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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024 / SAFAR 29, 1446 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18686

16 PAGES

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense

and Interior Sheikh Fahad

Yousef Al-Sabah issued a decision to amend Article Eight of Ministerial

Resolution No. 271/2020 on

"stopping the issuance of

new licenses for the motor

vehicles of companies and institutions engaged in the transportation or delivery

of goods business or wish to

engage in such commercial

Companies and institutions

currently engaged in this business are allowed to replace out of service motor vehicles as per the

regulations of the General Traffic

Following are the regulations of

- The company or institution must

have one branch for transporting

or delivering goods. It should be in

a suitable location that does not ob-

struct traffic as per the rules of the Traffic Engineering Division.

have at least five light vehicles, the

load does not exceed one ton and the

total number of vehicles should not

owns the minimum number of vehi-

cles, it is allowed to procure a motor-

bike; provided the total number does

the light vehicle utilized in the busi-

ness should have been manufactured

at least three years ago and it should

no longer be used seven years after

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Newswatch

RAMALLAH: Israeli occupation forc-

es have arrested 36 Palestinians from

the West Bank since Saturday even-

ing until Sunday, including a journal-

ist, four female students, and former

hostages, the arrests all took place in

A joint statement by the Commis-

sion of Detainees, and the Palestinian

Prisoners Society stated that the num-

ber of detainees since last Wednesday

the city of Al-Khalil.

the manufacturing date.

- At the beginning of the business,

- If the company or institution

- The company or institution must

Department (GTD)."

activity.

GID:

exceed 30.

not exceed 15.

150 FILS



Faisal Al-Rajhi with other competitors.

Joint panel eyes boost in ties

'15% direct investments in Kuwait from UAE'

ABU DHABI, Sept 1, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Jamal

Al-Ghunaim, underscored Sunday the importance of the fifth edition of joint Kuwaiti-Emirati committee meeting in boosting relations and promoting high-level coordination on bilateral, Arab and international issues

The joint committee will be held on Monday in the capital city of Abu Dhabi and will be chaired by, on the Kuwaiti side Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, and the Emirati side Deputy Prime Min-

Al-Ghunaim

ister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nahayan. Ambassador Al-Ghunaim told KUNA that the

meeting will examine a number of agreements, MoUs, and programs.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister will also be meeting with President of the UAE Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahayan, and engaging in bilateral talks with Emirati officials, he de-

The Ambassador commended the coordination and cooperation as well as the strategic partnership between the two fraternal nations, taking note of several agreements over the course of the past month, including an agreement on double taxation and another on exporting crude material.

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Kuwait updates regulations

on goods transport vehicles

GTD adds conditions for delivery businesses

HH Amir receives Crown Prince, **Prime Minister, 1st Deputy PM**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received at Seif Palace His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace on Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Prime Minister also received First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Saud Al-Sabah.

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Kuwait's Al-Rajhi wins bronze in Paris Games

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi praised on Sunday Kuwait National team player Faisal Al-Rajhi for winning the bronze medal in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Al-Mutairi said in a statement to KUNA that Al-Rajhi's achievement reflects people with disabilities strength and dedication in various sport fields, noting that Al-Rajhi won many medals in international competitions.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah continuous support in the Kuwaiti sport contributes in the achievements of Kuwaiti players.

Al-Rajhi won the bronze medal of the men's 5000m race - T54, the first medal for Kuwait at the ongoing Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Al-Rajhi expressed joy for winning the bronze medal of the men's 5000m race - T54, the first medal for Kuwait at the ongoing Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

The championship saw fierce competition whether in the preliminary stage yesterday or the final one today, he

told KUNA on Saturday.

Al-Rajhi dedicated the achievement to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti people.

He promised to do his utmost in the future and make more achievements to raise Kuwait flag high at podium

Al-Rajhi bagged the bronze medal of the men's 5000m race - T54, at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games on Sat-

The race, held on Stade de France track near Paris, saw Al-Rajhi finishing in 10:55.99.

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New clinic tackles teens'

KUNA photo

Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi talking to staff and visitors at the launching of the winter vaccination campaign.

mental and social issues **Bv Abdulrahman Al-Shimmari**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: A new medical clinic dedicated to addressing psychological and social issues among students has recently been established, thanks to a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Health and local educational authorities.

This initiative is designed to enhance the mental wellbeing of students aged 7 to 17, covering all three educa-

The clinic, which is part of a broader project aimed at improving student mental health, is managed by three doctors from Al Manara Hospital, a facility affiliated with the Ministry of Health. These professionals have been specially delegated to ensure the effective operation of the clinic. According to educational sources, the clinic sees 12 stu-

dents each week, providing comprehensive services that include early diagnosis and treatment of conditions such as anxiety, depression, school violence, and substance abuse. The Psychological and Social Services Department

within the Educational Activities Sector plays a crucial role in evaluating cases and determining their distribution across schools. This approach helps in addressing and mitigating these issues more effectively.

The clinic emphasizes confidentiality and privacy, offering a secure environment where students and their families can seek help without concerns about their personal information being compromised. This confidentiality is essential in building trust and encouraging individuals to come forward for assistance.

Services provided by the clinic include psychological and social consultations, as well as behavioral guidance. The aim is to offer critical support that positively influences students' psychological health and enhances their educational, social, and behavioral performance.

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Jassem Al-Budaiwi

'Wise leaderships'

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said that GCC member states had successfully overcome various obstacles. This came during a lecture at Sheikh Saud Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute titled "The GCC: Four decades of achievements towards integration and facing challenges", attributing the achievement to the guidance and wise leadership of founding and current GCC leaders.

The event was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and a host of diplomats.

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Car ownership transfer launched on Sahel app

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior announced the launch of a new service on Sunday that allows vehicle ownership transfers through the unified government application called

In a press statement, the ministry affirmed that this initiative is part of its efforts to develop digital services with the aim of simplifying processes for citizens by offering 24/7 electronic solutions.

It revealed its collaboration with the Insurance Regulatory Unit to establish the operational framework for the new service, adding that users of the Sahel app can now carry out the vehicle ownership transfer in just a few simple steps.

It begins with the seller going to the "Services" menu in the app, selecting "Ministry of Interior," then "Traffic Services," and choosing "Vehicle Ownership" Transfer." After selecting the vehicle and entering the new owner's civil ID number, the system will send a notification to the buyer.

The new owner must review the notification, accept the terms and conditions for the transfer, and pay the insurance policy transfer fees.

Once these steps are completed, the seller receives a notification after which he must upload proof of payment for the vehicle and pay the ownership transfer fees. The buyer then receives a final notification, which will allow them to download the new electronic vehicle license and add it to their digital wallet via the

"My Identity" app.

The Ministry of Interior reaffirmed its commitment to digitizing services and continuously developing its systems to serve the public in a better manner.

'Suhail' signals

shift in weather

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1, (KUNA): The Al-Ojairi Center

said on Sunday that 'Suhail Star'

would be spotted on September

fourth based on Al-Ojairi Calen-

dar, indicating improvement in

weather, lengthening of shadow,

The center clarified to KUNA

that the Suhail Star was one of

the most notable stars in the Ara-

bian Peninsula, and described it

Continued on Page 5

as red-colored and luminous

and shorter daytime.

'Winter vaccination helps boost health, cuts spread of diseases'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi yesterday launched the annual vaccination campaign against winter diseases, which will be carried out at 57 preventive health departments in hospitals and many primary health care centers in various governorates.

The objective of this campaign is to offer protection against infectious diseases that become more active during the winter

Dr. Al-Awadhi, who received the first doses of the vaccine during the launch event at the Sayed Abdul Razzaq Al-Za-Izala Health Center, announced that the campaign includes vaccines for seasonal influenza and bacterial pneumonia, and is intended for all segments of society.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs Dr. Al-Mundhir Al-Hasawi affirmed that the influenza vaccine is vital and effective in preventing influenza and mitigating the risk of serious

complications, which could be fatal. He explained that the vaccine's effectiveness can vary each year depending on the prevalent viral strains, their compatibility with the vaccine, the health condition and age of the recipient, and the time elapsed since vaccination.

board.

Recent improvements include

the introduction of luxury ame-

nities, upgraded entertainment

options, and greater comfort on

body aircraft to high-demand des-

tinations, consistently updated its

menu with unique Kuwaiti flavors,

and maintained a strong record

of punctual departures during the

In addition to these advance-

ments, Al-Faqan announced excit-

ing new offerings, such as special

travel packages to Barcelona that

include a flight ticket, hotel ac-

commodation, and a soccer match

Continued on Page 5

ticket for the Spanish League.

busy summer season.

The airline has dedicated wide-

Ticket rates, services reviewed

KAC eyes revamp in competitive market

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Ku-

wait Airways, under the leadership

of Chairman Abdul Mohsen Al-

Faqan, has recently made adjust-

ments to its airline ticket pricing to

ensure they are more competitive

Board of Directors' ongoing ef-

forts to advance the national car-

rier and enhance its offerings to

Al-Faqan highlighted these

changes during the "Friday Break"

program on Kuwait Radio FM

89.5, noting that Kuwait Airways

has also focused on enhancing the

overall travel experience.

This move aligns with the

in the market.

Winter diseases, including colds, seasonal influenza, and bacterial pneumonia, witness increased infection rates during cold weather. Many countries experience a significant rise in these illnesses in winter, making the preventive vaccination campaign vital for reducing the spread of these diseases and for protecting vulnerable

Dr. Al-Hasawi affirmed the keenness of the Ministry of Health to provide the best health services to the Kuwaiti community.

He urged the public to adhere to health guidelines and receive vaccinations at the appropriate times to ensure comprehensive protection against infectious diseases during the season.

In addition, Director of the Health Promotion Department Dr. Abeer Al-Baho said, "Even though improvements in hygiene and the development of water and sanitation systems have significantly reduced rates of infectious diseases, the importance of vaccination cannot be overstated.

A clear example of the impact of vaccines on reducing disease rates can be seen in the United States. After the introduction of the measles vaccine in 1970, infection rates dropped dramatically from 400,000 cases in the years prior to vaccination to just 25,000 cases.'

Continued on Page 5

Hunt for missing

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The search for a Kuwaiti citizen, who was reported missing in the Salmi desert by his brother, ended with his arrest after Taima detectives found him in a disoriented state in the Oyoun area.

According to security sources, several police teams and helicopters from the Ministry of Interior had been scouring the Salmi desert after receiving information that the citizen was lost. Despite extensive search efforts over several days, he was

Following an investigation by Taima detectives, they were able

Continued on Page 5

when the occupation began its military operation in the West Bank, has reached 110. (KUNA)

RAMALLAH: Israeli occupation media confirmed the killing of two Israeli occupation police officers and an occupation soldier in a shooting operation that took place Sunday morning near the city of Al-Khalil (Hebron) in the southern West Bank.

A shooting near the Tarqumiya checkpoint, west of Al-Khalil, resulted in the injury of two Israeli occupation police officers and a soldier, who were later pronounced dead, Hebrew newspaper Haaretz. (KUNA)

CAIRO: Egypt has issued on Sunday a strong condemnation of the ongoing Israeli military assaults in the West Bank and Gaza, and warned against the Israeli occupation's escalating military operations and the adoption of scorched-earth policy.

In a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt has expressed deep concern over Israel's persistent efforts to widen conflicts in Palestinian territories, particularly in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

ends in his arrest **By Munif Naif** Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

not located.

Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-38 km/h and some high clouds

By Night: Hot to rather hot with

Weather light variable wind to light to mod-

Max Exp

speeds of 10-38 km/h.

Station

Abdaly

Kuwait City

Kuwait Airport

Bubyan erate northwesterly wind, with Jahra Failaka Island Salmiyah Ahmadi 43 28 Jal Aliyah Nuwaisib

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

HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send greetings

HH Amir congratulates Uzbekistan and Slovakia on national days

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable of congratulations to President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the occasion of the National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president good health and the people of Uz-

bekistan further progress and prosperity. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the occasion of the

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Sunday a congratulatory cable to President of Slovakia Peter Pellegrini on his country's National Day. His Highness the Amir wished the president a long healthy life and more development and prosperity for Slovakia.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a congratulatory cable to President Peter Pellegrini on his country's National Day. His Highness wished the president a long healthy life and more development and prosperity for Slovakia. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah also sent a congratu-

latory cable to President Peter Pellegrini on his country's National Day

His Highness the Crown Prince and PM send condolences

His Highness the Amir condoles with Sudan over flash flood victims

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday, a cable of condolences to the President of the Transitional Sovereign Council of Sudan, First Lieutenant General Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan Abdelrahman Al-Burhan, expressing sympathy and condolences to the families' of flash flood victims victims caused by Arbaat dam's collapse, which lead to fatalities and injuries, and the destruction of public facilities and properties.

His Highness the Amir wished the injured a speedy and full recovery, hoping that the officials in the country would be able to overcome the effects of

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad

Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to the President of the Transitional Sovereign Council of Sudan, First Lieutenant General Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan Abdelrahman Al-Burhan, expressing sympathy and condolences to the families' of flash flood victims caused by Arbaat dam's collapse, which lead to fatalities and injuries, along with the destruction of public facilities and properties.

In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to President First Lieutenant General Abdel-Fattah Al-Burhan Abdelrahman Al-Burhan, expressing sympathy and condolences to the families' of flash flood victims caused by Arbaat dam's collapse, which lead to fatalities and injuries, along with the destruction of public facilities and properties.

Al-Jarida photo

Governor Al-Asfar during his visit to the Damascus Street project.

Governor of Hawalli emphasizes early completion of ongoing road projects

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Hawalli Governor Ali Al-Asfar has emphasized the urgency of completing ongoing road projects in the governorate to better serve residents and ease traffic congestion, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This statement came during his visit to the Damascus Street and the South Surra Roads Development projects, accompanied by Eng. Khaled Al-Asimi, Director General of the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport, and Eng. Anwar Al-Balushi, Director of the Highways Implementation Department.

During the visit, the governor received a comprehensive update on the progress of the projects, including their timelines and the significance of enhancing road infrastructure. The discussion also covered how the pro-

jects will improve traffic flow and accommodate new government buildings in the area, aiming to alleviate pressure on major roads and better serve residential neighbor-

The governor also reviewed a visual presentation detailing all current projects undertaken by the roads authority. He concluded the visit by expressing his gratitude to the workers involved, praising their dedication and urging them to continue their diligent efforts in serving the nation.

Healthcare cost per person rises notably

Statistics underscores improvements, challenges in Kuwait's health sector

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: A recent report by the Ministry of Health has highlighted significant changes in Kuwait's healthcare landscape between 2018 and 2022, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The cost of healthcare per person has risen notably from 398 dinars in 2018 to 499 dinars in 2022. This increase reflects broader trends in healthcare expenditure and service utilization.

The report provides detailed statistics on the composition of Kuwait's healthcare workforce. În 2022, Kuwaiti doctors represented 40.8 percent of the total in the government health system. The proportion of Kuwaiti dentists has increased substantially to 75.1 percent, while Kuwaiti nurses make up a modest 4.9 percent of the workforce in government hospitals.

There has been a notable rise in the number of visits to outpatient clinics, which reached 3,906,173 in 2022. This is accompanied by a slight increase in the individual frequency rate of these visits, from 0.7 percent in 2018 to 0.8 percent in 2022.

The report also highlights a decrease in the proportion of emergency operations performed at Ministry of Health hospitals, which fell to 54.3 percent in 2022, down from 70.8 percent in 2018. This shift may indicate changes in healthcare delivery or patient needs.

Regarding mortality, the report identifies cardiovascular diseases, tumors, and external causes of death as the leading causes in

The heart disease remains the most significant cause of death, with a rate of 79.8 per 100,000 people, followed by tumors at 23.5 per 100,000, and external causes at 15.7 per 100,000.

Notably, external causes of death were more prevalent among non-Kuwaitis than Kuwaitis, except in cases of drowning deaths. The ratio of doctors to the population has

improved, rising to 3.6 per 1,000 people in 2022 from 2.5 in 2018. Consequently, the ratio of population per

Overall, the report underscores both

Kuwait travel, tourism ticket sales hit 23.87 million dinars this July

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Tourism and travel offices in Kuwait reported ticket sales worth 23.87 million dinars in July, marking a 3.7 percent increase from June's 23 million dinars, reports Al-Rai daily.

Despite this monthly rise, total sales for the first seven months of 2024 reached approximately 150.79 million dinars, representing a 1.7 percent decline compared to the 153.15 million dinars recorded during the same period last year.

The sales experienced a drop in the earlier months of 2024, with declines of 10 percent in January, 5 percent in February, and 2 percent in March. However, they rebounded in April through July, coinciding with the start of the travel season.

The reported figures reflect bookings made through the Bank Settlement Plan (BSP) system for traditional airlines and do not account for sales with low-cost carriers. which have seen an increase in market share.

The rise in low-cost airline bookings has contributed to the observed decline in sales through traditional offices.

Additionally, the number of travel offices in Kuwait has grown from 400 to around 550, as some employees from larger agencies have opened their own home-based offices, reducing operating costs and increasing market competition.

Passenger traffic at Kuwait International Airport was robust in June, with a total of approximately 1.35 million passengers. Arrivals totaled 580,718, while departures reached 770,255.

coverage and accessibility.

improvements and challenges in Kuwait's

doctor has decreased from 395 in 2018 to 277 in 2022, reflecting enhanced healthcare

MEW defends decision to rehire retirees

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy has clarified that the withdrawal of the decision to refer several national employees for retirement is aimed at benefiting from the national workforce with vast experience and specialization in the required fields, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a recent press statement, the ministry said it is keen on benefiting from the abovementioned employees in order to transfer their knowledge and long technical expertise to newly appointed nationals. It also pointed out that the retirement referral did not take effect vet at the time of the issuance of the withdrawal decision, emphasizing

that it is fully committed to the directives and circulars in this regard.

Earlier on Tuesday, the daily published a report that Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri issued a ministerial decision to withdraw the referral of 101 national employees for retirement.

In another development, sources said the power consumption index record highs that burdened the ministry this summer will end soon; as consumption is expected to start decreasing based on the statements of weather forecasters that the temperature will decline gradually.

Domestics make up 26.9 pct of Kuwait's expat workforce in '24

448 offices licensed to recruit domestic workers: PAM

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: According to the latest Al-Shall report, domestic workers approximately represent 26.9 percent of the total expatriate workforce in Kuwait, totaling around 789,000 individuals by the end of the first quarter of 2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This marks a 1.1 percent increase from the 780,000 domestic workers recorded at the same time in 2023. The domestic worker population is further divided into 423,000 females and 366,000 males.

The report highlights that among female domestic workers, the Philippines is the leading contributor with approximately 175,000 workers, although this figure has decreased from 205,000 at the end of the first quarter of 2023. For male domestic workers, India leads with around 248,000 individuals, slightly up from 247,000 in the previous year.

India continues to dominate the domestic workforce statistics, accounting for 44.7 percent of the total number of domestic workers, while the Philippines follows with a 22.5 percent share. In total four nationalities -- India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh -- comprise about 93.3 percent of the domestic workforce across ten countries.

Contributing

The remaining six nationalities collectively represent only 4.4 percent, with Nepal contributing the highest at 4.4 percent and Pakistan the lowest at 0.2 percent. Additionally, three African countries -- Ethiopia, Benin, and Mali -- contribute to the domestic workforce, with shares of 0.9 percent, 0.7 percent, and 0.3

percent, respectively.

When combining domestic workers with other categories of expatriate workers. Indian nationals emerge as the largest group, totaling about 889,000 workers (compared to 858,000 in the previous year), representing 30.3 percent of the total workforce, including Kuwaiti workers, and 35.9 percent of the expatriate workforce.

They are followed by Egyptian workers, who total approximately 476,000 (down from 489,000), accounting for 16.2 percent of the total workforce and 19.2 percent of the expatriate workforce.

Kuwaiti workers. numbering around 458,000 (up from 445,000), represent 15.6 percent of the total workforce, though this figure could increase if military personnel are included. Data from the Public Authority for Civil Information shows a higher number of Kuwaiti workers at approximately 506,400 as of the end of June, which may account for military and unemployed individuals.

Bangladesh is the fourth-largest contributor to the workforce, with about 266,000 workers (up from 246,000), making up 9.1 percent of the total workforce and 10.7 percent of the expatriate workforce.

The Philippines ranks fifth, with a workforce of about 240,000 (down from 274,000), constituting 8.2 percent of the total workforce and 9.7 percent of the expatriate workforce.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) revealed in its latest statistics that the total number of domestic labor recruitment offices licensed and registered at the authority has reached 448; while it received four license cancellation requests last month, reports Al-Anba daily.

In addition, PAM issued seven new domestic labor recruitment licenses, renewed 59 similar licenses, lifted the suspension of 10 offices, suspended 12 offices, and the Department for Regulating the Recruitment of Domestic Workers registered 377

The authority has reaffirmed its commitment to resolve all issues in a manner that guarantees the rights of both parties to the dispute.

Bureau aims to increase debt recovery by 30 pc annually

Audit Bureau updated strategic plan seeks to curb waste, boost revenue

By Mohammed Al Musleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: In a significant move to strengthen financial oversight and resource management, the Audit Bureau has unveiled its updated strategic plan, which aims to curb waste, improve debt collection, and boost non-oil revenues.

This initiative is part of the Bureau's broader commitment to ensuring efficient use of state subsidies and enhancing revenue generation.

The newly published second edition of the Fifth Strategic Plan Booklet (2021-2025) outlines several

Among these is the enhancement of control mechanisms over state subsidies. The Bureau plans to identify and address the causes of resource wastage and ensure that subsidies are used for their intended purposes. This includes evaluating the effectiveness of support systems in achieving their goals.

A major focus of the updated plan is on improving ebt collection efforts. The Bureau aims to debt recovery by 30 percent annually.

This involves assessing the performance of entities under its supervision in managing and collecting outstanding debts. The strategy includes identifying and tracking debt amounts, analyzing collection challenges, and developing solutions to overcome these

Revenue

Moreover, the plan emphasizes the development of non-oil revenue sources. The Bureau will identify and classify entities that could contribute to increased state revenues. This approach is designed to diversify revenue streams and reduce reliance on oil-related

The strategic plan is structured around two main directions. First, it focuses on building human, institutional, and organizational capacities to support the plan's objectives.

Second, it aims to enhance oversight of entities under the Bureau's supervision to minimize resource wastage and optimize revenue collection.

The plan also highlights the importance of adhering to laws and regulations related to change orders in projects. This is intended to further reduce waste and ensure that projects are completed efficiently and within budget.

By implementing these strategies, the Audit Bureau aims to improve financial management, increase state revenues, and ensure that state funds are utilized

The Audit Bureau has outlined a comprehensive strategic plan to advance its oversight functions, combat corruption, and improve financial manage-

Transparency

The updated plan includes a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and resource efficiency within the government. As part of its strategy, the Bureau will review and

strengthen legislation related to combating corrup-

This includes expanding criminal liability to encompass legal entities, aligning with international agreements and treaties, and implementing necessary measures to prevent corruption. The focus will be on enhancing oversight and legal frameworks to ensure robust anti-corruption practices. The Bureau is committed to creating a strategic

plan that reflects its vision and mission of maintaining neutrality, objectivity, efficiency, and professionalism. While some initiatives have been postponed for further study, the Bureau remains focused on key tasks such as:

 Regular monitoring and follow-up of subsidy disbursements.

Coordination with various sectors, including mills, petroleum supplies, and housing. - Issuing control reports to identify causes of

waste and improper spending.

The strategic plan includes evaluating the effectiveness of subsidy policies and ensuring that they achieve their intended goals. The Companies Control Department will be responsible for implementing measures to review and improve subsidy mechanisms.

Among the Bureau's most prominent objectives

Reducing Financial Waste - Evaluating the ef-

MoH's Medical Emergency Dept

Dr Al-Shatti updates on Kuwait's medical air ambulance fleet and emergency drills

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti, Director of the Medical Emergency Department at the Ministry of Health, has provided an update on the department's air ambulance capabilities and emergency preparedness initiatives, reports Al-Jarida daily.



He reported that the department currently operates four aircraft -- two air ambulances and two medical evacuation planes. Additionally, there is a helicopter and a medical evacuation plane kept as reserves for emergency situations or replacements.

Dr. Al-Shatti highlighted that the department is focusing on enhancing emergency

Dr. Al-Shatti preparedness through various initiatives. A mock emergency evacuation exercise is scheduled to take place at the Kuwait Center for

ment, and the Sabah Ambulance District. This exercise is part of a broader strategy to ensure readiness for any potential emergencies within the Ministry of Health's facilities.

Mental Health, involving the Medical Emergency

Department, the Planning and Information Depart-

The Sabah Ambulance District has conducted a total of eight mock evacuation drills since the beginning of the year, with plans for more in the

Dr. Al-Shatti also announced the completion of the strategic stockpile plan for medical emergencies for 2024. This plan involves setting up a warehouse for each ambulance district, which will be stocked to support each district's needs for a month in emergencies.

Moreover, the main warehouse in the Emergency Department has been reorganized to increase storage capacity to three months, with a potential increase to six months if required.

Dr. Al-Shatti emphasized the critical role of medical emergency personnel in ensuring the continuous supply of medical equipment and supplies, underscoring their importance in maintaining the effectiveness of emergency response operations.

forts of entities under oversight to minimize financial waste, highlighting relevant financial laws and circulars, and recommending improvements to address wasteful practices

Studying Change Orders — Investigating the causes and impacts of change orders in high-risk government projects. The Bureau will identify and analyze change orders to understand their effects and reduce their frequency

Enhancing Coordination — Improving coordination with regulatory and professional bodies to combat corruption. This includes conducting seminars and workshops, developing work system guides, and promoting digital transformation to prevent manipulation of automated systems

Accountability and Penalties — Holding negligent parties accountable, applying governance principles, and imposing penalties on those who fail to perform their duties or violate regulations

Monitoring Goods and Services - Strengthening oversight of state-provided goods and services to identify and address causes of waste and inefficient expenditure

Reducing Waste in Construction Projects — Focusing on reducing waste in government construction projects through effective management of change orders and studying their implications

By implementing these initiatives, the Audit Bureau aims to enhance its oversight capabilities, improve financial management, and foster a culture of transparency and accountability within government



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

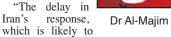
'Iran's delayed response to Israeli provocations reveals strategic calculations'

"THE provocations by Israel towards Iran have reached an unprecedented level since the Al-Aqsa Flood operation," columnist **Dr. Noura Saleh Al-**

Majim wrote for Al-Qabas daily. "The recent Israeli actions, including the attack on the Iranian consulate in Syria and the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in the heart of Tehran, have inflicted a deep wound on Iran's dignity and prestige, one that will not easily

"Given this severe blow, it was expected that Iran would announce a strong response against Israel, a sentiment also echoed by Hassan Nasrallah. However, nearly three weeks have passed since Haniyeh's assassination, and this anticipated retaliatory response has yet to materialize.

"Despite Lebanon declaring a state of emergency, the evacuation of foreigners and ongoing American statements about an imminent Iranian response, no significant action has occurred.



be symbolic and possibly coordinated with Washington, or might not happen at all, is not surprising to many experts familiar with Iranian affairs.

"This is consistent with Iran's historical approach to dealing with Israel and several other factors, including avoiding a full-scale regional war.

'The key takeaway from the delayed response, despite Israel's maximum provocation, is that it reveals Iran's strategic calculations and mindset, particularly in relation to Israel.

"Iran operates with three main, albeit unpublicized, principles in its long-standing conflict with the US and Israel. These are: first, to avoid direct warfare with Israel and the US; second, to employ proxies; and third, to follow a strategy of strategic patience to enhance its capabilities, particularly its nuclear program, to negotiate with the US.
"These principles explain Iran's tac-

tics and policies, including détente, maneuvering, rhetorical escalation, and reluctance to provide a decisive response against Israel.

"Such tactics damage its image and prestige but reflect a nuanced understanding of its own strength, internal situation, and international and regional dynamics.

"Iran is unlikely to engage in a direct, comprehensive confrontation with the US, given the catastrophic memory of the Iraq invasion and the overall de-cline in US power and strategic interest in the region.

"Therefore, Iran's optimal strategy is to maneuver against Israel and Washington through proxies while advancing its nuclear program as part of a broader plan for regional dominance.

'Israel is acutely aware of Iran's intentions and is concerned that Washington is not interested in a conflict with Iran, being preoccupied with China and its internal divisions.

"Consequently, Israel's primary goal in provoking Iran to the extreme is to entrap Iran in a full-scale war, thereby also implicating the US, which would be unlikely to remain passive while Iran destroys Israel.

"Should Washington become embroiled in such a conflict, the Iranian nuclear program would become a primary target for American and Israeli strikes, aiming to achieve Israel's foremost regional objective. Additionally, Israeli strikes would likely focus on completely dismantling Hezbollah, a significant threat to Israeli security.

'Thus, the delay in the Iranian response indicates covert understandings with Washington to thwart Israel's objective of dragging both Iran and the US into a comprehensive war.

"Iran, undoubtedly, is not afraid of Israel and can deliver a decisive response. However, it has refrained from doing so, especially as it nears the acquisition of nuclear weapons, according to international reports.

"Iran is committed to its strategic patience policy, which has enabled it to enrich high levels of uranium, strengthen its regional proxies, and exert influence over several Arab capitals.'

Also:

"Unfortunately, some laws and decisions issued by various state institutions still lack a comprehensive and complete study, starting with the words that make up the law, and ending with all the possibilities of reactions to its application and its success in resolving any problem for which the law was issued," columnist and former deputy director-general of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Iqbal Al-Ahmed wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"In order for a decision or law to be effective and achieve its purpose, it requires studying all aspects of the subject, present, past and future.

"The 'university degree requirement' law, which was issued by the labor force to link the professional description to the educational level, and oblige it to have a 'certificate' to issue work permits, will of course contribute to confusing a number of economic projects in light of the need for many simple professions that do not require university degrees.

"There must be a team that includes various experiences, ages, and orientations, to which decisions and laws that are expected to receive reactions from the street are transferred for study after subjecting them to a brainstorming session, through which the law is dissected, deconstructed, and its dimensions and ability to achieve its purpose are discussed, as well as the possibilities of reactions and their causes, and how to deal with these reactions, by changing some words, or adding, or deleting from the text of the law.

"The more comprehensive and complete the law or decision is, and the more capable it is of responding to every question or reaction, the stronger this law is and does not need to be withdrawn, amended, or even cancelled.

"This team's mission is to present the full picture of the law, after studying the reasons for its issuance, amendment or change, its purpose, and the goal to be achieved at all levels.

"There is a necessary condition, which is that the law or decision should not be allowed to become defunct with this team, but rather the work must be intensive to cover all its aspects.

"It is absolutely not forbidden, but rather it is necessary, to seek the assistance of those with experience and expertise in the field that the law speaks about, to benefit from their comments."

"I initially hesitated to write this article, preferring to adhere to the wise proverb, "Killing a fool is leaving him alone." However, the issue at hand has gone too far and provoked huge concerns. I am referring to the troubling chants promoted on social media under the slogan "We don't want citizenship." This slogan is not only reprehensible but also mocks and denies one of the fundamental components of our national identity - the Kuwaiti citizenship,' columnist M. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"I found myself wondering: Is it truly possible for a Kuwaiti to reach such a level of disdain for their own identity? Is someone who repeats or participates in such sentiments genuinely Kuwaiti? The extent to which this h seems so strange and shocking that it is hard to believe it could come from Kuwaitis. It is conceivable that this may be fabricated or contrived to incite discord, which seems more plausible?

"I find it hard to believe that those who propagated these chants are Kuwaitis, given the insults and abuse directed at our national identity. If they are indeed Kuwaitis, the solution is clear. The nationality law is explicit, and the options for leaving Kuwait by land, sea, or air are available to those who reject Kuwaiti citizenship and our national identity. God's earth is vast for those who do not value it.

"The spread of such statements and actions is both saddening and troubling. Those who engage in such behavior clearly lack a sense of national belonging and disregard our identity and unity.

"Deviating from the principles and constants of our national unity, even if done by a small minority, is unacceptable. We cannot remain silent about it and we must confront it regardless of its source, as its only aim is to undermine our national cohesion and destroy the foundations of our democratic system.

"We must recognize that Kuwaiti nationality is established, guaranteed, and protected by law. Despite any instances of falsification, collusion, or violations of this law, it is the law and its sovereignty that will guide us in holding individuals accountable, defending our unity, and preserving our national achievements.

 Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh

Ministry urges parents to use public buses

Mol preps security, traffic plan for new school year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The General Traffic Department (GTD) at the Ministry of Interior has completed its traffic plan for the new academic year with the slogan, "Academic Year without Traffic Jams," in cooperation with the Education Ministry to guarantee the safety of students and other road users, reports Al-Rai daily.

The ministry also urged parents to use public buses in order to reduce traffic congestion and to fully cooperate with the security officers.

The security and traffic plan for the new school year includes increasing the number of security personnel and traffic patrols in front of schools and the roads leading to the schools during the arrival and departure of students, as well as using surveillance cameras to closely monitor the traffic situation and quickly deal with traffic jams.

In a statement to Al-Akhbar Channel, Director of the Traffic Awareness Department at the ministry Colonel Fahd Al-Essa affirmed that GTD, Rescue Department and

Public Security Sector are fully prepared for the new academic year. He said a large number of traffic patrols are assigned at the entry and exit points of the roads, and in most schools to guarantee the smooth flow of traffic. "We have allocated traffic patrol vehicles to transport students who might find it difficult to reach their schools," he

He also asked the parents not to drop their children in front of the school entrance to prevent traffic jams, cooperate with security and traffic officers, and strictly comply with traffic regulations to ensure the safety of their children.

On the other hand, Major Ali Mahmoud from the Traffic Operations and Control Department stated that "we are ready for the new school year. The Control Unit closely monitors the traffic situation, especially at the intersections. We set programs during the hours when students arrive and leave their schools in order to facilitate traffic



Minister of Health Dr. Al-Awadhi reviews the requirements necessary to complete the examination procedures for students applying to join the Academy.

MoH keen to provide all technical support to Saad Al-Abdullah Academy Hospital: minister

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1, (KUNA): The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi reaffirmed the ministry's dedication to providing comprehensive technical support to the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences Hospital. This support aims to improve the quality and efficiency of the healthcare services offered at

The General Department of Se-

curity Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior announced in a press statement that Dr. Al-Awadhi's visit to the hospital was part of an ongoing effort to strengthen collaboration between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Health. He was accompanied by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi to assess the necessary requirements for

completing the medical examina-tions of students applying to join the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences.

During the visit, Dr. Al-Awadhi toured the academy's hospital, where he was briefed on the current medical procedures used to examine applicants. He also reviewed the steps needed to further develop the hospital's healthcare services

KD 2,000 worth items 'stolen' from vehicle

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: An unknown individual smashed the side window of a car parked in front of the owner's house, and stole a box that contained items worth KD 2,000 and a passport, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, a 1992-born expatriate went to Jahra Police Station and reported the theft. He explained that the family's 4WD vehicle was parked in front of their house. An unknown individual smashed the side window and took a wooden box, which contained antique coins, three new watches, ten used watches, and his father's passport.

He presented a death certificate to state that his father had died in early August. When asked if he suspected someone, he said he did not know anyone who could commit such a theft.

A case of felony and theft has been filed. The vehicle is being examined by forensic experts to gather evidence.

Robbery at gunpoint: An unknown individual, impersonating a policeman, waylaid a delivery driver in Sulaibiya, threatened him with a firearm, and robbed him of KD 40, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, a driver of a delivery company went to Sulaibiya Police Station and reported that he was robbed by an armed policeman. He explained to the officers at the station that he was stopped by the suspect who claimed to be a policeman, demanding for his civil ID and vehicle registration book.

Syrian businessman given 10 years jail, KD 3m fine in realty fraud case

Court denies request to release club president

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Court of Cassation upheld the ruling of lower court that sentenced a Syrian businessman to 10 years in prison and fined him KD 3 million in a real estate fraud case.

Case files indicate that a number of citizens pur-

chased hotel apartments in Makkkah; but it was later discovered that these are fictitious properties, so the citizens filed lawsuits. Attorney Ali Al-Attar from the Mishari Al-Asimi Law

Office considers the ruling one of the most important court decisions in terms of restoring the rights of citizens who were victims of real estate fraud.

Al-Attar called on government agencies to hold accountable the Kuwaiti partners who own companies that were used as a tool to commit crimes and steal citizens' money. He pointed out that the role of a Kuwaiti partner in any company is not limited to making profits; as he must monitor the company's activities, the work of its employees and the movement of funds. If he fails to do so, he must be held accountable and obligated to pay compensation.

Club chief's release denied: During its session yesterday, the Misdemeanor Court denied the request to release the president of Al-Arabi Club Abdulaziz Ashour. It has set the session of September 22 to pronounce the verdict in the lawsuit filed by one of the judges.

The Court of Cassation had previously ordered Ash-

our's release. He had been sentenced to six months in prison on charges of insulting a judicial member, with the execution of the sentence suspended pending an ap-

The charges stemmed from allegations that Ashour insulted and questioned the integrity of the judicial member. However, the Public Prosecution decided to continue his detention due to a new case filed by the same complainant after Ashour republished a video related to the initial incident on his account.

KD 1.900 worth cables stolen: Unknown individuals stole electrical cables worth KD 1,900 from a site belonging to the Ministry of Electricity and Water in Subbiya, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, an officer from the Ministry of Electricity and Water reported the incident at Subbiya Police Station.

He explained that the thieves stole seven electrical cables, each approximately 35 meters long, worth KD 1,900 from an electrical unit in the area.

Based on instruction from the Deputy Attorney General, a felony case was filed.

Asian found dead: The security authorities are looking for an unidentified person or persons who allegedly stabbed an Asian in the back and abandoned his corpse in Abdali, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to a security source after the Operations Department of the Ministry of Interior received a report, personnel from the Criminal Evidences Department rushed to the spot and discovered the victim had died of a stab wound in the back.



Al-Sevassah photo Road cleaning in progress.

MPW removes sand from Wafra, Umm Safaq roads

By Mohamed Ghanem Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Under the directives of Minister of Public Works, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, the road cleaning department of the Ministry of Public Works, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, cleaned the Al-Wafra and Umm Safaq areas after these roads were temporarily closed to facilitate the completion of the removal of sand which had covered these roads following a dust storm that hit Kuwait of late.

Expat fined KD 7,000 for using rented apartment for 'unlicensed' nursery

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Court of First Instance has issued a ruling to impose a fine of KD 7,000 on an expatriate who converted a rented apartment into an unlicensed nursery, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ruling includes two parts - a fine of KD 2,000 for employing expatriate workers without authorization from the concerned authority, and a fine of KD 5,000 for operating an unlicensed private nursery.

When the concerned authorities were informed about the misuse of an apartment for babysitting children, an investigation was launched. It was confirmed through the investigation that the suspect was using the apartment to babysit children and had employed an expatriate caregiver for the task along with his wife.

According to a report published in "Kuwait Alyoum" recently, the ruling is considered final, as 27 days have passed since it was published and the convicted person did not file an appeal.

Workers dodge security checkpoint

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Dozens of marginal workers dodged a security checkpoint in Mutla'a recently, reports Al-Shahed daily.

It has been reported that these marginal workers got out of cars transporting them towards Kuwait City when they noticed the checkpoint and they returned on foot over Mutla'a Bridge; indicating they were not carrying valid identification documents or have escaped from their sponsors to work in construction sites in the area, which is new and needs construction workers.

The sight of marginal workers on the streets in various areas remains a regrettable reality in the country. Despite the intensive security campaigns, many marginal laborers continue to engage in fraudulent activities, and have mastered the 'art' of escaping from security authorities and hiding in different places.





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Directive aims to elevate construction standards and ensure transparency

Kuwaiti quality mark now required for key building materials

Awqaf Ministry OKs electronic notifications for investigations

Employees to receive summons with legal validity

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has announced the approval of electronic notifications for its employees to attend investigation sessions.

In this regard, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Bader Al-Mutairi explained that employees will now be notified electronically about the dates for attendance and summons for investigation sessions. Notifications will be sent through the ministry's portal application and the employee's registered email.

These electronic summonses will have the same legal validity and implications as traditional paper documents from the moment they are delivered electronically to the employees.

The summons will include details such as the name of the employee whose testimony is required to be heard, their legal position in the investigation (e.g., complainant, defendant, witness, technical specialist, or official), the place and time of the investigation, its subject, and the name of the investigator.

The direct supervisor of the employee will also receive an electronic notification to ensure they are aware of the requirement and to confirm the employee's attendance at the specified time. The employee will be held responsible for any legal consequences resulting from failure to attend as scheduled.



The Jordanian Minister of Endowments, Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalilah, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan, Hamad Al-Marri, and the Jordanian Chief Justice, Abdul Hafez Al-Rabitah

Kuwait opens mosque in Jordan

AMMAN, Sept 1, (KUNA): Jordan's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and fHoly Sanctities Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalilah said on Thursday the brotherly bonds between Kuwait and Jordan are outstanding on all levels, thanks to much support by the two countries' political leaderships.

The minister made the statement while inaugurating a mosque in Amman, in the presence of Kuwait Ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al-Marri

Dr. Al-Mutairi called for this procedure to be circulated electronically through the ministry's portal application. Employees are considered to

Al-Khalilah expressed appreciation to Kuwait's Sheikh Abdullah Al Nouri Charity Society for its donation to the

Meanwhile, Ambassador Al-Marri said in a similar speech that cooperation between Kuwait and Jordan have been deep-rooted for decades, stressing the significance of partnerships in all fields between Kuwaiti and Jordanian institutions to serve two peoples

the summons upon reviewing it on the portal. The procedure will also be circulated to all ministry sectors through the usual methods to ensure complihave acknowledged and are bound by ance and proper implementation.

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: In a significant move to enhance the quality of building materials in Kuwait, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, who also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Public Authority for Industry, has issued a new directive mandating that specific building materials must now carry the Kuwaiti Quality Mark to be approved for use.

The products affected by this decision include "Steel for concrete reinforcement - Part Two: Bars with protrusions," "Solid concrete bricks," 'Technical specifications for building bricks - Part Four: Cellular concrete bricks," and "Portland cement."

The Decision No. 20/2024, was based on the recommendations made during the seventy-first meeting of the General Committee for Standardization, as well as other relevant ministerial decisions concerning the approval of technical regulations and Kuwaiti standard specifications.

Moreover, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has reiterated its call for all companies and holders of commercial licenses to ensure they register the actual beneficiary through the commercial registry portal.

This move is part of the ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and compliance within the business sector.

CSC unveils training plan for 2024-2025

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Administrative Development Administrative Sector at the Civil Service Commission has unveiled its comprehensive training plan for the 2024/2025 season, detailing 67 programs across six categories of government employees.

The breakdown is as follows -- senior category: 6 programs; middle category: 11 programs; supervisory category: 13 programs; executive category: 8 programs; specialized category: 15 programs and administrative development cadres category: 4 programs.

Al-Mashaan to meet with citizens

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Ministry of Public Works has announced that Minister Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan will be available to meet with citizens next Monday from 9 to 11 am

at the Ministry's headquarters (ground floor).

To schedule an appointment, citizens must do it through the 'Mawaeed' platform on the 'Sahel' application.

Compliance under scrutiny

MoE 'tightens rules' on school cafeteria products and pricing

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Maryam Al-Anzi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities, has emphasized on the importance of adhering to the health requirements list for school cafeterias, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Ministry has also set specific selling prices for these items, which include juices, dairy products, biscuits, fresh fruits and vegetables, pies, sandwiches, and dried fruits.

She stressed that PAFN inspectors, as well as Technical Guidance for Activities, will conduct periodic visits to ensure compliance and that schools must cooperate with these inspections and ensure that all food sold meets the approved list and price regulations.

Additionally, schools are required to provide records of cafeteria operations and contracts with suppliers, particularly for pies and sandwiches.

Meanwhile, the ministry said for the 2024/2025 academic year, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, has approved 25 companies to supply food products to school cafeterias.

The schools should not contract with companies selling soft drinks and wafers. All goods must be sold at prices not exceeding those set by the Ministry, except for full meal providers.

In response to any violations, schools will be given time to correct issues before facing potential fines. For any complaints or violations, schools will receive notifications and, if necessary, written reports will be submitted to the Director of the Educational Activities Department.

Foreign schools launch new year with full prep

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Several foreign and bilingual schools -- including Pakistani, Filipino and Indian schools -- started the school year 2024/2025 on Sunday, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources confirmed these schools have fully prepared to welcome around 255,140 students; indicating the Planning Unit at the Private Education General Department in the Education Ministry will soon issue its annual bulletin, stating the number of students enrolled in each school and the specified number of students in each class.

Sources said the foreign schools coordinated with their respective embassies regarding the distribution of textbooks. Sources affirmed these schools completed the maintenance and painting works, replaced damaged furniture and air conditioning units, fully equipped clinics and cafeterias, and provided adequate number of teachers and other employees like messengers, cleaners and bus drivers.

Regarding school uniforms, educational sources confirmed there are no current plans to amend the school uniform policy, refuting rumors about adopting alternative attire such as the "dishdasha."

New female students advised to pick campus

PAAET approves cash equivalent for unused leave days to 60 professors

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Association of Faculty Members at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) revealed that Director General of PAAET Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam issued a decision to disburse the cash equivalent of the unused leaved days of 60 professors, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The association expressed appreciation for the tremendous efforts exerted by the authority's administration in ensuring the disbursement of the cash equivalent of the unused leave days of the abovementioned

"We expect that the same decision will be issued soon for other batches of eligible colleagues, taking into consideration the diligence and dedication of those assigned at the Faculty Affairs Department in completing procedures in this regard. They deserve praise and gratitude for the financial entitlement granted to the faculty members," the association stated.

On the other hand, PAAET advised the female students accepted into the College of Basic Education to activate their accounts on the 'Teams' platform and specify their preferred campus -- Ardiya, Jahra or Faha-

PAAET said the questionnaire is availday on Sept 5; indicating that if a student does not fill the questionnaire, she will be randomly registered in any of the campuses based on availability.

Online access improves student experience

KU library expands hours and services

By Abdulrahman Al Shimmari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: In an effort to enhance sustainable development and im-

prove the quality of higher education, Dr. Nawaf Al-Mutairi, the Acting Director of Kuwait University, conducted an inspection of the University Student Library at the Shuwaikh campus to assess its readiness for the upcoming 2024/2025 academic year.

This visit emphasized the university administration's commitment to providing high-quality services to students and addressing any challenges faced by the academic and administrative staff.

Dr. Al-Mutairi highlighted that the library has extended its operating hours, now open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm for two weeks at the start of the academic year, to better accommodate students.

Previously, the library only operated during morning hours. Additionally, the university has launched an online bookstore with home delivery services within one to two working days, ensuring that students have access to resources 24 hours

This initiative also includes special provisions for students with disabilities, making the library services more accessible.

Assistant Vice President for Academic Support Services, Dr. Hamed Al-Furaih, noted that during the summer, the library introduced advanced services, including extended hours and an online store available from 8:00 pm to 8:00

He also mentioned that students at Kuwait Uni-



Dr. Nawaf Al-Mutairi, the Acting Director of Kuwait University, during an inspection of the University Student

Dean resolves glitch

Library.

Students union urges for extra registration periods

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Muhammad Al-Rashoud, the head of the National Union of Kuwait University Students, has been addressing the fallout from the recent disruption of the electronic course registration system,

reports Al-Jarida daily.

The technical issues prevented many students from registering for their courses at the designated times. Al-Rashoud met with Dr. Fadhel Aziz, the Dean of Admissions and Registration, to discuss the problem, its impact, and preventive measures.

Dr. Aziz clarified that the issue stemmed from a technical glitch in the Information Systems Center and assured that solutions were promptly implemented to protect students' rights.

Students who missed their registration due to the glitch will have the opportunity to enroll during the current third registration period and what he called the "pay force" period. Al-Rashoud has also advocated for an additional fourth exceptional registration period to ensure no student is disadvantaged.

He expressed gratitude to the Deanship of Admissions and Registration for their swift response and support in addressing the situation.

versity benefit from a 60 percent discount on books, with students only paying

40 percent of the cost. Fajr Al-Majbil, the Acting Director of the Student Library Department, confirmed the library's

preparedness for the new

academic year, ensuring the

availability of various books and facilitating direct sales. The electronic store has

been activated, and students with disabilities can receive books at no cost, provided they present a university ID and academic schedule, in line with existing regula-



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

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Scarcity spurs increased imports

Mead fish 'shortage' in Kuwait tied to fishing restrictions and fuel cuts



Al-Jarida photo

Local mead fish shortfall leads to price hike

KOTC announces tenders for LPG maintenance, IT services

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) has announced a tender for the maintenance of 5-kilogram and 25-kilogram liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders in the local market, sanding of 12-kilogram and 25-kilogram LPG cylinders in the Shuaiba LPG filling branch, and painting of 12-kilogram and 25-kilogram LPG cylinder cages at Shuaiba and Umm Al-Aish LPG filling factories.

The tender will be offered to the three companies invited to participate in the bidding 30 days after the publication of the announcement in the official gazette -- Kuwait Al-Youm.

The Supreme Tenders Committee at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has clarified that any interested party excluded from the list of companies invited to the bidding has the right to appeal the exclusion or submit a request to participate in the tender accompanied by the documents, indicating that it will be directed to the chairman of the committee at KPC and its affiliated companies.

As per the request of KOTC, the committee announced the launching of a general, indivisible global and local tender for the supply of all navigational charts and navigation notices, as well as publications for fleet ships; indicating that the last date for submitting bids is Oct 1, 2024.

It also announced the launching of a tender to rent computers, printers and their accessories and provide maintenance and technical support services to KOTC in accordance with the terms and specifications contained in the tender documents, which are available on the website. It added that the last date for submitting bids is Oct 15, 2024.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The government's decision to permit fishing for mead fish from July to November has not succeeded in making this fish available in Kuwait's local market, primarily due to several significant obstacles, reports Al-Jarida

Despite this permission, fishing circles report that the restrictions imposed on fishermen, such as the reduction of subsidized diesel for fishing boats, have severely limited their operations. As a result, many fishing boats have ceased activity, and some fishermen have migrated to other countries where conditions might be more favorable.

One of the key issues is the complete ban on fishing for mead in Kuwait Bay, which is considered its main habitat. This ban, intended to protect fish stocks, is seen by fishermen as counterproductive.

They argue that instead of promoting reproduction, the ban causes the mead fish to migrate in search of food, thereby reducing their presence in Kuwaiti waters. The ban is also viewed as a waste of fish resources, as organized fishing in the bay could potentially contribute to a more balanced marine environment.

Additionally, the areas where fishing is permitted are home to other fish species, leading to a significant increase in the prices of mead fish due to its scarcity.

This scarcity has forced the local market to rely on imported mead fish, further driving up prices and limiting availability.

The combination of reduced fuel subsidies, restrictions on fishing areas, and the ban on fishing in Kuwait Bay has created a situation where mead fish is both scarce and expensive in the local market, despite the government's efforts to open the fishing season.

Kuwait updates

Continued from Page 1

- At the beginning of the business, the motorbike used in the business should have been manufactured at least two years ago and it should no longer be used four years after the manufacturing date.

- A yellow metal plate number is issued for vehicles used in the business.

- The driver must wear a vest specific to the company or institution, the specifications of which are determined by the Inspection Division at GTD.

Add lighting to the attached box and place reflective light strips behind the boxes of motorbikes.

A motorbike rider must wear a fluorescent helmet as per the specifica-

 Motorbikes are not allowed on ring roads and expressways.

- Companies and institutions currently engaged in the business are allowed to replace out of service ve-

- Companies and institutions currently engaged in the business are allowed to modify the types of vehicles they own according to the nature of the commercial activity upon the expiration of their operating license in order to be in line with their activity and needs.

- The purpose of the license should be in accordance with the terms and conditions stated in this decision.

· Companies and institutions planning to provide logistics services must obtain approval from GTD in order to engage in this commercial activity in accordance with the terms and conditions set by GTD.

HH Amir

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a condolences cable on Sunday to the King of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, over the passing of Princess Noura bint Abdullah Al-Abdulrahman Al-Saud.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow the deceased with mercy and grant Al-Saud Family patience and solace.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a condolences cable on Sunday to the King of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, over the passing of Princess Noura bint Abdullah Al-Abdulrahman Al-Saud, praying to Allah Almighty to bestow the deceased with mercy.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a condolence cable on Sunday to the King of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, over the passing of Princess Noura bint Abdullah Al-Abdulrahman Al-Saud.

'15% direct

Continued from Page 1

Highlighting Emirati-Kuwaiti exchanged investments, the Ambassador mentioned that 15 percent of total direct investments in Kuwait come from

the Emirates. Minister Al-Yahya's visit will also include official opening of new Kuwaiti diplomatic mission headquarters, where he will be doing so with his Emirati counterpart, he added.

Kuwait's Al-Rajhi

Continued from Page 1

Daniel Romanchuk, of the United States won the gold medal, finishing in 10:55.28, while the Swiss Marcel Hug finished in 10:55.78 to win silver.

Al-Rajhi came in sixth in the 400m T54 race, at the Paralympic Games.

Al-Rajehi registered 48:29 seconds and came in sixth at his group's first round, disqualifying him from the 400m - T54 race, but will still be competing at the 1500m qualifiers.

Coming in first was British racer Nathan Mcguire with 45:47 seconds.

New clinic

Continued from Page 1

Individual consultations and therapy sessions are a core part of the clinic's offerings, ensuring that students receive the tailored support they need.

This new clinic represents a significant step forward in supporting student mental health, providing valuable resources for addressing and overcoming psychological and social challenges.

A newly established clinic is dedicated to providing psychological and social counseling for students experiencing various challenges, including academic pressures, family issues, and exposure to violence. This clinic is designed to address and treat problems with a range of services, including individual therapy sessions and behavioral guidance, particularly for cases involving abuse or violence.

A cornerstone of the clinic's operation is its rigorous commitment to privacy and confidentiality. All student-related information and case files are carefully managed under strict supervision by specialists. This approach ensures that personal details are safeguarded, thereby fostering trust among students and parents. This trust is crucial in encouraging students to seek the help they need without the fear of their information being leaked.

The clinic's medical professionals, including doctors, psychologists, and social workers, adhere to a stringent ethical code. This code emphasizes the protection of students' personal information and the creation of a psychologically safe environment. By maintaining these high standards, the clinic ensures that students can openly discuss their issues and receive the

support they need. Another key aspect of the clinic's mission is the early detection and prevention of psychological and social conditions. The clinic focuses on identifying issues such as anxiety disorders, depression, school violence, and drug-related behaviors at their initial stages.

Early intervention is crucial, as it helps prevent these problems from escalating into more severe conditions, thereby reducing the likelihood of long-term complications. In summary, the new clinic provides a vital service by addressing students' mental health needs through confidential, ethical, and preventive care.

By focusing on early detection and offering a safe space for students to seek help, the clinic plays a crucial role in supporting the overall well-being and academic success of its young clients.

'Suhail' signals

Continued from Page 1

It further explained that the star's delayed appearance in Kuwait's sky is due to its geographic location north of the Peninsula, as it first appears in the south and makes its way upward.

'Wise leaderships'

Continued from Page 1

Al-Budaiwi discussed the historical motivations behind the establishment of the Council, noting that the primary objective was to unify efforts in addressing regional and global challenges.

He further explained that the geographic location of GCC countries has placed them in a dynamic environment, characterized by numerous regional challenges and changes, which necessitated a united front in strengthening and harmonizing Gulf efforts to overcome and adapt to.

Al-Budaiwi also highlighted several current and future joint Gulf projects, underscoring their positive impact on the peoples of the GCC states and the relationships between the six-member bloc and countries and organizations

The GCC was established in 1981 and held its first summit meeting on May 25 of the same year in Abu Dhabi, UAE. (KUNA)

KAC eyes

Continued from Page 1

The Kuwait Airways is also exploring the launch of new destinations to cities like Moscow, locations in China and East Asia, and several European countries, particularly in conjunction with the opening of the new T2 passenger terminal and the introduction of new aircraft to the fleet.

The airline will soon introduce a selfservice baggage weighing system, allowing travelers to weigh their luggage 12 hours before departure.

Moreover, the baggage allowance for economy class passengers has been set at two pieces of 23 kg each, while business class passengers can carry two pieces of 32 kg each, and first-class or royal-class passengers are allowed three pieces of 32 kg each.

These initiatives aim to enhance customer satisfaction and maintain Kuwait Airways' competitive edge in the aviation industry.

Hunt for

Continued from Page 1

to pinpoint his location in the Oyoun area, where he was found in a disoriented condition. He was subsequently arrested and referred to the concerned authorities for further legal action.

It is worth highlighting that the Ministry of Interior's extensive efforts in the search for the missing citizen are commendable.

'Winter vaccination

Continued from Page 1

Dr. Al-Baho highlighted that vaccinations against various diseases, along with the ministry's intensive efforts, have significantly reduced infection rates of infectious diseases in Kuwait. Regarding the effectiveness of vac-

cines in providing immunity compared to natural infection, Dr. Al-Baho explained that vaccines stimulate the immune system to produce a response similar to that generated by natural infection. However, unlike natural infection, vaccines do not cause the disease or expose the vaccinated individual to its potential complications.



The 27th meeting of the Committee of Undersecretaries of the Civil Service and Administrative Development Or-

Kuwait joins GCC Civil Service forum in Doha

Expertise exchange at the heart of 27th meeting

DOHA, Sept 1, (KUNA): A delegation from Kuwait's Civil Service Commission (CSC), led by the acting Undersecretary of CSC Diaa Al-Qabandi, participated in the 27th meeting of the Committee of Undersecretaries of Civil Service and Administrative Development Agencies from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which commenced in Doha, Qatar, on Sunday.

In the opening speech, the acting Director General of the Qatari Civil Service and Government Development Bureau Saif Al-Kaabi highlighted the importance of exchanging expertise, sharing visions, and boosting collaboration to improve the civil service system and enhance the workforce capabilities.

Al-Kaabi outlined the session's agenda, particularly the key topics such as initiatives for joint training programs, agreements and memoranda of understanding, as well as standardizing license purchases for human resources systems across GCC countries, and recognizing distinguished talents within the civil service sectors in the Gulf region.

In addition, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Development Affairs at the GCC Secretariat General Khaled Al-Ŝunaidi said the agenda also includes matters related to civil service and administrative development that were previously studied by the Technical Committee for Civil Service Affairs and Human Resources.

Al-Sunaidi said the committee will review these topics to make decisions and provide directives aimed at enhancing coordination, integration, and connectivity in civil service and human development across GCC nations.

CSC plans evening shifts to streamline public services

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Civil Service Council has instructed the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to study the mechanism for the evening working hours of government agencies in charge of completing transactions and providing various services to citizens in order to reduce pressure on these agencies in the morning and speed up the completion of transactions, reports Al-Shahed daily.

On its official 'X' platform account, the CSC announced that its director, Dr. Issam Al-Rubaian, recently met with undersecretaries representing 13 government agencies to discuss the evening shift mechanism for certain government agencies. It added that this move is aimed at easing procedures for citizens in line with its commitment to better serve the public.

Moreover, the CSC has unveiled its plan to launch the employee achievement record system, which will be applied on five government agencies for a period of six months on experimental basis. It clarified that the date of starting the trial period will be specified later, indicating the employees' achievements will be document to ensure that outstanding employees are prioritized in terms of financial benefits, training courses and promotion. It revealed that an electronic file will be created for each employee to allow them to record all the tasks they perform; including transactions, correspondence, meetings and others.

9th air bridge relief mission departs

KRCS sends 30 tons of aid to Sudan

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced its ninth air bridge mission from Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base, transporting 30 tons of food, relief supplies, and wheelchairs to Port Sudan Airport to support displaced individuals in Sudan affected by ongoing conflicts, heavy rains, and floods.

Speaking to KUNA, Director of Disaster and Emergency Department at KRCS Yousef Al-Maraj emphasized that the mission reflects Kuwait's constant humanitarian efforts and dedication to helping those affected by natural and man-made disasters.

Al-Maraj confirmed KRCS' commitment to continuing aid for flood and storm victims as directed by the country's political leadership and expressed deep gratitude to Kuwait's

The relief shipment included essential supplies such as food, medi-cine, and wheelchairs, which are crucial for supporting affected people and helping medical staff and rescue teams treating the injured and displaced Sudanese.

Employees union

praises study on

evening work for

gov't employees

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Dr.

Khaled Al-Barrak, Chair-

man of the National Union

of Employees, has expressed

strong support for the recent

decision by the Civil Ser-

vice Commission to task the

Civil Service Bureau with

studying the implementation

of an evening work system

in government institutions,

reports Al-Seyassah daily. Dr. Al-Barrak commend-

ed this initiative, noting that

it represents a significant

step towards enhancing the

quality and accessibility of

services for both citizens

He emphasized that the

introduction of evening work

hours aligns with the union's

goals of improving service to

ernment agencies can better

meet the needs of individu-

als who are unable to access

services during their work-

This initiative is part of

broader efforts to optimize

public services and accom-

modate diverse schedules,

ultimately benefiting a wider

segment of the population.

By extending working hours into the evening, gov-

citizens and residents.

and residents.

ing hours.

Kuwait University admits 253 non-Kuwaiti students tablished limits for non-Kuwaiti ad-

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1, (KUNA): Kuwait University (KU) announced on Saturday that it has admitted 253 non-Kuwaiti students for the first semester of the 2024/2025 academic year.

Dr. Fadel Aziz, Acting Dean of Admissions and Registration at KU, stated that the new students, who are high school graduates from various nationalities, were accepted based on the university's specified criteria and quotas. This decision aligns with the university council's policies, which prioritize maintaining admission standards for Kuwaiti students while considering the es-

Al-Maraj also expressed gratitude

approve their acceptance and pay a fee of 10 Kuwaiti dinars (\$32.76) through the online admission system at KU's admission portal.

specialization.

missions.

He noted that the local population requires urgent additional relief, including shelter, food, and medical supplies, to cope with the catastrophic impacts of the rains, floods, and current humanitarian crisis.

to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense for their continuous support in facilitating aid delivery.

Dr. Aziz noted that the univer-

sity's admission policy requires

non-Kuwaiti students to meet or

exceed the minimum percentage of

secondary school grades required for Kuwaiti students in their chosen

Accepted students will receive a

confirmation text message detailing

their college placement. To final-

ize their admission, students must

يَتَأَيُّهُا ٱلنَّفْسُ ٱلنَّطْمَبَنَّةُ ٱرْجِعِيٓ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةٌ مَّرْضِيَّةٌ فَٱدْخُلِي فِي عِبَدِي وَٱدْخُلِيجَنَّتِي **Condolences**

Faisal Mohammed Al Najdi And **His Mother Indira Kochhar**

Sadly Mourn the Passing of

Riad Mohammed Sultan Amman Al Najdi

May The Almighty Allah shower his blessings on his soul

The burial will be at Sulaibhikhat cemetery after the Asr Prayers

We Pray to the Almighty Allah to shower his Mercy on him & Place him in the highest ranks of Paradise

Condolences will be accepted at the Cemetery only

الماسرة اللهم الجعوث

World News Roundup

Europe

158 drones destroyed

Azerbaijan votes in parliamentary polls

BAKU, Azerbaijan, Sept 1, (AP): Polls opened Sunday in Azerbaijan for a snap parliamentary election, the first since it regained full control of a former breakaway territory in a lightning offensive last year.

Previous elections since independence from the Soviet Union have not been regarded as fully free or fair, and the vote for the Milli Mejlis parliament is not expected to bring significant changes to the body dominated by President Ilham Aliyev's New Azerbaijan

Aliyev's father ruled Azerbaijan from 1993 until he died in 2003, then Ilham took over. Both have led the country with their heavy-handed rule, suppressing

dissent as the country of almost 10 million people on the shores of the Caspian Sea basked in growing wealth from its huge oil and natural gas re-



The ruling party holds 69 of the 125 seats in the parliament, and most of the rest belong to small pro-government parties or independents. The Musavat party, the major opposition formation, put forth 34 candidates for Sunday's election but only 25 of them were registered. The Republican Alternative

opposition party will run 12 candidates. Under the constitution, the election should have been held in November, but Aliyev decreed it to take place two months early as it coincided with the capital, Baku, hosting the United Nations climate talks, known as COP29.

The election comes just short of a year after Azerbaijani forces reclaimed in a military operation the Karabakh region, which since 1994 had been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia, and forced out its self-declared government. Most of the region's 120,000 Armenian residents fled the region in the face of the offensive.

The national election commission says 50 organizations will conduct observer missions. The largest observer contingent, from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, is scheduled to present its preliminary assessment of the election on Monday.

Germany pays tribute to Solingen victims: German leaders paid tribute Sunday to the three people killed in the Aug 23 knife attack by a suspected Islamic extremist, which has pushed immigration back to the top of the country's political agenda.

Eight people also were wounded in the attack at a "Festival of Diversity" marking the 650th anniversary of the city of Solingen in western Germany. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said at a memorial event in a city theater that he was "relieved and thankful" that none of them is now in serious danger.

The 26-year-old Syrian suspect, who was arrested a day after the attack, was supposed to be deported to Bulgaria last year but reportedly disappeared for a time and avoided deportation.

In recent days, Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government has announced new restrictions on knives and new measures to ease deportations. On Friday, it deported Afghan nationals to their homeland for the first time since the Taliban returned to power in 2021, following up on a pledge made in June after a previous attack.

"It is a horrifying crime that brings us together today, carried out by a man who, according to everything we know, sought and and found protection here, and abused this protection so terribly," Steinmeier said at the memorial, also attended by Scholz and other top officials. "That is also intolerable."

Steinmeier said that "we are for good reason a country that takes in people who seek protection from political persecution and war." He added that "we want to remain that country, but ultimately we can only do so if the number of those who are not entitled to this special protection does not overburden us.'

Poland leaders lead ceremonies: Poland's leaders stressed the need for a strong defense in the face of war in neighboring Ukraine and redress as they led solemn ceremonies early Sunday to mark the 85th anniversary of German Nazi forces invading and bomb-

ing Polish territory at the start of World War II. Sirens wailed and a memorial bell tolled as President Andrzej Duda and deputy ambassador of Germany, Robert Rohde, attended an observance in the town of Wielun, the first civilian target of German bombing in the small hours of Sept 1, 1939. Some 1,200 people were killed in the attack which witnesses say began at 4:40 am.

"We can say that we have forgiven even though we remember, even though the pain is persisting and even though there are still tens of thousands of those who have been directly hurt by the Germans," Duda said. He also called on Berlin to make amends.

Meanwhile, at a monument on the Baltic Sea's Westerplatte peninsula, where a military outpost was shelled by a German warship just minutes after Wielun was attacked, Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Defense Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz laid wreaths and attended a memorial roll call for fallen soldiers. At the time, the outpost's outnumbered troops fought for seven days before surrendering to the Germans, becoming a symbol of heroism and pat-

Russia destroys 158 drones: Russian air defenses intercepted and destroyed 158 Ukrainian drones overnight, including two over the city of Moscow and nine over the surrounding Moscow region, the defense ministry said Sunday.

Forty-six of the drones were over the Kursk region, where Ukraine has sent its forces in recent weeks in the largest incursion onto Russian soil since World War II. A further were 34 over the Bryansk region, 28 over the Voronezh region, and 14 over the Belgorod region - all of which border Ukraine.

Drones were also shot down deeper into Russia, including one each in the Tver region, northwest of Moscow, and the Ivanovo region, northeast of the Russian capital. Russia's Defense Ministry said drones were intercepted over 15 regions, while one other governor said a drone was shot down over his region, too.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that falling debris from one of the two drones shot down over the city caused a fire at an oil refinery.

Meanwhile, Russia's Ministry of Defense said Sunday it had taken control of the towns of Pivnichne and Vvimka, in Ukraine's Donetsk region.



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris talks as she makes a stop at a volunteer appreciation event at The Gray in downtown Savannah, Ga., on Aug 29. (AP)



President Frank-Walter Steinmeier speaks during a commemoration service for the victims of a knife attack that killed three people last week, in Solingen, Germany on Sept 1. (AP)



America

3 dead in Ore plane crash: Three people were dead after a small plane crashed into a row of townhouses Saturday morning in a neighborhood east of Portland, setting the homes ablaze, authorities told KATU-TV.

Officials earlier in the day had said the plane was carrying two people and that at least one resident had been unaccounted for.

Photos and videos published by KGW-TV in Portland showed one of the townhomes engulfed in flames while black smoke poured out of the adjoining houses. Gresham Fire Chief Scott Lewis said the fire had spread to at least four of the homes, displacing up to six families. He said two people were treated at the scene, but he didn't describe the type or severity

The Federal Aviation Administration identified the aircraft as a twin-engine Cessna 421C, which it says went down around 10:30 am near Troutdale Airport, about a 30-minute drive east of Portland. (AP)

Mississippi bus crash kills 7: Seven people were killed and dozens were injured in Mississippi after a commercial bus overturned on Interstate 20 on Saturday morning, according to the Mississippi Highway Patrol.

Six passengers were pronounced dead at the scene and another died at a hospital, according to a news release. The bus was traveling west when it left the highway near Bovina in Warren County and flipped over. No other vehicle was involved.

The crash was caused by tire failure, the National Transportation Safety Board said on the social media platform X. The bus was operated by Autobuses Regiomontanos. A woman who answered the phone at its Laredo, Texas, office said it was aware of the crash, but she didn't answer questions or provide her name.

The transit company says it has 20 years of experience providing crossborder trips between 100 destinations in Mexico and the US. (AP)

Man pleads guilty in loan fraud:

A politically active western New York businessman has admitted to a multimillion-dollar pandemic loan fraud that, prosecutors have said, went partly to his campaign coffers for an unsuccessful bid

Politics

RFK Jr sues N.Carolina elections board

Duggan puts political pull to help Harris

DETROIT, Sept 1, (AP): Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan is deep in campaign mode. But not his own.

The three-term mayor, whose name is being floated as a possible Democratic candidate for Michigan governor, knows the value of his and his majority Black city's support for Vice President Kamala Harris in Novem-

ber's presidential election. Duggan, like some other major city mayors across the country, is using his political pull to help mobilize voters in his city as Harris is set to visit Monday in a Labor Day slate of events by the Democrat and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

Mayors tend to be elected along partisan lines with policies reflecting the views of the majority of voters in their cities. Of the largest 20 cities in the United States based on population, only Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, have Republican mayors.

Mayors "know what's at stake," said Columbus, Ohio, Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, a Democrat who adds that

he's "all in for the vice president." For Duggan, it's all about getting Harris and Walz elected.

Aware

Michigan is among the top swing state prizes Harris and Republican nominee former president Donald Trump are vying for this fall, ever aware that Trump won the state by fewer than 11,000 votes in 2016 before losing it to President Joe Biden in 2020 by about 150,000 votes.

Detroit, Michigan's largest city, is one of the top Democratic strongholds in the country, with turnout expected to top 50% of registered voters for the general election, according to its city

Soon after Biden bowed out of this year's presidential race, Duggan endorsed Harris. An August rally in the Detroit area drew 15,000 people, according to Harris' campaign. Trump later would falsely claim an image of thousands of people waiting at airport for the rally was fabricated with the help of artificial intelligence.

City Clerk Janice Winfrey said 55% or more of Detroit's registered voters could cast ballots in November. About 51% of registered voters cast ballots

Court records show Hormoz Mansouri,

who sought the Democratic nomination

for Erie County comptroller in 2021,

for county office.

for Barack Obama when he first ran for president, Winfrey said.

"Everybody wants to be involved," said Winfrey, adding that Duggan's involvement in voter outreach extended to his support for a 40% increase in her

But it's more than popularity driving mayors to cozy up to current and future presidents. Communities rely on millions in federal dollars for anything from infrastructure projects to hiring more police officers.

Serves

"We need to get things done," said Ginther, who also serves as president of the US Conference of Mayors. "There's not a Republican or Democrat way to pick up trash, plow the streets or keep people safe. One of the major platforms is housing. By far it's the No. 1 issue fac ing mayors around this country, whether Donald Trump is elected or the vice president is elected president."

Over the past five years, Detroit has invested about \$1 billion to create more than 4,600 affordable housing units in the city. Federal, state and city funds helped pay for those projects.

"Every mayor makes their own decision," Duggan said. "The cities have done enormously well under Biden/

Detroit was awarded about \$706.5 million in federal grant funding under the Trump White House. Biden's administration has awarded and committed more than \$2 billion to the city, according to Duggan's office.

The American Rescue Plan, a 2021 federal coronavirus relief measure signed by Biden that included funds for state, city and tribal governments, "probably accelerated Detroit's recovery by 10 years," Duggan said.

The city, deeply in debt and with annual budget deficits in the millions of dollars, was steered into and out of the largest municipal bankruptcy in US history by a manager appointed by Michigan's then-Republican governor a decade ago. Under Duggan, the city's finances have stabilized and budget surpluses now are the norm.

The nation's housing crisis should be foremost on the minds of mayors, both Democrat and Republican, according to Analilia Mejia, co-execu-

pleaded guilty Friday to federal bank

He was involved in billionaire Tom

Golisano's ultimately successful bids to

fraud and fraud conspiracy charges.

tive director of the nonprofit Center for Popular Democracy.

Also:

WASHINGTON: Robert F. Kennedy Jr is suing the North Carolina State Board of Elections in a last-ditch attempt to get his name removed from the state's ballot ahead of the 2024 presidential election.

The lawsuit filed in Wake County Superior Court Friday says the board's denial of his request to remove his name as a third-party presidential candidate violated state election law and his right to free speech, according to The News & Observer and WRAL.

"With November election looming and ballot deadlines fast-approaching, Kennedy has no choice but to turn to this Court for immediate relief," the

Since he suspended his campaign and endorsed former President Donald Trump in August, Kennedy has sought to withdraw his name in states where the race could be close, such as North Carolina.

At the same time, Kennedy made an effort to remain on the ballot in states like New York where his presence is unlikely to make a difference in the battle between Trump and Vice President **Kamala Harris**.

Unless the court intervenes, Kennedy's name will appear on the North Carolina ballot in November.

On Thursday, the North Carolina board's three Democrats outvoted two Republicans to reject the request to remove Kennedy and his running mate, Nicole Shanahan, from the ballot's "We The People" party line.

The Democratic majority said it was too late, given that 67 of the state's 100 counties had begun printing ballots, the first of which must be sent out by Sept. 6.

The main vendor for most of the counties already printed more than 1.7 million ballots, and reprints would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, Board Executive Director Karen Brinson Bell said.

"When we talk about the printing a ballot we are not talking about ... pressing 'copy' on a Xerox machine. This is a much more complex and layered process," Brinson Bell told the board.

buy the NHL's Buffalo Sabres in the early 2000s. (AP)



'Pilot declared emergency': The pilot of a plane that crashed in northeast Wyoming in July, killing seven people, declared an emergency and loss of the autopilot shortly before the incident that claimed the lives of three members of the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame quartet The Nelons.

The preliminary report released this week by the National Transportation Safety Board states the plane had taken off from an airport in Nebraska on July 26, with plans to stop in Billings, Montana, when the aircraft went down about 12 miles (19 kilometers) northeast of Recluse, Wyoming.

During the last part of the flight, the pilot declared an emergency to the Salt Lake City Air Route Traffic Control Center and reported the loss of autopilot, prompting the controller to ask him where he would like to land, the report states. The controller did not receive an initial response, but the pilot later said he was "trying to get control of the airplane," the report states.

Once radar and radio contact were lost, the Federal Aviation Administration issued an alert notice for the plane, which was later found crashed in a remote area, according to the report. (AP)



First-graders hold balloons during the traditional ceremony for the first day of school in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on Sept 1. Zaporizhzhia schoolchildren celebrated the traditional first day of school near the frontline. With the front just 40 kilometers away, the war is never far from the minds of teachers and families. (AP)

Lat/Am

'Security sustainable'

Mexico offers rides for migrants – govt

MEXICO CITY, Sept 1, (AP): Mexico will offer escorted bus rides from southern Mexico to the US border for non-Mexican migrants who have received a United States asylum appointment, the government announced Saturday.

The National Immigration Institute said the buses will leave from the southern cities of Villahermosa and Tapachula. It appeared to be an attempt to make applying for asylum appointments from southern Mexico more attractive to migrants who otherwise would push north to Mexico City or the border.

The announcement came a week after the US government expanded access to the CBP One application to southern Mexico. Access to the app, which allows asylum seekers to register and

await an appointment, had previously been restricted to central and northern Mexico.

The Mexican government wants more migrants to wait in southern Mexico farther from the US border. Migrants typically complain there is little work available in southern Mexico for a wait that can last months. Many carry debts for their trip and feel pressure to work.

Obrador The migrants who avail themselves of the buses will also receive a 20-day transit permit allowing them legal passage across

Mexico, the institute's statement said Previously, Mexican authorities said they would respect migrants who showed that they had a scheduled asylum appointment at the border, but some migrants reported being swept up at checkpoints and shipped back south, forced to miss their appointments.

Provide

Local, state and federal law enforcement will provide security for the buses and meals will be provided during transit, the institute said.

The rides could also help discourage some migrants from making the arduous journey north on foot. Three migrants were killed and 17 injured this week when a vehicle barrelled into them on a highway in the southern state of Oaxaca

Mexico under the government of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador had pressured the United States to expand CBP One access in part to alleviate the build up of migrants in Mexico City. Many migrants had opted over the past year to wait for their appointments in Mexico City where there was more work available and comparatively more security than the cartel-controlled border cities.

Those with the resources buy plane tickets to the border crossing point where their appointments are scheduled to reduce the risk of being snagged by Mexican authorities or by the cartels, which abduct and ransom migrants.

"That's it, dude! Done!," exclaimed Eliezer López as he jumped up and down, throwing his arms to the sky and drawing a sign of the cross across his chest. His joy was so contagious, his friends started to emerge from nearby tents to celebrate with him.

López, a 20-year-old Venezuelan migrant in Mexico City, had reason to rejoice: after several frustrating attempts, he was able to secure an appointment to seek asylum in the US.

He is one of thousands of migrants whose USbound journey has landed them in the Mexican capital, the southernmost point until recently from which migrants can register to request an appointment to seek asylum through the US Customs and Border Protection's mobile app known as CBP One.

Since June, when the Biden administration announced significant restrictions on migrants seeking asylum, the app became one of the only ways to request asylum at the Southwest border.

This US asylum policy and its geographic limits are a driving force behind the emergence of migrant encampments throughout the Mexican capital where thousands of migrants wait weeks - even months - in limbo, living in crowded, makeshift camps with poor sanitation and grim living conditions.

Historically, Mexico City has not been a stop for northbound migrants. They try to cross the country quickly to reach the northern border. But the delays in securing an appointment, coupled with the danger that plagues cartel-controlled northern Mexico border cities and the increased crackdown by Mexican authorities on migrants have combined to turn Mexico City from a point of transit to a temporary destination for thousands.

Some migrant camps have been dismantled by immigration authorities or abandoned over time. Others, like the one where López has lived for the past few months, remain.

Also:

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador: Nearly 2½ years into a state of emergency that has suspended key civil liberties in El Salvador, President Nayib Bukele says the security advances achieved are sustainable without what was supposed to be a temporary measure.

Each month, El Salvador's congress, which is comfortably controlled by Bukele's New Ideas party and its allies, approves another extension of the state of emergency. The justification from officials is that more needs to be done to eliminate the country's once-

powerful street gangs. "In the near future, we hope to lift the state of exception, return to normal constitutional processes, and maintain the peace we've achieved through regular judicial and law enforcement activities," Bukele told Time magazine in an interview published Thursday.

More than 81,000 people have been arrested and jailed without due process. Human rights organizations have denounced deaths in custody of people and many arrests of people without gang ties. But improved security has changed people's lives in El Salvador after years of living under the thumb of gangs.

In the interview, Bukele put some numbers on the path to lifting the suspension of some civil liberties, including access to a lawyer, being allowed to gather and to be informed of one's rights.

The president said his administration estimated there were 8,000 to 9,000 gang members left, noting that some of those may have fled the country. Once there were only 3,000 or 4,000, Bukele said the gangs wouldn't be able to muster enough people to re-form.

Bukele is very active on social platforms and has an extensive communications team to get out his message, but rarely sits for interviews.

Bukele also said that he would not seek reelection to a third consecutive term. El Salvador's constitution bars reelection, but Bukele received a favorable interpretation from the Supreme Court in 2021 that cleared the way for his reelection in February.



Farmland along a river is flooded by heavy rains caused by a typhoon in Yufu, Oita prefecture, western Japan on Aug 29. Inset: Firefighters help clean up floodwater out of a house in Ogaki, central Japan on Aug 31, following a tropical storm in the area. (AP)

Deadly storm sweeps through Japan, heavy rainfall could last for days

Tropical Storm Shanshan brought torrential rain Sunday to Japan 's Shizuoka area southwest of To-kyo, as weather officials warned it would linger for several more days.

Shanshan had packed maximum winds of 65 kph (40 mph) when it made landfall Thursday, leaving six dead and landslides, flooded rivers, torn branches and scattered debris in its path. In southwest-ern Japan, people were busy cleaning up muddied homes and throwing out broken appliances.

One person was missing and 127 people were injured, according to Japanese public broadcaster NHK, which compiles reports from local govern-

Shanshan was traveling extremely slowly and barely moving Sunday evening, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. It triggered rainfall in an extensive area, even in

places not in its path, such as the northernmost main island of Hokkaido, according to the agency.

Some homes became lopsided as roofs caved in, while vehicles passed through brown water.

Shanshan initially crept across the southwestern islands of Kyushu and Shikoku, then reached the main island of Honshu, meandering into coastal waters but later moving back onto land.

Landslide warnings were issued in parts of Hamamatsu and Izu cities in Shizuoka prefecture, 180 kilometers (110 miles) southwest of Tokyo, and Yokohama in Kanagawa, a port city near Tokyo. (AP)



People wade through a flooded road caused by heavy monsoon rain, in Hyderabad, Pakistan on Aug 30. At least 14 people, including women and children, lost their lives in rain-related incidents in northern Pakistan. (AP)





Subcontinent

B'desh flood victims get help: Amid the unprecedented flood in Bangladesh recently, many Chinese who live in the country took action to donate to the disaster areas, contributing more than 4 million taka in cash, and materials worth nearly 9 million taka as of Saturday.

New Hope Bangladesh donated 550 cases of milk, 550 cases of biscuits and 550 cases of drinking water, which amount to 12 lakh taka, to their clients to help them overcome the lost as soon as possible. Besides, they will donate three lakh cash to the flood-hit

Mohammad Ahmadullah, a fish farmer who suffered losses in the flood, told Xinhua that he has been doing business with the company for five years.

"I knew that their products' quality is good. Now I have found their kindness and quality in all aspects," he said. "Bangladesh faces many natural disasters

every year, but as long as we unite, we can overcome these challenges and help people live better lives," said He Quan Shui, regional president for New Hope Bangladesh. (Xinhua)

Pak army ops kill 37 militants: At least 37 "terrorists" were killed and 14 others injured in the ongoing intelligence-based

operations of Pakistan Army in Pakistan's

northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) prov-

ince, according to military sources.

The Commander of Frontier Corps, Brigadier Amir Nawaz Khan said Saturday the the security personnel have firmly confronted the incursion of militants from Afghanistan and are taking action against their hideouts in Tirah Valley of KPK

Among the slain is Abu-Dhar Alias Saddam, a senior militant leader, Brig Nawaz Khan noted. Pakistan's Prime Minister is Shehbaz Sharif.

Since August 20, a series of intelligencebased operations have been carried out against militants in the mountainous border area, army Brigadier Faisal noted in a statement after the operation. Under a coordinated strategy, it was en-

sured that the loss of local population and Pakistan Army personnel was kept to a minimum while the enemy was inflicted with maximum damage.

The Pakistan Army has reiterated its

commitment to protecting the lives and

Asia

Washington reaffirms support to Manila in sea

Philippines detains 162 over cybercrime op

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 1, (Agencies): Philippine authorities raided a suspected illegal online gaming and cyberscam complex in a central province and took into custody more than 160 people - mostly Chinese and Indonesians - who were committing internetbased crimes, officials said Sunday.

The raid on Saturday by more than 100 government agents, backed by military intelligence, on a resort compound in Lapu-Lapu city was part of an ongoing crackdown after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered a ban in July on widespread - and mostly Chinese-run - online gaming operations that cater mostly to clients in China,

Marcos said then that the massive illegal gambling operations have ignored Philippine laws with largescale violations of regulations and also committed other crimes, including financial scams, human trafficking, torture, kidnappings and murder.

The raid at the Tourist Garden Resort, which has 10 buildings with swimming pools, karaoke bars and restaurants, came after the Indonesian Embassy in Manila requested the rescue of eight Indonesians who were reportedly forced to work in the online gaming hub, according to the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Com-

Scam

At least 162 foreign nationals "were found working in three separate scam farms within the compound," the commission said without elaborating. Such crimes include fraudulent love, gaming and investment schemes online that have defrauded victims of large amounts of money, according to Phil-

The 83 Chinese, 70 Indonesians, 6 Myanmar nationals, 2 Taiwanese and a Malaysian will be flown to Manila to face an investigation by the Bureau of

Insurgents free 4 in Pak: Insurgents

on Saturday freed four people, including an

ed. (KUNA)

Immigration and possible deportation, it added. The owner of the hotel compound

was arrested and could face criminal complaints, including for harboring illegally staying foreigners, the commission and immigration officials said.

"We will suggest to the authorities to file cases against resort owners who allow their properties to be used by illegal aliens in their covert operations," Tansingco said. "This will serve as a warning to those who might attempt to start illegal online gambling opera-

Marcos's move to ban the Chineserun online gambling outfits - estimated Philippines and believed to be employing tens of thousands of Chinese and Southeast Asian nationals - was welcomed by Beijing.

Forced

It has led to the shutdown of several sprawling complexes where authorities suspect thousands of Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesians and others mostly from Southeast Asia have been illegally recruited and forced to work in oppressive conditions.

Philippine authorities have also been tracking down a dismissed mayor of a small town in Tarlac province north of Manila, Alice Guo, who apparently left the country in July after the Philippine Senate ordered her arrest after she failed to appear at public hearings where allegations against her were being investigated, including her alleged links to a large online gambling complex near the town hall.

She has also been accused of fraudulently hiding her Chinese nationality to be able to run for a public office that is reserved for Filipino citizens.

Guo, who is believed to be hiding in Indonesia, has denied any wrongdoing but has been dismissed from her post for grave misconduct by the Ombudsman, an agency that investigates and prosecutes government officials accused of crimes, including graft and corruption

Philippine senators say the massive online gambling industry has flourished across the country largely due to corruption in government regulatory agencies and big payoffs to officials.

Also:

WASHINGTON: Spokesperson of the US Dept of State **Matthew Miller** said his country stands with its ally, the Philippines, and condemns the dangerous and escalatory actions by the People's Republic of China (PRC) against tions" in the vicinity of Sabina Shoal in the South China Sea on Saturday, August 31.

"A China Coast Guard vessel deliberately collided three times with a Philippine Coast Guard vessel exercising its freedom of navigation in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ), causing damage to the vessel and jeopardizing the safety of the crew onboard," Miller noted in a press re-"This is the latest in a series of dan-

gerous and escalatory actions by the PRC. On multiple occasions throughout August 2024, the PRC has aggressively disrupted lawful Philippine aerial and maritime operations in the South China Sea, including at Sabina Shoal. "The PRC's unlawful claims of "ter-

ritorial sovereignty" over ocean areas where no land territory exists, and its increasingly aggressive actions to enforce them, threaten the freedoms of navigation and overflight of all na-"The United States reiterates its call

for the PRC to comport its claims and actions with international law and to desist from dangerous and destabilizing conduct," the spokesperson point-

property of the local population against the army officer who was abducted three days threat posed by militants, Brig. Faisal addago from a former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban, the military said. Lt. Col Khalid Ameer was seized on

Wednesday while he was sitting in a mosque to receive mourners after attending his father's funeral, according to local police.



Haitian migrants camp out at the Giordano Bruno plaza in the Juarez neighborhood of Mexico City, May 18, 2023. Federal immigration authorities cleared the tent encampment two weeks later, one of the largest in the city's downtown. The US asylum policy and its geographic limits are a driving force behind the emergence of migrant encampments throughout the Mexican capital where thousands of migrants wait weeks - even months - in limbo, living in crowded, makeshift camps with poor sanitation and grim living conditions. (AP)

The "unconditional release" of Ameer and three of his relatives was secured due to the role played by tribal elders and "all the abductees have safely returned home," the military said in a statement without giving any further details.

No one claimed responsibility for the kidnappings in Dera Ismail Khan, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan. However, in video statements released hours after they were kidnapped, two of the abductees said they were in the custody of Pakistani Taliban. They also urged the government to accept their abductors' demands, although these were unclear.

Though the Pakistani Taliban often targets security forces, such kidnappings and releases of abductees are rare. (AP)

14 dead in rain-related incidents: At least 14 people, including women and children, lost their lives in rain-related incidents in northern Pakistan.

Twelve members of one family were killed in their sleep when the roof of their mud house collapsed due to heavy rainfall in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, local rescue authority spokesperson Bilal Ahmad Faizi said in a statement on Friday.

The incident occurred in the Maidan Tehsil area of Upper Dir district in KPK.

The official said that the dead include women and children, adding that the bodies had been pulled out and shifted to the nearest government run hospital.

Meanwhile, strong winds and heavy rain claimed two lives in Pakistan's southern Karachi city. (KUNA)



Mejren Hamad Al Mejren



Warba Bank announced the launch of the first personal banking advisor powered by artificial intelligence as part of its strategic digital transformation. This step aims to enhance customer service and communication by leveraging artificial intelligence technologies to provide personal banking consultations. Warba Bank is the first bank to provide such service in Kuwait

In a press statement, Mejren Hamad Al Mejren, Head of Digital Department, said that this initiative is part of Warba Bank's extensive efforts to automate its services and improve operational efficiency, in line with the Bank's goal of providing innovative digital products to meet clients' evolving needs and maintain competitiveness in the financial and banking sector.

Al Mejren explained that the service will provide personalized suggestions to clients based on their use of Warba's various products, including accounts, cards, savings accounts, financing and investment deposits, so that they are compatible with the client's uses and short- and long-term financial and banking goals, in addition to suggesting various services to achieve these goals through interactive and constantly updated text consultations without the need to visit branches or contact the call center. Al-Mejren stressed that the success of these products and services was not a coincidence; rather, it is the result of numerous studies conducted by the relevant departments based on continuous follow-up of our clients, and learning about their various points of view, whether through continuous direct meetings or through different socialmedia, to learn about customers' opinions.

He pointed out that we at Warba Bank are keen to have a contribution to society, and we consider the services and products we offer as part of our social respon-

sibility, especially that it meets the necessary requirements of various segments. Al-Mejren concluded saying: "The social and personal aspect is important for the banking solutions that we offer,to be always closer to our clients."

Market Movements

01-09-2024

Change Closing pts



Business

Kuwait's bank financing to financial institutions surges 71.3% in June '24

Deposits with local banks rise 1.16% to 49.29 billion dinars

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: In June 2024, the value of bank financing directed toward financial institutions (excluding banks) saw a substantial increase. The total financing for this sector surged to 105.4 million dinars, marking a 71.3 percent rise from 61.5 million dinars in May 2024.

This represents an increase of 43.9 million dinars on a monthly basis. Comparatively, the annual growth is 10.2 percent, with June 2023 seeing financing of 95.6 million dinars. Over the first half of 2024, total financing to financial institutions reached approximately 625.3 million

Analyzing the monthly trends, financing figures for financial institutions fluctuated throughout the year. January 2024 saw financing of 165.6 million dinars, February recorded 165 million dinars, March was at 69.8 million dinars, and April's figure was 58 million dinars. May 2024 saw a decrease to 61.5 million dinars before the notable rise to 105.4 million dinars

In contrast to the rise in financing value, the accumulated balance of financing for financial institutions provided by local banks decreased by 1.2 percent month-over-month. It fell from .395 billion dinars in May 2024 to 2.365 billion dinars in June.

However, on an annual basis, the balance increased by 23.6 percent, up from 1.912 billion dinars in June 2023

Regarding cash credit facilities with banks, there was a 4.2 percent increase in balances from 53.557 billion dinars at the end of December 2023 to 55.8 billion dinars in June.

This figure also rose by 0.9 percent from 55.297 billion dinars in May. On an annual basis, the increase stands at 5.3 percent compared to 52.983 billion dinars in June 2023.

The Central Bank's data indicates a rise in deposits with local banks, growing by 1.16 percent

Annually, deposits increased by 3 percent, up by 1.457 billion dinars from 47.839 billion dinars in June 2023.

Eurozone inflation drops to 2.2% in August, lowest in three years

The local deposits are categorized into private sector deposits, government deposits, and public institutions deposits. Private sector deposits saw a 3.1 percent increase, rising by 1.15 billion dinars from 37.33 billion dinars in December to 38.49 billion dinars in June.

This was a slight increase of 0.2 percent from 38.414 billion dinars in May and a 1.8 percent rise from 37.809 billion dinars in June 2023.

The government deposits grew by 6.9 percent, amounting to 4.95 billion dinars in June, up from 4.631 billion dinars in December 2023.

On an annual basis, government deposits saw a significant increase of 20.4 percent, up by 838.5 million dinars from 4.11 billion dinars in

June 2023. Conversely, deposits from public institutions decreased by 13.4 percent, falling to 5.856 billion dinars in June from 6.766 billion dinars in December 2023. Monthly, there was also a decrease of 6.6 percent, down from 6.275 billion

This comprehensive overview highlights significant shifts in bank financing and deposit trends, reflecting broader economic movements within the financial sector.

Kuwait sees limited gains

GCC financial markets mostly up

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Last week saw most financial market indices in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries record gains, with five indices showing increases and only two declining, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In Kuwait, the three main indices showed limited increases over the past week. The General Market Index rose by 0.23 percent, or 16.76 points, to close at 7,180.92 points, marking a 5.3 percent gain for the

The Premier Market Index gained 0.27 percent, or 20.69 points, closing at 7,822.04 points, with a yearto-date growth of 4.6 percent.

The Main 50 Index saw a similar increase of 0.21 percent, or 12.66 points, ending at 5,917.88 points, and a significant annual gain of 7.8 percent.

Liquidity in the Kuwaiti market improved by 27.9 percent during the week, reflecting the ongoing review of Gulf companies in the emerging financial markets indices by Morgan Stanley. However, trading activity and the number of transactions saw smaller increases of 9.6 percent.

Among individual stocks, the "EVA" stock experienced the largest gain, rising by 8 percent, while Warba Bank increased by 1 percent. Al Safat stock led in trading activity, jumping 5 percent, followed by GFH, which rose by 1 percent.

The Markaz stock emerged as the top performer with a substantial 66 percent increase, while other notable gainers included Inovest, Hotels, Energy House, and KMEFIC, with growth ranging from 10 percent to 14 percent.

On the downside, Gulf Insurance saw the largest decline, falling by 16 percent, followed by Cables with an 11 percent loss. Stocks such as Meydan, Bayoot, and Mutashrakah also experienced declines ranging between 7 percent and 9 percent.

Elsewhere, the Amman Stock Exchange led the pack with a notable growth of 1.54 percent, or 71.95 points, closing at 4,746.41 points.

This increase brought its gains for the first eight months of the year to 4.6 percent, making it the third bestperforming index in the Gulf, following Dubai and Kuwait.

The Bahrain Financial Market Index followed with a growth rate of 0.98 percent, or 19.04 points, ending the week at 1,957.49 points. Despite this rise, it remained in the red zone for the year, with a limited loss of 0.7 percent.

In contrast, the Oatar and Dubai Financial Market indices showed modest gains. The Qatar Market Index rose by 0.79 percent, adding 80.43 points to close at 10,203.04 points.

However, it continued to experience the largest loss among GCC indices for the year, down 6.4 percent. Conversely, the Dubai Financial Market Index gained 0.76 percent, increasing by 32.78 points to close at 4,325.45 points, marking a 6.5 percent gain for the year and leading in performance.

In the US, financial market indices remained relatively stable, with the Nasdaq and S&P showing little change. The Dow Jones, however, achieved a new record close with gains close to 1 percent, following an anticipated interest rate cut later this month.

Global commodity markets saw some volatility. Gold prices experienced a slight decline, while oil prices fell significantly. This drop was attributed to a continued decrease in the Chinese manufacturing index, which has affected oil demand. Despite supply disruptions in Libya due to an export ban, oil prices fell further.

Looking ahead, attention will be on upcoming jobs data, which may influence the Federal Reserve's interest rate decisions, potentially affecting the rate cut anticipated for this month.

In Saudi Arabia, the main market index, "Tadawul," declined by 0.40 percent after three weeks of strong performance, closing at 12,145.15 points. This drop reduced its annual

gains to 1.4 percent. The Abu Dhabi Market Index was the largest loser, falling by 0.95 percent, or 89.04 points, to close at 9,284.93 points, resulting in a 3 percent loss for the year.

As GCC markets navigate these fluctuations, both regional and global economic factors continue to play a significant role in shaping market

from 48.727 billion dinars in December 2023 to dinars in May. 49.29 billion dinars in June 2024.

US consumer confidence surges to 103.3 in Aug, amid strong economic growth of 3% in Q2 2024

By National Bank of Kuwait

United States

Consumer Confidence

Nonsumer confidence in the United States climbed to 103.3 in August according to the Conference Board index, surpassing both expectations and the previous reading. The betterthan-expected print is a continuation of a series of positive economic data that showcase lower inflation, a softening market, and improved sentiment. It likely further reinforces and supports the market narrative and Fed signals of an imminent rate cut in September. Markets are currently pricing in 100 bps cut by year-end, and a 25 bps cut in the September meeting by the Fed.

US Economy and Unemployment

The U.S. economy grew at a robust 3% annual rate in the second quarter of 2024, driven by strong consumer spending and business investment. This marks an upgrade from the previously estimated 2.8% growth and a significant acceleration from the 1.4% growth in the first quarter. Consumer spending, which makes up about 70% of economic activity, increased by 2.9%, while business investment rose by 7.5%, with equipment investment jumping 10.8%. Additionally, unemployment claims slightly decreased by 2,000 to 231,000 last week, indicating a healthy labor market despite high interest rates.

Core PCE Price Index

In July, inflation in the U.S. edged higher, with the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index rising by 0.2% for the month and 2.5% year-over-year, matching expectations. Core PCE, which excludes food and energy prices, also increased by 0.2% monthly and 2.6% annually, slightly below the 2.7% forecast. Core inflation has remained steady, with shelter costs continuing to rise, offsetting declines in other areas. Personal income grew by 0.3%, while consumer spending rose 0.5%, even as the personal savings rate fell to its lowest since June 2022. Goods prices fell slightly, while services prices increased. The Federal Reserve is expected to go ahead with its first interest rate cut in over four years, with markets pricing in a high likelihood of a quarter-point reduction in September. Fed officials, including Chair Jerome Powell, have expressed confidence in inflation returning to the 2% target, shifting focus towards supporting the labor market. The unemployment rate remains low at 4.3% but has been trending upward, with slower hiring expected. Attention now turns to the upcoming August nonfarm payrolls report, which is expected to show an increase of about 175.000 jobs.

The US Dollar Index was last seen trading at

Europe

Eurozone Inflation

Eurozone inflation fell to 2.2% in August, its lowest level in three years, largely due to lower energy costs. This drop aligns with expectations and brings inflation closer to the European Central Bank's (ECB) 2% target, following three years of higher-than-target inflation. Core inflation, excluding food and energy, eased slightly to 2.8%. However, services inflation increased, driven partly by temporary factors like the Olympic Games in Paris, which might concern ECB policymakers due to its potential link to wage growth. Despite the decline, the ECB is expected

This Week's Expected Previous Week Levels 3-Month Currencies Minimum Maximum Forward 1.1186 1.1043 1.1201 1.1047 1.0850 1.1140 1.1092 1.3210 1.3106 1.3266 1.3126 1.3020 1.3200 1.3136 146.24 146.16 145.20 144.34 144.23 143.43 147.40 0.8400 0.8700 0.8412 0.8480 0.8398 0.8510 0.8498

Highlights

- Consumer confidence in the United
- States climbed to 103.3 in August. ■ The U.S. economy grew at a robust 3% annual rate in the second quar-
- In July, inflation in the U.S. edged higher, with the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index rising by 0.2% for the month and 2.5% year-over-year.
- Eurozone inflation fell to 2.2% in August, its lowest level in three years. ■ Inflation in Australia has dropped to
- its lowest level since March. ■ China's industrial profits grew by 3.6% year-on-year to CNY 4.099.17
- billion in the first seven months of ■ Core inflation in Tokyo accelerated for the fourth consecutive month in
- August, reaching 2.4%. ■ WTI crude oil futures continued to decline due to concerns about weaker global demand and economic uncertainty.

to cut interest rates in September, with ongoing discussions about further easing in October due to moderating inflation, weaker economic growth, and a softer labor market. Markets are anticipating more rate cuts than the ECB's projections, reflecting greater optimism about the inflation outlook. However, rapid wage growth in the services sector remains a key concern for the ECB.

EUR/USD closed last week at 1.1047.

Asia Pacific

Inflation in Australia

Inflation in Australia has dropped to its lowest level since March, largely due to a 5% annual reduction in electricity prices, helped by government rebates. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reported a 3.5% increase in consumer prices for the year to July, down from 3.8% in June. However, this is slightly higher than the 3.4% expected by economists, indicating that interest rate cuts may still be some time away. Despite the overall decrease in inflation, fruit and vegetable prices surged by 7.5% in July, up from 3.6% in June, while alcohol costs also rose by 3.7%, compared to 3.4% in the previous month.

China's Industrial Profits China's industrial profits grew by 3.6% year-

3.5% increase. The growth occurred despite challenges like weak domestic demand, disinflation risks, and prolonged property sector issues. Profits rose notably in sectors like non-ferrous metal smelting, communications, and food, while declines were seen in non-metallic minerals, coal mining, and machinery. Some industries, including petroleum and ferrous metal smelting, shifted from profits to losses. The Bureau of Statistics highlighted that the recovery still requires further stabilization. On a monthly basis, July profits rose 4.1%, up from 3.6% in June. Tokyo Core CPI Core inflation in Tokyo accelerated for the

on-year to CNY 4,099.17 billion in the first seven

months of 2024, slightly up from the previous

fourth consecutive month in August, reaching 2.4%, above the central bank's 2\(\bar{v}\) target. This rise, driven by the phase-out of government subsidies on utility bills and increasing rice prices due to extreme heat, suggests more interest rate hikes may be ahead. A broader index, excluding both fresh food and fuel, rose to 1.6%, indicating persistent inflation pressures. Despite the onetime factors boosting inflation, underlying trends are expected to moderate in the coming months. However, anticipated wage growth could sustain inflation, increasing the likelihood of further rate hikes by the Bank of Japan. Meanwhile, Japan's industrial output rose by 2.8% in July, leading to an upgrade in the government's outlook, although future production remains uncertain. The BOJ has already taken steps to tighten monetary policy, ending negative interest rates in March and raising the short-term rate to 0.25% in July. BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda indicated that further rate hikes are possible if inflation remains on track to meet the 2% target.

USD/JPY closed last week at 146.16.

Commodities

WTI Crude Oil

WTI crude oil futures continued to decline due to concerns about weaker global demand and economic uncertainty. Major banks have lowered their price forecasts, particularly because of reduced fuel consumption in key markets like China and Europe. In China, economic struggles and the shift to electric vehicles are curbing demand, while in Europe, diesel demand is expected to fall below pre-pandemic levels due to weak manufacturing and changes in the car fleet. These bearish factors are outweighing previous gains from geopolitical risks and supply concerns. Additionally, US crude oil inventories dropped by 0.846 million barrels last week, less than the expected 3-million-barrel decline. WTI was last seen at

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30480.

Repayments support oil projects

KPC repays 567.6 million dinars in long-term loans

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and its subsidiaries have repaid 567.6 million dinars in long-term loans during fiscal 2023-2024, reports Al-Anba

This repayment has reduced the total debt of the corporation and its subsidiaries from 3.5 billion dinars to 2.93 billion dinars by the end of March 2024

According to sources, the distribution of these long-term loans is as follows -- KPC (Head Office) holds 1.47 billion dinars, Kuwait National Petroleum Company has 920.5 mil-

lion dinars, Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) owes 442.7 million dinars, Kuwait Oil Tankers Company has 56 million dinars in loans, and KPC - Europe 38.54 million dinars in debt.

These loans were acquired over the years to finance significant oil projects, including the environmental fuel project at the Ahmadi and Mina Abdullah refineries, liquefied gas import facilities in Al-Zour, as well as initiatives to enhance production and refining capabilities domestically, build new oil tankers, and expand production projects abroad.

Brent crude down to \$78.80

OPEC+ to ease production cuts in October, adding 180,000 bpd

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: OPEC+ is gearing up to ease its oil production curbs starting in October, a move that comes as supply from Libya dwindles and several member countries pledge additional cuts to make up for previous overproduction, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to sources cited by Reuters, eight OPEC+ members are expected to increase their output by a collective 180,000 barrels per day

This adjustment is part of a broader strategy to gradually lift production restrictions, which currently require a reduction of approximately 2.2 million barrels per day. Despite this easing, another set of restrictions will remain in place until the end of

The plan to boost production continues as planned, even as the decline in Libyan oil output tightens market

conditions.

There is growing optimism that the US Federal Reserve might cut interest rates in September, potentially spurring economic growth, according to sources.

'There is a lot of uncertainty around demand, but there is also hope that a Fed rate cut will boost economic growth," one source noted.

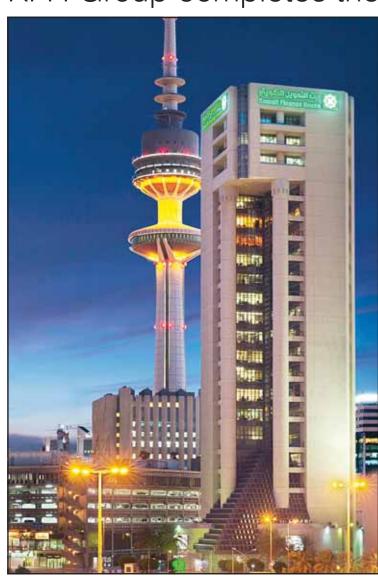
On Friday, oil prices settled lower as investors weighed the implications of OPEC+ increasing supply starting in October.

This, combined with diminished hopes for a significant US rate cut next month, pressured the market. Brent crude futures for October delivery, which expired on Friday, fell by \$1.14, or 1.43 percent, closing at \$78.80 per barrel.

The price dipped 0.3 percent over the week and saw a 2.4 percent decline for the month.

Egyptian market enjoys high growth potential

KFH Group completes the conversion of AUB-Egypt to Sharia-compliant banking



Kuwait Finance House headquarters.

White paper issued to offer guidance

China bids to improve industrial, supply chains of 'clean energy'

BEIJING, Sept 1, (Xinhua): China will work with the rest of the world to improve the industrial and supply chains of clean energy and contribute to global sustainable energy development, said a white paper issued on Thursday by China's State Council Information Office.

Noting that the international situation has become increasingly complex, with various forms of green barriers on the rise, the white paper titled "China's Energy Transition" highlighted the challenge to keep global energy industrial and supply chains stable and maintain energy security in an open environment.

In response to these challenges, China is committed to improving bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanisms in the energy sector, strengthening the exchange of policy ideas and best practices in energy transition, and advancing cooperation and capacity building on green and low-carbon technologies, it said.

China opposes overstretching the concept of national security and imposing baseless restrictions on normal international development coopera-

tion, and all forms of unilateralism and protectionism, said the white paper. China rejects all forms of decoupling, any severing of industrial and supply chains, and the "small yard and high fence" approach, it added.

The country is ready to work with other countries to implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming to help less developed countries in strengthening their energy supply capacities while supporting their efforts to promote clean and renewable energy, the white paper said.

It urged developed countries to provide funding, technology, and capacity-building support for renewable energy deployment in developing countries, and help address the dual challenges of energy supply security and the green and low-carbon energy

China will contribute to global efforts to uphold the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, while working towards the targets outlined by the Paris Agreement, according to the white paper.

Japan wants its citizens to try a four-day 'workweek'

TOKYO, Sept 1, (AP): Japan, a nation so hardworking its language has a term for literally working oneself to death, is trying to address a worrisome labor shortage by coaxing more people and companies to adopt four-day work-

The Japanese government first expressed support for a shorter working week in 2021, after lawmakers endorsed the idea. The concept has been slow to catch on, however; about 8% of companies in Japan allow employees to take three or more days off per week, while 7% give their workers the legally mandated one day off, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor

and Welfare.

Hoping to produce more takers, especially among small and mediumsized businesses, the government launched a "work style reform" campaign that promotes shorter hours and other flexible arrangements along with overtime limits and paid annual leave. The labor ministry recently started offering free consulting, grants and a growing library of success stories as

further motivation.

"By realizing a society in which workers can choose from a variety of working styles based on their circumstances, we aim to create a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution and enable each and every worker to have a better outlook for the future," states a ministry website about the "hatarakikata kaikaku" campaign, which translates to "innovating how we work."

The department overseeing the new support services for businesses says only three companies have come forward so far to request advice on making changes, relevant regulations and available subsidies, illustrating the challenges the initiative faces.

Perhaps more telling: of the 63,000 Panasonic Holdings Corp. employees who are eligible for four-day schedules at the electronics maker and its group companies in Japan, only 150 employees have opted to take them, according to Yohei Mori, who oversees the initiative at one Panasonic company.

The government's official backing of a better work-life balance represents a marked change in Japan, a country whose reputed culture of workaholic stoicism often got credited for the national recovery and stellar economic growth after World War II.

Conformist pressures to sacrifice for one's company are intense. Citizens typically take vacations at the same time of year as their colleagues - during the Bon holidays in the summer and around New Year's - so co-workers can't accuse them of being neglectful or uncaring.

Long hours are the norm. Although 85% of employers report giving their workers two days off a week and there are legal restrictions on overtime hours, which are negotiated with labor unions and detailed in contracts. But some Japanese do "service overtime," meaning it's unreported and performed without compensation.

A recent government white paper on "karoshi," the Japanese term that in English means "death from overwork, said Japan has at least 54 such fatalities a year, including from heart attacks.

attacks.

Japan's "serious, conscientious and hard-working" people tend to value their relationships with their colleagues and form a bond with their companies, and Japanese TV shows and manga comics often focus on the workplace, said Tim Craig, the author of a book called "Cool Japan: Case Studies from Japan's Cultural and Creative Industries."

"Work is a big deal here. It's not just a way to make money, although it is that, too," said Craig, who previously taught at Doshisha Business School and founded editing and translation firm BlueSky Academic Services.

Some officials consider changing that mindset as crucial to maintaining a viable workforce amid Japan's nosediving birth rate. At the current rate, which is partly attributed to the country's job-focused culture, the working age population is expected to decline 40% to 45 million people in 2065, from the current 74 million, according to government data.

Proponents of the three-days-off model say it encourages people raising children, those caring for older relatives, retirees living on pensions and others looking for flexibility or additional income to remain in the workforce for longer.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Chairman, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al Marzouq has announced that KFH Group has successfully completed the conversion of Ahli United Bank–Egypt (AUB-Egypt) to Sharia-compliant banking. He emphasized the significance of this step as crucial in supporting KFH's strategy aimed at expanding its Sharia-complaint banking operations in the Egyptian market that enjoys high growth potential.

In a press statement, Al Marzouq added that this is a qualitative addition to the Islamic finance industry in the region. He noted that it supports KFH's efforts of strengthening its presence and increasing its market share in the Egyptian market by offering Sharia-compliant banking services that cater to the needs of customers. It also promotes KFH's strategy of expansion and growth.

Al Marzouq indicated that this conversion is part of the strategic shift that the Group initiated follow-



Hamad Al Marzouq, KFH Chairman

ing the successful acquisition of Ahli United Group-Bahrain in October 2022. It is also part of KFH plans to expand its Islamic banking services and broaden its presence at the local, regional and global aspects.

Al Marzouq

■ A strategic step towards strengthening KFH growth and increasing its market share in the Egyptian market

He pointed out that the conversion of AUB-Egypt to Sharia-compliant banking is an extension of the previously achieved milestones of converting AUB-Bahrain and AUB-UK to Islamic banks.

Al Marzouq mentioned that completing the conversion in a timely and efficient manner, benefiting from KFH's expertise and professionalism in the Islamic finance industry, affirms KFH's capability to implement sophisticated strategic projects quickly and effectively. It also highlights KFH's leading role in driving the Islamic finance industry with disciplined and highly professional practices.

Europe's Aug inflation dips 2.2%

Way cleared for ECB rate cut this month

FRANKFURT, Germany, Sept 1, (AP): Inflation in the 20 European Union countries that use the euro fell sharply to 2.2% in August, opening the door for the European Central Bank to cut interest rates as the ECB and the U.S. Federal Reserve prepare to lower borrowing costs to support growth and jobs.

The August figure was down

from 2.6% in July, according to figures Friday from European Union statistics agency Eurostat. Energy prices fell in August by 3%, helping lower the overall figure, while inflation fell to 2% in Germany, the eurozone's largest economy.

The monthly figure is now close to the ECB's target of 2%, the level considered best for the economy. The central bank is charged with maintaining stable prices under the treaty that set up the European Union. Not all of the EU's 27 countries use the euro.

Economists expect the ECB to cut its key rate by a quarter point from 3.75% at its Sept. 12 meeting, while the Fed is expected to cut rates from a 23-year high of 5.25%-5.5% at its Sept. 17-18 policy meeting.

The lower German inflation figure "tilts the balance toward a September rate cut," said Carsten Brzeski, global chief of macro at ING bank. "Fading inflationary pressure combined with fading growth momentum offer an almost perfect macro backdrop for another rate cut."

Economists caution that the path downward to 2% may yet be a bumpy one. The ECB has said it expects inflation to fluctuate going forward but to fall to its target by the end of next

Central banks sharply raised interest rates to counter an outburst of inflation caused by a spike in energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and by clogged supply chains for parts and raw materials as the global economy bounced back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Higher rates can quell inflation by making it more expensive to borrow and buy things, reducing demand for goods and thus taking pressure off prices. Europe's inflation has now fallen a long way from the 10.6% it reached in October 2022.

But higher rates can weigh on growth as well, and those concerns have come to the fore in both Europe and the U.S. While unemployment rates remain low in both economies, central bankers are becoming wary of keeping rates too high for too long and seeing people lose their jobs or the economy tip into recession. It is a tricky balance since the impact of rate moves comes only with a delay of months.

The eurozone grew only a modest 0.3% in the second quarter. High rates have killed off a years-long rally in European house prices and damp-



Robotic waiter serves customers at a Robot Cafe in Nairobi, Kenya Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024. The three robots, christened Claire, R24 and Nadia, are not programmed to have a full conversation with customers, but they can say 'Your order is ready, welcome'; then people have to press an exit button after picking up their food from the tray. (AP)

Concerns raised about what it means for human labor

Robot waiters in Kenya create buzz

NAIROBI, Kenya, Sept. 1, (AP): Children giggle as young people flash their smartphones to film robots carrying plates of freshly prepared meals on their inbuilt trays to deliver to diners in a busy eatery in Kenya's capital.

Nairobi has a vibrant tech industry with various startups and innovations in operation and has positioned itself as a tech hub in the East African region bearing the nickname The Silicone Savanna.

This is the Robot Cafe, believed to be the first of its kind in Nairobi and East Africa, where three robots glide among human waiters serving food to mesmerized customers.

These preprogrammed robots were

These preprogrammed robots were acquired for entertainment. Cafe owner Mohammed Abbas says he experienced robot service in Asian and European countries and decided to invest in them.

"It was very expensive to import the robots," he says, but adds that the investment has borne fruit, because the restaurant is "often busy with curious customers" who come to experience

robot service.

One customer, Packson Chege, picks up a plate of fries from the robot tray as his friend films the experience across the table. "I can say it is something unique because here in our country Kenya, I have never seen a restaurant like this one so I think for me, it is a good idea from the owner of this restaurant." he said.

The three robots, which are named Claire, R24 and Nadia, aren't programmed to have a full conversation with customers, but they can say "Your order is ready, welcome" and then people have to press an exit button after picking up their food from the tray.

They are commanded by waiters through an application on an iPad.

Human waiters are still important in the operations of the cafe, because they take orders from customers who don't use the online ordering option. The waiters then place the food on the robot tray when it's ready and deliver drinks in person.

The technology is predicted to disrupt the future workforce globally, and

especially in Africa, where there is a youthful population with a median age of 19 years.

But the cafe's manager says the robots aren't a replacement for human waiters as they can't offer all services.

"At no point are the robots able to fully function in all the services that are supposed to be ongoing in the restaurant without the human touch," John Kariuki said. "The robots are actually way too expensive for us to acquire, so if you are trying to save money, it is not going to work if you choose to go the robotic way."

A hospitality industry expert, Edith Ojwang, said that there's room for robotic and human service to coexist in the industry. "The hospitality industry is very diverse. We have clients who will prefer robotic service and full automation, while we also have clients who will prefer human service, the human touch and warmth that comes with human service so it is not entirely a threat to human labor because of the diverse nature of the hospitality client base." she said.

ened loans to consumers and businesses, while complicating financing decisions for new renewable energy projects that are highly rate-sensitive.

Rates that "are too high for too long" would fail to minimize the side effects on economy activity and jobs, which in turn could lead to "chronically below-target inflation," Philip

Lane, a member of the ECB's sixmember executive board that runs the central bank day to day at its Frankfurt headquarters, said Saturday at a Fed conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Lane kept the ECB's options for September open however by saying that a return to the 2% target "is not

yet secure." ECB head Christine Lagarde has said the bank will decide rates meeting by meeting based on incoming data about the economy at the time. The ECB made a first rate cut in June, then hit pause in July and has since been waiting for confirmation that the coast is clear to make

CrowdStrike estimates tech meltdown caused by its bungling left a \$60 million dent in sales

NEW YORK, Sept 1, (AP): Cybersecurity specialist CrowdStrike Holdings has estimated it absorbed a roughly \$60 million blow to its sales pipeline last month after its botched handling of a software update triggered a technology meltdown that stranded thousands of people in airports in addition to other exasperating disruptions.

Although the massive outage spooked customers that had been expected to close deals totaling \$60 million during the final few weeks of CrowdStrike's fiscal second quarter, executives running the Austin, Texas, company predicted it will still be able to cinch those contracts before its fiscal year ends in January 2025 because customers still have faith in its cybersecurity products despite the

July 19 gaffe that froze up machines running on Windows software.

"Our mission is alive and well, and I know that CrowdStrike's very best days are ahead of us," CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz told analysts during a conference call covering the company's April-July period. He also apologized for the company's role in an outage that he said "will never be lost on me, and my commitment is to make sure this never happens again. The days following the incident were among the most challenging in my career because I deeply felt what our customers experienced."

Kurtz's reassuring comments, coupled with quarterly earnings that exceeded analysts' projections, seemed to reassure investors who

have been buying up CrowdStrike's stock in recent weeks after initially dumping the shares in the wake of the havoc that the company blamed on a computer bug. The shares rose slightly in Wednesday's extended trading, leaving the stock price 13% below its level before the tech outage - a loss of about \$10 billion in market value. Earlier this month, Crowd-Strike's shares plunged nearly 25%, knocking off more than \$20 billion in market value.

Even if the \$60 million in deals that CrowdStrike expected to close before the tech meltdown never happen, that will be a minor price to pay compared to the massive bills those affected by the outage are facing.

Delta Air Lines, for instance, has estimated that it may owe its custom-

ers \$380 million after the Crowd-Strike-induced outage fouled up its computer systems so horribly that it had to cancel about 7,000 flights. Delta has threatened to sue Crowd-Strike, which has insisted that the airline is using the tech outage as an excuse for its own bungling.

CrowdStrike didn't provide an es-

timate of legal expenses it may face from the outage, but indicated the bills probably won't be too burdensome.

"Our customer agreements contain provisions limiting our liability, and we maintain insurance policies intended to mitigate the potential impact of certain claims," Burt Podbere, CrowdStrike's chief financial officer, said during Wednesday's conference call.

What's On





KIB's Summer Camp

Teaching children video game design skills and Python programming language

KIB successfully concludes its Life Academy Summer Camp for employees' children & relatives

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the successful conclusion of its KIB Life Academy Summer Camp for the second year, organized in collaboration with the international programming school Algorithmics Kuwait for the children of its employees and their relatives. This initiative reflects the Bank's strong belief in the importance of education and its commitment to providing young people with essential life skills that will benefit them in the future.

Commenting on the initiative, Siham AlKhorayef, Manager – Learning and Development at KIB, said: "This exceptional event provided a gateway for children to acquire fundamental skills in video game design and the Python programming language. We crafted the camp program to blend fun with education, offering the children of our employees and their relatives a unique learning experience filled with creativity and practical activities."

AlKhorayef added that KIB continues its pioneering efforts to invest in its employees and their families through an integrated and innovative approach, stating: "Through the KIB Life Academy Summer Camp, we aim to open new horizons for our employees' children and relatives, providing them with a unique opportunity

to develop their skills and enhance their abilities in a dynamic environment that fosters innovation and creativity. We are proud of what has been accomplished during this camp and look forward to more initiatives that

support the growth and development of young minds."

The Summer Program lasted two weeks, during which the first group of children, aged 9-12, received various lessons on video game design. The sessions allowed participants to create their own3D platformer game, expand their game functionalities with scripts, add landscapes and buildings, and create obstacles before finalizing their game designs.

Meanwhile, the second group, aged 13-16, focused on the Python programming language. The program included an introduction to Python, variables and strings in Python, data and conditional statements, the concept of loops, and a Chatbot project. At the end of the program, participants of both groups received a certificate of acknowledgment and a gift. It is worth noting that KIB, as part of its comprehensive social responsibil-

ity program, is committed to supporting educational initiatives and community activities. This commitment reflects the Bank's strong belief in the importance of nurturing young Kuwaiti talents and encouraging them to pursue their aspirations.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.



Photo during the program.

Bank partners with MoE and Anti-Corruption Authority 'Nazaha'

NBK opens registration for third season of Bankee program to boost financial literacy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has officially opened registration for the third season of the Bankee program. This initiative is designed to enhance financial inclusion among students, with the goal of achieving lasting improvements in financial literacy across the community.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Anti-Corruption Authority "Nazaha," the Bankee program is NBK's pioneering initiative in Kuwait. This program is designed to familiarize students with fundamental economic concepts and practices, including earning, spending, saving, and financial obligations.

The program also seeks to instill essential values in students, such as honesty, integrity, personal development, responsibility, and cooperation. It aims to foster teamwork and raise a generation of Kuwaiti youth who appreciate the importance of financial stability and independence. By equipping them with the necessary financial skills and knowledge, the program contributes to the sustainable development and economic well-being of individuals and society.

Commenting on the launching of the third season of Bankee Program, Manal Al-Mattar, Head of Corporate Communications Group at NBK, said, "The program experienced exceptional success and strong engagement from schools, students, and parents last season. This enthusiasm led nu-



Manal Al-Mattar

merous public and private schools to sign up for the program this season, prompting us to increase the number of participating schools to 60." The program also features a classroom economy, a system that models the school as a microeconomy mirroring real-world economic systems. Bankee has also launched a new platform and website in both Arabic and English This innovative and interactive approach utilizes a digital platform where students and teachers can conduct financial transactions using virtual currency called Bankoz. This setup enriches students' understanding of the value of work, money, and the importance of making informed financial decisions.

"The executive management team at NBK has underscored the program's significance through their school visits and oversight of its various phases over the past two seasons. These visits have been met with enthusiastic

Al-Mattar:

• This season, we have doubled the number of participating schools, reaching a total of 60.

• The impressive success of Bankee has led many public and private schools to seek participation in the program.

Visits by our executive management to the schools have significantly

highlighted the program's value and generated substantial engagement.

 NBK collaborates with various state institutions to advance social development and foster growth and prosperity.

• Bankee is the first program of its kind in Kuwait, designed to introduce students to fundamental economic concepts and practices.

participation from parents, who have expressed great satisfaction with the noticeable improvements in their children's behavior and financial literacy," she added.

Al-Mattar emphasized that NBK is dedicated to leveraging its efforts and resources for effective collaboration with state institutions and civil society. The goal is to advance social development and enhance human resources, which are crucial for fostering growth and prosperity. The bank remains firmly committed to supporting the development of education through comprehensive support.

In its commitment to enhance the program's offerings, the program now has a presence on various social media platforms, including Instagram, Tik-

Tok, and YouTube. This expansion is designed to ensure that all participants can easily access and benefit from the program's content, activities, and

events throughout the year.

NBK firmly believes in the significance of private sector initiatives and their role in partnering with government entities to provide young people with essential knowledge and skills. These efforts are vital for the well-being and prosperity of both individuals and society.

and society.

NBK received the Bronze Award from Qorus in the Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) category for Bankee Program. This accolade recognizes the bank's commitment to integrating sustainability and ESG standards into its activities.

IMA-YouthWing concludes 'Save Water, Energy Today' campaign across Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The IMA-YouthWing successfully concluded its impactful campaign, "Save Water, Energy Today and Save Life for Tomorrow," with final events held across three locations in Kuwait: Masjid-e-Maryam in Mahboula (Fahaheel Zone), Masjid-Al-Sabah in Farwaniya (Khaitan Zone), and Shirah Al-Suhayd in Salmiya (Salmiya Zone). The program, which aimed to emphasize the importance of resource conservation through the Verse 'You will be accountable for all the Bounties you enjoyed" (Quran 102:8) and "Eat & Drink, but do not waste" (Quran 7:31), brought together community members

The main speeches at each location reiterated the campaign's central message, urging attendees to reflect on their use of resources and to adopt more sustainable practices in their daily lives. The speakers emphasized the spiritual and ethical responsibility of conserving water and energy, drawing upon the teachings of the Quran.

During the program, the organizers provided a summary of the various activities that were undertaken throughout the campaign, which included:

- *Filter Cleaning/Changing*: Volunteers successfully cleaned and replaced filters in all three zones, covering a total of nine units across Kuwait, ensuring safe and clean water for the society

- *Stickers Pasting*: Awareness stickers were posted in all prominent public areas, including masjids, parks, camps, and other locations, to reinforce the message of conservation.

-*Awareness Sessions*: Conducted at public areas, parks, camps, beaches, and masjids, these sessions educated the public on the importance of conserving water and energy and provided practical tips for doing so.

- *Twitter Campaign*: The online campaign, which concluded on July 26, 2024, successfully engaged the broader society, spreading the conservation message across social media platforms and trending.
- *Reel Competition*: The event

featured the announcement of the reel competition winner, who was awarded a gift for their creative contribution towards the campaign.

- *Flyers Sharing*: Informative

flyers were consistently shared on social media platforms every alternate day from the start to the end of the campaign, providing the community with valuable insights on resource conservation.

- *Short Videos Sharing*:

- *Short Videos Sharing*: Throughout the campaign, short informative videos were shared on social media to further amplify the message and encourage societies participation.

The concluding programs in all three zones ended with a heartfelt vote of thanks, acknowledging the invaluable support and guidance from IMA, the cooperation from Kuwait Foreign Relations, and the contributions of all participants and waell-wishers. To mark the conclusion of this successful campaign, food packets were distributed to all participants, reinforcing the spirit of humanity and care.



Photo during the campaign.

FAIPS secures five best delegate awards at prestigious Harvard Model United Nations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Fahaheel Al-Watanieh Indian Private School (FAIPS, DPS) has established itself as a center of academic excellence and leadership. The school consistently demonstrates its students' outstanding diplomatic skills at various Model United Nations conferences. This year, FAIPS again made history at the prestigious Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN) 2024, held in Bengaluru.

HMUN, organized by Harvard University, is renowned as one of the most prestigious Model United Nations conferences worldwide and draws over 1,000 delegates from around the globe.

The conference, known for fostering high-level debate on global issues, spanned 4 days, with delegates spending around six hours in committee work daily. Additionally, the conference featured social activities including the Talent Hunt, the Impact Initiative, and the Delegate Dance, during which two of our del-

egates delivered captivating performances. FAIPS has been an integral part of HMUN for almost a de-



Photo during the campaign.

cade, and FAIPS achieved remarkable success this year too, securing an impressive five Best Delegate awards, one Honor-

able Mention, and four Diplomatic Commendations. Notable achievements include Fadel Kandapath and Aman Chandra

receiving the prestigious Best Delegate Award in the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), Saif Khan and Shreyash Mohapatra excelling as Best Delegates in the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), and Ayaan Gazali claiming the title of Best Delegate in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL). Aahil Dalwai was honored with the Best Delegate award in the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), while Bhawya Manchanda shone as the Best Reporter in the Press Corps.

Fires Corps.

Furthermore, Ajitesh Veeramachineni and Jatan Shah received an Honorable Mention in DISEC. Diplomatic Commendations were awarded to Aniket Tharun in the Court of Akbar, Rishi Chipra in the World Health Organization (WHO), Krithika Karthikeyan in Mexico 1994, and Zoya Kulsum in The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Institute.

ESPN to introduce custom 'SportsCenter' shows with Al

BRISTOL, Conn., Sept 1, (AP): ESPN is looking at using artificial intelligence to create personalized "SportsCenter" shows for subscribers to its Flagship streaming service that is expected to launch in fall 2025, the network's chief executive said Wednesday.

The idea is one of several in the works that were discussed at a news conference by ESPN Chairman Jimmy Pitaro, including a "Where to Watch" guide that debuted on Wednesday on ESPN.com and the ESPN

The personalized "SportsCenter" would be reminiscent of a popular wrinkle that NBC Sports offered through its Peacock streaming service during the Olympics, where the voice of broadcaster Al Michaels was used to create highlights packages tailored to individual interests. ESPN had few other details of how it is working to do something

similar for its signature highlights show. The Flagship streaming service is expected to include much of the programming on ESPN's main channel and some other offshoots, marketed to people who have abandoned cable or satellite TV subscriptions.

The "Where to Watch" feature is billed as an easy-to-use guide for sports fans to find where to watch any sports event on ESPN platforms and beyond, including broadcast, cable and regional sports networks and streaming services.

"Simplifying discovery of sporting events and where a fan can watch has become increasingly important as sports viewing has become fragmented across networks and platforms," said Brian Marshall, vice president for sports product and technology for Disney Entertainment and ESPN.

ESPN said it is designed for fans to customize searches to prioritize their favorite teams and sports. Fans will be able to use the service to click to events, if they are pay television or ESPN+ subscribers. Some partner networks, including NESN and Monumental Sports, will also

Pitaro said that ESPN has talked to various leagues and commissioners about how ESPN streaming can be a potential solution for troubled regional sports networks in getting a specific team's games to its fans.

Solution

"We want to be at least part of the solution here," Pitaro said.

Venu Sports, ESPN's streaming partnership with Fox and Warner Bros. Discovery that was set to begin offering live sports events this fall has been put on hold after a federal judge earlier this month granted a preliminary injunction after a challenge by FuboTV. Venu Sports operators have been accused of violating antitrust laws.

"We respectfully disagree with the court decision," Pitaro said, adding ESPN believes it is giving another option to consumers

ESPN also announced Wednesday that it has extended a rights agreement with the U.S. Tennis Association that would keep US Open coverage on the network, on ABC and streaming services through 2037.

NEW YORK: Veteran producer Almin Karamehmedovic, who's been the top behind-the-scenes executive at "World News Tonight" since 2014, has been named ABC News president, the network announced on Monday. He replaces Kim Godwin, who retired after three years in May.

outsider: she came to ABC News from an executive role at CBS. Karamehmedovic, by contrast, has worked at ABC News since he was a freelance video editor based in London in 1998. He covered many international stories for ABC News before moving

Godwin faced some internal strife, in part, because she was an

to the US in 2008 and taking over as executive producer of "Nightline "Almin has devoted his career to ABC News, mastering every role and elevating excellence in journalism by connecting with viewers in a

very meaningful and profound way," said Debra O'Connell, the Disney News Group and Networks president who will be his boss. The two leading network newscasts - David Muir's "World News To-

night" and "Good Morning America" - have both topped the network news ratings and it will be Karamehmedovic's job to maintain that.

Broadcast network news division presidents are among the most powerful positions in journalism, although their influence has faded in recent years with the attention paid to cable news networks and the more active role played by corporate overseers like O'Connell.

Variety



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Brad Pitt, (left), and George Clooney in a scene from 'Wolfs.' (AP)

Film

Actors discuss streaming deals and theatrical release

Pitt, Clooney return to Venice for 'Wolfs'

in Europe with "Be Faithful" in the early 2000s and later lent his distinctive voice and ebullient vibe to hits by artists including Missy Elliott and Ciara, died after collapsing on stage at a show in Con-

The cause of his death wasn't immediately clear.

of staff Sean Grace said Saturday. Mayor Lauren Garrett posted on Facebook that he had a medical emergency. Concertgoers and paramedics tried to aid the artist, who was taken to a hospital, she said.

post that "the world lost a radiant

floor-friendly sensibility, Fatman Scoop was a mainstay of club playlists around the turn of the millennium. But if the world knew him as the "voice of the club," his family cherished him as "the laughter in our lives, a constant source of support, unwavering strength and courage,' his relatives said.

and embrace life with positivity. His joy was infectious and the generosity he extended to all will be deeply missed but never forgotten," they added, saying he leaves

Born Isaac Freeman III, Fatman Scoop was from New York City's Harlem neighborhood and broke out with 1999's "Be Faithful." What started as a minor success in the US took off in Europe with a 2003 rerelease, hitting No. 1 on the singles charts in the **UK** and **Ireland**.

The next year, he appeared on the U.K. television series "Chancers," in which musicians mentored artists who wanted to make it in the US, the BBC reported. He also was a contestant on "Celebrity Big Brother 16: UK vs USA," which was filmed

Scoop - sometimes stylized as Fat Man Scoop or FatMan Scoop - collaborated with Elliott on "Lose Control," a 2005 song of the summer that also featured Ciara. The track won a short-form music video Grammy at the 2006 award show. (AP)

NEW YORK: Fatman Scoop, the hip-hop artist who topped charts necticut, according to officials and his family. He was 53.

He was performing at **Hamden** Town Center Park when he collapsed Friday evening, town chief

His family said in an Instagram

soul, a beacon on stage and in life." With a gravelly voice and dance-

"His music made us dance a legacy "of love and brightness."

in the UK and aired in 2015.

VENICE, Italy, Sept 1, (AP): George Clooney and Brad Pitt returned to the Venice Film Festival on Sunday for the world premiere of "Wolfs."

Before hitting the red carpet, the Hollywood stars reflected on reuniting, the rise of streaming and Clooney's New York Times op-ed urging President Joe Biden to

end his reelection bid. Asked about the impact of his piece, Clooney said

he'd not yet had to answer that question. "The person who should be applauded is the president who did the most selfless thing anyone's done since George Washington," Clooney said. "All the machinations that got us there, none of that's going to be remembered. And it shouldn't be. What should be remembered is the selfless act.'

Clooney continued: "It's very hard to let go of power. We know that. We've seen that all around the world. For someone to say, I think there's a better way forward? All credit goes to him.'

Most of the discussion was focused on the film, however, an old school action thriller directed by Jon Watts, in which they play lone wolf fixers unhappy to have been hired for the same job to cover up a bloody mess involving a district attorney (played by Amy Ryan).

The film will have a limited theatrical release, starting Sept. 20, before hitting Apple TV+ on Sept. 27. Apple TV+ acquired "Wolfs" in a competitive bidding war, beating out both traditional studios and rival streaming services.

Deadline reported in 2021 that the understanding was that it would come with a robust theatrical release, something the stars may have also forfeited money to ensure, the trade publication said. Then, several weeks ago the streamer announced different plans: Theatrical would be limited. Streaming would be quick.

Clooney confirmed that they did forfeit some of their salaries to guarantee a theatrical release and that it's a "bummer" that it won't be wider than a few hundred

"We would have liked it, we wanted it. That's why Brad and I gave some of our money back," he said, adding that a report in the New York Times overestimated the dollar amount of their salaries by millions.

Far from being anti-streaming, however, Clooney said that everyone is simply finding their way during this revolution. There are bumps and mistakes, but there's also much more opportunities for actors, he said.

"Streaming, we need it, our industry needs it," Clooney said. "They also benefit from having films released ... and we're figuring it out, we haven't gotten it figured out vet.'

Producer and Plan B executive Jeremy Kliner, who has worked with Pitt for over 20 years, said that they make films believing in their shelf lives, and that they're doing something worthwhile.

Pitt added: "I think we'll always be romantic about the theatrical experience but at the same time I love the existence of streamers ... it's a delicate balance. It'll right itself.'

Regulars

Though both regulars at the picturesque festival on their own, with Clooney's premieres including "Gravity" and "Good Night and Good Luck," and "Ad Astra" and "The Assassination of Jesse James..." among Pitt's, only once have they walked the carpet together. No, it wasn't for an Ocean's film. It was in 2008, for the premiere of "Burn After Reading," the madcap Coen brothers' farce in which they share one memorable scene.

"In 'Burn After Reading' I got the extreme pleasure of shooting him in the face and I thought maybe we'd try it again 15 years later," Clooney said with a laugh.

The two teased one another about each other's age and relevance, with Clooney joking that Pitt is 74 and lucky to be working at his age. (Clooney, for the record, is 63. Pitt is 60.)

Pitt was waiting for a good idea to reunite with Clooney on screen and thought the idea of two cleaners who think they're the best sounded fun. Their years of working together made their banter, and overlapping dialogue, natural to do.

"As I get older, just working with the people that I just really enjoy spending time with has become really important to me," Pitt said.

When they got the script, they said Watts hadn't specified who was playing which part so Pitt and Clooney got on the phone and figured it out for themselves. Pitt arrived at the festival just days apart from his ex, Angelina Jolie, who received praise for her turn as op-

era singer Maria Callas in Pablo Larraín's "Maria" and

left Italy for another festival soon after. Pitt and Jolie had been romantic partners for a decade when they married in 2014. Jolie filed for divorce in 2016, and a judge declared them single in 2019, but the divorce case has not been finalized with custody and financial issues still in dispute. Several weeks ago, a Los Angeles court granted a petition from the third-eldest child of the former couple to legally change her name

from Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt to Shiloh Nouvel Jolie. The film's director, who catapulted from indies to the Tom Holland Spider-Man films, said in a director's statement that this film is him trying to get back to street level after "seven years of swinging from skyscrapers and jumping through multiverse portals." He was unable to speak about the film with his stars after testing positive for COVID-19.

"He flew all the way here and then he got COVID," Clooney said. "So now we're all going to get it."

Meanwhile, Jude Law plays an FBI agent investigating the violent crimes of a white supremacist group in "The Order," which premiered Saturday at the Venice

An adaptation of Kevin Flynn and Gary Gerhardt's nonfiction book "The Silent Brotherhood," Nicholas Hoult was cast as Robert Jay Mathews, the charismatic leader of the group, which was considered the most radical hate group since the Ku Klux Klan. Their crimes, including bank robberies and armored car heists that the group was using to fund an armed revolution, led to one of the largest manhunts in FBI history, in 1983.

"What amazed me was it was a story I hadn't heard about before," said Law, who also produced. "It like a piece of work that needed to be made now.

He added: "It's always interesting finding a piece from the relative past that has some relationship to the present day.'

Law made the trip to Italy with his director, Justin Kurzel, and co-stars Hoult, Jurnee Smollett and Tye Sheridan for the premiere.

KOLKATA, India: An epic version of the Indian National Anthem, conceptualized by Grammy-winner Ricky Kej with Kolkata-based cultural activist **Sundeep Bhutoria**, Trustee, Prabha Khaitan Foundation, as the associate producer, has set a new landmark, by entering the

Guinness Book of World records





as the 'Largest Singing Lesson'. featuring a choir of nearly 14,000 tribal children from Odisha, who performed together at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The video also features living

musical legends of India - Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Rakesh Chaurasia. Amaan & Avaan

Ali Bangash, Rahul Sharma, Jayanthi Kumaresh, Sheik & Kaleeshabi Mahaboob, Giridhar **Udupa** and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of UK.

"This project is a true celebration of India's unity in diversity and marks a significant achievement in the realm of musical collaboration and cultural representation. The collaboration of such legendary artists with thousands of children from Odisha sends a powerful message to the world about the strength of our cultural heritage. It has been an honour to be part of this historic moment," said Sundeep Bhutoria, who has been promoting India's cultural heritage, globally. (AP)

People & Places

Music

Tech and tradition

Senegal's beatmaker empowering women

DAKAR, Senegal, Sept 1, (AP): In a classroom at the House of Urban Culture, tucked away in the narrow streets of Dakar, Senegal, Aminata Thiam claps her hands in time with a beat she created on her computer.

"You just have to find the loop that you want. Cut it, duplicate the sample, and then add your effects,"

She is teaching a beatmaking class to five young women, each working intently on beats of their own on the computers in front of them.

Thiam, 31, is a beatmaker, one of only a few women in Senegal who call themselves such. Their discipline is the art of "making beats, making rhythms," Thiam says. She traces a line from American DJs like Afrika

Bambaataa and DJ Kool Herc, credited as among the founders of hip-hop, to beatmakers

> Those DJs made beats in the 1970s and '80s using synthesizers or by isolating specific beats in a song and playing them on a loop by switching between two record players. "Now when we talk about beatmaking, we are talking about doing this with a com-

puter," Thiam says, crediting technology - including the advent of software - with democratizing the art.

The House of Urban Culture sees a rotating crew of anyone and everyone part of Senegal's burgeoning hip-hop scene - rappers, slam poets, skaters and even the graffiti artists whose works adorn the walls. The center that opened in 2018 hosts rap concerts and beatboxing festivals, and offers free training in everything from DJing to photography in an effort to transform young people's interest in hip-hop into professions.

Thiam's stage name is "Myamy the Ay Girl," a mixture of English and Wolof that means "the girl who can." She was first drawn to beatmaking as a student a decade ago in Dakar, where a beatmaker had installed a studio at her university. She later trained with a program called Hip Hop Akademy, which now partners with the House of Urban Culture.

Equality

Her current class here is only open to women - a necessity, she says, if there is to be any kind of equal-

"Not just for music, but for audiovisual work, for cinema," she says, emphasizing that knowing how to make music on a computer isn't just applicable to hip-

Although widespread access to computers has made beatmaking more accessible, the reliance on technology has also created a barrier inhibiting many of her students from continuing their work after the course has ended.

"In one household you may find that almost all of the men have a computer, but the women might only have a phone," she says. According to the 2020 GSM Association Mobile Gender Gap Report, women in negal's urban areas have almost the the internet as men, but much less financial autonomy: Only 26% of women have bought their own smartphone, compared to 68% of men.

Djeneba Sylla, 21, is a singer who wanted to take Thiam's class to learn how to make her own music.

"For the time being I don't have a computer. But I hope to have it by the end of the class," Sylla says. Thiam has started a campaign to raise money for her

The question of accessibility looms over much of the House of Urban Culture's work in Senegal. Amadou Fall Ba was the center's coordinator for 10 years, and now works with the city of Dakar on an initiative to create more public spaces for young people in an aim to make hip-hop more accessible.

He says hip-hop came to Senegal through the country's middle class, "people who had TVs, who could watch the private channels, who could watch what was happening in the US." It eventually made its way to the masses, and he says that now, 80% of the stars in Senegal's larger urban culture scene are from working-class neighborhoods.

Women are still severely underrepresented though,

"Mentalities have changed a little bit, but we are still in a conservative country. A young woman who is 25 or 30 years old who isn't married - there is a strong social pressure on her," he described.

In Thiam's beatmaking class, the room is silent, each student lost in a different world underneath noisecanceling headphones. After six weeks of classes, the students are now able to produce beats of their own. They produce mostly modern hip-hop beats, though less refined than what Thiam can throw together in minutes in the studio.

As they continued working, Thiam stepped outside in the courtyard to speak about her own history. She says there are only three women working as beatmakers in Senegal - often producing beats for Senegalese rappers, but also making an income as sound technicians for concerts and stage productions. She hopes that the more women who are active in the art, the more other women will be inspired to start.

"If we train women who are capable of going far in this industry, this will encourage other women to join

She added that, in Senegal, women in music are often encouraged to sing or join a choir, things seen as acceptably feminine.

"I always liked music, but I didn't want to be a singer," she said. "I wanted to do something different."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: DJ and dance producer **Zedd** is back with an album after nearly a decade, "Telos." The first single is the appropriately titled "Out of Time" featuring Bea Miller, a dreamy tune with atmospheric strings that builds into a dancefloor banger. Zedd has revealed that he started writing "Out Of Time" way back in 2015 but was never able to finish it. That changed with Bea - "her voice added an emotional depth that completed the song. 'Out Of Time' really encapsulates the DNA of the Telos album, which is why I chose it to be the song that introduces this new



Members of K-pop group Blackswan pose during 2023 Newsis K-EXPO in Seoul, South Korea, Aug. 23, 2023. (AP)



Emma Laird poses for photographers at the photo call for the film 'The Brutalist' during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Sunday, Sept. 1. (AP)





Variety

HELSINKI: Social media influencers, reality stars and TV personalities were among the guests as the Norwegian king's eldest child, Princess Märtha Louise, married an American self-professed shaman on Saturday in a wedding ceremony following three days of festivities.

The 52-year-old Märtha Louise and Durek Verrett, who claims to be a sixthgeneration shaman from California, tied the knot in the picturesque small town of Geiranger, one of Norway's major tourist attractions located on a fjord with stunning

Following festivities that started on Thursday, the actual wedding ceremony took place in a large white tent set up on a lush lawn. Guests told media outlets that Norwegian and US artists performed at the event along with a gospel choir and a singer representing Norway's indigenous

"It was fantastic! It was Hollywood meets Geiranger," Norwegian TV personality **Harald Rønneberg** described the colorful ceremony to public broadcaster NRK. "It was gospel and love. We laughed, we clapped, and we were touched. It was absolutely beautiful." (AP)

BEIJING, China: In Beijing's Forbidden City, once the sprawling palace to China's Ming and Qing emperors and their legions of guards and servants, steady streams of visitors wearing historical costumes pose for portraits, in a fashion of centuries gone by.

It's a phenomenon seen around heritage sites across China, inspired by comic book conventions and the Japanese passion for cosplay, but with additional nationalistic and cultural dimensions.

Though the historical veracity of the frocks and cloaks may not be guaranteed, they draw their inspiration from Chinese painting, theater and art, especially that

Music

Docu reveals high cost of stardom

'Idols' exposes demands of K-pop

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 1, (AP): An Apple TV+ documentary series, "K-pop Idols," premiered Friday, offers an intimate look at how the K-pop industry is embracing diversity while grappling with challenges in a field that demands perfection.

The six-part series features Korean American star Jessi and up-andcoming K-pop bands like Cravity and Blackswan, documenting the highs and lows of their careers.

K-pop is known for its blend of vo-

cals with precise choreography.

Blackswan members Fatou and Nvee told The Associated Press they practice up to 10 hours daily, including choreography and vocal sessions before the "comeback" season which refers to a string of events to promote their latest songs.

Once under contract, K-pop trainees enter a system that includes classes in manners, language, dance, and chore-ography. As of 2022, there were 752

The grueling practice starts early.

K-pop trainees under entertainment labels, according to a Korea Creative Content Agency report. Despite recent pushback against the

perennial "dark side of K-pop" narrative, the documentary shows that some industry problems persist. Former Blackswan member

Youngheun said members had a curfew and were not allowed to drink or date. "We even had to report when we were getting our nails done and going to the convenience store in front of our house," she shared in the documentary. Rigid control extends to diet.

Blackswan member Gabi is seen eating a meal of egg, chicken breast and what resembles sweet potato sticks during her trainee period. "I am dieting because Mr. Yoon (the label's head)

of the Qing, China's last dynasty that

was known for its relative prosperity and

cultural advances through trade in silk and

told me I need to lose weight," Gabi

The pressure applies to boy bands, Cravity member Wonjin shared that

he was given two weeks to lose weight to join the label. "I would eat like one egg a day (...) I lost about 7kg," he said in the documentary.

Bradley Cramp, one of executive producers of the documentary, noted that such restrictions exist in other competitive industries as well.

"I honestly don't know one idol or elite sports athlete or entertainer that doesn't deal with the issue of diet and self-image and mental health to some degree or another," he told The Associated Press.

The documentary also touches on K-pop's new challenge: embracing diversity.

Following BTS' international success, K-pop labels have been actively recruiting foreign talents, which sometimes brings unfamiliar challenges.

Expansion

In the documentary, Yoon Deung Ryong, the founder of Blackswan's label DR Music, struggles to settle internal conflicts among members, which later escalated to online clashes between fans.

"If the company says, 'don't fight,' they won't fight," he said, referring to traditional K-pop groups. He added that he can't control a "multinational group" the same way because of language and cultural differences. There are currently no Korean members in Blackswan after member changes.

With K-pop's global expansion, fundamental questions about the essence of K-pop remain.

During this time, China expanded its

empire and its art and paintings flour-

ished, as did clothing and textiles. Men

and women wore full length elaborately

"In a K-pop group, if there are

no Korean members, I feel like it's just a K-pop cover group, isn't it?" Blackswan's former Korean member Youngheun said in the documentary.

However, Cravity's Hyeongjun disagrees. "If foreigners come to Korea and sing in other languages, I am not sure if I can call that K-pop, but since they (Blackswan members) are active in Korea and use Korean, they

Cramp said social media has impacted K-pop's ecosystem in various ways, including creating a "symbiotic relationship" between K-pop stars and fans, and forcing stars to live their lives "under a microscope."

LOS ANGELES: "I'm a big fan of appreciation," the Cactus Blossoms' brothers Jack Torrey and Page Bur**kum** sing on "Keep Walkin'," a cut from their new album.

That sounds like the cue for a compliment: "Every Time I Think About You" might be the duo's best record Torrey and Burkum have built a ca-

reer on classic sibling singing, but on the new album, harmony vocals are only part of the charm. Handsome melodies make these

10 songs shimmer; there's also an elemental but sturdy '50s-style structure to uncluttered arrangements framed by tuneful electric guitars. Even the in-

strumental solos are catchy.
"Every Time I Think About You" will be released Friday, coinciding with the Minnesotans' Grand Ole Opry debut. The new songs are rooted in country and the blues (with lyrics referencing Jimmie Rodgers and Howlin' Wolf), ensuring a tasteful mix of savory with their familiar sweetness.

embroidered silk robes and women wore hairpieces encrusted with flowers, pearls and gemstones

The Qing fell in 1911 and following

decades of warfare, power was seized by

grind out all vestiges of China's imperial past. (AP)

the Communist Party, which sought to

ANTWERP, Belgium: The city palace of Baroque painter Peter Paul Rubens is partly reopening this weekend, allowing Antwerp to show off the life and work of perhaps its most famous citizen.

The Rubens House may not have as many paintings as Madrid's Prado museum or the canvas surface spread around the port city's Cathedral of Our Lady. But if there is any place that Rubens himself felt more at home, it was his own house in Antwerp looking out over his garden.

While the core of the house remains closed until at least 2030 for ongoing renovations, the dazzling new welcome center and the redesigned garden will open doors on Friday.

What it lacks in actual paintings – a selfportrait is the only major piece on view during the renovations - it hopes to make up in atmosphere, exuding the spirit of the master who bought the house in 1610 and made it his studio and workshop, which gave birth to many of his masterpieces. (AP)



Sydney Sweeney poses for photographers upon arrival at the Armani Beauty event during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024. (AP)

DDI expands research on immunity and type-2 diabetes: Dr. Al-Zaid

Kuwait uses various means to stem diabetes complications

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1, (KUNA): Kuwait's Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) is a leading national establishment devoted to avert and control diabetes through diverse means.

The institute conducts scientific research, works out innovative programs, provides comprehensive education for improving life of the patients and control disease in the country, said Dr. Fawaz Al-Zaid, Senior Scientist and Head of Bioenergetic and Neurometabolism, in a statement to KUNA.

Dr. Al-Zaid, recently designated as a member by the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) - which consists of 10 members from various countries, revealed



KUNA photo Dr. Fawaz Al-Zaid, researcher and head of the Department of Bioenergy and Neuroscience at the Dasman Diabetes Institute

that work was underway to look into how immunity issues lead to type-2 diabetes.

These researches, including laboratory imaging and genetic sequencing are intended to fathom the relationship between immunodeficiency and diabetes, he said, indicating aspiration to adopt new treatment methods to stem infections and side-effects of the disease second type, such as cardiac and liver illnesses.

Other studies in the process look into impact of stress, anxiety, depression on the response to treatment

of type-1 diabetes, Dr. Al-Zaid said. Turning to his EASD membership, Dr. Al-Zaid said he was honored with this title in admiration of the significant contributions he had given in the diabetes researches at the global level. "This membership gives me a unique opportunity to contribute to recommendations in the realm of diabetics' care and the researches at the international

"I look forward to contribute to the association tasks at the international level, representing Kuwait and the Gulf region in this sector."

He revealed that the EASD had formed an international board to broaden its task in the diabetes researches, deepen cooperation at the international level and establish bonds with all stakeholders at the national and regional levels.

Dr. Al-Zaid said that his election is an evidence of the institute commitments to boost researches to find new treatments for diabetes. The doctor added that he would seek to enhance the communications with the relevant regional and international organizations.

The senior scientist said that he has been focusing on interaction between immunity and metabolism in the advanced stage where the disease affects adipose tissues, the liver and

the nervous system. Dr. Al-Zaid is holder of an HDR from the Royal College of Physicians, London, and a member of several European medical associations.

640,000 kids targeted

Polio vaccinations drive starts in war-torn Gaza

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip, Sept 1, (AP): Palestinian health authorities and United Nations agencies on Sunday began a large-scale campaign of vaccinations against polio in the Gaza Strip, hoping to prevent an outbreak in the territory that has been ravaged by the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Authorities plan to vaccinate children in central Gaza until Wednesday before moving on to the more devastated northern and southern parts of the strip. The campaign began with a small number of vaccinations on Saturday and aims to reach about 640,000 children.

The World Health Organization said Thursday that Israel has agreed to limited pauses in the fighting to facilitate the campaign. There were initial reports of Israeli strikes in central Gaza early Sunday, but it was not immediately known if anyone was killed or wounded.

Hospitals in Deir al-Balah and Nuseirat confirmed that the campaign had begun early Sunday. Israel said Saturday that the vaccination program would continue through Sept. 9 and last eight hours a day.

Gaza recently reported its first polio case in 25 years - a 10-month-old boy, now paralyzed in the leg. The World Health Organization says the presence of a paralysis case indicates there could be hundreds more who have been infected but aren't showing symptoms

Most people who have polio do not experience symptoms, and those who do usually recover in a week or so. But there is no cure, and when polio causes paralysis, it is usually permanent. If the paralysis affects breathing muscles, the disease can

Population

The vaccination campaign faces a host of challenges, from ongoing fighting to devastated roads and hospitals shut down by the war. Around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced within the besieged territory, with hundreds of thousands crammed into squalid tent camps.

Health officials have expressed alarm about disease outbreaks as uncollected garbage has piled up and the bombing of critical infrastructure has sent putrid water flowing through the streets. Widespread hunger has left people even more vulnerable to illness.

"We escaped death with our chil-

dren, and fled from place to place for the sake of our children, and now we have these diseases," said Wafaa Obaid, who brought her three children to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah to get the vaccinations.

Ammar Ammar, a spokesperson for the U.N. children's agency, said it hopes both parties adhere to a temporary truce in designated areas to enable families to reach health facilities.

"This is a first step," he told The Associated Press. "But there is no alternative to a cease-fire because it's not only polio that threatens children in Gaza, but also other factors, including malnutrition and the inhuman conditions they are living in."

The vaccinations will be administered at roughly 160 sites across the territory, including medical centers and schools. Children under 10 will receive two drops of oral polio vaccine in two rounds, the second to be administered four weeks after the

Israel allowed around 1.3 million doses to be brought into the territory last month, which are now being held in refrigerated storage in a warehouse in Deir al-Balah. Another shipment of 400,000 doses is set to be delivered to Gaza soon.

The polio virus that triggered this latest outbreak is a mutated virus from an oral polio vaccine. The oral polio vaccine contains weakened live virus and in very rare cases, that virus is shed by those who are vaccinated and can evolve into a new form capable of starting new

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 hostages. Around 100 remain in captivity, about a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not say whether those killed were fighters or civilians. The war has caused vast destruction across the territory, with entire neighborhoods wiped out and critical infrastructure heavily damaged.

The United States, Egypt and Oatar have spent months trying to broker a cease-fire and the release of the remaining hostages, but the talks have repeatedly stalled and a number of sticking points remain.

Preteen girls are using anti-ageing products they see on social media

'Harm is more than skin deep'

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Sept 1, (AP): When she was in fifth grade, Scarlett Goddard Strahan started to worry

about getting wrinkles. By the time she turned 10, Scarlett and her friends were spending hours on TikTok and YouTube watching influencers tout products for achieving today's beauty aesthetic: a dewy, flawless complexion. Scarlett developed an elaborate skin care routine with facial cleansers, mists, hydrating masks and moisturizers.

One night, Scarlett's skin began to burn intensely and erupted in blisters. Heavy use of adult-strength products had wreaked havoc on her skin. Months later, patches of tiny bumps remain on Scarlett's face, and her cheeks turn red in the sun.

"If I had known my life would be so affected by this, I never would have put these things on my face," says Scarlett, who recently turned 11.

Reactions

Scarlett's experience has become common, experts say, as preteen girls around the country throng beauty stores to buy high-end skin care products. Girls as young as 8 are turning up at dermatologists' offices with rashes, chemical burns and other allergic reactions to products not intended for children's sensitive skin.

"When kids use anti-aging skin care, they can actually cause premature aging, destroy the skin barrier and lead to permanent scarring," says Dr. Brooke Jeffy, a Scottsdale, Arizona, derma-

More than the physical harm, parents and child psychologists worry about the trend's effects on girls' mental health. Extensive data suggests a fixation on appearance can affect selfesteem and body image and fuel anxiety, depression and eating disorders.

The skin care obsession offers a

window into the role social media plays in the lives of today's youth and how it shapes the ideals and insecurities of girls in particular. Girls are experiencing record high levels of sadness and hopelessness. Whether social media exposure causes or simply correlates with mental health problems is up for debate. But to older teens and young adults, it's clear: Extended time on social media has been bad for them,

Young girls' fascination with makeup and cosmetics is not new. Neither are kids who hold themselves to idealized beauty standards. What's different now is the magnitude, says Kris Adult products damage young skin

Experts urge simple skincare for preteens

NEW YORK, Sept 1, (AP): Girls are bombarded on social media with advice from influencers touting elaborate skin care routines with highpriced serums, mists and creams. But what is the right skin care routine for

Simple is best, dermatologists say. Before puberty hits, most kids only need three things: a gentle cleanser, a moisturizer and sunscreen.

"That's it. Full stop. You don't need anything else," says Dr. Sheilagh Maguiness, a Minneapolis-based derma-

She and other dermatologists around the US have seen growing numbers of teen and preteen girls using anti-aging skin care products. In some cases, the adult-strength products have damaged young girls' skin. And the obsession with achieving the looks they see online has raised concern about the impact on their mental health.

Many of the popular products from Drunk Elephant, Glow Recipe and others - which can cost \$70 or more - contain active ingredients like retinols and hydroxy acids intended for mature skin that can irritate young faces and damage the skin barrier. Experts say they are unnecessary and a waste of money

"I hear all day, every day from all my patients who have children in their

Perry, executive director of Children

teens, and younger, that they are so fixated on all of these skin care products and TikTok trends and they've gone overboard," says Dr. Dendy Engelman, a dermatologist in Manhattan.

Here's what dermatologists say about what's safe for young skin and how families can navigate the fastgrowing trend.

Teens and preteens don't need antiaging products. Even the Personal Care Products Council, the trade association for cosmetics companies, says: "Anti-aging products are generally unnecessary for younger skin.'

For tweens, dermatologists recommend brands of cleansers and moisturizers like Cetaphil, CeraVe and La Roche-Posay that are commonly available in drug stores.

Hormones

As puberty kicks in, teenagers might need to address skin issues brought on by hormonal changes like acne, excess oil, dark spots, blackheads and more. If an issue seems serious, it's best to consult a dermatologist.

When introducing a new product, especially if it contains a harsh ingredient, go slowly.

"If they really want to use a product and see what all the fuss is about say, 'How about we do a skin test before

you rub it all over your face," says

lowing beauty influencers on TikTok.

Maguiness, a professor of pediatric dermatology at the University of Minnesota. Dab a bit on the inner arm for a few days, and if there is no reaction, then maybe it's OK to try on the face.

Signs of an allergic reaction can range from redness, itchiness, flaking of skin, burning or stinging to patches of tiny bumps. "Those are all signs to stop using a

product," says Dr. Carli Whittington, a dermatologist at the University of Indiana School of Medicine. Continuing use of products that cause irritation can lead to more severe skin damage.

Often, kids don't realize that trendy products they are using contain harmful ingredients.

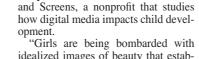
Dr. Brooke Jeffy in Scottsdale, Arizona, had an 11-year-old patient with a severe rash around her eyes. The child had been using a retinol eye cream that caused irritation and itchiness. The reaction worsened as she continued using it and scratched at her skin.

"She was using an eye cream for a condition she didn't have and has now created this dramatic problem that is going to take months to resolve," said Jeffy, one of many dermatologists now on TikTok and Instagram trying to debunk harmful social media trends with

posts on "Do's and Don'ts" for tween skin care. The beauty industry has been cashing in. Last year, consumers under

age 14 drove 49% of drug store skin sales, according to a NielsonIQ report that found households with teens and tweens were outspending the average American household on skin care.

The industry has acknowledged cerwebsite recommends kids 12 and under should not use their anti-aging serums, lotions and scrubs. That guidance is on the site's FAQ page; there are no such warnings on the products themselves.



idealized images of beauty that establish a beauty standard that could be very hard - if not impossible - to attain," Perry says.

The obsession with skin care is about more than the pursuit of perfect skin, explains 14-year-old Mia Hall. It's about belonging to a commu-

nity that has the lifestyle and look you want, says Mia, a New Yorker from the Bronx.

Skin care was not on Mia's radar until she started eighth grade last fall. bonded over their skin care routines.

At school and on social media, girls "I felt like it was the only way I

Some influencers are paid by brands to promote their products, but they don't always mention that. Mia started saving her \$20 weekly allowance for trips to Sephora. Her daily routine included a face wash,

tightening toner, moisturizer and sun-The level of detail and information girls are getting from beauty tutorials sends a troubling message as they are going through puberty and seeking

facial mist, hydrating serum, pore-

their identities, says Charlotte Markey, a body image expert and Rutgers University psychology professor.

"The message to young girls is that, 'You are a never-ending project to get started on now," Markey says.

And in the first half of 2024, a third of "prestige" beauty sales, at stores like Sephora, were driven by households with tweens and teens, according to market research firm Circana tain products aren't suitable for children but has done little to stop kids from buying them. Drunk Elephant's





www.arabtimesonline.com



Winner had the most modest record in the field

Mixto scores victory in \$1 mln Pacific Classic, earns berth in Breeders' Cup

DEL MAR, Calif., Sept 1, (AP): Mixto scored a surprise half-length victory in the \$1 million Pacific Classic at Del Mar on Saturday and earned an automatic berth in the Breeders' Cup Classic at the same track.

Ridden by Kyle Frey, Mixto ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:02.10. Sent off at 22-1 odds second-longest in the field of eight - he paid \$46.40, \$16.40 and \$8.60.

"He's given us a few hints of being a special horse, but today he real-

HORSERACING

ly validated the horse he is," winning trainer Doug O'Neill said.

Mixto had the most modest record in the field. The 4-year-old colt was

just 1 for 13 in his career with earnings of \$182,180. Saturday's victory was worth \$600,000.

"This horse is always knocking on the door so he deserved a chance," O'Neill said. "We'd all be lying if we thought we'd be where we are right now. The wire came up at the perfect time."

Dr. Venkman, the even-money fa-

O'Neill had his other entry, Katonah, finish seventh

Argentina-bred Full Serrano returned \$9 and \$7. Reincarnate, trained by Hall of Famer Bob Baffert, paid \$4.40 to show.

After sunny skies most of the afternoon, a thick marine layer rolled in from the nearby Pacific Ocean shortly

before post time in front of 12,484.

The Grade 1 race was missing its original favorite, Adare Manor. The acclaimed mare trained by Baffert was scratched after she had painful muscle contractions after a gallop on Thursday.

"Even though maybe it wasn't the Yankees-Dodgers, but it was like the Orioles-Tigers," O'Neill joked

before turning serious. "To make it here you got to stay injury free and train every day. There will be some horses that come from this and do great things down the road I think."

Owned by famed Calumet Farm, Mixto earned an automatic berth in the \$7 million Breeders' Cup Classic on Nov. 2 at the seaside track north of San Diego.

South Africa edges past NZ for 3rd straight time



Australia's players celebrate after their team defeated Argentina during a rugby championship test match in La Plata, Argentina. (AP)

Australia rallies to beat Argentina

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 1, (AP): South Africa cracked New Zealand late to win a gripping contest 31-27 at Ellis Park and stay on course to win a first Rugby Championship since 2019.

The All Blacks led for almost the entire back-and-forth match, and by 10 points going into the last quarter. But they caved under relentless pressure from the Springboks, who were forcing all of the play in the last half-hour.

After All Blacks replacement prop Ofa Tu'ungfasi was yellow-carded for collapsing a maul in the 67th minute, the Springboks used the man advantage to score two converted tries in six minutes to power from 27-17 behind to 31-27 ahead with five minutes to go.

For the match-winning try, the Springboks turned down a penalty shot to force an attacking lineout, where replacement scrumhalf Grant Williams stepped through a gaping hole to score in the 74th.

"Whenever we are behind, we never panic," Springboks captain Siya Kolisi said. "We have been in far worse positions before.

"We have so many cool heads and leaders; if I'm not talking, Eben's (Etzebeth) talking or if it's not him it's Pieter-Steph (du Toit) or even the young guys with just a couple of caps. Rugby knowledge isn't measured by the number of caps you have - if you see something, say it. And that's the great thing about this team today; we never panicked.'

The first contest between them since the Rugby World Cup final in Paris in October - 13 survivors each - lived up to the hype, but while New Zealand

RUGBY

scored four tries to three, indiscipline let it down again. Irish referee Andrew Brace, tired of the All Blacks' indiscretions, put them on warning with half an hour to go.

The world champion Springboks have beaten New Zealand three straight times for the first time in 15 years. The teams meet again in Cape Town next Saturday. The Springboks haven't won four straight since

They lead the Rugby Championship unbeaten after three rounds, while New Zealand, champion of the last four tournaments, has a 1-2 record.

"Our indiscipline fed them," New "Frustrating to have that lead at 60-odd minutes and let them in like that."

Within five minutes of kickoff, South Africa was a man down, after fullback Aphelele Fassi's professional foul earned him a yellow card, his second of the test season, and fourth this year. The All Blacks set up a corner lineout and drove hooker Codie Taylor over for the opening try, converted by Damian McKenzie.

The Boks were still dangerous without Fassi, and eventually hooker Bongi Mbonambi barged over from the back of a ruck. But Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu failed to make the conversion in time.

Perhaps eager to make up, he teed a penalty from 60 meters out and slotted it with room to spare at altitude. The

Boks led 8-7 after 30 minutes. But New Zealand went back in front with quick thinking; a quick throw-in lit up the backline, and Beauden Barrett and Will Jordan helped left wing

Caleb Clarke score in the right corner. Feinberg-Mngomezulu's second penalty had South Africa only 12-11 behind, and he narrowly missed a drop

goal attempt on halftime. The new half was only moments old when All Blacks midfielder Jordie Barrett intercepted and scooted 50 meters to the tryline. McKenzie's extras

were praised by coach Rassie Eras-

"To play New Zealand is big; to beat New Zealand is big," Erasmus said.

McKenzie and opposite Feinberg-

Mngomezulu traded penalties issued

from breakdowns when New Zealand

pulled off a brilliant set-piece try.

From a scrum tight against the left

space, drew the last man, and sent

go, New Zealand was under warning

and emptied its bench after South Af-

At 27-17 ahead with 30 minutes to

The Springboks kept killing their

momentum through knock-ons, pen-

alties or set-piece miscues, and Kolisi

left for a head injury check and sus-

of their last six tests in the republic,

tried to bury the Springboks in the

62nd when they turned down a penalty

shot. But they were turned over in the

Then Tu'ungafasi was sin-binned

A minute later, replacement flanker

Kwagga Smith drove over between

the posts, then Williams followed and

the sell-out crowd of 62,000 roared.

Feinberg-Mngomezulu converted both

tries and was six of eight off the tee

in a brilliant first game against their

Feinberg-Mngomezulu, Fassi, Ben-

Jason Dixon and Ruan Nortje - all

playing New Zealand for the first time

The All Blacks, who had won five

pected broken cheekbone.

and South Africa pounced.

Clarke over for his second try.



South Africa's Pieter-Steph du Toit jumps for the ball during a rugby championship test match between South Africa and New Zealand at Ellis Park stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa. (AP)

"For players to step up against tier one nations like Ireland and against an amazing New Zealand team is really good for our long-term plans.'

In Buenos Aires, replacement Ben Donaldson kicked a penalty as the fulltime siren sounded to give Australia a 20-19 win over Argentina on Saturday and its first success in three tests in this year's Rugby Championship.

Argentina led by nine points in the second half but the Wallabies rallied with a try to Rob Valetini, a conversion and penalty to Noah Lolesio to lead for the first time in the 58th minute.

The Pumas regained the lead at 19-17 in the 69th minute with a penalty to Tomas Albornoz and a win looked to have slipped through Australia's fingers. But the Wallabies dug deep, held the ball for nine phases inside the Argentina 22 in the last minute and finally earned the penalty that clinched the game.

Donaldson kicked the winning goal from 15 meters in front of the posts as the

last seconds of the match ticked away.
"We're a new team and we've been building," captain Harry Wilson said. "We had two tough games against South Africa and they're the best in the world but I thought we showed a lot of improvement.

"Now to show some improvement against Argentina was awesome.'

Through persistent heavy rain, Argentina seemed to play a style better suited to the conditions than Australia for most of the game. The Pumas defended well, though the Wallabies scored two tries to one. Scrumhalf Jake Gordon scored in the first half and Valetini at a vital moment in the second.

The Wallabies struggled at times to exit their own half and to make progress across the gain line. Their execution at restarts also was an Achilles heel. But at the end they took their chance well.

Argentina led 13-7 at halftime with a try to backrower Juan Martin Gonzalez, a conversion and two penalties to Santiago Carreras. Another Carreras penalty five minutes into the second half stretched the lead to nine points.

Australia found its way back into the match as it opened up and as it executed with more precision.

The loss was a sombre moment for Pumas veteran Agustin Creevy who took the field in the 73rd minute for his 110th test and his last in his home town. The 19-year veteran hooker was deployed at flanker as the Pumas had to reorganize their pack late in the match.

Creed takes 3rd

Bell holds off Custer to win Xfinity Series race

DARLINGTON, S.C., Sept 1, (AP): Christopher Bell thought his chance to win at Darlington Raceway was

He got passed by Sheldon Creed with eight laps remaining, then after regaining the lead a final time coming out the pits with four laps left, was bumped from behind in overtime by Cole Custer.

"I thought I was going head on into the inside wall," Bell said with

Instead, Bell held on to win the Xfinity Series event and give himself a chance to sweep the weekend at Darlington in the Southern 500 on Sunday night.

"It's never over until it's over," he said. "I've learned that plenty of

HORSE RACING

Bell, the NASCAR Cup Series regular who drives for Joe Gibbs Racing, had the most dominant car the entire race, leading 103 of the first 137 laps.

But Creed swept past him low in turn two with eight laps remaining and began to pull away from Bell until the sixth caution came out on lap 142.

All the leaders came in to freshen up tires on the rubber-chewing track and Bell beat everyone back to the track headed to overtime.

Custer, the defending series champion, went low on the restart and looked as if he had position before Bell inched back in front. Custer bumped him from behind and the two, maintaining their grip, slid down the track and stayed 1-2 in "I really need to see a replay of it. That was wild," Bell said. "Darlington is such a tough racetrack."

Bell, who started from the pole, claimed his 19th career Xfinity win and his second this season after taking NASCAR's Triple-A event at New Hampshire in June.

Custer finished second and Creed took third. Chase Elliott, the 2020 Cup Series champion also pulling double duty, was fourth, followed by Sammy Smith, Jesse Love, Shane Van Grisbergen, Chandler Smith and Austin Hill.

Justin Allgaier, who won the Xfinity race at Darlington on Mother's Day weekend in May, finished 10th.

"I think I almost cleared him into one, but that's just hard racing,' Custer said. "It was fun racing Christopher there.'

Bell has won three times on the Cup Series and looks to add to that total at the Southern 500 on Sunday night. He ended up leading 109 of the 150 laps and will try and sweep the weekend in the Cup Series' regular-season finale.

It was another heartbreaking finish for Creed, who once again looked as if he would break through for his first career Xfinity win. "Once again, I feel terrible for

Sheldon," Bell said. "To essentially win the race, passing me low down there and then losing it on pit road, is a big bummer."

While climbing out of his car, Creed shook his head at his latest close call. The 2020 Truck Series champion has 23 top-five Xfinity finishes the past three seasons - without a victory.

"Man, I don't know if I can be any better than that," Creed said. "I put in one of my best performances."

AC Milan remains 'winless' under Fonseca; Lukaku scores on debut

ROME, Sept 1, (AP): New AC Milan late to a header from Andre-Frank a reaction when he dropped three key players for a visit to Lazio in Serie A.

The move led to a solid start by the Rossoneri. The final result was a third straight game without a win.

Taty Castellanos and Boulaye Dia scored second-half goals for Lazio to overturn an early opener from Strahinja Pavlovic, and the benched Rafael Leao came on to equalize for Milan in

Meanwhile, Romelu Lukaku scored on debut and Antonio Conte's Napoli earned its second straight win by coming back to beat 10-man Parma 2-1.

Leao, Theo Hernandez and Davide Calabria were each benched at the start by Fonseca.

Leao and Hernandez were sent on after Lazio's two goals, with former Roma striker Tammy Abraham also entering for his Milan debut, and Abraham provided the assist for Leao's equalizer.

But Leao and Hernandez then remained on the far side of the field during a cooling break - isolated from the rest of Milan's squad.

Fonseca said Leao and Hernandez didn't need to join the team for drinks because they had just come on minutes

"Let's not create a problem, because there is no problem. The reaction from the players was good," Fonseca said. "When there's a problem I take responsibility but right now there's no

Milan has two points from two draws and a loss. Lazio has four points. Serie B champion Parma had to move defender Enrico Del Prato into goal after starter Zion Suzuki was sent off with two yellow cards and all five substitutions had been used.

It didn't go well for Del Prato, who could only get a weak hand on a powerful shot from Lukaku then reacted

stoppage time.

Ange-Yoan Bonny converted a penalty for Parma early on.

Lukau was signed from Chelsea on Thursday, reuniting him with Conte after the pair won Serie A at Inter Milan. He's wearing No. 11 and not his customary No. 9, which still belongs to Victor Osimhen, who remains in limbo and dropped from the squad after failing to find a new club during the transfer window. Napoli has six points after opening with a dispiriting 3-0 loss at Hellas Verona.

SOCCER

Before kickoff of the Lazio-Milan match, there was a tribute to former Lazio coach Sven-Goran Eriksson, who died on Monday from pancreatic

A three-minute video of Eriksson's years at Lazio was shown on the jumbo screens inside the Stadio Olimpico and a banner in the center circle read, "Sven Goran Eriksson forever." Eriksson coached Lazio to the Se-

rie A title in 2000 and also won a Cup Winner's Cup with the Roman club. Lazio wore black armbands for the

game. A minute's silence is being held before every Serie A game this weekend to remember Eriksson. Champions League debutante Bo-

logna remained winless following a

1-1 draw with Empoli, with Giovanni Fabbian and Emmanuel Gyasi trading early goals. Bologna, fifth last season, hosts Shakhtar Donetsk in its Champions

League opener on Sept. 18. Lecce beat Cagliari 1-0 for its first victory, with a goal from Nikola Krstovic despite playing the entire second half with 10 men.



Parma's Enrico Delprato, right, in action during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Napoli and Parma at the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium in Naples, southern Italy. (AP)

O'Ward dominates Milwaukee and displays his popularity with 1st win on an oval since 2022

WEST ALLIS, Sept 1, (AP): The Arrow McLaren Racing team members began scheming the moment Pato O'Ward took the lead at the Milwaukee Mile.

Miffed that NASCAR this week announced it will race in Mexico City next yea r - beating IndyCar to the punch to get O'Ward into an event in his home country - O'Ward has has spent the weekend criticizing IndyCar leadership for the whiff. So a team employee ran to the "Pato

Shop" - IndyCar's most popular driver is so beloved he has his own merchandise truck at most events - to grab one of the \$149.99 sombreros. The 25-year-old from Monterrey, Mexico, then wore it to his victory news con-

Runner-up Will Power immediately said, "We really should be in Mexico City, not NASCAR." O'Ward replied: "Pato who?"

O'Ward desperately wants to race in his home country. Instead, NAS-CAR got a date next June and O'Ward fears there's no longer room for Indy-

The situation escalated when Indy-

City promoters have felt the series and O'Ward are not popular enough to warrant anything but a lease agreement to stage the race themselves. That irritated O'Ward, who has or-

Car CEO Mark Miles said the Mexico

ganically and steadily built his fanbase and is probably second only to Formula 1 driver Sergio Perez in popularity

South Korean shooter completes medal set

Algerian female discus thrower wins gold at Paris Paralympics

PARIS, Sept 1, (Agencies): Algerian athlete Nassima Saifi clinched the gold medal in the Women's F57 discus throw at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games on Saturday. Saifi set a new personal record with a throw of 35.55 meters on her first attempt.

Chinese athlete Mian Xu earned the silver medal with a throw of 32.81 meters, while Uzbekistan's Mokhigul Khamdamova took the bronze with a distance of 32.75 meters. Saifi's victory marks Algeria's first gold medal at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

PARALYMPICS

In another highlight, Iranian Paralympic athlete Sareh Javanmardi won the gold medal in the Women's 10m Air Pistol event. Javanmardi scored 236.8 points, surpassing Turkey's Aysel Özgan, who took the silver with a score of 231.1 points. Indian athlete Rubina Francis secured the bronze medal with 211.1 points.

This achievement brings Iran's total medal count to five at the games, including one gold, three silvers, and one bronze.

South Korean shooter Jinho Park completed a full set of Paralympic medals after winning the men's 10-meter air rifle standing SH1 fi-

Park scored 249.4 points, only 1.2 shy of his own world record. The SH1 category is for athletes with

Das, Mehidy lead

B'desh 'fightback'

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Sept 1, (AP): Century-maker Litton Das and Mehidy Hasan Miraz led a

Bangladesh fightback in the second test, overshadowing Pakistan fast bowler Khurram Shahzad's

maiden five-wicket haul on Sun-

Litton laced his attacking 138

with 13 fours and two sixes while

Mehidy made an equally impres-

sive 78 that propelled Bangladesh to 262 after Shahzad's early burst

had left the tourists reeling at 26-6

Pakistan, which lost the first test by 10 wickets last week, lost

opener Abdullah Shafique and

nightwatchman Shahzad to fast

bowler Hasan Mahmood and

limped to 9-2 at stumps for an

I came out to bat before the first drinks interval," said Litton, who struck his fourth test hundred and

second against Pakistan. "I took

it positive way and took respon-

sibility with Miraz when they had

Shafique had a below-par se-

ries by scoring only 42 runs in four innings before he edged

Mahmud and the fast bowler

capped the perfect day for Ban-

gladesh by knocking back the

stumps of Shahzad in the last over

they will struggle. This wicket is

not easy to bat on, and we have

Litton and Mehidy counterat-

tacked the right-arm seamer af-

ter lunch with an enterprising

165-run partnership while keep-

ing sole specialist spinner Abrar Ahmed at bay (0-83) as Paki-

stan's third seamer Mohammad

Ali left the field due to dehydra-

he's always positive and we talk-

ed how to score in that situation,"

"I enjoy batting with Mehidy,

Shahzad added two more to his

four-wicket burst in the morning

session when Mehidy, who hit

12 fours and a six, offered a tame

return catch to the right-arm fast

bowler and Taskin Ahmed was

Litton raised his century soon

after tea when he cut Ahmed to

the third-man boundary and fur-

ther frustrated Pakistan by raising

69 runs with No. 10 Mahmud,

Pakistan was scratchy in the

field as Ahmed couldn't hold onto

a tough one-handed return catch

when Litton was on 90 and then

skipper Shan Masood dropped a

low catch off Mahmud at short

All-rounder Salman Ali Agha,

who bowled 41 overs in the first

test after Pakistan left out Abrar

but bowled just 3.4 overs this

time around, finally ended Paki-

stan's misery in the field when

Litton was caught at long-on af-

ter staying at the wicket for 5.5

Earlier, the Bangladesh top or-

der stumbled against Shahzad and

Mir Hamza's (2-50) impeccable

seam and swing and slumped to

26-6 inside 34 balls after they re-

Shahzad started Bangladesh's

slide when Zakir Islam (10), the

only top-order batter to reach

double figures, softly flicked the

right-arm seamer to mid-wicket.

Shahzad then clean bowled left-

hander Shadman Islam round

his legs and then induced a sharp

inswinger to strike the stumps of

captain Najmul Hossain Shanto

sumed Sunday at 10-0.

inside one over.

who made 13.

pinned down leg before wicket.

Shahzad snared 6-90 but both

good spinners and pacers.'

"We have to take responsibility as bowling and fielding side," Litton said. "If we bowl in right areas

"I was a little bit nervous when

overall lead of 21 runs.

a good momentum.

of the day.

inside the first hour on Day 3.



A file photo of a Kuwaiti player in action.

missing legs or severe trunk impair-

The gold complements the silver and bronze medals he earned in To-

kyo. "It was the only medal I did not have so now I have achieved everything," Park said. "I feel fulfilled." He praised his wife after the medal

"She has sacrificed so much. I have not seen her and my family very much in the last year as I prepared for the Paralympic Games.

Switzerland's Catherine Debrun-

ner opened her six-event Paralympics by winning the women's T54 5,000-meter final.

Debrunner clocked a personal best 10 minutes, 43.62 seconds to edge world record-holder and Tokyo champion Susannah Scaroni 1.5 seconds. T54 wheelchair is for people with spinal cord injuries but normal hand, arm and trunk func-

"Once I knew we were alone I was really happy because I knew I was second or first," Debrunner said. "But then (Scaroni) went really fast

Kuwait junior handball team ready for Asian Championship

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, Sept 1: Kuwait's junior handball team is wrapping up its final training session today in preparation for the 10th Asian Championship, which doubles as the 2025 World Cup qualifiers, set to begin tomorrow in Amman, Jordan. The tournament draw has placed the "Blues" in Group Four, alongside China, Iran, and Chi-

To prepare for the Asian Championship, the team held an external training camp in Slovenia, where it played a series of friendly matches against teams from Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Saudi Arabia. After returning to Kuwait, it faced the South Korean team in two additional friendly matches at the Martyr Fahad Al-Ahmad Center Hall in Al-Daiya.

The junior handball team arrived in Jordan yesterday, led by a delegation headed by Shabib Al-Hajri, Vice President of the Kuwait Handball Federation.

Assistant coach Hussein Habib emphasized that the

HANDBALL

team's early preparation was meticulously planned by the Federation, in collaboration with the coaching staff, national teams, and the administrative and technical teams of the junior squad. He added, "Our goal is to bring honor to Kuwaiti handball in the Asian Championship and proudly raise our country's flag among the top teams in the continent.'

for the last 600 meters so I stayed behind her. Somehow I had some energy left at the end."

Debrunner competes on Sunday in the T53 800 in which she holds the world record. She's also entered the

100, 400, 1,500 and marathon. Daniel Romanchuk was in the back row of the 10-man pack entering the final lap of the men's 5,000-meter final for T54, little to no lower limb function. Then he kicked into sprint mode and burning the competition to win his first Paralympic gold in the

"That last lap or so was kind of a blur," the American said. "I just kind of remember being in the back, kind of moving out, a sprint starting and I think we probably were four or so wide at one point."

In Tokyo, Romanchuk won the 400 and bronze in the marathon.

U.S. sprinter Jaydin Blackwell broke his own world record in the men's T38 100 (cerebral palsy and coordination impairments) to win his first Paralympic gold medal.

The 20-year-old Blackwell called

it the perfect race, but did not feel that way about it originally. He was surprised to break the record in 10.64 seconds. "It felt like it was a little bit slow,

but I looked up at the screen and was like, 'Okay, all right, yeah, let's go,'" he said.

Countryman Ryan Medrano was second in a personal best 10.97. Juan Alejandro Campas Sanchez of Co-

lombia was third with a personal best

The U.S. advanced to the wheelchair rugby semifinals after beating Germany 57-47.

Chuck Aoki scored 34 tries, giving him 74 of the Americans' 150 in four games, three of them wins.

The U.S. finished second in its pool and will play Britain in the semis on Sunday. Japan meets Australia in the other semifinal.

The United States held off a late comeback by host France to win 5-4 and get off the mark in men's goal-

The U.S. play Iran on Saturday to decide the quarterfinal seedings. Iran was second in their group after drawing with leader Brazil 7-7.

Sinner's unstoppable form continues

Swiatek reaches fourth round of US Open for 4th straight year

NEW YORK, Sept 1, (AP): Jannik Sinner never gave his third-round opponent at the U.S. Open on Saturday, Chris O'Connell, even a moment to contemplate pulling off the sort of monumental upset that eliminated Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz. "It shows that this sport is un-

predictable. Whenever you drop a little bit of your level - if it's mental, if it's tennis-wise or physical - at the end, it has a huge impact on the result," Sinner said. "Both opponents who they lost against, they played some incredible tennis. And it happens.'

Not to the No. 1-ranked Sinner, who is suddenly the favorite to win the men's championship at Flushing Meadows. He won the first five games and 21 of the first 29 points to make quite clear how things would go at Arthur Ashe Stadium and wrapped up a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 victory over O'Connell in under two hours.

TENNIS

"I felt like he was on from the getgo," O'Connell said. "I felt a little bit clueless, to be honest. ... Every single shot, I just felt like I had to do something with it, because he was just on me. He was suffocating me.'

Stepping on court less than 15 hours after Djokovic's loss to Alexei Popyrin, and two days after Alcaraz's loss to Botic van de Zandschulp, Sinner was as dominant as can be in every facet of the sport. With 23-time major champion Serena Williams watching from an Ashe suite, Sinner struck 15 aces. He never faced a break point. He won five of O'Connell's 12 service games. He finished with more than twice as many winners, 46, as unforced errors, 22.

"The best tennis player I've ever played, for sure," the 30-year-old O'Connell said.

The only past men's champion at the U.S. Open still in the bracket is 2021 winner Daniil Medvedev.

"For sure didn't expect to have this in the fourth round when Novak and Carlos are here," Medvedev said after beating No. 31 Flavio Cobolli 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. "So it's a fun feeling from one side, but from the other side it's a new tournament. I need to play my best to try to win it again.

The No. 5 seed will next face Nuno Borges, who was a point away from elimination at 6-3 in a fourth-set tiebreaker, then rallied to beat Jakub Mensik 6-7 (5), 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 6-0.

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek, who counts the 2022 title at Flushing Meadows among her five Grand Slam trophies, beat No. 25 seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4, 6-2 to reach the fourth round of the U.S. Open for the fourth straight year.

Earlier Saturday, Jasmine Paolini joined Coco Gauff as the only women to reach at least the fourth round at every major in 2024, getting that far at the U.S. Open for the first time with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over No. 30 seed Yulia Putintseva.

The fifth-seeded Paolini was the runner-up at the French Open in June and Wimbledon in July and next meets 2023 French Open finalist Karolina Muchova. Also advancing were No. 6 Jessica Pegula, No. 16 Liudmila Samsonova, No. 18 Diana Shnaider and 2018 Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki.

Since losing the first set he played in



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, returns a shot to Christopher O'Connell, of Australia, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York.

New York, against Mackie McDonald which also was the first set Sinner had played since news emerged of a doping case that involved two positive tests in March for trace amounts of a banned anabolic steroid - the 23-yearold from Italy has performed impeccably, dropping a total of 18 games across nine sets.

Trying to collect his second Grand Slam title of the year after gaining the first of his career at the Australian Open in January, Sinner will face No. 14 Tommy Paul of the United States in the fourth round on Monday. Paul defeated Canadian qualifier Gabriel Diallo 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (3).

"He's a great mover. He has improved a lot in the last period of time. It's going to be a tough challenge," Sinner said about facing Paul, a 2023 Australian Open semifinalist. "He plays some great tennis, especially here in America.'

Perhaps there was some wariness on Sinner's part heading into Saturday, given recent events. This is, after all, only the third time in the Open era (the others were in 1973 and 2000) that two of the top three seeded men were gone before the fourth round.

So Sinner woke up as the man considered likeliest to win the U.S. Open, a status that belonged to No. 3 Alcaraz the champion at the French Open and Wimbledon this season - before the tournament began. No. 2 Djokovic - the defending champ and owner of a men's-record 24 major trophies moved atop the odds when Alcaraz was sent home Thursday night, only to relinquish that after his own early exit Friday night.

The 87th-ranked O'Connell harbored hope of producing yet another surprise, even if he's never beaten a member of the top 10 or been past the third round at a Slam.

What van de Zandschulp and Popyrin did allowed O'Connell to dream of producing something similar against Sinner. "I mean, yeah, I've got to believe," O'Connell said, "but I just felt that he

was really on fire.' There is something quite difficult

about trying to follow up one careerbest win with another, and van de Zandschulp didn't really show up on Saturday, eliminated by No. 25 Jack Draper 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Draper, a 22-year-old left-hander from Britain, never has been past the fourth round a major, and neither has his next opponent, unseeded Tomas Machac, a 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 winner against David Goffin.

"After the match (against Alcaraz), it was a little bit crazy, van de Zandschulp said. "You try to think about the next match but you get reminded a lot of the match the day before. So of course it was tough to play today after the last two days."

Al-Sulaibikhat strengthens team with new international signings

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: Al-Sulaibikhat Club has finalized contracts with Colombian professional Ivan and Ghanaian player Richard Abamor to strengthen the first volleyball team ahead of the 2024-2025

Ivan, who previously played for Al-Sulaibikhat two seasons ago, is versatile in positions 2 and 4.

VOLLEYBALL

Abamor, who also plays in position 4, has experience with the Ghanaian police team and has competed in the Indonesian league, with his most recent stint being with the Saudi Al-Hedaya team last season.



The new recruits with Al-Sulaibikhat officials.

Additionally, the club's management has planned an external training camp in Turkey for the team later this month, where it will engage in a series of friendly matches against top Turkish league teams.

Al-Sulaibikhat Club recently appointed Egyptian coach Mohamed Mahran to lead the first volleyball team. Mahran is recognized as a promising young coach, having coached the Egyptian youth team and Al-Hilal Saudi.

The roster has also been bolstered by the addition of several young local talents, including former Kazma player Mohamed Al-Ali, as well as Ali Al-Tawil and Fahad Al-Takhakh.

The club's technical director, Egyptian Ahmed Refaat, praised the club's management and the volleyball department led by Nasser Mansi for their dedication and support. He emphasized that all obstacles are being addressed to build a strong team composed of both experienced and young players, aiming to represent the club with honor in upcoming

competitions. Refaat highlighted the club's strategic plan to develop the volleyball teams, particularly the youth sector. This includes signing Egyptian coach Mustafa Saoudi to train the under-10 and under-12 players, and the distinguished Egyptian coach Ahmed Helmy, who will lead the under-14 and under-16 teams.

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Players hold final preparations for the Gulf Basketball Championship opener against Saudi Arabia.

Sports

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

Kuwait begins Gulf Championship journey Kuwait wraps up Dubai training camp against defending champion Saudi Arabia

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, Sept 1: Kuwait kicks off its campaign in the 17th Gulf Basketball Championship, held in Manama, with a match against Saudi Arabia at 5:00 pm at Khalifa Sports City Hall, followed by a game between Qatar and Bahrain.

The tournament, in which the UAE and Oman have declined to participate, follows a single-round league system. After the round-robin matches, the top team will face the fourth-placed team, and the second-placed team will face the third. The winners of these semifinals will advance to

Meanwhile, the youth basketball team begins its journey today in the Asian Cup finals, taking place in Amman, Jor-

Dhari Barjas, President of the Basketball Federation, expressed confidence in the national team's preparation for the Gulf Championship. The team has been training intensively in Kuwait for over a month under the guidance of its new Serbian coach, Oliver Kostic. It also held a rigorous training camp in Belgrade, Serbia, ahead of the tournament.

Barjas noted that during the training camp, the national team played three friendly matches against top Serbian

BASKETBALL

clubs, showcasing promising performances. He expressed confidence in achieving strong results in the Gulf Championship. Kuwait's schedule begins with its match against the defending champions, Saudi Arabia, followed by a game against host nation Bahrain on Tuesday, and concludes with a match against Oatar before the semifinals and finals, based on the first-round results.



Kuwait team preparing for the World Cup qualifier against Jordan.

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DUBAI, Sept 1: Kuwait concludes its training camp this evening at the Police Officers Sports Club stadium in Dubai before departing tomorrow for Amman, Jordan. The team is set to play against Jordan next Thursday at Amman International Stadium in the opening match of Group Two for the 2026 World Cup qualifiers, which will be hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Kuwait has been training intensively at the Emirate camp since August 21. Under the guidance of Juan Pizzi, the technical staff has conducted two training sessions per day – morning and evening – to enhance player fitness and ensure optimal preparation.

Recently, the administrative staff, along with acting Chairman of the Federation's Board of Directors, Haif Al-Mutairi, met with the players to emphasize the im-

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portance of the upcoming qualifiers. They stressed the need for maximum effort to deliver a performance worthy of Kuwaiti football and to secure a positive result in their opening match against Jordan.

The squad appears to be fully prepared for the match, with all players participating in daily training sessions with high morale and a strong desire to be included in the starting lineup.

The Jordan technical staff has announced the addition of Al-Hussein Irbid player Aref Al-Hajj to the squad, replacing Mohammed Abu Zureiq "Sharara," who joined the national camp with a second-degree hamstring injury.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian players were given a brief vacation on Friday before resuming training the night before yesterday. They then returned to the hotel for a closed camp that will continue until the match.

The Jordanian team is also awaiting the arrival of Musa Al-Taamari, who plays for Montpellier in France, and Yazan Al-Arab, who is with Seoul in South Korea.



scored twice in a 3-2 comeback

Under coach Xabi Alonso,

Leverkusen has made crucial

late goals a speciality. It briefly

seemed like that might happen

again when the referee went to

review a possible penalty in the

86th minute after Leipzig's Cas-

tello Lukeba and Leverkusen's

lost to a German opponent for

the first time since May 2023

after 35 Bundesliga games un-

beaten. Leipzig came back from

2-0 down as it made the most of

relatively few chances on the

counter to seal a comeback win.

Its three goals came from six

the space of six first-half min-

utes, first when Jeremie Frim-

pong intercepted a loose pass,

sent defender El Chadaille Bit-

shiabu the wrong way and beat

goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi. Alex

Grimaldo then finished off a

team move that included new

signing Martin Terrier drawing

Gulacsi out of position.

Leverkusen scored twice in

shots to Leverkusen's 17.

The referee decided against the spot kick and Leverkusen

Patrik Schick made contact.

win for Leipzig.

Big-spending Chelsea held by Palace

Newcastle beats Tottenham

LONDON, Sept 1, (AP): Spending hundreds of millions of dollars on new players is proving no guarantee of victories for Chelsea in the Premier League.

A 1-1 home draw with Crystal Palace on Sunday meant Chelsea has won just one of its first three league matches this season - even if that was a 6-2 rout of Wolverhampton last weekend. Eberechi Eze's fine curling shot from the edge of the area in the 53rd minute secured a point for Palace, which spent most of the summer transfer window desperately trying to keep its best players. Eze fits into the category.

Chelsea, on the other hand, brought in 12 players - at a cost of around \$290 million - in the latest huge

outlay by its American investors. Only one new signing, Pedro Neto, started against Palace at Stamford Bridge and it was two players signed last year who combined for the 25th-minute opener as Nicolas Jackson tapped in from Cole Palmer's pass.

Chelsea has four points from a possible nine, having opened the season by losing to Manchester City. Newcastle beat Tottenham 2-1 thanks to Alexander Isak's 78th-minute winner at St. James' Park to stay unbeaten on seven points. Dan Burn's own-goal in the 56th brought Spurs back into the match after Harvey Barnes' goal in the 37th.

At the rate Erling Haaland is scoring, keeping up with Manchester City is going to be a difficult task in the English Premier League.

So while it's still only three games into the season, it felt significant when title rival Arsenal dropped points and then saw City take full advantage thanks to another hat trick from Haaland.

> The Norway striker netted his second treble in two games as City beat West Ham 3-1 to maintain its perfect start and move two points ahead of Arsenal, which was held 1-1 by Brighton after Declan Rice was sent off early in the second half. With eight Premier League hat tricks, Haaland has as many as Thierry Henry (258 games),

SOCCER

Harry Kane (320) and Michael Owen (326) managed in their careers.

This was his first away from Etihad Stadium, though, and showed his wide range of finishing skills.

The opener came when he ran onto a pass from Bernarndo Silva and beat goalkeeper Alphonse Areola with a low shot. After an own goal from Ruben Dias, Haaland made it 2-1 when he received a pass inside the area and hit a thumping strike into the roof of the net in the 30th minute. The hat trick was complete in the 83rd when he went clear through on goal and lifted the ball past Lukasz Fabianski, who replaced Areola at halftime.

"I really liked the second goal, I have to be honest," Haaland said. "The second one was lovely. ... I like to shoot a bit hard sometimes, as well. Not only easy shots. So it's good to get a little bit of power out of my body.

While there's another 35 games left, Haaland's prolific form makes any small gap to City look tough to over-

Kuwait athletics team returns

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 1: The Kuwait athletics team delegation returned to ticipation in the World Youth Champi-

Al-Nasser advanced to the shot put final, securing eighth place with a personal best of 19.17 meters. Talal Al-Rashoud also reached the final of the hammer throw, finishing ninth with a throw of 70.49 meters. Meanwhile, Yaqoub Al-Azmi made it to the semifinals of the 200-meter race, recording a new per-

The national athletics team delegation, which participated in a Turkish training camp prior to the championship, was led by Board Member and Head of National Teams Falah Al-Ajmi. The team also included Dr. Nasser Al-Jarallah, Technical Director of Youth, and Dr. Abdullah Bilal, the

Falah Al-Ajmi praised the exceptional performance of the Kuwaiti athletes at this premier international youth event. He stated, "We are proud to see our players among the top ten competitors in a championship that features the world's best young athletes. This is a positive sign of the growth of athletics

from the World Championship

sonal best time of 21.24 seconds.

in Kuwait.

Al-Ajmi also highlighted the increasing focus on athletics and expressed optimism for the future, provided this interest continues. He extended his thanks to the players, as well as the technical and administrative staff, for their dedication and hard work over the past period.

Leclerc delights home fans with Italian GP win **Leverkusen finally** the country after wrapping up its par-'beaten' in league onship under 20, which recently con-"The tifosi were incredible, mamma cluded in Lima, Peru. LEVERKUSEN, Germany, With Norris chasing the title, there was leading Norris and the duo were The team delivered impressive per-Sept 1, (AP): German champion Before Sunday's triumph, the Italwere questions over whether team ortold on team radio that they were free formances at the championship. Hussein Bayer Leverkusen lost a Bunian Scuderia had managed only a secders would come into play. desliga game for the first time in 15 months when Loïs Openda But the expected battle between the

to the end.

two for the victory never emerged be-

for their second set of pit stops, and the

laps continued to tick down, it became

clear that the Ferrari pair were going to

try to nurse their hard tires all the way

And so it proved, with Leclerc man-

"I wasn't surprised you stayed out,

"It hurts. It hurts a lot. I did a lot of

aging to hold off Piastri despite being

I was surprised you survived," Piastri

things right today," Piastri said. "There

was a lot of question marks on the

strategy going into the race. Doing a one-stop looked like a very risky call -

"Today we unfortunately got it a bit

wrong, we had everything to lose from

being in the lead. Charles could try

something different as he'd finish third

McLaren as it closed the gap to just

eight points behind Red Bull in the

There was some consolation for

Birthday boy Carlos Sainz Jr. was

fourth, just ahead of Lewis Hamilton

who will replace him at Ferrari next

and in the end it was right.

constructors' championship.

either way. Painful."

on tires that were nearly 40 laps old.

told Leclerc in the cooldown room.

As more and more drivers came in

cause of Ferrari's audacious move.

Leclerc secured Ferrari a rare win at the Formula 1 Italian Grand Prix, much to the home fans' delight, as the team's bold one-stop strategy paid off on Sunday.

Ferrari, which had brought nine upgrades to its home race, was one of the teams to choose to only pit once.

And that proved the right decision for Leclerc, who despite heavily degrading tires, managed to hold off Oscar Piastri and his McLaren teammate Lando Norris.

As it became obvious what was on the cards, the passionate, red-clad tifosi got on their feet, stamping and roaring Leclerc's every lap, and they went

MOTOR RACING

wild when he crossed the line 2.664 seconds ahead of Piastri.

Polesitter Norris finished 6.153 behind Leclerc to trim the gap to 62 points to championship leader Max Verstappen, who was sixth in his Red Bull with eight races remaining.

Leclerc had also won in 2019, making this Ferrari's second win on its home track in the past 14 races.

"It's an incredible feeing, actually I thought that the first time would feel like this and the second time wouldn't feel as special. But my god the emotions in the last few laps," Leclerc said immediately afterwards.

ond for Leclerc in 2022 and a third by Sainz last year since that 2019 victory. It was Leclerc's second win of the

season. His first was equally as special as it came at his home track in Monaco. "Monaco and Monza are the two races I want to win every year and I've managed to win them this year. It is so,

so special," he said. Leclerc started fourth at Monza, with the McLaren duo locking out the

That was swiftly answered. Both McLarens got a good start - unusually for them - but Piastri managed to get a slipstream and overtake his teammate into the second chicane, with Norris slipping into third as Leclerc also managed to get past.

Norris managed to undercut Leclerc as he pitted first and, as the others stopped, he set off in pursuit of his teammate.



Tottenham Hotspur's Dejan Kulusevski, right, and Newcastle United's Anthony Gordon battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur at St James' Park, Newcastle, England. (AP)

Ferrari's bold strategy pays off

Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc of Monaco steers his car during the Formula One Italian Grand Prix race at the Monza racetrack, in Monza, Italy. (AP)

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