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KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2,

(KUNA): The Ministry of

Commerce and Industry has announced that com-

mercial licenses will not

be issued or renewed for

any companies, including

sole proprietorships and

closed joint-stock com-

panies, unless they com-

ply with the requirement

to disclose the beneficial

owner through the com-

mercial registry portal on

The ministry's official spokes-

person Abdullah Al-Harz in-

formed KUNA on Monday that

this new legal procedure is man-

datory for all companies and

commercial institutions to iden-

tify the natural person who holds

actual and final control over the

He stressed that companies and institutions under the supervision of the Anti-Money Laundering and Ter-

rorism Financing Department must

comply with this disclosure require-

ment or face financial penalties, as

stipulated in Article 15 of law No.

Al-Harz clarified that the disclo-

sure requirement applies to all com-

mercial companies registered in

Kuwait, with the exception of those

wholly owned by the state and listed

companies under the Capital Markets

Continued on Page 5

'Port project to

fuel economy'

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: As the

Minister of Finance and Minister of

State for Economic Affairs and In-

vestment, Nora Al-Fassam, discussed

with the visiting Chinese government

delegation the details and mecha-

nisms for beginning the implementa-

tion of the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port

project in all its phases, the Minis-

ter of Public Works, Dr. Noura Al-

Mashaan, revealed that the first phase

of the project has reached 50 percent

She emphasized the commitment

to completing this phase swiftly to

operate the port, followed by the "si-

multaneous execution" of the second

and third phases to enable the port to

meeting at Shuwaikh Port with the

head and members of the Chinese

delegation, in the presence of As-

sistant Foreign Minister for Asian

In a press statement following her

operate at maximum capacity.

completion.

Authority's supervision.

company.

the ministry's website.

150 FILS

Opinion

HH the Amir declared his revolution against archaic constitution and laws

Bv Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE renaissance of any country requires updating, rather upgrading the outdated laws that no longer reflect contemporary needs. With various events, changes are necessary to keep pace with the current realities and future demands.

For example, Kuwait used to provide services to its people free of charge when its population was relatively small. However, with the expansion of construction and population growth, it did not take into account the requirements for that, due to which it is now necessary to take into consideration the impacts of these ser-

vices, especially in terms of the deficit in the state's general budget.

In line with the efforts led by His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad for the modernization of the state, he launched a bitter remedy for dealing with the issues aris-

Al-Jarallah

ing from certain constitutional articles. These articles had led to abuse of power by some parliamentarians, who acted as a shadow government and allowed the National Assembly to encroach

upon the powers of other authorities. This was why His Highness the Amir of the moment ordered a comprehensive modernization workshop to address these problems, which was why there are many laws and regulations that necessitated amendments.

Among the most pressing amendments is the need to clearly define who should receive support or subsidies. This reform aims to avoid the misleading rhetoric of "not touching the citizen's pocket," which can obscure the true nature of the necessary changes.

This summer, we witnessed an electricity crisis that exposed the Council of Ministers' inability to provide electricity for everyone, given that the demand far exceeds the state's capacity.

Even though the situation is difficult, it is important to recognize that Kuwait is one of the most water-scarce countries and invests huge sums for electricity generation.

However, as the saying goes, "Your uncle's money doesn't concern you", many citizens leave their electricity meters running in their villas and homes while traveling during the summer. This is because of the mentality that "What is free doesn't cause harm, so take as much as you can." This mindset reflects a problematic attitude toward resource use.

Similarly, the issue of food aid reveals a similar disconnect. Although most Kuwaitis do not need it, there are those who refuse to forgo it, clinging to the notion of "not touching the citizen's pocket", which is on everyone's tongue.

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Raids check quality, authenticity of gold

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing strict oversight on all commercial activities related to gold, jewelry, and precious metals, in accordance with current regulations and legislation. It highlighted that regular inspection tours are carried out in the gold market to ensure the highest standards of quality and integrity are upheld.

In a press statement issued on Monday, the official spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Abdullah Al-Harz denied the rumors circulating lately on social media regarding the seizure of gold with forged stamps.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to Faisal Al-Rajehi, congratulating him on winning the bronze medal in Paris

2024 Paralympic Games. Commending the honorable achievement, His Highness the Amir wished the athlete further suc-

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

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables to Al-Rajehi, congratulating him on his remarkable achievement and extending their best wishes for his continued success. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: The Islamic State (IS) militant group no longer poses a threat to **Iraq** and dialogue to end the **U.S.**-led international coalition to fight the IS group continues, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani said Sunday

Al-Sudani made the remarks during talks with Major General Kevin C. Leahy, commander of the U.S.-led coalition against IS in Iraq, in the presence of U.S. ambassador to Iraq Alina L. Romanowski, said al-Sudani's media office in a statement. (Xinhua)

Commercial license linked to disclosure of real beneficiary

Move to promote transparency in cash dealings



106/2013 concerning Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism KUNA photo School-going children are given rigorous training by the Kuwaiti Naval Forces, disembarking from a patrol boat and heading towards the shore. Financing.

up for future roles

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): Under the patronage of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, the Army Officers Club celebrated the graduation of 100 trainees from the "Young Recruit Camp" program on Monday.

According to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Defense, the four-week program served as a mini-training camp, with introductory field visits to key military divisions, including the Air Force, Navy, the 25th Commando Brigade, and the Army Fire Department, which allowed the participants to gain firsthand experience and an understanding of the work undertaken by their counterparts in the armed forces.

The "Young Recruit" program is designed to instill discipline and responsibility in young people, and introduce them to the fundamentals of teamwork and military training through age-appropriate methods.

Chairman of the Army Officers Club Lieutenant General (retired) Khaled Al-Kandari affirmed the importance of such courses in promoting national values and loyalty to the homeland, as well as for instilling a sense of belonging and spirit of cooperation among the younger generation.

He said these courses impart basic military skills which help in preparing youth to become informed and capable individuals who are ready to take on responsibilities in the future.

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Head of the Kuwait Fishermen Union (KFU)

Dhaher Al-Suwaiyan expressed optimism regarding His Highness the

Prime Minister's directives to the members of the government to deal

as they have become real obstacles to achieving sustainable food secu-

the union's request for a meeting, revealing that the union has formally

requested an appointment to discuss the challenges facing the fishing

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Al-Huwaila pledges strict

action in disability fraud

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: As part of the comprehensive and thorough

reviews being conducted by various state agencies and institutions on

several critical matters, including nationality and academic certificates,

to uncover cases of fraud and forgery, informed sources told Al-Seyas-

sah daily that the Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood

Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, is set to put under the microscope all

He said he hopes the challenges faced by fishermen will be resolved,

Al-Suwaiyan appealed to His Highness the Prime Minister to honor

with citizens' problems and work towards resolving them.

rity from marine products.

industry and seek solutions.

Kuwaiti youth gear KFH celebrates 46th anniversary

Details Page 9 —

Clients must meet deadline

Biometrics, active bank accounts tied

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The banks operating in Kuwait are preparing to implement biometric fingerprint requirements for account holders, reports Al-Rai daily.

This measure comes as the extended deadline for Kuwaiti citizens to complete their biometric fingerprint registration with the Ministry of Interior approaches its September 30 deadline, say reliable sources

The Central Bank of Kuwait has instructed banks to enforce the new biometric fingerprint policy in four stages which are:

Alert Messages -- Banks will start by sending notifications to customers, urging them to complete their biometric registration within the deadline. This step is expected to begin this week. Suspension of e-Transactions -- By September

30. all electronic transactions for non-compliant customers will be halted, including access to account balances, statements, and fund transfers.

Bank Card Suspension -- By October 31, all bank cards of those who have not completed the

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'Open-door' policy to continue: Al-Mishari

By Mohammed Al-Musleh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari affirmed the continuation of the open-door policy for all citizens.

Following his first visit to the Kuwait Credit Bank in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Al-Mishari stressed the need to provide the best service to citizens, raise the efficiency of

the services provided to them, and **Continued on Page 5**

Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Hayat, **Continued on Page 5**

KFU eyes PM intervention Call for united Arab stand to to end fishermen's woes help end Palestinians agony

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): The Council for Arab and International Relations (CAIR) has called for a solid and united Arab stance in support of Palestinians against the atrocious Israeli occupation aggression, and for joining South Africa at the International Court of Justice, as well as an Arab Summit resolution on

breaking the siege The council, chaired by Mohammad Al-Saqer, mentioned in a press release on Monday, this genocide and forced eviction of the Palestinian people in Gaza and West Bank, are a blatant challenge to international unanimity condemning these fascist policies and practices.

About a year since the beginning of the crisis, the humanitarian situation in Gaza Strip has reached catastrophic levels, reads the statement, saying that number of martyrs reached 50,000 including those lost under the rubble, around 92,000 injured, and 1.7 million diseased.

Around 1.6 million Gazans currently sequestered in a 24 square km strip, without access to any basic necessities of shelter, water, food, or

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo

Relief aid is headed for Sudan.

10th aid planeload heads to Sudan

Kuwait's tenth relief planeload departed to Sudan on Monday carrying on board 10 tons of foodstuff, organized by Al-Salam society for humanitarian and charity work, in cooperation with Kuwait's ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and So-

In remarks to KUNA Deputy Director General of the society, Hamad Al-Oun said this aid plane is to support and help the people of Sudan during this humanitarian crisis as the country is facing extreme shortage of food, water, medicine as well as floods and heavy rains that left millions of Sudanese displaced especially with the current situation of armed conflicts.

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Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-45 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas.

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal are-

Weather as with light variable wind to light

to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h and some high clouds will appear **Station Max Exp**

Abdalv 30 30 33 26 34 30 30 Bubyan Jahra Failaka Island Salmiyah Ahmadi Jal Alivah Nuwaisib

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

National Day greetings sent

HH the Amir congratulates Vietnam

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to the President of Vietnam To Lam congratulating him on the country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Lam good health, his country and people further progress and prosperity. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President To Lam on his country's National Day, wishing him good health and further progress and prosperity.

Aso, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President To Lam congratulating him on his country's National Day.



Al-Rai photo





Kuwait's participation in the Gulf Hackathon competition.

Kuwait's MoE participates in Gulf Hackathon competition in Bahrain

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): Kuwait, represented by the Ministry of Education and under the supervision of General Supervisory of Computing, is participating on Monday in the Gulf Hackathon competition to employ artificial intelligence in public

The Hackathon, organized by the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, is in its second edition in the Kingdom of Bahrain during the period from September

This participation came in light of the

Ministry of Education's keenness to refine the talents of distinguished students and encourage them to participate in local, regional and international competitions and within the framework of the ministry's objectives.

Ministry of Education official, Mona Awad, expressed her delight to participate in the Gulf Hackathon and wished success to all participating students.

The finalists for the Hackathon are five students, Hawraa Al-Sharif, Alaa Al-Sham mari, Lulwa Al-Saeed, Ahmad Al-Rashidi,

'Avoid clicking suspicious links'

Cybersecurity experts warn about new blackmail tactic involving photo capture

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: While the concerned authorities continue to exert tremendous efforts to prevent electronic fraud that has invaded lives in various forms, cybersecurity experts have warned about the spread of a link which takes photographs of whoever clicks it and then the photos are published for the scammers to use in blackmail operations, reports Al-Rai daily.

These experts disclosed that the unscrupulous individuals involved in the abovementioned operations usually demand money from the victims and threaten to publish the photos if they do not receive the money.

This warning was issued after the Cybercrime Department at the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) and telecommunication companies, blocked 392 fake websites involved in fraud and deception; including 52 websites impersonating Al-Durra Company for the Recruitment of Domestic Workers. This is in addition to the suspension of about 662 fraudulent local WhatsApp numbers --65 percent of which impersonated Al-Durra Company.

Chairman of the Cybersecurity Committee at the Electronic Media Union Mohammad Al-Rashidi told the daily that "a number of citizens have fallen victim to these links, through which their photographs were taken." He advise the public to "refrain from clicking suspicious links and to reject requests to access the camera. You have to ignore such links, because if you fall into the trap, it will be difficult to solve the prob-

Jamila Al-Otaibi -- a business leader in consulting, training and digital transformation -- stated that "in light of the rapid development in cybercrime methods; it has become necessary to raise digital awareness in order to confront the increasing threats. Suspicious links spread through social media or emails could be a tool that hackers use to access photos or personal information for the purpose of blackmail. We advise everyone to avoid clicking unknown links or those from unreliable sources.

She stressed the need to take additional security measures; such as activating the two-step verification feature in one's accounts, using strong and unique passwords for each account, avoid sharing personal information online unless it is with trusted and known parties, and updating security applications and anti-virus programs regularly to ensure that devices are protected from potential attacks. "In case you fall victim to such links, it is important to immediately report the incident to the concerned authorities and avoid interacting with blackmail-

Court upholds ruling against bank for 'unlawful' loan interest rate changes

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict of the Court of First Instance, which ruled that a local bank is not entitled to alter the interest rate on a loan granted to the plaintiff. The court mandated that the bank adhere to the original installment amount specified in the contract until the end of the agreement between the two

According to the statement of claim submitted by Lawyer Ali Matar Al-Wawan who is representing the Kuwaiti plaintiff, his client took a loan of KD 64,000 from the defendant bank. The loan agreement stipulated that the client would repay KD 574 monthly, which would be deducted from his monthly salary.

After the agreed-upon installment period ended, his client was surprised to find that

the bank continued to deduct payments from his salary, even though the debt, including interest, had been fully repaid.

When his client inquired with the bank management about these deductions, they claimed it was the interest, and that the loan repayment period had been extended.

His client requested a copy of the contract to verify the remaining debt, but the bank refused to provide it. This led him to file a lawsuit to appoint an expert to investigate the legitimacy of the bank's claim regarding the extended repayment period.

The expert's report concluded that the bank was not entitled to collect further interest, deeming it a violation of the law, public order, and the Commercial Code, as the loan and its interest had already been fully

Lawyer Al-Wawan requested that the findings of the expert's report be taken into

Facility designates areas to accommodate incoming trucks

Kuwait City

Kuwait Airport

Abdali port ready to receive food imports from Sept 5

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: A security source has announced that the Ministry of Interior, in collaboration with the General Administration of Customs, has finalized all preparations at the Abdali port to receive food and vegetables from Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, and Europe, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the source, the port will be ready to handle these food items from September 5. The facility has designated areas to accommodate incoming trucks, which will then transfer the goods to Kuwaiti trucks using a "handling" system.

These trucks will be supervised by the security

authorities at the land transport site, where they will undergo inspection and testing by the concerned authorities.

A streamlined process is being implemented to expedite the transfer of goods to the local market, ensuring that food items do not spoil due to delays during transit and inspection.

Thousands of citizens, expats return after summer holidays

DGCA operates 25,878 flights during June 1-Aug 15

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Kuwait International Airport recently nessed the return of thousands of citizens and expatriates, after spending their vacation in different countries for tourism or the expatriates' home countries to visit their families; coinciding with the end of the summer break and start of the new academic year, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily recently monitored the movement of arriving passengers at Terminal One and interviewed Director of Airport Operations Department at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Mansour Al-Hashemi who revealed that the most preferred holiday destinations included Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, Dubai, Mashhad and London.

Al-Hashemi said his department laid down an integrated plan to better serve those returning to the country -- in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, Kuwait General Administration of Customs (KGAC), airlines and ground service companies -- in order to efficiently deal with the expected influx of passengers. He revealed the plan includes opening additional passport counters, operating baggage conveyors at full capacity, and assigning workers to load bags and deliver them to the

He added the airport is operating as per the timetable in coordination with the authorities assigned at the airport to be fully prepared for various occasions and seasons, when the number of arriving and departing passengers is usually high.

He confirmed that the Quality Control Team is currently evaluating the airport services to identify problems and take appropriate measures in order to ensure there is no mistake, which could lead to confusion among passengers or authorities assigned at the airport.

He stated that the DGCA recorded active air traffic movement from June 1 to Aug 15; during which the number of departure flights reached 12,940 while the arrival flights reached 12,938 or a total of 25,878 flights. He added the number of departing passengers reached 1,919,727 while the number of arriving passengers reached 1,652,261 or a total of 3,571,988 passengers.

Ban on working outdoors lifted

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has announced the conclusion of the "Their Safety is More Important" campaign, which ran from June 1 to August 31. With the end of this campaign, the ban on outdoor work in open areas between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm has now been lifted.

The acting Director of PAM Marzouq Al-Otaibi announced that the authority had launched awareness media and inspection campaigns to ensure the implementation of administrative Resolution No. 535/2015, which bans employing workers in open workplaces where harsh climatic conditions make it difficult for them to perform work during regular working hours.

He explained that the noon work team from the National Center for Occupational Health and Safety Department conducted inspections across all governorates to ensure compliance with the ban.

From June 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023, the team inspected 205 sites, observed the presence of 213 workers in open sites, and received 58 reports. Of the inspected sites, 129 were found to be in violation for the first time. The number of sites that were inspected and had met the requirements were 119. Also, seven previously violating sites were re-



Sheikh Abdullah Salem receiving Ambassador Lewis.

Al-Rai photo

Capital governor hosts British ambassador

Governor of the Capital, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, hosted the British Ambassador to Kuwait, Belinda Lewis, where they discussed the longstanding and strong relations between Kuwait and the United

The governor noted that the partnership, which

has spanned over 125 years, continues to foster cooperation in various fields.

Ambassador Lewis expressed gratitude for the warm welcome received by the British diplomatic mission and conveyed her hopes for Kuwait's continued security, stability, and progress.



KUNA photo

- Colonel Fahad Al-Azmi as As-

Colonel Mishari Al-Samhan as

sistant Director of the Hospitality

Director of the Financial, Admin-

istrative, and Maintenance Affairs

Saad Al-Hajri as Assistant Director

of the Security Media Department

the Director General of Security

Relations and Media Major General

Tawheed Al-Kandari was referred

to retirement and Brigadier Nasser

Abu Salib was appointed as Direc-

- Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah

These positions were filled after

Department

Acting Director of Kuwait University Dr. Nawaf Al-Mutairi listens to an explanation from one of the employ-

University expands academic departments for 2024-'25

Dr Al-Mutairi outlines strategic plan for KU's new academic year and record admissions

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Acting Director of Kuwait University, Dr. Nawaf Al-Mutairi, affirmed that the increase in the number of academic departments for the first semester of the 2024-2025 academic year was implemented based on a well-planned strategy, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This strategy ensures that the quality of education at Sabah Al-Salem University City remains high, supported by a sufficient number of classrooms and academic staff.

In a statement to reporters during an inspection tour of the Deanship of Admission and Registration as part of preparations for the upcoming academic year, Dr. Al-Mutairi highlighted that the number of admissions this year is among the highest in the past decade. He explained that this increase was

carefully planned to align with labor market needs, in coordination with relevant authorities, including the Civil Service Commission. The university has also evaluated whether to introduce new programs, merge certain training programs, or limit admissions to others.

The inspection of the admission and registration hall is part of a series of tours conducted by the university administration to foster collaboration and assess the readiness of various sectors before the academic year begins.

Dr. Al-Mutairi commended the efforts of the Dean, Assistant Deans, and staff, who have been

Key appointments in Mol announced

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef has issued a decision to appoint a number of officials to key positions within the Ministry of Interior. They are:

- Brigadier Yousef Anbar Al-Mershed as Assistant Director General of the Directorate General of Public Re-

lations and Security Media - Colonel Othman Al-Gharib as Head of the Security Media Depart-

Colonel Faisal Sanad Al-Daihani as Head of the Public Relations

Department Colonel Ahmed Dashti as Headof the General Hospitality Depart-

istration plan is designed to simplify

application procedures for students

and to address any challenges they

encounter during the registration pro-

tor General of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior from his previously-held position of Director of the Security Media

Department.

diligently working according to the established plan. The plan has successfully completed its second phase, with the third and final phase set to commence before the academic year starts in mid-September.

He further elaborated that the reg-

cess. The university administration is also committed to promptly responding to student and parent inquiries. Dr. Al-Mutairi emphasized that

the university has a clear and comprehensive plan to create a conducive academic environment for all students at Sabah Al-Salem University City, ensuring the university maintains its prestigious standing among educational institutions.

Accident leads to discovery of gun, 18 bullets

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: A collision between two vehicles in the area between Ishbiliya and Rehab led to the discovery of an individual who was in an inebriated state and in possession of a shotgun and 18 bullets. He was arrested and referred with the seized items to the concerned authorities, reports Al-Anba daily.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior said security operations across various governorates led to the arrest of several individuals who were in possession of drugs, liquor, and psychotropic substances. Also, many illegal street vendors and wanted vehicles were apprehended, and dilapidated vehicles were removed, with the cooperation of the Kuwait Municipality.



Mol photo

Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal during the inspection tour.

National Guard deputy chief emphasizes vigilance

Deputy Chief of the National Guard, Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf, has underscored the importance of maintaining security vigilance, caution, and attentiveness among National Guard members, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He emphasized the need for upholding the reputation of the National Guard, both within and outside the camps.

During his visit, Sheikh Faisal received a detailed briefing on the responsibilities of the Military Security Directorate, particularly its role in securing National Guard camps and

He was also informed about the awareness campaigns conducted by the directorate to safeguard its members against various dan-

Sheikh Faisal highlighted the leadership's commitment to providing full support to all National Guard units, ensuring that they can perform their duties with the highest level of efficiency and competence.

He praised the Military Security Directorate's members for their dedicated efforts in protection and security operations.

Sheikh Faisal was welcomed by Major General Dr. Faleh Shujaa, Assistant for Operations and Training, and Brigadier General Abdullah Saleh, Director of the Military Secu-

Expat stabbed to death inside illegal liquor factory in Mutlaa

Fake products seized; Coast Guard recovers 3 bodies from sea



Mol photo

Brig-Gen Sheikh Mubarak Ali during the inspection tour.

Mol, Coast Guard inaugurate new facility

The Ministry of Interior announced that the Director General of the Coast Guard, Brigadier General Sheikh Mubarak Ali Al-Yousef, inaugurated the new Maritime Transport Department and the Audit and Quality Department building in Al-Ardiya Sunday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the event, Brigadier General Al-Yousef conducted an inspection tour of the various departments and sections within the new facility, accompanied by

several department officers.

He engaged in discussions with visitors, listened to their opinions and suggestions, and emphasized the importance of providing top-notch services using the latest administrative and service systems.

He highlighted the need for modern, advanced methods to facilitate transaction procedures and reduce processing time



Mol photo

One of the seized vehicles in ministry garage.

GTD holds 8-day security campaigns

293 wanted persons arrested; 56,332 traffic citations issued

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Recent security campaigns organized by the General Traffic Department have resulted in the arrest of 293 individuals wanted by law for committing various types of offenses, reports Al-

During the campaign over the past eight days – from Aug 24 to 31 – the GTD officers also issued 56,332 traffic citations and impounded 161 vehicles wanted by the authorities and 19 juveniles were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution.

The Traffic Affairs and Operations Sector at the Ministry of Interior reported that traffic patrols recorded 47,810 violations and impounded 53 vehicles and 67 motorcycles; 24 individuals were apprehended for trafficrelated violations and expired residencies, with 56 vehicles and 5 additional seizures sent to the relevant authorities.

The "rescue" campaigns, conducted from

August 25 to 31, resulted in the seizure of 19 suspected narcotic substances.

The law enforcement officers arrested 269 individuals, including those wanted for criminal convictions and illegal possession

The operations also led to the apprehension of 15 people under the influence of alcohol and 3 individuals found with liquor bottles. A total of 105 wanted vehicles were seized, and 6 vehicles were impounded.

Throughout these efforts, security forces attended to 19 accidents and provided 354 instances of humanitarian aid.

Traffic accident statistics reported included 181 collision and injury incidents, alongside 920 collision-only accidents.

These comprehensive campaigns underscore the ongoing commitment of Kuwaiti security forces to maintaining public safety and order across the country.

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi, Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce has announced the seizure of 746 counterfeit items from a warehouse in Farwaniya.

According to Faisal Al-Ansari, the department director, the inspection team headed by Khaled Al-Wateed. head of the Farwaniya Center, has ordered the immediate closure of store after the inspectors found counterfeit branded items - women's handbags, shoes and women's accessories.

The daily added, 237 counterfeit women's handbags, 286 pairs of counterfeit women's shoes, and 223 counterfeit women's accessories, all imitating renowned international brands such as Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Prada, and Chanel have been confiscated.

The case has been referred to commercial prosecution for

Expat stabbed to death: An expatriate was stabbed to death by an unknown individual inside a liquor manufacturing den in Mutlaa, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received information on Sunday about the stabbing of an expatriate in Mutlaa, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location and discovered that the victim was deceased. The site, which was found to be operating as an illicit liquor factory, was searched. Forensic experts were dispatched to the scene to collect evidence. Liquor and manufacturing materials found at the site were seized.

Officers from the Jahra Investigation and Research Department have launched an investigation into the murder of the expatriate.

The sources indicated a potential link between the liquor production activities at the site and the murder.

Restaurant uses expired eggs: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition has administratively shut down a restaurant in the Capital Governorate because during routine inspection of the facility the inspectors found the eatery was using eggs in preparation of the meals which had expired two months ago.

Inspectors from the Capital Governorate PAFN inspection department have issued a citation and ordered immediate closure of the restaurant. The incident, involving serious and irreconcilable violations,

has been referred to the Public Prosecution for legal action.

3 bodies recovered from sea: Three unidentified bodies were recovered from the sea recently and investigations are ongoing to identify them, reports Al-Rai daily quoting a security source. The source told the daily that the Operations Unit at the

Interior Ministry received information about the sinking of a boat recently. Officers from the Coast Guard and Marine Rescue departments rushed to the location. They searched the entire area, resulting in the discovery of the three bodies that were referred to the Forensic Evidence Department to identify them, the source added.

'Traffic rules not followed'

47,000 delivery drivers create chaos on the streets - report

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: According to recent statistics, there are currently 47,000 delivery vehicles, including cars and motorbikes, on the roads. However, more than 3,000 of these vehicles have not been renewed because they do not meet the required criteria related to lifespan - less than seven years for cars and less than four years for motorbikes, reports Al-Shahed

A study conducted by the daily highlighted that these 47,000 drivers, who operate day and night, cause serious traffic problems due to non-compliance with traffic rules, a lack of knowledge about the laws, and the acquisition of licenses through improper means. Also, some domestic workers escape from their

sponsors and work in the field of delivery for better wages The study called on the relevant authorities in the Ministry of Interior to reconsider the licensing of delivery companies and consider allowing the establishment of new ones. This will help in preventing further traffic congestion, especially since accident statistics indicate that many delivery workers, particularly those on motorbikes, are frequently involved in







A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Literacy a vital tool for personal empowerment, social progress'

"EVERY September 8, the world observes International Literacy Day to emphasize the critical role of literacy in human dignity and development. This year's theme, 'Changing the Course of Learning', highlights the ongoing need to enhance reading and writing skills as fundamental to building thriving societies," columnist Dr. **Hind Al-Shoumer** wrote for

Al-Anba daily. "Proclaimed UNESCO on October 26, 1966, during its fourteenth General Assembly conference, the International Literacy Day seeks to ad-

Dr. Shoumer

dress the fact that an estimated 771 million people globally, predominantly women and youth, still lack basic literacy skills. This significant gap in literacy poses barriers to personal and community advancement and impedes progress toward achieving the goals of sustainable development.

"Literacy encompasses the ability to read, write, and communicate effectively using various forms of written or electronic symbols. UN-ESCO's 1971 definition emphasizes that literacy involves acquiring the skills necessary to perform roles effectively within one's society. Illiteracy denotes an individual's inability to read and write proficiently in any language.
"In more developed contexts,

literacy may extend beyond basic reading and writing to include digital skills, with terms like 'cultural illiteracy' and 'technical illiteracy' addressing gaps in other forms of knowledge. Additionally, 'educated illiteracy' refers to individuals with higher education degrees who still struggle with fundamental literacy

"The 1964 Regional Conference for Planning and Organizing Literacy Programs in the Arab World recommended that Arab nations embrace a functional literacy concept. This defines an illiterate person as one who, over the age of ten, is neither enrolled in school nor possesses adequate reading and writing skills.

"Literacy is not just a basic human right but a vital tool for personal empowerment and social progress. It underpins basic education, alleviates poverty, reduces infant mortality rates, and curtails population

"Furthermore, it is crucial for achieving sustainable development, fostering peace, and promoting democracy.

"By providing individuals with essential literacy skills, societies can ensure gender equality, support comprehensive personal development, and enable effective participation in public life. Literacy facilitates technical and vocational education, adapts to evolving circumstances, and promotes continuous learning.

"The International Literacy Day serves as a renewed call to action, inviting everyone to contribute to a future where literacy unlocks endless opportunities and supports the creation of an enlightened global

society."

Also:

"British journalist Richard Medhurst, after his arrest at Heathrow Airport, tweeted: 'I had six police officers waiting for me at the entrance to the plane, and I was held for about 24 hours and interrogated. I believe I am the first journalist arrested under this section of the Terrorism Act. This feels like political persecution and hinders my ability to practice journalism'," columnist Suad Fahd Al-Moajil wrote for Al-**Oabas** daily

"Medhurst criticized the Terrorism Act, suggesting it targets journalism rather than actual terrorism. He highlighted that his arrest stemmed from his reporting on Palestine, where he was accused of supporting a group classified as ter-

"This incident, along with the arrest of Telegram's founder in France for refusing to censor the app at Israel's request, represents a significant threat to global journalism, not just in the Arab world.

"The freedom of the press embodies the unrestricted ability to communicate, connect, and express opinions through various media. While it is a fundamental right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and most national constitutions, it faces numerous restrictions that vary by region and political climate. Freedom of the press remains a critical benchmark for assessing a country's progress, civilization and democratic values.

"However, press freedom is increasingly under threat due to wars and conflicts. Journalists, who should be neutral observers, have become direct targets in conflicts like the war on Gaza, where over a hundred journalists have been killed, highlighting severe violations of

press freedom.

"Even in so-called democratic nations, the role of the press is diminishing. Countries such as Britain, France, the United States and Germany are witnessing growing attacks on media professionals and their rights. As journalism evolves with technology, the methods for suppressing it have persisted, often

"The cases of Richard Medhurst and the Telegram founder, alongside the killing of journalists in Gaza, underscore a global trend of increasing suppression of press freedom.

The media outlets and free press advocates worldwide have rallied in response, defending the right to report without fear of reprisal or accusations of supporting terrorism.

"The World Press Freedom Day underscores the essential role of free media in fostering dialogue and respect among people, promoting cooperation over conflict.

"Despite its critical importance, press freedom has been increasingly compromised even in advanced democracies.

'The Reporters Without Borders has warned that journalism conditions are dire in about three-quarters of the countries of the world, sometimes rendering it a punishable offense rather than a noble profession."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes





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Kuwait's iconic landmark Souq Sharq faces decline

Stakeholders call for revitalization

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Souq Sharq, one of Kuwait's most iconic and historic commercial landmarks, is experiencing a significant decline in both visitor numbers and overall appeal. Since its grand opening on September 30, 1998, the mall, with its prominent location overlooking a picturesque harbor on

Souk Sharq wearing a deserted look during peak hours.

Focus shifts to school canopies

Desert cleanup faces delay

strategy on the issue.

school year begins.

The committee, originally formed un-

In the meantime, the committee has

der a decision by former Minister of Mu-

nicipality Dr. Noura Al-Mishaan, was set

redirected its efforts toward removing

school canopies. This task aligns with

a Ministry of Education decision to

clear these structures before the new

removed a substantial number of cano-

pies across all governorates.

The inspection teams have already

to start its work without prior notice.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The commit-

tee responsible for removing encroach-

ments on state property in desert areas,

initially scheduled to begin today, has

postponed its activities, reports Al-

This delay is due to the need for fur-

ther consideration of recent changes

and updates on designated grazing

areas by the Public Authority for Ag-

ing the new Minister of Municipality

Abdul Latif Al-Mishari's vision and

Moreover, the committee is await-

riculture Affairs and Fish Resources.

Jarida daily

Arabian Gulf Street, has seen a notable drop in foot traffic and vitality over the past year and a half, reports Al-Rai daily.

Originally a bustling hub with around 70 restaurants and shops, including international brands, Souq Sharq has struggled with closures and decreased visitor interest. The closure of its cinema, once a major attraction, and the decline in store activity have contributed to the mall's downturn.

Visitors and experts have expressed their dismay over the mall's deteriorating condition.

Samira Al-Ajmi lamented the loss of one of Kuwait's most cherished family entertainment destinations, while Jafran Radhi noted that the market is often empty, even during

Yousef Al-Fulaijawi has emphasized the urgent need for a comprehensive redevelopment of the mall to restore its former prominence.

He highlighted the need for renovation of the waterfront restaurants and cafes, as well as the yacht marina, to reinvigorate the mall's appeal. Abdullah Muhammad observed that

the mall's current quiet atmosphere makes it more suited for the elderly, but not for the diverse visitors it once

Meanwhile, Muhammad Ahmad criticized the deterioration of the mall's waterfront, suggesting that its potential is not being fully utilized.

Boutalal, a long-time visitor, called for a complete overhaul of the mall's facilities, both internally and externally, and recommended transferring its management to the private sector. He believes that such a move could spur the necessary investment and innovation to breathe new life into the

As discussions continue about the future of Souq Sharq, there is a clear consensus among stakeholders and visitors that immediate and substantial development is needed to reclaim the mall's status as a leading commercial and tourist destination in Kuwait.



Ninth Kuwaiti aid planeload arrives

Kuwait launches second phase of 'anti-cholera' campaign in Sudan

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's Direct Aid Society launched on Monday the second phase of its anti-cholera and communicable diseases campaign in Sudan.

The society's Director Dr. Abdullah Al-Sumait told KUNA that the campaign would help the displaced in Kassala, Kharoum, and Al-Qadarif and the eastern region of the country.

He affirmed that the society's office in Sudan had reopened, focusing operations in the Port Sudan province to provide utmost assistance to those in desperate need.

He revealed that the Direct Aid had previously provided all sorts of aid and assistance to the displaced with the number of amounting to 1.3 million people.

Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti cargo plane, carrying 30 tons of relief supplies,



KUNA photos The plane with food, relief and medical aid, as well as wheelchairs to assist medical personnel and am-

bulance teams is being unloaded. landed at Port Sudan New Internation-

This is the ninth planeload in the humanitarian air bridge launched by Kuwait on August 14, Kuwait Ambassador in Khartoum Dr. Fahad Al-Thafeeri told KUNA.

The relief supplies include foodstuffs, medical supplies, and wheelchairs, the ambassador noted, adding that the relief efforts, that come at the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, materialize Kuwait's solidarity with the brotherly people of Sudan.

The Kuwaiti diplomat expressed hope that Sudan will be able to overcome the wave of floods that caused 148 casualties so far and tens of injuries, as well as affecting more than half a million others, in addition to the destruction of over 100,000 houses, either fully or partially.

PAM, MoE to link certificate data

al on Sunday.

New system to verify foreign credentials

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: In a bid to tackle the issue of forged certificates, the Public Authority for Manpower has requested an urgent meeting with the Ministry of Education to discuss the establishment of an electronic linkage system, reports Al-Rai daily.

This system aims to provide the Authority with automated access to data regarding the equivalency of high school and lower certificates issued outside Kuwait. The goal is to streamline verification processes and enhance the efficiency of the labor market by ensuring the au-

thenticity of academic credentials for both Kuwaitis and expatriates.

A previous meeting highlighted the importance of electronic data sharing, and it was agreed that PAM would receive detailed information via electronic linkage.



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Empowering investors

CMA launches 17th issue of its electronic awareness magazine

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: On September 1, the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) launched the 17th issue of its electronic awareness magazine, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This quarterly publication is dedicated to enhancing legal, financial, and investment awareness related to securities activities and provides updates on the Authority's news and activities

The latest issue features an opening section by Prof. Ahmed Al-Malhem, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. In his piece, Prof. Al-Malhem outlines the Authority's strategic direction, detailing its approach from planning to implementation.

He discusses the following two major initiatives:

Regulatory Framework for Financial Technologies -- This project aims to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework to manage financial technologies and the services associated with them. The issue highlights the positive impacts of this initiative, including its methodology and the various stages of preparation, qualification, and testing.

Electronic Disclosure System -- This program focuses on enhancing transpar-



Capital Markets Authority Magazine September 17th Íssue.

ency and efficiency in financial disclosures. The magazine details the process of developing and implementing this system, emphasizing the benefits and stages involved.

These initiatives are designed to improve the regulatory environment and support the growth and integrity of financial markets.

Admissions see a significant increase

PAAET opens doors to over 18K students

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, has approved the admission results for the 2024-2025 training year, accepting 1,822 male and female students who hold less than secondary school certificates, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the Dean of Admission and Registration, Dr. Fawzi Al-Dokhi, all applicants who met the admission criteria were accepted.

This includes 1,710 students with intermediate certificates (ninth grade), 59 students with primary certificates (fifth grade), and 53 students from special classes with lower secondary certificates.

Dr. Al-Dokhi emphasized that these students do not need to take any further action before the semester begins on September 16, except to prepare for their studies.

He encouraged all accepted students to regularly check the authority's website and official social media platforms for important instructions and updates.

The total number of students accepted for the upcoming academic and training year has now reached 18,993, including 17,171 high school graduates and 1,822 students with lower than secondary school certificates.

This marks a significant increase in admissions, reflecting the Authority's commitment to expanding educational opportunities for all students.



Minister Al-Mutairi

'Promote deep-rooted bonds of brotherhood

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi recently emphasized the deep-rooted bonds of brotherhood and love that connect the Gulf countries, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a post on the "X" platform, he highlighted that these connections are deeply ingrained in the history and hearts of the people, fostered by the wise leadership and strong fraternal relations among the Gulf nations.

Al-Mutairi stressed the importance of preserving Gulf unity and rejecting any actions or accounts that harm the Gulf

He expressed support for efforts aimed at confronting and combating divisive or offensive content that threatens

'Let's Be Aware' banking awareness campaign

NBK warns of phishing scams, shares protection tips

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Underscoring its dedication to raising community awareness and active participation in enhancing financial literacy and inclusion among all people, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues promotingthe "Let's Be Aware" campaign introduced by the Central Bank of Kuwait, in cooperation with local banks and Kuwait Banking Associa-

In this context, NBK intensifies awareness by sharing educational material including video clips, text messages, and tips across its social media platforms and other digital channels, as well as reposting CBK's communications. This aims to raise awareness among all people and familiarize them with different fraud schemes and the required precautions to steer clear of banking scams, social media hacking, clone websites impersonating official entities, and other important topics.

In this campaign, NBK highlights phishing scams attempting to steal personal or banking information, where e-mails are typically sent from suspicious domains using the logo of wellknown organizations such as banks, telecom or big companies, so that the user cannot distinguish between real and fake e-mails.

Therefore, the bank shares key tips



Diraya logo

to follow when dealing with e-mails, including always verifying that the e-mail sender is from a legitimate organization, as well as checking the grammar and spelling in the e-mail, as many phishing e-mails are poorly written, which, of course, would not be sent by an official, well-known organization.

debit/credit card number on the phone, writing down the PIN on the card

It also urges customers to ignore those or sharing it with any other person, which also applies to OTP. It also adsuspicious e-mails to avoid falling victim to fraud. vises customers to log out of online or The bank also advises custommobile banking once transactions are

ers to beware of links included in ecompleted. Additionally, it affirms that it will mails, by checking the source before clicking them, verifying the phone never ask customers for personal innumber, hovering over the links to see formation via e-mail, SMS or phone if they are actually being directed to calls, warning them of responding to such scam messages trying to obtain the right website, and always rejecting authentication requests from untrusted their banking information to steal their sources, especially if they appear ur-

NBK employs its strong customer communication capabilities as well as all its digital channels, which are the most popular among all Kuwaiti banks, to support the Central Bank's endeavors to protect customers and the national economy.

It is worth mentioning that NBK is a key supporter and partner in all CBK's campaigns and initiatives aiming to increase financial and banking awareness among different segments of society. As a leading financial institution in Kuwait, NBK frequently organizes various activities to raise awareness on all topics related to the banking sector, as well as various training courses for its employees to enhance their experience in the areas of combating fraud and financial crime.

HH the Amir

Continued from Page 1

Indeed, some ministers promote this slogan out of fear of telling the truth, while the costs continue to rise annually, reaching approximately KD 7.5

We have previously stated and reiterate now that low-income Kuwaitis are the ones who truly deserve a welldesigned support program, as they often struggle to make ends meet and usually resort to borrowing.

Therefore, lifting subsidies will not adversely affect the wealthy or welloff citizens. In fact, those who contribute to resource wastage and increased deficits are often the same individuals unwilling to relinquish these subsidies. This is more harmful than high trea-

Many who demand "not to touch the citizen's pocket" have commercial or other vested interests and are actively inciting parliamentarians to maintain the status quo.

Nonetheless, the government must adopt a pragmatic approach. Over the past year, overseas medical trips cost about KD 1.5 billion (approximately five billion dollars), which were funded by the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Health.

This expense is largely the result of parliamentary "wasta" and other vested interests that have exploited public funds to the point of draining them.

To address these issues, it is essential to update the laws. If the Amir of the moment made bold decisions, then it is incumbent upon the ministers to follow his lead.

We need to amend all relevant legislation - from residency and visit permits to culture and entertainment - to ensure Kuwait keeps pace with current realities and advances steadily toward

Raids check

Continued from Page 1

He clarified that the incident in question occurred in 2021 and that all necessary measures were taken at that

Al-Harz explained that a joint team ment and the Precious Metals Department regularly conducts inspections in the gold market. These inspections are aimed at maintaining the highest standards of quality and integrity, verifying the accuracy of scales, and ensuring compliance with all necessary conditions during consumer transactions.

KFU eyes

Continued from Page 1

He affirmed that the ambitions and hopes of His Highness the Prime Minister and his wise government are

Al-Suwaiyan reiterated the union's demand to restore the subsidized diesel share to its previous levels before the reduction.

He highlighted that the diesel cut

has led to a real crisis and huge losses for fishing license holders, revealing that fishing vessels have been forced to halt operations for up to half a month while waiting for the new diesel allocation at the start of each month, which causes huge congestion at fuel stations in Fahaheel and Sharq.

Al-Huwaila pledges

Continued from Page 1

disability-related cases as part of her efforts to combat corruption and vio-

The sources anticipate a "comprehensive overhaul" of disability certificates to ensure that they have been issued to those who genuinely qualify and meet the legal requirements.

If any instances of manipulation or forgery are discovered, or if certificates were issued without legitimate grounds, strict legal actions will be taken against those involved or sus-

It was highlighted that the review will be conducted by a specialized and impartial committee that will examine all certificates. The total number of files with the Public Authority for the Disabled stands at approximately

The upcoming review will involve checking the legality and compliance of all disability certificates with the established conditions and regulations. If a beneficiary is found to have received any benefits without rightful entitlement, they will be required to return

The sources confirmed that directives have already been issued to the leaders in the Ministry of Social Affairs to show no leniency towards any violators and to review all certificates without exception.

'Open-door' policy

Continued from Page 1

facilitate all procedures to access the bank's services through joint coordination among the relevant authorities.

He took a comprehensive tour of the bank to inspect the workflow, and he learned about the various sectors of the

-Mishari affirmed that the bank is one of the most important institutions that participated in a fundamental and pivotal way in building modern Kuwait. The minister stressed the need to enable all customer service centers to provide their services with the highest levels of efficiency

A meeting was held between Al-Mishari and the leaders of the Kuwait Credit Bank during which the minister was given a full and detailed explanation of the work carried out by the bank, its strategy and future plans, as well as the goals it seeks to achieve in the next stage, most notably related to its financing plans or its electronic and digital services

In addition, the acting Director of the Kuwait Credit Bank Sultan Al-Dubous said, "The bank is one of the main pillars in Kuwait but it still faces many challenges that we must all work together to solve. The journey continues towards the achievement of

our goals of reaching sustainable and solid financing that would enable the bank to fulfill its obligations towards

10th aid

Continued from Page 1

Al-Oun further said that the flight consists of the necessary food that helped meet the needs of the displaced families which includes, rice, beans, dates and other basics.

He announced that a second plane is scheduled to depart on Tuesday, with more than 10 tons of aid, as he called for support to help the affected Sudanese who are facing famine and suffering from the spread of diseases, especially after the spread of cholera which threatens the lives of millions with the absences of the basic and minimum humanitarian needs. (KUNA)

Biometrics, active

Continued from Page 1

fingerprint procedure will be deactivated. Complete Account Block -- Starting December 1, accounts of non-compliant Kuwaiti citizens will be fully restricted, including access to their bank balances.

The restrictions will also extend to financial market accounts, including stocks, funds, and real estate transactions. Any funds from these activities will be blocked from reaching accounts with unresolved fingerprint issues.

Commercial license

Continued from Page 1

He highlighted that this disclosure is important for developing the business environment, improving Kuwait's ranking with international organizations, and making the country a more attractive destination for business and investment.

The purpose of the disclosure is to promote transparency in economic and financial transactions and to ensure that this information is accessible to law enforcement agencies, judicial authorities, and regulatory bodies. The required disclosure information includes the name, number, residential address, and passport number for non-Kuwaitis.

To comply with the disclosure requirement, companies must visit the ministry's website, select "Corporate User," and authenticate through the "My Identity" application before following the steps to complete the registration process.

'Port project

Continued from Page 1

Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jianwei. and senior officials from the Ministries of Public Works and Foreign Affairs, as well as engineers specialized in ports and municipalities, Al-Mashaan stated that meeting with the Chinese delegation reflects the supreme directives to accelerate the implementation of agreements signed with the Chinese

'Private sector key to solving housing crisis'

Urgent call for reform to reduce state rent expenditures

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

It also called customers to avoid

saving any sensitive information like

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The pressing question of whether the local private sector can resolve the housing crisis, which is draining billions from the state budget, was addressed by several real estate experts.

The experts emphasized the significant financial burden on the state, which spends over 173 million dinars annually on rent allowances, urging the government to collaborate with the private sector under the new reform initiatives.

In an exclusive interview with the Al-Seyassah newspapers the experts say they are optimistic that the government's new reform era would pave the way for the private sector to play a crucial role in addressing the housing crisis, thanks to its substantial financial resources.

The experts have called for swift amendments to laws that currently limit private sector participation in this vital issue.

Dr. Salah Bursali, Chairman of the Kuwait Contracting Companies Union, noted that the local private sector is well-equipped to tackle the housing issue, especially given the rising number of pending housing applications, which totaled around 96,315 by 2024. He pointed out the steady increase in

applications over the years, from 4,456 in 2017 to 4,628 in 2018, and a significant jump to 6,179 in 2019.

He further noted that despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 applications continued to rise, reaching approximately 7,081 in 2020 and jumping to 8,879 in 2021.

Although there was a slight decrease in 2022, with applications dropping to around 7,181, the numbers rose again in 2023 to 7,561. He warned that if this trend con-

Chevron

tinues, the number of housing applications could reach 10,000 annually within the next five years, driven by the growing population. Dr. Bursali explained that with the accumulated housing applications reaching about 96,213 in 2024, the state is currently paying 14.447 million dinars per month in rent allowances, totaling 173.367 million dinars annually.

Over a decade, this amounts to approximately 1.733 billion dinars, assuming the number of applications

He emphasized that the government has the capability to amend the relevant laws and allow the private sector to participate in solving the housing crisis. This would not only reduce the financial burden on the state but also expedite the process for citizens to obtain housing, which currently takes over 15 years in some cases.

Dr. Bursali also highlighted that Kuwaiti contracting companies, which are already building residential cities in other Gulf countries, would be eager to invest in similar projects within Kuwait if given the opportunity. This would lead to a flourishing real estate and housing market. He expressed optimism that the government, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Al-Abdullah, would finally address this long-standing demand.

He voiced his dissatisfaction with the current practice of awarding housing projects under the Housing Care Authority to foreign companies, based on the argument that Kuwaiti contracting companies lack the necessary capabilities.

He argued that this claim is unfounded, as local companies can secure financing from banks, similar to ait Petroleum tion funds its oil projects. Moreover, a single residential city could be divided among 20 or more contractors, ensuring broader participation.

In a related context, Qais Al-Ghanim, Chairman of the Real Estate Residents Association and a housing expert, emphasized that the private

sector in any country possesses the financial capabilities to contribute significantly to national issues.

He highlighted that Kuwait's local private sector is fully capable of partnering with the government to address the housing crisis and expressed hope that the government will prioritize providing the private sector with the opportunity to fulfill this role.

Al-Ghanim pointed out that the private sector had previously developed areas in South Surra, and questioned why it has not been allowed to participate in more recent housing projects. Al-Ghanim also addressed the chal-

lenges of the apartment system as a solution to the housing crisis, noting that many citizens prefer to acquire a 400-meter plot to build a home for themselves and their families, rather than opting for an apartment. He explained that this preference is natural, as most citizens would choose to own land over an apartment. Khaled Al-Ānzi, head of the Mutlaa

Residents Committee, stated that the private sector could play a significant role in solving the housing issue, including the execution of infrastructure He noted that real estate and con-

tracting companies are eagerly waiting for the current government to grant the necessary approvals to allow them to actively participate in resolving a crisis that has persisted for decades. Al-Anzi further explained that if

the private sector were empowered, it could potentially resolve the housing issue within a few years. He suggested that the state could provide land to citizens and then entrust the private sector with the construction, thereby alleviating the financial burdens on the state He also expressed surprise that for-

eign companies are being given opportunities to undertake housing projects while local companies are often relegated to sub-contracting roles. Al-Anzi questioned why the government does not directly entrust these projects to local companies, given their capabilities.

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Management & International Standards etc. etc.

- WELDING INSPECTOR: 6 years' experience, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent and relevant experience certifications
- COATING INSPECTOR: 6 years' experience, Diploma in Mechanical / Metallurgical Engineering or equivalent and relevant experience certifications
- SAFETY ENGINEER: 8 years' experience, Bachelor of Engineering, two or more certified HSE courses, Trainings in General Industrial & Construction Safety, Environmental Management & International Standards etc. etc.
- SFETY OFFICER: 10 years' experience, BSc or Diploma in Engineering, min. 5 years' experience as HSE personnel and should hold all necessary certifications in relevant fields. One or more certified HSE courses, Trainings in General Industrial & Construction Safety, Environmental
- SUPERVISORS, MECHANICAL, CIVIL, ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENTATION: 8 years' experience in oil & gas, Diploma holder in relevant engineering field
- FOREMEN, MECHANICAL, CIVIL, ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENTATION: 8 years' experience in oil & gas, holder of 2 years' professional diploma in relevant field + trade certifications.
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Call for

Continued from Page 1

statement described the situation as the worst manmade humanitarian catastrophe in modern history, with three war crimes of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and mass punishment, and yet countries that have advocated for human rights and democracy remain stagnant when faced with the legitimate rights of Palestinians.

This aggression a does not specific segment but the Palestinian people as a whole, it underscored. The occupation would not have been emboldened to commit these heinous crimes if not for the failure of the international community and its double standards, allowing for the infringement upon sanctity of Al-Aqsa mosque.

The council asserted that the Israeli occupation will not be stopped unless with united Arab and Islamic measures, and with executing court rulings and United Nations resolutions. It further indicated that while the Arab and Islamic community is cohesive, they are aspiring towards translating such cohesion practical tangible steps that truly pressurize Israeli occupation government

Meanwhile, the Israeli occupation forces have arrested at least 20 Palestinians from the West Bank since Sunday evening until Monday morning, including a girl and a woman who were held hostage by the occupation forces. as well as a child and former prisoners.

JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA



Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the undermentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from 3 SEP 2024 up to 23 SEP 2024 for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on Monday, 30 SEP 2024 @ 09:00 AM.

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (IN KD)
1	021010-R1	SIF NUOVOPIGNONE PUMP	35
2	020239-R1	S/F WELL HEAD PROCESS CONTROL SCADA SYSTEM EPRODUCTION SOLUTIONS	5
3	020332-R1	LINER POLISHED ROD, HARBISON-FISCHER OR EQUVALENT	15
4	020840-R1	AIR CONDITIONERS (COOLEX-GREE- PANASONIC) OR EQUIVALENT	15
5	023780	PIPES SMLS STAINLESS STEEL	25
6	023790	GATE VALVES	15
7	023792	BALL & CHECK VALVES	15
8	023793	PIPES CARBON STEELAND STAINLESS STEEL	5
9	023925	MARINE HOSES	15
10	024053	GAS SCRUBBERS	25
11	024054	INSERT SLEEVES, TUBOSCOPE VETCO INTL &CCB INTL	5
12	024055	S/F H2S SESNOR TRANSMITTER/DETECTOR. DRAGER	5
13	024056	S/F ZEECO FLARE SYSTEM	35

Notes: Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to e-mail HBJH@chevron.com and CBMS@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

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World News Roundup

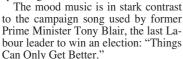
Europe

No honeymoon for PM after summer of unrest: There was no summer honeymoon for Keir Starmer.

Britain's new prime minister, elected in a landslide less than two months ago, had to cancel a planned vacation after anti-immigrant unrest erupted across the country. He has spent his first weeks in office dealing with the aftermath, and issuing stark warnings about the state of the nation and the economy.

As lawmakers returned to Parliament on Monday after a shortened summer break, Starmer's left-of-center Labour Party government was preparing for a budget statement next month

that's likely to include tax rises or public spending cuts - or both.



"Frankly, things will get worse be-fore they get better," Starmer told voters in a televised speech last week.

Starmer is seeking to hammer home the message that the right-leaning Conservative Party, booted out by voters in the July 4 election, presided over "14 years of rot" that's left Britain weakened economically, struc-

turally and even morally. During the election campaign, Starmer vowed to get the country's sluggish economy growing and restore frayed public

services such as the state-funded National Health Service. Since winning power he's said the situation is "worse than we ever imagined," with an unexpected 22 billion pound (\$29 billion) hole in the public finances. Labour has decided not to increase taxes on "working people," but it has to find money somewhere. It has already scaled back a payment intended to help pensioners heat their homes in winter

Starmer said last week that a budget statement coming on Oct. 30 will be "painful" and involve "short term pain for long

Starmer and his government of trying to "run from responsibility for the tax rises they always planned but hid from the public during the election." (AP)

Conservative economy spokeswoman Laura Trott accused

'2 who were attacked during Carnival died': Two people who were critically injured in attacks while attending London's Notting Hill Carnival earlier this week have died, police said Saturday.

The Metropolitan Police force said 32-year-old Cher Maximen died early Saturday after being stabbed in the street on Aug. 25. She had been visiting the carnival, billed as Europe's biggest street party, with her child, who was not hurt.

A 20-year-old local man was arrested and charged with attempted murder, and is now likely to face a murder charge. Police also announced the death of Mussie Imnetu, 41, who

was found unconscious in a west London street with a head injury on Monday night. The chef had been visiting Britain from his home in Dubai.

A 31-year-old London man has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm, and police said the charge would be reviewed after Imnetu's death.

More than 1 million people each year attend the carnival, a two-day celebration of Afro-Caribbean culture that takes place on the streets of the Notting Hill neighborhood in west London.

The event draws revelers from around the world for its flamboyant dancers, colorful costumes, rousing steel bands and booming outdoor sound systems, but is sometimes marred by violence on the sidelines. (AP)

AfD success in poll piles pressure on govt: The Alternative for Germany party's success in two state elections piled new pressure on Chancellor Olaf Scholz's fractious government and left the country's main opposition party facing political contortions on Monday to find a way to govern a pair of

eastern regions without involving the far-right party. Alternative for Germany, or AfD, became the first far-right party to win a state election in post-World War II Germany in Thuringia on Sunday under one of its hardest-right figures Björn Höcke. In neighboring Saxony, it finished only just behind the mainstream conservative Christian Democratic Union, which leads the national opposition. Voters punished the three parties in Scholz's governing coalition, which took well under 15% of the vote between them.

Deep discontent with a national government notorious for infighting, inflation and a weak economy, anti-immigration sentiment and skepticism toward German military aid for Ukraine are among the factors that contributed to support for populist parties in the formerly communist east, which is less prosperous than western Germany. A new party founded by a prominent leftist was the second big winner on Sunday - and will probably be needed to form state governments since no one is prepared to govern with AfD. (AP)

Poland holds state burial: Poland on Monday held a state burial of the remains of over 700 victims of Nazi Germany's World War II mass executions that were recently uncovered in the so-called Valley of Death in the country's north.

The observances in the town of Chojnice began with a funeral Mass at the basilica, leading to an interment with military honors at a local cemetery of the victims of the Nazi crimes. President Andrzej Duda, local authorities and top officials of the state National Remembrance Institute, which carried out and documented the exhumations, took part in the events.

The remains of Polish civilians, including some 218 asylum patients, were exhumed in 2021-2024 from a number of separate mass graves at the outskirts of Chojnice. Personal belongings and documents helped identify some 120 of the victims of an execution in early 1945.

Historians have established that the Nazis, shortly after invading Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, executed some of the civilians. The remains of another 500 victims are from the January 1945 execution, when the Germans were fleeing the area. (AP)

Man held on suspicion of holding woman captive: Prosecutors in southwest Poland say a man has been arrested on allegations of imprisoning and physically and mentally abusing a woman for more than five years with "special cruelty."

Prosecutors in the town of Legnica say the abuse started in January 2019 and lasted until last week in the village of Gaiki, near Glogow. They only identify the suspect as 35-year-old Mateusz J., in line with Poland's privacy laws.

They say the woman, who is now 30, was held in an unheated building with no water or toilet facilities. There, he repeatedly abused her sexually and physically and gave her limited access to food and drink.

They say he humiliated and controlled the woman, kept her in isolation and brought her out only with a hood over her eyes. Local news outlets in Glogow say he had held the woman in a shed at his family farm. His elderly parents reportedly told local news they were not aware of the situation. (AP)

Thousands rally in Serbia: Several thousand people rallied Sunday in the Serbian capital, accusing the populist government of cracking down on environmental activists opposed to a large European Union-backed lithium excavation project planned in the Balkan country.

The protest outside the headquarters of the state RTS television station in central Belgrade comes after tens of thousands rallied in recent weeks against the opening of the lithium mine

The state-controlled TV station is accused of ignoring the detentions of anti-lithium excavation activists.

Environmental organizations reported detentions of dozens of their activists after a big rally last month in Belgrade and elsewhere in Serbia, saying their homes were searched, laptops and phones confiscated while many faced threats on social



This photo released by Belgorod regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov's Telegram channel on Sept 2, shows the destroyed kindergarten after a missile attack by the Armed Forces of Ukraine on the city of Belgorod, Russia. Inset: People help an injured man to walk out from rubble at a sports facility destroyed after Russian attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine on Sept 1. (AP)

Russia fires barrage of drones, ballistic missiles at Kyiv

Russia launched an overnight barrage of drones and cruise and ballistic missiles at Kyiv, officials said Monday, as children prepared to return to school across Ukraine. Some pupils found classes canceled because of damage from the attack.

Several series of explosions rocked the Ukrainian capital in the early hours. Debris from intercepted missiles and drones fell in every district of Kyiv, wounding three people and damaging two kindergartens, Ukraine's Interior Ministry said. City authorities reported multiple fires.

After more than 900 days of the war, Russia and Ukraine show no sign of letting up in the fight or moving closer to the negotiating table. Both sides are pursuing ambitious ground offensives, with the Ukrainians driving into Russia's Kursk region and the Russian army pushing deeper into the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine that is part of the industrial Donbas region.

Also:

MOSCOW: Russian emergency officials said Monday they had recovered all 22 dead from a helicopter that

crashed with tourists on board in Russia's Far East. The crash occurred in Kamchatka - a pristine peninsula with numerous volcanoes, known for its

rugged beauty and rich wildlife. A Mi-8 helicopter with 19 passengers and three crew members on board took off close to the Vachkazhets volcano on Saturday and rescuers located the wreckage the following day. (AP)

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti said, citing emergency officials, that it likely crashed due to poor visibility in bad weather conditions. (AP)



US Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump ar-rives at a campaign rally at 1st Summit Arena at the Cambria County War Memorial, in Johnstown, Pa. on Aug 30. (AP)





America

4 fatally shot in Albuquerque: Four people were fatally shot outside a northwest Albuquerque apartment building in an apparent triple murder-suicide early Sunday, authorities said.

Albuquerque police originally said four men were found dead. But at a news conference Sunday afternoon, they said three men and one woman died, including a father and

Police said witnesses told officers that the deceased knew each other. Their names were being withheld until relatives can be notified. (AP)

Investigators gather evidence: Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board were collecting evidence Sunday at the scene of a commercial bus crash in Mississippi that killed seven people and injured dozens of others. The 2018 Volvo bus was traveling west-

bound on Interstate 20 near Bovina early Saturday when a left front tire failed and the vehicle veered onto an embankment and overturned onto its left side, NTSB member Todd Inman said at a news conference Sunday.

Six people aboard were pronounced dead at the scene and another died at a hospital, according to the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Thirty-six people were taken by ambulance to hospitals.

The dead included a 6-year-old boy and his 16-year-old sister, according to Warren County Coroner Doug Huskey. They were identified by their mother. Authorities were

Politics

Ex-prez issues statement from Gold Star families

Harris slams Trump's Arlington visit

WASHINGTON, Sept 2, (AP): US Vice President Kamala Harris said former president Donald Trump "disrespected sacred ground" in his recent appearance at Arlington National Cemetery, where the Republican nominee took and distributed images despite a federal prohibition on cam-

paign activity on the grounds. Harris, in a statement posted Saturday on the social media platform X, cited reports that Trump's campaign aides created an altercation with a cemetery staffer and proceeded to take photographs and film the former president, including at the graves of Afghanistan war veterans, after being

warned about rules at the site. "Let me be clear: the former president disrespected sacred ground, all for the sake of a political stunt," Harris said, calling Arlington a "solemn place where we come together to honor American heroes ... not a place for politics.'

The original incident stemmed from Trump's and Republicans' continued criticism of President Joe Biden and now Harris for the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan. At the invitation of some family members of service members killed during the withdrawal, Trump laid wreaths last Monday in honor of Sgt. Nicole Gee,

working to identify the other victims, he

said. (AP)

Staff Sgt Darin Hoover and Staff Sgt Ryan Knauss. They were among 13 US service members and more than 100 Afghans who died in an Aug. 26, 2021, bombing at Hamid Karzai International Airport.

Altercation

Trump's campaign was warned about not taking photographs before an altercation at the cemetery, according to defense officials. Officials have said since that an Arlington employee whom two Trump campaign staff members allegedly "verbally abused and pushed" aside has declined to press charges. The Trump campaign has since lashed out at Pentagon officials, with a top campaign adviser, Chris LaCivita, referring to military spokespersons as "hacks." Trump campaign officials say it had permission to bring someone to take video.

Since Biden ended his reelection bid, Trump has been zeroing in on Harris and her roles in foreign policy decisions. He has specifically highlighted the vice president's statements that she was the last person in the room before Biden made the decision on Afghanistan.

Biden's administration was following a withdrawal commitment and timeline that the Trump administra-

Fire destroys restaurant: An early morn-

ing fire on Sunday destroyed a popular sea-

food restaurant in the mid-coast Maine town

tion had negotiated with the Taliban in 2020. A 2022 review by a governmentappointed special investigator concluded decisions made by both Trump and Biden were the key factors leading to the rapid collapse of Afghanistan's military and the Taliban takeover.

Harris on Saturday alluded to Trump's history of picking fights with veterans and repeated allegations that he has "called our fallen service members 'suckers' and 'losers' and disparaged Medal of Honor recipients.'

"This is a man who is unable to comprehend anything other than service to himself," Harris said. "I will always honor the service and sacrifice of all of America's fallen heroes. ... And I will never politicize them.'

Meanwhile, Trump's campaign issued a statement Sunday from the Gold Star military families who invited him to Arlington National Cemetery as they defended the Republican presidential nominee and insisted that Harris is the candidate politicizing fallen US service members

It's the latest volley in an extended back and forth as Trump tries to saddle Harris with the Biden administration's handling of the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, including a suicide bombing that killed 13 US service members.

of Damariscotta, the fire department said. No one was injured in the fire at the Schooner Landing and Marina, fire officials said. The cause of the fire had not been de-

Schooner Landing, on the Damariscotta River in the quaint downtown, featured indoor and outdoor seating, with live music outside.

A section of Main Street was closed on Sunday morning but reopened later in the day, police said. (AP)

4 killed in Hawaii shooting: Three people were killed and two others injured in a shooting at a home stemming from a dispute between neighbors on Saturday night in Hawaii, police said. The shooter was also fatally shot by a resident, who was arrested on a second-degree murder charge.

Witnesses reported that a 58-year-old man was using a front-end loader to ram cars into the home where a family gathering was taking place, then opened fire at people gathered in the carport, fatally shooting three women at the residence in Waianae, a community about 30 miles (48 kilometers) west of downtown Honolulu, Honolulu police detective Lt Deena Thoemmes said.

At some point, a 42-year-old man who lived in the home fatally shot the suspect with a handgun, she said at a news conference. A police spokesperson did not immediately respond to to a telephone message or an email asking for details about why the resident was arrested. (AP)



From left: Friedrich Merz, CDU federal chairman and CDU/CSU parliamentary group leader in the Bundestag, Michael Kretschmer (CDU), Minister President of Saxony and Mario Voigt, CDU state chairman in Thuringia, attend the CDU committee meeting following the state elections in Saxony and Thuringia, in Berlin on Sept 2. The Alternative for Germany party's success in two state elections piled new pressure on Chancellor Olaf Scholz's fractious government and left the coun-

try's main opposition party facing political contortions on Monday to find a way to govern a pair of eastern regions without involving the far-right party. (AP)

Lat/Am

Crash kills 11 in DomRep

Obrador supporters cheer on reform plan

MEXICO CITY, Sept 2, (AP): Tens of thousands of supporters of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador crowded around him Sunday as he began his last month in power by calling again for support of his judicial reform plan.

In a rebuke to critics, Obrador - who has spent six tumultuous years in office -demanded a show of hands in a symbolic vote on one of his most criticized initiatives: the proposed judicial reform plan that opponents warn would weaken democratic checks and balances.

A sea of hands rose in favor of one proposal: having judges elected by popular vote.

"Let our friends and neighbors in the United States internalize it," Obrador said, referring to one of the proposal's biggest critics.



Mexico's Congress, where the governing coalition has the majority, is expected to soon vote on the controversial con-

stitutional reforms that Obrador has proposed. Among the proposals is eliminating seven

autonomous bodies, including the National Institute of

Transparency. Session

The Chamber of Deputies was scheduled to meet Sunday afternoon following the mass rally in the morning for its first session since June elections when the president's Morena party and its allies clinched big victories.

Critics had complained in the courts about what they describe as an unusual and fast-track procedure of the proposed reforms, with a judge ruling that a discussion and vote on the issue could not be held Sunday. The issue also will go before the Senate after the deputies vote on it.

Meanwhile, Mexico's traditional and Indigenous community police forces are coming under increasingly deadly fire from drug cartels, authorities said Adrián López, the chief prosecutor in the western

state of Michoacan, confirmed that gunmen linked to drug cartels shot to death seven members of the community police force in the town of Coahuayana over the weekend

The community guards were killed just days after seven members of an Indigenous community police force were kidnapped, apparently by cartel gunmen, and put through "hell" in another Michoacan town before they were freed Friday.

In the face of cartel turf wars that have emptied towns in the Mexican countryside, many places have turned to "community police," who are relatively untrained members of the town who volunteer or are paid a small stipend to protect residents.

Defendina

More common in Indigenous towns - which have centuries of experience in organizing and defending themselves - the community police are a more established and trusted force than the ephemeral "self defense" squads that flourished in Michoacan between 2013 and 2014 to fight the cartels but were quickly corrupted.

But while they enjoy the trust of their fellow townspeople, the community guards can't match the firepower of the cartels that want their land.

López, the state prosecutor, said the attack in Coahuayana Saturday was related to battles by drug cartels to control the coastal area, a main route for land-

ing seaborne shipments of cocaine.
"This all involves the decision of the members of criminal groups to gain territory and carry out illegal activities, mainly drug smuggling," he said.

Coahuayana (koh-why-YAH-nah), which sits on the Pacific coast near the neighboring state of Colima, is particularly attractive for the cartels; go-fast boats transporting cocaine from South America have a straight route here, but often dump floating bales of cocaine at sea with location devices, to be picked up and taken ashore. "The area on the coast of Michoacan and Colima has been ideal for picking up packages of cocaine from South America," López said. "There have been innumerable seizures of packages of cocaine by the Navy."

While nobody in Coahuayana would say which gang carried out the killings, suspicion immediately turned to the Jalisco New Generation cartel, which has long been active in the region.

The cartel is also suspected of being responsible for the kidnapping of seven community guards - six men and one woman - who were abducted and released last Friday in the Purepecha Indigenous township of Tangamandapio (tahn-gah-man-DAH-pee-oh) Michoacan. Those traditional officers are known as "Kuárichas," (KWAH-rich-ahs) in Purepecha. In Indigenous towns, such forces have legal status to handle minor

Also:

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico: At least 11 people were killed and more than 30 injured when a truck plowed into a bar in the Dominican Republic, authorities

The crash occurred in the early hours of Sunday in the southern community of Azua, located west of the capital, Santo Domingo, Juan Salas, the director of civil defense, told The Associated Press.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the crash, although authorities are reviewing cameras in the area,

Most of the injured were taken to a nearby hospital. Their condition was not immediately known, Salas

GEORGETOWN, Guyana: Authorities in the South American country of Guyana said Sunday they have seized more than 8,000 pounds (3,600 kilograms) of cocaine found in a lush jungle near the border with Venezuela.

The land seizure is considered the biggest in recent history, with Security Minister Robeson Benn telling reporters he estimates the drugs are worth at least \$200 million.

The drugs were found in earthen pits in Guyana's northwest region, officials said. Police arrested one suspect and said they are looking for two more who

fled the scene. Guyana's police and military, along with the US Drug Enforcement Administration, were involved in the operation.



Commuters ride on top of a truck to avoid flood waters caused by heavy rains from Tropical Storm Yagi, locally called Enteng, on Sept 2 in Cainta, Rizal province, Philippines. Inset: In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, rescuers use a rubber boat as they evacuate residents to higher grounds following floods due to a tropical storm in Allen, Northern Samar province, Philippines on Sunday. (AP)

Storm sets off floods & landslides in Philippines, leaving at least 14 dead

A storm set off landslides and unleashed pounding rains that flooded many northern Philippine areas overnight into Monday, leaving at least 14 people dead and prompting authorities to suspend school classes and government work in the densely populated capital region.

Tropical Storm Yagi slammed into Casiguran town in the northeastern province of Aurora Monday afternoon and gained strength with sustained winds of 85 kilometers (53 miles) per hour and gusts of 105 kph (65 mph), according to the weather bureau. The storm, locally called Enteng, gained speed and was moving northwestward at 20 kph (12 mph)

toward the country's northernmost provinces. It was forecast to strengthen further, possibly becoming a typhoon, before blowing away toward southern China in the next two days, the weather bureau said. At least 14 people died, mostly due to landslides and drownings, officials said. A landslide hit two small shanties on a hillside in Antipolo city on Monday in Rizal province just to the west of the capital, killing at least three people, including a pregnant woman.

Storm warnings were raised in a large swath of Luzon, the country's most populous region, including in metropolitan Manila, where schools at all levels and most government work were suspended due to the storm. (AP)



People gather to listen to outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador deliver his last State of the Union at the Zocalo, Mexico City's main square on Sept 1. Tens of thousands of supporters of Obrador crowded around him Sunday as he began his last month in power by calling again for support of his judicial reform plan. (AP)





Africa

Gunfire in Kinshasa jail: Heavy gunfire rang out early Monday morning from Congo's largest prison in the capital, Kinshasa, as inmates tried to break out from the overcrowded facility, authorities said.

Congolese government spokesman Patrick Muyaya confirmed on X that there was an "an attempted escape." Local media reported security forces killed some of those who tried to flee. The gunfire from inside the prison started

around midnight, residents said. By Monday morning, the road leading to the prison had been cordoned off by security forces. "Security services are on site to restore

order and security (and) the population of Kinshasa is urged not to panic," Muyaya Videos purporting to be from inside the

prison showed several bodies on the ground. The Makala prison, which is Congo's main penitentiary with a capacity for 1,500 people, holds over 12,000 inmates most of whom are awaiting trial, Amnesty International said in its latest country report. It has recorded previous jailbreaks, including in 2017 when an attack by a religious sect freed dozens.

Authorities had been trying to reduce overcrowding, with dozens of inmates released in recent months. The minister also announced a ban on the

transfer of inmates from the prison and said authorities will build a new prison, among other efforts to reduce overcrowding. (AP)

Wanted Kenyan man extradited: A Kenyan man wanted in Massachusetts to face murder charges has been extradited nearly a year after he fled the United States, authorities said Monday.

Kevin Adam Kinyanjui Kangethe is wanted for allegedly killing his girlfriend, Margaret Mbitu, whose body was found in a car at Logan International Airport in Boston on Oct 31.

Kangethe left Kenya's capital, Nairobi, on Sunday, and he's set to face murder charges at Suffolk Superior Court in Bos-

Asia

Pacific leaders' summit erases mention of Taiwan

Yoon skips parliament opening ceremony

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 2, (AP): President Yoon Suk Yeol boycotted the formal opening of South Korea's parliament on Monday as his squabbles with the opposition deepen over allegations of wrongdoing by top officials and his wife.

It's a tradition for South Korean presidents to deliver a speech at opening ceremonies for National Assembly sessions, and Yoon is the first to skip the event since the country's transition from a military dictatorship to democracy in the late 1980s.

Yoon, a conservative who narrowly won the election in 2022, has struggled to navigate a parliament controlled by liberals who have stymied his agenda and called for investigations into allegations of corruption and abuse of power involving his wife and government officials.

Declining

Yoon also faces declining approval ratings as concerns grow over his government's ability to deal with a worsening job market, soaring household debt and a prolonged strike by thousands of doctors that is straining medical services.

Asked about his decision to skip the legislature's opening ceremony, Yoon's office said lawmakers must first "normalize the National Assembly, which overissues demands for special prosecutor investigations and impeachments," before inviting Yoon.

A senior presidential official, who spoke on condition of anonymity during a background briefing, said it was difficult for Yoon to attend when lawmakers were expected to greet him with "verbal abuse and picketing dem-

"They aren't hesitating to call the president's family member a murderer

ton on Tuesday, Kenyan Director of Public

"I wish to reiterate my commitment and

support, whenever needed, to the United

States of America, and in particular the pros-

Prosecutions Renson Ingonga said.

and conspiracies about martial law are continuing to circulate in the National Assembly," she said.

Jo Seoung-lae, spokesperson of the main opposition Democratic Party, said Yoon's refusal to attend the ceremony displayed his "arrogance" and disregard for the assembly's role to check and balance the executive

Results

"It's impossible to produce results in national governance without having respect for the National Assembly," assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik said during the opening ceremony as he lamented Yoon's absence.

Following parliamentary elections in April in which the liberals extended their majority, the current assembly began meeting in May. But its official opening ceremony was delayed for months because of political bickering.

Opposition lawmakers are pushing for an investigation by special prosecutors into allegations that top government and military officials tried to cover up the circumstances surrounding the death of a marine who drowned during a search for flood victims in

They want another independent investigation into allegations that Yoon's wife, Kim Keon Hee, was involved in stock price manipulation and violated the country's antigraft law by receiving a luxury handbag from a Korean American pastor. Yoon has denied any legal wrongdoing by his wife.

In August, Yoon's office angrily demanded an apology after Democratic Party lawmaker Jeon Hyun-heui labeled Kim as a "murderer" over the death of a senior official from the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, who was reportedly involved in

order has earlier been issued by the court in

Kangethe, who has renounced his US cit-

izenship, was involved in a dramatic escape

from a police cell after his Kenyan lawyer

visited him in January. Disciplinary action

was taken against four police officers who

the commission's review of the handbag scandal.

Also:

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga: Turmoil over China's push for influence in the South Pacific has overshadowed the region's most important diplomatic summit after a Pacific island leader apparently pledged to erase an affirmation of Taiwan's involvement in the meeting from its closing statement, at Beijing's behest.

The Pacific Islands Forum - a group of 18 island nations, plus Australia and New Zealand - initially included a reassertion of the standing of selfgoverning Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, in a public communique Friday outlining leaders' agreements after their weeklong annual meeting. But it was then removed on Saturday.

Officials at the summit in **Nuku'alofa**, **Tonga**, did not explain why the statement had changed. But video posted by a news outlet late on Sunday appeared to show a Pacific leader assuring China's special envoy to the Pacific, Qian Bo, that the reference to Taiwan would be removed after Qian demanded it in remarks to reporters.

The document row highlights a fraught, largely private regional debate about China's role in the region that Pacific nations had sought to publicly quash ahead of the meeting. The chaotic end to the annual summit - at which member nations had emphasized regional unity and rejected major powers' jostling for influence in their affairs - shows how difficult it is for some of the world's tiniest nations to balance the demands of larger countries who see them as geopolitical pawns, analysts said.

rested a week later, and his extradition case continued. Kangethe was also found in possession of personal items belonging to the deceased, prosecutors said. (AP)

Visa restrictions imposed: The US Department of State is taking steps to impose visa restrictions on individuals responsible for, or complicit in, undermining and impeding a sustainable peace in South Sudan, spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Fri-

day.

These individuals, who include members of the South Sudanese government, participated in obstructing life-saving humanitarian aid through the taxation of aid shipments. These persons may be found ineligible for entry into the United States. South Sudan president is Salva Kiir.

The United States remains deeply concerned about the South Sudan transitional governments failure to act with urgency to establish a clear and consistent system for full implementation of its obligations under the 2018 peace agreement, in particular, its obligation to create an enabling political, administrative, operational, and legal environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection.

Despite assurances, the government has yet to effectively reduce the unacceptably high costs, bureaucratic obstacles, and risks of providing humanitarian assistance to South Sudanese people in need, Miller stated, adding this raises questions about its willingness and capacity to abide by its 2018 peace agreement commitment to create an enabling environ-ment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection. (KUNA)



Ulu of Tokelau, Alapati Tavite, (left), New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Niue Premier Dalton Tagelagi, (right), chat before the Leaders' Plenary at the Pacific Islands Forum in Nuku'alofa, Tonga on Aug 28. Turmoil over China's push for influence in the South Pacific has overshadowed the region's most important diplomatic summit after a Pacific island leader apparently pledged to erase an affirmation of Taiwan's involvement in the meeting from its closing statement, at Beijing's behest. (AP)

Gulf Capital Investment Company 'InvestGB' & Investcorp forge strategic partnership for investment opportunities

Collaboration brings multifamily, industrial, and student housing investments

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: As part of its continuous efforts to provide the best investment opportunities to its clients, Gulf Capital Investment Company "InvestGB", the wholly owned investment arm of Gulf Bank, has entered a strategic partnership with Investcorp, a leading global alternative investment manager. This partnership will allow InvestGB and Gulf Bank's broad client base to access Investcorp's diversified real estate investment portfolios.

Through this strategic partnership, InvestGB and Gulf Bank's clients will have the opportunity to invest in curated investment offerings across key real estate sectors which include multifamily, industrial, and student

Investcorp's multifamily portfolio offers exposure to a well-diversified basket of residential properties across attractive markets that align with the investment objectives of InvestGB and Gulf Bank clients. Investcorp's industrial portfolio also provides clients with unique opportunities to benefit from the flexibility of industrial assets and the remarkable growth they are witnessing in addition to their resilience. The student housing sector offers clients a unique combination of stable occupancy rates, providing InvestGB and Gulf Bank clients with access to this asset class.

Commenting on this partnership, Noorah AlSane, Managing Director of Real Estate Investments at InvestGB said, "This strategic partnership aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing our clients with innovative and di-



Noorah AlSane



Mohamed AlSada

INVESTCORP

Investcorp Logo



InvestGB Logo

versified investment solutions."

AlSane added, "Investcorp's strong reputation and expertise in real estate

make them the ideal partner for offering these exclusive investment opportunities to our valued clients.'

Mohamed AlSada, Managing Director of Private Wealth- Bahrain and Kuwait Markets at Investcorp expressed his delight on this strategic partnership, "This partnership leverages Investcorp's global investment expertise and proven track record in these sectors, and offers InvestGB and Gulf Bank clients with access to our best-in-class real estate investment

AlSada added, "This strategic partnership with InvestGB will provide its valued clients with access to our best real estate investment offers and will ensure an array of benefits for both parties, as it allows InvestGB to benefit from Investcorp's global expertise in the real estate investments sector and its extensive track record in real estate investment. It also provides us with the opportunity to access InvestGB's wide client base and partner with Gulf Bank, one of Kuwait's leading banks."

InvestGB is a closed Kuwaiti shareholding company with a capital of 10 million Kuwaiti Dinars, and provides a comprehensive range of leading and innovative services segmented into Wealth Management, Asset Management, Investments, and Investment Advisory for high-net-worth individuals and instituional investors. Guided by a seasoned team of investment professionals, InvestGB adheres to the highest ethical standards, one of its core values.

InvestGB aims to build a robust investment management platform for its clients and Gulf Bank's clients, contributing to the Bank's revenue and profits through a solid investment strategy and innovative offerings. The company seeks to expand its strategic relationships with top-tier firms and strengthen Kuwait's image as a business destination for foreign investors.

Boursa Kuwait's basic materials sector gains 8.9%

S&P GCC Composite Index up by 0.3% in August

GCC markets remains 'flattish' in GCC and Global Markets edge up on August amid geopolitical tensions

By KAMCO Invest

CC equity markets witnessed mixed performance during August-2024 after markets in the region showed limited recovery from the steep decline at the start of the month. The 4.0% decline in the MSCI GCC Index seen at the start of the month was mainly led by concerns related to global economy after the payroll data in the US indicated recessionary pressures, which would have had its impact on the rest of the key global economies. However, most markets witnessed a quick recovery after comments from policymakers suggested a steeper rate cut path in the coming months with consensus estimates now showing at least three rate cuts by the end of the year by the US Fed. GCC markets were also affected by the escalation of regional geopolitical issues related to the war on Gaza, the confrontation in Lebanon and the attacks in the Red Sea.

The MSCI GCC index witnessed a marginal gain of 0.2% during the month reflecting the mixed performance at the country level. Oman was the best performing market in the GCC during the month with a gain of 1.8% that came after two consecutive months of decline. Dubai was next with a gain of 1.3% followed by Qatar and Saudi with minimal gains. The marginal gair gust-2024 provided little support to the YTD-2024 performance of the GCC markets that still remained in the red at -1.2% for the regional index. However, the declines were mainly seen in Abu Dhabi and Qatari indices while the rest of the markets were in the green.

The sector performance chart for the month showed most sectors in the green during August-2024. F&B and Material were the only noticeable decliners during the month with declines of 3.0% and 1.4%, while the Pharma & Biotech index reported the biggest gains during the month (+14.5%) followed by Telecom and Retailing sectors with gains of 8.1% and 4.6%, respectively.

Boursa Kuwait

Boursa Kuwait's performance was flattish during August-2024 after the steep declines at the start of the month were only partially offset with gradual gains during the rest of the month. The performance of indices was mixed with positive performance once again focused on liquid stocks in the Main market, whereas Premier market stocks showed declines. The Main 50 Index showed declines of

GCC Equity Markets

0.6% during the month, whereas the Main Market index reported a marginal gain of 0.03%. On the other hand, the Premier Market index declined by 1.0%, resulting in a 0.8% decline for the All-Share Market Index. In terms of YTD-2024 performance, all the market segments continue to remain in the green with the Main Market Index up by 9.0% followed by a 7.6% gain for the Main 50 Index. The All-Share Market Index and the Premier Market Index advanced by 5.3% and 4.6%, respectively.

The monthly sector performance chart remained mixed during the month with the Insurance index witnessing the biggest decline of 17.4% during August-2024 followed by Health Care and Utilities indices with declines of 5.7% and 5.0%, respectively. On the gainer's side, the Basic Materials index topped during August-2024 with a gain of 8.9% followed by Consumer Discretionary and Financial Services indices with returns of 4.7% and

Gains in the Basic Materials sector was mainly led by 12.5% surge in shares of Boubyan Petrochemicals. The performance of the Consumer Discretionary index was supported by gains of 13.7% in shares of Kuwait Hotels and 9.6% gain in shares of Al Eid Food. In the Insurance sector, six out of eight stocks reported declines during August-2024. Shares of Gulf Insurance Group dropped by 31.8% followed by Kuwait Insurance and Kuwait Reinsurance by 5.2% and 3.7%, respectively. On the other hand, shares of Warba Insurance gained 4.3%. The Healthcare index was dragged down by decline in shares of Al-Maidan Clinic that was down by 9.6% during the month, while shares of ATC gained by 4.6%. Large-cap indices like Banking was down during the month after shares of five Kuwaiti banks declined despite posting strong quarterly earnings indicating seasonal weakness and profit booking on elevated prices. In the Telecom sector, all the constituent stocks reported gains with Hayat Communications leading with a gain of 8.1%.

The monthly stock performance chart was topped with Real Estate Trade Centers Co. with a gain of 82.5% followed by Inovest and Equipment Holding Co. with gains of 68.3% and 41.8%, respectively. On the decliners side, Gulf Insurance Group topped with a decline of 31.8% followed by Arab Real Estate Co. and Combined Group Contracting Co. with declines of 16.9% and 10.8%, respectively. Trading activity improved during the month as compared to the previous month.

Div. Yield

Fed Rate cut hopes, reports Markaz

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" released its Monthly Market Review report for August 2024. GCC markets were mildly positive for the month in anticipation of Fed rate cuts in September, and a favourable outlook for the banks. However, geopolitical uncertainty and a decline in oil price

capped gains. Kuwait equity index mildly declined by 0.8% for the month, however,the year-to-date returns remain positive at 5.3%. Banking stocks fell 1.4% during August, with NBK and KFH share prices declining 3.0% and 1.4% respectively. KFH has agreed to sell its entire stake in the UAE's Sharjah Islamic Bank for AED 1.29 billion (USD 351 million), pending regulatory approvals. Gulf Bank and Boubyan Bank have disclosed that they have signed an MoU to explore the possibility of merger to create a new Islamic Bank, portunity for growth. Kuwait's Burgan Bank has received approval from the Central Bank to move ahead with its plan for the 100% acquisition of Bahrain's United Gulf Bank. Among Premier market stocks, Boubyan Petrochemical Company (BPC) gained the most at 12.5% for the month supported by robust corporate earnings. BPC reported a 144% y/y surge in net profits for the three months ended July 2024. Beyout Investment Group declined the

most, falling 8.2% during the month. Kuwait inflation rose by 3% y/y in July, compared to 2.8% y/y rise in the previous month. The prices in the food and beverage sector rose by 5.9% y/y while the clothing sector witnessed a 5.6% y/y increase. Fitch maintained a stable outlook for Kuwait's rating at "AA-", acknowledging the banking sector's resilience while noting constraints related to

oil dependency. GCC markets were mixed during the month, with the S&P GCC composite index registering a marginal gain of 0.3% for the month. Fall in oil prices and concerns about escalation of geopolitical risks overshadowed the growing optimism on U.S Fed interest rate cuts.Net income for listed banks in the GCC reached USD 14.8 billion in Q2 2024, up 9.2% y/y. IPO activity in the MENÂ region remained resilient raising USD 2.64 billion in proceeds during Q2 2024 (45.3% y/y growth), according to EY. Saudi Arabia dominated the region's IPO activity in terms of the number of listings (11



Markaz Logo

out of 14), raising USD 1.6 billion.

Dubai and Saudi Arabia equity indices gained 1.3% and 0.3% respectively for the month, supported by the positive investor sentiment following expectations that lending income of GCC banks will remain elevated after the outperformance in Q2 2024. Shares of Saudi Telecom Company rose 11.7% during August after the company announced new three-year dividend policy, pledging a quarterly pay-out of USD 0.15 per share, starting from Q4 2024 and extending through to Q3 2027. The Abu Dhabi stock index posted a marginal loss of 0.6% for the month dragged down by the performance of a few blue-chip stocks. International Holding Company declined by 2.6% for the month on the back of a 29.8% y/y decline in its net profit for Q2 2024.Aldar properties' shares fell 0.7% as the Q2 2024 results did not contain any surprises for the investors. Qatar stock index gained 0.5% for the month amid surge in natural

Saudi Arabia's real GDP shrank 0.4% y/y in Q2 2024, as per preliminary data released by the government's statistical authority, driven by an 8.5% decline in oil activities which has limited overall growth for several quarters. The foreign direct investment balance in Saudi Arabia recorded a growth of 6.1% y/y by the end of Q1 2024, indicating the confidence of foreign investors in the Saudi's investment environment.

Global and U.S. markets were positive for the month, with MSCI World and S&P 500 indices increasing by2.5% and 2.3% respectively for the month. Earlier in the month, U.S. labour market weakness had given way to recessionary fears, pressurizing markets. However, data on moderating inflation, strong retail sales and dovish comments from the U.S Fed Chair supported markets for the better part of the month.The U.S consumer price index increased by 0.2% m/m in July, but grew by 2.9% y/y, its lowest annual increase in 3.5 years.U.S retail sales increased by 1.0% m/m in July. U.S Fed Chair's statement during the annual economic conference in Jackson Hole that the time has come for policy to adjust and minutes of U.S Fed's FOMC meeting in July further strengthened hopes of rate cut by the U.S Fed during its FOMC meeting in September 2024. Bank of England has lowered its policy rate by 25 bps to 5.00%, its first reduction since the COVID-19 pandemic. The MSCI EM index gained 1.4% for the month, despite weakness inChinese equity markets, which fell by 3.3% for the month. Slowing factory output, rising inflation due to weather disruptions, decline in home prices and rising unemployment.

The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note declined by 18 bps during the month closing at 3.91%, amid data on weakening of U.S job market and comments from the U.S Fed Chair on impending rate cuts. The yield on the 2-year U.S. Treasury note declined by 38 bps during the month closing at 3.91%. The inversion of yield curve between 2-year and 10-year yield corrected for the first time in 2 years earlier in August and remained flat by the month-end.

Oil price settled at USD 78.8 per barrel, down 2.4% during the month of August. The commodity was weighed by concerns of economic slowdown in U.S and China. Downward revisions to employment numbers in the U.S, slowdown in industrial output and rising unemployment in China had fueled these growth concerns.OPEC+ also maintained its plan to begin unwinding production cuts from October 2024. The agency is however open to pausing the move if needed. Expectation of rate cut by the U.S Fed, production cuts in Libya and geopolitical tensions lent some support to the commodity during the month.IEA, while maintaining its growth forecast for oil demand at 970,000 for 2024, has revised down its forecast for 2025 to 950,000 barrels per day, down 30,000 bpd from its earlier forecast.

Given the high expectations of a reduction in policy rates, the U.S Fed's FOMC meeting scheduled for 17th and 18th September would be keenly watched. Any rate cuts by the Fed are likely to be followed by the GCC Central Banks.GCC markets would also track developments on geopolitical front and indications of easing tensions could support mar-

Chg% Chg% (USD Bn TTM TTM Kuwait - Premier Market Index 3.0% 1.0 4.6% Kuwait - Main 50 Index 5,904.6 7.6% 6.070.7 0.0% 9.0% Kuwait - Main Market Index Kuwait - All Share Index 5.3% 12,145.2 Saudi Arabia 0.3% 1.5% 2,726.1 42.6 20.1 24 3.6% Abu Dhab (0.6% (3.1%) 2.1% Dubai 4,325.5 1.3% 6.5% 196.9 8.4 1.3 5.5% 10,203.0 (5.8%) 162.5 4.2% Oatar 0.5% 11.3 1.3 Bahrain 1,957.5 (0.6%) (0.7%) 90.4 0.7 8.9% Oman 23.9 5.3% 4.081.8 3.6% Total GCC GCC Markets - Value Traded (USD Bri



CEO Al-Khatib drives renaissance with refinery upgrades

KNPC to increase local fuel sales in 3 years

By Najeh Bilal Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: According to informed sources, the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) plans to increase its annual fuel sales to the local market to 17 billion

liters in the next three years, in response to the growing local demand for high-quality automotive fuel. The sources revealed that KNPC's local fuel sales in 2023

were approximately 14.617 billion liters. They explained that the company is working to increase its production capacity for diesel fuel that meets international environmental standards. This is particularly important as Kuwaiti diesel is preferred in European markets due to its compliance with international environmental protection requirements.

The official announcement of the merger between the Shuaiba and Umm Al-Aish gas factories, affiliated with the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) and KNPC will be made in the coming days.

This merger, which has been planned for several years,

will enhance KNPC's high capacity for producing liquefied

The entry of the fifth liquefied petroleum gas line into service at the Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery has significantly boosted production capacity, with daily output exceeding 805 million cubic feet of gas. This increase allows KNPC to fully meet the local market's gas requirements.

KNPC is carrying out thorough studies and discussions to address the issue of water shortages from the Public Authority for Industry to ensure the uninterrupted production of liquefied gas.

CÉO Wadha Al-Khatib is focused on driving a renaissance and developing the operations of KNPC's integrated entities, the first of which is the Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC), in addition to upgrading and expanding the capacity of Kuwaiti refineries.

In addition, KNPC is committed to implementing digital transformations across all operational projects and fostering technological culture among its employees and those at KIPIC. The company has made significant progress in these areas and continues to advance its technological initiatives.

A legacy of leadership and solid success

Kuwait Finance House celebrates 46th anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: For 46 years, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has achieved distinguished success, passing through key phases since launching its operations on August 31, 1978. KFH was able to build a parallel financial and economic sector to its conventional counterpart, achieving leadership in this field and expanding its reach geographically across many countries. KFH introduced a diverse range of Islamic financial products and financing solutions that have enriched global markets, making Sharia-compliant products a reliable standard in financial and banking transactions worldwide. This success has allowed KFH to lead the Islamic banking industry, efficiently contributing to raising the level of the private sector in Kuwait and the global market. KFH also demonstrated the private sector's ability to be of an added value to the global economy.

640 branches across 12 countries

KFH has become a global financial group and a distinguished brand with credibility and trustworthiness, maintaining a solid financial position and achieving sustainable profits, with a global presence through around 640 branches spanning 12 different countries, including Kuwait, Turkey, Bahrain, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, and Germany. KFH is ranked first among the largest listed companies and banks on Boursa Kuwait in terms of a market capitalization which exceeded KD 12 billion. It also reports the highest profit rates in the banking sector, with a 2023 net profit attributable to the bank shareholders reach-

banking sector of Kuwait. In 2022, KFH acquired Ahli United Bank - Bahrain (AUB -Bahrain) and completed its conversion to a Sharia-compliant bank in December 2023. KFH also completed the merger with Ahli United Bank – Kuwait (AUBK) in February 2023. Moreover, KFH launched tam Digital Bank in October 2023 as the first Sharia-compliant digital bank in Kuwait.

ing KD 584.5 million, an increase

of 63.4%, the highest profit in the

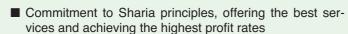
Amid a period when KFH received numerous prestigious global awards from recognized organizations, KFH has maintained its top credit ranking according to global credit rating agencies. In Forbes 2024 Top 100 Listed Companies, KFH ranked first in Kuwait and tenth in the Middle East for 2024 in terms of market cap and profitability. The Bank also secured the top spot on MEED magazine's list of the 100 largest listed companies in the Middle East and North Africa in terms of market capitalization. KFH is moving forward with its ambitious plan, targeting a place among the top 100 global banks in the coming years.

KFH's leading journey has been marked by continuous success, customer satisfaction and growth, while adhering to Sharia principles and practices. The approval of the Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board remains a fundamental requirement for licensing and implementing any product or service.

KFH was incorporated as per an Amiri decree dated March 23, 1977, with KD 10 million capital. Business started on August 31, 1978, with one branch and a limited number of employees. Today, KFH has 640 branches worldwide with around 18,000 employees.

KFH started its operations in a temporary location at Ahmed Al-Jaber Street and moved in 1983 to Emad Commercial Center on the same street until finally settling in its current location on Abdullah Al-Mubarak Street in 1986.

Prior to opening the door for new Islamic banks to be established in Kuwait, KFH remained, for several years, the only alternative for customers wishing to consider Sharia compliant banking. This enhanced competition and growth in Islamic financial services market. Despite the emergence of new banks in the market, KFH continued its growth with a remarkable increase in customers demand for its products and services. At this stage, KFH has made great strides and strengthened its pioneering position at the local market, and the Islamic financial institutions level. The Bank also enhanced its expansion and presence in international markets, alleviated its automated programs and systems to a new higher level and played a significant and unprecedented social role in the development of society and retail services. KFH has become the most recognized symbol of Islamic banking.



■ Improving performance, customer service and expanding market share

■ Sustainable growth, innovation and digital transformation and enhancing solvency are key elements for excellence



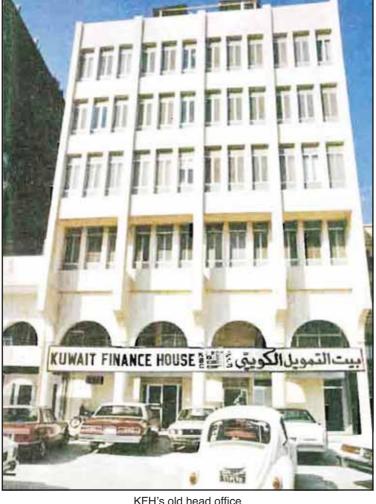




KFH office old picture.



KFH car showroom



KFH's old head office

Today, KFH continues to flourish and innovate new investment tools and products and achieve high profit ratios and sustainable growth in all fields. During the last 10 years, KFH strategy was developed to focus on

core bank http://192.168.221.4/ newspress/backup/files/images/2024/09/2/959422. jpeg?tmp=1725287742 ing business, enhance its ability to realize sustainable profit according to a new vision to lead the Islamic fi-



Ahmed Bazea Al-Yasseen







KFH office old picture



KFH's head office in 22nd Feb, 1987

nance sector worldwide. It also adopts technology and digital transformation which leads to enhancing customer experience.

Success factors

KFH success can be reflected in adhering to the operational approach based on Islamic Sharia principles, relying on scientific and professional methods of work, preparing future strategies and plans, and implementing the strategy of sustainable growth. This success is also translated in strong customer engagement, meeting their aspirations and demands, fostering creativity and innovation, while giving significant attention to human capital and keeping pace with the latest developments in the field, with a particular focus on digitalization and technological services, as well as relying on the best and cutting-edge technological innovations. These factors consistently drive the enhancement of financial capacity, expansion outlook, and alignment with technological and digital financial banking, fostering the growth of KFH across all

Social commitment

KFH plays a prominent social role and continues to enhance its contributions as a benchmark of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at the private sector level. The Bank directs its contributions towards activities aimed at social development, which include infrastructure development, hospitals, research and educational centers, in addition to training of people with special needs. Additionally, KFH focuses on developing the skills and capabilities of young people, supporting academic research and students, promoting health awareness, and preserving the environment.

KFH's most prominent and recent achievements include Al Mubarakiya Reconstruction project in line with KFH's national and social strategy. The initiative is geared towards the reconstruction of 17 buildings and the development of surrounding buildings in Al Mubarakiya market. The estimated cost of the project is around KD 8 million.

In response to the national campaign for those in need, KFH has donated KD 7 million from its Zakat funds. KFH has also contributed about KD 6 million to support relief efforts for people affected by earthquakes, with KD 3 million allocated to Turkey and KD 3 million to those impacted in Syria. Various initiatives were also implemented in cooperation with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. Furthermore, KFH signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to reaffirm its prominent role in sustainable development.

The national factor

One of the most significant pillars that shaped the journey of KFH is its focus on human capital, particularly the national capabilities and ambitious Kuwaiti youth, as they are the assets of success. The Human Resources strategy aims to create an environment that enhances employees' loyalty and engagement and fosters talent acquisition. In the last years, KFH has maintained a 100% hiring rate of Kuwaiti nationals, mostly recent graduates.

Digital transformation

KFH remains steadfast in its commitment to digital transformation, integrating the latest technological advancements across its service and product offerings. This dedication is focused on providing customers with the highest standards of quality, convenience, and security, while also contributing to cost reduction and strengthening competitive capabilities and profitability. KFH's digital services include: KFH online, KFH Go selfbanking stations, various online services through XTM devices, instant card printing and many other online services. They are designed to continually expand the customer base, optimize operational efficiency, and drive the strategic focus on innovation and digital transformation. This approach enhances KFH's leadership in data security, digital solutions, and sustainability, reinforcing its position as a leader in the financial sector both in Kuwait and the world.

Additionally, tam Digital Bank, Kuwait's first digital sharia-complaint bank, and Zaheb digital merchant platform, are a testament to KFH's pioneering role in digital banking and its commitment to delivering seamless banking experience to customers.

China's logistics sector sustains steady growth in August

China's logistics sector continued steady expansion in August thanks to growing logistics demand, an industry report showed Monday.

The index tracking the country's logistics market stood at 51.5 percent in August, up 0.5 percentage points from the previous month, according to the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing.

The warehousing index gained 3.7 percentage points compared with the July figure, reaching 50.2 percent in August, data from the federation revealed.

With the gradual implementation of various poli-

cies to promote investment and stabilize growth, activities in both the upstream and downstream of the country's supply and industrial chains deepened integration, driving up the total business volume index, said He Hui, chief economist at the federation.

Breaking down the data, the total business volume index rose 0.5 percentage points from July to 51.5 percent in August, while the index for new orders stood at 51.8 percent. The business expectations index came in at 56.3 percent in August -- up 1.7 percentage points from the July reading. (Xinhua)

Thailand's manufacturing sector continues to expand

Thailand's manufacturing sector maintained its expansion for the fourth successive month in August as new orders rose amid further strong increases in output and purchasing, a survey showed on Monday.

day.

The Southeast Asian country's manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) was recorded at 52.0 last month, easing from the 13-month high of 52.8 in July, signaling an overall improvement in manufacturing sector performance, according to \$&P Global

A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion in the manufacturing sector, while a reading below 50 reflects contraction.

The volume of new orders increased for the second straight month, driven by both new customers and larger contracts with existing clients. As a result, output grew significantly, despite at a slightly slower pace compared to June and July, S&P Global said in a statement.

Employment growth remained robust, nearly matching the survey record high posted two months earlier, while the goods-producing sector was on track for its strongest quarter since the second quarter of 2023, said Trevor Balchin, economics director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. (Xinhua)

Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.1% to finish at 38,700.87

Asian benchmarks mixed in cautious trading ahead of US holiday and jobs report

TOKYO, Sept 2, (AP): Asian shares were mixed in cautious trading Monday ahead of the Labor Day holiday in the U.S.,

when stock exchanges will be closed.

Investors were also looking ahead to the U.S. employment report set for release Friday for an indication of the strength

of the American economy.

Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.1% to finish at 38,700.87, after the Finance Ministry reported capital spending by Japanese companies in the April-June quarter increased 7.4%

from the previous year.

After a period of stagnation, Japan's economy is showing signs of a recovery. Next week, Japan will release revised gross domestic product, or GDP, data, a measure of the value of a nation's goods and services. The preliminary data re-

leased earlier showed the first growth in two quarters.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.2% to 8,109.90, while South Korea's Kospi gained nearly 0.3% to 2,681.00. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 1.9% to 17,657.02. The Shanghai Composite dipped 1.1% to 2,811.04.

A bit of pessimism rolled in over China's growth prospects over the weekend, as its National Bureau of Statistics reported that August manufacturing PMI, a barometer of industrial output, fell from 49.4 to 49.1. That was weaker than market forecasts.

Wall Street finished last week broadly higher. The S&P 500 rose 1% Friday, with about 76% of the stocks in the index notching gains. The benchmark S&P 500 closed August with a 2.3% gain for the month. It's now up 18.4% so far

this year and is within 0.4% of the all-time high it set in July. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.6% on Friday, setting its fourth all-time high this week. The Nasdaq composite ended 1.1% higher.

Recent reports on the U.S. economy, including inflation, consumer spending and income, have been encouraging. The Commerce Department said its personal consumption and expenditures report showed prices rose 0.2% from June to July, up slightly from the previous month's 0.1% increase.

That means price rises are slowing down, and that's likely to lead to the Federal Reserve cutting interest rates for the first time in more than four years. The market expects the Fed will start cutting rates later this month.

In other encouraging news, Friday's Commerce Depart-

ment report showed Americans stepped up their spending by 0.5% from June to July and incomes rose 0.3%, faster in July than the previous month.

Bond yields were mixed. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 3.92% from 3.86% late Thursday.

The S&P 500 rose 56.44 points to 5,648.40. The Dow rose 228.03 points to close at 41,563.08. The Nasdaq gained 197.19 points to 17,713.62.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude fell 42 cents to \$73.13 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 52 cents to \$76.41 a barrel.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar inched up to 146.20 Japanese yen from 146.18 yen. The euro cost \$1.1064, up from \$1.1053.

Multinationals eye opportunities in China's green transformation

Eni Group partnering with China on low-carbon energy

JINAN, Sept 2, (Xinhua): At last week's Qingdao Multinationals Summit, in east China's Shandong Province, "green and low-carbon" is one of the hot topics, with many leaders of multinational corporations believing that China's green and low-carbon transformation is unleashing new opportunities for those to invest and develop in China.

Garrett Motion, a U.S. turbocharger manufacturer, has boosted its investment in zero-emission vehicle technology, with over 50 percent of last year's research and development budget allocated to this field, according to Mark Rodrigues, the company's senior vice president, at the summit that concluded on Thursday.

Rodrigues said Garrett Motion has established a local research system for fuel-cell vehicles in China and plans to gradually expand it. Its global goal of 1 billion U.S. dollars in zero-emission technology by 2030 aligns with China's goal of peaking carbon dioxide emissions by 2030.

The global energy industry is experiencing unprecedented changes and challenges, necessitating technological and model innovations for traditional petrochemical energy companies seeking sustainable development.

Eni Group, headquartered in Italy, is partnering with China on low-carbon energy, clean energy and the circular economy

In the future, the company hopes to actively participate in China's energy transformation and green development strategy, providing cleaner, more efficient and more reliable energy solutions for the Chinese market through technological innovation, according to Gianni Di Giovanni, chairman of the Eni China.

According to a report released at the summit, multinational corporations are actively integrating into China's green and low-carbon development.

They are leveraging their accumulated advantages and technological capabilities in green, low-carbon and circular economy, getting involved in the energy-saving and carbon reduction transformation of traditional industries in China, including energy, industry, construction and transportation, said

Alstom is one of the world's important manufacturers of rail transit equipment, having established its presence in the Chinese market for over 60

The company attended the summit for the first time as it saw huge potential for growth in the Chinese market, especially in areas such as technological innovation and green intelligence integration.

Geng Ming, Alstom China managing director, said that rail transit, as a green and low-carbon means of transportation, receives warm policy support with huge market demand in China.

The Conversation

Amazon, SpaceX and other companies argue

Government agency that has protected labor rights since 1935 unconstitutional

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

By Kate AndriasColumbia University

This article was published on March 25, 2024, before court rulings on some of the cases discussed.

Amazon, SpaceX, Starbucks and Trader Joe's have all responded to allegations that they have violated labor laws with the same bold argument. The National Labor Relations Board, they assert in several ongoing legal

proceedings, is unconstitutional.

SpaceX, for example, says that the NLRB is engaging in "an unlawful attempt ... to subject Space X to an administrative proceeding whose structure violates Article II, the Fifth Amendment, and the Seventh Amendment of the Constitution of the United States."

If these companies prevail, the entire process for holding union elections and for prosecuting employers who break labor laws – in place since the days of the New Deal – could collapse. That would leave U.S. workers more vulnerable to exploitation.

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the board nearly a century ago, soon after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the law that created the NLRB and made clear that workers have the right to organize and bargain collectively. Justices have also rejected similar arguments in cases involving other agencies.

As a law professor who researches labor law and constitutional law and a former labor organizer, I am deeply concerned, but not surprised, by these attacks on the federal agency that has protected U.S. workers' right to organize unions and bargain collectively with their employers since the 1930s.

These corporations seem to believe they will find a sympathetic audience before the conservative justices that occupy six of the Supreme Court's nine seats. In a series of prior cases, the conservative justices have already weakened administrative agencies and cut back on workers' rights.

The corporate attack on the NLRB also seems to be a response to growing support for unions among Americans.

Workers at the companies that are challenging the NLRB's constitutionality have all begun to organize unions in recent years, with numerous, high-profile, union-organizing wins. Workers across numerous sectors, including auto, education, health care and Hollywood, have recently held successful strikes.

What's more, the NLRB has been more assertive in prosecuting employers for violating workers' rights, and it has been revising rules in ways that make it easier for workers to organize.

For example, it has made it possible for the unioniza-

tion process to move faster and has sought to quickly reinstate workers who are illegally fired for organizing unions, rather than waiting years for litigation to play out.

This is not the first time that big business has tried to use constitutional law arguments in an effort to stop union organizing and limit workers' rights.

From the 1890s to the 1930s, during what is known

as the "Lochner era," corporations argued that laws pro-

tecting workers' rights, including the right to organize unions or be paid a minimum wage, violated their "freedom to contract" and exceeded Congress' power under the Constitution.

Back then, the Supreme Court routinely sided with business.

It struck down hundreds of laws, including minimum wage laws, overtime laws and laws prohibiting child labor. It prohibited strikes, including in the railroad and mining industries. It allowed labor leaders to be jailed. These rulings helped corporations grow wealthier and

more powerful.

Only after mass uprisings by over 1 million workers, economic distress wrought by the Great Depression and overwhelming popular support for the New Deal did the

had made a mistake.

During the New Deal, the justices ruled that Congress has the power under the Constitution to pass minimum labor standards and to create agencies, such as the National Labor Relations Board, to protect workers and

Now, nearly 100 years later, the NLRB's foes contend that the labor board violates the separation of powers the constitutional principle that the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government have distinct powers - because it mixes executive and judicial func-

They also argue that the board is unconstitutional because presidents cannot fire the NLRB's members or administrative law judges whenever they want.

And opponents of the NLRB claim that the use of administrative law judges - jurists who preside over and adjudicate cases regarding alleged violations of the law - violates the constitutional right to a jury trial.

But the Supreme Court has long permitted all of these features, not only for the NLRB but for other government agencies as well.

And for good reason.

No provision of the Constitution prohibits Congress from designing government agencies in this way. And Congress believed that these design choices would help the agency function well.

For example, by prohibiting presidents from replacing all of the NLRB's administrative law judges for any reason or no reason at all, Congress sought to ensure independence of those judges.

Having each violation of law litigated before a federal jury, rather than administrative law judges deciding cases, could take a lot longer to resolve cases.

If these corporations prevail with their constitutional

challenges, the NLRB will no longer be able to function.

Currently, it can be very difficult for workers to organize unions, partly because of insufficient penalties

ganize unions, partly because of insufficient penalties and protections in labor law. But if the corporations win, there will no longer be an agency in place to safeguard workers' rights to organize unions and to negotiate fair contracts with their employers.

Indeed, this threat goes beyond labor rights.

Indeed, this threat goes beyond labor rights.
If the NLRB is found to violate the Constitution, other

government agencies could be at risk as well, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Election Commission and the Federal Trade Commission. In my view, that would endanger investors, voters and consumers - all Americans. (AP)

Western media behind the argument

Why Africans won't buy the 'Debt Trap' narrative against China

BEIJING, Sept 2, (Xinhua): "Debttrap" is a term to describe an international financial relationship where a creditor country or institution extends debt to a borrowing nation with the intention of extracting economic or political concessions when the debtor country becomes unable to meet its repayment obligations.

Western media have pinned the "Debt Trap" narrative on China since an Indian think tank coined the term in 2017.

For instance, in an Associated Press article last year, reporter Bernard Condon alleged that China's "debt trap" has pushed some developing countries, for example Kenya and Zambia, to the brink of collapse. He claims the debt is largely owed to China, with high interest that is hard to repay and little willingness from China to forgive it.

However, what are the facts? Who

However, what are the facts? Who is Africa's number one creditor? Who is the one using a "debt trap" to plunder the wealth of developing

countries, and who is offering a real helping hand? The vast majority of developing countries, especially African countries, know the truth.

Many academics, professionals and think tanks have asserted that China's lending practices are not behind the debt troubles faced by borrowing nations, and that Chinese banks have been willing to restructure the terms of existing loans.

"Only about nine percent of Kenya's public debt can be attributed to China at the moment," Adhere Cavince, an international relations specialist from Kenya, told Xinhua.

The National Treasury of Kenya's

debt bulletin, published in April 2024, reported that more than half (51.5 percent) of the country's external debt is owed to multilateral lenders like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In contrast, China and other bilateral lenders account for only a fifth (21.5 percent) of Kenya's bilateral debt.

Costco will be closed

Major retailers and grocers will be open on Labor Day

WASHINGTON, Sept 2, (AP): The origins of Labor Day date back to the late 19th century, when activists first sought to establish a day that would pay tribute to workers.

The first U.S. Labor Day celebra-

The first U.S. Labor Day celebration took place in New York City on Sept. 5, 1882. Some 10,000 workers marched in a parade organized by the Central Labor Union and the Knights of Labor.

A handful of cities and states began to adopt laws recognizing Labor Day in the years that followed, yet it took more than a decade before President Grover Cleveland signed a congressional act in 1894 establishing the first Monday of September as a legal holiday.

day.

While many workers have the day off, most big consumer-facing businesses are open and even offering promotional sales to lure customers.

Here's what is open and closed this year on Labor Day:

Government offices, post offices, courts and schools are closed.
U.S. stock markets and banks are

closed Monday.

Standard FedEx and UPS pickup and delivery services will not be available on Labor Day, although some critical services will be offered at certain

Warehouse membership club Costco will be closed on Labor Day, but the vast majority of major national retailers and grocery stores will be open, with some offering promotional sales to lure customers. Hours may vary by location, so check your local store. Despite the fact that many schools

are back in session and the summer travel season is winding down, the Transportation Security Administration anticipates screening more than 17 million people at airports between Thursday and next Wednesday - a record for the Labor Day period.

AAA says bookings for domestic travel are running 9% higher than last year for the holiday weekend, while international trips are down 4%.

If you are traveling by car, you will be getting a break on gasoline compared with last year. The nationwide average was recently \$3.44 per gallon, compared to \$3.86 a year ago, according to AAA.

The auto club doesn't provide a full travel forecast for Labor Day as it does for Memorial Day and July Fourth. But AAA does offer some useful advice for travelers:

■ Leave early. Everything will take longer than you expect.

Watch the weather. Even if skies are clear at home, there could be storms at your flight's destination or along your road route. Have a backup route.

■ Be nice. Flight cancellations and bumper-to-bumper traffic are frustrating, but you won't be the only one who is stuck or delayed.

Federal workers around nation's capital worry over Trump's plans

WASHINGTON, Sept 2, (AP): Worries of being uprooted from their jobs have returned for Laura Dodson and other federal workers, who have long been the economic backbone of the nation's capital and its suburbs.

During former President Donald Trump 's administration, her office under the U.S. Department of Agriculture was told it would be moving. About 75 people were going to be relocated to Kansas City, Missouri, Dodson said, but less than 40 actually moved. A rushed process that failed to consider the need to find homes, jobs for spouses and schools for children prompted some retirements, she said, and some took other federal jobs, hurting the agency in the end.

Now, with Trump proposing the relocation of up to 100,000 federal jobs from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia under his Agenda 47 plan, concerns about being abruptly moved are again troubling federal workers. The Republican's proposals stir anxiety in the midst of an unusually competitive U.S. Senate race in heavily Democratic Maryland that could determine control of the Senate, with even the Republican candidate calling the plans "crazy." The proposals also could hinder Trump's chances to win Virginia, a state he lost in 2016 and 2020, where a U.S. Senate seat widely seen as safely Democratic is

also on the ballot.

"It's causing a lot of anxiety, a lot of discomfort within the workforce, as you are faced with these strong, negative, anti-federal worker stances and this uncertainty of what might happen to your job, your home and your livelihood," said Dodson, who is acting vice president of American Federation of Government Employees local 3403, which represents the USDA's Economic Research Service.

And concerns don't end there. Federal workers also are worried about "Project 2025," a proposed overhaul of the federal government crafted by longtime Trump allies that would eliminate thousands of jobs and remove civil service protections for some federal workers. The former president has repeatedly distanced himself from the proposal this summer.

But the plan still worries Michael Knowles. He said it calls for making the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' D.C. presence "skeletal, and agency employees with operational or security roles should be rotated out to offices throughout the United States."

Knowles, who is president of AFGE

local 1924, said most of his members took an oath to uphold the Constitution and faithfully administer the laws of the United States. He said the members, who all work in the National Capital Region, are committed to the mission of government service.

"And they would do what they need to do to carry out that mission," Knowles said. "But I think the employees would look dimly on arbitrary or capricious decisions that didn't seem to make any business or operational sense."

Trum's composign did not return re-

Trump's campaign did not return requests for comment.

The District of Columbia has the largest number of federal civilian employees, with about 160,700 jobs, according to the Congressional Research Service. Maryland and Virginia are in the top four jurisdictions, with about 138,940 in Maryland and 140,400 in Virginia. California has about 142,040.

The proposals to move a large number of federal workers infuriate local leaders in the suburbs of Washington in both Maryland and Virginia. In Maryland, a heavily blue state where Trump is deeply unpopular, it's viewed by many as retaliation by the former president, who received only 32% of the vote there in 2020.

Trump made headlines while he was in office when he denigrated Baltimore, Maryland's largest city, as a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess."

Angela Alsobrooks, the chief ex-

Angela Alsobrooks, the chief executive of Prince George's County who is the Democratic nominee in the Maryland U.S. Senate race, described Trump's positions on the federal workforce "as yet another reason that we absolutely must put Donald Trump in the rearview mirror."

"Former President Trump is a ruthless leader, retaliatory in all his ways, and what he talks about in terms of really harming federal workers is evil," Alsobrooks said after returning from the Democratic National Convention last month.

Former Gov. Larry Hogan, her Republican opponent, condemned the relocation proposals as "crazy." He said they "would be devastating to the region, the state of Maryland and bad for the federal government."

"It's like, you know, Trump trying to turn the federal government into one of his failed casinos, where he thinks he can do whatever he wants," Hogan, who has long been one of the GOP's fiercest Trump critics, said in an interview. "I think it would undermine our entire democracy."

What's On

Bank raises financial security awareness

KIB promotes banking culture, services at Marina Mall

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the setup of a special booth at Marina Mall with the aim of raising banking awareness and financial literacy among commu-nity members. This effort aligns with KIB's ongoing and dedicated initiatives to support the directives and recommendations of the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) financial awareness campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in cooperation with local banks. It also comes as part of KIB's commitment to its leading role in guiding customers, helping them make sound financial decisions, and protecting the security

of their banking data.

In this regard, Yaqoub Ahmad Ashkanani, Area Manager of Re-

Banking at KIB, said: "We are pleased to continue our efforts to promote financial literacy within the community, aligning with sustainable development

Ashkanani

strategies and plans. We aim to achieve this goal through direct engagement with the public and by consistently sharing positive edu-

cational content in this area. Our objective is to help both customers and non-customers make informed financial decisions, enabling them to avoid falling victim to fraud and phishing schemes while safeguarding their financial and personal information."

Ashkanani added: "Our presence at Marina Mall presented an important opportunity for our staff to directly engage with the mall's visitors, providing detailed explanations and extensive information on the best solutions and methods for the safe use of banking cards and protecting their accounts. They also discussed customer rights and banking duties, steps to avoid falling victim to fraud and phishing, as well



KIB booth at the Marina Mall.

as raising awareness about the importance of adopting a culture of investment and savings. Additionally, they highlighted the role of banking institutions in financing, particularly Islamic financing. Moreover, visi-

Workshop focuses on latest tech trends

tors were introduced to our diverse and innovative range of products and services, designed to enhance their experience amid the rapid advancements in the financial and banking

It is worth noting that KIB is committed to its leading and effective role in raising community awareness, which is considered an essential part of its comprehensive social responsibility strategy.

The Bank constantly strives to launch initiatives that broadly enhance financial literacy and to participate in promising events that support the goals of the "Let's Be Aware"campaign, embodying its main slogan, "Bank for Life".



One of the Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms.

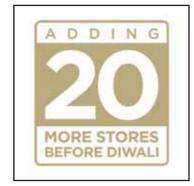
New stores in GCC, USA and India

Malabar unveils new phase of global expansion with 20 new showrooms

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 355 showrooms across 13 countries, has unveiled the next phase of their global expansion plan, with the jewellery giant set to launch 20 new showrooms in the month of October. The showroom launches are being planned across various locations in India, the GCC and the USA. The ambitious expansion plan will mark a significant chapter in the brand's growth journey, further cementing its reputation as one of the world's largest and most trusted jewellery retail chains.

The expansion plan in India involves the launch of 3 showrooms in Uttar Pradesh, 2 showrooms each in Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and 1 showroom each in Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal & Punjab. Internationally, Malabar Gold & Diamonds will strengthen its already robust presence in AF Oatar & I rooms opening in Muweilah, Sharjah; Muaither& Nakheel Mall respectively. The brand's growing presence in North America will also be bolstered with the launch of 2 new showrooms, in Artesia, Los Angeles and Atlanta, Georgia.

Commenting on the occasion, Malabar Group Chairman, M.P Ahammed said: "While the opening of these 20 showrooms aligns with our long-term vision of becoming the world's No.1 jewellery retailer, the aggressive expansion we have charted is about growing sustainably and responsibly, ensuring that our expansion benefits not just our business, but also the society at large. Through our unwavering commitment to the causes of ethical business practices, responsible sourcing and sustainability, we are proud to call ourselves a Responsible Jeweller, having been awarded the prestigious India Gold Conference (IGC) Responsible Jewellery House Award for 2023-24. Our brand has always stood for trust, transparency, and quality, and these new showrooms will embody these values. With 5% of our profits set aside towards ESG initiatives in every region



we operate in, we are also committed to bringing about a positive change in the

Every new showroom will showcase a wide range of jewellery collections, from traditional to contemporary designs, designed to provide an immersive shopping experience that resonates with the brand ethos of excellence. With a focus on customer comfort and satisfaction, the showrooms will host a wide range of amenities from customized jewellery designing facility to a luxurious lounge area.

"Our decision to open 20 new showrooms in such a short span reflects our robust growth strategy and confidence in the markets we serve. With a focus on both geographical diversification and strengthening our presence in existing markets, we are ahead of the curve in terms of market penetration. We are committed to offering not just jewellery, but an experience that delights and inspires our customers, ensuring they find pieces that resonate with their personal style and cultural heritage,", commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International

Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been a pioneer in engineering customer-first initiatives that assure customers of unparalleled product quality, service assurance and a host of post purchase guarantees. Coinedthe 'Malabar Promise', every purchase from Malabar Gold & Diamonds comes with the assurance of

'Receive and send money instantly, smoothly'

100% exchange value on Gold & Diamonds, Free lifetime maintenance, assured buyback, fair prices, responsible sourcing and more.

Asher O, Managing Director of India Operations said: "Considering the enormous potential it holds, the crux of our expansion is focused on the Indian Market. With import duty on gold being slashed by the government, we firmly believe that India will witness a meteoric rise in demand for gold jewellery and with the charted expansion, we are well poised to cater to this need. The wide array of designs we have introduced to our portfolio, with each piece meticulously crafted to tell a story of tradition, innovation, and artistry will allow us to connect with a broader audience, further cementing our presence in the market".

"The opening of 20 showrooms in October, while being a momentous achievement, is a part of the wider exing months. In addition to strengthening our presence in existing markets, we are also gearing up to expand into countries such as South Africa, Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh, France & New Zealand. We are also working towards broadening the scope of our product line through Arab Value Chain focused on 21K Jewellery and Western Value Chain focused on 18K Jewellery. Through the integration of omni-channel capabilities, the technology-driven nature of our growth in an otherwise traditional trade, marks our ability to adapt to the changing times." commented Mr. Abdul Salam

K.P, Vice-Chairman of Malabar Group. ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) initiative has been the primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993, with 5% of net profits set aside towards such initiatives in each country of operations. The key focus is in the areas of Hunger Free World, Health, Housing, Education, Women Empowerment & Environment. The ESG goals of the organization are periodically strengthened to remain a socially conscious and responsible organization.

stc hosts event to celebrate and empower female photographers KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Kuwait Company

Telecommunications - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, organized its first gathering for Kuwaiti female photographers coinciding with 'World Photography Day', with a workshop conducted Kuwaiti photographer, Haya Buqammaz. The event serves as an additional corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative organized by stc under the umbrella of its 'weyak' initiative to support young talented members of the community.

The event took place at Teta's Restaurant in Kuwait, bringing together 45 talented female photographers to discuss various styles of capturing photographs. The gathering served as a platform for the photographers to exchange experiences, share their creative visions, and connect with the broader photography community.



Throughout the event, attendees engaged in lively discussions about emerging trends in photography, the role of female photographers in Kuwait, and the impact of social media in sharing content.

A highlight of the event was the workshop conducted by Buqammaz, who provided the attendees with valuable insights and practical tips on enhancing their photography skills. The workshop covered various aspects of photography, focusing on techniques that can help attendees elevate the quality of their work. To commemorate the occasion, stc also distributed gifts to all attendees as a token of appreciation for their passion in photography and what they

present to the community.

Commenting on the workshop, Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, "Organizing this unique gathering and recognizing females as part of the 'World Photography Day' reflects our commitment to empowering the younger generation by providing them with platforms to pursue their passions.stc being a pioneer in digital transformation supports any skill that upgrades



Haya Buqammaz and the stc team.



A photo from the gathering of Kuwaiti female photographers discussing modern techniques in the world of photography.

and enhances digital marketing. The gathering enabled local female photographers to celebrate the art of photography while also reinforcing the importance of community and shared learning.

AlJasem added, "stc recognized the importance of organizing this gathering with local photographers, as photography has become an essential skill in content creation. Considering the popular use of social media channels as critical marketing tools on both the individual and corporate levels, high-quality content has become a core component of digital marketing. Having said that, stc wil lcontinue to seek innovative ways to engage with our community and show support to young talents.

AlJasem concluded, "On behalf of stc, I would like to thank Haya Bugammaz and all the female photographers that attended the gathering. It is initiatives like these that serve as part of our broader strategy to create a positive impact in society by offering educational and empowering experiences, especially in the field of technology. We are proud to support these talented female photographers and look forwards to organizing similar events in the near future.

Computer Science curriculum recognized

AUK's CS program gets ABET renewal

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) bachelor's degree program in computer science has been renewed by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering, and engineering

ABET accreditation assures that programs meet standards to produce graduates ready to enter critical technical fields that are leading the way in innovation and emerging technologies and anticipating the welfare and

safety needs of the public. Commenting on this achievement, the dean of the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences at AUK, Dr. Mohammed El Abd, stated, "This milestone is more than just a recognition of our past and present efforts; it is also a promise for the future. With this renewal, our program is poised to continue its tradition of excellence, offering our students a competitive edge in their academic and professional pursuits. It will also enhance our ability to attract top-tier faculty and students, further enriching the educational environment here at the College of Engineering and Applied

In response to the growing demand for expertise in AI and Cybersecurity, AUK's computer science program offers a cutting-edge curriculum that integrates foundational knowledge with advanced topics in these fields. Students are provided with hands-on experiences through research projects,

internships, and industry partnerships, preparing them to tackle real-world challenges with innovative solutions.

Sought worldwide, ABET's voluntary peer-review process is highly respected because it adds critical value to academic programs in the technical disciplines, where quality, precision and safety are of the utmost importance.

Developed by technical professionals from ABET's member societies, ABET criteria focus on what students experience and learn. ABET accreditation reviews look at program curricula, faculty, facilities, and institutional support and are conducted by teams of highly skilled professionals from industry, academia and government, with expertise in the ABET dis-

ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization with ISO 9001:2015 certification. It currently accredits 4,564 programs at 895 colleges and universities in 40 countries

member societies and the accreditation criteria used to evaluate programs can be found at www.abet.org.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural, and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) currently offers 16-degree programs in various academic disciplines. AUK received its institutional accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC) in Kuwait in 2006. The College of Business & Economics is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business(AACSB); the College of Arts and Sciences is accredited by the American Academy for Liberal Education (AALE); its Bachelor of Arts in Design (concentration in graphic design) is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD); and the Intensive English Program is accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA); the Computer Science program is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). The ComputerEngineering and Electrical Engineering programs are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET

For more information about the accredited programs at AUK, please visit this link http://www.auk.edu.kw/ about-auk/accreditation

Warba launches (WAMD) service for instant transfers via mobile phone KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Warba Bank

announced the launch of the (WAMD) service for instant transfers via mobile phone (sending and receiving money via mobile phone) to other customers in Warba or any other local bank, which enhances the ease of transferring money in a smooth and fast manner.

The (WAMD) service is a new service in which both the sender and the beneficiary are registered in (WAMD) using their phone numbers linked to their bank accounts. It is a service available to all "Warba" clients who have full access to the Warba Bank mobile application, and transfers can only be made through the application, noting that payment requests are valid for 24

Nasser Maher Al-Mutawa, Chief Digital Officer at Warba Bank, said that the new service launched through the Warba Bank application is part of the Bank's commitment to provide advanced digital financial solutions and services and high-quality payment systems, adding that it is in line with Warba Bank's ongoing efforts to develop its technological infrastructure, ensuring the smooth provision of technical services across all platforms. It also

enhances Warba Bank's efforts and role in leading the digital transformation of the banking sector.

Al-Mutawa pointed out that the instant payment system (WAMD) provides added value and quality to the capabilities of the national payment

infrastructure, and contributes to providing safe advanced payment options that meet the needs of varicustomer segments, in addition to its importance in advancing the digital transfor-



mation process in Kuwait by increasing the volume of electronic financial transactions

He stated that Warba Bank seeks, through providing the (WAMD) service via mobile phone, to achieve a high level of performance that satisfies customers, and aims to provide a reliable and secure service that preserves customer

Al-Mutawa added that one of the

most prominent services provided by Warba is the ability to choose any of the active Kuwaiti Dinar accounts for transfer, and not only the account linked to the service. There are also detailed transaction records with the ability to sort transactions by type, in addition to the ability to temporarily stop the money receiving service without the need to cancel the service subscription.

Al-Mutawa noted that the customer must register and link one bank account to the service, which enables him to receive funds, adding that the Bank works around the clock to keep pace with the changing needs of its clients and raise their aspirations to the highest levels, as well as meeting their preferences as part of its constant keenness to provide the best and most advanced products and services.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leadership position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent components that make the Bank close to all members of society.



More information about ABET, its

Jude Law debuts FBI manhunt drama 'The Order' at Venice

VENICE, Italy, Sept 2, (AP): Jude Law plays an FBI agent investigating the violent crimes of a white supremacist group in "The Order," which premiered Saturday at the Venice Film Festival.

An adaptation of Kevin Flynn and Gary Gerhardt's nonfiction book "The Silent Brotherhood," Nicolas 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. His character, called Agent Huss, is an amalgam FBI agent and not based on a specific person. This, they said, was important for positioning him within this story.

"He represents an awful lot of us," Law said. "He felt his hardest work was behind him and in fact he had his biggest battle ahead

Kurzel, an Australian filmmaker known for the 2015 adaptation of "Macbeth" with Michael Fassbender, said he'd always wanted to make an American film in the vein of dramatic thrillers from the 1970s like "The French Connection," "Mississippi Burning" and "All the Presidents' Men." He tried to make this film with the classic simplicity he admired in those classics.

Hoult felt it was a "difficult story to tell and difficult characters to inhabit," but praised his director for helping to create a safe and creative environment as they explored the darkness of Mathews. He'd just recently learned, on the boat over to the Lido, that Kurzel had told Law to actually follow him around one day to get into character.

"The first time we spoke was in the first scene we interact," Hoult said. "It gave a great energy."

And all were struck by the parallels to today. Though no one wanted to comment directly on the upcoming US presidential election, the film, they hope, speaks for itself.

"The history of America is very complex," Smollett said. "This level of bigotry is not new and it has existed in our nation since it was founded. As artists we get to hold a mirror up to society.... explore the very complex sides of humanity, the ugliness, the dark-

ness in order for us to learn from it and hopefully not repeat it." "The Order" is playing in competition at Venice, alongside " Maria," "Babygirl," "The Room Next Door," "Queer" and "Joker: Folie à Deux.

Vertical Entertainment will release the film in theaters later this

LOS ANGELES: "The Fall Guy" is finally on Peacock, where it started streaming from Friday, alongside an "extended cut" version. It might not have reached the blockbuster heights the studio dreamed about during its theatrical run, but it's pure delight: A comedy, action, romance that soars thanks to the charisma of its stars. Based on the 1980s Lee Majors television series (he gets a cameo), the film features Ryan Gosling as a stunt man, Emily Blunt as his director and dream girl, Aaron Taylor-Johnson as an egotistical movie star and "Ted Lasso's" Hannah Waddingham as a Diet Coke slurping producer.

Meanwhile, Ishana Night Shyamalan's thriller, "The Watchers," in which Dakota Fanning plays an artist stranded in western Ireland where mysterious creatures lurk and stalk in the night, started streaming on MAX on Friday, Aug. 30.

Variety



Amy Ryan poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Wolfs' during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024. (AP)

Film

Swinton, Moore attend fest with Almodóvar film

movies, Deadpool can't be killed.

"Deadpool & Wolverine," one of the defining movies of the summer, ruled the box office on a weekend with quiet openings and low theater attendance as the

For the second weekend in a row, "Deadpool & Wolverine," charts, with other holdovers from \$15.2 million domestically Friday through Sunday, and it's expected to cross the domestic \$600 million mark following Monday's Labor will be one of only 16 titles to hit that milestone.

"Reagan," a biopic starring **Dennis Quaid** as the 40th US president, was the only new release competitive with holdover films that opened earlier this summer. Exceeding projections, the first full-length film about President Ronald Reagan earned \$7.4 million over the three-day weekend, with an estimated cumulative total of \$9.2 million includ-

movie positively, giving it an A CinemaScore and a 98% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes. Critics have been less receptive, giving it a 19% rating and deeming it rotten on the popular ratings site. It ranked No. 4 on the charts.

The summer movie season, which runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day, proved to be full of surprises, flops and overperformers. "Deadpool," "Despicable Me 4," "Inside Out 2," and "Twisters' brought in impressive earnings and remained on the charts for several weeks after their releases, with all four titles claiming spots in the top 10 Labor Day weekend.

"If you were to write up a blueprint of perhaps the most unpredictable summer ever, 2024 might be just that," said Paul **Dergarabedian**, senior media analyst at Comscore. "May gave us a challenge, but June, July and the beginning of August really delivered."

The cumulative summer box

LOS ANGELES: Just like in the

summer movie season came to an

records and become the best-selling the summer following behind. After six weeks in theaters, the film made

Audiences have reacted to the

anticlimactic close.

Marvel's smash hit that has shattered R-rated movie of all time, topped the Day holiday. The **Ryan Reynolds** and **Hugh Jackman** superhero flick

ing projections for Monday.

'Brutalist' makes bold statement at Venice

VENICE, Italy, Sept 2, (AP): "The Brutalist," a postwar epic about a Holocaust survivor attempting to rebuild a life in America, is a fantasy. But filmmaker Brady Corbet wishes it weren't.

"The film is about the physical manifestation of the trauma of the 20th century," Corbet said Sunday at the Venice Film Festival. "It's dedicated to the artists that didn't get to realize their vision.'

In part inspired by the late Jean-Louis Cohen's book "Architecture in Uniform," the film starring Adrien Brody as a Hungarian architect had its world premiere Sunday afternoon. Spanning decades, "The Brutalist" tells the story

of László Tóth and his attempts to pursue his art after the war in America. Brody plays Tóth, and Felicity Jones his wife, Erzsébet. He lives in nearpoverty until a wealthy industrialist, Harrison Lee Van Buren (Guy Pearce), gives him an important contract. Joe Alwyn and Alessandro Nivola also Brody said it was a character and a story he felt

an "immediate kinship and understanding for." His mother, photographer Sylvia Plachy, was a Hungarian immigrant who fled in 1956 during the anti-Soviet revolution to restart and attempt to build a life as an artist. "Even though it's fiction, it feels very real and very real to me," Brody said. "That's so important for me to

embody a character and make it real. Running 215-minutes (with a 15-minute intermission) and presented in 70mm (it was shot in Vista Vision), "The Brutalist" arrived in Venice with expectations high. Reviews were mostly positive, hailing its

ambition and Brody's performance. Even the 70mm format alone seemed like a bold statement for a film without US distribution left: Though a favorite of cinephiles, the expense seems to be reserved for a select few, like Christopher Nolan and Denis Villeneuve. In other words, not often something afforded to an indie.

Wearing sunglasses, Corbet was feeling emotional speaking about the film, which he'd worked on for seven years.

"This film does everything that we are told we are not allowed to do," said Corbet. He added that conversa-

tions about runtime are "silly." "I've read great novellas, I've read great multivolume masterpieces," Corbet said. "Maybe the next thing I make will be about 45 minutes, and I should be allowed to do that. ... As Harmony Korine once said, cinema is stuck in the birth canal. And I agree

In 2018 Corbet brought his divisive "Vox Lux," in which Natalie Portman plays a pop star who witnessed a school shooting in her youth, to Venice. He earlier premiered "The Childhood of a Leader" there. Corbet, also an actor, wrote the script with his wife Mona Fastvold, who is also a filmmaker ("The World to Come"). Corbet thanked the Venice Film Festival for supporting

"When no one was supporting these films, this festival was," he said. "It made my films possible."

"The Brutalist" is playing in competition at the festival, which is well underway having already hosted glamorous premieres with Angelina Jolie ("Maria"), Nicole Kidman ("Babygirl"), Cate Blanchett ("Disclaimer"), Jude Law ("The Order") with many more to

Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar returned to the Venice Film Festival with stars Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore on Monday. "The Room Next Door" will

have its world premiere on the Lido in the evening. Though a new Almodóvar film is always an event for cinephiles, this one has special significance: It's his English-language debut.

'My insecurity disappeared after the first table read with the actresses, with the exchange of the first indications," he wrote in his director's statement. "The language wasn't going to be a problem, and not because I master English, but because of the total disposition of the whole cast to understand me and to make it easy for me to understand them.'

Moore and Swinton play disconnected friends, who met in their youths at a magazine job, and whose lives took different paths. Ingrid (Moore) wrote novels. Martha (Swinton) became a war reporter. And now after years apart, they meet again, in New York, when Ingrid finds out Martha has cancer and is in a nearby hospital.

Over the next weeks and months, they reconnect, learning about one another's lives and Martha's estranged daughter through a series of revealing conversations.

Before the film's premiere, Swinton said that it would never have occurred to her that Almodóvar might eventually find a space for her in one of his films. She said she has "worshipped in his high church" ever since seeing "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" in the late 1980s in London. In Almodóvar was a kindred artistic spirit, she thought.

"I still feel like a student seeing his first film," Swin-

ton said. But she was English and he worked solely in Spanish. The idea of collaborating seemed like a fantasy only. Then one day, she said, she got up the nerve to say something to him.

"I said, 'Listen I'll learn Spanish for you, you can make me mute," Swinton said. "Characteristically, he laughed."

Moore added: "I don't know how I managed to walk into this world, but I felt lucky that he chose me.'

Almodóvar's last Venice appearance was in 2021, where he presented the film "Parallel Mothers," for which Penelope Cruz won its best actress prize. In 2019, Venice also gave him a lifetime achievement award. But his history with Venice stretches back 40 years

"I was born as a film director in 1983 in Venice," he said. A few years later, he'd return with the classic

"Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown." Of his latest, he wrote "Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore carry the weight of the whole film on their shoulders, and they are a spectacle. I have been fortunate in that both give a veritable recital. At times during shooting, both the crew and I were on the verge of tears watching them. It was a very moving shoot and, in

some way, blessed.' Though death looms in the film, when Martha asks Ingrid to join her in a house upstate for her final days, all felt that it's a film about life.

office clocked in at over \$3.6 billion domestically - a dip of 10% from 2023's \$4 billion season that could likely be attributed to the "Barbenheimer" box office craze that drew crowds en masse to see "Barbie" and 'Oppenheimer" last summer.

The close of the season brought what Dergarabedian described as a "stranglehold" of familiar summer



Quaid

With Us" rounding out the top three for the second weekend in a row. Six of the top 10 films of the weekend had been playing for three or more weeks. "Alien: Romulus" placed

hits on box office rankings, with

"Alien: Romulus" and "It Ends

second, earning \$9.3 million from Friday through Sunday. The sci-fi

horror film directed by Fede Álvarez and starring Cailee Spaeny, Isabela Merced and David **Jonsson**, has earned \$88.8 million

domestically.
"It Ends With Us" ranked No. 3 for the third consecutive weekend, earning just over \$7.4 million with a slight edge over "Reagan." The Sony movie starring Blake

Lively and Justin Baldoni, who also directed, is projected to reach a domestic total of \$136 million after the weekend. In a surprise bump, "Twisters" rounded out the top five with \$7.2 million in its seventh week in theaters. Glen Powell and Daisy Edgar-Jones star in the standalone sequel to the 1996 hit "Twister." (AP)

Researchers explore Mitochondria's role in Parkinson's treatment

Key protein discovery could lead to Parkinson's treatments

By Rebecca Zhangqiuzi Fan and Kim Tieu

Florida International University The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analy-

sis and commentary from academic experts.

In 1817, a British physician named James Parkinson published An Essay on the Shaking Palsy, describing for the first time cases of a neurodegenerative disorder now known as Parkinson's disease. Today, Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the US. It affects about 1 million Americans and more than 10 million people worldwide.

The signature shaking in patients with the disease is the result of dying brain cells that control movement. To date, there are no treatments available that can

stop or slow down the death of those cells.

We are researchers who study Parkinson's disease. For over a decade, our lab has been investigating the role that mitochondria - the powerhouses that fuel cells

- play in Parkinson's. Our research has identified a key protein that could lead to new treatments for

Parkinson's disease and other brain conditions. Unlike actual power plants, which are set in size and location, mitochondria are rather dynamic. They constantly shift in size, number and location, traveling between many different parts of the cells to meet different demands. These mitochondrial dynamics are vital to not only the function of mitochondria but also the

A cell is like a factory. Multiple departments must seamlessly work together for smooth operations. Because many major processes interconnect, impaired mitochondrial dynamics could cause a domino effect across departments and vice versa. Collective malfunction in different parts of the cell eventually leads to cell

Emerging studies have linked imbalances in mitochondrial processes to different neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson's disease. In many neurodegenerative disorders, certain disease-related factors, such as toxic proteins and environmental neurotoxins, disrupt the harmony of mitochondrial fusion and

Impaired mitochondrial dynamics also take down the cell's cleaning and waste recycling processes, leading to a pileup of toxic proteins that form harmful aggregates inside the cell. In Parkinson's, the presence of these toxic protein aggregates is a hallmark of the disease.

Our team hypothesized that restoring mitochondrial function by manipulating its own dynamics could protect against neuronal dysfunction and cell death.

In an effort to restore mitochondrial function in Parkinson's, we targeted a key protein that controls mitochondrial dynamics called dynamin-related protein 1, or Drp1. Naturally abundant in cells, this protein travels to mitochondria when they divide into smaller sizes for higher mobility and quality control. However, too much Drp1 activity causes excessive division, leading to fragmented mitochondria with impaired function.

Using different lab models of Parkinson's, including neuronal cell cultures and rat and mice models, we found that the presence of environmental toxins and toxic proteins linked to Parkinson's cause mitochondria to become fragmented and dysfunctional. Their presence also coincided with the buildup of those same toxic proteins, worsening the health of neuronal cells until they eventually started dying.

We also observed behavior changes in rats that impaired their movements. By reducing the activity of Drp1, however, we were able to restore mitochondria to their normal activity and function. Their neurons were protected from disease and able to continue functioning.

In our 2024 study, we found an additional benefit of targeting Drp1.

We exposed neuronal cells to manganese, a heavy metal linked to neurodegeneration and an increased risk of parkinsonism. Surprisingly, we found that manganese was more harmful to the cell's waste recycling system than to its mitochondria, causing buildup of toxic proteins before mitochondria became dysfunctional. Inhibiting Drp1, however, coaxed the waste recycling system back into action, cleaning up toxic proteins despite the presence of manganese.

Our findings indicate that inhibiting Drp1 from more than one pathway could protect cells from degeneration. Now, we've identified some FDA-approved compounds that target Drp1 and are testing them as potential treatments for Parkinson's. (AP)

Support system helps

Giving up pets for rehab can exacerbate trauma

DENVER, Sept 2, (AP): Simon Rubick had lost almost everything to decades of alcoholism and drug addiction.

In 2022, he found himself without a vehicle and without a home, which forced his two teenage children to move in with friends. He had burned bridges with friends and family and it took a drug-induced stint in the hospital for him to realize his cocaine addiction was going to be a "death sen-

Rubick, who lives in the Denver suburb of Arvada, Colorado, knew he needed help. But first he had to figure out what to do with one of the only sources of unconditional love and support he had left: his beloved German shepherd rescue, Tonks.

Most residential rehab centers in the United States don't allow patients to bring their pets along, said Rubick, 51. So when his brother could no longer help care for the dog, Rubick thought he would have to make the excruciating decision to give up Tonks.

Connected

"It basically came down to being able to take care of my dog or being able to take care of myself," he said.

Rubick - who has been sober for more than two years and is now an addiction recovery coach - was connected to the group PAWsitive Recovery, which fosters animals while their owners receive treatment for drug and alcohol abuse, and for people dealing with domestic violence or mental health crises.

"People that are trying to get into recovery sometimes have lost their families, their children, any kind of support system that they have had," said Serena Saunders, the organization's program manager. "You're not going to compound trauma that you've already had by giving up the one thing that hasn't given up on you, and that's people's animals.

Saunders founded PAWsitive Recovery in Denver three years ago. Since then, it's helped more than 180 people and their pets, and Saunders said the group has looked to expand nationally after it became a part of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International. The organization, whose largest foster network is in Colorado but accepts applications nationwide, is one of just a few programs in the U.S. that cares for the pets of people seeking treatment for substance abuse.

Saunders' own experience with drug and alcohol addiction has helped her tailor the program. She said she had a "pretty broken childhood," with her mother being schizophrenic and ad'Explicit images'

Al tools purged of 'child abuse' links

NEW YORK, Sept 2: Artificial intelligence researchers said recently that they have deleted more than 2,000 web links to suspected child sexual abuse imagery from a dataset used to train popular AI image-generator tools.

The LAION research dataset is a huge index of online images and captions that's been a source for leading AI image-makers such as Stable Diffusion and Midjourney.

But a report last year by the Stanford Internet Observatory found it contained links to sexually explicit images of children, contributing to the ease with which some AI tools have been able to produce photorealistic deepfakes that depict children.

That December report led LAION, which stands for the nonprofit Largescale Artificial Intelligence Open Network, to immediately remove its dataset. Eight months later, LAION said in a blog post that it worked with the Stanford University watchdog group and anti-abuse organizations in Canada and the United Kingdom to fix the problem and release a cleaned-up dataset for future AI research.

Stanford researcher David Thiel, author of the December report, commended LAION for significant improvements but said the next step is to withdraw from distribution the "tainted models" that are still able to produce child abuse imagery.

dicted to methamphetamine and her father also struggling with addiction. She sought comfort in alcohol when she was about 12 and was using hard drugs by the time she was 14.

"Addiction just gave me trauma after trauma," said Saunders, now 41.

Saunders was seeing a therapist for her depression and PTSD when a fortuitous session planted the seed of PAWsitive Recovery. With a background in veterinary and shelter medicine, which focuses on caring for homeless animals, she told her therapist she wanted to incorporate her love of dogs in her recovery. "And that's what we did," said Saunders, who fostered Tonks for several months while Rubick was in treatment and facilitated visits between the two best friends.

change complicate 'clean beauty' EAST GARAFRAXA, Ontario, Sept 2, (AP): Julie Thurgood-Burnett had no idea that her COVID-19 lockdown whim of starting a lavender patch on

her husband's family farm outside Toronto would turn into a small business. She had never been a farmer, but before long she had a bright purple field and a new hobby of creating lavender oil for her friends and family, who liked it so much she ran out.

And then she had a brand, Hereward Farms, which she wanted to be "authentically sustainable." To her that meant avoiding plastic packaging, even though it would have been cheaper. It also meant sourcing as many raw ingredients from Canada as possible, which turned out to be much harder than she expected. She was able to get Canadian-made beeswax and sunflower oil, and work with a Canadian supplier, but not everything comes from Canada. Most of Hereward's essential oils and all of its dried flowers (except lavender, of course) come from the United States

"You go down this dark hole of trying to figure out where things are sourced from," she said.

Sustainability

It's a challenge for small brands with environmentally friendly values because the beauty industry, worth billions of dollars and dominated by a few major brands, has an uglier underbelly. It can be nearly impossible to trace some ingredients to their source, according to supply chain experts. The making and disposing of cosmetics contributes to planet-warming carbon emissions, deforestation, pollution and waste. Climate change in turn is exacerbating extreme weather events like heat, drought and flooding that disrupt production. And there's little regulation governing beauty products in many countries. But despite the uphill battle, many business owners who care about being eco-friendly are trying their best to tackle these problems.

Consumers have begun demanding sustainability and transparency from their beloved multi-step skincare routines, seeking out what's popularly known as "clean beauty". But dubious claims about "green" and "pure" products abound.

Dale Rogers, a professor in the business school at Arizona State University who studies supply chains, gave the example of "sustainable" palm oil, an ingredient commonly featured in eco-

Hair-straightening chemicals raise concern

Some keep trying despite challenges

Complex supply chains & climate

FDA delays ban on toxic hair products

ing treatments in part because of hair

of unprofessional work hairstyles, you'll

be besieged by images of Black women,"

said Pressley, who also believes another

delay could cause more health issues for

communities of color. "Everything from

protective styles, Senegalese twists or

braids like I wore for many years, or af-

ros or locs ... I just want everyone to be

able to show up fully, authentically and

unapologetically, without fear and with-

"If you do a Google search right now

discrimination.

NEW YORK, Sept 2, (AP): Two US House members who first pushed the Food and Drug Administration in 2023 to investigate the health risks of hair straighteners used primarily by Black women are now asking the agency why it has twice delayed its target date to propose a ban on products containing formaldehyde, which studies link to increased rates of cancer.

Democratic Reps. Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Shontel Brown of Ohio pressed the FDA in a letter to finalize the proposed rule for banning certain salon-grade and at-home hair straighteners. Rep. Nydia Velazquez of New York joined Pressley and Brown in spearheading the letter, which was dated Tuesday.

The FDA gave notice of a possible rule in 2023 with an initial target date to release the proposal in April. That was then moved to July before jumping to September. The letter from Pressley, Brown and

Velazquez - all of whom are up for reelection this year - asks FDA Commissioner Robert Califf to provide specific reasons for the delay. Pressley told The Associated Press

that Black women look to straighten-

out discrimination.' Agenda It isn't uncommon for the FDA to

have items on the regulatory agenda for years. For example, the draft of a proposed ban on menthol cigarettes came out in 2022, but the target date on finalizing the rule was pushed back twice before it was indefinitely delayed in April.

When asked about the letter, an FDA spokesperson told the AP that agency officials would respond directly to lawmakers. Last month, the agency said the proposed ban was still among its top priorities and in the rulemaking process, but couldn't comment to the AP on the timing or content of the

Black women and women of other ethnicities have used chemical hairstraightening treatments for decades. and many of the relaxers, creams and keratin treatments contain formaldehyde - a chemical used in pesticides and to preserve dead bodies A 2022 study from the National

Institutes of Health found people who used hair straighteners had an increased risk of developing uterine cancer. A 2023 study from Boston University found that postmenopausal women who used relaxers most often had a greater than 50% increased risk of uterine cancer compared to those who seldom used them.

Thousands of lawsuits allege that beauty companies that make some of the hair straighteners misrepresented "health impacts" of the products, and exposed plaintiffs to chemicals that increased the risk of uterine and ovarian cancers. Some also claim they experienced infertility after using the products.

In a social media video from October, the FDA reminded people that no ban was in place yet, and that the agency planned to work with and encourage the cosmetics industry to develop

alternative straightening products.

friendly cosmetics brands. "There's sustainability certification groups that will certify ingredients. So palm oil might be sustainably sourced, for example, but then it gets blended with other palm oil and you start to lose track," he said.

"Very few" major beauty companies are doing the kind of research needed to actually know where their materials come from, said Bindiya Vakil, CEO and founder of Resilinc, a company that maps supply chains for businesses. And Vakil said that even when big companies are willing to support the effort to trace ingredients to their origins, suppliers aren't always willing to answer those questions. Investigating entities can then turn to public domain information to try to fill in the gaps, but it's imperfect.

And "brands are changing their suppliers all the time," said Homer Swei, senior and consumer safety science at the Environmental Working Group, which offers a third-party certification for beauty products focused on human health. "So even if you spend \$1 billion to define the supply chain today, tomorrow will be different and it'll be obsolete.' Legislation in some countries can

vice president of healthy living science

crack down on companies, making it illegal for them to source from suppliers that, for example, use forced labor or harmful chemicals. But environmental regulations lag behind, and profit motives and the promise of sustainable branding claims "align against greater disclosure," Vakil said.

Any third party can create their own certification or sustainability effort, including beauty companies themselves. The Estée Lauder Companies is a founding member of an initiative called the Traceability Alliance for Sustainable Cosmetics, according to Meghan Ryan, their executive director of responsible sourcing. It's not a certification, but asks suppliers to voluntarily input information about their production and "uses a variety of tools to conduct due diligence," she said in a statement. Major beauty retailers Sephora and

Ulta Beauty both have labels on certain products calling them "Planet Aware" or "Conscious Beauty," respectively, but neither company would answer questions from The Associated Press about why certain criteria for those designations were chosen, how many of their total product offerings get those labels and whether they have plans to expand the number of those types of products.



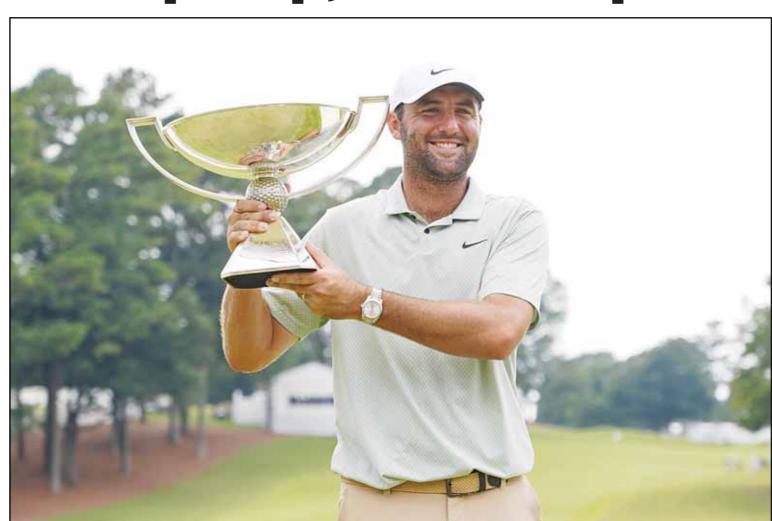




Reese becomes WNBA's single-season rebounding leader in Sky's loss to Lynx

Charles, Howard power Dream to victory over Sparks

Scheffler captures the Tour Champ'ship, FedEx Cup title



Scottie Scheffler poses with the FedExCup Trophy after the final round of the Tour Championship golf tournament in Atlanta. (AP)

Ryu rebounds in Boston

ATLANTA, Sept 2, (AP): Scottie Scheffler capped off the biggest year in golf in nearly two decades by winning the biggest prize in golf.

Challenged briefly Sunday in the Tour Championship, Scheffler responded with three straight birdies to make winning look as inevitable as it has seemed all year. He closed with a 4-under 67 for a four-shot victory over Collin Morikawa to capture the FedEx Cup and its \$25 million prize.

including bonuses, to just over \$62.3

It was the greatest year since Tiger Woods won eight times in 2006, including six in a row and two majors. Scheffler's eight wins included the Masters, The Players Championship, an Olympic gold medal and the Tour Championship that enabled him to finally claim the FedEx Cup.

His seven PGA Tour titles are the most since Woods in 2007.

GOLF

This was the third straight year Scheffler came to East Lake as the top seed, meaning he started the tournament at 10-under par with a two-shot lead. Two years ago, he lost a six-shot lead in the final round to McIlroy.

Morikawa, the No. 7 seed who started the tournament six shots behind, closed with a 66 and had the lowest score of the Tour Championship at 22-under 262. He won \$12.5 million for finishing second in the FedEx Cup.

Haeran Ryu rebounded from a thirdround meltdown to win the FM Championship at the rainy TPC

Four strokes behind Jin Young Ko entering play Sunday after blowing a six-stroke lead Saturday, Ryu closed with an 8-under 64 to match Ko at 15-under 273, then beat the fellow South Korean player with a par on the first hole of a playoff.

On the extra hole in fading light, Ryu hit her 120-yard third shot to 12 feet on the par-5 18th, then watched Ko fire her 111-yard approach over the back of the green. Ko chipped to about 30 feet and made bogey, with Ryu then lagging her birdie putt to a foot and tapping in for her second LPGA Tour victory.

Ryu shot a career-best 62 on Friday to take the six-stroke lead into the weekend, then had a 78 on Saturday. On Sunday, the 23-year-old birdied the first four holes and six of the first eight. 15, dropped a stroke on the par-3 16th, then - after a rain delay of a little over

two hours - parred the final two holes. Ko, the former world No. 1 who hasn't won on the LPGA Tour since May 2023, missed an 8-foot birdie try for the victory on 18 in regulation. She

Niklas Norgaard held his nerve after botching three chip shots for a double bogey, finishing birdie-par for an evenpar 72 and a two-shot victory over Thriston Lawrence of South Africa in the British Masters.

It was the first European tour victory for the 32-year-old from Denmark, and Norgaard had to sweat it out more than expected.

Norgaard had a four-shot lead and was over the green in two at the par-5 15th until he shockingly took four chips to reach the green - two of them moving only a few feet - and made double bogey as his lead dropped to two shots.

bunker on the par-5 17th and avoided drama on the 18th.

Norgaard finished on 16-under 272. Lawrence closed with a 70, while Rasmus Hojgaard of Denmark took third with a 65.

Mimi Rhodes rallied from a 3-down



Haeran Ryu, of South Korea, follows her ball after hitting on the 15th fairway during the final round of the FM Championship LPGA golf tournament at TPC Boston in Norton, Mass. (AP)

deficit and holed an 18-foot par putt that secured the half-point Great Britain and Ireland needed to win the Curtis Cup against the Americans on Sunday, its first time capturing the cup in eight years.

GB&I wound up with a 10 1/2-9 1/2 victory at Sunningdale and made Catriona Matthew the first winning captain of the Curtis Cup for amateurs and the Solheim Cup for professionals.

The Americans, trailing 7-5 going into the eight singles matches, led early in five of the opening six matches and picked up its first point when 15-yearold Asterisk Talley took down Lottie Woad, the No. 1 player in the women's amateur ranking.

GB&I showed its resolve, particularly Rhodes. She rallied and was 1 up on the 17th when she drove into the trees, pitched out and hit an approach to 18 feet. The par putt assured GB&I the half-point it needed to win.

The Americans still lead, 33-9-3, in a series that dates to 1932.

Yahui Zhang of China held on to win the Four Winds Invitational for her first Epson Tour title, closing with a 3-over 75 for a one-stroke victory. The 18-year-old Zhang jumped from ninth to first on the money list to wrap up an LPGA Tour card for next season. She finished at 6-under 210 at South Bend Country Club in Indiana.

Kensei Hirata was declared the 36-hole winner of the Fujisankei Classic on the Japan Golf Tour after rain washed out the final round. He had rounds of 68-63. Shaun Norris finished two behind.

Steve Lewton of England won his first Asian Tour title in 10 years when he recovered from a double bogey on the final hole to make birdie on the second playoff hole and win the Mandiri Indonesia Open over Aaron Wilkin and Sampson Zhang.

Pauline Roussin-Bouchard of France rallied with an 8-under 65 and beat Annabel Dimmock in a playoff to win the KPMG Women's Irish Open on the Ladies European Tour.

LOS ANGELES, Sept 2, (AP): Tina Charles had 23 points and 10 rebounds, Rhyne Howard scored 19 and the Atlanta Dream beat the Los Angeles Sparks 80-62 on Sunday night to pull into a tie for the final WNBA playoff

Charles shot 11 for 17 shots from the floor for Atlanta (11-21) on the way to her 13th double-double of the season. She made five 3-pointers and grabbed seven rebounds to help the Dream end a three-game skid.

Allisha Gray had 12 points and Naz Hillmon pitched in with 10 points and nine rebounds for the Dream, who tied Chicago for the last playoff spot after the Sky lost 79-74 to the Minnesota

Lynx earlier Sunday.

Li Yueru had 14 points to lead Los
Angeles (7-25). Rookie Rickea Jackson scored 13 on 5-for-16 shooting.

Howard opened the game with a 3-pointer and Charles followed with three straight baskets as Atlanta jumped out to a 9-0 lead. Odyssey Sims hit a jumper for Los Angeles to end the run, but Charles had 14 points and Howard scored nine by the end of the first quarter for a 25-12 advantage.

The duo combined for 32 points and 10 rebounds by halftime and Atlanta led 46-30.

BASKETBALL

Gray made a 3-pointer to begin the third quarter, Hillmon and Charles had back-to-back baskets and Atlanta scored the first seven points to push its lead to 23. The Sparks fell behind by 27 before a 10-2 run over the final 4:26 cut the deficit to 64-45 with one quarter to play. Lynx 79, Sky 74

In Minneapolis, Angel Reese became the WNBA's single-season rebounding leader with eight games left in the Chicago Sky's loss to the Minnesota Lynx, who got 22 points from Courtney Williams.

Reese finished with 17 points and 19 rebounds for her 24th double-double, a league rookie record. She has 418 rebounds for an average of 13.1 per game, with her total surpassing Sylvia Fowles' record of 404 in 2018. The 6-foot-3 Reese also broke the record for offensive rebounds with 165, passing Yolanda Griffiths (162 in 2001).

Reese and A'ja Wilson of the Las Vegas Aces are the only players in the league with at least four games of 15plus points and 15-plus rebounds this

Williams tied a season high in scoring for the Lynx. Kayla McBride added 17 points and Napheesa Collier scored 15 for Minnesota (24-9).

The Lynx, who had their six-game win streak snapped Friday with a 94-76 loss to Dallas, are a league-best 8-1

since the Olympic break.

Fever 100, Wings 93

In Arlington, Caitlin Clark had 28 points and 12 assists and the Indiana Fever overcame a record-tying nine 3-pointers from Arike Ogunbowale in victory over the Dallas Wings.

Kelsey Mitchell scored 36 points, including a 3 that gave the Fever a four-point lead with 1:58 remaining in a meeting of teams that entered with matching three-game winning streaks.

Ogunbowale finished 9 of 16 from long range - beating her previous career best of seven 3s - and scored 34 points. The All-Star Game MVP missed two attempts at a record 10th 3-pointer, including one with the Wings trailing by six in the final minute.



Indiana Fever's Caitlin Clark (22) works for a shot as Dallas Wings Jacy Sheldon, left, defends in the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Ogunbowale, who tied a career high with eight rebounds, matched the league record for 3s held by Mitchell (2019) and Seattle's Jewell Loyd (2023).

Clark was coming off a career-high 31 points in a win over fellow rookie of the year contender Angel Reese and the Chicago Sky.

She set a WNBA record with 19 assists in her first regular-season visit to Texas in the game before the Olympic break, a 101-93 Indiana loss when the Fever were on the edge of the playoff picture.

Aces 97, Mercury 79

In Phoenix, A'ja Wilson scored 41 points on 16-of-23 shooting and grabbed 17 rebounds, Jackie Young added 11 points and a career-best 14 assists, and the Las Vegas Aces beat the Phoenix Mercury . Wilson, who scored a season-high

42 points in a 93-90 loss to Dallas on Tuesday, exceeded 40 points for the second time in three games. Kelsey Plum finished with 16 points

and five assists and Tiffany Hayes scored 11 points for the Aces (20-12), who have won back-to-back games for the first time since winning four straight from July 7-14. Brittney Griner led Phoenix (16-17)

with 24 points on 10-of-13 shooting. Sophie Cunningham made 4 of 6 from 3-point range and finished with 16 points, and Kahleah Copper scored 15.

Las Vegas shot 56% (37 of 66) from the field, hit 11 3-pointers and finished with 32 assists

with 32 assists.

Sun 93, Storm 86

In Uncasville, Brionna Jones scored a season-high 26 points on 9-of-13 shooting to help the Connecticut Sun beat the Seattle Storm.

Marina Mabrey added 15 points and DiJonai Carrington scored 14 for Connecticut (24-8).

Gabby Williams made 2 of 3 free throws to cut Seattle's deficit to 89-86 with 23.1 seconds to play but the Storm didn't score again.

Carrington made a layup about a minute into the second quarter that made it 24-22 and Connecticut led the rest of the way. The Storm made just 5 of 15 from the field and committed five turnovers during the period as the Sun took a 42-34 lead into halftime.

Jewell Loyd scored 27 points on 8-of-16 shooting to lead the Storm. Nneka Ogwumike finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds, Skylar Diggins-Smith added 16 points and Ezi Magbegor scored 13.

Kuwait Club gears up for Asian Champ'ship

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ISTANBUL, Sept 2: Kuwait Club is intensifying its daily training at its current camp in Turkey as it prepares for the 24th Asian Clubs Volleyball Championship, set to take place in Yazd, Iran, from September 8-15.

The Asian Volleyball Federation released the tournament schedule two days ago. Kuwait Club will kick off the competition by facing Kazakhstan's

VOLLEYBALL

Pavlodar team in the preliminary round of Group One on September 9. It will then play against Jakarta Bhayangkara of Indonesia on September 10, followed by a match against Iran's Shah-

Group Two features Iraq's Gas Al-Janub, Qatar's Al-Rayyan, Afghani-



Kuwait Club preparing for the championship.

stan's Kam Air, and Iran's Foolad Sirjan. As part of its preparation, Kuwait Club played its first friendly match in the Turkish camp against Istanbul Spor and is scheduled to face the same team again tomorrow.

Udinese pips promoted Como

Juve draws with Roma to maintain unbeaten streak

ROME, Sept 2, (AP): For Thiago Motta's Juventus, it was a well-earned point that kept the Bianconeri unbeat-

For Daniele De Rossi's Roma, it was a step in the right direction after a dif-

ficult start to the season. Juventus was held to a 0-0 draw at home by Roma in Serie A with each

side producing only one shot on goal. Roma dominated the possession early on before Juventus grew more dan-

gerous through Dusan Vlahovic. De Rossi kept former Juventus for-

ward Paulo Dybala on the bench at the start then sent the Argentina international, who recently turned down an offer from Saudi Arabia, on midway through the second half.

But Dybala produced little with both sides slowing down by then on a warm evening in Turin.

Juventus moved level on seven points with defending champion Inter Milan, Torino and Udinese in Motta's first season since coming over from Bologna. Winless Roma, which was com-

ing off a dispiriting defeat at home to Empoli, has two points in De Rossi's second campaign after replacing Jose Mourinho in January.

SOCCER

Having grown more offensive under De Rossi last season, Roma has produced only one goal in three matches this season.

Udinese beat promoted Como 1-0 with a first-half volley from Brenner. Como forward Patrick Cutrone missed a late penalty.

Alex survives early electrical issue

Palou takes IndyCar points lead into season finale

WEST ALLIS, Sept 2, (AP): Alex Palou was helpless as he sat in the cockpit of his disabled car watching his hold on the IndyCar championship

slip away. The second of two races at the Milwaukee Mile was about to begin and the Spaniard's car suddenly lost power. He was stuck. The car wouldn't start.

And rival Will Power was going to take control of the title race.

At least that's how it seemed. Chip Ganassi Racing changed a battery inside Palou's car and he rejoined the action 29 laps into the race Sunday. By that time, Power had taken the race lead and wiped out all of Palou's 43-point lead in the standings.

Attrition and Power's own mistake dramatically changed outcome.

Palou watched car after car retire from the race and finished 19th. Power, on a restart, inexplicably spun on his own. The Australian fell a lap off the pace, finished 10th, and ultimately only cut Palou's lead to 33 points with the season finale remaining.

What could have been a dead-heat headed into the Sept. 15 finale at Nashville Superspeedway is still Palou's championship to lose. Scott McLaughlin, Power's team-

mate at Team Penske, won for the third time this season. He beat Scott Dixon, Palou's teammate at Ganassi, in a 1-2 finish for New Zealanders.

For Dixon, who made his 400th career start on Saturday, his 142nd podium passed Mario Andretti for most in series history.

MOTOR RACING

But this race was primarily about the championship and Palou somehow recovered from a nearly catastrophic issue. IndyCar midway through the season introduced a new hybrid engine and teams had been greatly concerned it would have a negative impact on the championship.

The engine failed on Dixon's car in its debut race in July and Dixon said when he saw Palou stranded, he twice asked his team what had happened.

"I was kind of trying to make sure we weren't doing the same thing, making sure it wasn't the same problem I had at Mid-Ohio," Dixon said. When told the Ganassi team changed a battery in Palou's car, Dixon said it could still be related to the hybrid. Palou is the reigning IndyCar cham-

pion and is seeking a third title in four

years. Power is a two-time champion and winner in 2022, sandwiched between Palou's two titles. Colton Herta of Andretti Global was third. Santino Ferrucci finished fourth for the second day in a row as he continues to put A.J. Foyt Racing solidly

in the standings that will earn the or-

ganization a critical end-of-season

Marcus Ericsson of Andretti was fifth and followed by Alexander Rossi of Arrow McLaren, Rinus VeeKay of Ed Carpenter Racing, Kyle Kirkwood of Andretti and Romain Grosjean of Juncos Hollinger Racing.

reer IndyCar podium on Saturday with Conor Daly's third-place finish. But Daly's car had mechanical problems and he finished 17th on Sunday. Pato O'Ward, winner Saturday, also had mechanical problems and

failed to finish the race. Eight cars

The Juncos team scored its first ca-

retired after Palou's initial electrical issue, and that, combined with Power's spin, kept Palou in control of the championship. Josef Newgarden was the pole-sitter but had to wait until the sixth lap to go

green because of Palou's early issue. But there was confusion at the start as the green LED light showed that Newgarden could launch, but an official in the flagstand was clearly waving

a yellow flag. Newgarden thought the start had been called off didn't seem to go. While some cars behind him also slowed, others didn't and it created a pileup that crashed Newgarden out for the second consecutive day.

The Sept. 15 season finale at Nashville Superspeedway, which took the place on the IndyCar calendar of what was supposed to be a downtown street race. But the NFL's Titans have both a home game that day, and construction on a new stadium made portions of downtown unusable and so ÎndyCar returns to the short track in Lebanon, Tennessee, for the first time since 2008. Scott Dixon won the final three races at the Nashville oval.

Grigor Dimitrov, of Bulgaria, serves to Andrey Rubley, of Russia, during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 1, in



Zheng Qinwen, of China, reacts against Donna Vekic, of Croatia, during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Al-Arabi

has finalized its roster of foreign

players by signing Mauritanian

midfielder Abdullah Mahmoud.

Mahmoud, who will join the Ni-

gerian Anabo Ayewala, Algeri-

SOCCER

ans Ahmed Khaldi and Sofiane

Bouchar, and Moroccan Hamza

Khaba, brings additional depth to

The 23-year-old Mahmoud pre-

viously played professionally with

Spanish club Deportivo Alaves in

2020. He missed the 2023 African

Navarro ends Coco title defense

Tiafoe eliminates Popyrin



Frances Tiafoe, of the United States, returns a shot to Alexei Popyrin, of Australia, during the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New

TENNIS

It was the latest in a series of early-for-her exits in recent weeks, including bowing out in the third round at the Paris Olympics, then going 1-2 at hard-court tuneup

ners, 14.

NEW YORK, Sept 2, (AP): This is pretty much all anyone needs to know about defending champion Coco Gauff's 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 loss to Emma Navarro in the U.S. Open's fourth roundy: Gauff wound up with more double-faults, 19, than win-

events before arriving in New York.

The 20-year-old from Florida did fight her way back into the match with a four-game run in which she claimed 14 of 17 points and grabbed the second set.

After each of her past two contests in New York, Gauff headed back out onto the practice courts to work on her serve. That didn't help much on Sunday, when she tied her career high for double-faults: She also had 19 in a loss at the 2020 French Open. Against Navarro, Gauff delivered a trio of double-faults in four different games. Eleven of the double-faults came in the final set alone.

Gauff attributed her problems to a mix of issues with her mechanics - "I go down on my left side a lot on my serve, and it's something I'm aware of, but it's tough in the

Cup of Nations in Côte d'Ivoire ear-

lier this year due to a double frac-

ture in his left arm sustained during

a pre-tournament friendly against

This signing follows Al-Arabi's

decision to part ways with Brazil-

ian player Carlos Alberto "Jaco"

and Egyptian Abdel-Rahman

Khaled "Jebna" due to their un-

satisfactory performance, leading

to their departure from the team

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi continues its

rigorous training schedule under the

guidance of national coach Nasser

Al-Shatti. Additionally, Ahmed Al-

Shawaf, the goalkeeper from the

under-17 team, has rejoined training

after a hiatus due to academic com-

moment to, I guess, try not to do it," she explained - and in her

She finished with a total of 60 unforced errors - a whopping 29 on her forehand side.

The 23-year-old Navarro, who also eliminated Gauff in the fourth round at Wimbledon in July, was far steadier on Sunday, although she still did have 35 unforced

"It was a little bit of a battle of will there for a bit. But proud of just my effort today," said Navarro, a U.S. teammate of Gauff's at the Paris Games. "I was able to stick in there through some tough moments." This result follows a third-round loss by defending men's champion Novak Djokovic, meaning the lengthy droughts without anyone winning consecutive titles in New York will continue. The last woman to win at least two in a row was Serena Williams with three from 2012-14; the last man to do so was Roger Federer with five from 2004-08.

Frances Tiafoe eliminated No 28 seed Alexei Popyrin, the player who stunned Djokovic, with a 6-4, 7-6 (3), 2-6, 6-3 victory on Sunday night. The No. 20 seed advanced to his third straight U.S. Open quarterfinal and will play No. 9 Grigor Dimitrov, who held off Andrey Rublev 6-3, 7-6 (3), 1-6, 3-6, 6-3 with 23-time Grand Slam champion Williams watching and offering a thumbs-up at match's

Also moving was No. 12 Taylor Fritz, who beat three-time Grand Slam finalist Casper Ruud 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2. Fritz's quarterfinal opponent will be 2020 U.S. Open runner-up Alexander Zverev, who got past Brandon Nakashima 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

The Wimbledon win over Gauff earned Navarro, the 2021 NCAA singles champion for the University of Virginia, her first appearance in a major quarterfinal. Her second will come Tuesday in New York against No. 26 Paula Badosa, a 6-1, 6-2 winner against Wang Yafan. The other women's match that day will be between No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka - she was last year's runner-up to Gauff and beat Elise Mertens 6-2, 6-4

The quarterfinals will give Navarro another chance to play at Arthur Ashe Stadium in front of a big crowd. She'd never hit a ball in the place until Sunday - and felt rather at ease, anyway.

Sure didn't perform that way. Gauff was the one who was unable to bring her best.

Tunisian candidates in the running

Al-Qadisiya parts ways with Al-Mishaan

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Al-Qadisiya has mutually agreed to terminate the contract of its coach, Mohammed Al-Mishaan, effective yesterday. The club is now considering three Tunisian coaches as potential replacements: Qais Al-Yaqoubi, Nabil Al-Kouki, and Mondher Al-Kabeer.

Al-Kouki was previously a candidate for the coaching position at Kazma but was ultimately passed over in favor of his compatriot, Saad Al-Shabi

Al-Mishaan is the second coach to leave during the current Zain Premier League season, following the resignation of Kazma's coach, Mohammed Dahilis, who was replaced by

Al-Oadisiva has expressed its gratitude to Al-Mishaan for his tenure, Cup last season, and wished him success in his future coaching endeavors. The club indicated that the deci-



Mohammed Al-Mishaan

sion to part ways was mutual, though no specific reasons were given.

The team's performance in the

Zain League has been inconsistent.

Additionally, fans have expressed

dissatisfaction with the performance of some foreign players and are calling for the signing of high-quality professionals before the summer transfer window closes on Septem-

It began the season with a narrow

defeat to Kuwait Club, followed by

a hard-fought victory over Al-Yar-

mouk, and then a loss to Al-Arabi.

This uneven performance has led to

criticism from fans, who are urging

the board to take action to "rescue"

the team. Compounding the situa-

tion, Al-Qadisiya also suffered a de-

feat to Al-Sahel in a recent friendly

SOCCER

Al-Mishaan took over at Al-

Qadisiya midway through last sea-

son, coming from Al-Salmiya after

the departure of coach Muhammad

Ibrahim, who left for treatment in

match.

Quiet transfer window in Saudi Arabia

Haif Al-Hajraf seeks unified effort to revive Al-Jahra Club

Al-Arabi sign Mauritanian midfielder

Mahmoud, completes foreign roster

Tunisia.

within a week.

mitments

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Former Al-Jahra Club President Mohammed Haif Al-Hajraf has extended an invitation to all previous club presidents for a meeting at his office next week to address the club's deteriorating situation.

Al-Hajraf, during this gathering, is calling on all parties involved in the club's ongoing legal disputes to unite in forming a temporary committee that would oversee the club's management, ensuring representation from all sides.

In a press statement, Al-Hajraf mentioned that he met with the acting director of the Sports Authority, Bashar Abdullah to present this initiative. Abdullah expressed his support, stating that he is in favor of any measures that would resolve the issues facing Al-Jahra Club. Al-Hajraf further criticized the

current bylaws, highlighting a significant legislative flaw that removed the Sports Authority's supervisory role over elections, leaving the process in the hands of electoral committees that lack the necessary experience and re-

He emphasized that both he and the former club presidents maintain neutrality in the conflict, not favoring any side, but expressed



Mohammed Haif Al-Hajraf

concern over the club's deteriorating condition. Al-Hajraf pointed out that the club's players have become targets for other clubs seeking to sign them due to the failure to register them in the club's records with the federations. Additionally, the suspension of salaries for the club's employees and coaches due to the lack of recognized management has created an urgent need for swift action by the club's leadership to rescue it from its current dire state.

SPL remains as ambitious as ever: **CEO**

RIYADH, Sept 2, (AP): Despite a relatively quiet transfer window in Saudi Arabia, the arrival of Ivan Toney and Joao Cancelo shows that the ambitions of the cash-rich Saudi Pro League remain as high as ever, according to league chief executive Omar Mugharbel.

August ended with Al-Ahli of Jeddah paying London club Brentford a reported 40 million euros (\$44 million) for Toney on Friday, three days after Premier League champion Manchester City sold Cancelo to Riyadh's Al-Hilal.

"This is only the beginning with more transfers on the pitch and more development off the pitch," Mughar-bel told The Associated Press as the SPL summer transfer window ended

Still, the amount spent by the 18 SPL clubs in this transfer window is expected to only be about a third of what they splashed out last summer, when they went on a \$957 million shopping spree that resulted in huge stars such as Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante, Neymar and Riyad Mahrez joining Cristiano Ronaldo who signed for Al-Nassr in December 2022

No such megastars joined this

time, with players such as Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior opting to stay at their European clubs.

Until Toney arrived, the most significant signing was Al-Ittihad paying \$60 million to Aston Villa for French winger Moussa Diaby.

'The reality is that there have been a lot of signings this summer but maybe not the ones that the media are most interested in," said Mugharbel, who became CEO in January.

One reason for the relative lack of big deals is that many clubs already had their full quota of for-

SOCCER

eign players. Each SPL team is limited to 10 imports, of which two must be 21 or under. With most of the top stars staying at their clubs, space for new signings has been limited.

Defending champion Al-Hilal had to offload Brazilian attacker Michael Delgado in order to bring in Cancelo. According to domestic reports, Al-Nassr released former Manchester United defender Alex Telles on Sunday ahead of signing a replacement on Monday.

"Last season we had a lot of opportunities to sign star players either because we had the positions available in the clubs themselves or there were a lot of interesting players that we wanted to recruit into the league,' Mugharbel said. "For the most part, most of the players that we brought in or the clubs brought in are actually still in the league, which is a positive sign that things are moving in the right direction.

The most active club in the transfer market has been newly-promoted Al-Qadsiah. Backed by Saudi oil giant Aramco, the club from the eastern city of Al-Khobar has made a number of signings.

The two most prominent saw former Arsenal and Barcelona striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang arriving from Marseille and Spanish international defender Nacho Fernandez signing from Real Madrid, where he won 26 trophies, including six Champions League titles.

"I think what we've managed to do last season is really open up the league and create an attractive proposition for star players," added Mugharbel. "We are continuing on the same path."

In this file photo, Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring his side's second goal playing for a combined XI of Saudi Arabian teams Al Nassr and PSG during a friendly soccer match at the King Saud University Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. (AP)

Pakistan's batters falter in 2nd test

Rain halts Bangladesh's bid for clean sweep

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Sept 2, (AP): Rain halted Bangladesh's bid for a clean sweep against Pakistan after young pace bowlers Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana rattled the hosts for 172 on Day 4 in the second test on Monday.

Bangladesh had scampered to 42-0 in seven overs before bad light, followed by rain, allowed only one over of play in the final session on Day 4. The tourists will be needing another 143 runs for a rare test series win away from home

Bangladesh has won just one bilateral test series outside home - beating the West Indies in 2009 - but won the first test by 10 wickets for its first ever test victory against Pakistan in 14

The 24-year-old Mahmud grabbed 5-43 for his maiden five-wicket haul in only his second test match while 21-year-old Rana chipped in with 4-44 as Pakistan was bowled out half an hour

before tea for an overall lead of 184. "I should give credit to all my team members who work hard every time,' Mahmud said. "We're very happy to win the first game and now have a chance to get another one, so it's very

Under overcast conditions, Bangladesh openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam scored at a rapid pace before rain arrived. Zakir was unbeaten on 31 off 23 balls that included two pulled sixes against fast bowler Khurram Shahzad and Shadman Islam was not out on 9.

A resilient century from Litton Das and equally splendid half century from

CRICKET

Mehidy Hasan Miraz allowed Pakistan a slender first innings lead of 12 runs after the tourists had collapsed to 26-6

"The odds are probably in favor of Bangladesh, we don't shy away from that," Pakistan head coach Jason Gillespie said. "I'm hoping that we can create some theater, create some drama and put a smile on a few people's faces here in Pakistan tomorrow.

The Pakistani top order's long struggle in red-ball cricket has seen it lose five of the last nine test matches at home with its last win coming against South Africa in December 2021. The other four test matches were drawn.

Babar Azam's (11) poor run of form in test matches stretched to seven games when he fell to Rana for the second time in the series as the tall fast bowler rattled the top order by claiming three wickets in his first three overs.



Betis' Natan, right, challenges Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Betis at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Sports

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

Technical staff plans to keep today's training light

Kuwait arrives in Jordan for World Cup qualifier

Bv Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The Kuwait national football team has departed Dubai, UAE, and is en route to Amman, Jordan, to prepare for their match against Jordan on Thursday at Amman International Stadium. This game marks the first round of Group Two in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers, which will be held in the United

SOCCER

States, Canada, and Mexico.

Kuwait wrapped up its training camp in the UAE, which began on August 21. Under the guidance of Juan Pizzi, the team held training sessions twice daily, focusing on enhancing player fitness and readiness.

The team is scheduled to train in Amman this evening, with its main training session set for tomorrow at Amman International Stadium. The technical staff, aware of the travel fatigue, plans to keep today's training light to avoid overexerting the players. It also finalizing the lineup for the opening match of the qualifiers, which has been under consideration in recent days.

The training sessions are expected to be conducted under strict confidentiality, as requested by coach

Juan Pizzi. The technical staff has also been analyzing recent performances of the Jordanian national team, particularly their matches in the last Asian Cup held in Qatar and in the second round of the qualifiers.

Jordan has ramped up its preparations for the match against Kuwait,

holding morning and evening training sessions at Petra Stadium in Al-Hussein Youth City. Coach Jamal Salami is leading efforts to boost the players

Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior re-

acts during the Spanish La Liga

soccer match between Real Madrid

and Betis at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

technical and physical readiness.

Musa Al-Taamari, who plays professionally for Montpellier in France, and Yazan Al-Arab, who plays in Seoul, South Korea, are expected to join the team today, two days before the match. Both players were delayed in joining the team's training due to commitments with their respective clubs.

Meanwhile, Basra Governor Asaad Al-Eidani announced an agreement with Kuwaiti officials allowing 5,000 Iraqi fans to enter Kuwait to support their national team during the match on September 10, which will be part of the second round of Group Two in the qualifiers.

Al-Eidani stated in a press release, "After a series of discussions with local and central government officials in Kuwait, an agreement was reached to permit this number of Iraqi fans to support our national team in its upcoming match against



Kuwait's final training session in Dubai.

Mbappé off the mark in La Liga as Madrid earns crucial victory

Sevilla loses at home to Girona to remain winless

MADRID, Sept 2, (AP): With two goals in less than 10 minutes, Kylian Mbappé ended his scoring drought in the Spanish league, leading Real Madrid to a 2-0 win over

Madrid's biggest signing in years, Mbappé had scored once in the

team's win over Atalanta in the UEFA Super Cup final last month, but he had yet to find the net in his previous three Spanish league matches.

He opened the scoring at the Santiago Bernabeu with a low left-footed shot from inside the area after a neat backheel pass by Federico Valverde in the 67th minute. Mbappe then added to the lead by converting a 75th-minute penalty kick after a foul on Vinicius Junior.

> Madrid had drawn two of its first three games, with its lone victory coming against Valladolid two rounds ago, also at the Bernabeu. This win moved the defending champion four points behind leader Barcelona, the only team to win all four matches to start the season.

> Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said there was never any pressure on Mbappé to end his drought in the league.

The result kept Betis winless after three matches. Manuel Pellegrini's team had drawn its first two games.

Vitor Roque, a young Brazilian forward, was a second-half substitute for the Seville club where he is playing on loan from Madrid rival Barcelona.

SOCCER

Madrid has not conceded in its last five league games at Bernabeu, going back to last season, a first for the club in the competition since 1996.

Madrid is unbeaten in 26 home games in the league, with 22 wins and four draws, the best run under Ance-

until now had meant Madrid's worst start in the league since 2019-20, when it won the competition.

The five points from three matches

Sevilla lost 2-0 at home to Girona to remain winless after four matches.

Iván Martin and Abel Ruiz scored a goal in each half for Girona, which has now won two in a row. It will play the Catalan derby against Barcelona in the next round.

Sevilla had drawn two of its first three matches, both on the road, with a loss to Villarreal at home.

Getafe, another team without a victory, drew 0-0 with Real Sociedad at home, while Las Palmas - also winless - lost 2-0 at Alaves. Osasuna won 3-2 against Celta Vigo, which had opened with two straight wins but now has lost



The Kuwaiti team pose for a group photo after its European tour.

Youth team delegation returns from camp

Kuwait faces Chinese Taipei in Asian Junior Championship opener

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, Sept 2: The 10th Asian Junior Handball Championship, serving as the 2025 World Cup Qualifiers, is set to kick off in Amman, Jordan, from the 3rd to the 14th of this month. The tournament features 13 teams divided into four groups: Group 1 includes South Korea, Bahrain, and Iraq; Group 2 consists of Jordan, Japan, and India; Group 3 features Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE; while our national junior handball team is in Group 4 alongside China, Iran, and Chinese

Kuwait faces Chinese Taipei in its opening match of the preliminary round at noon today, while Iran takes on China, the UAE battles Saudi Arabia, Japan goes up against India, and Iraq faces South Korea.

Kuwait will play against China tomorrow and will conclude the preliminary round with a match against Iran on the 5th of this month.

According to the tournament's regulations, the teams ranked from first to fifth will qualify for the 2025 World Cup finals. The team prepared for this conti-

nental championship with an exter-

nal training camp in Slovenia, where

they played several friendly matches.

They also had two friendly matches

in Kuwait against South Korea last

week. The team is coached by Montenegrin Marko Martinovic, with assistance from national coach Hussein Habib.

Meanwhile, the youth delegation has returned to the country after completing its "tripartite" external camp in Slovenia, Hungary, and

Talal Al-Otaibi, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Handball Federation, confirmed the

HANDBALL

success of the European camp for the team, emphasizing the comprehensive benefits gained.

"We participated with both A and B teams in the European friendly championships to provide all players with the opportunity to interact, gain experience, and benefit from the diverse European handball schools,' said Al-Otaibi.
He added, "We have young tal-

ents in the game who need attention, proper development, and refinement before playing official matches, which will benefit both their clubs and the national teams in the future." Al-Otaibi also highlighted the importance of longterm preparation plans, which create harmony among the players, ensuring they are fully prepared throughout the season.

Kimmich named Germany capt after senior players retirements

FRANKFURT, Germany, Sept 2: (AP): Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich was appointed captain of Germany's national team Monday after his predecessor Ilkay Gündogan was among a string of senior players to retire from international duty after Euro 2024.



Talal Al-Otaibi

Kimmich will be backed up by two vice-captains, Real Madrid defender Antonio Rüdiger and Arsenal forward Kai Havertz, when he takes up the captaincy for upcoming Nations League games against Hungary on Saturday and the Netherlands on Sept. 10.

The 29-year-old Kimmich hasn't been the permanent captain for Bayern or the national team before, but he has often stepped into the role when other players have been injured or unavailable. He last started a Germany game as captain in friendlies last year.

The German soccer federation said Monday that Kimmich had worn the captain's armband 17 times in a career spanning 91 international games. That total appeared to include games in which Kimmich took over the captaincy when another player was substituted.

Gündogan was named captain by then-coach Hansi Flick last year ahead of Germany hosting 2024, when the team reached the quarterfinals before losing to eventual

champion Spain. He retired from international duty last month ahead of a return from Barcelona to Manchester City.

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said Kimmich was the "logical successor" to Gündogan as captain.

Other players who have retired from the national team since Euro 2024 include goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and forward Thomas Müller, both teammates of Kimmich at Bayern. Midfielder Toni Kroos retired from all soccer following the tournament.

Despite the high-profile retirements, Nagelsmann has named a squad with only one uncapped player for the Nations League, saying there had been "enough changes."

Also Monday, Nagelsmann confirmed he sees Barcelona's Marc-André ter Stegen as Germany's new starting goalkeeper in place of Neuer as Germany plans for the 2026 World Cup. That decision was widely expected after ter Stegen spent much of his international career so far as Neuer's backup.

PSG maintains 'unbeaten' run

PARIS, Sept 2, (AP): Paris Saint-Germain is enjoying a perfect start to the season despite the summer departure of star striker Kylian Mbappe for Real Madrid, after securing another victory

— 3-1 at Lille — in the French league.

PSG leads the standings with nine points from three games, having now scored 13 goals. PSG opened its campaign with a 4-1 away win at Le Havre, followed by a 6-0 demolition of Montpel-

Vitinha put the visitors ahead from the penalty spot in the 33rd minute and Bradley Barcola quickly doubled the lead for the defending champion. Edon Zhegrova got one back for Lille in the 78th before Randal Kolo Muani sealed the win in secondhalf stoppage time.

Also Sunday, Monaco and Lens drew 1-1 in a game with two late goals. Denis Zakaria headed the hosts ahead in the 84th before Lens grabbed a point with a penalty converted by Przemyslaw Frankowski in second-half stop-

Nice routed Angers 4-1, Le Havre beat Auxerre 3-1 and Reims edged Rennes 2-1.

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