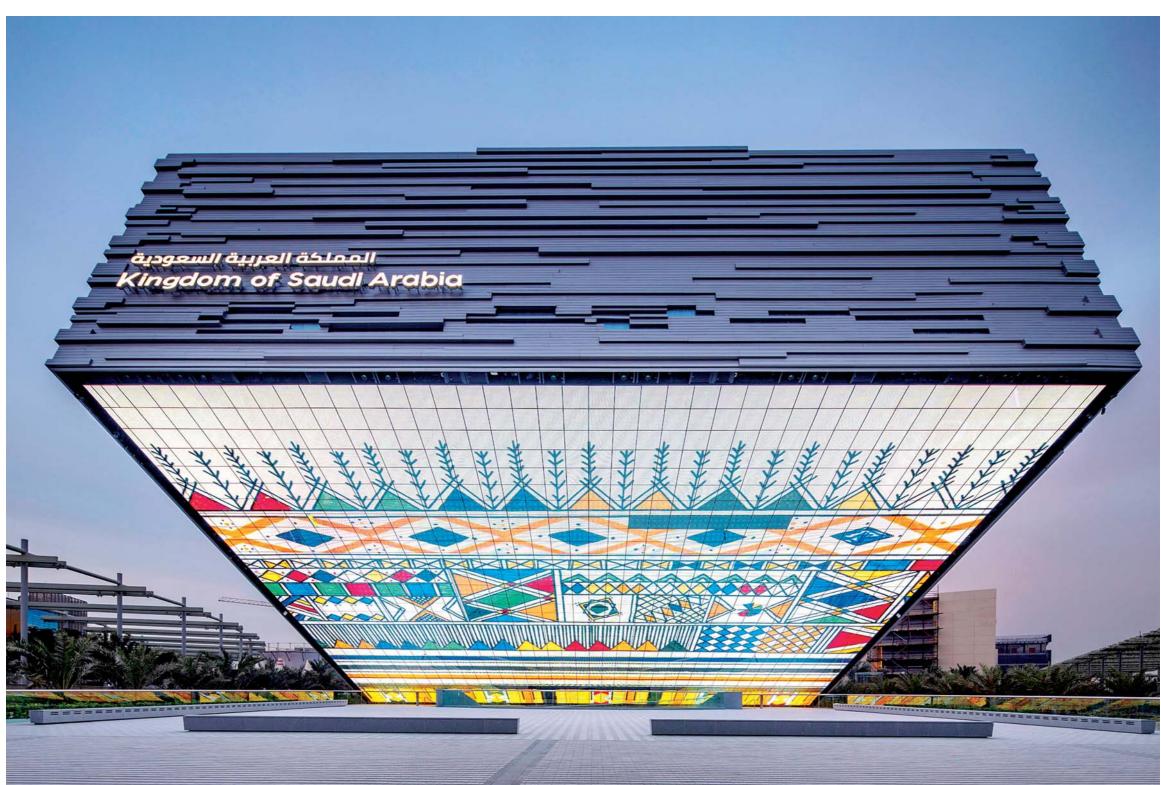
Administration for Primary Health Care, and Head of the Mobile Immunization Units team at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Dina Al-Dhubaib, announced the completion of the fifth phase of the field units campaign, reports Al-Qabas daily.
Dr Al-Dhubaib said during the

campaign 250,000 people were given the anti-Covid-19 jabs, adding efforts will continue to vaccinate farm and other workers in the Wafra and Abdali areas soon. Dr Al-Dhubaib said in a state-

ment, "The campaign has succeeded in vaccinating about 3,000 bedridden people, since the launch of the campaign last February," and called on those people who fall in this category to register quickly on the Ministry of Health vaccination platform and appointments will be given within 48 hours.

Dr Al-Dhubaib went on to say the Ministry of Health efforts continue to achieve the required





Saudi Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai — the second largest after the UAE's — has been awarded the LEED Platinum Certificate from the US Green Building Council (USGBC), placing it among the most sustainable designs in the world.

Adventure woven into a 'LEED' that leads Opportunity





With less than two months to go, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is preparing to welcome the world to its state-of-the-art pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. At the Saudi Pavilion — the second largest after the UAE's — visitors will experience the Kingdom's

rich past, vibrant present, and promising future.

A 68 square-meter, curved LED screen greets visitors as they embark on a technology-enabled journey through five ecosystems, hinting at the Kingdom's natural spaces, beautiful coasts, vast deserts,

surrounding seas, and high mountains. The journey will walk through the flora of Al Bardani Valley in Asir Region to the mighty mountains of Tabuk, and from the dunes of the Empty Quarter in southeastern Saudi to the crystal-clear waters of the Red Sea.

heritage people nature pillar Saudi pavilion



Through an audiovisual guide, guests can explore 23 other destinations, including world-leading giga-projects which are rewriting the possibilities of sustainable development such as Qiddiya, Diriyah Gate, and King Salman Park.

Following this, visitors will enter 'Vision,' a one-of-a-kind art exhibition curated by celebrated Saudi artists. Highlights include a 30m floating virtual sphere and a bespoke

interactive floor.
Finally, the pavilion will take visitors through the 'Discovery Center', where an innovative platform will connect leaders from around the world to forge exciting partnerships and discuss investment opportunities, visualized through an interactive digital map of Saudi Arabia.



Left (top and bottom), top and above photos: Saudi Pavilion's interior showcases longest interactive state-of-the-art water feature, largest LED mirror screen display, and largest interactive lighting floor.

People, opportunity, nature, and heritage are the four pillars that anchor the visitor experience of the Kingdom's 13,000 square-meter pavilion; an adventure woven into one of the most sustainable structures at Expo 2020 Dubai. It has been awarded the LEED Platinum certification by the US Green Building Council (USGBC), the highest internationally recognized sustainability rating in Leadership in Energy and Environmental

In addition, the pavilion

holds three Guinness World Records: the largest interactive lighting floor with around 8,000 LED lights, the longest interactive water feature at more than 32 meters, and the largest LED interactive digital mirror screen at 1302.5 square meters.

Expo 2020 Dubai is an opportunity to reconnect, meet new people, and discover new horizons. The people of Saudi Arabia are excited to open the doors and for visitors to experience their renowned hospitality first-hand.

editor's choice



Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind with speeds of 08-35 km/h some scattered clouds will appear. By Night: Hot to rather hot and

eas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-30 km/h with a chance for mist forming

Weather humid specially over coastal ar-

over some areas. Min Rec Station **Max Exp** Kuwait City

Salmiyah Ahmadi Wafra Salmy Jal Aliyah Managish

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Kuwait Airport 27 27 30 35 33 27 27 28 40 44 43 43

VACCINE REGISTRATION WEBSITE: https://cov19vaccine.moh.gov.kw/SPCMS/CVD_19_Vaccine_Registration.aspx

KFH rallies 6 fils, Humansoft Holding slips

Kuwait stock market extends gain in volatile session

By John Mathews Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Kuwait stocks plodded higher on Thursday as it wrapped up the week on a positive note. The All Shares Index climbed 16.83 pts in volatile trade to 6668.22 points paced by some of the blue chips and mid-caps even as the overall mood remained mixed.

The Premier Market rose 16.98 points to 7291.52 pts while Main Market scaled 17 points. The BK Main 50 paced 27.35 points to close at 5728.84 pts. The volume turnover meanwhile saw a small pullback following the two-day rise. Over 285 million shares changed hands – a 16 pct drop from the day before.

The sectors closed mixed. Consumer Discretionary outshone the rest with 1.58 percent jump whereas Insurance shed 2.91 pct, the worst performer of the day. Volume wise, Banking sector topped with 88.9 million and the sector also was ahead in value with KD

In the individual shares, sector bellwether National Bank of Kuwait slipped 4 fils to 896 fils after pushing 4.9 million shares whereas Kuwait Finance House scaled 6 fils on back of

14.4 million shares. Boursa Kuwait Securities was down 7 fils at KD 1.693 and Humansoft Holding shed 20 fils taking the month's losses to 96 fils. Gulf Insurance Group skidded 39 fils to 850 fils.

Zain rose 5 fils to 598 fils on back of over 4 million shares whereas Ooredoo stood pat at 624 fils. stc fell 5 fils to 856 fils while logistics major Agility erased 6 fils before settling at 996 fils and counter saw 2.3 million shares change hands. KIPCO took in 1 fil whereas National Investment Co and Mabanee Co were unchanged at 181 fils and 736 fils respectively.

National Industries Group dialed up 2 fils with a volume of 5.8 million shares to close at 229 fils while Gulf Cable was unchanged at 764 fils. Boubyan Petrochemical Co and Al Qurain Petrochemical Co took in 1 fil whereas Mezzan Holding gave up 2 fils.

Jazeera Airways took a 18 fils lift while ALAFCO was down 4 fils at 224 fils. Integrated Holding and Aznour trimmed 1 fil each Kuwait National Cinema Co soared 39 fils to 799 fils whereas NAPESCO paused at 800 fils. United Projects Co erased 4 fils before settling at 229 fils and NICBM sprinted 8 fils to 194 fils.

The market opened firm and pulled lower in early trade. The main index held ground briefly before falling further and plumbed the day's lowest level of 6664 pts before rebounding back to green zone. It traded choppy thereafter and closed with modest gains.

Top gainer of the day, FutureKid climbed 7.54 percent to 74.2 fils and Equipment Holding sprinted 6.95 percent to stand next. Kuwait Reinsurance Co skidded 9.44 percent, the steepest decliner of the day while Ahli United Bank BSC topped the volume with 35.2 million shares.

Mirroring the day's gains, the winners slightly outnumbered the losers. 57 stocks advanced whereas 54 closed lower. Of the 138 counters active on Thursday, 27 closed flat. 10.532 deals worth KD 62.65 million were transacted during the session.

In the banking sector, Gulf Bank rose 3 fils on back of 17.8 million shares whereas Kuwait International Bank was unchanged at 225 fils. Burgan Bank dialed down 2 fils whereas Bouby an Bank scaled 5 fils on back of over 1 million shares

Warba Bank added 2 fils and Ahli United Bank BSC gained 5 fils with brisk trading. Commercial Bank and Al Ahli Bank stood pat at 500 fils and 218 fils whereas Ahli United Bank Kuwait sprinted 7 fils to 311 fils.

Kuwait Investment Co took in 2 fils and In-

ternational Financial Advisors added 1 fil before ending at 136 fils. Arzan Financial Group and KMEFIC dialed up 2 fils each while Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) inched 1 fil up on back of 5.9 million shares. Noor Financial

Investment gained 5 fils on back of 2.2 million shares while Tamdeen Investment was up 7 fils at 289 fils. KAMCO closed 3 fils in green.

Kuwait Cement Co was unchanged at 224 fils whereas Kuwait Portland Cement jumped 35 fils. Kuwait Foundry Co fell 2 fils to 383 fils and ACICO Industries held ground at 111 fils. HEISC paced 5 fils while Shuaiba Industrial slipped 7 fils to 193 fils. Metal and Recycling Co eased 1 fil to 117 fils.

Kuwait and Gulf Links ticked 0.8 fil higher to 51.8 fils and Educational Holding Co paced 6 fils. Independent Petroleum Group dialed up 2 fils whereas Sultan Centre and Arabi Group clipped 2 fils each. Burgan Company For Well Drilling added 1 fil whereas Combined Group Contracting Co gave up 5 fils to close at 347 fils. Mashaer Holding closed 2.8 fils in green.

The market was upbeat during the week. The main index closed higher in four of the five sessions, scaling 56 points week-on-week. It has gained 87 points from start of the month and is up 1122 points year-to-date.







KUNA photos

Top and above: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during his visit is briefed on the Clean Fuel Project.

HH PM visits Abdullah, Ahmadi ports

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visited on Thursday Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) headquarters to attend a presentation of the Clean Fuel Project (CFP)

During the presentation, His Highness the Prime Minister listened to the demonstration of the project, its latest developments and

completion percentages. His Highness the Prime Minister later visited the Abdullah, and Ahmadi ports to witness the Clean Fuel Project (CFP) and control rooms. This took place after his visit to the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) head-

'No final word on subsidy cuts'

Govt to establish SMEs in Subbiya

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Council of Ministers has given the Economic Affairs Committee of the National Assembly between three and six months to study and act on the recommendations submitted by the committee to establish sites for what it called 'modern' and 'advanced' fairs in Subbiya and the Kuwait International Fairgrounds so that initial stages for the project can be prepared, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Cabinet has assigned the Minister of Finance and the Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment to take the appropriate measures towards (Kuwait International Fair Company) preparing initial studies on the feasibility of the project, the expected returns from it, the requirements and timetable for its implementation, and providing the Cabinet with the outcome within a maximum of three months.

In view of the characteristics of the Al-Subbiya area, which contains a sea coast and a wide wilderness area, and a desire to revitalize this vital area and make it a recreational area to attract people of all age groups and people with different hobbies and create a work environment for mobile carts and small projects alike.

The Council of Ministers discussed the recommendation of the Economic Affairs Committee regarding developing a temporary area of land in the Subbiya to attract owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The Public Authority for Manpower

(PAM) is an executive body in charge of implementing the relevant laws and decisions issued by the government and National Assembly, in addition to the decisions of the concerned minister and board of directors, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a reliable source from the authority.

On suspending the national labor subsidy for citizens employed in the private sector whose salaries exceed KD3,000; the source clarified the Council of Ministers is still studying this and no decision has been taken in this regard so far. He said the authority has not been informed about the suspension; reiterating that it is the executive body tasked to implement such decisions.

Meanwhile, Vice President of Equate Labor Union Tariq Al-Faris asserted the government's plan to stop the payment of national labor subsidy for citizens working in the private sector whose salaries exceed KD3,000 is a clear evidence that the executive authority is targeting their rights. He pointed out this is also a manifestation of the government's lack of vision on encouraging Kuwaiti youths to work in the private sector.

In a press statement, Al-Fares stressed it is not permissible to suspend the national labor subsidy in any way; as doing so will open the door for the inclusion of other segments, up to the point that those getting a salary of KD500 will not receive the subsidy as

Kuwait donates blaze equipment to Turkey

quarters. (KUNA)

ISTANBUL, Aug 19, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait, based on instructions by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, has donated six engines and equipment to Turkey to combat the fires.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Turkey, Ghassan Al-Zuwawi, extended in a statement Wednesday night his sincere thanks to the Kuwaiti firefighting team for their tremendous efforts in extinguishing the forest fires in Turkey.

The commander of the fire team colonel Ahmad Al-Rasheedi said that Kuwaiti firefighters successfully conclude their mission in Turkey, hoping that these incidents would not happen again.

Kuwaiti delegation handed Turkish officials instructions for using engines and equipment that are capable of operating a fire station. They included fire pumps and large-capacity water transport equipment.

Turkish officials thanked Kuwait for helping put out the fires and for the donation, assuring the strong relations between the both countries. Kuwait sent a team of firefighters to Turkey to help fight

forest fires that killed at least eight people and injured scores Meanwhile, a team of Kuwaiti firefighters left Turkey on Thursday after assisting in fending off raging wildfires.

Kuwaiti ambassador to Turkey Ghassan Al-Zuwawi expressed in a statement to KUNA his gratitude to the Kuwaiti

firefighting team for their tremendous efforts. He added that he received many calls from the Turkish side expressing their happiness on His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah instructions by donating six engines and equipment, which expresses the strong rela-

tions between the both countries. Kuwait sent a team of firefighters to Turkey to help fight forest fires that killed at least eight people and injured scores others. And, acting on information, fire engines rushed to Mangaf yesterday and put out fire that damaged a store and part of a

wedding hall, reports Al-Anba daily The Directorate-General of the Fire Department stated the fire, which initially broke out in a vehicle which was parked nearby, was put out by the Mangaf and Fahaheel firefighting

The fire reported destroyed a pre-fabricated store near wedding the hall on 200 square meters area containing pieces of

CSC okays list for frontliner reward

Bonus for MoE staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) announced that it has completed examining and approving the lists of those eligible for the reward for the **COVID-19** frontliners and the supporting ranks in several bodies, reports Al-Qabas daily. These bodies are the Ministry of

Health, the Ministry of Public Works, the Public Authority for Road and Land Transport, and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The lists were sent to the Ministry of Finance on Thursday in preparation for the completion of the necessary procedures. With this announcement, the total lists ap-

proved so far will be 29, while the remaining entities will soon provide CSC with the lists of those who deserve such rewards. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education

has approved the incentive for employees involved in the first and second round of examinations in the previous academic year 2020/2021 - a total of KD1.4 million, reports Al-Rai daily quoting a reliable source from the educational sector.

According to the source, the Financial Sector on Thursday deposited this incentive to the beneficiaries; including those who corrected the examination papers, supervised the transfer of boxes of examination papers from the printing press to the schools, and the chairpersons and members of committees tasked to calculate the grades of students in the scientific and literature departments.

On the other hand, the source confirmed the completion of procedures related to the signing of contracts with certain companies for the supply of alarm and firefighting systems in schools as per the regulations laid down by the Supplies, Warehouses and Educational Districts Department.

The source also affirmed the completion

of schools in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational District at a total cost of KD3 million. The source pointed out that the contracting process started immediately after the approval of the ministry's budget for fiscal 2021/2022. The source revealed that the Financial Sector finalized procedures for the signing of several contracts related to preparations for the next academic year, such as printing textbooks and the provision of furniture. The sector re-floated some tenders as per the recommendation of the Central Agency for Public Tenders, including the supply of fingerprint devices for schools, the source added.

of tender procedures for the maintenance

The sources went on to say that the sector paid all overdue bills, asserting the allegation of some maintenance companies that they have not paid is baseless.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is awaiting the Ministry of Health's response to its request to approve the easing of health requirements in mosques, especially to allow the congregation to pray in close proximity with each other. In this regard, informed sources revealed that the basic weapons for confronting the pandemic are vaccination, and commitment to follow the necessary health requirements, especially physical distancing, reports Al-Rai daily. The sources said, "Physical distancing is

a preventive measure that is considered as one of the most important rules in confronting the pandemic, and is applied in various life and commercial activities in order to preserve the safety of all members of society, and to preserve the country's health security. Its abandonment is not possible until after fully returning to normal life".

The Ministry of Health refused to give up physical distancing from the mandatory measures during the current period, based on the opinion of the technical committees.

Reducing health requirements in mosques may be limited to allowing lessons and lectures to be held while adhering to physical distancing and other means of

'Not possible to cut expenditure'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Economic sources told the Al-Rai daily that they are not optimistic about saving about 10 percent in the current fiscal budget, citing what happened during the last fiscal year, when the Council of Ministers directed government agencies to reduce expenditures by 20 percent, i.e. 4.5 billion dinars. In the end, only 4.2 percent of the total expenditure was reduces, about 945 million dinars.

The sources explained with the exception of the Cabinet assigning the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) to study the possibility of stopping employment support for those whose salaries are 3,000 dinars and above, it is difficult to prejudice the salaries and subsidies expenses, which is about 16.5 billion, dinars which constitutes about 72 percent of the budget expenditures of the current fiscal year, which is 23.048 billion dinars.



Sheikh Dr Ahmad conveys greetings of HH the Amir to Sheikh Tamim

Qatari Amir receives Kuwaiti FM, discuss regional, int'l issues

DOHA, Aug 19, (KUNA): Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim Al-Thani received in Doha Thursday Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabi-

net Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah and discussed regional and international developments.

Sheikh Dr Ahmad conveyed

greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, wishing Sheikh Tamim good health and for the Qatari people further progress and prosperity.

Sheikh Tamim and Sheikh Dr
Mohammad also discussed ways
of further boosting bilateral relations and cooperation.

EPA completes relocation of over 20m tyres dumped in Arhiya area

'Cleaning works underway in previous tyres site'



The Public Authority for Manpower receiving the delegation from the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

'Onam flowers bloom again' to be held Aug 27

Kuwait PAM official, Indian envoy discuss co-op

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): The acting director of Kuwait Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Dr Mubarak Al-Jafour met on Thursday with the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sibi George and discussed ways of cooperation regarding the Indian community in Kuwait.

The authority said in a press statement that they discussed ways of strengthening ties and a memorandum of understanding between the two sides.

Al-Jafour expressed his gratitude to the Indian ambassador for the as-

Bv Nizar Othman

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The re-

cent removal of the Venus statue

from a storefront in the 360 Mall

still makes waves in the social

media among Kuwaitis, some

of whom turned the matter into a "black comedy," considering

the statue "an idol like the one

worshiped by the infidels of the

Quraish," while others welcomed

former MP Muhammad Hayef, who described the placement of

the statue in the commercial shop

as "blind imitation, blindness of in-

Device

At their head of the protest is

the move.

sistance provided to the Indian community, and George affirmed that both parties are keen on joint cooperation regarding the Indian labor.

The statement added that the am-

bassador wishes to increase number

of Indian workers in Kuwait, indi-

cating that India is ready to provide more domestic workers.

Virtual Onam event: Under the joint auspices of the Bhavan's Toast-

masters Club & Bhavans Kuwait

Malayalam Toastmasters will orga-

nize the virtual event 'Onam flowers

does not differentiate between ha-

While the Ministry of Com-

merce said its decision to remove

the statue from the shop was in

response to the complaint filed

by a number of citizens, as some

of them likened it to "the era of

ignorance where they worshiped

idols," while tweeters made

mockery of the decision, and

some of them said, "There is no

need to follow the Taliban, our

Kuwaiti series are more interest-

ing," while others mocked "the

authorities saying they are preoc-

cupied with the statue of Venus,

while there are more important

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lal and haram.

Mixed reactions to removal of Venus statue from 360 Mall

sight, with commercial greed that issues that concern Kuwaitis."

bloom again' Friday, Aug 27.
The chief guest Indian Ambassa-

The chief guest Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Sibi George will inaugurate the event. The event will also be graced by Bobby Abraham, winner of World Malayalam Speech contest and will deliver the keynote address.

A variety of entertainment programs by the club members and families will be an added attraction. Guests and spectators worldwide are invited to witness the cultural extravaganza from 4.30 pm onwards. The Zoom ID for the event is: 850 6237 5196. Password: ONAM

It is noteworthy that this is not

the first time that "idols" have

stirred controversy in Kuwait. In

2018, three-dimensional models

in the form of humans prepared

by a shop had caused a sharp

debate in the country, in which

preachers, Sharia scholars, poli-

ticians and activists intervened.

and the shop was forced to re-

Muhammad Hayef, one of those

who led the campaign on Twitter,

tweeted at the time saying, "It is

necessary to prevent the manufac-

ture of these sculptures and stat-

ues, after they invaded the Arabian

Peninsula, as leniency reached the

move these 'models'

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: After five years of governmental work, the **Environment Public Au**thority (EPA) has finally completed the relocation of more than 20 million tyres that have accumulated since 2004 in Arhiya, which is located between plots allotted for South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project and considered a major obstacle to the implementation of the project, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

In November 2020, EPA was officially commissioned to transfer the tyres to the alternative site in Salmi. At the time, EPA promised to the National Assembly members and citizens that it would address the issue within eight months and it has fulfilled its promise, sources disclosed.

Sources confirmed that cleaning works are underway in the previous tyres site in preparation for handing it over completely before the end of this month as per the agreement between EPA, other government agencies and the Assembly.

Sources said EPA granted interested Kuwaitis a mechanism for transporting tyres from Arhiya to Salmi, so the relocation of the tyres did not cost the State anything; while these Kuwaitis will be provided with facilities for the recycling of the tyres.

Sources added EPA is also expected to transfer tyres which piled up near the recycling plant in Salmi to the alternative sites to be under the protection of specialized agencies to prevent fire and other untoward incidents.

point of establishing temples in

Kuwait has several museums,

the most important of which is

the National Museum, in addition

to private museums, including the Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya Museum, which contains rare Islamic

In the Museum of Modern Art

in Kuwait, which opened in 2003,

statues made by Kuwaiti artists are

still trapped in closed halls, where

a statue of the late Kuwaiti Amir

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem lies in

a closed hall at the head office of

a local newspaper. The statue was

made by Kuwaiti sculptor of world

fame Sami Muhammad in 1972.

some Gulf countries.

artifacts.



KUNA photo

The Qatari Amir (right), receives the Kuwaiti foreign minister in Doha.



KUNA photo

One of the photos of the honoring of Youth Creativity League winners and participants.

'Vital to encourage creative side of this category'

PYA honors winners, participants of Youth Creativity League: official

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): The Public Youth Authority on Tuesday honored the winners and participants of the Youth Creativity League in its first and second seasons, stressing its importance in encouraging the creative side of this category based on scientific and cultural foundations, as well as developing their skills and hobbies to turn them into a craft or profession.

In a speech on the sidelines of the honoring ceremony held at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, the Director-General of the authority, Dr Mishaal Al-Rabee said that the league which is one of the approved programs within the five-year development plan 2020-2025, contributes to discovering talented and creative people, investing their energies, guiding them and supporting them from a young age to develop their skills.

Al-Rabee explained that the league, which is also one of the national policy programs for youth, included competitions

in the fields of science, culture, religion, literature, robotics, programming, mathematics, drawing and short stories, in addition to debates

He added that the league aimed to create an atmosphere full of challenges and competition under the supervision and training of elite academics and specialists, stressing the authority's endeavor to increase the number of participants in its competitions.

He stated that Youth Creativity is the fruit of cooperation with a number of state agencies and civil society institutions related to youth work, especially the Ministries of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Education, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, the Kuwaiti Caricature Society and others.

The league is divided into three levels, the first for young beginners for ages 7 to 10 years, the second for the middle category for ages 11 to 14 years, and the third for the advanced category for ages 15 to 18 years.

Use of virtual mobile network operators

CITRA opens range of numbers starting with 4

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) recently issued a decision to open the range of numbers starting with 4 (41000000 - 43999999) for the use of virtual mobile network operators, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The new range will have a capacity of

three million numbers and each telecom company in the country will get a range of one million numbers.

The daily obtained a copy of the decision, stating that the national numbering plan regulates the number ranges issued by the authority including the mobile phone numbers.

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'Leadership's solidarity'

Algeria receives Kuwait aid to help extinguish wildfires

ALGIERS, Aug 19, (KUNA): Algeria on Tuesday received two Kuwaiti airplanes carrying firefighting and civil protection equipment to help the country combat devastating wildfires.

Upon the arrival of the aid at Houari Boumediene Airport, head of civil protection Boualam Boughlaf said in a statement that the aid would be directed to the field to back into the country's huge and massive potentials to face the fires.

He stressed that the aid reflects the Kuwaiti political leadership's solidarity with Algeria in its distress, and shows the sisterly relations between the two countries.

He voiced appreciation to Kuwait's government and people for this valuable assistance.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Ambassador to Algeria Mohammad Al-Shabu said receiving these tools and equipment mirror Kuwait's support to Algeria to face these fires amid difficult weather conditions, voicing his confidence in Algeria's ability to overcome this plight.

The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced that two Kuwaiti Air Force planes carrying six firefighting mechanisms headed to help in combating the forest fires and rescue operations, upon His Highness the Amir's directives.

'Ward Officer' course

Thirty-five nurses graduate

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Director of the Nursing Services Department at the Ministry of Health, Sana Al-Taqaddam announced the graduation of 35 male and female nurses from the 'Ward Officer' course, which was organized by the department a few days ago.

Taqaddam said in a press statement said nurses from the Ministry of Health and from other health establishments took part in the one-month course.

She noted praised the support of the Minister of Health, Dr Basil Al-Sabah, the Undersecretary of the Ministry, Dr Mustafa Reda, and the Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Affairs, Dr Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi to overcome all obstacles for the success of the course.

diwaniya المحيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Pullout result of 'Doha Accord' inked by the US and Taliban'

"OUR big problem is the weakness of our political memory, and how quickly the Kuwaiti street forgets," columnist, former MP and the incumbent general manager of Scope Satellite TV Channel **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah**

daily.

"Talking now about the victories of the 'Taliban' and the rapid fall of Afghan cities, and the movement's control over them, this is not heroism. Rather,

we must remember the 'Doha Agreement' signed by the United States with the 'Taliban' under the Qatari spon-

sorship. "The agreement stipulates the withdrawal of the US forces from Afghanistan and handing over the country to the 'Taliban' in exchange for certain conditions, the most important of which is the expulsion of the loyal government and its collaborators with the Americans, and consequently the signing of a special cooperation agreement with the Americans, and this is what hap-

pened. "America came out of the Afghan door and later returned from the window to rule the Afghan decision instead of ruling Afghanistan, as it knows with certainty

that this particular country is governed only by its own people, and no external force can control it unless the Pashtun majority, which has ruled Afghanistan since that time. We all know Afghanistan has seen stable rule since the fall of the monarchy and we will not see any stability even under the Taliban rule.

"This is the first reading of the situation in this afflicted country, which America no longer needs, and left without regret, and the victim of all this will be the Afghan people's cooperation with the Americans, whom they called translators, and they are not, and the 'Taliban' will execute those who are left behind in Afghanistan by the Americans in full view of the world.

"For the record, this is America's policy for those who do not know America, and the allies cannot rely on the US, for they are allies in terms of their interests only, especially this present ruling party, the Democratic Party, which is not known for loyalty throughout its rule at the White House, and the evidences in history are many, but our problem is the weakness of our political memory. "It is important to know that this is the beginning in Afghanistan, and we

will be signed with unexpected countries, such as Iran. "Just for the record, only the 'Taliban' movement participated in the war to liberate Kuwait with the coalition forces, and it had a good contribution, do not forget that."

should expect further withdrawals from other regions, or new agreements that

Also:

"In 1970, Mahathir Mohammad (the prime minister of Malaysia) penned a book under the title the 'Malay Dilemma' in which he strongly criticized his

people and accused them of laziness and them being satisfied to see Malaysia remaining a backward country depending on its agricultural products only and not making any attempt towards development," columnist **Talal Abdulkarim** Al-Arab wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"This book instigated the ruling party against him and the circulation of this book was forbidden, but later on the party, was convinced about the contents of the book and the ability of Mahathir and as a result Mahathir went on to become the prime minister in 1981 and ruled the country for 22 consecutive years during which he seized the opportunity to translate his ideas contained in the book into a reality and propelled his country to become of the most successful economies in Southeast Asia as well as in the Islamic world at large.

"During his reign, Malaysia was transformed from an agricultural entity that depended only agricultural produce and export of raw materials into an advanced industrial state and the services sector, contributed to the local output by as much as 90 percent of the total local product, and this of course helped get rid of poverty and unemployment rate in the country.

"Apart from the above, he said 'we the Muslims, have wasted our time and significant efforts fighting the windmills through the involvement in historical battles, such as the struggle between the Sunnis and the Shiites in addition to many other old battles and this has negatively affected the security and the stability of our community, as such in view of these battles, we were not in a position to lay a single brick on another brick, but through dialogue and mutual understanding with all, we have successfully managed to set up and implement the 2020 plan to build a new Malaysia and this is what actually happened on the ground.

"He also said the Muslim communities as they move forward should not be subjected to the fatwas (edicts) that are issued by the jurists and preachers, because when communities succumb to certain fatwas and juristic concepts which don't commensurate with progress has embraced backwardness and ignorance.

"Take for example when some jurists banned the people from watching TV or listening to the radio or riding bicycles and even denounced the attempts of Abbas ibn Firnas in the field of aviation, let alone these jurist promoted the reading of Holy Quran, which they said is enough to achieve the targeted renaissance and the progress and this negatively affected the community

"Mahathir said our percentage of scientists particularly in the fields of physics, chemistry, engineering and medicine, has decreased, while some of the religious writings have forbid working in the field of sciences, hence, the community move should be daring and strong and all of the people must realize that the fatwas and opinions of the religious elites, don't represent a religion and must realize renaissance can be achieved through discipline and sincere work."

"It seems that the government of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled wants to kill two birds with one stone — first is to eliminate the unprecedented financial deficit and second is to punish the Kuwaiti people for their protests, thus, considering the cancellation of 'Afia' insurance for the elderly who have served the country for many years, even though all ministers and senior officials in the State have health insurance at the government's expense and they do not need an increase in their salaries and incomes," columnist Mubarak Al-Moasherji wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"If the government wants to stop 'Afia', it must stop the government health insurance, similarly as it did with retirees. As for supporting those who do not work in the government, there is nothing wrong with that, provided those covered by this support are hired as soon as possible and the expatriate workforce is replaced by citizens.

"If the government wishes to stop subsidizing goods and services, it must stop the benefits for senior officials like luxury cars, fuel and so on. It should allot a budget for special foreign missions and a limited amount that covers economy class tickets and accommodation in hotels that are not classified as luxury, knowing these services are usually provided by the host State.

"As for the advisors, it is said that each minister has four advisors, most of whom are expatriates who receive high salaries, housing in high-end areas, high rent and transportation. They must be replaced with citizens who are safer in terms of work confidentiality and more economical for the impotent State

"Websites have published unpleasant statements and indicators about the budget deficit for the year 2020/2021, as this deficit reached the highest in the history of Kuwait. It was mentioned that this is due to the sharp decline in the average price of a barrel of Kuwaiti oil. There were numerous comments on that and on how to reduce the deficit. A former minister indicated in a press statement that the price of a barrel of oil should be \$200 to address the deficit," columnist **Hind Al-Choumar** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

'Nevertheless, the State's financial and economic performance is not good. It is in dire need of national mobilization from all sides to curb irrational spending, adopt emergency budgets, address corruption, abuses and encroachment on public money, and diversify sources of income through well-thought-out and courageous measures that neither touch the citizens' pockets nor provoke them. All of these must be done through an integrated system that is indivisible for bargains or deals under the table.

The State has the right to urge all citizens to express their love for the homeland by rationalizing spending, while encouraging it to overcome hardships and expose corruption and deviations that gnaw at the entity of some government agencies and are considered provocation of the feelings of citizens.

The government must set an example and be a role model in rational spending, fighting corruption, cutting the hands of those who abuse public money, and exposing them to ensure deterrent accountability.

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

Egyptian residents on vacation in dilemma over policy of jabs

Talal Al-Saeed

Teachers, children could face separation



The scene of the accident.



Subsidized ration food seized

Subsidized foodstuff seized

Two perish, 4 hurt in accident

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Two people died and four others were seriously injured in a car accident on King Fahd Road, reports

Personnel from Directorate-General of Fire Department who rushed to spot after receiving a report on the accident, said two expatriates – one of them an Arab – died on the spot. The accident happened opposite the Bayan Palace in the direction of Kuwait City, Wednesday afternoon.

The security sources said the General Traffic Department sought the help of the Mishref and Hawalli fire centers to free the remains of the victims from the car wreck.

The injured were rushed to a hospital and the remains of the two men were handed over to Forensics.

Meanwhile, over the past two months, the General Administration of Customs have seized large quantities of subsidized foodstuffs and foiled attempts by unidentified people to export these goods out of the country, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a customs source, the seizures included more than 16,000 packages of dairy products, oils, bread and other

The seized items have been handed over to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for necessary action.

The General Administration of Customs warns people against smuggling out of the country subsidized foodstuffs and said those arrested for violating the law will face legal accountability.

And, personnel from the General Department for Drugs Control (GDDC) have arrested two expatriates for trafficking in drugs, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the security personnel have seized from the suspects two kilos of chemical substance, one kilo of hashish, one kilo of shabu and a sensitive scale.

The security sources said police received information from a secret agent about the activity of the two men and armed with an arrest warrant from the Prosecution; the CID men set a trap for the men and caught them red-handed.

During initial interrogations, the suspects have admitted to trafficking in drugs. They have been handed over with the seizures to

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: Dozens of Egyptian families who reside in Kuwait but are spending their summer vacation in Egypt are greatly concerned about the fate of their children who are under 18 years of age, due to the differences in the health procedures and requirements followed in Kuwait and Egypt in terms of the vaccination of those under the age of 18 years, reports Al-Qabas

Amal Arafa, a teacher working for the Ministry of Education and currently spending her vacation in Egypt, said her family is faced with the threat of separation due to Kuwait's decision to impose vaccination on 16-yearolds, as Egypt does not give the vaccine to those under 18 years of age.

In an exclusive press statement, she said, "There are more than a hundred families suffering from this crisis. They have children who are over 16 years of age. It is not possible to travel without them, and at the same time they are restricted to their jobs and have specific contracts and vacations. It is difficult to travel and leave the children to live far from them".

Another Egyptian expatriate Ayman said he tried to contact the Egyptian Ministries of Health and Immigration, but did not receive any response in this

Explained

He explained that this decision threatens the safety of his family and his son's academic future, as he is in high school and is excellent in his studies. The failure to find any solution complicates the situation. He tried to communicate by all means with the Egyptian Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Immigration to find a solution to their crisis, but he did not receive a

In the same context, Muhammad Yahya indicated that there are hundreds of families of teachers in Kuwait who are now in Egypt, and have children who are over 16 years old, adding that they do not know what the solution is in light of the inability to vaccinate adolescents in

Furthermore, one of the teachers, who preferred to remain anonymous, expressed the readiness of her 17-year-old daughter to be vaccinated at Kuwait Airport, be subjected to institutional or home quarantine, undergo PCR test twice, and follow any decisions of the health authorities in Kuwait, in the hope of allowing her daughter to join her family.

In addition, an official source from the Egyptian Ministry of Health told the daily that it is not possible to vaccinate children under the age of 18 at the present time, as the matter is currently under study and research.

He said the Egyptian Ministry of Health's position on this issue has been announced, and it is awaiting a recommendation from the vaccine producing companies, or the World Health Organization to allow the use of COVID-19 vaccines on those under 18 years of age.

'Sotrovimab' drug in use

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The Ministry of Health has started using the drug 'Sotrovimab' to treat mild to moderate cases infected with the Covid 19 virus at the Al-Razi, Jaber Al-Ahmad, and Farwaniya hospitals, reports Al-Qabas

According to health sources, the drug is given intravenously in a single dose and is intended for the elderly patients and those with chronic diseases, pointing out that it is not given to patients who receive treatment in hospitals except with medical recommendations, and it will be circulated to all hospitals soon.

It is shown that the drug contributes to reducing hospitalization and death by up to 85 percent.

Other Voices

Not true all what we hear!

By Ahmad alsarraf

Underdeveloped societies complain about the phenomenon of naivety and this is normal, but it becomes a real problem when societies believe in the unseen and in conspiracy theories to the extent they almost have an innate tendency to believe almost any and every issue or news even if it is unreasonable, and

some even continue believing lies and keep spreading these lies happily.

what these people say means rebellion or skepticism, and confronting it requires the certainty



of truth of what they say, and this means exerting efforts in research, questioning and reading, all of which do not fall within our habits or form the core of our traditions.

Our school curricula, and what we believe in with regards to superstitions discourage us to think critically, so we seek to find a dictator or (*) demagogue to follow. This relieves us psychologically and throws responsibility and guilt on our tired shoulders from the daily worry of securing a living.

A famous preacher during a lecture said the apes forbid adultery, and that they stone to death adulterous apes.

The preacher did mention the scientific references to his fictional story which his listeners believed. What this ignorant person does not know is that all animals, including humans, did not know anything called adultery in their history according to our current concept which is a relatively recent system dating back to a few thousand years, and was followed according to certain requirements and

religious instructions. Also, consanguineous marriage differs from one environment to another and from followers of a religious belief to others, and the Pharaohs, and others were not prohibited

from what we now call incestuous marriage.

On the other hand, the academi-

cian Abdullah Al-Nafisi gave a lecture, the link of which was recently spread everywhere, in which he mentioned that Henry Kissinger boarded the plane and headed to Saudi Arabia when he heard about King Faisal's intention to start cultivating wheat in the Kingdom.

He added Kissinger did not succeed in dissuading the king from his decision, and he left the kingdom in anger and held a press conference at the Riyadh airport in which he announced the failure of his endeavor, and that Saudi Arabia would be forced to drink its oil.

Returning to the documents, and to the logic before them, we found that everything that was said was pure fiction. The foreign minister of the greatest country does not even need to board a plane and travel 15,000 kilometers to say something that can be said on a phone or through ambassadors and others.

In addition, the press coverage written by Bernard Gwertzman in the New York Times on February 16, 1975 did not include any indication, even fleeting, of the existence of differences between the two countries at the time, or that Kissinger had issued a threat neither did he mention it in his press conference at Riyadh airport, with Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Al Yamani. He only said he was happy to meet the King.

I have evidence to prove my words. Does the professor have anything to prove his claims?

For your information, since the mid-1970s, Saudi Arabia has expanded wheat cultivation, and has had never to drink oil and it stopped cultivating it after years, and for reasons unrelated to Kissinger's threats, then it finally returned to cultivating it.

(*) A demagogue is someone who tries to win others over by exploiting their fears and inciting their hatred for certain groups, just as Adolf Hitler tried to convince his people that the Jews were the cause of all their troubles.

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Farm workers protest, demand salary

19 domestic workers held in raid

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The General Administration of Residence Affairs Investigation department raided five fake domestic workers offices and took into custody a number of household workers who had allegedly escaped from their employers, reports Al-Anba daily.

The raid was carried out under the supervision of the head of the Residence Sector Major-General Anwar Al-Barjas.

The Ministry of the Interior in a statement said, in continuation of the efforts of the Residence Affairs Sector to confront the runaways, the investigation department during the raid arrested 19 violators of the residence law and referred to the concerned

The Ministry of Interior dealt with the

who protested due to the non-payment of their salaries, reports Al-Rai daily. It had been reported earlier that these

strike of about 300 workers at Abdali farms

workers went on strike because they have not received their salaries for months. The authorities called the company officials for a meeting. The strike was called off after the officials promised to pay the salaries of the workers and improve their standard of

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has started taking the necessary measures regarding the strike of

According to PAM, it will conduct a thorough investigation, followed by legal

World marks International Day of Photography

Kuwaiti photographers convey creativity through lenses of cameras

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19, (KUNA): The entire world celebrates the International Day of Photography on Aug 19 every year, as it is known that photos have a great impact considering they capture memories and sceneries.

A famous adage says: "A picture is worth a thousand words," because a picture documents a moment that one could return to at another time. A picture holds a memory, date and time which can never return.

Several Kuwaiti photographers have chosen this field due to its importance; considering how images are used in many aspects of life — education, politics, entertainment, documentation and history, to name a few. They said pictures preserve information in an easier and simpler manner. Some of these photographers emerged victorious in many international competitions.

Photographer Majid Sultan told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Thursday that "although the picture is static, it is full of feelings and expresses a memory through which we recall events and remember what is behind the image as if it were a series of events unfolding before our eyes."

Outlet

Sultan disclosed that he started taking pictures in 2004, using a small digital camera. He took photos of the garden, particularly close-up pictures of insects and spiders through micro photography. He studied photography through websites, online courses and photography training centers; indicating that a part of his income is from his main hobby—photography. He added photography also serves as his outlet for the pressures of life and work, and it gives him energy.

Another photographer — Malek Al-Hazaa — said he has been involved in the world of photography since 2007. He specialized in bird, horse and wildlife photography in 2010. He revealed that photography is a family hobby, especially wildlife photography; because it is exciting, challenging and could be a form of meditation.

Al-Hazaa participated in many international competitions and won more than 50 prizes; including gold, silver, bronze and honorary medals. He advised novice photographers to contact professional photographers in order to learn and gain experience from them. He said they should focus on one or two types of photography, so they can pour their creativity into such activities.

their creativity into such activities.

Photographer Ahmed Jumaa discussed the role of a photographer in society. He pointed out that a photographer should not stop being creative, even under the most difficult circumstances. He said he took many pictures during the corona pandemic; as he volunteered along with a team of photogra-



Photographed by Hamed Al-Amiri and used extensively in government institutions.

phers to take photos of the sterilization of markets in in the country, distribution of health supplies, and some activities of the civil defense police officers.

Jumaa started photography in 2015; learning various techniques through workshops, other photographers, You-Tube and special courses. He is currently studying to obtain a diploma in image design, indicating he usually takes photos of people. He considers photography a way of 'freezing' a moment for documentation or creativity purposes.

His first photography-related activity was his participation in the Talents Exhibition in 2018, followed by many other exhibitions and competitions, during which he won several awards. He also

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participated in a number of photography workshops in Kuwait and abroad, in addition to completing several photography training courses.

Photographer Hamed Al-Amiri disclosed that he started taking pictures during his childhood, when he bought the camera as a toy, but it became important in his life later as he took pictures which formed beautiful memories. He said: "Photography is everything in my life, it is my third eye. Life is about stations that we go through. Through photography, we remember the sweet and bitter incidents." He usually captures beautiful memories, such as pictures of family and friends in different occasions. "The value of pictures be-

comes higher with the passage of time. In fact, pictures are priceless. A picture is like a painting that the photographer is proud of, especially if he wants to show the image as an expressive painting. Sometimes, it is difficult to imitate the photo, because the shot comes once and it is rarely repeated," he added.

Landmarks

Al-Amiri said he participated in many photography competitions, submitting more than a hundred entries. He received many awards and certificates of appreciation, including the first prize in several competitions. He got moral support from the State when he decided to hold photography exhibitions in and outside Kuwait. He held seven exhibitions abroad and seven inside the country in cooperation with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL). He added the council provided him with all the necessary facilities and support for him to showcase photos about Kuwait - its past and present, beautiful landmarks in the country, handicrafts, folk games and other images.

He enumerated what he considers the most fascinating photography subjects as follows: ancient and modern landmarks in the country, archaeological buildings, Kuwaiti personalities and expressive human images.

He advised photography enthusiasts, especially the young people, to continue learning by participating in photography courses and competitions; while avoiding familiar and repetitive images and trying to capture expressive and strange images just to be unique and distinguished.

Photography coach and photographer Mustafa Al-Badr said the demand for studying photography is very high, especially mobile photography. He pointed out there is no specific age to study photography, as it depends on how the person accepts and understands information related to photography and the capabilities available to him.

Al-Badr pointed out that photography is "a science, and like all other sciences, it can be learned. However, the difference or distinction lies among the talented, as they have a different view of the subject compared to others. This is the distinguishing factor. Photography itself gives one pleasure and a wonderful feeling, especially if the photographer achieves the desired results or the goal of capturing the image he added

of capturing the image, he added. Fahd Al-Bannai, a specialized photography coach in the Education Technology Department at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), explained that his inclination towards the academic aspect of photography is due to his attachment to the camera and photography since childhood. He studied teaching methods at the College of Basic Education in the Department of Educational Technology, because photography is an essential part of it; indicating that the department later offered him the post of practical trainer in the field of photography.

He added there is a high demand among young people to study professional photography, "because many youth projects and marketing depend on the image, which has become necessary on social networking sites." He explained that photography has become a

craft and a job, not just a hobby, because it has a bright future and it is a good source of income.

He stressed the need for a photographer to develop his skills and learn many things, the most important of which is how to deal with light and shadows. This entails viewing a lot of professional photos, attending training courses, and learning through YouTube and specialized websites. Specializing in a certain photography subject, such as wildlife, marine life, people, buildings and others, is very important. Many Kuwaiti youths have left indelible marks in the field of photography internationally. They won the first prize in many competitions, he added.

Touching on the ancient history of our Arab world, Al-Bannai talked about Arab encyclopedia scholar and mathematics and optics researcher Abu Ali Al-Hassan Ibn Al-Haytham to whom the principles of inventing the camera are attributed. He added that Italian artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci, who lived in the Renaissance era, benefited from such a theory and box which evolved from one scientist to another until it reached the shape of the camera. He disclosed the first picture was printed on metal plates in 1820; then the photograph moved to the propaganda and documentary world, followed by the invention and development of sensitive paper until we reached the digital technology available in modern phones and most electronic devices, which facilitated the process of photography.



Photographed by Malik Al-Hazaa, he won second place as the best bird photographer 2016 in Britain and the best nature photographer in Asia 2020.



Photographed by Majid Sultan, won second place in the National Geographic Planet Earth Award



Photographed by Majid Sultan, won the grand prize in the International Bird Photographer of the Year competition.



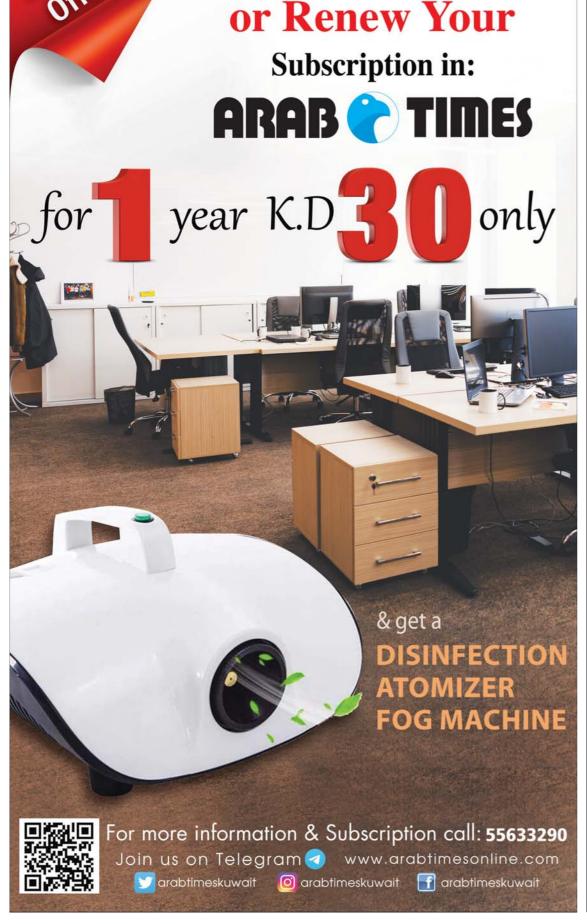
A picture of the photographer Ahmed Gomaa, which received a medal in the International Gulf Circuit.



Photographer Malik Al-Hazza



KUNA photos
Photography coach and photographer Mustafa Al-Badr
during the workshop.



America

Pandemic moratorium

Owners look for exit from eviction freeze

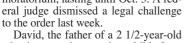
NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): When Ryan David bought three rental properties back in 2017, he expected the \$1,000-a-month he was pocketing after expenses would be regular sources of income well into his retirement years.

He also was counting on the rent money from the properties in Dupont, Pennsylvania, to help with the cash flow of his business buying and selling distressed properties, launched

early last year.

But then the pandemic hit and federal and state authorities imposed moratoriums on evictions. The unpaid rent began to mount. Then, just when he thought the worst was over, the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced a new moratorium, lasting until Oct. 3. A federal judge dismissed a legal challenge



who is expecting another child, fears the \$2,000 he's owed in back rent will quickly climb to thousands more. The latest moratorium "was the final gut punch," said the 39-year-old, adding that he now plans to sell the apart-

Zaremba

Most evictions for unpaid rent have been halted since the following back and forth. I have lost sleep at night, and I have now come up with a decision to sell and walk away."

early days of the pandemic and there are now more than 15 million people living in households that owe as much as \$20 billion in back rent, according to the Aspen Institute.

A majority of single-family rental home owners have been

impacted, according to a survey from the National Rental

Home Council, and 50% say they have tenants who have missed rent during the pandemic.

Smaller landlords with fewer than four units, who often don't have the financing of larger property owners, were hit especially hard, with as many as 58% having tenants behind on

rent, according to the National Association of Realtors. More than half of back rent is owed to smaller landlords.

Landlords, big and small, are most angry about the moratoriums, which they consider illegal. Many believe some tenants could have paid rent, if not for the moratorium. And the \$47 billion in federal rental assistance that was supposed to make

landlords whole has been slow to materialize. By July, only \$3 billion of the first tranche of \$25 billion had been distributed.

David points to two tenants who received paychecks throughout the pandemic but didn't pay rent or bother to file for rental assistance. Others singled out delinquent tenants who they claimed still managed to drive a luxury car, get food

deliveries or go on vacation.

"Without rent, we're out of business," said **Gary Zaremba**, who sold 40 of his properties in Ohio due to the moratorium and still has a quarter of his tenants in the remaining 100 buildings struggling to pay rent. He has helped some apply for rental assistance, he said.

"It's like a restaurant that doesn't have patrons," he said. "I don't get the rent. I can't pay my maintenance staff. I have to lay them off. I can't fix the buildings and keep them in good repair. So, that means they are going to get even worse off. I can't pay my taxes."

Zaremba, who also owns a handful of properties in New York City, sold some of his single-family homes to home buyers and some multi-family commercial apartment buildings to small investors.



Afghan security guards stand on a wall as hundreds of people gather outside the international airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Aug. 17. The Taliban declared an 'amnesty' across Afghanistan and urged women to join their government Tuesday, seeking to convince a wary population that they have changed a day after deadly chaos gripped the main airport as desperate crowds tried to flee the country. (AP)

News in Brief

German on trial for killing 5: A 51-year-old man has gone on trial in Germany for a vehicle rampage that killed five people in the western city of Trier last year.

The defendant, a local resident identified only as Bernd W. due to German privacy laws, was indicted on five counts of murder and 18 counts of attempted murder for intentionally driving at pedestrians in a busy shopping area

Investigators said he drank alcoholic beverages before the attack.

The people killed were a 45-year-old father and his 9-week-old child, and three women ages 25, 52 and 73. Prosecutor Eric Samel said the defendant intended to kill as many people as possible, German news agency dpa reported Thursday. (AP)

Teen arrested for knife attack: A 15-year-old boy has been detained on suspicion of attempted murder after a school employee was seriously wounded in a knife attack in southern Sweden Thursday, police said

The Skanska Dagbladet newspaper said the attacker carried a long knife, wore a skeleton mask, a helmet and what looked like a bulletproof vest. Police declined to comment.

Police spokeswoman Ewa-Gun Westford said the 45-year-old male victim was rushed by ambulance to a nearby hospital. The boy was arrested outside the school. A police officer fired a weapon in connection with the arrest, Westford said. (AP)

Afghanistan

Russia offers to provide its aircraft

Afghans plead for US evacuation flights

WASHINGTON, Aug 19, (AP): Educated young women, former US military translators and other Afghans most at-risk from the Taliban appealed to the Biden administration to get them on evacuation flights as the United States struggled to bring order to the continuing chaos at the Kabul airport.

President Joe Biden and his top officials said the US was working to speed up the evacuation, but made no promises how long it would last or how many desperate people it would fly to safety. "We don't have the capability to go out and collect large numbers of people," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told reporters Wednesday, adding that evacuations would continue "until the clock runs out or we run out of capability."

Afghans in danger because of their work with the US military or US organizations, and Americans scrambling to get them out, also pleaded

with Washington to cut the red tape that they say could strand thousands of vulnerable Afghans if US forces withdraw as planned in the coming days. "If we don't sort this out, we'll liter-

"If we don't sort this out, we'll literally be condemning people to death," said Marina Kielpinski LeGree, the American head of a nonprofit, Ascend. The organization's young Afghan female colleagues were in the mass of people waiting for flights at the airport in the wake of days of mayhem, tear gas and gunshots.

At the Kabul airport, military evacuation flights continued. However, access to the airport remained difficult. On Thursday, Taliban militants fired into the air to try to control the crowds gathered at the airport's blast walls. Men, women and children fled. Fighter jets later roared overhead, but no airstrike accompanied their pass.

Russia offered to provide its aircraft to fly Afghans willing to leave

the country to any nations willing to host them. Some US NATO partners, including Italy, have been flying Afghans out of the country in relatively small numbers.

The US has rushed in troops, transport planes and commanders to secure the airport, seek Taliban guarantees of safe passage, and ramp up an airlift capable of ferrying between 5,000 and 9,000 people a day.

One of the last windows of escape from the Taliban threatens to close when Biden's planned pullout by Aug. 31 is complete.

"People are going to die," said Air Force veteran Sam Lerman. He said he was working to help a former Afghan military contractor who received an email from the State Department telling him to go to the airport. But US troops at the entry to the airport turned back the Afghan man Wednesday, telling him he lacked the right document, Lerman said.

Pick of the month: Top 15-inch 2021 laptops you can get today in the Kuwait and why you should go for the HUAWEI MateBook D15



By Mohanad Merheb

The top 15-inch laptops are basically the primary of portables, but that does not mean they are mediocre in any way. In fact, they often come with enough power to rival their 17inch counterparts (as well as a handful of desktop PCs) while keeping almost the same level of portability as their 13-inch cousins. That ultimately makes them convenient for most of us, especially those of us who need a powerful laptop as an onthe-move companion. Whether you are looking for a laptop for gaming or a creative workstation for content creation, the top 15-inch laptops come packing serious internals and hardware ranging from quality processors, to amazing graphic cards while still keeping things nice with a minimalist, thin and light design.

For those of us who like the middle, it is a wonderful time to invest in a 15-inch laptop this year in Kuwait. However, the question is, which one? Huawei recently launched the HUAWEI MateBook D15, which comes in

a thin and light metal body for utmost portability, Eye Comfort HUAWEI FullView display for protective immersive viewing, and powered by a new 11th Gen Intel® Core i3™ Processor to deliver vastly improved speeds. In addition to leveraging, the distributed capabilities of the Super Device to offer you a Smart Office experience where by you can connect your laptop with your tablet wirelessly and to your monitor via a USB-C cable for a smooth and seamless multidevice collaboration enabling unprecedented cross-device file sharing in intuitive style.

Metallic beauty with a FullView Display offering exciting visuals while protecting eyesight

A product exemplifying Huawei's "Pure Shape" design philosophy, the new HUAWEI MateBook D 15 has a minimalist design with clean, refined lines running through the metal body, creating an understated appearance in either classic Space Grey or an elegant Mystic Silver colourway. Additionally, the HUAWEI MateBook D15 is as

light as 1.56kg and measures only 16.9mm at its thickest point, travelling with it is effortless, and the rich array of ports along the sides of the laptop will satisfy most everyday usage scenarios.

The HUAWEI MateBook D features a 15-inch anti-glare display that retains the series' signature FullView design, offering an 87 percent screen-to-body ratio with a 16:9 aspect ratio for immersive cinematic experiences. The display also has passed TÜV Rheinland Low Blue Light certification and Flicker Free certifications for a protective and comfortable viewing experience. The low blue light level helps reduce eyestrain related to prolonged display use.

Solid performance supported by a new 11th Gen Intel® Core™ Processor

To many of us, a laptop is not only a tool to get work done, but also an entertainment platform. A new 11th Gen Intel® Core™ Processor built on the 10nm SuperFin technology powers the HUAWEI MateBook D15.

The quad-core, eight-thread processor has faster performance to effortlessly handle everyday usage scenarios, and features integrated Intel® Iris® Xe Graphics to provide graphics performance rivalling entry-level discrete counterparts.

The new HUAWEI MateBook D15 can be configured with up to 16GB dual-channel RAM for faster and smoother multitasking, and features a high speed SSD (Solid State Drive) to further improve the overall system performance. Also, an advanced cooling system featuring high-density HUAWEI Shark fin fan and two heat pipes leverages the bionic design to ensure the laptop performs stably under load.

Triple your productivity and creativity with the Smart Office Experience

We all want the ability to switch seamlessly between our laptops, tablets smartphones and monitors. This does not only guaranty swift and effortless operation it also opens gateways to boost our productivity and creativity. Huawei's Smart Office experience allows you to connect three devices at the same time (Laptop, tablet and monitor). When a HUAWEI MateView is connected with a compatible laptop i.e. the HUAWEI MateBook D15 via a USB-type C, it becomes a second monitor for the laptop. Furthermore, the same laptop can also be connected

with a tablet via Multi-screen Collaboration, with keyboard and mouse connected to the HUAWEI MateView. This combination makes it possible for you to use up to three independent screens at once, with content flowing seamlessly between the trio!

Swift Charging

One of the common drawbacks of laptops are the battery life and charging speed, right? Thankfully, Huawei tackles this point with the HUAWEI MateBook D15. The AC adapter supports HUAWEI SuperCharge™ for quick charging with compatible Huawei smartphones. A 15-minute charging session provide enough charge for the HUAWEI MateBook D 15 to run for up to two hours

Login securely with fingerprint

power button

One recurring feature that you would love on the HUAWEI MateBook D15 is the inclusion of the fingerprint scanner embedded in the power button. It is a nice touch and makes biometric unlocks a breeze and most of all, you do not have to sign in with passwords or scan your fingerprint separately to login

There are lots of 15-inch laptops in the Kuwait market covering a gamut of budgets and use cases. While some can be happy with a system good enough for web surfing, others need a laptop than can handle tasks that are more intensive. The HUAWEI MateBook D15 gives you all that and a tad bit starting with its thin and light minimalist metallic body, Eye protection FullView Display, 11th Gen Intel® Core™ Processor for smooth and solid performance, Smart Office experience which offers futuristic ways to interconnect with multiple devices for seamless cross-device sharing and more.

Meta Description: The HUAWEI MateBook D15 is the top 15-inch 2021 laptop money can buy in the Kuwait



with chicken prices soaring, Sanderson Farms sold for \$4.5b

With the price of chicken soaring, the third-largest poultry producer in the US is being bought for \$4.53 billion.

Cargill and Continental Grain have formed a joint venture to acquire Sanderson Farms, paying \$203 per share in cash for a company that last year processed more than 4.8 billion

The companies plan to combine Sanderson Farms with Wayne Farms, a Continental Grain subsidiary, to form a new, privately held poultry business. Operations will include poultry processing plants and pre-pared foods plants across Alabama, Arkan-

sas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas. Wayne Farms has more than 9,000 em-

wayne familia has hide than 9,000 employees. It makes products under brand names including Wayne Farms fresh and prepared chicken; Platinum Harvest premium fresh chicken; Chef's Craft gourmet chicken; Naked Truth premium chicken and Ladwirdy premium chicken.

Ladybirdy premium chicken.

Laurel, Mississippi-based Sanderson Farms has 17,000 employees and 12 plants. It processes 13.6 million chickens per week. The deal comes as chicken prices are

surging. Wholesale chicken breast prices

since mid-April, a seven-year high, according to the Livestock Marketing Information Center. Last year at this time, they were \$1.13 per pound. Pandemic-related plant shutdowns last

have been at or above \$1.80 per pound

year and winter storms across the South earlier this year have impacted supplies.

The price increases have been compounded by demand from major restaurant chains. McDonald's Corp., Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen Inc., Wendy's Co. and Burger King have all recently introduced new variations of chicken sandwiches. (AP)

Market Movements

Change Closing pts PHILIPPINES - PSEi +38.33 6,718.51 **PAKISTAN** - KSE 100 +345.66 47.258.45



-143.30 11,201.64 Nikkei -304.74 27,281.17 FTSE 100 7,058.86 Euro Stoxx 50 4,124.71 2,838.24 10,808.70 EGX 30 55,629.49 Sensex **SINGAPORE** Straits Times STI

19-08-2021



Officials stopped short of a firm decision on a timetable

Fed discussed pulling back on bond purchases later this year

WASHINGTON, Aug 19, (AP): Federal Reserve officials last month discussed the idea of beginning to dial back their extraordinary support for the U.S. economy later this year, though they stopped short of a firm decision on a timetable.

The minutes of the Fed's July 27-28 meeting, released Wednesday, indicated that the economic recovery from the pandemic recession was moving closer to achieving the central bank's goals on inflation and employment. As a result, the Fed is edging toward an announcement that it will begin paring the pace of its Treasury and mortgage bond buying, which now amounts to \$120 billion a month. These purchases have been intended to lower longer-term interest rates and encourage borrowing and spending.

"No decisions regarding future adjustments to asset purchases were made at this meeting," the minutes said. Still, most of the Fed officials at last month's meeting "noted that, provided that the economy were to evolve broadly as they anticipated, they judged that it could be appropriate to start reducing the pace of asset purchases this year.'

At the same time, while economic progress is being made, the



Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome Powell testifies before Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs hearing to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to Congress, July 15, 2021, on Capitol Hill in Washington. (AP)

minutes noted that Fed officials expressed concern about the threat posed by rising COVID-19 cases stemming from the highly contagious Delta variant.

Participants noted "that the spread of the Delta variant may temporarily delay the full reopening of the economy and restrain hiring and labor supply," the minutes said.

Based on the recent public comments of some Fed officials who favor a pullback soon in bond purchases, many economists have speculated that the central bank will announce in September a plan to begin tapering the bond buying later this year and wind it down over a period of months.

certain of such a timetable given the discussions revealed in the minutes released Wednesday.

"Absent a significant reversal in the strong jobs numbers or inflation data, the minutes reflect a Fed that is prepared to accelerate its taper timeline to perhaps the next few months," said Sean Bandarian, an investment analyst for Cornerstone

Andrew Hunter, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said he thinks the Fed will begin scaling back the bond purchases this year "rather than early next year as we had previously thought."

Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial, said he foresees the Fed announcing at its meeting in early November that it will begin tapering its bond purchases in December.

Financial markets are monitoring the Fed's deliberations because the officials are likely to conclude their bond-buying program before starting to raise their benchmark short-term interest rate. That rate has been pinned near zero since the viral pandemic erupted in March 2020 and essentially shut down the

After its July meeting, the Fed

Analysts said they were more noted that the economy had made progress in achieving the central bank's goals. That observation was seen as significant because the Fed has been saying since December that it wanted to see "substantial further progress" before starting to reduce its monthly bond purchases.

James Bullard, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, has said he thought that the latest jobs report, which showed that a sizable 943,000 jobs were added in July, made clear that the economy was strengthening and no longer needed so much support from the

Some of the Fed's policymakers have argued that the bond purchases are now serving mainly to drive up the prices of interest-rate sensitive goods such as homes and cars. Home prices have been rising at the fastest pace in nearly 20 years. Reducing the Fed's bond purchases would mean less downward pressure on long-term rates and, at least in theory, higher rates on some business and consumer loans.

The minutes noted that several Fed officials argued for reducing the \$40 billion in monthly purchases of mortgage bonds more quickly than the \$80 billion in monthly purchases of Treasurys. The Fed said these officials noted that the "housing sector was exceptionally strong" and didn't need the support the central bank was providing.

With inflation surging in recent months, the Fed has come under criticism from some members of Congress for continuing the bond purchases while also keeping its benchmark short-term interest rate pinned near zero.

Besides Bullard, Fed officials who have suggested that the central bank should begin tapering the bond purchases this fall include Eric Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Robert Kaplan of the Dallas Fed, Raphael Bostic of the Atlanta Fed and Christopher Waller, who serves on the Fed's influential board in Washington.

Still, in their most recent remarks, Chair Jerome Powell and some other Fed officials have expressed a preference for a slower timetable to allow the job market to show further improvement. One such official, Lael Brainard, a Fed board member, has said she still wants to see jobs and inflation data for the month of September to gauge how much progress the economy has made. That data won't be available until October.



In this file photo, pedestrians pass the Macy's store in the Downtown Crossing shopping area, in Boston. (AP)

Stores facing labor shortages

Brighter outlook from Macy's, Kohl's after sales bounce back

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): A return, at least temporarily, to near normalcy is giving a boost two of America's largest department stores hit by the pandemic last year. Macy's and Kohl's raised their out-

looks for 2021 Thursday after easily beating Wall Street expectations for the second quarter. Americans are again buying dresses, luggage and other goods that fell to the bottom of the priority list year last year when the pandemic struck.

"Our momentum in the first quarter accelerated in the second quarter as we successfully reengaged core customers and attracted new, younger customers with new brands and categories," said Jeff Gennette, chairman and CEO of

Macy's, Inc. Major retailers are rolling out quarterly earnings reports this week and the data has consistently pointed to a return to almost normal behavior for US shoppers who had taken shelter over the past year. That also means that the online spending that rocketed during the pandemic is coming back

down to earth. Macy's online sales, fell 6% during the second quarter compared with last year when they surged 53%. Still, online sales were up 45% when compared with the same stretch in 2019,

before the pandemic However, as headlines over the past several weeks demonstrate, COVID-19 is still everywhere and there are other potential headwinds that are

Retailers are now monitoring the spread of the delta variant, which has led to more mask mandates. They're also grappling with higher prices just as the temporary government stimulus and other benefits, which helped energize spending, are fading. Snarled supply chains continue to be an issue and stores are facing labor shortages.

And prepandemic threats for traditional department stores still exist, such as alternative clothing chains like T.J. Maxx and online sellers, too. On Thursday, the Wall Street Journal reported that Amazon aims to open several large physical retail locations in the US that will operate similar to department stores. It quoted unnamed sources familiar with the matter. Former Macy's CEO Terry Lundgren said in a CNBC interview Thursday that he's surprised it took Amazon so long to act. He believes physical locations would cut down on the number of

returns for Amazon, particularly with clothing, a huge expense. Amazon would not comment on the Wall Street Journal report. Still, if there was a theme that emerged in this week of retail earnings reports, it's that

the US consumer is resilient. Macy's reported earnings of \$345 million, or \$1.08 per share in the threemonth period ended July 31. Adjusted earnings were \$1.29 per share, far above the 23 cents industry analysts had expected, according to FactSet.

Last year, Macy's lost \$431 million in the second quarter.

Revenue rose nearly 60% to \$5.64 billion, better than the \$5.01 billion Wall Street projected and better than last year's \$3.56 billion.

Macy's said that it expects net sales for the year to be in the range of \$23.5 billion to \$23.95 billion. Its previous guidance was \$21.73 billion to \$22.23 billion. Industry analysts were expecting \$22.09 billion. It also now expects adjusted earnings per share to be in the range of \$3.41 to \$3.75 per share, compared with previous projections of

\$1.71 to \$2.12 per share. The company also reinstated its

quarterly dividend. Macy's announced Thursday it will have Toys R Us shops in more than 400 stores rolling out in 2022 as part of a partnership with the iconic brand's owner WHP Global

Kohl's reported earnings of \$382 million, or \$2.48, for the three-month period ended July 31. Analysts were expecting per-share earns of \$1.26. Revenue rose 31% to \$4.22 billion, and was also better than expected.

Kohl's said that annual sales are now expected to increase in the low-twenties percentage range compared with previous projections of mid-to-high teens percentage increase. Adjusted earnings per share is now expected to be in the range of \$5.80 to \$6.10, excluding any nonrecurring charges. That compared to the previous expectation of \$3.80 to

US jobless claims hit pandemic low as employers boost hiring

Latest sign that America's job market is rebounding

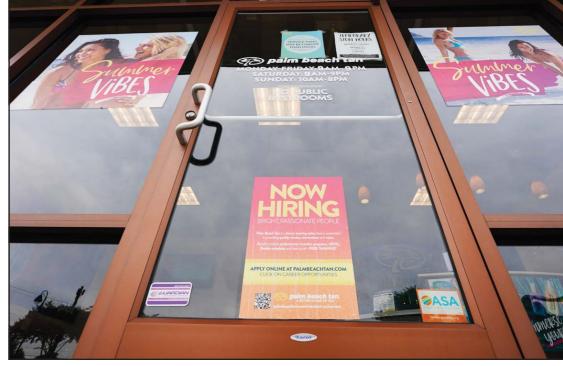
WASHINGTON, Aug 19, (AP): The number of people seeking unemployment benefits fell last week for a fourth straight time to a pandemic low, the latest sign that America's job market is rebounding from the pandemic recession as employers boost hiring to meet a surge in consumer demand.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that jobless claims fell by 29,000 to 348,000. The four-week average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week volatility, also fell - by 19,000, to just below 378,000, also a pandemic low.

The weekly pace of applications for unemployment aid has fallen more or less steadily since topping 900,000 in early January. The dwindling number of first-time jobless claims has coincided with the widespread administering of vaccines, which has led businesses to reopen or expand their hours and drawn consumers back to shops, restaurants, airports and entertainment venues.

Still, the number of applications remains high by historic standards: Before the pandemic tore through the economy in March 2020, the weekly pace amounted to around 220,000 a week. And now there is growing concern that the highly contagious delta variant could disrupt the economy's recovery from last year's brief but intense recession. Some economists have already begun to mark down their estimates for growth this quarter as some measures of economic activity, like air travel, have started to weaken.

Filings for unemployment benefits have traditionally been seen as a real-time measure of the job market's health. But their reliability has deteriorated during the pandemic. In many states, the weekly figures have been inflated by fraud and by multiple filings from unemployed Americans as they navigate bureaucratic hurdles to try to obtain benefits. Those complications



A Now Hiring sign at a business in Richmond, Virginia. US employers posted a record 10.1 million job openings in June, another sign that the job market and economy are bouncing back briskly from last year's coronavirus shutdowns. (AP)

help explain why the pace of applications remains comparatively high.

By all accounts, the job market has been rebounding with vigor since the pandemic paralyzed economic activity last year and employers slashed more than 22 million jobs. The United States has since recovered 16.7 million jobs. And employers have added a rising number of jobs for three straight months, including a robust 943,000 in July. In the meantime, employers have posted a record 10.1 million openings, and many complain that they can't find enough applicants to fill their open po-

Last week's drop in applications for aid was larger than many economists had expected, a sign that the job market's recovery remains on track for now despite the worries surrounding the spread of the delta variant.

"As life normalizes and the service sector continues to gain momentum (delta variant permitting), we expect initial jobless claims to remain in a downtrend," Joshua Shapiro, chief US economist at the consulting firm Maria Fiorini Ramirez, said in a research note.

Shapiro added that "this report points to a continued rapid pace of job gains since the July employment data were collected.'

Some employers ascribe their labor shortages to supplemental unemployment benefits from the federal government - including \$300 a week on top of regular state aid - for discouraging some of the jobless from seeking work. In response, many states have withdrawn from the federal programs, which expire nationwide next month

Economists point to other factors,

too, that have kept some people on the sidelines of the job market. They include difficulty finding or affording child care, fear about becoming infected by the virus at work and the desire of some people to seek better jobs than they had before the pandemic triggered widespread layoffs.

Whatever the causes, the economy remains 5.7 million jobs shy of the number it had in February 2020. And with the US recording an average of more than 100,000 new COVID-19 cases a day - up from fewer than 12,000 in late June - the delta variant is increasingly clouding the outlook for the rest of the year.

Just over 2.8 million people were receiving traditional state jobless benefits in the week of Aug 7, down by 79,000 from the previous week and the lowest since the pandemic struck.

Ohio high court delays ruling in VW emissions case

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug 19, (AP): The Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to delay its ruling that Volkswagen is subject to Ohio anti-tampering laws that carry the potential of hundreds of billions of dollars in damages. The court allowed the delay while Volkswagen appeals to the US Supreme Court.

At issue is the 2015 scandal in

which the automaker was found to have rigged its vehicles to cheat US diesel emissions tests. The company ultimately paid more than \$33 billion in fines and settlements.

In the wake of the scandal, the Ohio Attorney General's Office sued the company, alleging Volkswagen's conduct - affecting about 14,000 vehicles sold or leased in Ohio - violated the state's anti-air pollution law.

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled in June that the federal Clean Air Act does not preclude Ohio from seeking its own compensation against Volkswagen. State Attorney General Dave Yost successfully argued the federal law doesn't stop Ohio from suing over emissions test tampering that occurred after new cars were

Ohio is seeking damages that could total \$127 billion a year over multiple years, the company noted in its filing. Volkswagen asked the state Supreme Court to delay its ruling while it asks the US Supreme Court to accept its appeal.

Yost's office did not object to the

govt sharpens antitrust attack against Facebook

revised complaint.

Federal regulators sharpened their antitrust attack against Facebook on Thursday, filing a revised version of their complaint alleging that the social network giant has abused its market power to suppress competition.

It was the second try by the Federal Trade Commission, after a federal judge in June dismissed antitrust lawsuits brought against Facebook by the agency and a broad coalition of state attorneys general, amid multiplying efforts by federal and state regulators to rein in tech titans' market power.

US District Judge James Boasberg had ruled that the suits were "legally insufficient" and didn't provide enough evidence to prove that Facebook was a monopoly. The ruling

pany's market share over the He dismissed the states'

dismissed the FTC's comseparate complaint outright. plaint but not the case, giving

the agency a chance to file a anew Thursday as Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple Boasberg had said the FTC fall under extreme scrutiny and fell short of demonstrating that legislative pressure from the Facebook holds monopoly FTC, the Justice Department, market power, failing to pro-European regulators, lawmakvide an estimate for the comers in Congress and state legislatures, and most recently, from an executive order from the Biden White House. (AP)

The agency made its case



In this file photo, the logo for Facebook appears on screens at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York's Times Square. Federal regulators are filing a revised version of their complaint against the social network giant. (AP)

US stocks wobble as commodity prices fall

Technology shares shine while banks, energy companies slip

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): Stocks wobbled between small gains and losses in midday trading Thursday, as gains from technology stocks were kept in check by banks and energy companies slipping.

Commodities were getting hit hard as prices for basic materials fell sharply

The S&P 500 index was mostly unchanged as of 11:33 a.m. Eastern. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 118 points, or 0.3% to 34,849 and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.1%. Small company stocks slumped as the Russell 2000 fell 1.3%.

Technology companies made broad gains, including 5.4% for chipmaker Nvidia after reporting strong financial results. Those gains were kept in check by drops in bank and energy stocks. The broader market has been losing ground overall since the benchmark S&P 500 reached another record high on Monday. Every major index is on track for a weekly loss.

Commodities fell, with everything from oil to agricultural commodities to metals moving broadly lower. Copper prices were down nearly 2%, while oil was down nearly 4%. The drop in commodities prices was dragging down oil companies and those who extract raw materials for industrial uses. Miner Freeport-McMoRan, Devon Energy and Occidental Petroleum fell 5% or

The volatility in the commodities markets is notable because investors have been acutely focused on inflation as the global economy emerges from the pandemic. Earlier this year prices for basic materials like lumber and copper and gasoline were all rising steadily and several high multi-year highs. Most of those gains have now been erased with declines in recent weeks.

Investors got a bit of positive economic news when the Labor Department reported another weekly drop in the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits. Claims fell 29,000 to 348,000 last week, a pandemic low. The four-week average fell 19,000 to just below 378,000, also a



Currency traders watch monitors at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Aug 19, 2021. Asian stock markets retreated Thursday after US central bank policymakers made no firm decision on when to unwind their support measures for the economy. (AP)

pandemic low.

While stocks are now down roughly 1.5% this week, fund managers do not expect much volatility this month as investors will have little data to work with and earnings season is now mostly over. August also tends to be a popular month for investors to take their vacations, so trading is typically slower. September tends to be a much more volatile month once Wall Street is back

Government bond yields fell. The

10-year Treasury note traded at a yield of 1.24%, down from 1.27% the day

Robinhood sank 9.1% as traders worried that the booming growth at the popular online brokerage app could slow down. Macy's soared 16.6% after issuing a strong forecast and reporting earnings that were far bigger than analysts were expecting. That put the iconic department store operator on track for its biggest gain since Novem-

France's CAC 40 fell 2.8% to 6,580.19 in early trading while Britain's FTSE 100 lost 2.3% to 7,006.74. The DAX in Germany dropped 1.8% to 15,673,06.

Wall Street was positioned for a lower open. Futures of the benchmark S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.9%, to 4,356.50 and 34,568.00 respectively.

The lack of a directive from the Federal Reserve fueled worries over surging coronavirus infections caused by the delta variant, and the pandemic's impact on consumer spending and jobs

Minutes of the Fed's July 27-28 meeting, released Wednesday, indicated that most officials in attendance thought it was "appropriate" to begin reducing the pace of asset purchases this year.

This is "provided that the economy were to evolve broadly as they antici-

pated," according to the minutes. The Fed's purchases were meant to

lower long-term interest rates and encourage borrowing and spending. It includes Treasury and mortgage bond buying, which now amounts to \$120 billion a month. However, officials stopped short of setting a firm timeline.

The minutes only emphasized the central bankers' uncertainty about the path of the economy and monetary policy heading into 2022," Matt Weller, global head of research at FOREX.com and City Index, wrote in a note.

"Taken together, the initial read through of the minutes paints a mixed picture: while most Fed policymakers are expecting to start tapering this year, there were still several who would prefer to wait for next year," he said.

The focus has shifted to next week's Jackson Hole Symposium. Traders will scrutinize Fed Chair Jerome Powell's keynote speech for hints about the timing of a taper announcement, Weller In Asia, the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo

in South Korea lost 1.9% to 3,097.83 and the Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.6% to 3,465.55. Hong Kong's Hang Seng closed down 2.1% at 25,316.33. Sydney's

shed 1.1% to 27,281.17. The Kospi

S&P-ASX 200 declined 0.5% to 7,464.60. Losses were recorded throughout the Asia-Pacific region except in New Zea-

land and the Philippines. Chinese tech stocks tumbled on fears of tighter regulation. E-commerce giant Alibaba Group shares in Hong Kong sank 5.5%. Internet search giant Baidu Inc. fell 2.4%. The companies' U.S.-

listed shares were set for early losses. "Eventually, Chinese equity prices will fall to levels that offset the multitude of governmental risks they now face. That process has not finished yet,"

said Jeffrey Halley of OANDA. In energy markets, benchmark U.S. crude fell \$2.22 to \$63.24 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, the price standard for international oils, lost

\$1.92 to \$66.31 per barrel in London. A surprise rise in U.S. gasoline inventories has more than offset a drop in its crude stockpile, Venkateswaran Lavanya of Mizuho Bank said.

"This underpins concerns that delta risks may be getting in the way of trav-

40 to 60 pct cut eyed

Under virus-linked strains. Toyota slashes production

TOKYO, Aug 19, (AP): Toyota is scaling back production in North America and Japan as the surging coronavirus pandemic in Southeast Asia and elsewhere crimps supplies.

Japan's top automaker said Thursday that it will cut back production at home by 40%, affecting 14 auto assembly plants in the

In North America, Toyota said it expects August production to be slashed by 60,000 to 90,000 vehicles. A representative from Toyota said that output fluctuates month to month, but that it would equate to a production cut of between 40% and 60%.

"Due to COVID-19 and unexpected events with our supply chain, Toyota is experiencing additional shortages that will affect production at most of our North American plants," the company said in a prepared statement Thursday. "While the situation remains fluid and complex, our manufacturing and supply chain teams have worked diligently to develop countermeasures to minimize the impact on production."

The company said production cuts in North America are not expected to have an impact on staffing levels.

In Japan, production will halt completely next month at some plants and partly at others, affecting a wide range of models, including the Corolla subcompact, Prius hybrid and Land Cruiser sport utility vehicle.

Global production for September will decline by 360,000 vehicles, according to Toyota Motor Corp. But it stuck to its annual forecast to produce 9.3 million vehicles, as coronavirus risks were figured in.

Of the lost production out of Japan, 140,000 vehicles are for Japan and 220,000 for overseas, with 80,000 in the U.S., 40,000 in Europe, 80,000 in China, 8,000 in the rest of Asia and about 10,000 in other regions.

Toyota had already announced smaller production cuts for July and August in Japan.

"We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience caused to our customers and suppliers due to these changes," Toyota said.

A shortage of the computer chips used widely in vehicles has been problematic for months as the world appeared to emerge from the pandemic and demand surged. Toyota had not been hit as hard as some other major automakers, and now the spread of the delta variant has introduced new complications.

David Leggett, auto analyst at GlobalData, said auto demand is now down in Vietnam, and sales have already been hurt in some markets for all manufacturer



In this file photo, an employee wearing a face mask works on a Yaris car at the Toyota car factory in Onnaing, northern France. Toyota announced Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021, is scaling back 40% of its production. (AP)

US wants Huawei CFO extradited to face fraud charges

Canadian judge reserves decision on Meng's extradition

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Aug 19, (AP): A Canadian judge reserved her decision Wednesday on whether a senior executive for Chinese communications giant Huawei Technologies should be extradited to the U.S. after a Canadian Justice Department lawyer wrapped up his case by saying there's enough evidence to show she was dishonest and deserves to stand trial in the U.S.

Associate Chief Justice Heather Holmes said that on Oct. 21 she will likely announce when she will rule on whether Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer for Huawei's Technologies and daughter of its founder, will be extradited.

Meng was arrested at Vancouver's airport in late 2018 at the request of U.S. authorities. Her arrest infuriated Beijing, which sees her case as a political move designed to prevent China's rise.

The U.S. wants Meng extradited to face fraud charges, alleging she committed fraud by misleading the HSBC bank about the company's business dealings in Iran. It accuses Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company called Skycom to sell equipment to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions.

Defense lawyers have argued there isn't enough evidence to justify her

But in his final submissions, Justice Department lawyer Robert Frater disputed defense claims there is no evidence Meng made any misrepresentations that put the bank at risk of violating sanctions.

"We say there is a strong case here Ms. Meng was dishonest," Frater



Meng Wanzhou, second from right, chief financial officer of Huawei, returns to B.C. Supreme Court after a break in her extradition hearing, Aug. 18, 2021, in Vancouver, British Columbia. (AP)

said. "We met our burden."

By not disclosing Huawei's true relationship with Skycom, Meng put HSBC at risk of violating U.S. sanctions against Iran, he said.

"HSBC was deprived of a fair opportunity to take the action it needed to take," Frater told the judge. He said Meng was honest in parts

of her meeting with an HSBC executive, but she didn't tell "the whole truth and nothing but the truth." Frater said the defense is trying to

"blame the victim" in saying it was the bank's decision to transfer money from Skycom through the U.S. China's government has criticized

the arrest as part of U.S. efforts to hamper its technology development. Huawei, a maker of network equip-

ment and smartphones, is China's first global tech brand and is at the center of U.S.-Chinese tension over technology and the security of information systems.

Meng, who attended the hearing wearing an electronic monitoring device on her ankle, followed the proceedings through a translator.

Whatever the judge's decision, it will likely be appealed.

The case has soured relations be-

tween Canada and China.

Entrepreneur Michael Spavor and a former Canadian diplomat were detained in what critics labeled "hostage politics" after Huawei's Meng Wanzhou was arrested Dec. 1, 2018, at the Vancouver airport. They were were arrested in China in apparent re-

taliation for Meng's arrest.

A Chinese court this month sentenced Spavor to 11 years in prison for spying. In another case, the Higher Peo-

ple's Court of Liaoning province in northeast China rejected an appeal by Canadian Robert Schellenberg, whose 15-year prison term on drug smuggling charges was increased to death in January 2019 following Meng's arrest.

Meng remains free on bail in Vancouver and is living in a mansion.

Beijing denies there is a connection between Meng's case and the arrests of Spavor and Kovrig, but Chinese officials and state media frequently mention the two men in relation to whether or not Meng is allowed to return to China.

Canada and other countries, including Australia and the Philippines, face trade boycotts and other Chinese pressure in disputes with Beijing over human rights, the coronavirus and control of the South China Sea. The United States has warned American travelers face a "heightened risk of arbitrary detention" in China for reasons other than to enforce laws.

China has tried to pressure Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government by imposing restrictions on imports of canola seed oil and other products from Canada.

Meanwhile, Beijing is blocking imports of Australian wheat, wine and other products after its government called for an investigation into the origin of the coronavirus pan-

Mondelez workers on strike at Virginia bakery plant

HENRICO, Va., Aug 19, (AP): Hundreds of workers at a Mondelez International bakery in Virginia are on strike, seeking to block the company's demands for concessions in contract negotiations and end what the union calls the outsourcing of

jobs to Mexico. About 400 workers from the plant in Henrico started striking Monday, The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported. The plant makes foods like Oreo cookies, Ritz crackers and Chips Ahoy! cookies.

They are joining Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain

Millers International Union workers striking since last week at a Mondelez bakery plant in Portland, Oregon, and at a sales distribution center in Aurora, Colorado.

Mondelez, one of the world's largest snack companies, and the union have been negotiating a new fouryear contract since the old one expired at the end of May. The contract covers union employees at six Mondelez sites. The union membership has not voted on a contract.

The plant continued to make cookies and crackers despite the strike as salaried employees and plant leader-

ship ensure that the company continues to supply customers, Mondelez spokesperson Laurie Guzzinati said. But union representatives disputed

that claim. The lines can't run without the union members there, Local 358 President Keith Bragg said.

The union claims contract proposals include a new alternative work schedule for employees and no premium pay for working weekends. The union also wants the company to stop moving jobs to Mexico.

Mondelez said the union is misinterpreting the proposed contract. The company wants to move a small number of workers to 12-hour workdays, working seven days over a two-week period, Guzzinati said. The union also claims Mondelez

wants the workers who pay nothing for health insurance benefits, to start paying for some premiums. The company said current workers would not see a change, but changes would be made for new employees.

The company said no US jobs have been moved to Mexico as part of Mondelez closing two aging plants in New Jersey and Georgia in recent months.

In this file photo, Rep. Lauren Boebert speaks at a news conference held by members of the House Freedom Cau-cus on Capitol Hill in Washington. Boebert has disclosed that her husband worked as consultant for a energy firm during her run for Congress last year. (AP)



Colorado's Boebert discloses husband's work for energy firm

Rep. Lauren husband made Colorado Boebert's \$478,000 last year working as a consultant for an energy firm, information that was not disclosed during Boebert's congressional campaign and only reported in her financial disclosure forms filed this

In paperwork filed with the House of Representatives on Tuesday, the Republican

congresswoman reported that her husband, Jayson Boebert, received the money as a consultant to "Terra Energy Productions" in 2020, and earned \$460,000 as a consultant for the firm in

Boebert did not report the income last year, when she stunned the political world by ousting incumbent Rep. Scott Tipton during the GOP primary in Colorado's sprawling 3rd district, which stretches from ski resorts to energyrich basins in the state's west. Boebert went on to win the general election in the Republican-leaning district.

Ethics and campaign finance laws require candidates and members of Congress to disclose sources of their immediate family's income, along with major

investments and assets, to let voters evaluate potential conflicts of interest. Boebert has been a defender of the energy industry, which is very active in her district.

Boebert's disclosure of additional household income came as the Federal Elections Commission this week asked her campaign for information about a series of campaign transactions. (AP)



Protect yourself from potential bad actors and find legitimate capital

4 ways businesses can dodge loan scams and predatory lenders

By Randa Kriss NerdWallet

6 Guaranteed loan approval; receive funds in 24 hours." "No credit check; interest rates starting at 0%; only low application fee required." These statements may sound pretty good to a small-business owner in desperate need of capital.

But, as the old saying goes, "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is," says Carolina Martinez, CEO of CAMEO, California's statewide micro-business network. Just because it's the most frequent appealing solution you're hearing doesn't mean it's the right solution, she says.

Many small businesses are still recovering from the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the end of the Paycheck Protection Program and bank loan approvals below 20%, scammers and

predatory lenders are taking the opportunity to move in on businesses that are searching for funding.

Protect yourself from potential bad actors and find legitimate capital for your business with these four

tips.

1. Be wary of speed

Fast isn't always better when you're looking for business funding. "Be wary of the speed sell," says Tom McHale, president of Pursuit, a community lender operating in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

Although some online lenders excel in terms of speed, predatory lenders can rush you through the loan process to push you into an expensive product without fully understanding the terms.

"You're going to pay significantly higher rates and fees for that money than you would for traditional financing that might take a little more time," McHale says.

He recommends that businesses

look for lenders that allow them to speak to a representative directly rather than just a bot or live chat so that you can ask questions and understand the loan's terms and conditions.

And if a lender is unwilling to show you the terms and rates of the loan upfront, that's a red flag.

2. Never pay money upfront "Don't pay money upfront for an opportunity to get a loan," says Frank LaMonaca, chair of the Southeastern

Connecticut chapter of SCORE, a network of volunteer mentors that supports small businesses across the country. "You shouldn't have to ever do that. A reputable online lender won't

charge any fees unless you're approved for a loan. If a lender wants money just to look at your application, that's a dead giveaway, La Monaca says.

"Nobody should be asking you for \$2,500 to apply for a loan. You should be able to apply free of charge," he says.

Similarly, don't trust emails that appear to be from government agencies asking for personal information such as your Social Security number, requesting payment upfront or guaranteeing loan approval. The U.S. Small Business Administration recommends being on the lookout for these phishing scams, as well as other types of grant fraud and loan fraud, especially those related to COVID-19 relief assistance.

3. Explore all of your lending

Businesses may have more options available for financing than they realize.

Understand your power in the marketplace, LaMonaca says. There is a variety of loan programs to choose from, including those designated for specific types of businesses, such as women-owned businesses, minority-owned businesses and veteranowned businesses.

Community development finan-

cial institutions, known as CDFIs, nonprofit lenders and reliable online financial service companies can offer loans with affordable rates and competitive terms - even for new businesses or those that can't qualify for bank funding.

Some of these lenders, like CD-FIs, may be able to help businesses burdened with predatory loans refinance into better products, Martinez savs.

You can search for local CDFIs through the SBA website, as well as through organizations like Opportunity Finance Network, the national association of CDFIs. Reading reviews and referring to resources like the Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights can help you find reliable online lenders as well

4. Surround yourself with the right experts

If you're unsure of how to find the right financing for your business needs - or want to make sure that you're not signing onto a bad deal - turn to the experts. You can work with an accountant, lawyer or other financial expert to help you through the process and to even review your loan application and agreement.

The majority of CDFIs are equipped with an entire ecosystem of support to help small businesses assess their financial status, business models and strategies, as well as access capital, Martinez says.

Additionally, organizations like SCORE and local SBA-administered Small Business Development Centers offer business consulting services for free. You can search their websites to find experts in your area to work with your business, and browse additional online resources.

LaMonaca stresses the importance of building a team and fostering relationships to help you run your business: The best business owners don't go it alone. "The best have really good people around them," he says. (AP)

Breeze raises \$200m

say bookings sag

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): The

On Thursday, Avelo Airlines

Avelo and Breeze began fly-Southwest.

"We saw a little dip in our bookings" as virus cases increased, said David Neeleman, the Breeze founder and CEO who also started JetBlue Airways and Brazilian airline Azul. "We ran a sale, and bookings were back up again."

Andrew Levy, the CEO of Avelo, said it became clear a few weeks ago that a drop in bookings was partly due to the virus, not just the usual end-of-summer

it "a bump in the road."

The two startups are looking for routes that are mostly ignored by larger airlines.

many in the Southeast. Neeleman said the new funding will "solidify our position and say we're

Breeze will use some of the money to expand its operations - possibly adding one or two destinations in southern Florida this winter, and maybe buying more planes and spare parts, he said.

Avelo said it will start flying Nov 3 between New Haven, Connecticut, and Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Fort Myers, Florida.

The airline flies now to more than a dozen cities from Burbank, California, but has already announced it will drop

way," Levy said. "Not everything that we do is going to work, and the things that don't work we're going to quickly remove from our network.'

Start-up airlines

newest US airlines are showing signs of growth while at the same time hoping that the surge in coronavirus infections is only a short-term obstacle.

announced that it will expand to a little-used airport in Connecticut that will serve as a jumping-off spot to destinations in Florida. It will be the Houston-based startup's first venture east of the Rockies.

A day earlier, Utah-based Breeze Airways said it raised \$200 million in funding from sources including investment manager BlackRock on top of \$135 million in earlier fund-

ing this spring and targeted leisure travelers. That looked like a smart move when vacationers flocked to airports for much of the summer. Now, however, they worry about the surge in CO-VID-19, which is hurting ticket sales at bigger airlines including

slowdown. "It's not surprising that some people are deciding to defer their travel plans," Levy said, calling

Breeze serves 16 US cities, here to stay.

three. "We are an early-stage business" that must "adjust along the

But the degree of the sharp rise in crypto's importance to Robinhood's business was striking. Cryptocurrencies made up 41% of all of Robinhood's \$565.3 million in revenue in the quarter that ended June 30. That's up from 17% in the first three

mer from the spring.

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): After

helping a new generation of inves-

tors get into stocks, Robinhood is in-

creasingly doing the same for cryp-

More than \$4 of every \$10 that

Robinhood Markets Inc. made in

revenue during the spring came just

from customers trading dogecoin,

Robinhood also said Wednesday

bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

that it lost \$501.7 million, or \$2.16

per share, compared with a profit of

\$57.6 million, or 9 cents per share,

in last year's second quarter. Most

of the loss was due to accounting

changes related to a fundraising

The loss was no surprise after the

company had earlier given prelimi-

nary estimated results for the quar-

ter. The company's slowdown in

revenue growth was also expected

- it more than halved to 131% from

309% in the first three months of the year - and the company again said

revenue will likely drop in the sum-

round it undertook early this year.

tocurrencies.

months of the year and from just 3% at the start of last year. The spring marked the first quarter for Robinhood where new customers were more likely to make their first trade in cryptocurrencies rather than in stocks.

Robinhood CEO Vlad Tenev said in a recent interview with The Associated Press that he wants the company to make it easy to trade any

Robinhood's crypto trading surges asset its customers are interested in,

This photo provided by Cean Orrett/Cean One Studio shows a Breeze Airways jet. On Wednesday, Aug 18, 2021, Utah-based Breeze Airways said it raised \$200 million in funding from sources, including investment manager BlackRock, on top of \$135 million in earlier funding. (AP)

Company's overall growth slows

and that increasingly means crypto. "They're interested in exploring this new asset class," he said. "So, no doubt, crypto has been very culturally relevant through the first six months of the year.'

Tenev also said he sees cryptocurrency companies as Robinhood's competitors, just like other stock-trading brokerages. Coinbase,



This file photo shows the logo for the Robinhood app on a smartphone in New York. After helping a new generation of investors get into stocks, Robinhood is increasingly doing the same for cryptocurrencies. (AP)

a publicly traded crypto exchange, said it had \$1.9 billion in transaction revenue during the second quarter, versus Robinhood's \$233 million in

crypto-related trading revenue. With cryptocurrencies, Robinhood makes money by routing its customers' trade orders to market makers. It's similar to how Robinhood makes money from its customers trading stocks: It gets payments from Citadel Securities and other big trading firms after sending them the stock orders made by its customers.

Interest in cryptocurrencies surged in the early part of last quarter, leading to a frenzy of trading activity. Bitcoin hit \$64,829 in April after starting the year at less than \$30,000.

Even dogecoin, whose fans have been trying to help it shed its image as a joke cryptocurrency, soared. It got to 74 cents in May after starting the year at roughly half a penny. The majority of Robinhood's crypto-related revenue last quarter came from dogecoin, at 62%.

But cryptocurrencies are notoriously volatile, and their prices have continued to swing sharply since hitting those peaks. Bitcoin has since fallen back toward \$45,000, and dogecoin has more than halved to roughly 30 cents.

That could hinder Robinhood's

revenue growth going forward. The company said Wednesday that its revenue will likely drop from the second quarter to the third.

"We expect seasonal headwinds and lower trading activity across the industry," Chief Financial Offi-cer Jason Warnick said in a conference call following the release of the quarter's results.

Trading for brokerages is typically busiest in the first half of the year, before fading in the second half, he said. Robinhood's revenue also does best when markets are volatile and customers are trading a lot, and the first two quarters of the year were punctuated by extreme volatility. In the first quarter, GameStop and other "meme stocks" soared to heights that professional investors called irrational, and cryptocurrencies had their own pop in the second quarter.

Worries about potentially slower growth helped send Robinhood shares down 8% in afterhours trading on Wednesday, after they rose 6.7% in the regular session to close at \$49.80. Such swings are nothing new in the stock's young life.

Shares of Robinhood, which is based in Menlo Park, California, have veered between \$33.25 and \$85 since they began trading at \$38 on July 29.

Tech

Interesting and original

Robot guide welcomes visitors in Greek cave

ALISTRATI, Greece, Aug 19, (AP): Persephone is a tour guide in Greece, but perhaps not the type people are used

Billed as the world's first robot tour guide inside a cave, Persephone has been welcoming visitors since mid-July to the Alistrati Cave in northern Greece, 135 kilometers (84 miles) northeast of the city of Thessaloniki.

The multilingual robot covers the first 150 meters (roughly 500 feet) of the part of the cave that is open to the public. In the remaining 750 meters (2,400 feet), a human guide

takes over. The robot was named Persephone because, according to one version of the ancient Greek myth, it was in a nearby plain that Pluto — the god of the underworld who was also known as Hades — abducted Persephone, with the consent

of her father Zeus, to take her as his



Mitsotakis

The robot can give its part of the tour in 33 languages and interact at a basic level with visitors in three languages. It can also answer 33 questions, but only in Greek.

Nikos Kartalis, the scientific director for the Alistrati site, had the idea of creating the robot when he saw one on TV guiding visitors at an art gallery. Seventeen years later, "we got our funds and the robot guide became a reality," Kartalis told The Associ-

ated Press. The robot was built by the National Technology and Research Foundation and cost 118,000 euros (\$139,000).

"We already have a 70% increase in visitors compared to last year since we started using" the robot, says Kartalis. "People are enthusiastic, especially the children, and people who had visited in the past are coming back to see the robot

"It is something unprecedented for them, to have the ability to interact with their robot by asking it questions and the robot answering them," he said. "Many foreign visitors couldn't believe Greece had the capacity to build a robot and use it as a guide in the cave.

Mobility

The robot moves along a walkway, passing through an ornate landscape of stalactites and stalagmites. These varied formations can reach 15 meters (50 feet) tall and are seen throughout the cave's nearly 1 kilometer (1.6-mile) walkway, which is accessible to people with limited mo-

"This cave is one of the most beautiful, not only in Greece but in Europe, as well," says Kartalis. "It has stalactites and stalagmites in many shapes and colors, even red.'

Kyriakos Mitsotakis is the Prime Minister of Greece, who described the devastating wildfires that burned across the country for more than a week as the greatest ecological catastrophe Greece had seen in decades.

He said the cave was 3 million years old and was first explored in 1974 by the Hellenic Speleological Society and a team of Austrian speleologists. It opened to visitors

Persephone, with a white body, black head and two luminous eyes, moves on wheels, guiding visitors to the first three of eight stops along the walkway. She can do two more stops, but her low speed slows down the tour, which is conducted in three languages simultaneously. Persephone's

creators are considering ways to speed her up.

The robot's begins by saying: "My name is Persephone,
I am the daughter of the goddess Demeter and the wife of Pluto, the god of the underworld. I welcome you to my un-

der Earth kingdom, the Alistrati Cave." Many visitors are intrigued by the robot guide.

"It was surprising for me. I've never experienced such a thing. Actually, honestly, I prefer a live guide, but it's interesting doing it this way. And I like the pace of the robot. It goes slower, so I can look around," said Patrick Markes, a Czech visitor.

Markes listened to the first three stops from the robot in his native language and the rest in English from a human

"I should thank Persephone, our robot, she said very fine things," said Christos Tenis, a Greek visitor. "I'm impressed by the cave. Of course, we had a flawless (human) guide, she explained many things. I'm very impressed."

Persephone is not the only technology used inside the cave. There's a cellphone app in which a visitor, scanning a QR code, can see the Alistrati Beroni. That's a microorganism that is only found in this cave, in the huge mounds of bat droppings left behind when the cave was opened and the bats migrated elsewhere.

Evdokia Karafera is one of the tour guides who partners with the robot.

"It is helpful, because it speaks many languages. There's just a little delay in the touring," she said. "Most find it fascinating, especially the children, and find it interesting that it speaks many languages."

Karafera insisted, however, that human tour guides cannot be completely replaced.

"Robots, at some point in the future, will take over many jobs. But I believe they cannot replace humans everywhere," she said. "(Visitors say) 'the robot is interesting, original, but can't substitute for the human contact with the guide and the conversation we can have on the way back'.'

Also:

AMSTERDAM: Dutch Queen **Maxima** teamed up with a small robot recently to unveil a steel 3D-printed pedestrian bridge over a canal in the heart of Amsterdam's red light

Maxima pushed a green button that set the robot's arm in motion to cut a ribbon across the bridge with a pair of

The distinctive flowing lines of the 12-meter (40-foot) bridge were created using a 3D printing technique called wire and arc additive manufacturing that combines robotics with welding.

Tim Geurtjens, of the company MX3D, said the bridge showcases the possibilities of the technology.

"If you want to have a really highly decorated bridge or really aesthetic bridge, suddenly it becomes a good option to print it," he said. "Because it's not just about making things cheaper and more efficient for us, it's about giving architects and designers a new tool — a new very cool tool - in which they can rethink the design of their architecture and their designs.'

The 6-ton structure will be loaded with sensors that researchers at Imperial College London will use to monitor the bridge in real time and gauge how it reacts to being used by pedestrians.

It will remain in place for two years while the bridge that previously spanned the canal is renovated.

Micha Mos, a councillor at Amsterdam municipality, said the bridge could help bring in new tourists as the the city seeks to clean up a neighborhood known for seedy clubs and noisy stag parties.

"This may attract a new kind of visitor, one who is more interested in architecture and design, which will help change the way the neighborhood is perceived as more of something you want to visit but visit respectfully than it has been over the few last decades," he said.



Persephone guides the visitors inside Alistrati cave, about 135 kilometers (84 miles) northeast of Thessaloniki, Greece, Aug 2. Persephone, billed as the world's first robot used as a tour guide inside a cave, has been welcoming visitors to the Alistrati cave, since mid-July. (AP)



A wild horse arrives at a watering trough, July 8, 2021, near US Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. The government says it must round up thousands of wild horses to protect the parched land and the animals themselves, but wild-horse advocates accuse them of using the conditions as an excuse to move out more of the iconic animals to preserve cattle grazing. (AP)



Newsom

Discovery

'Quake cause for ship's leak': A ship that sank off Kodiak Island four decades ago has started to leak diesel fuel, and a state official suspects ground shaking from last month's massive magnitude 8.2 earthquake might be the reason. The vessel sank in 1989 in Womens

Bay, "and it's been resting there since," Jade Gamble, the state's on-scene spill coordinator, told CoastAlaska. The first reports of an oil sheen came in

a week after the July 28 earthquake, the largest in the US in the past half-century. It's not clear how much diesel fuel or other contaminants remain on the Saint Patrick

The 138-foot (42-meter) former scallop boat was hit by a rogue wave in November 1981 near Marmot Island. The crew of 12 abandoned ship; only two survived. The vessel eventually was towed to Womens Bay, where it later sank.

"They've been able to minimize the leak," Gamble said. "Our main goal is to ensure we don't have some type of catastrophic release.

An official at the Alaska Earthquake Center said it's not clear if the quake is responsible for the ship's leak, however. The epicenter was about 260 miles (420 kilometers) southwest of Womens Bay.

Despite its size, the quake didn't cause serious damage or produce a major tsu-

nami.

"Kodiak didn't experience anything significant," seismologist Natalia Ruppert said. "And this shipwreck being even farther away from the earthquake source, I guess it's possible." (AP)

Elephant poacher held: Indonesian police say they have arrested an elephant poacher in Aceh province along with four people who bought ivory from an animal he killed.

The elephant was found without its head on July 11 at a palm plantation in East Aceh, police said. Local police worked with the Aceh Natural Resource Conservation Center to investigate the death.

"The team found indications that the elephant had been given poison before it was killed. The team also found the elephant's head without its tusks 300 meters (1,000 feet) away," East Aceh Police Chief Eko Widiantoro told reporters Thursday.

Police arrested a suspect on Aug 10 who admitted he had tried to kill ele-

Coronavirus

WHO warns against boosters before 1st vaccines

US officials call for boosters for all

WASHINGTON, Aug 19, (AP): US health officials Wednesday announced plans to dispense COVID-19 booster shots to all Americans to shore up their protection amid the surging delta variant and signs that the vaccines' effectiveness is slipping.

The plan, as outlined by the chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other top health authorities, calls for an extra dose eight months after people get their second shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. The doses could begin the week of

Sept. 20. "Our plan is to protect the American people, to stay ahead of this virus," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said as the agency cited a raft of studies suggesting that the vaccines are losing ground while the highly contagious variant spreads.

People who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine will also probably need extra shots, health officials said. But they said they are waiting for more data.

Officials said that before any booster program starts up, the Food and Drug Administration and a CDC advisory panel would need to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of an extra dose.

"We have a responsibility to give the maximum amount of protection," President Joe Biden said at the White House. He added that extra doses are also "the best way to protect ourselves from new variants that could arise."

The announcement came the same day the Biden administration said it would require nursing homes to mandate vaccinations for staffers in order to continue receiving federal funds. Hundreds of thousands of nursing home workers remain unvaccinated, despite the heightened risk of fatal infections among elderly residents.

Officials said it is "very clear" that the vaccines' protection against infections wanes over time, and they noted the worsening picture in Israel, which has seen a rise in severe cases, many of them in people already inoculated.

They said the US needs to get out ahead of the problem before it takes a more lethal turn here and starts leading to increasing hospitalizations and deaths among the vaccinated.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's foremost expert on COVID-19, said one of the key lessons of the coronavirus is that it's better to "stay ahead of it than chasing after it.'

phants five times since 2017 by poisoning

them, but had succeeded only twice, in-

cluding the recent death, Widiantoro said. On July 19, he and a partner poisoned

The first boosters would go to people in high-priority groups that received the initial US vaccinations: nursing home residents, health workers and those with underlying health conditions. Health officials are likely to recommend that the booster be the same brand of vaccine that people received initially. Dr. Mark Mulligan of NYU's Lan-

gone Health center welcomed the announcement, saying: "Part of leadership is being able to see around the corner and make hard decisions without having all the data. It seems to me that's what they're doing here.' Top scientists at the World Health

Organization bitterly objected to the US plan, noting that poor countries are not getting enough vaccine for their initial rounds of shots.

"We're planning to hand out extra life jackets to people who already have life jackets, while we're leaving other people to drown without a single life jacket," said Dr Michael Ryan, the WHO's emergencies chief. The organization's top scientist,

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, said the evidence does not show boosters are needed for everyone, and she warned that leaving billions of people in the developing world unvaccinated could foster the emergence of new variants and result in "even more dire situa-

US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy rejected the notion that the US must choose between "America and the world," saying: "We clearly see our responsibility to both."

Donated

White House officials noted that the US has donated 115 million doses to 80 countries, more than all other nations combined. They said the US has plenty of vaccine to dispense boosters to its own population.

Last week, US health officials recommended a third shot for some people with weakened immune systems, such as cancer patients and organ transplant recipients. Offering boosters to all Americans would be a major expansion of what is already the biggest vaccination campaign in US history. Nearly 200 million Americans have received at least one shot.

Some experts have expressed concern that calling for boosters would undermine the public health message and reinforce opposition to the vaccine

mangos near a herd of wild elephants and

executed a weakened elephant two hours

later with an axe, he told police. The part-

ner is still on the run.

- by raising more doubts in the minds of people already skeptical about the shots' effectiveness.

As for why the vaccines appear to be less effective over time at stopping infections, there are indications that the body's immune response to the shots fades, as it does with other inoculations. But also, the vaccines simply may not protect against the delta variant as well as they do against the original virus. Scientists are still trying to answer the question.

Officials said the eight-month timeframe was a judgment call about when vaccine protection against severe illness might fall, based on the direction of the current data. "There's nothing magical about this number," the surgeon general said.

Nearly 20 months into the outbreak, the scourge has killed 620,000 Americans. Just weeks after the president declared the country's "independence" from COVID-19 on July Fourth, emergency rooms in parts of the South and West are overloaded again, and cases are averaging nearly 140,000 per day, quadrupling in just a month.

In making its announcement, the CDC released a number of studies conducted during the delta surge that suggest that the vaccines remain highly effective at keeping Americans out of the hospital but that their ability to prevent infection is dropping markedly.

Also:

GENEVA: The chief scientist of the World Health Organization is warning of "even more dire situations" worldwide in the coronavirus pandemic if high-income countries start administering vaccine boosters ahead of poorer countries without vaccines.

With the US health officials recommending booster shots for all Americans who have already been vaccinated, Dr Soumya Swaminathan expressed concern that leaving billions of people in the developing world unvaccinated could foster emergence of new variants, like the delta variant, that is driving new cases in the United States and beyond.

"We believe clearly that the data does not indicate that boosters are needed," Swaminathan said at a news conference in Geneva. She expressed more understanding for a recent US decision to administer boosters to people with weaker immune systems.

made the ivory into a dagger and cigarette pipe, Widiantoro said. (AP)

The suspect said he sold the ivory to

someone in East Aceh, who sold it to four

buyers in Aceh and West Java provinces.

The last buyer, a craftsman in West Java,

Officials declare water supply alert: A major Southern California water agency

has declared a water supply alert for the first time in seven years and is asking residents to voluntarily conserve. The Los Angeles Times reports that the board of the Metropolitan Water District

of Southern California took the step Tuesday, hoping to lessen the need for more severe actions such as reducing water supplies to member agencies. The move comes a day after US officials declared the first-ever water shortage

on the Colorado River, a key water source for Southern California. "This is a wake-up call for what lies ahead," said Deven Upadhyay, chief op-

erating officer for the district that supplies water to 19 million Californians. "We cannot overstate the seriousness of this drought," he said. "Conditions are getting worse, and more importantly, we

don't know how long it will last." California Gov Gavin Newsom last month asked Californians to scale back water use and many of the state's counties, mostly in Central and Northern California, are already under a state of

drought emergency. (AP)

A Kenyan woman receives a dose of AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine donated by Britain, at the Makongeni Estate in Nairobi, Kenya, Aug 14. In late June, the international system for sharing coronavirus vaccines sent about 530,000 doses to Britain — more than double the amount sent that month to the entire continent of Africa. It was the latest example of how a system that was supposed to guarantee low and middle-income countries vaccines is failing, leaving them at the mercy of haphazard donations from rich countries. (AP



Journalist Joe Galloway, chronicler of Vietnam War, dies

WASHINGTON, Aug 19, (AP): Longtime American foreign correspondent **Joseph L. Galloway**, best known for his book recounting a pivotal battle in the Vietnam War that was made into a Hollywood movie, has died. He was 79.

A native of Refugio, Texas, Galloway spent 22 years as a war correspondent and bureau chief for United Press International, including serving four tours in Vietnam. He then worked for US News & World Report magazine and Knight Ridder newspapers in a series of overseas roles, including reporting from the Gulf War in 1991.

Galloway died Wednesday morning, his wife, Grace Galloway, told The Associated Press, after being hospitalized near their home in Concord, North Carolina. He is also survived by two sons and a stepdaughter.

"He was the kindest, most gentle and loving man," Grace Galloway said. "He loved the boys and girls of the US military. He loved his

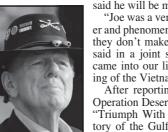
With co-author retired US Army Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, Galloway wrote "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young," which recounted his and Moore's experience during a bloody 1965 battle with the North Vietnamese in the Ia Drang Valley. The book became a national bestseller and was made into the 2002 movie "We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson as Moore and Barry Pepper as Galloway.

"Joe has my respect and admiration — a combat reporter in the field who willingly flew into hot spots and, when things got tough, was not afraid to take up arms to fight for his country and his brothers," Gibson said Wednesday.

Galloway was decorated with a Bronze Star Medal with V in 1998 for rescuing wounded soldiers under fire during the la Drang battle.

He is the only civilian awarded a medal of valor by the US Army for actions in combat during the Vietnam War.

Galloway also served as a consultant for the 2016 PBS documentary "The Vietnam War," directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. They said he will be missed.



Galloway

"Joe was a very brave and courageous reporter and phenomenal storyteller the likes of which they don't make anymore," Burns and Novick said in a joint statement. "We were lucky he came into our lives and made our understanding of the Vietnam War that much more vivid."

After reporting from the front lines during Operation Desert Storm, Galloway co-authored "Triumph With Victory: The Unreported History of the Gulf War." As he approached age 50, that was Galloway's last combat assignment, but not the end of his career covering the

US military. In 2002, Knight Ridder asked Galloway to return to reporting after a stint as an adviser to Secretary of State Colin Powell to bolster its Washington bureau's coverage of the Bush administration's case for ousting Saddam Hussein.

Galloway did that by contributing, often anonymously, to his colleagues' stories and by writing a column that often was critical of Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who were bent on invading Iraq.

John Walcott, Galloway's longtime editor and friend, recounted how

an exasperated Rumsfeld finally asked Joe to meet with him alone in his office. When Joe arrived, he was greeted by Rumsfeld — and a group of other high-ranking Pentagon officials.

"Good," Galloway reported when he returned to the Knight Ridder office. "I had 'em surrounded."

According to Walcott, Galloway then described how after Rumsfeld accused him of relying on retired officers and officials, he had told the group that most of his sources were on active duty, and that some of them "might even be in this room."

Asked by his colleagues if that was true, Galloway replied, "No, but it was fun watching 'em sweat like whores in church.'

Galloway's critical coverage of the Bush administration's case for invading Iraq was later portrayed in "Shock and Awe," with fellow Texan Tommy Lee Jones playing Galloway.

"The thing about Joe is that there wasn't a dishonest bone in his body," Rob Reiner, the movie's director, told the AP by phone. "He spoke truth to power. ... We will miss him, there's very few people who hold his level of integrity."

Clark Hoyt, former Washington editor for Knight Ridder, said it was a privilege to work with Galloway, who he called one of the great war correspondents of all time.

"He earned the trust and respect of those he was covering but never lost his ear for false notes, as shown by his contributions to Knight

Ridder's skeptical reporting on the run up to the Iraq war," Hoyt said. Walcott said he was an exemplar of what journalism should be. From the People's Army of Vietnam to Rumsfeld, no one ever intimi-

dated Galloway other than his wife, Gracie, Walcott said.

Variety



The National September 11 Memorial and Museum, (bottom), is surrounded by high-rise towers on Sept. 8, 2017, in New York. Museum officials have objected and sought changes to 'The Outsider,' a documentary being released this week that reveals disputes that went into development of the Sept. 11 memorial and museum, which opened in 2014. (AP)

Film

NASHVILLE, Tenn: Country singer Sam Hunt has pleaded guilty to drinking and driving in

Tennessee. Hunt entered the plea Wednesday in Davidson County Circuit

He was arrested in 2019 and charged with driving under the influence and violating open container law. An arrest warrant said officers found Hunt swerving

made the "poor and selfish" decision to drive himself home after a friend's show in Nashville.

Under the plea agreement, his jail sentence of 11 months and 29 days was suspended except for 48 hours, which he agreed to serve at the DUI Education Centers, an alternative sentencing facility. He must also complete an alcohol safety course and will lose his

Prior to his successful solo career, Hunt was credited for writing singles for Kenny Chesney, Keith Urban. Billy Currington, and Reba McEntire. His debut studio album, Montevallo, broke several chart records with five singles spawned from the record, including three consecutive Hot Country Songs chart and four Country Airplay chart number ones. (AP)

Manson approached a videographer at his 2019 concert in New Hampshire and allegedly spit and blew snot on her, according to a police affidavit released Wednes-

Brian Hugh Warner, surrendered last month to police in Los Angeles in connection with a 2019 arrest warrant in the case. The allegations were detailed in the affidavit that released along with the

Manson is charged with two misdemeanor counts of simple assault stemming from an alleged incident on Aug 19, 2019, at the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion in Gilford. The misdemeanor charges can each result in a jail sentence of less than a year and a \$2,000 fine if convicted.

An arraignment hearing on the charges will be scheduled for Sept

Court to misdemeanor DUI

2 at Laconia District Court in New

license for a year.

LOS ANGELES: Rocker Marilyn

day.

Manson, whose legal name is

criminal complaint in the case.

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): A new film reveals and charges, the Tennessean reported. renews the tensions that went into creating the Sept. 11 museum beneath the memorial waterfalls and re-

between lanes and pulled him over. Hunt later apologized, saying he

flecting pool at the World Trade Center. Unhappy museum officials have objected and sought changes to "The Outsider," a documentary being released this week that reveals conflicting visions behind the New York landmark, which opened in 2014.

The film becomes public Thursday through an unusual venue — Facebook, which will stream it to users for \$3.99. Following that, it will be available in some theaters and on other streaming services leading up the 20th anniversary of the attack.

The "outsider" is Michael Shulan, former creative director at the museum, who was often at odds with Alice Greenwald, current president and CEO, and her allies. The two worked for several years on its development and grew to have fundamental differences on how the story should be presented.

Essentially, Shulan felt the museum should be more welcoming, and better address what led up to the attack and its aftermath — wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and restrictions on personal liberty in the US. Some critics feel the facility now is hard to stomach with a concentration on the horrors of the day.

"Michael wanted to engender questions," narrator Bob Garfield says in the film. "Alice wanted to pro-

The husband-and-wife filmmakers, Steven Rosenbaum and Pamela Yoder, have their own history documenting Sept. 11, 2001. Their company was filming a show for Animal Planet in Manhattan that day, but pivoted after the planes hit. Rosenbaum told his crews to film what was happening in the street. That material and other crowd-sourced video was used for the 2002 film, "7 Days in September."

In 2008, they granted rights to the museum to use what it wanted of the 500 hours of video collected that week. In return, they were offered behind-thescenes access to the museum's work with thoughts that it could make an interesting film in itself.

Film bares disputes behind 9/11 museum "It was meant to be an observational documentary," Rosenbaum said. "For the first two years, the

'It's nationalistic, belligerent and grievance-based'

museum was what we were told it was going to be." Shulan, not part of the world of museums and curation, was recruited for his job after he opened a photo gallery of work from 9/11. He was an outsider. He became frustrated with those museum profes-

sionals and, clearly, they with him. The filmmakers took his side in the dispute, and said they don't like what the museum has become.

"It's nationalistic, belligerent and grievancebased," Rosenbaum said. "If you went, you would wind up feeling sad and angry, and is that what a museum is supposed to do?'

Shulan declined comment on the film, other than to say he wasn't aware of its focus on him until after it was completed. He left the museum after it opened, as he always intended.

Ideological

The museum's spokeswoman, Lee Cochran, said "The Outsider" looks at the facility through a spe-

cific ideological lens that "we do not share. "At a moment when so many institutions in the US are subject to ideological and partisan divisions, the Memorial & Museum must remain a sacred place that seeks to educate and unify," Cochran said. "We made clear to the filmmakers that we were disappointed by many of their decisions, which we think

are disrespectful towards victims and their families." A concentration on how 9/11 changed America would make the museum outdated as soon as it opened, the museum has argued.

Museum officials had the right to review the film, primarily for security issues, and screened it in May. A few weeks later, its lawyer sent filmmakers a lengthy list of objections.

Most have been ignored, and some seem trivial. Officials claimed, for example, that a scene showing an exchange about potential items for sale at the museum's gift shop was defamatory. They said including a staff member's offhand comment that "fruit is so much healthier than donuts" would damage that

person's reputation. They also objected to filmmakers showing museum officials reviewing a harrowing audiotape of a woman in the World Trade Center talking to an emergency operator as she realizes she's about to die, and video that shows victims either jumping or falling to their deaths.

Since both were rejected for potential display, the museum said these scenes will be unnecessarily tough to watch. Filmmakers said they wanted to illustrate the type of difficult decisions the creative director and curators faced.

Besides, editorial choices are their prerogative,

not the museum's, they said. After making their objections known, the museum said it is not pursuing them further, nor making any attempt to stop the film's distribution.

Separate from the film, Rosenbaum and Yoder said they are concerned about the museum imposing restrictions on how researchers use the video that they donated. The museum said it has the right to review portrayal of the footage to ensure accuracy but isn't aware of any

researcher yet requesting to see some. That raises the question of whether a grudge against museum officials may have affected their choices in making "The Outsider." Rosenbaum said the film was finished before they learned about the

potential access issue. The film's timing is difficult for the museum, which has seen attendance drop because of the pandemic and cut back jobs and days that it is open.

Going to Facebook to first distribute the film is a novel approach and something of a test run, since it is believed to be the first time it has been tried. Filmmakers said they aren't aware that Facebook is promoting "The Outsider."

"It could be millions of audience members or it could be 35," Rosenbaum said. "It's impossible to know and it's gut-wrenching."

Hampshire.

Manson's attorney did not immediately respond to requests for comment Wednesday.

Susan Fountain, a videographer, was in the venue's stage pit area at the time of the alleged assault. Her company, Metronome Media, was contracted by the Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion





first time, put his face close to the camera and spit a "big lougee" at her. She was struck on both hands with saliva. Manson allegedly returned a

According to the affidavit,

Manson approached Fountain the

for the concert season.

second time, covering one side of his nostril and blowing in

Fountain's direction. Fountain put down her camera and went to the restroom to wash her hands and arms that had Manson's bodily fluids on them.

Manson also has faced abuse accusations — unrelated to the New Hampshire incident - in recent years. He has denied

In February, actor Evan Rachel Wood publicly accused Manson, her ex-fiance, of sexual and other physical abuse, alleging she was 'manipulated into submission" during their relationship. Months later, "Game of Thrones" actor Esmé Bianco sued Manson in federal court in Los Angeles, alleging sexual, physical and emotional abuse. (AP)

People & Places



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Hugh Jackman in a scene from 'Reminiscence.' (AP)

Books

Business thriller

Musk bet everything he had on Tesla, Inc

By Jeff Rowe

6 Dower Play: Tesla, Elon Musk, and the Bet of the Century,' by Tim Higgins (Doubleday)

Space exploration, solar power, electric cars — the fortune Elon Musk had made for his role in creating PayPal, the online payment system, gave him the money to plunge into those arenas. "Power Play: Tesla, Elon Musk, and the Bet of the Century" by Tim Higgins focuses on Tesla, the electric car concept that survived more near-death experiences than a Harrison Ford character.

In the author's telling, Musk emerges as the quintessential American entrepreneur — driven, intelligent, focused and confident in his own abilities, vision and judgements.

Except that Musk is South African by birth and upbringing, Canadian by immigration choice, finally arriving in the United States to attend the University of Pennsylvania and then, on to graduate studies at Stanford University.

But academic life couldn't match Musk's entrepreneurial fervor. First, he was an investor in Tesla but every time he went to the bank for more

money for the carmaker, he increased his control. "Power Play" is a business thriller for real. Multiple times in the journey to launch the Tesla, the effort teeters on the edge of technological and financial cliffs. The Great Recession alone should have rolled over Tesla, but with the cool resolve of a fighter pilot, Musk steers the company to success.

Higgins explains Musk this way: "Belief created the vision, the vision would create the market, the market could create cash and cash would create cars. It didn't seem to hurt Tesla that Musk could be bitingly blunt, cranky and uncompromising.

Musk declined to cooperate with Higgins on this book, which is unfortunate because Musk's name now clearly belongs with Carnegie, Ford and Jobs in the hall of great American entrepreneurs.

If only we knew what Musk was thinking, his thought process in forming and guiding his companies, his vision for setting and accomplishing goals and how he embraced and redefined California's entrepreneurial culture. Higgins offers us the next-best thing, a clear, deeply reported and engaging account of how Musk launched a truly transformational car.

"Everything I Have Is Yours," Eleanor Henderson (Flatiron Books)

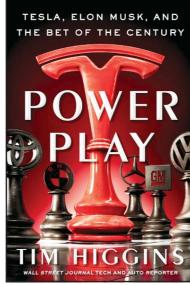
A love story and medical mystery all in one, Eleanor Henderson's memoir "Everything I Have Is Yours" chronicles her husband's battle with an unidentifiable illness, as well as the toll it takes on their relationship and family.

Henderson takes readers through almost a decade of Aaron's constantly evolving symptoms, from unexplainable lesions on his body to depression to hearing voices to Aaron's absolute certainty that his body has been invaded by parasites. Together, the couple meet an endless stream of doctors and psychologists, who diagnose him with everything from schizophrenia to Bell's palsy. Meanwhile, Aaron is not getting better, and the couple must also focus on raising their two children, as well as the other everyday challenges of marriage and family life.

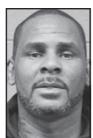
As they attend medical conferences, couple's therapy, and more, Henderson invites readers to question the link between mental and physical illness, asking herself what criteria is needed to make an illness real.

Interwoven with this journey, Eleanor also shares their love story, how they fell for each other at such young ages and remained ever-committed to building a life together.

Henderson's writing will pull at your every heart string. She is raw, emotional, vulnerable. Through it all, she allows herself to be wholly human. As often as she does the right thing to help Aaron, Henderson also reveals all the times she said and did the wrong one, all the errors she made on her journey to be the best, most supportive wife she could be. (AP)



This cover image released by Doubleday shows 'Power Play: Tesla, Elon Musk, and the Bet of the Century' by Tim Higgins. (AP)





Johansson

Variety

LO ANGELES: Scarlett Johansson is a mom to two now. The "Black Widow" star recently gave birth to a son, Cosmo, with husband Colin Jost, the "Saturday Night Live" star wrote on Instagram Wednesday. This is the first child for the couple, who were married last October.

"Ok, OK, we had a baby. His name is Cosmo. We love him very much," was

Jost's brief note People magazine first reported the birth of the baby, which came as a shock to many since news of the pregnancy came out only days earlier after Jost reportedly mentioned it in a stand-up set in Connecticut. No other details were provided. (AP)

NEW YORK: R&B star **R. Kelly** is a predator who lured girls, boys and young women with his fame and dominated them physically, sexually and psychologically, a prosecutor said Wednesday, while a defense lawyer warned jurors they'll have to sift through lies from accusers with agendas to find the truth.

The differing perspectives came as the long-anticipated trial began unfolding in a **Brooklyn** courtroom where several accusers were scheduled to testify in the next month about the Grammy-winning, multiplatinum-selling singer whose career has been derailed by charges that have left him jailed as he goes broke.

Jerhonda Pace, the first government witness, told jurors Wednesday that she was a 16-year-old and a member of Kelly's fan club when he invited her to his mansion in 2010. He immediately told her to take off her clothing, Pace said.

"He asked me to continue to tell everyone I was 19 and act like I was 21," she

They continued to see each other for another six months, with Kelly growing more and more controlling and erupting in violence when she broke what she called "Rob's rules." One time he grew so angry, "He slapped me and choked me until I passed out," she said with no hint of

Afterward, he spit in her face, she said. She kept a blue T-shirt from the episode that has provided DNA evidence of the misconduct, prosecutors said.

The Associated Press doesn't name alleged victims of sexual abuse without

Film

Joy's film will leave you soaked with unease

An underwater world in 'Reminiscence'

By Jake Coyle

Tust as surely as climate change J is scarring the land and warming the seas, it is also flooding our

The planet's imperiled future has been in the DNA of disaster movies like "The Day After Tomorrow" for years, of course. But lately, climate has taken a more leading role in films proliferating as quickly as ice caps are melting. This summer has seen the parched, Australian thriller "The Dry" (good movie, by the way) and "The Tomorrow War," a -traveling war movie that leads to an apocalyptic threat unlocked by thawing permafrost.

In Lisa Joy's "Reminiscence." which debuts in theaters and on HBO Max on Friday, the first thing we see is water. The movie is set in a mostly submerged Miami in the near future, with canals flowing through high-rises in some sections. In other areas braced by an ocean wall, there are perpetual puddles. To escape the daytime heat, the city has also turned nocturnal. Or, at least, more so.

What would it be like living in such a world? It's reasonable, maybe even responsible to consider it. Joy, who wrote and directed the movie, has sensibly concluded we would probably spend a lot of time remembering better days. In "Reminiscence," she has fashioned a shadowy, future-set film noir, with all the genre trappings of a hardboiled narrator, a slinky femme fatale, Venetian blinds and, most relevantly, a sense of the past's irrevocable hold over our lives — and our planet's.

That makes "Reminiscence" both kind of terrifyingly ominous to watch and a little comforting. Who knew that environmental disaster could be so stylish? The seas may

their consent unless they have spoken

publicly extensively. Pace has appeared in

a documentary and participated in media

be encroaching, but at least you can still get a stiff drink at a seedy nightclub and tersely muse on the past

like private eyes of earlier times. In "Reminiscence," everyone is hooked on nostalgia, which makes Nick Bannister's memory-weaving machine, in which people lie down in a shallow tank and are transported to any time from their past, something more like a drug den. "Nothing is more addictive than the past," narrates Bannister (Hugh Jackman). With soothing direction, he guides customers to cherished memories a tryst with a lost love, playing fetch with a beloved dog — which are illuminated on a round stage draped in translucent strings. (The production design by Howard Cummings is consistently terrific throughout.)

Melodrama

It's a fallen world, rampant in lawlessness, corruption and ennui. Bannister is a veteran of the wars that came when the waters rose. But Jackman, whose range extends from song-and-dance musicals ("The Greatest Showman") to suburban scandal ("Bad Education"), exudes little of the trauma of anyone who's been through war. Jackman is a more reassuring presence. He doesn't slide into noir with the weariness of, say, Harrison Ford, or the disillusionment of Humphrey Bogart. But, then again, "Reminiscence" gradually grows more in the direction of melodrama than its dark premise might suggest.

"Reminiscence" properly starts with an old-fashioned kind of encounter: an alluring lady looking for her keys. Just after closing time, in walks Mae (Rebecca Ferguson), in a handsome red dress. There's immediately chemistry between her and Bannister, which his col-

"This case is not about a celebrity who

likes to party a lot," Assistant US Attorney

Maria Cruz Melendez told the jury as

league, Watts (a typically very good Thandiwe Newton) eyes skeptically. She's a singer at a club in a dark, neon-lit offshore district. Their first night out ends with Bannister taking her home, in a dingy by daylight.

As you might imagine, "Reminiscence" begins to play with what's real and what's memory, blurring the lines in between. When Mae disappears, Bannister begins pouring over their time together, searching for clues — some of which begin cropping up in other cases, including one involving a New Orleans drug kingpin (Daniel Wu). To a remarkable degree — complete with a mysterious, disfigured bad guy (Cliff Curtis) — Joy's film is peopled by the dependable types of the genre. The story is never quite as impactful as the rising-seas set-up.

'Reminiscence" is Joy's featurefilm debut, but as the creator of the HBO series "Westworld," she has already proven her considerable talent in fashioning vivid, intelligent sci-fi worlds out of contemporary anxieties. "Reminiscence" may turn too sentimental and mutter a bit too much about "the past." Like its characters, it's drunk on what came before, relying too heavily on noir tropes. But its smart, thoughtprovoking concept isn't so easy to shake off. The images of a half-submerged Miami are too eerily realistic. As Bannister sloshes around in shallows and dives deeper into the depths, "Reminiscence" will leave you soaked with unease.

"Reminiscence," a Warner Bros. release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for strong violence, drug material throughout, sexual content and some strong language. Running time: 116 minutes. Two and a half

stars out of four. (AP)

predator."

She said he distributed backstage passes to entice children and women to join him, sometimes at his home or studio, where he then "dominated and controlled them physically, sexually and psychologically."

"What his success and popularity brought him was access, access to girls, boys and young women," she said.

But Kelly's attorney, Nicole Blank Becker, portrayed her client as a victim of women, some of whom enjoyed the "notoriety of being able to tell their friends that they were with a superstar.' "He didn't recruit them. They were fans.

They came to Mr Kelly," she said, urging jurors to closely scrutinize the testimony. "They knew exactly what they were getting into. It was no secret Mr Kelly had multiple girlfriends. He was quite transparent." It would be a stretch to believe he or-

chestrated an elaborate criminal enterprise, like a mob boss, the lawyer said. Becker warned jurors they'll have to sort through "a mess of lies" from women with

an agenda. "Don't assume everybody's telling the

truth," she said.

The remarks fit a theme set by the defense in court papers prior to the trial describing Kelly's alleged victims as groupies who turned up at his shows and made it known they "were dying to be with him." The women only started accusing him of abuse years later when public sentiment shifted against him, they said. (AP)



statements.

From left: Devyn McDowell, Marion Cotillard and Simon Helberg, cast members in 'Annette,' pose together at a special screening of the film at Hollywood Forever Cemetery, Wednesday, Aug. 18, in Los Angeles. (AP)

MLS-leading Revolution beat DC United

Sounders blank FC Dallas as Sporting FC, Portland draw

FOXBOROUGH, Mass., Aug 19, (AP): Tommy Mc-Namara and Tajon Buchanan scored four minutes apart in the second half and the New England Revolution beat D.C. United 3-2.

New England (14-3-4) has won seven of its last eight games - with a draw - to stay atop the Supporters' Shield race. D.C. United (8-9-3) lost to New England for the fifth straight time.

McNamara tied it at 1 in the 49th with a curling shot from distance. Buchanan scored the go-ahead goal in the 53rd, one-touching Emmanuel Boateng cross at the back post.

DeJuan Jones made it 3-1 in the 85th by calmly sending home a loose ball from the penalty spot.

Paul Arriola opened the scoring for United in the 10th by forcing a turnover near midfield and running past the defense to Edison Flores through ball for a calm finish.

Ramón Ábila capped the scoring for United in the 96th.

Sounders 1, FC Dallas 0

In Frisco, Texas, Raúl Ruidíaz scored his MLS-leading 14th goal of the season and Seattle beat FC Dal-

Seattle (11-3-6) is unbeaten in its last three games - following a stretch of four losses in five games - and moved a point ahead of Sporting Kansas City atop the Western Conference standings with 39 points.

SOCCER

Ruidíaz had a shot blocked by defender Nkosi Tafari but the rebound went directly back to Ruidíaz, who chipped a shot off the crossbar, then the post and into the net in the 63rd minute.

Dallas dropped to 5-9-6.

Timbers 1, Sporting KC 1 In Kansas City, Kan., Dániel Sallói scored in second-half stoppage time for his 12th goal of the season and Sporting Kansas City tied Port-

Felipe Mora scored for Portland (7-9-3) in the 17th minute.

Kansas City (11-4-5) has earned just two points in its three home matches since the start of July.

Union 1, NYCFC 0

In Chester, Pa., Alejandro Bedoya scored his first goal of the season in Philadelphia's victory over New

York City.

Andre Blake had two saves for Philadelphia (8-5-7) to tie Nashville's Joe Willis and Colorado's William Yarbrough for the MLS shutout lead with eight.

Bedoya banged home a header in the 67th minute off Kai Wagner's

arcing ball from the left sideline. NYCFC (9-6-4) had its unbeaten streak end at six.

Inter Miami 3, Fire 2

In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Rodolfo Pizarro in second-half stoppage time to give Inter Miami a 3-2 victory over the Chicago Fire on Wednesday night.

one-touched Pizarro Ulloa's pass inside the far post in the 93rd for his first goal of the season.

Miami (5-9-4) won its third straight home game, while Chicago (5-10-5) had its road winless streak extended to 18 matches - with 12

Robbie Robinson tied it at 2 for Miami in the 62nd with a chip shot over goalkeeper Bobby Shuttleworth. Indiana Vassilev also scored for Miami. Francisco Calvo and Luka Stojanovic scored for Chicago.

Red Bulls 1, Crew 0

In Harrison, N.J., John Tolkin scored in the 33rd minute for his first MLS goal and New York beat Columbus

New York (6-9-4) snapped a seven-game winless streak. Columbus (6-8-6) has lost five straight matches - the longest losing streak by a defending champion since the LA Galaxy dropped seven in a row in 2006.

New York goalkeeper Carlos Cor-



New England Revolution forward Gustavo Bou (7) and D.C. United defender Steve Birnbaum (15) battle for a header during the first half of an MLS soccer match, on Aug 18, in Foxborough, Mass. (AP)



FC Dallas midfielder Bryan Acosta (8) and Seattle Sounders midfielder Nicolas Benezet (20) go after the ball in the second half during an MLS soccer match, on Aug. 18, in Frisco, Texas. (AP)

Cort Nielsen wins Vuelta sixth stage

ALTO DE LA MONTAÑA DE CULLERA, Spain, Aug 19, (AP): Magnus Cort Nielsen won the sixth stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Thursday after holding off a hard-charging Primoz Roglic, who took back the red leader's shirt with his second-place finish.

Cort Nielsen was part of an early five-man breakaway on the mostly flat 158.3-kilometer (98.3-mile) ride along Spain's eastern coast. The Danish sider for EF Education had just enough left to cross the finish line first ahead of Roglic at the top of a short but steep ascent near the Cullera Castle overlooking the Mediterranean

CYCLING

It was the fourth stage win at the Spanish Grand Tour for Cort Nielsen, who also has a stage win at the Tour de France.

Roglic, the two-time defending Vuelta champion, reclaimed the race lead that he had held for the first two stages. Kenny Ellisonde lost the lead he held for one day after he struggled throughout the final stretches of the stage.

Crosswinds whipping across rice fields over the final 30 kilometers broke the peloton into groups as it wound its way through narrow tracks. Ellisonde was caught behind and had to work hard with his Trek-Segafredo team to catch up to the head of the peloton.

Atlanta United 1, Toronto FC 0 In Atlanta, Ezequiel Barco scored in the 20th minute and Atlanta beat

Atlanta (5-6-9) has won three in a row following a 12-game winless streak and is unbeaten in its last four. Toronto (3-11-6) has an MLS-low

Whitecaps 2, Austin FC 1

In Austin, Texas, Brian White had a sliding finish in the 74th minute to help Vancouver beat

stern & So

Naomi Osaka of Japan hits the ball to Cori Gauff of the United States during the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament at the Lindner Family Tennis Center, on Aug 18, in Mason, Ohio. (AP)

ing drawn five straight matches one shy of tying a MLS record. Austin (4-11-4) avoided a shutout for just the fourth time in its last

Jakob Nerwinski tied it at 1 for Vancouver in the 52nd minute. Alexander Ring opened the scor-

Montreal 0, FC Cincinnati 0 In Cincinnati, Sebastian Breza made three saves for his first MLS shutout

ing for Austin in the 37th.

and Montreal finished a man down in the draw with FC Cincinnati. Rudy Comacho was shown a yellow card in the 68th minute and then another in the 74th and Montreal (7-7-6) played with 10 men the rest of the way.

win in its last eight games. Real Salt Lake 2, Dynamo 1 In Sandy, Utah, Anderson Julio rolled a shot inside the post in the

88th minute to lift Real Salt Lake

past Houston.

Cincinnati (3-7-8) has just one

Salt Lake (7-6-6). It has won backto-back games and has just one loss Fafà Picault scored for Houston

Justin Meram also scored for Real

(3-8-9). The Dynamo have lost four games in a row and are win-

Orlando City 1, Nashville 1

In Nashville, Tenn., C.J. Sapong scored his fourth goal in the last three games and Nashville tied Orlando City Nashville (7-2-11) moved a point

ahead of New York City FC for second in the Eastern Conference standings with 32.

Antônio Carlos tied it for Orlando City (8-4-7) in the 58th minute.

Osaka tested by Gauff, wins 3-setter in tour return

Murray eliminated by 9th-seeded Hurkacz

MASON, Ohio, Aug 19, (AP): Two days after a thoughtful exchange with a local sports columnist, Naomi Osaka delivered a more relevant statement on the court.

Down a set and a break to 17-year-old Coco Gauff, the second-ranked Osaka fought back to pull out a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 win at the Western & Southern Open, her first WTA Tour event since the French Open in late May.

Osaka appreciated being tested so quickly.

"It's definitely been a while since I played a tough opponent in a three-set match," she said. "It was definitely really tough, but I feel really good right now. I'm super excited to play another match.

Citing discomfort with post-match news conferences, the four-time Grand Slam champion withdrew from Roland Garros and skipped Wimbledon. She was eliminated in the round of 16 at the Tokyo Olympics after lighting the

Olympic cauldron in her native Ja-

The 23-year-old Osaka is outspoken on many social issues and announced during Monday's prematch media session that she would be donating her tournament prize money to earthquake-ravaged Haiti, her father's homeland Cincinnat Enquirer columnist Paul Daugherty asked how she balanced her discomfort with news conferences and her

need to speak out. Osaka paused in thought and, declining the moderator's suggestion to move on from the topic, asked Daugherty to repeat the question. She responded with what the writer later described as the best answer he's ever heard in 34 years of covering sports.

TENNIS

"Um, I mean, for me, I feel like this is something that I can't - I can't really speak for everybody," she said. "I can only speak for myself, but ever since I was younger, I have had a lot of media interest on me, and I think it's because of my background as well as, you know, how I play, because in the first place, I'm a tennis player.

"That's why a lot of people are interested in me, so I would say in that regard, I'm quite different to a lot of people, and I can't really help that there are some things that I tweet or some things that I say that kind of create a lot of news articles or things like that, and I know it's because I have won a couple of Grand Slams, and I have gotten to do a lot of press conferences that these things happen, but I would also say, like, I'm not really sure how to balance the two. Like I'm figuring it out at the same time as you are, I would say.'

While Osaka appeared comfortable during the exchange, her agent, Stuart Duguid, described Daugherty on Twitter as a "bully."

In other matches, top-ranked Ash Barty needed a second-set tiebreaker to beat Heather Watson, 6-4, 7-6 (3) in a match postponed from Tuesday by rain. Three-time Grand Slam champion Angelique Kerber upset fourth-seeded Elina Svitolina.

Simona Halep, the 12th seed, withdrew with a right thigh injury.

Men's top seed Daniil Medvedev cruised to a 6-2, 6-2 win in 59 minutes over wild card Mackenzie McDonald, and three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray was eliminated by ninth-seeded Hubert Hurkacz.

Both Olympic singles gold medalists, Alexander Zverev and Belinda Bencic, and men's No. 2 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas all advanced in straight sets. Two-time Slam champion Garbine Muguruza and fifthseeded Karolina Pliskova also won in straight sets.

Malard lifts Lyon past Barcelona

Teenager Moultrie scores first pro goal as Thorns down Dash

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 19, (AP): Fifteen-year-old Olivia Moultrie scored her first professional goal on a free kick and the Portland Thorns went on to defeat the Houston Dash 3-1 on a penalty shootout after a 2-2 draw in the Women's International Champions Cup.

Shelby Hogan, making her pro debut in goal for the Thorns, made three saves during the shootout

buried her attempt to clinch it for Portland. The Thorns advance to ply in WICC title game Saturday. Melvine Malard

Simone Charley

Moultrie scored in the 85th

minute to give Lyon a 3-2 victory over Barcelona in the earlier match.

Moultrie, who turned professional at 13 and signed a deal with Nike, filed a lawsuit against the National Women's Soccer League in May asserting that she should be able to play despite a rule prohibiting players under 18.

A judge granted a preliminary injunction allowing her to play in June, and she eventually reached a settlement with the league. She became the youngest player to appear in a league match when she made her debut on July 3 against Racing Louisville.

Moultire's goal came on a free kick in the 57th minute and tied the match at 2-all.

Houston's Shea Groom scored in the 17th and 41st minutes. Portland closed the gap in the 51st minute with Natalia Kuikka's goal.

"I'm just so glad it went in, because all I cared about was winning the game, and for us moving on to the next match. And that's what we did," Moultrie said. "So I couldn't be more happy."

Because it was not a league match, Moultrie has yet to score her first NWSL goal.

SOCCER

Mariona scored both of Barcelona's goals, while Amel Majri and Amandine Henry added goals for Lyon.

Lyon, the 2020 UEFA Champions League winner, is the defending champion from the 2019 WICC. Barcelona qualified for the event as the 2020 Spanish league leader.

The Thorns qualified for the tournament as winners of the NWSL's fall series, while the Dash won last sum-

mer's Challenge Cup in Utah. New York-based Relevent Sports Group, which puts on the International Champions Cup for men's club teams each summer, added the women's competition in 2018. Last year's event was cancelled because of the coronavi-

Polish Olympian auctions silver medal to help sick child

An Olympic athlete from Poland auctioned her silver medal from the Tokyo Games to raise money for a life-saving operation for an infant boy, and then was told by the buyer that she could keep her prize.

Maria Andrejczyk, a 25-year-old javelin thrower who overcame bone cancer and a shoulder injury to compete at this year's Olympics, said she decided to auction her medal to help the boy knowing how much she had to "fight against adversity and pain."

The money is for Milosz Malysa, an infant with a heart defect whose family has been raising funds for him to be operated on in the United States. Milosz's parents posted last week that the boy was at risk of dying soon without the surgery.

Zabka, a popular convenience store chain in Poland, bid 200,000 zlotys (\$51,000) but said it would let the athlete keep her medal.

"We were moved by the beautiful and extremely noble gesture of our Olympian," Zabka said.

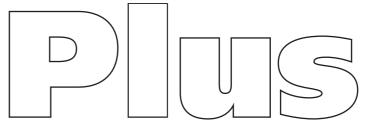
Fans have contributed an additional 300,000 (\$76,500) to help the boy. Even before the winning bid was

made, the authorities in Andrejczyk's community in Poland said they were prepared to make her a replica of the medal. (AP)



Silver medalist Maria Andrejczyk, of Poland, poses on the podium during the medal ceremony for the women's javelin throw at the 2020 Summer Olympics, on Aug. 7, in Tokyo. (AP)

Sports





'It's OK not to be OK'

Mental health advocacy part of post-Olympic tour: Biles



In this Aug. 3, 2021 file photo, Simone Biles performs on the balance beam during the artistic gymnastics women's apparatus final at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. (AP)

I gave an outlet for athletes to speak up about their mental health and their well-being and learn that you can put yourself (as a person) first before the athlete. 9

• It's definitely helped

me navigate the art

possibility. 9

world and helped me

know that it's actually a

By Will Graves

Simone Biles didn't plan for her second Olympics to become a flashpoint in the evolving conversation about the role proper mental health plays in all levels of sports.

Then again, she's hardly complaining. If anything, she's leaning

The American gymnastics star has no regrets about her decision to optout of five of the six finals in Tokyo because of a mental block, calling it a small price to pay if it lets others realize they retain the right to say 'it's OK not to be OK" no matter how bright the spotlight.

"I wouldn't change anything for the world," said Biles, who left

Japan with a silver medal from the team competition and an individual bronze on balance beam. "I gave an outlet for athletes to speak up about their mental health and their wellbeing and learn that you can put yourself (as a person) first before the athlete.'

It's a message that will be part of the post-Olympic Gold Over America Tour Biles is headlining this fall. The 35-city exhibition, which kicks off in Tucson, Arizona, on Sept 21, will incorporate gymnastics and dance elements but also feature a segment led by former UCLA gymnast Katelyn Ohashi on the importance of taking care of

yourself mentally.
"We wanted to make it as relat-

able as possible and let these kids know that we've been going through these things," Biles said.

Biles will be joined on Tour by Olympic teammates Jordan Chiles and Grace McCallum as well as MyKayla Skinner and Jade Carey. Chiles and McCallum earned a silver in the team competition while Skinner won silver on vault and Carey earned gold on floor exercise. Biles qualified for the finals on all four apparatuses in Japan but pulled out of three of them to deal with "the twisties," meaning she lost her air awareness and didn't feel it was safe to compete.

She returned to capture a bronze on beam, tying her with Shannon Miller for the most career Olympic medals by an American gymnast (seven). Asked if she had any clarity on what might have brought on "the twisties," Biles thinks it may have been the buildup of various issues she's faced over the last several years.

"I mean, I'm in therapy. I go to therapy pretty religiously," she said. "And it's just something that took hold of me (where) your body and your mind tells you when enough is enough.'

While Biles' decision received the predictable backlash on social media, she called the support she's received since returning from Japan two weeks ago overwhelming. "It's been so supportive, so loving,

which I really wasn't expecting," she

said, calling the response on par with what she received after coming back from the 2016 Olympics with four gold medals, five in all.

It's one of the reasons why Biles is excited about the tour, one that she believes will differ from the post-Olympic tours formerly run by USA Gymnastics. Biles signed on as the headliner because she wanted to take the sport in a different direction. She pointed out the tour is being run by women - a first - and will be something "unique."

Also unique? The ability for college-bound athletes like Chiles, Carey and McCallum to be compensated for joining. New legislation allowing athletes to earn money for their name, image and likeness mean all three incoming freshmen can participate in the tour without losing their college eligibility.

Given the tight tour's tight schedule - it wraps up in Boston in early November - neither Chiles, Carey nor McCallum anticipate it getting in the way of preparing for college gymnastics season that begins in January.

"I never thought of going pro, I just wanted to go to school," said Chiles, who will attend UCLA. "But now that this is how it is, I've never thought of redshirting ... I think this (tour) is a great experience. ... We have to be relevant and stay relevant. We have to make sure we're still out there doing what made us who we are."

Biles also extended a tour invitation to Olympic all-around champion Sunisa Lee, who began her freshman year at Auburn last week. Biles said Lee is focused on starting college off on the right foot but is hopeful she can make a cameo appearance or two, perhaps at the tour stop in Minneapolis - Lee is from the St. Paul area - in October.

The tour will also include twotime Olympic medalist Laurie Hernandez, 2017 world champion Morgan Hurd and 2005 world champion and 2008 Olympic silver medalist Chellsie Memmel, who is in the midst of a comeback in her

While Memmel, a married mother of two, is still competing, the tour will be a goodbye to the sport for the 24-year-old Skinner, who is ready to start a family. There are worse ways to go out.

"I'm not going back to college and finishing my collegiate career as a gymnast so I think it's going to be fun to be able to finish and still be able to do gym for a little bit longer," she said. "I'm really excited for it." (AP)

NCAA's decision led to scores of deals big and small

Cleared to earn money, college athletes tap creative sides

HUNTINGTON, W.Va., Aug. 19, (AP): Will Ulmer doesn't have to hide anymore

The Marshall offensive lineman, all 6-foot-4 and 300 pounds of him, unleashed a year's worth of energy in his first on-stage performance since the start of the pandemic, playing guitar and belting out songs in his Kentucky baritone for a modest crowd outside a Huntington ice cream store.

His keychain fastened to a belt loop and a can of smokeless tobacco bulging from a back pocket, Ulmer spent an hour singing country favorites along with one he wrote before finishing up with his spin on a West Virginia favorite, John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads."

This time, he used his real name,

The NCAA's decision to allow athletes to be paid for their fame and celebrity has led to scores of deals big and small from coast to coast since July 1. Sponsorships and endorsements are the most common, but there has been another welcome wrinkle: Ulmer and other athletes are now able to show off their creative, artistic sides and earn some money while they're at it.

For Ulmer, it means being able to play his music at gigs without masking his identity under the pseudonym "Lucky Bill." For Nebraska volleyball player Lexi Sun, it has meant helping design sports apparel. For SMU defensive back Ra-Sun Kazadi, it means he can sell his art.



SMU defensive back RaSun Kazadi works on a painting at his apartment, on Aug 11, in Dallas. (AP)

"College athletes for the longest time haven't really had a lot of opportunities to make money," Ulmer said. "I think this is a great one for me. But it's not really about the money.'

Like Ulmer, Kazadi sees his craft as an extension of himself. His works are a wide-ranging assortment that includes paintings of athletes, civil rights leaders, Egyptian Queen Nefertiti and the late rapper Tupac Shakur. Among his digital works is Emmywinning actress and singer Zendaya.

A junior, Kazadi, who goes by Ra, has been painting only since high school. Some works are lighthearted and fun. Some were done as stress relief. Others reflect a certain point in his life. He also runs a separate nonprofit group to promote social justice and community conflict resolution.

"My art, it is me," Kazadi said. "Hopefully when people see it, they kind of see me. They kind of see what I'm thinking, how I'm feeling. So I feel like a lot of what I don't say is

communicated through my art." Before the NCAA change earlier this summer, Kazadi wasn't allow to connect his face to his work. A Texas law that debuted last month letting students to profit off their name, image or likeness "has made a huge change in my life," in part through art sales off his website.

He's also showcasing his work at art shows, landed a sponsorshipmentorship deal with a custom art

company, is working with real estate companies and interior designers, and there's been greater curiosity from high schools seeking to have him paint murals on their campuses.

The post-NIL interest has been so profound that Kazadi is mulling the possibility of hiring someone to help

"It's definitely helped me navigate the art world and helped me know that it's actually a possibility," he

Sun wanted her deal with volleyball apparel company Ren Athletics to allow her personality and style to shine through in the launch of her clothing line - a black sweatshirt with her name and a golden outline of the sun's rays.

"They gave me like an open slate to create whatever I wanted and I was just super excited about that freedom and being able to take advantage of that," Sun said.

It quickly sold out. Company spokeswoman Natalie Hagglund said the Sunny Crew shirt was the biggest promotion in the company's nearly 10 years in business and that additional products with Sun's name are under

consideration. Sun also struck an endorsement deal with Nebraska-based jeweler Borsheims. Sun, who is pursuing a master's degree in advertising and public relations, said she has picked

up some business skills. "I would say that's the biggest thing: Just with NIL in general, I think the experience of being able to have these interactions and business conversations of making a deal and what these meetings look like and all of those things," she said.

Nebraska is among dozens of schools with formal NIL programs and many have arrangments with companies eager to hook up athletes with various brands. Some have put their business schools to work helping athletes take advantage of the new market. Indiana recently posted a NIL directory of all Hoosier athletes. At Duquesne, Jordon Rooney was hired as the first Division I personal brand

Back at Marshall, Ulmer's teammate, defensive lineman Kyron Taylor, started Foreigner Clothing LLC last year. The line that includes T-shirts and sweatshirts features a scorpion, which both is Taylor's astrological sign and represents the "new life" his father was given when he moved to the United States from the Caribbean, he said.

Taylor's promotional work includes using other athletes on social media as brand ambassadors. Everything remains on a small scale, but Taylor is constantly jotting down new ideas. He estimates sales are about a dozen per week. Orders are shipped from his home, which is one positive aspect from living alone - no complaints from roommates about

tripping over inventory. 'I live by myself so I can have storage for my brand," he said.



Hubert Hurkacz, of Poland, returns a shot against Andy Murray, of Britain during the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, Ohio. Hurkacz won 7-6, 6-3. (AP) — See Page 14

Sports

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

Streaking Yanks sweep Red Sox

Ohtani stars as Angels beat Tigers

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP): Andrew Heaney pitched seven smooth innings, Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run single in his return from COVID-19, and the New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox 5-2 on Wednesday night to match a season best with their sixth straight victory.

Substitute shortstop Andrew

Velazquez, born nearby in the Bronx, delivered a pair of RBI singles from the No. 9 spot in the batting order and combined with Rizzo on a terrific defensive play for the dramatic final out.



Ohtani

Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman, just activated from the injured list, was pulled by manager Aaron Boone with two outs and two on in the ninth. Lucas Luetge retired Kevin Plawecki on a grounder for his third major league save and first since his 2012 rookie season

Luetge became the sixth different New York reliever to earn a save in the past eight days as the Yankees finished a three-game sweep of their longtime rivals that vaulted them into playoff position ahead of struggling Boston.

New York, which has won 18 of 23, now holds the first of two AL wild cards in a tight three-way race that includes the Red Sox and Oakland Athletics.

Xander Bogaerts and Hunter Renfroe homered for Boston, which has dropped 14 of 20. Nick Pivetta (9-6) was chased in a four-run second inning, and the Yankees improved to 6-10 in the season series after losing the first seven match-

ups.

The teams meet one more time, Sept. 24-26 in Boston.

Angels 3, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Shohei Ohtani hit his 40th homer and pitched eight sharp innings, helping the Los Angeles Angels beat Miguel Cabrera and the Detroit Tigers

The crowd of 27,282 was hoping to see Cabrera hit his 500th career homer, but the slugger went 1 for 4 with a firstinning single.

Instead, Ohtani (8-1) put on a show. The Japanese right-hander allowed six hits, struck out eight and walked none. He also became the first major leaguer to hit 40 homers in a season in which he pitched at least 15 games. The previous record was 29 by Babe Ruth in

Rasiel Iglesias pitched a perfect ninth for his 27th save, retiring Cabrera on a fly ball to the warning track in right. Willi Castro homered for Detroit, and

Braves 11, Marlins 9

6 2/3 innings.

In Miami, Freddie Freeman hit for the cycle for the second time, powering Atlanta to its sixth consecutive win.

The reigning NL MVP doubled in the first and tripled in the fourth. He singled in the fifth and hit a two-run drive in the sixth for his 27th homer.

Freeman became the first Braves player to hit for the cycle twice after

BASEBALL

also accomplishing the feat against Cincinnati on June 15, 2016, according to

Charlie Morton (12-4) pitched six innings of two-run ball for the NL East-

leading Braves. Miami walked 12 batters, tying a franchise record for a nine-inning game. Five of the walks were with the bases loaded.

Miami starter Jesús Luzardo (4-6) was charged with four runs in three-plus innings. He struck out four and walked

Mets 6, Giants 2, 12 inning

In San Francisco, Kevin Pillar hit a three-run homer in the 12th inning, lifting the Mets over the Giants hours after owner Steve Cohen called out New York's hitters for a lack of production.

Six Giants pitchers combined to blank the Mets until the ninth inning, when J.D. Davis provided a tying sacrifice fly.

The teams traded runs in the 11th before the Mets scored four runs against Tyler Chatwood (1-3) in the 12th.

The Giants used eight relievers, who combined for 10 2/3 innings after Anthony DeSclafani exited with right ankle discomfort in the top of the second. Jeurys Familia (7-3) surrendered an unearned run in the 11th but still got the win.

Rays 8, Orioles 4

In St Petersurg, Ryan Yarbrough came off the COVID-19 injured list and worked five scoreless innings as the AL East-leading Rays handed the Orioles their 14th consecutive loss.

Baltimore, which also had a 14-game skid from May 18-31, joined the Boston Braves as the only teams to have a pair of 14-game or longer losing streaks in the same season since 1901. The Braves did it twice, in 1911 and 1935.

Yarbrough (7-4) followed opener Louis Head to start the second inning and gave up one hit in his first appear-



Philadelphia Phillies catcher J.T. Realmuto (right), tags out Arizona Diamondbacks' Josh Rojas (left), during the second inning of a baseball game in Phoenix. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 19, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Wednesday.													
	Minnesota 8 Clevela Washington 8 Toronto LA Angels 3 Detroit Tampa Bay 8 Baltimo NY Yankees 5 Boston			eland nto oit more on	(11 innings) 7 5 1 4 2			Chicago Cubs Colorado NY Mets nings) Atlanta	7 7 6 2	Cincinnati 1 San Diego 5 San Francisco (12 in- Miami 9			
	Kansas City 3 Houston Seattle 3 Texas			2 1		Milwaukee Arizona							
	ChicSox	3	Oakl			2		LA Dodgers		Pittsburgh		Ō	
American League East Division								National League East Division					
				L	Pct	GB			W	_	Pct	GB	
	Tampa Bay			47	.612	=		Atlanta	65		.537		
	New York			52	.570	5		Philadelphia	61		.508	3-1/2	
	Boston			54	.561	6		New York	60		.500	4-1/2	
	Toronto			56	.529	10		Washington	52		.433	12-1/2	
	Baltimore			81	.319	35		Miami	51		.421	14	
Central Division Central Division													
				L	Pct	GB			W	_	Pct	GB	
	Chicago			50	.587	. =		Milwaukee	74		.612		
	Cleveland			61	.487	12		Cincinnati	65		.533	9-1/2	
	Detroit			64	.475	13-1/2		St Louis	61		.513	12	
	Minnesota			67	.446	17		Chicago	54		.439	21	
	Kansas City			67	.437	18		Pittsburgh	42		.347	32	
West Division							West Division						
				L	Pct	GB			W	_	Pct	GB	
	Houston			50	.583	_		San Francisco			.645	_	
	Oakland			53	.562	2-1/2		Los Angeles	75		.620	3	
	Seattle			56	.537	5-1/2		San Diego	67		.545	12	
	Los Angeles			61	.500	10		Colorado	55		.455	23	
	Texas	4	12	78	.350	28		Arizona	40	81	.331	38	
1													



New York Yankees relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the 10th inning of a baseball game in St. Petersburg, Fla. (AP)

Cedric Mullins and rookie Ryan Mountcastle homered for Baltimore. Spenser Watkins (2-5) allowed four runs and eight hits in four innings.

White Sox 3, Athletics 2

In Chicago, Luis Robert had three hits and two RBIs, sending the White Sox to the victory. Garrett Crochet (3-5), the first of four Chicago relievers, pitched 1 2/3 innings for the win. Liam Hendriks got five outs against his former team for his 28th save.

White Sox starter Lance Lynn was ejected by umpire Nic Lentz in the middle of the fourth when he complained and appeared to throw his belt during a foreign substance check at the dugout.

Seth Brown homered for Oakland, which lost its fourth straight. Paul Blackburn (0-1) allowed three runs in 5 1/3 innings.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 4, 10 inning

In St. Louis, Jackie Bradley Jr. scampered home on a wild pitch in the 10th inning, and Avisail Garcia hit two homers to help Milwaukee rally for the

Willy Adames also connected for the NL Central-leading Brewers. Josh Hader (4-2) picked up the win, and Devin Williams recorded his third save.

Garcia hit a solo shot in the ninth off Alex Reyes (5-6), tying it at 3.

St. Louis committed two errors in the 10th - all three Milwaukee runs were

Rockies 7, Padres 5

In Denver, Jake Arrieta got clobbered by Colorado and left with an injury in his San Diego debut.

C.J. Cron had two hits and three RBIs and Trevor Story homered for the Rockies, who scored five runs in 3 1/3 innings against Arrieta before he departed with an injured left hamstring.

Arrieta (5-12) was signed Monday after being placed on waivers by the Chicago Cubs. He allowed seven hits and let his ERA rise to 7.13 on Dom Núnez's solo homer before grabbing his hamstring and exiting the game.

Twins 8, Indians 7, 11 inning

In Minnesota, Jorge Polanco drove in the game-ending run for Minnesota for the third time in four games, lining a bases-loaded single in the 11th inning.

The Twins survived after blowing a two-run lead in the ninth and nearly won it in the 10th. Cleveland third baseman Ernie Clement leaped to rob Luis Arraez of a hit, and center fielder Myles Straw made a two-out diving catch on a liner from Ryan Jeffers. Danny Coulombe (3-1), Minnesota's

eighth pitcher, tossed one inning and was aided by Nick Gordon robbing Bradley Zimmer with a two-out sliding catch in left center.

Mariners 3, Rangers 1

In Texas, Kyle Seager hit a two-run homer for Seattle, and Marco Gonzales pitched 5 1/3 shutout innings.

Gonzales (5-5) allowed six hits. Drew Steckenrider, Seattle's fifth reliever, pitched a perfect ninth inning for his fifth save in eight opportunities.

Seager's 421-foot drive in the first was his club-leading 27th of the season. It was the 34th homer allowed this season by Mike Foltynewicz (2-12), most in the major leagues. The Mariners (65-56) have won six of seven to move a season-best nine games over .500.

Royals 3, Astros 2 In Kansas City, Hunter Dozier hit a

Real eye another win

Without Leo, Griezmann gets best chance to shine at Barca

Denis Law 'reveals' dementia diagnosis

MANCHESTER, England, Aug 19, (AP): Former Manchester United striker Denis Law said Thursday he has been diagnosed with two types of dementia.

The 81-year-old Law whos 237 goals for United is bettered only by Bobby Charlton and Wayne Rooney, said he wanted to be open about his condition after revealing he has "mixed dementia" - Alzheimer's and vascular dementia. "This has been an extremely difficult year for everyone and the long periods of isolation have certainly not helped," said Law, who played for United from 1962-73 and won the Ballon d'Or in 1964.

"It is an incredibly challenging and problematic disease and I have witnessed many friends go through this," he continued.
"You hope that it won't happen to you, even make jokes about it whilst ignoring the early signs because you don't want it to be true. You get angry, frustrated, confused and then worried, worried for your family, as they will

be the ones dealing with it.' Law said he hopes to continue going to Old Trafford to watch United play but will be "adjust-

ing my lifestyle accordingly."

"The time has come to tackle this head on, excuse the pun," Law said in a statement on United's website. "I recognize how my brain is deteriorating and how my memory evades me when I don't want it to and how this causes me distress in situations that are beyond my control.

"I do understand what is happening and that is why I want to address my situation now whilst I am able, because I know there will be days when I don't understand and I hate the thought of that right now.'

Law's 30 goals for Scotland is matched only by Kenny Dalglish, though Law's tally was achieved in almost 50 games fewer. He also played club soccer for Manchester City and Torino in Italy.

two-run homer in the seventh inning, and Kansas City earned its third straight win over Houston.

Dozier homered off Blake Taylor (2-4) to help the Royals post their 31st come-from-behind victory of the season, fourth-most in the American

The game ended when Andrew Benintendi threw out Chas McCormick trying to score from second on a single by MADRID, Aug 19, (AP): As Barcelona continue adjusting to life without Lionel Messi, Antoine Griezmann gets his best chance yet to take a leading role at the Catalan club. Griezmann will be making his 101st

appearance with Barcelona when the club visit Athletic Bilbao in the second round of the Spanish league on Saturday. The French striker finally has the opportunity to take center stage and become a protagonist in Messi's "I hope I get to play another 100

games and carry on giving everything to make history with this club," Griezmann said. "I want to keep helping the team both on and off the pitch, in attack and defense, and enjoying being at Barça."
He had some key performances

while Messi was still on the team but has never fully met the high expectations that came when he signed from Atlético Madrid for 120 million euros (now \$140 million) in 2019, a year af-

SOCCER

ter he was the man of the match in the World Cup final won by France.

The 30-year-old Griezmann, who has 35 goals with Barcelona, used to play a secondary role even to Luis Suárez and youngsters such as Ousmane Dembélé and Ansu Fati. At times, he wasn't even a regular starter and had few minutes off the bench.

Now he has the competition of Barcelona's biggest offseason signing, Dutch international Memphis Depay, but coach Ronald Koeman has already hinted they will not be fighting against each other for a starting spot. Koeman said after the preseason that he "liked the connection" between Griezmann and Depay.

Both played well in the team's 4-2 opening victory against Real Sociedad, which marked the start of Barcelona's first season without Messi after 17 years. The Argentina star joined Paris Saint-Germain after Barcelona failed to give him a new contract because of

Jose Altuve.

The loss dropped the Astros to 33-25 this year against teams with a losing record. Houston is 37-25 against teams with a .500 record or better.

Cubs 7, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Michael Hermosillo homered for the first time since 2018, Ian Happ and Sergio Alcántara also went deep, and depleted Chicago beat Cincinnati. Adrian Sampson, called up from Tri-

ple-A Iowa earlier in the day to pitch in the majors for the first time since 2019. held the Reds to one run and five hits in four innings.



In this file photo dated Sunday, Feb 7, 2021, Leicester's Harvey Barnes, during the English Premier League soccer match against Wolverhampton Wanderers at the Molineux Stadium in Wolverhampton, England. The 23-year-old Leicester winger Harvey Barnes has signed a contract extension to keep him at his boyhood club until June 2025. (AP)

its financial struggles.

Other forwards for Barcelona this

season include Sergio Aguero and Martin Braithwaite, who scored twice against Sociedad. "It was very important to get a win,"

said Griezmann, who is 14 goals from equaling Thierry Henry as the club's highest scoring Frenchman. "It was a good game and hopefully we can now get another win against Athletic." Barcelona have won 12 of their last

15 league matches against Athletic, which opened with a 0-0 draw at Elche on Monday.

Real Madrid will also be counting on a French striker when they try to add to their winning start in a visit to Levante on Sunday. Karim Benzema, the team's top scorer last season, picked up from where he left off and scored twice in the 4-1 win at Alavés on Saturday.

Manuel Rodríguez (1-2), Rowan Wick, Adam Morgan and Trevor Megill blanked Cincinnati over the final five innings, allowing one hit.

Nationals 8, Blue Jays 5

In Washington, Josh Bell hit a threerun homer off former teammate Brad Hand, sending the Nationals to the vic-

connected for Washington, which won back-to-back games for the first time since July 27-29. Marcus Semien homered twice and

Juan Soto and Carter Kieboom also

Teoscar Hernández went deep for the fourth consecutive game for Toronto.

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Editor-in-Chief AHMED AL JARALLAH

Editorial Office: Airport Road, Shuwaikh P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144 Fax: 24818267

Advertising: Tel: 55633481 Fax: 24911307

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