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7 Gang-raped Indian woman 'numb'; attackers released



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Electoral fraud prompted use of Civil IDs for voting

Municipality to dismiss all expat employees in a year

NBK trainees tour Kuwait Times, Kuwait News



KUWAIT: Kuwait Times Deputy Editor-In-Chief Abdullah Bofain (second right) and senior staff pose for a group photo with high school students and NBK trainees on Thursday. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times and Kuwait News welcomed high school students enrolled in National Bank of Kuwait's summer training program on a field trip to its offices on Thursday. The students visited various departments of the newspaper, learning about print media in Kuwait. The students

had a glimpse into how editors, reporters, designers and proofreaders collaborate to bring out the paper on time day after day. They learned about the progression of the paper from the manual to the digital era, and how technology has changed the media landscape and industry. The inquisi-

tive young trainees had a lot of questions to ask during the interactive session. After visiting the newsroom, the students were given access to the archive section of Kuwait Times, home to decades of history, and witnessed the evolution of the newspaper over the years. (See Pages 12,13)

KUWAIT: The government said yesterday that a fact-finding ministerial committee found wide-scale electoral fraud of illegally transferring bulks of voters across constituencies, which helped to forge the will of Kuwaiti voters. To resolve this violation, the government on Wednesday approved an emergency decree requiring voters to vote in constituencies based on their residential addresses stated in their Civil IDs, which will be used for the first time ever.

The decree was issued by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and pub-

lished in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Youm late Wednesday night and accordingly became effective.

The requirement to use only Civil IDs for voters to prove their place of residence is a major change in the Kuwaiti elections which in the past depended on electoral rolls prepared by the Interior Ministry and updated every year in February.

The use of electoral rolls had allegedly allowed candidates to illegally transfer the registration of thousands of voters from one district to another to dramatically boost their

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Jahra Traffic building roof collapses

KUWAIT: No casualties from the roof collapse of the Jahra Traffic building, Deputy Premier Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah confirmed on Thursday. The damages were material only, he noted, adding that he has called for an immediate investigation into the incident so as to hold the suspects accountable and charge them for negligence. — KUNA



FBI is now US conservatives' 'evil demon'

WASHINGTON: Agents of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation are used to criticism, but never in the agency's history have they faced anything like the attacks from conservatives after last week's raid on former president Donald Trump's Florida home. Over its more than 100-year history, the FBI has been excoriated by southerners committed to racist segregation, by civil libertarians defending political activists and especially by African Americans whose 1960s liberation movement was treated as an acute national threat by the agency.

But the extraordinary threats of the past week originate in the FBI's political bedrock: conservative Republicans. "It's the world turned upside down," said Kenneth O'Reilly, a retired University of Alaska historian, who has written books about the FBI and politics. According to O'Reilly, the FBI has historically been a "deeply conservative institution" with a bipartisan constituency in Washington. But since Trump condemned the FBI as corrupt and fascist after they searched his Mar-a-Lago estate on August 8 for illegally retained top secret documents, the attacks have kept coming - and his supporters have fanned the flames.

Republican National Committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel accused the bureau of "abuse of power." Senator Marco Rubio, a Republican from Florida, compared the agency to secret police in a Marxist dictatorship, while Representative Paul Gosar declared: "We must destroy the FBI." Online, including on Trump's own Truth Social network, the threats were more violent - and turned real.

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Algeria forest blazes kill 38

EL KALA: Algerian firefighters were Thursday battling a string of blazes, fanned by drought and a blistering heatwave, that have killed at least 38 people and left destruction in their wake. Deadly forest fires have become an annual scourge in the North African country, where climate change is turning large areas into a tinderbox.

According to multiple sources, including local journalists and the fire service, at least 38 people have been killed, mostly in the El Tarf region near Algeria's eastern border with Tunisia which was baking in 48 degree

Celsius heat. At least 200 more people have suffered burns or respiratory problems from the smoke, according to various Algerian media.

A journalist in El Tarf described "scenes of devastation" on the road to El Kala in the country's far northeast. "A tornado of fire swept everything away in seconds," he told AFP by telephone. "Most of those who died were surrounded while visiting a wildlife park." Emergency services were still battling a blaze around Tonga lake, he said.

An AFP team in El Kala reported a strong smell of smoke and said authorities feared that strong winds could cause new fires to break out. They also saw major damage in the wildlife park and a witness, who asked not to be named, said 12 people had

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EL KALA, Algeria: Algerian men check a burnt area at a restaurant in the Zoo following raging fires in Algeria's city of El-Kala. —AFP

Iraq protest camps dig in for long haul

BAGHDAD: In the capital of crisis-torn Iraq, two tent cities have sprung up as rival Shiite blocs have set up protest camps, complete with cooked meals and air-conditioners against the blistering heat. As the war-scarred country's political impasse has dragged on ever since inconclusive October elections, both sides are digging in for the long haul in and near Baghdad's high-security Green Zone.

Supporters of firebrand cleric and political kingmaker Moqtada Sadr,

who has hundreds of thousands at his beck and call, came in late July when they stormed parliament and then set up camp on the lawns outside. The gathering is a show of strength by Sadrists against their Shiite opponents from a pro-Iran faction called the Coordination Framework, in the midst of a tug-of-war over Iraq's political future.

The pro-Iranian group followed suit by organizing their own sit-in, on an avenue leading to the Green Zone, the district housing government institutions and foreign embassies. The camps are organized in the "mawkeb" tradition, where stalls provide food and drinks to pilgrims during Ashura and Arbaeen - two major festivals on the Shiite Muslim calendar - on their journey to the holy city of Karbala.

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BAGHDAD: Supporters of the Iraqi Coordination Framework rest during a sit-in on a bridge leading to the heavily-guarded Green Zone of the capital Baghdad. —AFP