



baseball

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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

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 kinship.

The best way of greeting people is the way the Japanese 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 respect.

... Yet, tomorrow is just another day.

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 regulations 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, Mehmalhal 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 Sabah 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 Authority.

■ An official decision was published in the Official Gazette to sell a plot of 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 authority.

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 COVID-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 government-approved 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 the virus.

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 decision.

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 QR 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 jab, adding efforts will continue to vaccinate farm and other workers in the Wafra and Abdali areas soon.

Dr Al-Dhubaib said in a statement, "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 herd immunity.

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 people to it?"

Will this movement restore that state, which is exhausted from the wars that lasted half a century after having 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

Afghans protest Taliban rule

KABUL, Aug 19, (AP): Afghan protesters defied the Taliban for a second day Thursday, waving their national flag in scattered demonstrations, and the fighters again responded 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 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.

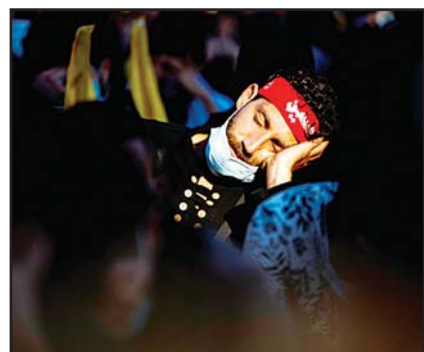
Protesters also took the streets in Kunar province, according to witnesses and social media videos that lined up with reporting by The Associated Press.

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.

The Cabinet instructed the Fatwa and Legislation 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 matter.

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.



NEIGHBORS



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



**heritage
people
nature
pillar
Saudi pavilion**



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.

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.

Visitors to the Saudi Pavilion will then experience 14 cultural landmarks along a stunning escalator ride. These include acclaimed UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as At-Turaif District in Ad-Diriyah, Hegra Archaeological Site in AlUla, Historic Jeddah, Rock Art in the Hail Region, and Al-Ahsa Oasis.

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

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.

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 Design.

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



Prayer Timings

Fajr 03:54 Asr 15:27
Sunrise.. 05:19 Maghrib .. 18:25
Zohr 11:52 Isha 19:47

Local

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 34.6 million.

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 Mabaneh 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 Boubyan 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-

Weather

humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-30 km/h with a chance for mist forming over some areas.

Station Max Exp Min Rec
Kuwait City 43 33

Kuwait Airport	44	27
Abdaly	45	27
Jahra	46	30
Salmiyah	41	35
Ahmadi	40	33
Wafra	44	27
Salmy	43	27
Jal Aliyah	43	28
Managish	-	-

▲	US\$/KD 0.30105/15
▲	Euro/KD 0.3524
■	Yen/KD 0.0027
▼	British £/KD 0.4120
■	Indian Rs/KD 0.0040
■	Philippines Peso/KD 0.0059
▼	FTSE -110.45 pts at 18:50 Aug 19
▼	Nikkei -304.74 pts at closing Aug 19
▲	Gold \$1,788.20 per oz (London)
▼	NYMEX crude \$62.85 per barrel
▼	Brent crude \$65.97 per barrel
▼	LIBOR rate 0.13088%



Top and above: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during his visit to the Clean Fuel Project. KUNA photos

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) headquarters. (KUNA)

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 approved 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 tender procedures for the maintenance 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.

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 prevention".

'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 that 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 well.

Kuwait donates blaze equipment to Turkey

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 two countries.

Kuwait sent a team of firefighters to Turkey to help fight forest fires that killed at least eight people and injured scores others.

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 relations between the two 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 Fahaaheel firefighting centers.

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

'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 reduced, 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.

Kuwait Today

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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.



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

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. KUNA photo

'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-

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 ambassador wishes to increase number of Indian workers in Kuwait, indicating that India is ready to provide more domestic workers.

Virtual Onam event: Under the joint auspices of the Bhavan's Toastmasters Club & Bhavans Kuwait Malayalam Toastmasters will organize the virtual event 'Onam flowers

bloom again' Friday, Aug 27.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: After five years of governmental work, the Environment Public Authority (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.



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

'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.

Mixed reactions to removal of Venus statue from 360 Mall

By Nizar Othman
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 19: The recent 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 the move.

At their head of the protest is former MP Muhammad Hayef, who described the placement of the statue in the commercial shop as "blind imitation, blindness of in-

sight, with commercial greed that does not differentiate between halal and haram."

While the Ministry of Commerce 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 interesting," while others mocked "the authorities saying they are preoccupied with the statue of Venus, while there are more important

issues that concern Kuwaitis."

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, politicians and activists intervened, and the shop was forced to remove these 'models'.

Muhammad Hayef, one of those who led the campaign on Twitter, tweeted at the time saying, "It is necessary to prevent the manufacture of these sculptures and statues, after they invaded the Arabian Peninsula, as leniency reached the

point of establishing temples in some Gulf countries."

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 artifacts.

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.

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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.

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.

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 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, YouTube 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

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.

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 developed this idea in the form of a 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.

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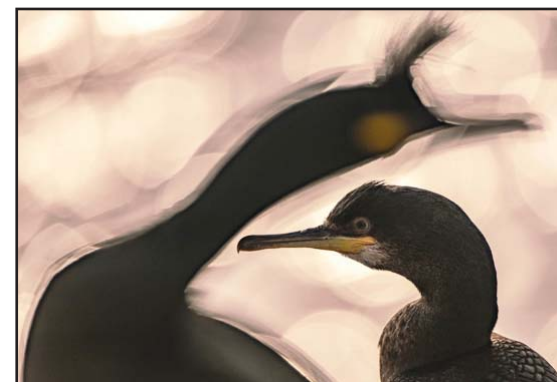
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Photographed by Malik Al-Hazaa, he won second place as the best bird photographer 2016 in Britain and the best nature photographer in Asia 2020.



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-Hazaa



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

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 to the order last week.

David, the father of a 2 1/2-year-old 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 apartments. "I have had this internal struggle going back and forth. I have lost sleep at night, and I have now come up with a decision to sell and walk away."

Most evictions for unpaid rent have been halted since the 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.



Zaremba



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 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 17-inch 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 on-the-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 multi-device 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 D15 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 rivaling 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 D15 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 that 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

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



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

Colorado Rep. Lauren Boebert's husband made \$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 week.

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 2019.

Boebert did not report the income last year, when she stunned the political world by ousting incumbent Rep. Scott Tipton during the GOP pri-

mary in Colorado's sprawling 3rd district, which stretches from ski resorts to energy-rich 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)



Business

Buzz

Protect yourself from potential bad actors and find legitimate capital

4 ways businesses can dodge loan scams and predatory lenders

By Randa Kriss
NerdWallet

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, LaMonaca 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 options

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 veteran-owned 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 CDFIs, may be able to help businesses burdened with predatory loans re-finance into better products, Martinez says.

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

Start-up airlines say bookings sag

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP) - The 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.

On Thursday, Avelo Airlines 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 funding.

Avelo and Breeze began flying 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 COVID-19, which is hurting ticket sales at bigger airlines including 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 slowdown.

"It's not surprising that some people are deciding to defer their travel plans," Levy said, calling it "a bump in the road."

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

Breeze serves 16 US cities, many in the Southeast. Neeleman said the new funding will "solidify our position and say we're here to stay."

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 three.

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



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

Robinhood's crypto trading surges

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP) - After helping a new generation of investors get into stocks, Robinhood is increasingly doing the same for cryptocurrencies.

More than \$4 of every \$10 that Robinhood Markets Inc. made in revenue during the spring came just from customers trading dogecoin, bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

Robinhood also said Wednesday 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 round it undertook early this year.

The loss was no surprise after the company had earlier given preliminary estimated results for the quarter. 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 summer from the spring.

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

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

asset its customers are interested in, 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,

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 Officer 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.



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)

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 country."

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 Ia 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 intimidated Galloway other than his wife, Gracie, Walcott said.

Obituary

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

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

Film bares disputes behind 9/11 museum

NEW YORK, Aug 19, (AP) — A new film reveals and renews the tensions that went into creating the Sept. 11 museum beneath the memorial waterfalls and reflecting 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 to 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 provide answers."

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-the-scenes access to the museum's work with thoughts that it could make an interesting film in itself.

"It was meant to be an observational documentary," Rosenbaum said. "For the first two years, the 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 professionals 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 grievance-based," 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 specific 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 includ-

ing 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."

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

Hunt entered the plea Wednesday in Davidson County Circuit Court to misdemeanor DUI charges, the Tennessee reported.

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 between lanes and pulled him over.

Hunt later apologized, saying he 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 license for a year.

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 numbers one. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Rocker **Marilyn 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 Wednesday.

Manson, whose legal name is **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 criminal complaint in the case.

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 2 at Laconia District Court in New

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



Manson



Hunt

for the concert season.

According to the affidavit, Manson approached Fountain the 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 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 wrongdoing.

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)

Features

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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

'Power 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)

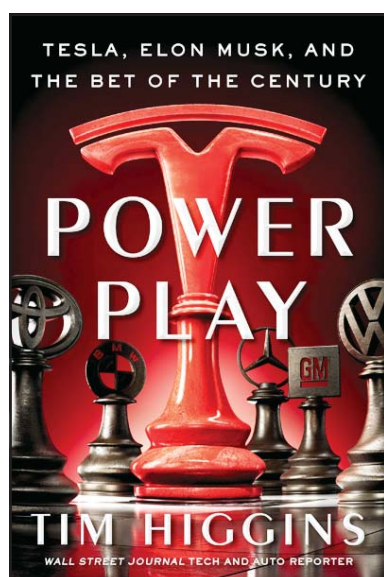
A love story and medical mystery all in one, Eleanor Henderson's memoir "Everything I Have Is Yours" chronicles her husband's battle with an undiagnosable illness, as well as the toll it takes on their relationship and family.

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.

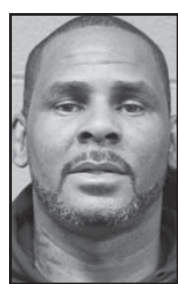
As they attend medical conferences, couple's therapy, and more, Henderson invites readers to question the link between mental and physical illness, asking herself what criteria is needed to make an illness real.

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)



Kelly



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 said.

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 emotion.

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

Just as surely as climate change is scarring the land and warming the seas, it is also flooding our movies.

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 time-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

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-

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 feature-film 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, thought-provoking concept isn't so easy to shake off. The images of a half-submerged Miami are too eerily realistic. As Bannister slashes 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)

their consent unless they have spoken publicly extensively. Pace has appeared in a documentary and participated in media interviews.

Prior to Pace's testimony, lawyers gave jurors an outline of the trial in their opening

statements.

"This case is not about a celebrity who likes to party a lot," Assistant US Attorney **Maria Cruz Melendez** told the jury as she explained the evidence to be revealed at his federal trial. "This case is about a

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 very transparent."

It would be a stretch to believe he orchestrated 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)



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 McNamara 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 Dallas.

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 Salói scored in second-half stoppage time for his 12th goal of the season and Sporting Kansas City tied Portland.

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.

Pizarro one-touched Victor 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 losses.

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 Coronel had his seventh shutout of the season.



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 rider 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 Sea.

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 Elissonde 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. Elissonde 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 Toronto.

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 15 points.

Whitecaps 2, Austin FC 1

In Austin, Texas, Brian White had a sliding finish in the 74th minute to help Vancouver beat Austin FC.

Vancouver (4-7-8) entered hav-

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 15 matches.

Jakob Nerwinski tied it at 1 for Vancouver in the 52nd minute.

Alexander Ring opened the scoring for Austin in the 37th.

Montreal 0, FC Cincinnati 0

In Cincinnati, Sebastian Breza made three saves for his first MLS shutout 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. Cincinnati (3-7-8) has just one 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.

Justin Meram also scored for Real Salt Lake (7-6-6). It has won back-to-back games and has just one loss in its last eight.

Fafá Picault scored for Houston (3-8-9). The Dynamo have lost four games in a row and are winless in 13.

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.

Murray eliminated by 9th-seeded Hurkacz

Osaka tested by Gauff, wins 3-setter in tour return

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.

She's back.

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 Japan.

The 23-year-old Osaka is outspoken on many social issues and announced during Monday's pre-match media session that she would be donating her tournament prize money to earthquake-ravaged Haiti, her father's homeland. Cincinnati 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."

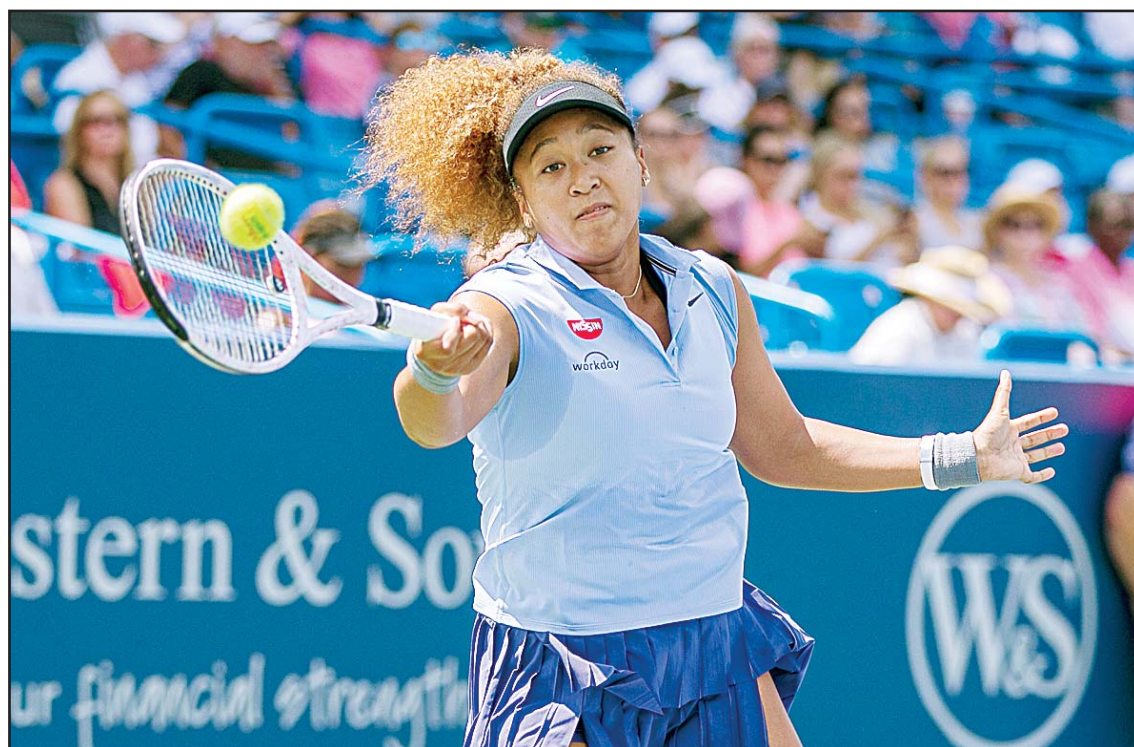
While Osaka appeared comfortable during the exchange, her agent, Stuart Duguid, described Daugherty on Twitter as a "bully."

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 fifth-seeded Karolina Pliskova also won in straight sets.



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)

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 and Simone Charley buried her attempt to clinch it for Portland.

The Thorns advance to ply Lyon in the WICC title game on Saturday. Melvine Malard 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.

Moultrie's goal came on a free kick in the 57th minute and tied the match at 2-2.

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 summer's Challenge Cup in Utah.

New York-based Relevant 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 coronavirus outbreak.



Moultrie

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 ath-

lete 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

Plus



'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)

By Will Graves

'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.'

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 into it.

The American gymnastics star has no regrets about her decision to opt-out 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 well-being 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 two-time 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 early 30s.

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, too.

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 Emmy-winning 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 non-

profit 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 sponsorship-mentorship 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 him out.

"It's definitely helped me navigate the art world and helped me know that it's actually a possibility," he said.

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 Haggglund 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 arrangements 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, Jordan Rooney was hired as the first Division I personal brand coach.

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.

