



## Opinion

# Kuwait is ruled by a corruption fighter and law reformer

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

MANY have noticed the efforts and perseverance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad to combat corruption, which was evident even before he assumed the throne and prior to his role as the Crown Prince.

The public has witnessed ministers, under-secretaries, and several senior officials being referred to trial, with some receiving harsh sentences.

In this regard, His Highness the Amir has shown no leniency towards those involved in corruption, regardless of whether they are from the Al-Sabah family or any other family, tribe, or sect. He believes that the law should be impartial and applied equally to all.

Kuwait is currently experiencing a pivotal and unprecedented stage where no official is above scrutiny.

As the saying goes, "More is yet to come", and even though the current era is still in its early stages, and beginnings can usually be challenging, they pave the way for future progress. His Highness has a clear vision and methodology for addressing these issues.

Therefore, it is important that accountability extends beyond the final stages. It is necessary to review and audit all projects implemented since the liberation up to the present day. Those involved in bribery and corruption, including both contractors and officials who neglected their duties or ignored corruption, must be held accountable.

It is indeed unreasonable after all these years and the billions spent on the electricity sector, there are still some stations that are struggling to provide reliable electricity.

Similarly, the situation with roads and infrastructure is concerning. Despite the significant costs of these projects, the results are often substandard. Roads are left with loose gravel that flies when vehicles pass. External roads are buried under sand dunes due to poor paving standards.

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

## 3rd on-job biometrics disrupts flow of work

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) has referred 23 supervisors for retirement, as the six-month extension of their tenure ended on Sept 1.

Sources from the ministry affirmed that the positions vacated by these supervisors will be filled with experienced and competent employees in various sectors.

It can be recalled that former Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and acting Minister of Public Works Dr. Jassim Al-Ostad postponed referring these supervisors for retirement. He took a decision to amend Article One of the ministerial decision issued by his predecessor Dr. Amani Bouqammaz on Oct 18, 2023 regarding the retirement of 25 employees effective Nov 30, 2023; such that their referral for retirement was postponed until April 1, 2024. Then, incumbent Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan issued a decision to extend their tenure for six months, so their retirement took effect on Sept 1.

On the other hand, the MPW workers union urged the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to reconsider the decision on requiring employees to register their fingerprint to prove their presence at the workplace two hours after the fingerprint at the beginning of official working hours, because it disrupts the flow of technical and engineering tasks in ministries; thereby, affecting the implementation of State projects.

Continued on Page 5

## Newswatch

## UAE grants pardon to 57 Bangladeshis

DUBAI, Sept 3, (AP): The leader of the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday pardoned 57 Bangladeshi nationals convicted in rapid trials over their involvement in protests in the Arabian Peninsula nation about unrest in their home country.

The decision by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, came after he held a telephone call last week with Bangladesh's interim prime minister, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. Yunus took over Bangladesh after demonstrators drove longtime Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee the country.

DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Court has upheld a death sentence imposed on a member of the all-volunteer wing of the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard who stormed a house during the 2022 protests over the death of Mahsa Amini and killed a 60-year-old man, a lawyer said Tuesday.

The sentence imposed on the Basij member marks a rare moment for Iran to hold accountable its security forces, who waged a bloody, month-long crackdown on all dissent over Amini's death. More than 500 people were killed and over 22,000 were detained. (AP)

## Vaccination campaign starts

## Winter flu claims 40 dead in year: official

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): The Ministry of Health (MoH) is set to carry out its seasonal vaccination campaign throughout the winter season to provide protection from influenza virus and pneumococcal bacteria.

During the campaign's kickoff on Tuesday for the ninth consecutive year, the ministry's official spokesperson Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad announced that Kuwait has administered over one million influenza vaccine doses in recent years, and more



Dr. Al-Sanad

than 1.5 million doses of pneumococcal vaccines since 2007.

Dr. Al-Sanad indicated that seasonal microbes, including bacteria and viruses, become more active and widespread during certain times of the year.

He affirmed the importance of vaccination for prevention, especially during the winter months when influenza, bacterial pneumonia, and colds are more common. In contrast, cases of salmonella-related food poisoning are more prevalent in the summer.

Dr. Al-Sanad explained that the influenza virus

Continued on Page 5

## Cultural week showcases strong, 125-year old Kuwait-UK relations

LONDON, Sept 3, (KUNA): Kuwait cultural week kicked off on Tuesday in the United Kingdom under the patronage of His Highness the Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The cultural week comes as part of a series of activities between the two countries within the framework of (the Year of the Kuwaiti-British Partnership).

In a statement for KUNA, during his visit to the cultural week on behalf of His Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said that the events would include a number of cultural and craft exhibitions hosted by the Kuwaiti Embassy in London.

A musical concert that will be held in one of the theaters in the British capital, he added.

Ambassador Jarrah Al-Sabah pointed out that this event came as part of celebrating the 125th anniversary of the signing of the Anglo-Kuwaiti Agreement in 1899.

Continued on Page 5

# Kuwait vows war against 'e-flies' sowing discord in GCC countries

Cybersecurity among many MoUs signed by Kuwait, UAE



Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya (left) and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed during the signing of MoUs with the UAE.

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Sheikh Abdullah Al-Hamed, Chairman of the UAE's National Media Office, launched a robust initiative to counter the growing threat of 'electronic flies' - fake accounts spreading discord and hatred online.

Through the hashtag 'Report Without Comment', the campaign aims to tackle the rise of verbal wars, sectarianism, and insults targeting leaders and symbols. Sheikh Al-Hamed emphasized, "We will ban anyone who offends; responding to a fool is not polite, and there's no place for flies."

Sheikh Al-Hamed emphasized the importance of unity and authenticity in combating the spread of discord by "electronic flies" on social media. He stated, "Belief in our Arabism gives us motivation. These accounts exist only to gossip and divide, an idle pastime for some."

Continued on Page 5

## Day by Day

## Focus on lower back pain roots

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait Physical Therapy Association will celebrate the World Physical Therapy Day on Sept 14 with the theme, "Lower Back Pain". In a press statement on Tuesday, Chairperson of the association Dr. Hana Al-Khamis disclosed that the World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates the World Physical Therapy Day on Sept 8 each year.

Continued on Page 5

## FM opens new embassy in Abu Dhabi

## Ties with UAE deep-rooted: Al-Ghunaim

ABU DHABI, Sept 3, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to UAE Jamal Al-Ghunaim hailed on Monday the deep-rooted brotherly relations that ties Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates and the commitment of both on bolstering the historical bilateral relations.

This came in the ambassador's remarks to KUNA on Monday, following the inauguration of the new Kuwaiti embassy in the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi, as he affirmed the importance of enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields, particularly in investment, economic, and cultural sectors.

Al-Ghunaim stated that the opening of the new embassy, "a distinguished architectural landmark in the capital Abu Dhabi, which reflects Kuwait's dedication to strengthening its presence and relations with the UAE."

It also enables us to provide better services to all visiting and resident citizens and to work on enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields."

Continued on Page 5

## KOC CEO orders organization shift

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The CEO of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Ahmed Al-Eidan has issued a circular to announce several organizational changes within the company, particularly the merger of the West Kuwait Directorate with the North Kuwait Directorate, the appointment of Issa Al-Maraghi as Deputy CEO for North and West Kuwait, and the appointment of Muhammad Khalifa Al-Abdul Jalil as Deputy CEO for Planning and Innovation, and Fouad Muhammad Al-Sheikh as Deputy CEO for South and East Kuwait.

According to the circular, these changes are to be implemented from September 2, 2024, and that the individuals appointed will report directly to the CEO of Kuwait Oil Company.

Continued on Page 5

## Big cache of drugs, illegal arms seized

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior announced on Tuesday the successful seizure of approximately 24 kilograms of various drugs, along with 28,500 psychotropic pills. The operation also led to the confiscation of six unlicensed firearms, ammunition, and a significant amount of money, all connected to seven suspects.

In a press release, the General Department of Public Relations and Security Media revealed that the General Department for Combating Drugs, under the Criminal Security Sector, has been conducting intensive and ongoing campaigns to apprehend drug traffickers and dealers of psychotropic substances. These efforts are part of a broader initiative aimed at safeguarding the country from drug smuggling and distribution.

The suspects, along with the seized items, have been handed over to the relevant authorities for legal proceedings.

Continued on Page 5

## Minister opens unit for kids with chronic chest diseases

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi inaugurated the Chronic Ventilation Unit for Children at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, marking a notable addition to the Ministry of Health's services for children with chronic respiratory issues, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Al-Awadhi emphasized that this unit represents a significant step forward in the development of children's healthcare in Kuwait.

It aligns with the Ministry's strategic plan to provide comprehensive and high-quality healthcare to all citizens and residents.

Dr. Aseel Al-Awadhi, Head of the Pediatric Department at Jaber Hospital and Consultant in Pediatric Respiratory Diseases and Sleep Disorders, expressed her satisfaction with this achievement.

She highlighted that the new unit reflects the collaborative efforts across various medical sectors and represents a major leap in healthcare.

The unit is designed to offer integrated and specialized care for children suffering from various respiratory challenges due to conditions such as muscle weakness, brain respiratory control malfunctions, chronic lung diseases, or sleep disorder-related suffocation.

Continued on Page 5



Kuwait Army Chief-of-Staff Lt Gen Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, with the Military Attaché of Saudi Arabia, Brigadier General Badr Al-Hadithi.

## Military ties top Kuwait-Saudi talks

Chief of General Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, met with the Military Attaché of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Kuwait, Brigadier General Badr Al-Hadithi, reports Al-Seyassah daily. During this meeting, they discussed various common military issues.

In a press statement, the Chief of Staff highlighted that the meeting took place in his office, where they exchanged friendly talks and focused on key matters related to the visit.

Continued on Page 5

KUNA photo



## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 04:05 Asr ..... 15:20  
 Sunrise .. 05:26 Maghrib .. 18:08  
 Zohr ..... 11:47 Isha ..... 19:27

# Local

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

## Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

**By Day:** Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-40 km/h.

**By Night:** Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coast-

al areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	45	33
Kuwait Airport	46	34

Abdaly	46	30
Bubyan	38	24
Jahra	47	32
Failaka Island	35	28
Salmiyah	42	34
Ahmadi	37	32
Jal Aliyah	45	30
Nuwaisib	44	32

## SACGC opens registration for AI program in San Francisco

# Kuwait's SCFA presents key family policy strategies at Doha forum

DOHA, Sept 3, (KUNA): Eman Al-Enezi, Acting Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA), emphasized the significance of participating in the Gulf Family Day Forum 2024, which began on Monday in Doha. In a statement to KUNA, Al-Enezi highlighted that the SCFA presented a working paper outlining Kuwait's key objectives for advancing family policies.

She addressed critical challenges affecting Kuwaiti and Gulf families, including drug abuse, the misuse of technology, and their impact on

family life. Al-Enezi also discussed Kuwait's strategies for strengthening family cohesion.

Further, Al-Enezi highlighted the SCFA's role in addressing domestic violence and providing comprehensive support to families, including financial, social, cultural, and educational assistance. She underscored the pressing issue of drug abuse and its effects on both the Gulf region and the international community.

She extended her gratitude to the forum's organizers and the Qatari hosts for their warm reception and excellent organization.

The Gulf Family Day 2024 Forum, themed "The Family is a National Wealth," commenced in Doha, featuring the participation of Kuwait's SCFA alongside the tenth meeting of the Committee of Undersecretaries from the Social Affairs and Development ministries of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

In another development, Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) announced on Tuesday the opening of registration for the artificial intelligence (AI) innovative program in partnership with Bridge the Mind institution in Silicon

Valley, San Francisco.

Director General of the Center Neda Al-Daihani told KUNA that this program comes in framework of the center's commitment to promote innovation and support Kuwaiti inventors regionally and internationally as well as encourage the spirit of talent and creativity.

The ten-day program -- which begins from November 18 till 27-- aims to support Kuwaiti-inventor to deeply recognize the American markets, develop their innovative strategies, and networking with key successful partners in United States,

Al-Daihani added.

He also noted that the program is organized by the most prominent innovations centers in the world, which offers many benefits to the participants, including one-on-one sessions with experts, overview of the U.S markets, as well as other exceptional opportunities.

Al-Daihani further said the registration is open for Kuwaiti inventors who own a product in either Minimum Viable Product (MVP) version or Beta-version, as the priority would be for innovative ideas in education, health, water and food

security, energy, and digital transformation.

He called for all young Kuwaiti inventors to apply and participate, as he affirmed that the program is extraordinary opportunity to expand their business globally.

He expressed his excitement with this program, and the great offers and benefits for the Kuwaiti inventors must seize to gain great in-depth insights on the latest trends of the AI.

Al-Daihani urged to visit the website for more information (<https://sacgc.org/en/ai-program-sv/>)

## HH the Amir 'congratulates' San Marino on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Tuesday a cable of congratulations to governors of the Republic of San Marino, Alessandro Rossi and Milena Gasperoni, on the occasion of the National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the governors good health and the people of San Marino further progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the

Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to governors of the Republic of San Marino, Alessandro Rossi and Milena Gasperoni, on occasion of the National Day.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to governors of the Republic of San Marino, Alessandro Rossi and Milena Gasperoni.

# Omani-Kuwaiti trade exchange up from 282m to 877m OMR in 2023

Omani Cultural Week in Kuwait to run until Sept 5

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Saleh Al-Kharousi confirmed that the volume of trade exchange between Oman and Kuwait increased from 282 million Omani rials in 2022 to 877 million Omani rials in 2023; while the volume of trade exchange in January and February 2024 reached 400 million rials, reports Al-Seyassah daily.**

Al-Kharousi made the statement in a press conference held Monday to announce the launching of the Omani Cultural Week in Kuwait through the coordinated efforts of the Omani Embassy and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL); which will continue until Sept 5.

He added the direct Kuwaiti investment in the Sultanate of Oman also increased from 797 million Omani rials in 2022 to 831 million rials in 2023; stating that most of the investments are in manufacturing, real estate, hotels, restaurants, trade and financial brokerage.

On the Kuwaiti-Omani relations, he said: We focus on cultural relations for several reasons, one of which is the advanced cultural relationship between the two countries; in addition to the active cultural institutions in both countries -- whether in the government sector or the private sector. There have been joint programs between Omani and Kuwaiti cultural institutions for a long time, he affirmed.

Talking about the most important developments in Omani-Kuwaiti relations, he disclosed the relationship is so far known for the distinguished level it has reached. "This year, we witnessed two visits -- the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Oman in February when he witnessed the opening of Duqm Refinery. The refinery is considered one of the largest cooperation projects in the energy sector between the two members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with an estimated cost of \$9 billion, he revealed.

He added Sultan Haitham bin Tariq visited Kuwait in May when the two leaders had high-level talks. He affirmed there have been directives to strengthen this relationship for the benefit of the two countries and the region. He said the Sultan visited Salaam Palace Museum as well; where he expressed his admiration for its contents, the cultural vocabulary it added to the history of Kuwait and its cultural importance.

He stressed that the title of the next stage is 'economic cooperation'; stating "the economy in general drives the locomotive of relations. However, political and diplomatic coordination is taken for granted, especially between the Sultanate of Oman and Kuwait.

Therefore, the two countries are keen on engaging in an economic activity that will be beneficial for their citizens. We are now in the implementation stages of the railways between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman, as well as between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This is part of the railway link between the GCC countries in general, aimed at accelerating the pace of product exchange in the region and to enhance their access to other markets.

On the tourism sector, he revealed: "I am waiting for the results of the tourism promotion held earlier. Initial results indicate an increase. In mid-August, the number of tourists reached 816,000 and the number is expected to exceed one million by the end of this month as per the plan of the Ministry of Tourism in the Sultanate of Oman. I believe the figure for Kuwait was 40,000. The number of flights increased in the past period and this is only for Dhofar Governorate."

Regarding private sector investments in the two countries; he disclosed there are around 200 to 300 Omani and Kuwaiti companies, some of which operate in various fields like energy and oil. There is a demand for Omani products."

On the cultural forum, he cited multiple activities like cultural evening, poetry evening, lectures, musical evening and book fair.

He went on to say that the Omani Cultural Week opens Tuesday (today) with an exhibition of joint publications by the NCCAL and the Embassy of Oman. "The participants include members of the Omani Writers Association with its president in attendance. After the opening, prominent Omani musicians Maryam Al-Manji and Yaqoub Al-Asimi will have a concert; followed by a symposium on Omani-Kuwaiti relations. Dr. Mohsen Al-Kindi, an academic and cultural history researcher who won the first Sultan Qaboos Award for Culture, Science and Literature in 2012 and the first Cultural Personality of the Year Award in 2021 will be a speaker at the symposium. He conducted research and wrote books on literature, criticism and Omani cultural history," he added.

## Approval to create an app for removal of bulky waste

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait Municipality has issued a statement to the Municipal Council regarding a proposal from Municipal Council member Alia Al-Farsi about the service for the removal of bulky waste, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The statement, which was approved by the Director General Saud Al-Dabous, explained that Al Farsi's proposal was reviewed by the General Cleaning Committee. During its meeting on July 30, 2023, the committee recommended approving the proposal, provided that it be forwarded to the Development and Information Sector's Information Systems Department for the creation of a dedicated application.

The municipality also plans to coordinate with the directors of the general cleaning departments in all municipality branches in all six governorates to implement the service.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Saleh Al-Kharousi during the press conference.

## 'Developing comprehensive risk matrix vital'

# Fire workshop focuses on enhancing safety and emergency preparedness

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: During a workshop organized by the Kuwait Society for Protection from Fire Hazards, Major General Khaled Fahad, Acting Chief of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD), emphasized on the commitment of fire service to safeguarding lives and property, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He highlighted the importance of effectively managing and reducing the negative impacts of accidents through a structured approach to risk assessment and classification.

During the workshop Major General Fahad underscored the necessity of developing a comprehensive risk matrix that categorizes risks as major or minor.

He pointed out that risks can be both human-induced and natural, such as earthquakes and floods. Effective pre-assessment, community training, and the use of modern technology are crucial in mitigating these risks and enhancing community safety.

Lieutenant General (Rtd.) Yousef Al-Ansari, former DGFD chief and honorary member of the department, noted that the workshop's goal was to facilitate collaboration among official and civil authorities, private firefighting equipment companies, and safety consulting firms.

The exchange of opinions and experiences aimed to advance safety measures and accident prevention strategies.

Adel Al-Nassar, Chairman of the Kuwait Society for Protection from Fire Hazards, praised the workshop's recommendations,



KUNA photo

Acting Chief of the DGFD, Maj-Gen Khaled Fahad speaks during the workshop.

which focused on reducing accident rates, improving recovery processes, and preventing future incidents.

He announced plans for the Second Civil Safety and Protection Conference, scheduled for next February.

This conference will bring together government officials, public benefit organizations, the private sector, and international experts to discuss disaster prevention and crisis management.

The workshop featured two dialogue sessions: one on combating accidents and managing crises, and the other on emergency preparedness and the use of technology in safety and civil protection. The sessions were attended by officials from various ministries, academics, and experts in the field.

## 'MoE working on new mechanism'

# Teachers concerned about transfer procedures, fingerprint requirements as school year begins

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: As the new school year approaches, thousands of teachers are concerned about the transfer procedures and fingerprint identification, reports Al-Jarida daily.

With the requirement to register their attendance via fingerprint at their former schools, where their fingerprints are already registered, teachers must navigate a complex process to complete their transfers to new schools.

This involves updating their fingerprint information at the new institutions while managing their departure from old schools, a situation that could lead to potential accountability and deductions under Civil Service Council regulations.

In response to these concerns, the newspaper has learned that the Ministry of Education is working on a new mechanism to streamline this process.

A bulletin will be issued soon to outline the procedures for handling attendance fingerprinting on the day of transfer. The plan includes the use of an electronic system to facilitate the transfer of fingerprint data to new schools and expedite the process.

With over 115,000 employees, includ-

ing teachers and administrators, set to begin the school year next Sunday, educational authorities are preparing to address the challenges posed by the fingerprinting requirements.

The teachers transferring within the same educational district or to different districts will need to clear their old schools, get a release from their previous supervisors, and then report to their new schools or stage supervisors.

Educational sources have confirmed that the Ministry of Education is developing a clear mechanism to address these issues, which will be detailed in the upcoming bulletin.

This mechanism aims to ensure a smooth transition and avoid issues related to attendance records on the first day.

Moreover, Acting Undersecretary for Educational Development and Student Activities, Maryam Al-Enezi, has issued a directive to school principals to avoid requesting blank invoices from cafeteria suppliers.

Instead, contracts must be signed using the approved format and submitted for approval by the activities department in the educational district, with a copy sent to the ministry for follow-up.



KUNA photo

President of Senegal receives the Kuwaiti ambassador on the occasion of ending his tenure.

# President of Senegal receives outgoing Kuwaiti ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): The President of the Republic of Senegal, Bassirou Diomaye Faye received at the presidential palace Kuwaiti Ambassador to Senegal Adel Al-Amir on the occasion of ending his tenure.

During the meeting, they discussed

the bilateral relations, and Ambassador Al-Amir conveyed to the Senegalese president the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

The voting in progress.

## Embassy doors open until Sept 7

# Algerian residents in Kuwait vote to choose new president

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Algerian Embassy in Kuwait opened its doors Sunday morning to receive voters for choosing a new president for their country for a five-year term.

The embassy expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude to the Kuwaiti authorities, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior for their support, assistance, and facilitation in completing the electoral process.

The embassy explained that voting will continue until September 7, the date of the elections in Algeria. Algerians abroad have been casting their votes over a full

week. The tallying process will occur at the embassy once voting has ended. The results will then be reported to the Independent Election Commission in Algeria, where the final results will be announced after they are approved by the Constitutional Court.

The early presidential elections for the community residing in Kuwait to be held at the embassy headquarters from September 2 to 7. Voting hours will be from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm. There are 411 registered voters on the electoral list.

The tallying process will take place on the last day, September 7. The results will then be sent to the Independent Electoral Authority of Algeria, which oversees the electoral process from start to finish.



## 'Pride in our esteemed judiciary ... a contrast to past injustices'

"IT IS impossible to discuss the judiciary in Kuwait without highlighting the unwavering commitment of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in supporting and fortifying the Kuwaiti judiciary," columnist, former permanent envoy of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations, former Gulf Cooperation Council secretary-general **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"His dedication has significantly contributed to enhancing its integrity, ensuring collective confidence in its objectivity, and establishing a deep respect for justice in its rulings.

"His leadership reinforces the belief that the judiciary is entrusted with upholding truth and ensuring that wrongdoers are held accountable. This commitment affirms that justice in Kuwait is safeguarded, and citizens and others alike can be confident that the arm of truth is strong -- resistant to criticism, unwavering under threat, impervious to temptation, and proud of its rulings, all while upholding the lofty ideals of justice.

"The greatness of the judiciary instills a deep sense of pride in its system, as the people take pride in its fairness and integrity.

"This fosters national pride, strengthens a sense of belonging, and brings about collective joy, fueling a natural inclination to celebrate and honor the judiciary's achievements.

"One of the most remarkable aspects of the Kuwaiti judiciary in this era is its unique record of verdicts that have seen powerful personalities -- those who once believed their positions were unassailable -- sent to prison.

"The judiciary has demonstrated that no one, regardless of their influence, is above the law and even the smallest transgressions does not go unpunished.

"Furthermore, the Kuwaiti judiciary has proven its vigilance and ability to uncover the deceptive tactics employed by those who seek to evade justice. It has shown that underestimating the greatness of Kuwait's judiciary offers no protection from the reach of the law.

"From this bright reality, a profound sense of national pride emerges, driving citizens to compete in their sacrifices for the safety and well-being of the homeland, and strengthening the collective resolve to preserve it.

"The experience of the invasion stands as a powerful testament to this, highlighting one of the greatest historical examples of Kuwaiti national determination. The Kuwaiti people's unified effort to confront aggression, defend their homeland, and ultimately defeat the invaders shattered the dreams of those who sought to undermine them.

"History has consistently shown that nations thrive with a judiciary that is honest, free from external interference, committed to justice, and steadfast in upholding the truth. Conversely, the destruction caused by a judiciary that is manipulated by governments, shaped to serve their interests, and stripped of its ability to deliver justice is immense.

"Unfortunately, this is the reality in much of the Arab world today. The downfall of the judiciary in some Arab countries has led to widespread corruption, the abuse of citizens, and the destabilization of entire nations.

"These governments, clinging to power through force, have fostered a culture of fear by empowering sycophants, granting them undue privileges, and employing them to spy on and suppress opposition.

"Such regimes, which are illegitimate and driven by fear, have invested heavily in building intelligence and espionage networks and surrounding themselves with loyal relatives and partners.

"These facts inevitably bring to mind the failures in state management, as competent individuals are sidelined and replaced by those who pose no threat to the dictatorial military regimes that dominate these countries.

"The defeats suffered by the Arab world did not arise from unknown forces but were the result of the failures of certain governments in the art of governance.

"These governments, in their haste to achieve victory, became lost in their misjudgments and embarked on ill-conceived adventures, rushing into confrontations without proper justification. The outcome has been a series of defeats, widespread destruction, the loss of homelands, the breaking of the spirit, and the erosion of hope.

"The Arab regimes have crumbled due to both internal and external conspiracies fueled by their defeats, much like how thrones disappeared from Europe in past centuries.



Bishara

"The common thread in these downfalls was the failure to provide justice to their citizens and the lack of an independent, integrity-driven judiciary.

"The corruption of governments, therefore, stems not only from incompetence but also from the absence of constitutional legitimacy that reflects the genuine will of the people. The monarchs ruled arbitrarily, without the consent of their subjects, and ignorant presidents, lacking the necessary skills and wisdom, fell victim to their own reckless tendencies.

"Setbacks arise from the monopolization of decision-making and the concentration of power in the hands of a few.

"The devastating wars of Europe in the last century were rooted in the incompetence of their leader -- World War I was born out of the German Emperor's shortsightedness, and World War II emerged from Hitler's fascism.

"The countries that emerged victorious were those with institutions that upheld government legitimacy, truly represented the will of the people, and adhered to governance traditions that resisted the allure of reckless adventures.

"History bears witness to the grave dangers posed by the lack of judicial independence. The consequences are numerous and deeply damaging, beginning with the entrenchment of corruption in society, the increase in internal dissent, societal fragmentation, the loss of national identity, the erosion of prestige, the dominance of injustice, the rise of hatred, and the escalation of internal conflicts. These dangers are evident in many Arab countries today.

"In contrast, history also records the success stories of rational governance rooted in the legitimacy of popular choice. Strong, healthy nations have emerged by safeguarding judicial independence and steering clear of interference in the judiciary's functioning.

"These nations are keenly aware of the substantial benefits that come from an independent judiciary -- benefits that include a vibrant, conscientious populace that enjoys stability, respects merit, and ensures success for the capable.

"The cornerstone of this advanced reality is the complete freedom judges exercise in their rulings, immune from governmental interference. In these societies, the authority of the law stands above the authority of rulers.

"We live our lives in stability, confident that our days are free from the fear of government interference. This sense of security is largely due to the pivotal role of the Kuwaiti judiciary in upholding justice, safeguarding rights, and basing its decisions on pure, untainted facts, free from denunciations and skirmishes.

"We take pride in our leadership's diligent efforts to protect the judiciary, which has resulted in a civilized environment marked by judicial fairness. The judiciary's work has been crucial in solidifying the state's foundations, uncovering long-hidden files filled with corruption, perpetrated by those entrusted by the state but who ultimately succumbed to the temptations of wealth.

"Kuwait shines brightly in this context, proud of the climate of integrity fostered by the values of justice. When we compare the state of the judiciary in the Arab world, the Third World, and even Europe, we are reminded of the Kuwaiti leadership's wisdom in ensuring the judiciary remains free from the complexities of state administration.

"Their insistence on judicial independence has placed Kuwait at the forefront, with its authorities respecting judicial rulings and shouldering the responsibility of their implementation.

"This reality stands as the most crucial pillar of stability and strength for the State of Kuwait.

"History has not concealed the harshness of some rulers in Arab countries, who recorded acts of folly and grave injustice, using fear to suppress their people.

"They relied on harsh judicial rulings, supported by caliphs and rulers who sought to intimidate. Who can forget Al-Hajjaj and his draconian rulings on the people of Iraq, coupled with his menacing speeches and violent rhetoric designed to instill fear?

"In more recent times, the Iraqi people suffered after the fall of the Hashemite ruler at the hands of Judge Al-Mahdawi, whose farcical trials targeted both military and civilian figures.

"Similarly, Cairo witnessed military and political figures unfit to try those brought before them, as the injustice of history and the recklessness of power led to harsh fates for many.

"Reflecting on these harsh realities, we are proud of the esteemed judiciary we have today, a judiciary that stands in stark contrast to the injustices of the past."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes

# Domestic worker accused of fleeing with sponsor's 3 gold bracelets, ring

## Court denies bail for 3 Kuwaiti ISIS members

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Criminal Court has denied bail for three Kuwaiti individuals accused of being members of ISIS, and planning to blow up the Arifjan camp with an explosive belt.**

One of the defendants, a soldier in the Ministry of Interior, was allegedly incited by the first defendant to detonate an explosive belt at the US forces camp in Arifjan. The first defendant was accused of inciting the soldier to blow up the US forces camp, learning how to make explosives, pledging allegiance to ISIS, publishing videos supporting the organization, and calling on others to join.

The defendants denied the charges levelled against them. Their defense team requested the court to release them on bail of any amount but the court rejected the request.

□ □ □

**KD 4m embezzlement case adjourned:** The Criminal Court, presided over by Judge Basam Al-Ghuwainem, has adjourned the hearing of a case filed against a former minister, who was accused of embezzling over KD 4 million from a company with significant government ownership, after he failed to attend the session.

Previously, the Criminal Court's Grievances Department had overturned the Public Prosecutor's decision to dismiss the case.

The case, which involves the former minister and a businessman accused of misappropriating public funds from a holding company with over 25 percent state ownership, has been reinstated for trial.

□ □ □

**Al-Fikr's case adjourned to Oct 8:** The Criminal Court has decided to adjourn to October 8 the case filed against former MP Anwar Al-Fikr for allegedly challenging the powers of His Highness the Amir during an election symposium. The case was adjourned to summon the incident officer.

The Criminal Court had previously rejected Al-Fikr's request for release.

According to the case file, Al-Fikr was charged with challenging the rights and powers of His Highness the Amir, insulting the position of the Amir, and broadcasting false news that would undermine the country's prestige and harm its national interests.

It is worth noting that the Criminal Court had previously ruled in another case (State Security Case) filed against Al-Fikr and sentenced him to three-year imprisonment with hard labor.

□ □ □

**Man dies after hit by car:** An unknown man has died after being run over by a car driven by a 30-year-old Kuwaiti in the Ouyoun area.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received a report about the accident, police and paramedics were immediately dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, they discovered that the victim had succumbed to the injuries he sustained in the accident. His body has been sent to the Forensic Medicine Department for identification and other details.

The Kuwaiti driver has surrendered to the authorities and a case has been filed. An investigation is underway to determine the circumstances of the accident.

□ □ □

**House maid accused of gold theft:** The Ministry of Interior has issued a warrant for the arrest of a domestic worker accused of stealing gold from her sponsor's home and disappearing, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, a Kuwaiti citi-



One of the awnings being voluntarily dismantled.

Al-Seyassah photo

## Remove awnings within 48 hours: Municipality

By Inaas Awadh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

Kuwait Municipality has issued a 48-hour ultimatum to 267 owners of awnings situated adjacent to public schools in private residential areas.

The owners are required to remove the

awnings voluntarily within this timeframe, or they will face compulsory removal in accordance with legal and regulatory guidelines.

This directive comes at the request of the Ministry of Education. Warning stickers have been placed on the canopies, and as of today, 67 awnings have already been removed voluntarily.



One of the seized camels being lowered into a vehicle.

Al-Jarida daily

## Grazing violations cited

### Campaign leads to arrest of 3 persons; 22 camels seized

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3:** A recent security campaign in Jahra, led by the Environmental Police and local authorities, resulted in the arrest of three individuals for violating camel grazing regulations, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The daily added, the authorities also seized 22 camels. The campaign, prompted by complaints of overgrazing, also identified several environmental violations. The offenders were referred to the Public Prosecution for further legal action.

zen filed a report at Qasr Police Station on behalf of his elderly mother against her domestic worker who allegedly stole three gold bracelets and a ring from the bedroom closet. Surveillance footage showed the worker leaving the house around 2:00 a.m. When they tried to call her, she had turned off her mobile phone.

□ □ □

**Woman cheated of KD 3,685:** A 1996-born expatriate woman has accused a fellow expatriate of defrauding her of KD 3,685, reports Al-Anba daily.

She explained to the police that the suspect had convinced her to invest in a project to import building materials, and she transferred the aforementioned amount to his account via a link he provided. However, she was subsequently unable to reach him as he ignored her phone calls and refused to return the funds.

She has presented evidence of the transfer. The defendant, when summoned, admitted to

receiving the money and claimed that he had provided the plaintiff with profits, but he could not provide evidence to support this claim.

Further investigations are ongoing.

□ □ □

**Drugs found on illegal expat:** Patrol teams affiliated with the Farwaniya Security Directorate arrested an expatriate for drug use and possession of hashish and referred him to the Drug Control General Department, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, officers were patrolling Farwaniya late at night when they noticed the suspect behaving unusually. Upon approaching, he attempted to flee but was quickly subdued.

During a precautionary search, officers discovered that he was under the influence of drugs and found three fingers of hashish and drug paraphernalia in his possession.

Further investigation revealed that he had been in violation of the residency law for several months.

□ □ □

**Citizen's car vandalized:** Unknown individuals vandalized a Kuwaiti citizen's car, which was parked near his house, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the citizen reported to the Al-Waha Police Station that he returned home around 6:00 pm and discovered his vehicle, which he had parked at 3:00 pm, had been vandalized. The front window and side mirrors were broken, the rear right signal light was damaged, and the license plates were missing.

The citizen stated that he did not know who might be responsible for the theft and damage. A case of license plate theft and deliberate damage has been filed. Forensic technicians were called in to examine the vehicle.

□ □ □

**Request to lift travel ban rejected:** The Criminal Court has rejected the request to lift the travel ban of an officer in the Ministry of Interior, secretaries of former lawmakers and a doctor implicated in a money laundering and bribery case, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The court scheduled a session for Nov 10 for the closing arguments.

Case files indicate that the Public Prosecution charged three secretaries of former lawmakers and some expatriates with bribery after discovering their involvement in visa trading.

## Traffic Dept is determined to pursue reckless drivers

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3:** With the improvement of the weather and the start of the picnic season, the General Traffic Department is determined to pursue reckless drivers, especially on the roads at night.

According to security sources, intensive campaigns will be held in high-risk areas, and strict traffic measures will be enforced against violators.

Meanwhile, the traffic patrol teams referred 19 minors to the Public Prosecution for driving without licenses, and arrested 29 individuals for committing serious traffic violations over the past week.

The General Traffic Department explained that several large-scale traffic campaigns were held in all governorates during the past week, which resulted in the arrest of 24 individuals who were either reported as absconding, or had arrest orders issued against them, or whose residencies were expired. They also impounded 53 vehicles and 57 motorcycles, issued 47,810 traffic citations and seized 56 wanted vehicles.

Statistics on traffic accidents for the week revealed 920 collision accidents, with 181 resulting in injuries.

In the meantime, the Public Relations Department at the Kuwait Municipality has announced that the field teams of the cleaning departments continue to intensify their inspection tours to monitor and address cleaning and road occupancy violations in all governorates and to activate the role of supervisory bodies in implementing the Municipality's regulations, reports Al-Anba daily.

It affirmed that the Cleanliness and Roads Occupancy General Department at the Municipality branch in Jahra Governorate recently conducted extensive tours in residential areas to improve the level of cleanliness, remove everything that obstructs the road and distorts the general view, and prevent the improper disposal of waste materials.

Acting Director of the branch and Director of its Cleanliness and Roads Occupancy General Department Nawaf Al-Mutairi clarified that the intensified inspection tours are aimed at uncovering violations and to take legal measures against those proven to have committed violations. He said his supervisory team focuses on improving the level of cleanliness in the areas under its responsibility, in addition to removing anything that distorts the aesthetic view and ensuring strict compliance with the roads occupancy regulations throughout the governorate.

## MoJ completes over 1,211,000 transactions

### 500 e-transactions completed in few hours: MoJ

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3:** Brigadier General Khaled Al-Adwani announced that following the launching of the new electronic services by the Ministry of Interior including vehicle transfers via the "Sahel" app, 500 transactions were completed within the first nine hours for private cars, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The service is currently available only to individuals and not companies, and is the result of over five months of collaboration with various government agencies and aims to streamline processes for citizens.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Justice announced on its official 'X' account that "the number of electronic transactions requested and completed through the 'Sahel' application reached more than 1,211,000 in the first half of 2024 -- an increase of 50 percent compared to the same period in the previous year, reports Al-Anba daily.

The ministry also revealed that the number of notifications sent to clients reached three million in the first half of the year -- an increase of 66 percent compared to the same period in the previous year.

**WEDDINGS, UPTO 140**

**AUDITORIUM**

**BUFFET**

**ANNIVERSARY**

**BIRTHDAY**

**KIDS CELEBRATION**

**WE ARE BUDGET-FRIENDLY**

# MUGHAL MAHAL

## FAHAHEEL

Weddings | Seminars | Conferences | Celebrations

Sea view | Ample car parking

**For more enquires Call: 23911174 / 23911175**

**Mr. Jack: 97644421**

**Email: fahaheel@mughalmahal.com**

**info@mughalmahal.com**





Participants pose for a group photo during the 10th meeting of the GCC Ministries of Social Affairs and Development Undersecretaries Committee, currently held in Doha.

**Call for unified social strategy**

**Kuwait underscores cooperation in social affairs among GCC countries**

DOHA, Sept 3, (KUNA): Kuwait on Monday emphasized the significance of the 10th meeting of the GCC Ministries of Social Affairs and Development Undersecretaries Committee, currently held in Doha.

Highlighting the importance of reinforcing continuous cooperation, coordination, and the exchange of expertise in social affairs among GCC countries, Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs told KUNA that the meeting's agenda includes discussions on the social development strategy and its initiatives within the GCC, as well as the joint charitable work plan for the GCC countries (2025-2030).

On his part, Assistant Undersecretary for Social Development Affairs at Qatar's Ministry of Social Development and Family Affairs, Fahad Al-Khayareen, noted that the meeting takes place during a period of rapid social and economic changes. He stressed the need to intensify efforts and align visions to address all challenges.

Al-Khayareen added that previous committee meetings have underscored

**CMA rolls out 'Authority Pioneers' to ease members retirement transition**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has officially rolled out its "Authority Pioneers" initiative, as announced on August 19, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This innovative program is designed to support its members through a series of internal rehabilitation programs aimed at assisting them during the transitional phase from their professional careers to retirement. The "Authority Pioneers" initiative focuses on preparing members, especially those nearing the end of their careers, for the significant changes and challenges that come with retirement.

The program addresses various

the crucial role of ongoing coordination among GCC countries in enhancing social stability and sustainable develop-

aspects of this transition, such as: Financial readiness -- Ensuring that members are prepared to meet the financial requirements and needs of retirement Economic, social, health, and psychological impacts -- Providing support to manage the wide range of impacts that retirement may have on members' lives

Adaptation to new situations -- Helping members adjust to their new personal and professional circumstances post-retirement By implementing this initiative, the Capital Markets Authority aims to facilitate a smoother transition for its members, equipping them with the tools and resources necessary to navigate this new stage of life effectively.

The current agenda focuses on initiatives aimed at strengthening integration in social sectors across the GCC.

**Al-Mashaan promises upgrades for South Abdullah Al-Mubarak**

Residents push for better services

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: During a meeting with the Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, the residents of South Abdullah Al-Mubarak discussed several problems related to the residential city, including sewage, rainwater drainage system, and the need for permanent entrances to the city.

The area representative of the residents Khaled Al-Daihani explained that Minister Al-Mashaan promised to set a schedule for providing services, including installing street lights at the entrances, sewage, and other services.

It was highlighted to the minister that 3,200 Kuwaiti families have been suffering for years from poor services, especially the lack of readiness to establish a sewage station and rainwater drainage. The area suffers from the absence of official entrances and exits, due to which they requested the minister for entrances to the area that comply with traffic engineering requirements.

The residents also suffer from the lack of proper street lighting at the city entrances, and Minister Al-Mashaan confirmed that she asked the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation to set a schedule for lighting the city's entrances.

Al-Daihani stated that residents presented their most pressing issues to Al-Mashaan, particularly those related to services that are seen as obstacles. Al-Mashaan assured them of her commitment to addressing these needs of citizens.



Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, during her meeting with the residents of South Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

**Audit Bureau to review tender for Subiya gas turbine upgrade**

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy on Monday referred the tender for the supply, installation, operation and maintenance of the project to convert the second phase of gas turbines in Subiya station to the combined cycle system in order to generate 250 megawatts to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for study and assessment, in compliance with SAB Circular No. 6/2018 on the rules and regulations that the entities subject to its supervision must follow.

Sources confirmed that once the procedures are completed and implementation begins, the project will increase the productivity of the electricity network to overcome challenges during summer, when consumption rates are high as evident this summer.

On the other hand, sources revealed the ministry has completed the inspection of two reinforced concrete tanks for freshwater in West Funaitees, each of which has a capacity of 85 million imperial gallons, along with the attached works aimed at increasing the water reserve in the country.

Sources confirmed the ministry is keen on establishing water reservoirs to guarantee ample supply of water, stressing that the latest global technology is being used in the implementation of such projects.

They added the ministry is exerting tremendous efforts to supply water, especially in new areas and cities, according to a well-studied plan. They said the Water Projects Sector is closely coordinating with the concerned authorities in the new residential cities to cover their water needs according to the timetable.

159 still remain unresolved

**Gov't clears 515 hurdles in 2023-'24 plan**

By Mohammed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: A recent government report revealed that 515 hurdles out of a total of 674 have been overcome in the implementation of the 2023-2024 development plan, representing 76 percent of the total hurdles, leaving 159 hurdles that still remain unresolved.

The report highlighted that administrative challenges were the most significant, with 41 percent of them being addressed.

These primarily involved the slow administrative procedures related to contractual processes in government agencies and delays in obtaining the necessary approvals from regulatory bodies.

The report, a copy of which has been seen by Al-Seyassah daily, noted that technical challenges followed administrative ones, accounting for 30 percent of the total challenges.

These technical obstacles caused delays due to issues either from the agencies or the contractors, or due to barriers or delays in completing project stages or in the delivery of essential supplies.

Financial challenges were next, representing 14 percent of the total, primarily due to the failure to allocate financial appropriations for the projects.

On the other hand, legislative challenges were the least significant, constituting about 5 percent of the total challenges facing the development plan's projects.



Shaddadiyah Industrial Zone project.

**Extended 'delays' disrupt crucial industrial projects**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Significant delays in completing key industrial projects in Kuwait, with the Shaddadiyah Industrial Zone and the Subhan Zone (Plot 4 Food) each taking over two decades to develop have raised many eyebrows, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Shaddadiyah Industrial Zone, allocated in November 2000, is now 97% complete, according to the Public Authority for Industry. However, the lengthy documenting and implementation processes have raised concerns about the impact on the industrial sector.

Similarly, development of Plot 4 in the Subhan Industrial Area, allocated in October 2003, recently saw progress with a contract signed last week for infrastructure development.

Despite this, the slow pace of these projects has hindered the sector's growth, limiting the availability of industrial plots and job creation.

The sources question why the Public Authority for Industry has struggled to utilize these sites effectively, citing delays in activation and the lengthy documentary cycle.

They also point out that 13 sites allocated by the Municipal Council, some for up to 40 years, remain unused, exacerbating the problem.

The unused sites total over 25.75 million square meters, which conflicts with the industry law that mandates planning and equipping industrial areas to support national economic goals.

This situation has prevented the expansion of national industries, creation of new job opportunities, and increased contribution to the GDP.

The Subhan Food project, covering 235,253 square meters, aims to create 69 industrial plots for food industries, enhancing food security.

Meanwhile, the Shaddadiyah Industrial Zone, covering 5.6 million square meters, will offer 1,036 plots, including 10 percent for small and medium enterprises and another 10 percent for foreign investors. The project is expected to be fully completed in the fiscal year 2024/2025.

Plan ensures adequacy for students

**KU expands academic departments**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Acting Director of Kuwait University Dr. Nawaf Al-Mutairi has confirmed that the decision to increase the number of academic departments in the first semester of the 2024/2025 academic year is based on a well-studied plan and aligned with the strategy to maintain the quality of education in Sabah Al-Salem University City by ensuring the number of classrooms and academic staff is enough to cover the needs of students, reports Al-Shahed daily.

During his recent inspection tour at the Deanship of Admission and Registration as part of preparations for the new academic year, Al-Mutairi disclosed that the number of admissions this year is among the highest

over the past 10 years.

He attributed this to the well-studied plan that matches the actual manpower needs of the labor market in coordination with different professional bodies, mainly the Civil Service Commission (CSC). He revealed the plan includes offering new courses, merging some courses or reducing the number of admissions to other courses.

He added his recent visit to the Admission and Registration Hall is part of the regular inspections carried out by the university administration to strengthen coordination between the concerned entities and to assess the preparations of various sectors before the new academic year begins.

# September

## Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024    Terms & conditions apply\*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351    Email: reservation@albander.com    www.albander.com    @albanderhotelandresort



Kuwait is

Continued from Page 1

The failure to consider environmental conditions by both consultants and officials has led to significant losses, including loss of life.

The most serious among these issues is the "University City" project. Approved in mid-1986 and initially scheduled for completion in the early 1990s, its implementation was repeatedly delayed until 2009. The project, which eventually cost around KD 7 billion, was plagued by many change orders that contributed to the delays and cost overruns.

Several years ago, Gulf countries started dealing with the corruption file comprehensively, tackling not only financial misconduct but also administrative and legal issues.

In Qatar, a former finance minister and several officials were imprisoned for corruption. In the UAE, some officials faced penalties for financial violations, though these were not as severe as those witnessed in Kuwait from 1992 until recently.

Everyone still remembers the "Ritz Riyadh" campaign in Saudi Arabia, which targeted princes and senior officials. The conviction there was clear - a nation cannot be built on a flawed or corrupt foundation.

During that period, extensive accountability measures were implemented for many years, and efforts were made to update laws to close any loopholes that could be exploited for corruption in the future.

It is good that the Council of Ministers has started amending some laws, but these efforts alone are insufficient. Many laws require a complete overhaul.

For example, many streets have been named after leaders from the Muslim Brotherhood Group, other sectarian figures, or political parties, or for pleasing influential officials.

Therefore, the Council of Ministers should actively start looking into files with suspected defects or corruption.

His Highness the Amir was clear in his speech last May when he said, "No one is above the law. Anyone who has unlawfully obtained public funds will be punished, regardless of their position, and the corrupt will be held accountable."

Corruption has infiltrated security, economic institutions, and the judiciary in recent years. Therefore, if the Council of Ministers is committed to cleansing these institutions, it must undertake a rigorous process to remove the deep-seated corruption plaguing them.

Kuwait vows

Continued from Page 1

He urged continued support for the initiative, highlighting the need to counter those seeking to sow discord among Gulf nations.

In Kuwait, the initiative received widespread support, with calls for strict legislation to combat these divisive online activities. Former Housing Minister Yahya Al-Sumait praised the initiative, noting that it serves the Gulf states' interests by countering foreign-funded mercenaries aiming to disrupt regional harmony.

The Director of Public Relations at the Media Association, Jarrah Al-Qazza, praised the initiative as a critical and timely measure to combat the spread of discord and rumors among Gulf nations. He highlighted the increasing number of paid accounts sowing division and emphasized the importance of rejecting insults that undermine Gulf unity.

Security expert Hamad Al-Suraye echoed these sentiments, stressing the need for joint coordination among Gulf countries to combat the unrest stirred by deviant groups. He called for blocking fake accounts that threaten to fragment regional relations.

Abdullah Al Gharib, Vice President of the Electronic Media Union, lauded the initiative as a significant step against "electronic barbarism" on social media, affirming the authenticity of the leaders and people of the UAE.

He noted that Saudi Arabia's support underscores the deep historical ties between the Kingdom and the UAE, and warned of the severe impact of electronic wars, which may surpass that of traditional weapons.

Meanwhile, the State of Kuwait and United Arab Emirates held on Monday the fifth session of the joint supreme committee between the two countries in the Emirati capital, Abu Dhabi, reports KUNA.

In a statement, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Kuwaiti delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, while the UAE delegation was headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed.

The statement noted that during the meeting, joint official talks were held and aspects of bilateral cooperation between all sectors in the two countries were reviewed, including areas of development and growth were discussed in various fields that serve the two countries and their peoples.

It stated that the work of the joint committee culminated in the signing of a number of agreements within the framework of memoranda of understanding and executive programs that reflect the determination of the two brotherly countries to strengthen the close bond between them in various vital and important fields.

Focus on

Continued from Page 1

She said this year's celebration aims to raise public awareness on lower back pain, its causes and methods of treatment. She confirmed that physical therapists and members of the association will be in Souq Sharq from 4:00 pm to 9:30 pm during the celebration to respond to the queries about lower back pain.

She confirmed that the association is the official representative of the State of Kuwait in the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, which aims to highlight the role of physical therapy in treating diseases and injuries.

KOC CEO

Continued from Page 1

It is worth highlighting that Kuwait Oil Company plays a major role in the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas in Kuwait.

The company is involved in producing three types of oil and natural gas and is dedicated to community development, and fulfilling its obligations to partners in a compatible, profitable, and safe manner.

3rd on-job

Continued from Page 1

In a press statement, the union revealed the mandatory third fingerprint caused confusion among the concerned employees due to the nature of their work and their presence in project sites. It called on the ministry to immediately discuss the issue with the CSC.

It pointed out that the decision limited the role of the concerned officials in monitoring the performance of employees, stressing it will take legal measures if the decision remains in effect.

It added that the CSC issued the decision without consulting the concerned parties in the ministries to determine whether this move plausible or not.

It also affirmed support for all employees in the ministry, emphasizing it is keen on protecting the rights of employees as per the law.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior has announced that special phone numbers have been allocated for each governorate to schedule biometric appointments for bedridden individuals and those with special needs, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The daily quoting ministry sources said, the biometric fingerprints of this categories of people will be done at their locations.

The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior said in press release service seekers can submit documents proving their condition via the WhatsApp application, after which they will be contacted to schedule a biometric appointment.

This step aims to enhance the Ministry of Interior's services to the community by facilitating and simplifying the process of taking biometric data for bedridden individuals and those with special needs (including those with moderate to severe physical and mental disabilities) at their locations, ensuring their right to access government services.

The phone number for this service for the Capital and Hawalli Governorates is 97687767, for Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Ahmadi Governorates 95576305, and for Jahra and Farwaniya Governorates 97781437.

Minister opens

Continued from Page 1

The unit is equipped to support children who rely on mechanical ventilators, whether through tracheostomy or positive airway pressure devices, providing care that enhances their quality of life.

Dr. Aseel noted that studies show long-term ventilator use can improve a child's ability to perform daily activities and, in some cases, increase life expectancy depending on their health condition.

The unit consists of five rooms outfitted with the latest technology, including a room for critical cases. Care is provided through a collaborative approach involving various medical specialties, including intensive care and general pediatrics.

Winter flu

Continued from Page 1

affects approximately one billion people worldwide each year, with children under five and adults over 65 at higher risk for complications. The virus is responsible for around half a million deaths globally each year.

The pneumococcal bacterial infection can lead to serious illnesses such as pneumonia, bacterial meningitis, blood infections, and otitis media. In Kuwait, pneumococcal infections result in about 40 deaths each year. The peak period for these seasonal microbes in Kuwait is from mid-September to May, with the highest activity observed between October and March.

Dr. Al-Sanad affirmed the ministry's commitment to preventing these diseases, particularly for high-risk groups including children, the elderly, healthcare providers, those with chronic conditions, pregnant women, and individuals with weakened immune systems, adding that special attention and increased efforts are necessary to protect these vulnerable populations.

He concluded by reaffirming the Ministry of Health's dedication to safeguarding public health through the prevention and treatment of diseases and epidemics, adding that vaccinations are available at the preventive health departments in hospitals and various specialized clinics.

Ties with

Continued from Page 1

He added, "the new building is not just a diplomatic headquarters, but a symbol of the strong historical and familial bonds that connect our two brotherly peoples, and the principle of 'Our Gulf is One.' It reflects our shared values and aspirations for a brighter future," noting the importance of the strategic partnership between the two nations.

Big cache

Continued from Page 1

The Ministry emphasized its ongoing commitment to tracking and intercepting any attempts to trade narcotics, with the ultimate goal of protecting society and ensuring public safety.

The Ministry also urged the public to cooperate with security forces and report any suspicious activities by contacting the Emergency Hotline at 112 or the General Department for Combating Drugs at 1884141.

Military ties

Continued from Page 1

The discussions primarily centered on military topics of mutual interest and explored ways to enhance and develop military cooperation between the two brotherly nations.

The meeting was also attended by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad, along with several senior army officers.

Cultural week

Continued from Page 1

He praised all the efforts to organize this event in London, stressing at the same time on the importance of these activities in strengthening cultural and social relations between the two countries.

9am slot set

Kuwait burial times revised

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Deputy Director General of the Municipal Services Sector at Kuwait Municipality Mishaal Al-Azmi issued an administrative circular on burial services; particularly the amendment of burial timings in all cemeteries, reports Al-Rai daily.

In the circular, Al-Azmi set 9:00 am as the burial time for the morning period and after the afternoon prayer for the evening period.

He stressed the need for cemetery officials to organize work according to the new burial schedule and to provide the necessary services; indicating the decision took effect on Sunday.

Union calls for urgent need to review real estate decisions

MoCI urged to address pending issues

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Head of the Kuwait Real Estate Union Ibrahim Al-Awadhi affirmed the need to reassess many pending decisions and issues to advance real estate and economic development in the country. He asserted that the real estate market is a prime driver of the Kuwaiti economy.

In a press statement, Al-Awadhi explained that many real estate activities fall directly under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's jurisdiction and indirectly through its intersection with other relevant ministries and agencies.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel, who is renowned for his extensive knowledge and understanding of the country's economic challenges, should address the pending real estate issues and develop effective solutions.

Pending Issues

Al-Awadhi outlined the five major real estate issues that require urgent attention from Minister Al-Ajeel. These include:

1. Regulating the professions of real estate evaluation and brokerage.
2. Reviewing decisions to halt real estate exhibitions.
3. Addressing decisions related to registering real estate in the names of companies listed on the stock exchange.
4. Documenting rental contracts and unified contracts.
5. Implementing controls for evaluating real estate assets.

He stressed the need to regulate real estate evaluation and brokerage professions, particularly considering the recent decisions that mandate real estate appraisers to complete specific training courses and undergo classification.

Al-Awadhi also highlighted the importance of regulating the real estate brokerage profession, which has seen an influx of unqualified individuals recently. This has led to many fictitious deals and sales, creating confusion and directly harming the Kuwaiti real estate market.

Organizing Exhibitions

Al-Awadhi urged Minister Al-Ajeel to reconsider and review the decisions regarding the organization of real estate exhibitions.

He explained that, despite the issuance of laws and regulations intended to govern these exhibitions, Kuwait has not hosted any real estate exhibitions since their implementation. This absence is seen as a negative factor impacting the state's economy.

The real estate market is vital, attractive, and one of the main drivers of the Kuwaiti economy. The stringent oversight by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on projects might be contributing to the absence of new real estate exhibitions in Kuwait, which has adversely affected the real estate market.

Al-Awadhi stressed the necessity for cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and other relevant authorities, such as the Ministry of Justice and the Public Authority for Civil Information, to document rental contracts and unified contracts.

He said the Real Estate Union had previously discussed the issue of documenting unified rental contracts with representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Justice, and the Public Authority for Civil Information.

Al-Awadhi highlighted the positive impact these measures would have on the real estate market, stressing the importance of organizing the market, understanding population trends, and creating a comprehensive database to help mitigate risks.



KUNA photo

Al Salam Charity Association and officials at Abdullah Al Mubarak Air Base.

Kuwait's 11th air bridge flight departs for Sudan

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced on Tuesday that its 11th air bridge plane took off heading to Port Sudan International Airport, loaded with 10 tons of various aid relief supplies.

It was organized by the Al-Salam Society for Humanitarian and Charity Work in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Affairs, Defense and Foreign Affairs and the Sudanese authorities.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society, Khaled Al-Furaij, confirmed to KUNA before the take-off that the efforts of Al-Salam Society continue to support the people of Sudan and provide all the necessary and humanitarian needs, especially food, in light of the exposure of more than 25 million people in Sudan to acute hunger and further displacement.

Al-Furaij pointed out that this plane was to help the people in Sudan and provide assistance in order to overcome the crises and disasters in Sudan.

Real Estate Assets

He stressed the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's responsibility in regulating the controls and procedures for evaluating real estate assets.

Al-Awadhi indicated that it is important to open the local market to attract international firms specializing in consulting and evaluation services, which are currently available in other Gulf countries but not in Kuwait.

He expressed hope that measures would be taken to encourage the provision of diverse real estate consulting services in market studies and evaluations in order to attract companies and counteract monopolistic practices in the absence of a specific regulatory mechanism.

In addition, Al-Awadhi addressed the issue of real estate registration in the names of companies listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange.

He said, "Despite repeated discussions on this matter, it remains unresolved. No clear decisions have been made regarding the registration of listed real estate companies with foreign ownership due to conflicts with Kuwait's foreign ownership laws. This issue requires urgent resolution."

04 September - 28 September 2024

**SUMMER CLEARANCE SALE**

FASHION | FOOTWEAR | LADIES BAGS | BABY ACCESSORIES

**20% - 70% OFF\***

From 04 September To 10 September 2024

From 05 September To 8 September 2024

**GET DOUBLE HAPPINESS POINTS**

SPEND 20KD AND ABOVE EARN DOUBLE HAPPINESS POINTS

**nutella 400g**

From 1.440 to **1.100**

**Nutella Hazelnut Spread 400gm**

**Local Kuwaiti Veal Bone-in /kg**

From 04 to 06, 09 2024

**2.990**

**Seabass (Small) /kg**

From 05 to 07, 09 2024

**2.890**

**Indian Chilled Whole Mutton /kg**

From 04 to 07, 09 2024

**3.190**

**Driscoll's Blueberry (South Africa) 125gm packet**

From 0.895 to **0.695**

From 04 to 07, 09 2024

**Banana (Ecuador) per kg**

From 0.595 to **0.445**

From 04 to 07, 09 2024

**GET OUR WEEKLY OFFERS ON YOUR MOBILE**

SCAN THE QR CODE

LuluHypermarketKw | luluhyperkw | luluhyperkw | luluhypermarket.com

حيث يأتي العالم للتسوق

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Recall Ad

**GENESIS**

G70 (2018-2021)  
G80 (2017-2019)  
G90 (2016-2022)

Included Chassis No.:

**G70** From KMTG541E7KU015822 To KMTG541E4MU080761  
**G80** From KMHG641B4JU223283 To KMHG641B0KU294983  
**G90** From KMHG341A2HU019895 To KMHG341AXLU067380

**Fault** Some vehicles might experience oil feed pipe leakage

**Procedure** Visit the dealer to verify the vehicle's coverage and carry out the necessary procedures for free

**Contact** Contact Northern Gulf Trading Company on 1808666

This summons was organized in accordance with Law Articles (42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48) of the Ministerial Resolution No. (2015/27) issuing the executive regulations of Law No. (2014/39) regarding consumer protection



## World News Roundup

## Europe

## Grossi in Kyiv

## Russian strike kills 41 in Ukraine: prez

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 3, (AP): Two Russian ballistic missiles struck a military training facility and nearby hospital in a central-eastern region of Ukraine, killing at least 41 people and wounding 180 others, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday.

The strike occurred in the city of Poltava, the capital of the region of the same name, officials said. Poltava is located about 350 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Kyiv. The city is on the main highway and rail route between Kyiv and Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which is close to the Russian border.

The strike appeared to be one of the deadliest carried out by Russian forces since the war began more than 900 days ago on Feb 24, 2022.



Zelenskyy

"One of the buildings of the (Poltava Military) Institute of Communications was partially destroyed. People found themselves under the rubble. Many were saved," Zelenskyy said in a video posted on his Telegram channel.

"All necessary services are involved in the rescue operation," he added. He said he had ordered "a full and prompt investigation" into what happened. Zelenskyy didn't provide any further details.

The missiles hit shortly after the air raid alert sounded, when many people were on their way to a bomb shelter, Ukraine's Defense Ministry said, describing the strike as "barbaric."

Rescue crews and medics saved 25 people, 11 of them dug out from the rubble, a Defense Ministry statement said.

Poltava Gov Filip Prohin announced three days of mourning starting on Wednesday.

**UN N-watchdog head in Ukraine:** The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog was holding talks with senior officials Tuesday in Ukraine over safety concerns for Europe's largest nuclear power plant, where attacks were recently reported nearby.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, was making his 10th visit since the Russia-Ukraine war began in February 2022.

Grossi posted on X that he was on his way to Zaporizhzhia to "help prevent a nuclear accident."

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which came under Russian control in the wake of its 2022 full-scale invasion, saw artillery shelling in the area the previous day that damaged the facility's power access, according to its operator Energoatom, which blamed Russia for the attacks.

Analysts say that an explosion at the Zaporizhzhia plant would produce radiation and likely trigger panic, but the radiation risk beyond the immediate blast area would be relatively low and nothing like the scale of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

**EU chief aims for gender parity:** At first glance, the European Union may seem like a paragon of gender equality - what with Ursula von der Leyen heading the all-important executive branch. Still, all the talk this week is about an excess of men poised for top positions at the EU headquarters.

Not that von der Leyen, the first woman to hold the position as European Commission president, would want anything other than full gender parity in the body that runs the day-to-day business of the world's biggest trading bloc of 450 million people.

"One of its key objectives is achieving gender balance in decision-making," the strategy of von der Leyen's outgoing European Commission boldly proclaimed. Her office was "committed to lead by example, with the first female Commission president selected in 2019, and the first gender-balanced College of Commissioners during this time."

**Fake voters rolls probed in Switzerland:** Swiss federal prosecutors say they have ordered house searches and interrogations as part of an investigation into possible electoral fraud after an advocacy group unearthed thousands of fake signatures in voter rolls.

Newspapers in Swiss media group Tamedia first reported that the initiative "Service Citizen" (Citizen Service) has filed a criminal complaint alleging malfeasance that could have skewed results in Swiss elections.

The revelation has jolted Switzerland's vaunted system of direct democracy, where mail-in balloting is the main way that voters cast ballots and where referendums four times a year give citizens a direct say in policymaking. The next such referendum is scheduled for Sept 22, where a biodiversity project is among issues on the ballot.

Advocacy group co-president Noemie Roten commissioned an outside firm last year to collect some 10,000 signatures on voter rolls, and she subsequently discovered that nearly a third appeared fake - involving bogus addresses, falsified birth dates and repeated signatures.

**Aliyev's party retains dominance:** The party of Azerbaijan's strongman president retained dominance in parliamentary elections, according to preliminary results announced Monday. An international observer mission said the vote did not offer voters genuine political alternatives.

In the Sunday vote for the 125-seat Milli Majlis, the New Azerbaijan party of President Ilham Aliyev won 68 seats. 45 went to independents and the remainder were won by candidates from small parties, that are mostly pro-Aliyev.

"These elections took place in a restrictive political and legal environment, the consequence of which was a lack of political pluralism coupled with the subdued and low-key campaign, all of which undermined the electoral process," said Michael Creed, a leader of the observer mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

**13 dead after migrant boat capsizes:** The mayor of a French coastal town being used in a rescue operation says 13 migrants are dead after their boat ripped apart Tuesday during an attempted crossing of the English Channel.

Dozens of people plunged into the treacherous waters.

"Unfortunately, the bottom of the boat ripped open," said Olivier Barbarin, mayor of Le Portel near the fishing port of Boulogne-sur-Mer, where a first-aid post was set up to treat victims. "It's a big drama.



US Democratic vice presidential nominee Minnesota Gov Tim Walz speaks during a campaign stop at Laborfest on Sept 2, in Milwaukee. (AP)

## Politics

## Race for Alaska lone House seat narrows to final 4

## Walz unharmed after motorcade crash

MILWAUKEE, Sept 3, (AP): Some vans at the back of a motorcade carrying Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz crashed on the highway while heading from the airport to a campaign stop in Milwaukee on Monday, but Walz was unharmed.

President Joe Biden called from Air Force One and spoke to Walz a short time later, as the president was traveling to a separate campaign stop in Pittsburgh with Vice President Kamala Harris. Harris herself was campaigning in Detroit before heading to the joint event later in the day with Biden, and her campaign said that she also spoke with her running mate by phone after the crash.

The Harris campaign said the crash involved vehicles near the rear of the motorcade. Walz, who is also the governor of Minnesota, was riding closer to the front. Images posted on social media showed large passenger vans with crumpled front and backends after the collision, which was said to have occurred on Interstate 794.

The White House said Harris was briefed on the collision and spoke with Walz to check on him and the staff.

## Accident

Upon arriving at his event, Walz spoke briefly about the crash saying "some of my staff and members of the press that were traveling with us were involved in a traffic accident on the way here today."

"We've spoken with the staff. I'm relieved to say that with a few minor injuries, everybody's going to be okay," Walz said. "President Biden and Vice President Harris called to check in, and we certainly appreciate their concern, and I want to express my sincere thanks to the US Secret Service and all the local first responders for their quick reaction."

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the crash, which occurred shortly before 1 p.m. local time and caused some minor injuries.

A member of the traveling pool staff, who was in a van carrying reporters, had an injured arm and was treated by medics, according to a pool report from a reporter traveling in Walz's motorcade, who wrote that passengers

were "violently thrown forward, as our van slammed into the one in front of us and was hit from behind."

Walz and his motorcade stopped at the hospital a few hours after the crash so he could check on staff members who were involved.

The van carrying the reporters remained pulled over on the side of the road for several minutes afterward.

Some reporters had scrapes and bruises and one had a bloody nose. Another feared having suffered a concussion and was initially looking to be taken to urgent care - but eventually climbed aboard a new van to accompany the rest of the press to the event.

All who wanted to be checked out by paramedics were assessed, according to the pool report.

The crash occurred after Walz and his wife, Gwen, were greeted at the airport by Democratic Rep. Gwen Moore of Wisconsin. The trio embraced, chatted and posed for a photo before the motorcade began heading to the event.

Monday's campaign stops marking Labor Day were Walz's first aboard the Harris-Walz campaign charter aircraft. It bears decals of an American flag, the words Harris-Walz, and "A New Way Forward."

## Also:

**JUNEAU, Alaska:** Two candidates who combined received just over 1% of the vote in Alaska's US House primary last week advanced to November's ranked choice general election.

**Matthew Salisbury**, a Republican, and **John Wayne Howe**, who is chairman of the Alaskan Independence Party, can advance, according to results released late Friday by the state Division of Elections. The narrowed field already includes two frontrunners, Democratic US Rep. **Mary Peltola** and Republican **Nick Begich**.

Alaska's open primary system advances the top four vote-getters, regardless of party, to the general election. Peltola finished with the most votes in a field of 12 in the Aug. 20 primary, followed by Begich and Republican Lt. Gov. **Nancy Dahlstrom**, who was backed by former President **Donald Trump**. Far behind them were

Salisbury and Howe, who led the remaining candidates.

Dahlstrom announced her withdrawal last week, and elections director **Carol Beecher** said this allowed for the fifth-place finisher to qualify for the November ballot.

Elections officials were targeting Sunday to certify the primary results, and Monday is the deadline for candidates to withdraw from the general election.

Peltola, Begich and Dahlstrom were the only candidates in the race to report raising any money.

Peltola became the first Alaska Native in Congress in 2022 following the death of Republican U.S. Rep. Don Young, who had held the seat for 49 years. The elections that year were the first held using the new voting process.

Begich, who has spoken against ranked choice voting, has said conservatives need to unite to defeat Peltola in November.

Dahlstrom, in announcing her decision Aug. 23, said that throughout her career she's done "what's right for Alaska. And today is no different. At this time, the best thing I can do for our state and our Party is to withdraw my name from the general election ballot and end my campaign."

An initiative that seeks to repeal the open primary and ranked vote general election system also will appear on the fall ballot.

Salisbury, in his candidate statement filed with the Division of Elections, said the culture in Washington "has allowed the citizen to be forgotten. I have joined the race for our solo seat in the house, to make sure the voices of the people are heard and in turn amplified throughout D.C. and the country."

Howe, in his statement, said Alaskans are "imprisoned by Government" and called the federal government "an oppressing master."

There are nearly 18,900 registered voters with the Alaskan Independence Party, making it the third largest of the four recognized political parties in the state, according to Division of Elections statistics. But the majority of registered voters aren't affiliated with a party.



Election counting staff empty a ballot box to begin counting votes at a polling station in Berne, Switzerland, on Oct 22, 2023. Swiss federal prosecutors say they have ordered house searches and interrogations as part of an investigation into possible electoral fraud after an advocacy group unearthed thousands of fake signatures in voter rolls. (AP)



Hoskins



Chell

## America

**5 shot at NY parade:** Five people were shot Monday at New York City's West Indian American Day Parade, police said. It's the latest instance of violence marking one of the world's largest annual celebrations of Caribbean culture.

A gunman targeting a specific group of people opened fire along the parade route in Brooklyn around 2:35 p.m. NYPD Chief of Patrol **John Chell** said.

The parade had kicked off hours earlier, with thousands of revelers dancing and marching down Eastern Parkway, a main thoroughfare through the borough. It was expected to continue into the night.

Two people were critically wounded, Chell said. The three other victims are expected to survive their injuries, he said. The gunman fled.

"This was not random," Chell said. "This was an intentional act by one person towards a group of people. We do not by no means have any active shooter or anything of that nature running around Eastern Parkway as we speak. The parade is going on and will go on until later on tonight." (AP)

**Home explosion kills teen:** Investigators are trying to determine the cause of an explosion that destroyed a southwest Louisiana home, killing a teenage boy from Alabama and injuring five other people.

Louisiana State Fire Marshal Bryan J. Adams said the explosion happened Saturday morning. Firefighters arrived to find the house burning. The explosion leveled the house, throwing debris for some distance and seriously damaging nearby vehicles and a metal outbuilding.

Killed was Deuce Barrere, 16, of Theodore, Alabama, local news outlets reported. Five other people were taken to hospitals including Barrere's older sister and mother. Adams said a toddler who was in the house was not injured and is being cared for by relatives.

"This is an unimaginable tragedy for this family and community," Adams said in a statement. (AP)

**4 fatally shot on Chicago train:** A shooting on a commuter train outside Chicago on Labor Day morning left four

people dead, police said.

Three people were pronounced dead at the Forest Park station, an above-ground stop on the Chicago Transit Authority's

Blue Line. The fourth victim died at a hospital.

The suspect got away but was subsequently arrested on a train on a different



Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Mariano Grossi, (right), and Ukrainian Atomic Energy Minister Herman Halushenko shake hands in Kyiv, Ukraine on Sept 3. The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog was holding talks with senior officials Tuesday in Ukraine over safety concerns for Europe's largest nuclear power plant, where attacks were recently reported nearby. (AP)

route, Forest Park police said.

"A weapon was recovered," Forest Park Deputy Chief Chris Chin told reporters. "There is no immediate threat. This appears to be an isolated incident on this unfortunate day."

Forest Park Mayor **Rory Hoskins** said his community, population 14,000, is the only Chicago suburb in Cook County where two major train lines end. (AP)

**Patio crash kills 2:** A man drove his car through a restaurant patio where a group of medical workers were celebrating in a Minneapolis suburb on Sunday, killing two people and injuring at least four, police and hospital officials said.

Surveillance footage captured a man, whom police did not name, driving into the outdoor patio of the Park in St. Louis Park, a city immediately west of Minneapolis. The footage shows the man entering the restaurant parking lot on Sunday evening but not going inside. He attempted to park, then drove into the outdoor patio, police said.

The driver was arrested for criminal vehicular homicide. Police did not offer additional details on a potential motive. They also did not identify the victims. But in a written statement on Monday, Amelise Heitkamp, a spokesperson for Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, said one of the people who died and the four who were injured worked at the facility. (AP)



## Africa

## Protesters charged

## At least 129 killed in Congo jailbreak

KINSHASA, Congo, Sept 3, (AP): An attempted jailbreak in Congo's main prison left 129 people dead, including some who were shot and others who died in a stampede at the overcrowded facility, authorities said Tuesday. Activists alleged the death toll was higher but did not provide a figure.

A provisional assessment showed that 24 inmates were fatally shot by "warning" shots fired by guards as they tried to escape from the Makala Central Prison in the capital of Kinshasa early on Monday, Congolese Interior Minister **Jacquemin Shabani** said on the social platform X.

"There are also 59 injured people taken into care by the government, as well as some cases of women raped," he said, adding that order has now been restored at the prison, part of which was burned in the attempted jailbreak.

He did not elaborate on the incidents of rape. The prison holds both male and female inmates.

It was not known if all 129 fatalities were inmates. Also, it wasn't immediately clear how the stampede occurred as details of the jailbreak remained sparse.

Makala, Congo's largest 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.

## Stormed

The facility has recorded previous jailbreaks, including in 2017 when members of a sect stormed the prison and freed dozens of inmates.

Gunfire inside the prison started around midnight on Sunday and lasted into Monday morning, local residents in the area said.

"Shots were ringing out everywhere," said Stéphane Matondo, who lives nearby, adding that military vehicles arrived shortly after and that the main road to the prison was blocked.

Videos posted online show bodies lying on the ground inside the prison, many of them with visible injuries. Another video shows inmates carrying bodies that appeared to be lifeless onto a vehicle.

There were no signs of forced entry into the prison, which is located in the city center, 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the presidential palace.

The attempted escape was plotted from inside the prison by inmates in one of the wings, Mbemba Kabuya, the deputy justice minister, told the local Top Congo FM radio. In the hours following the attack, officials visited the prison as authorities convened a panel to investigate the incident. Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi, who is in China on an official visit, has not publicly commented on the incident.

## Also:

**ABUJA, Nigeria:** At least 10 protesters in Nigeria faced a possible death penalty on Monday after being charged with treason over their participation in recent demonstrations against the country's worst-in-a-generation economic crisis.

The protesters were arraigned in the capital, Abuja, and accused of acting "with intent to destabilize Nigeria ... and intimidate the president" during the protests. They pleaded not guilty and will remain in prison until a Sept. 11 bail hearing.

A British citizen was named among the suspects still at large. The British High Commission did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Nigeria police spokesman **Muyiwa Adejobi** accused **Andrew Wynne** of working with the protesters as a foreign mercenary and building "a network of sleeper cells to topple the government and plunge the nation into chaos." He did not provide any evidence to back up the claim.

At least 22 protesters were shot dead by security forces during the demonstrations, Amnesty International said. Authorities have denied it. The Associated Press confirmed at least three killings. Little is known about the fate of hundreds of other protesters arrested.

There have been growing concerns in Nigeria about human rights abuses under the government of President Bola Tinubu, who was elected last year after promising positive change. The protesters were charged under Nigeria's Penal Code, which critics have described as one of the country's harshest laws and one used by authorities to clamp down on dissent. The treason charge carries the death penalty.

The trial was widely condemned in Nigeria.

"Some of the charges show how far Nigerian authorities can go in misusing the criminal justice system to silence critical voices. These are blatantly trumped-up charges that must be immediately withdrawn," Amnesty country director **Isa Sanusi** said in a statement.

**TUNIS, Tunisia:** Tunisia's electoral authority on Monday definitively approved just two candidates to challenge President **Kais Saied** in elections next month in the struggling North African country - and one of them was promptly arrested.

Businessman candidate **Ayachi Zammel** was taken into custody Monday in an investigation into allegations relating to falsification of signatures from registered voters, his lawyer **Saber Laabidi** told the Associated Press. Last month, authorities arrested the treasurer of Zammel's former party on similar charges.

Also Monday, Tunisia's electoral authority confirmed that only incumbent **Saied, Zammel**, who leads a small pro-business party, and **Zouhair Maghzaoui**, a former left-wing pan-Arabist member of parliament, could run for president in the Oct. 6 election. A total of 17 candidates had initially sought to join the race.

Observers have expressed alarm at growing signs of democratic backsliding in Tunisia ahead of campaigning, which kicks off Sept. 14. Saied has imprisoned political opponents, suspended parliament and rewritten the constitution, consolidating his grip on the presidency in the country that set off democratic uprisings around the region a decade ago known as the Arab Spring.

The electoral authority's decision Monday flew in the face of a decision last week by Tunisia's highest administrative court, which ruled in favor of reinstating three other candidates who had initially been barred from running by the electoral commission.

The electoral commission refused to reinstate them, arguing Monday that it didn't receive the administrative court's ruling within the legal deadlines. Electoral commission president **Farouk Bouaskar** also cited a shortage of endorsements or the required financial deposit of 10,000 dinars (3,000 euros).



Shabani



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, (left), attend a welcome ceremony in Sukhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Sept 3. (AP)



Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro brandishes a sword as his new Cabinet takes the oath of office, at the presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela on Aug 28. (AP)



Gonzalez



Castro

## Lat/Am

## Arrest warrant issued for Gonzalez:

A Venezuelan judge on Monday issued an arrest warrant for the opposition's former presidential candidate **Edmundo González** as part of a criminal investigation into the results of the highly anticipated July election that both the ruling party and its opponents claim to have won.

The warrant was issued at the request of authorities who accuse González, a former diplomat, of various crimes including conspiracy, falsifying documents and usurpation of powers. The move is the latest escalation of repression against the opposition in the month after election officials declared President Nicolás Maduro had won a third six-year term in office.

Authorities sought the warrant after González failed to appear three times to answer questions from prosecutors. González, 75, has not made any public appearances since the day after the election. His campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

Prosecutors have zeroed in on thousands of tally sheets known as actas - printouts measuring several feet that resemble shopping receipts - that have long been considered the ultimate proof of election results in Venezuela. Each of the 30,000 electronic voting machines used in the July 28 election printed several copies of the sheets, whose information was also transmitted to the National Electoral Council.

Ruling party-loyal electoral authorities declared Maduro the victor hours after polls closed, but they did not publish results broken down by voting machine as they had done in previous presidential elections. The National Electoral Council claimed it could not release the detailed information because its website was hacked.

González and opposition leader María Corina Machado then stunned supporters and adversaries alike by announcing the documents showed Maduro lost by a wide margin against the former diplomat and publishing the records online. (AP)

## Hondurans disillusioned with leader:

An incriminating admission by the brother-in-law of Honduras' president just days after the country announced it would end its longstanding extradition treaty with the U.S. is feeding fears among Hondurans that the country's legacy of corruption is continuing.

President **Xiomara Castro** had inspired hope when she was elected the Central American nation's first female leader in 2021 on a promise to "pull Honduras out of the abyss we have been buried in by neoliberalism, a narco-dictator and corruption."

Despite being married to former President Manuel Zelaya Rosales - ousted in a coup in 2009 - she was a breath of fresh air for many Hondurans after the presidency of Juan Orlando Hernández, who in June was sentenced to 45 years in prison by a US fed-

## Asia

## Japan PM to visit South Korea

## Russian President Putin visits Mongolia

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia, Sept 3, (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Mongolia on Tuesday with no sign that the host country would bow to calls to arrest him on an international warrant for alleged war crimes stemming from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The trip is Putin's first to a member country of the International Criminal Court since it issued the warrant about 18 months ago. Ahead of his visit, Ukraine called on Mongolia to hand Putin over to the court in The Hague, and the European Union expressed concern that Mongolia might not execute the warrant. A spokesperson for Putin said last week that the Kremlin wasn't worried.

## Relations

The warrant puts the Mongolian government in a difficult position. After decades under communism with close ties to the Soviet Union, it transitioned to democracy in the 1990s and has built relations with the United States, Japan and other new partners. But it remains economically dependent on its two much larger and more powerful neighbors, Russia and China. Russia supplies the landlocked country with most of its fuel and a sizeable amount of its electricity.

The ICC has accused Putin of being responsible for the abductions of children from Ukraine, where the fighting has raged for 2½ years. Member countries are required by the court's founding treaty, the Rome Statute, to detain suspects if an arrest warrant has been issued, but Mongolia needs to maintain good relations with Russia and the court lacks a mechanism to enforce its warrants.

The Russian leader was welcomed in the main square in Ulaanbaatar, the capital, by an honor guard dressed in vivid red and blue uniforms styled on those of the personal guard of 13th century ruler Genghis Khan, the founder of the Mongol Empire.

He and Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa walked up the red-carpeted steps of the Government Palace and bowed before a statue of Genghis Khan before entering the building for their meetings. A small group of protesters who tried to unfurl a Ukrainian flag before the welcome ceremony were taken away by police.

The two governments signed agreements for a feasibility study and the design of an upgrade to a power plant in Ulaanbaatar and to ensure the continuous supply of aviation fuel to Mongolia. Putin also outlined plans to develop the

rail system between the two countries.

But as gang violence has continued to roil Honduras and several scandals have plagued Castro's government, frustration has replaced that initial optimism for many Hondurans who now see her as the same brand of corrupt leader that has long ruled their country.

"We thought that corruption would end



This image made from video shows state security forces outside Makala prison in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, following an attempted jailbreak in Congo's main prison on Sept 2. An attempted jailbreak in Congo's main prison in the capital left at least 129 people dead, most of them in a stampede, authorities said Tuesday. (AP)

## Bus crashes into students and parents in China; eleven killed

BEIJING, Sept 3, (AP): A bus crashed into a group of students and their parents at a school in eastern China early Tuesday, killing 11 people and injuring 13, police said.

The students and parents were at the gate of a middle school in Tai'an city in the eastern province of Shandong just before 7:30 a.m., the Dongping county police department said in a posting on social media.

Six parents and five students were killed, it said. One of the injured was in serious condition while the others were listed as stable, the department said.

The driver was in police custody and the incident was under investigation, it said.

The bus was specially customized for transporting students, it said. It did not say who was responsible for operating the bus. Many schools contract out such services to private companies or individuals.

School safety, including overloaded school buses and poorly designed buildings, has long been a problem in China.

In 2017, a dozen people, including 11 kindergarten pupils, were killed when a school bus crashed and burst into flames in a tunnel in the eastern Chinese city of Weihai, also in Shandong province. The driver, six Chinese children and five South Korean children were killed. It remains unclear whether the crash was deliberate or the result of unsafe driving.

China has cracked down heavily on transportation dangers, adding training and vehicle inspections.

China also has suffered numerous cases in recent years of attacks on school children, often using knives or homemade explosives. The suspects were generally found to be bearing grudges and seeking revenge over personal matters or against society more generally.

the two leaders to discuss further cooperation between their governments in the face of an increasingly difficult strategic environment.

**N.Korea drone attacks target:** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a demonstration of new exploding drones designed to crash into targets, state media said Monday, as the US and South Korea engage in joint military drills.

North Korean test photos showed a white drone with X-shaped tails and wings supposedly crashing into and destroying a target resembling South Korea's main K-2 battle tank. Most combat drones stand off from targets and fire missiles.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Saturday's test involved various types of drones built to fly different ranges to attack enemy targets on land and sea and flew along various routes before accurately hitting test targets. After the test, Kim pledged to spur the development of drones that explode on impact, conduct reconnaissance or attack targets underwater to boost his country's war readiness, saying the North's military should be equipped with advanced drones "as early as possible," KCNA said.

admitted that he had met with a leader of the drug trafficking organization "Los Cachorros" in 2013. (AP)

## Cancer claims real estate magnate:

Rodolfo Hernández, a controversial real estate magnate and anti-corruption crusader who came close to winning Colombia's presidential election two years ago, has died from colon cancer at a hospital near the city of Bucaramanga, his doctors said Monday in a statement. He was 79.

Hernández, a civil engineer and former mayor of Bucaramanga, surprised Colombians in 2022 when he made it to the second round of the nation's presidential election with a low-cost, self-financed campaign that eschewed the clientelist networks that political parties in Colombia usually rely on.

Instead he relied on confrontational messages on X and snazzy social media videos to get his message out. He got 28% of the vote in the May 2022 election, which was enough for him to advance to a runoff against the leading candidate, Gustavo Petro.

Hernández was barely known among most Colombians when campaigning began. But he built a loyal following among conservative voters who were fed up with the nation's traditional politicians. He lost in a hotly contested runoff to Petro, a life-long activist and former senator, who led a large coalition of left-wing parties, unions and social movements. (AP)



	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
SAUDI	-	+12.90	12,180.37	JAPAN	-	-14.56	38,686.31
DUBAI	-	+13.06	4,369.83	PHILIPPINES	-	-40.49	6,882.92
EGYPT	-	+286.50	31,018.48				
PAKISTAN	-	+68.09	78,448.06				

# Business

## In The Banker's list of Top 100 Arab Banks in 2024

### Kuwait Finance House ranks first in growth and return on risk in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Group has ranked first in the Kuwaiti banking sector in terms of growth and return on risk for this year's Top 100 Arab Banks Rankings from The Banker, reinforcing its journey of outstanding achievements and global recognition.

The Banker's annual report has based its ranking of KFH on performance rates, annual growth, assets growth, financing portfolio, operating profits, deposits, and return on risk-weighted assets.

On this occasion, Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, said that the recent rating by The Banker is the latest awarded to KFH among an array of international recognitions, awards, and honors. These accolades are a testament to KFH's strong financial performance, successful strategy, and meticulous action plan aimed at solidifying its top position in Islamic banking worldwide.

Al Rushood pointed out that KFH has already accomplished its goal of becoming a leader in the Islamic banking industry in the region. This is achieved by diligently implementing an ambitious plan targeting a place among the top 100 global banks. He highlighted that the recent achievements have set the foundation for reaching this milestone.

He stated: "It is with great pleasure that we continue to receive high rankings and prestigious awards from prominent international organizations, which validate KFH's exceptional performance and leadership and reflect the trust and confidence of our shareholders and customers, the most significant form of recognition."

Al Rushood explained that KFH is continuing its efforts towards achieving balanced growth with deliberate risks assessments and high-quality assets, while focusing on core banking activities, raising the pace of operational performance as well as concentrating on digital transformation and innova-



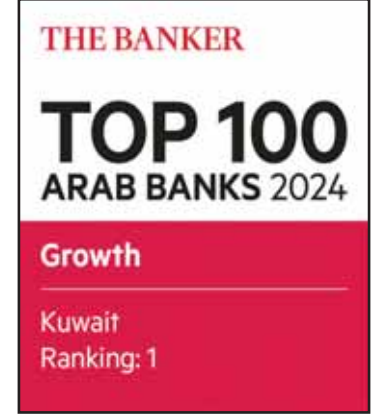
Abdulwahab Al Rushood, Acting Group CEO

tion. Thus, enhancing KFH's role in serving its customers and the national economy, and developing the Islamic banking industry.

Founded in 1926, The Banker is the world's premier banking and finance resource, providing comprehensive economic and financial information. The Banker holds a highly esteemed position and is considered one of the most trustworthy publications in the banking industry in the region. It upholds the highest standards of journalistic excellence in the field of finance, precise reporting, thorough analysis, professionalism, and integrity.



First in Return on Risk



First in Growth

It is worth noting that KFH reported record net profit of KD 584.5 million attributable to the shareholders of the bank for the year ended 2023, an increase of 63.4% compared to 2022. The historic profits are the highest-ever recorded in the Kuwaiti banking sector. Net financing income in 2023 reached KD 965.9 million, an increase of 20.7% compared to the previous year 2022. Net operating income for the year ended 2023 reached KD 945.4 million, an increase of 30.7% compared to last year, in addition to recording an increase in all key financial indicators.

## Kuwait real estate market sees 22% 'drop' in August transactions value

Unexpected rise in real estate trading despite high interest rates

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Real estate expert Ali Al-Saffar reported a 22 percent decrease in the value of real estate transactions in Kuwait in the month of August, and a ten percent decline in the number of transactions compared to July.

In an interview with Kuwait TV, Al-Saffar explained that the total value of real estate transactions in August was approximately KD 296 million for 407 transactions. Residential real estate had the largest share of transactions with a total of 281 transactions worth KD 130 million. This was followed by investment real estate with 90 transactions worth KD 119 million, and then commercial real estate with 34 transactions worth KD 42 million.

There was an eight percent increase in the value of real estate transactions in the investment sector for August, reaching KD 105 million, compared to July.

On the other hand, the residential sector experienced a slight decline of four percent, with transactions valued at KD 135 million in July. Also, commercial real estate transactions decreased by 35 percent, with the total

## Banking sector sees 0.7% decline in total assets

### Kuwait's broad money supply dips by 0.4% in July

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) reported on Tuesday that the broad money supply (M2) fell by 0.4% in July, reaching KD 39.9 billion (approximately USD 131 billion) compared to the previous month.

According to statistical data from the CBK's Economic Research Department, private sector deposits in local banks, denominated in Kuwaiti dinars, also decreased by 0.3%, totaling KD 36.5 billion (around USD 120.6 billion). Additionally, private sector deposits in foreign currencies dropped by 1.2% to KD 1.82 billion (around USD 6 billion). The total balances of local banks' claims on the CBK in dinars, represented by CBK bonds, saw a 6.8% decline, amounting to KD 2.7 billion (around USD 8.9 billion).

Meanwhile, the total assets of local banks decreased by 0.7% in July, standing at KD 87.9 billion (approximately USD 290 billion). However, net foreign assets of local

banks rose by 1%, reaching KD 13.4 billion (around USD 44 billion). Time deposits at the CBK experienced a significant increase of 9.7%, totaling KD 1.1 billion (about USD 3.6 billion). On the other hand, cash credit facilities (loans) decreased by 0.8%, amounting to KD 55.3 billion (around USD 182.4 billion).

The report also noted that the average interest rates on one-year treasury bonds remained stable at 4.625% in July. Additionally, financing for Kuwaiti imports increased by 24%, reaching KD 786.4 million (around USD 2.5 billion). The average exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar slightly decreased by 0.2%, standing at 305.9 fils.

The CBK explained that money supply in its narrow sense (M1) refers to the total volume of currency used in daily transactions, including cash and demand deposits. In contrast, broad money supply (M2) includes these, as well as time deposit accounts and savings accounts.

A clearer picture will emerge in the coming months, as it is only the second month of the third quarter. The situation is expected to shift notably in the final four months of the year (September, October, November, and December), particularly with the Federal Reserve and US bank expecting significant decreases in bank interest rates during September.

There is also an unexpected increase in both the number of trades and deals, despite the current rise in interest rates and the restrictive bank financing conditions. Despite these challenges, buyers are accepting the current prices, leading to an unforeseen rise in trading value.

## Kuwait oil price down to \$77.70 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by USD 1.78 to USD 77.70 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 79.48 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Tuesday.

At the global level, the price of the Brent crude and the West Texas Intermediate went up each by 49 and 59 cents to settle respectively at USD 74.04 pb and USD 77.52 pb.

## Trade deficit drops to 34-month low

## Türkiye's exports reach \$22.1 bln

ISTANBUL, Sept 3, (KUNA): Türkiye achieved a record-breaking level of exports for August, reaching USD 22.1 billion, a 2.4 percent increase compared to the same month last year, Omer Bolat, the Turkish trade minister announced on Monday.

The country's foreign trade deficit also saw a significant reduction, dropping to USD 4.9 billion in August, the lowest level in 34 months. This marks a 43.4 percent decrease year-on-year, reflecting a substantial improvement in Türkiye's trade

balance, reported the national news agency (Anadolu Agency).

For the January-August period, Türkiye's exports amounted to USD 170.8 billion, up 3.9 percent compared to the same period last year. Imports during this period totaled USD 225.66 billion, marking an 8.7 percent decrease.

Minister Bolat emphasized the positive trends in the nation's trade figures, particularly the reduction in the trade deficit, as a key achievement in stabilizing the country's economy.

## Egypt and Türkiye aim to boost trade to \$15 billion amid strengthened ties

ANKARA, Sept 3, (KUNA): The anticipated visit of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi to Türkiye is another step for strengthening bilateral relations, added to the historic visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Egypt last February, in a rapid scene of leaps of consensus, rapprochement, and cooperation to better relations.

These two visits come after a lull in ties that lasted almost a decade, during which diplomatic relations remained at the charge d'affaires level only, while bilateral trade between the two countries was not affected.

Perhaps the meeting of the two presidents at the World Cup in Qatar contributed greatly to the reconciliation and the restoration of relations, especially at the diplomatic level, whereas the two countries decided to raise diplomatic representation to the rank of ambassador last year with the aim of establishing normal relations again.

According to the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this measure reflects the two countries' determination to work towards strengthening their bilateral relations for the benefit of the Egyptian and Turkish peoples.

Egypt subsequently announced the nomination of Amr Al-Hamami as its ambassador in Ankara, while Turkey nominated Salih Mutlu Shen as ambassador in Cairo.

The Turkish-Egyptian relationship witnessed a rapid rapprochement and a high-level exchange of official visits, most notably the visit of former Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry to Türkiye following the earthquake in February 2023.

President Erdogan's recent visit to Egypt represented an important step in supporting and strengthening relations, and the extent of closeness was evident in the press conference, as President El-Sisi welcomed his Turkish counterpart, saying, "Let us open together a new page between our countries in a way that strengthens our relations and put them on the right track."

The Egyptian President expressed his pride and appreciation for the historic relations with Türkiye and the common civil and cultural heritage, in addition to increasing trade relations during that period.

He said that Egypt is Türkiye's first trading partner in Africa, while Ankara is one of the most important destinations for Egyptian exports, stressing the desire to raise the volume of trade exchange to USD 15 billion in the coming years and to benefit from the two countries while they are facing security, economic and social challenges caused by unstable reality.

On the other hand, President Erdogan affirmed in Cairo that the two countries share a common history that goes back to more than a 1,000 years, which makes it necessary for them to advance their relations to a decent path, especially in light of the mutual will to raise the level of cooperation to a strategic cooperation council.

It is expected that this council will hold its first meeting on the sidelines of El-Sisi's visit to Ankara to mark a new milestone in bilateral ties.

According to Erdogan's statement in Cairo, Türkiye seeks to raise its investments in Egypt up to USD three billion.

On the political side, latest regional developments, especially the ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza and the situation in Libya have become the priority of the two presidents' discussions in Cairo.

After recent visits by senior officials, the two countries are currently working to strengthen bilateral cooperation in order to achieve stability in the region, relying on their role in resolving regional and international issues, most notably the war on Gaza.

On that matter, former Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said that "there is no conflict of interests between Egypt and Türkiye, but rather compatibility and a positive influence in solving these chronic problems and achieving the interests of both countries."

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan visited Cairo in August and met with the Egyptian President and his Egyptian counterpart Bader Abdulati, who recently took over the foreign ministry, succeeding Shoukri.

These visits benefited bilateral cooperation and the preparation for the first session of the Strategic Cooperation Council at the level of presidents, which reflects a real desire to enhance cooperation, joint coordination and achieve regional and global stability.

## Strong corporate governance framework praised by World Finance

# Zain wins 'Best Corporate Governance Award '24' for fourth consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Zain, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, has been awarded World Finance's 'Best Corporate Governance Award 2024 for Kuwait', for a milestone fourth consecutive year.

London-based World Finance is a reputable print and online magazine providing comprehensive coverage and analysis of the financial industry, international business, and the global economy.

Corporate Governance is becoming an increasingly important differentiator for organizations, particularly those such as Zain, which are listed on public bourses, with respect to giving all stakeholders confidence that the company is being run in a compliant and transparent manner. As such, Zain's Investor Relations and Corporate Governance Framework is a cornerstone of the company's regional appeal, and has attracted ongoing praise and admiration from shareholders, industry analysts, and regulatory authorities.

As a leading entity listed on the Premier Market, Zain abides fully to market regulations issued by all financial regulatory bodies in Kuwait and across our footprint, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), and Boursa Kuwait as well as other regulatory bodies where Zain is listed.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO said, "Zain believes sound corporate governance plays a significant role in providing long-term sustainable value to all stakeholders. This milestone fourth consecutive recognition justly rewards our Investor Relations, Sustainability and Corporate Governance team's consistent high ethical standards, professionalism and diligence."



Zain award

■ Bader Al-Kharafi: "Sound corporate governance plays a significant role in providing long-term sustainable value to all stakeholders"  
 ■ Zain's Investor Relations, Sustainability and Corporate Governance team proactively raising awareness on issues related to the environment, social, and governance matters

Zain's Corporate Governance framework helps it mitigate risks and facilitates an effective Board oversight over the company's executive management by monitoring the implementation of policies when running daily operations. Corporate Governance promotes strong internal controls to improve integrity of financials and establishes a culture of compliance. This governance structure has helped Zain to win the confidence of the market and attract global investors. Furthermore, Zain's Investor Rela-



Zain Headquarters

tions, Sustainability, and Corporate Governance departments are committed to raising awareness on issues related to the environment, social, and governance (ESG) matters in response to global trends and best practices. Accordingly, Zain has developed new policies and is working to increase transparency in addition to focusing on social responsibility. Such policies and procedures are flexible, and take into account both short- and long-term challenges and risks.

Notably, both Zain's Annual Report as well as its Sustainability Report demonstrate the company's efforts to provide Meaningful Connectivity leading to equitable systemic change, as well as highlighting how Zain is placing ESG activities and sustainable growth at the forefront of its activities, believing in the nurturing of positive relationships among all stakeholders.

About Zain Group: With a commercial presence in 8 countries across the Middle East and Africa, Zain serves

47.8 million active customers as of June 30, 2024. The group provides mobile voice and data services to individuals and enterprises in Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and South Sudan. Headquartered in the UAE, ZainTECH, the Group's one-stop digital and ICT solutions provider, is playing a key role in the transformation of enterprise and government clientele across the MENA region. Also UAE based, Zain Omantel International (ZOI) is revolutionizing the international telecommunications wholesale landscape as the premier wholesale powerhouse serving regional operators, international carriers, and global hyperscalers. In Morocco, Zain has a 15.5% stake in 'INWI', through a joint venture. Zain is listed on the Bursa Kuwait (stock ticker: ZAIN). For more, please email info@zain.com or visit: www.zain.com; www.facebook.com/zain; www.twitter.com/zain; www.youtube.com/zain; www.instagram.com/zaingroup; www.linkedin.com/company/zain



### African nations are losing up to 5% of their GDP per year with climate change

African nations are losing up to 5% of their GDP every year as they bear a heavier burden than the rest of the world from climate change, a new report said Monday after one of the continent's hottest years on record.

The World Meteorological Organization said many African nations are spending up to 9% of their budgets for climate adaptation policies.

"Over the past 60 years, Africa has observed a warming trend that has become more rapid than the global average," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo, warning that it is affecting everything from food security to public health to peace.

Africa is responsible for less than 10% of global greenhouse gas

emissions. But it is the most vulnerable region to extreme weather events including droughts, floods and heatwaves, the WMO said.

The new report focuses on 2023, one of Africa's three hottest years on record. It urged African governments to invest in early warning systems as well as meteorological services. If adequate measures are not put in place, up to 118 million Africans will be exposed to droughts, floods and extreme heat by 2030, the report warned.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the costs of adapting to extreme weather could be \$30-50 billion per year over the next decade, the report estimated.

The effects of climate change have been harrowing. Between

September and October 2023, approximately 300,000 people across West Africa were affected by floods, the report said. Zambia experienced the worst drought in 40 years, affecting nearly 6 million people.

The pattern of extreme weather events in Africa continues in 2024, experts said.

In the Sahel region south of the Sahara, flooding has affected over 716,000 people this year, according to the United Nations. In Mali, authorities last week declared a national disaster over floods which have affected 47,000 people since the beginning of the rainy season.

West Africa experienced an unprecedented heat wave earlier this year that led to a surge in deaths. (AP)

### Candidate declares stance during joint Pennsylvania event with Biden

# Harris opposes US Steel's sale to a Japanese firm

PITTSBURGH, Sept 3, (AP) Vice President Kamala Harris used a joint campaign appearance with President Joe Biden in the critical swing state of Pennsylvania on Monday to say that U.S. Steel should remain domestically owned - concurring with the White House's months-long opposition to the company's planned sale to Japan's Nippon Steel.

Her comments came during a rally before cheering union members marking Labor Day in the industrial city of Pittsburgh, where Harris said U.S. Steel was "an historic American company and it is vital for our country to maintain strong American steel companies."

"U.S. Steel should remain American-owned and American-operated, and I will always have the backs of America's steelworkers," she said.

That echoes Biden, who repeated Monday what he's said since March - that he opposes U.S. Steel's would-be sale to Nippon, believing it would hurt the country's steelworkers. It also overlaps with Republican former President Donald Trump. It's little surprise that Harris would agree with Biden

on the issue, but it nonetheless constitutes a major policy position for the vice president, who has offered relatively few of them since Biden abandoned his reelection bid and endorsed his vice president in July.

Biden took the stage first and was met with chants of "Thank You, Joe" as he and Harris appeared in an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers hall.

The president called Harris the only "rational" choice for president in November. He said choosing her to be vice president was the "single best" decision of his presidency and told the union members that electing her will be "the best decision you will ever make."

Biden also started to say, "Kamala Harris and I are going to build on this" as if he were still running and she was his running mate - but he corrected himself. It underscored just how much the race has changed and how Harris has been careful to balance presenting herself as "a new way forward" while remaining intensely loyal to Biden and the policies he has pushed. Her delivery is very different - and in some cases she's

pushed to move faster than Biden's administration - but the overall goal of expanding government programs to buoy the middle class is the same.

"We know this is going to be a tight race till the very end," Harris told the Pittsburgh crowd.

The joint rally with Biden was Harris' second of the day and followed Pittsburgh's Labor Day parade, one of the country's largest. It was their first joint appearance at a campaign event since the election shakeup six weeks ago.

Harris opened her Labor Day campaigning solo with an event in Detroit, where hundreds of audience members wore bright yellow union shirts and hoisted "Union strong" signs. The vice president said "every person in our nation has benefited" from unions' work.

"Everywhere I go, I tell people, 'Look, you may not be a union member, you'd better thank a union member,'" Harris said, noting that collective bargaining by organized labor helped secure the five-day work week, sick pay and other key benefits and solidify safer working conditions.

"When unions are strong, America is strong," she said.

The 81-year-old Biden has spent most of his lengthy political career forging close ties with organized labor. The White House said he asked to introduce Harris in Pittsburgh - instead of the usual other way around - because he wanted to highlight her record of supporting union workers.

In addition to opposing the Nippon Steel sale, Biden has endorsed expanding tariffs on imported Chinese steel - another area of policy agreement with Trump, who has cheered steeper foreign tariffs on many imports. Still, in a statement Monday, U.S. Steel said it remains "committed to the transaction with Nippon Steel, which is the best deal for our employees, shareholders, communities, and customers."

"The partnership with Nippon Steel, a long-standing investor in the United States from our close ally Japan, will strengthen the American steel industry, American jobs, and American supply chains, and enhance the U.S. steel industry's competitiveness and resilience against China," the company said, noting that it employs nearly 4,000 people in Pennsylvania alone.

### Sino-African trade surges

## Chinese goods 'winning' hearts on the continent

NANJING, Sept 3, (Xinhua) At a workshop in east China's Jiangsu Province, which is owned by Jiangsu Feimi Automobile Industry Co., Ltd. in the city of Xuzhou, electric tricycles are rolling off the assembly line, destined for African markets.

"Our tricycles, capable of carrying both goods and passengers, are easy to operate and don't require fuel, making them a hit in many African countries," said Wang Juxiang, head of the company's technical department.

As trade between China and Africa booms, more African consumers are embracing quality Chinese products like smartphones and electric vehicles, creating new growth opportunities for Chinese companies.

Jiangsu, a manufacturing powerhouse in China, is witnessing a surge in its enterprises exploring new collaborative ventures across the vast African continent.

According to customs data, Jiangsu's trade with Africa reached 97.43 billion yuan (about 13.7 billion U.S. dollars) in the first half of this year, marking a 30.3 percent year-on-year increase.

Keiper Changshu Seating Mechanisms Co., Ltd., specializing in manufacturing key automotive seating components, is among those making significant strides in the African market.

"In the first half, we exported 222,000 automobile seat parts to South Africa. Our clients are satisfied with the quality of our products," said Han Tingwen, an engineer at the company.

With an abundant variety of commodities, convenient and fast logistics, and a good business environment, the city of Yiwu in east China's Zhejiang Province is often referred to as "the world's supermarket."

The Yiwu International Trade Market, offering 2.1 million types of goods and serving over 200 countries and regions, counts Africa among its top export destinations.

Thanks to growing China-Africa trade relations, the city's exports to Africa make up about one-twelfth of China's total exports to the region in 2023, while its imports from Africa are increasing.

Currently, over 560,000 overseas merchants make purchases in Yiwu each year, with African traders repre-

senting more than 10 percent of that number. Additionally, over 3,000 merchants from Africa reside in Yiwu.

China has remained Africa's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years, with bilateral trade reaching a record 282.1 billion U.S. dollars in 2023, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

Notably, China's exports of new energy vehicles, lithium batteries and photovoltaic products to Africa in 2023 surged year on year by 291 percent, 109 percent and 57 percent, respectively.

Beyond traditional sectors such as primary processing industries, Sino-African trade cooperation is expanding into emerging fields like the digital economy, healthcare and financial services.

Chinese-made products are also enjoying smoother entry into African markets. Wuxi BioHermes Bio and Medical Technology Co., Ltd. in Jiangsu recently shipped a batch of glycosylated hemoglobin analyzers and test kits to Algeria.

"In the field of diabetes diagnosis, we've miniaturized large lab equipment into portable devices, making transportation easier and more cost-effective for our African clients," said Liu Yan, the company's general manager, adding that thanks to expedited customs procedures, the company has shortened its delivery cycle by 15 percent, further solidifying its customer base in Africa.

"Our personal care products are now sold in over 10 African countries and regions, with related exports growing by 15 percent year on year in the first half of this year," said Chen Caiming, a foreign trade manager at a biotechnology company in Jiangsu.

Chen said the company's products have been well received by African customers, prompting local customs authorities to open a green channel for sea freight exports, which significantly improves shipping efficiency. "Our orders from African clients are already booked through November, and we are confident in our ability to deliver on time without compromising quality."

Sang Baichuan, a professor at the University of International Business and Economics, said the rapid development of Sino-African trade is rooted in mutual benefits and shared interests.

## Kenya's business lobby is eyeing investment, trade deals at meet

NAIROBI, Sept 3, (Xinhua) The 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) to be held in Beijing this week provides an opportunity for Kenya to enhance bilateral trade with China while attracting new investors in key sectors of the economy, an official from an umbrella business lobby said Monday.

Cynthia Kamau, director of Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), said the country stands to gain from the 2024 FOCAC summit by focusing on increasing the volume of exports to China.

"At FOCAC, we are expecting many trade deals to be made. We are expecting to see interactions between our business people and Chinese businesses," Kamau said on the sidelines of a briefing about the seventh Kenya International Industrial Expo slated for Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, from Sept. 12-14.

The three-day event, organized by Afripeak Expo Kenya Limited in collaboration with Kenya Investment Authority and KNCCI, would be held under the theme "Investing in Tomorrow-Trading for Prosperity Calls for Collaboration between Kenya and China."

Kamau said that a delegation from the Kenyan business lobby will be attending the FOCAC summit, paying special attention to innovations and

best practices that can be replicated locally to spur the growth of startups. She said the commerce lobby opened an office in 2023 in Changsha, the capital of central China's Hunan Province, and plans to open satellite offices in Guangzhou and Shanghai to deepen trade with the Asian nation.

"We will be very focused and looking for these opportunities, listening to the conversations, and giving that information to our business partners in Kenya," Kamau said.

She revealed that in the last eight months since KNCCI opened the Changsha office, Kenyan firms have secured business deals in China worth 300 million shillings (about 2.33 million U.S. dollars), involving mainly the tea sector.

"We even have companies that are already displaying their products in our office in China," Kamau said, adding that business matchmaking between Chinese and Kenyan firms has intensified to explore strategic areas of cooperation.

Kenyan President William Ruto is leading a high-powered delegation comprising government officials and industry leaders to the 2024 FOCAC summit, themed "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future."

# Fed prefers 'soft landing' even if many don't feel like cheering

2.5% inflation not far above 2% target

WASHINGTON, Sept 3, (AP) When Jerome Powell delivered a high-profile speech last month, the Federal Reserve chair came the closest he ever had to declaring that the inflation surge that gripped the nation for three painful years was now essentially defeated.

And not only that. The Fed's high interest rates, Powell said, had managed to achieve that goal without causing a widely predicted recession and high unemployment.

Yet most Americans are not in the same celebratory mood about the plummeting of inflation in the face of the high borrowing rates the Fed engineered. Though consumer sentiment is slowly rising, a majority of Americans in some surveys still complain about elevated prices, given that the costs of such necessities as food, gas and housing remain far above where they were before the pandemic erupted in 2020.

The relatively sour mood of the public is creating challenges for Vice President Kamala Harris as she seeks to succeed President Joe Biden. Despite the fall of inflation and strong job growth, many voters say they're dissatisfied with the Biden-Harris administration's economic record - and especially frustrated by high prices.

That disparity points to a striking gap between how economists and policymakers assess the past several years of the economy and how many ordinary Americans do.

In his remarks last month, given at an annual economic symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Powell underscored how the Fed's sharp rate hikes succeeded much more than most economists had predicted in taming inflation without hammering the economy - a notoriously difficult feat known as a "soft landing."

"Some argued that getting inflation under control would require a recession and a lengthy period of high unemployment," Powell said.

Ultimately, though, he noted, "the 4-1/2 percentage point decline in inflation from its peak two years ago has occurred in a context of low unemployment - a welcome and historically unusual result."

With high inflation now essentially conquered, Powell and other central bank officials are preparing to cut their key interest rate in mid-September for the first time in more than four years. The Fed is becoming more focused on sustaining the job market with the help of lower interest rates than on continuing to fight inflation.

Many consumers, by contrast, are still preoccupied most by today's price levels.

"From the viewpoint of economists, central bankers, how we think about inflation, it really has been a remarkable success, how inflation went up, has come back, and is around the target," said Kristin Forbes, an economist at MIT and a former official at the United



A woman buys eggs at a Walmart Superstore in Secaucus, New Jersey, July 11, 2024. (AP)

## AI may not 'steal' many jobs after all, it might just make workers more efficient

WASHINGTON, Sept 3, (AP) Imagine a customer-service center that speaks your language, no matter what it is.

Alorica, a company in Irvine, California, that runs customer-service centers around the world, has introduced an artificial intelligence translation tool that lets its representatives talk with customers who speak 200 different languages and 75 dialects.

So an Alorica representative who speaks, say, only Spanish can field a complaint about a balky printer or an incorrect bank statement from a Cantonese speaker in Hong Kong. Alorica wouldn't need to hire a rep who speaks Cantonese.

Such is the power of AI. And, potentially, the threat: Perhaps companies won't need as many employees - and will slash some jobs - if chatbots can handle the workload instead. But the thing is, Alorica isn't cutting jobs. It's still hiring aggressively.

The experience at Alorica - and at other companies, including furniture

retailer IKEA - suggests that AI may not prove to be the job killer that many people fear. Instead, the technology might turn out to be more like breakthroughs of the past - the steam engine, electricity, the internet: That is, eliminate some jobs while creating others. And probably making workers more productive in general, to the eventual benefit of themselves, their employers and the economy.

Nick Bunker, an economist at the Indeed Hiring Lab, said he thinks AI "will affect many, many jobs - maybe every job indirectly to some extent. But I don't think it's going to lead to, say, mass unemployment. We have seen other big technological events in our history, and those didn't lead to a large rise in unemployment. Technology destroys but also creates. There will be new jobs that come about."

At its core, artificial intelligence empowers machines to perform tasks previously thought to require human intelligence. The technology has existed in early versions for decades, hav-

ing emerged with a problem-solving computer program, the Logic Theorist, built in the 1950s at what's now Carnegie Mellon University. More recently, think of voice assistants like Siri and Alexa. Or IBM's chess-playing computer, Deep Blue, which managed to beat the world champion Garry Kasparov in 1997.

AI really burst into public consciousness in 2022, when OpenAI introduced ChatGPT, the generative AI tool that can conduct conversations, write computer code, compose music, craft essays and supply endless streams of information. The arrival of generative AI has raised worries that chatbots will replace freelance writers, editors, coders, telemarketers, customer-service reps, paralegals and many more.

"AI is going to eliminate a lot of current jobs, and this is going to change the way that a lot of current jobs function," Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, said in a discussion at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in May.

Kingdom's central bank, the Bank of England.

"But from the viewpoint of households, it has not been so successful," she added. "Many have taken a big hit to their wages. Many of them feel like the basket of goods they buy is now much more expensive."

Two years ago, economists feared that the Fed's ongoing rate hikes - it ultimately raised its benchmark rate

more than 5 percentage points to a 23-year high in the fastest pace in four decades - would hammer the economy and cause millions of job losses. After all, that's what happened when the Fed under Chair Paul Volcker sent its benchmark rate to nearly 20% in the early 1980s, ultimately throttling a brutal inflationary spell.

In fact, at Jackson Hole two years ago, Powell himself warned that using

high interest rates to defeat the inflation spike "would bring some pain to households and businesses."

Yet now, according to the Fed's preferred measure, inflation is 2.5%, not far above its 2% target. And while a weaker pace of hiring has caused some concerns, the unemployment rate is at a still-low 4.3%, and the economy expanded at a solid 3% annual rate last quarter.

## Italy's economy grows 0.9 pct year-on-year in Q2: ISTAT

ROME, Sept 3, (Xinhua) Italy's economy grew by 0.9 percent in the second quarter of this year compared to the same period in 2023, the country's National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) said on Monday.

According to seasonal and calendar-adjusted data, the gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 0.2 percent against the first quarter of this year.

The latest data provides a moderately optimistic picture of the Italian economy, considering the first quarter saw a 0.3 percent growth against the previous quarter, and a 0.7 increase on an annual basis.

However, ISTAT slightly lowered its carry-over annual GDP growth forecast for 2024 to 0.6 percent from 0.7 percent estimated in July.

Major factors behind Q2 growth

were the positive contribution provided by inventories, which outbalanced the negative impact of net foreign demand, and the domestic demand components "thanks to the positive contribution of both household consumption and investment," according to the statistical agency.

A recent separate ISTAT report also showed moderate optimism among companies operating in Italy,

with business confidence in August growing from 94.3 to 94.7.

It was the first time Italy's business climate index has risen after decreasing for four months in a row (from April to July), ISTAT explained.

However, Italian consumer confidence went down (from 98.9 to 96.1) in August for the first time since May, the agency added in the same report.





Agility awards one of the winning teams.



Group photo of KON participants.

## Program introduces students to business, social entrepreneurship

# Agility wraps up successful sponsorship of LOYAC's KON program

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Agility, a supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, announced the successful completion of its sponsorship of the ninth edition of the KON Social Entrepreneurship Program, organized by LOYAC. The program, which wrapped up last week, provided 50 students aged 12 to 16 with five weeks of intensive training in business management skills.

Designed in partnership with Babson College – a U.S. institution of higher learning that specializes in entrepreneurial leadership – the KON program aims to immerse young students in essential business skills. Participants gain leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills through hands-on workshops led by experienced industry professionals.

This year's program showcased exceptional presentations from participating students, making the task of selecting the winning teams particularly challenging for the judging committee. Comprised of members from the sponsoring companies, including Agility, the judging committee was thoroughly impressed by the high caliber of work and effort presented by the students.

Since 2006, Agility has been a strategic partner of LOYAC, supporting Kuwaiti youth through specialized courses and initiatives in financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Agility's commitment to education and skill-building has positively impacted over 687,000 young people since 2014. Nearly 50% of those in the program have been girls and

young women.

Agility backs community-enabling initiatives and has partnerships in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana, India and Egypt, among other countries. In the last decade, Agility has reached more than 2.3 million people, providing funding for youth education, entrepreneurship, employment and digital training, and responding with resources in the aftermath of natural disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies.

### About Agility

Agility is a global leader in supply chain services, infrastructure, and innovation with 54,000+ employees across six continents. Listed in Kuwait and Dubai, Agility specializes in growing and scaling operating businesses. Agility's portfolio of companies include the world's largest aviation services company (Menzies Aviation); a global fuel logistics business (Tristar); and a leading logistics parks developer and operator across the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa (Agility Logistics Parks). Other Agility companies offer customs digitization services, remote-site infrastructure services, defense and government services, e-commerce-enablement and digital logistics, and waste management and recycling. Agility invests in supply chain innovation, sustainability, and resilience, and has minority holdings in a portfolio of listed and non-listed companies.

'Best account of its kind offering highest monthly expected returns'

## KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza account's draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the monthly and weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The monthly and weekly draw, based on customers' August deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. Nourah Yousef Mohammad Almowannes and Waleed Adnan Jumaa Alsubaiee were named the lucky winners in the monthly draw, with each customer walking away with a prize of KD 5,000. As for the weekly draw, the KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Huda Waleed Ali Hashem, Ahmed Hadi Alebadi, Abdullah Musayer Farhan Alshammri, Ayoub Hasan Abbas Alnajjar, and Eiman Youssef Maatook Abdullah, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Saad Saeed Saad Aljamaan, Hejab Humoud Saleh Aziz, Fatemah Abdulaziz Ibrahim Alfaraj, Laila Abdulmalek Sulaiman Mohammad, Faisal Ibrahim Abdulaziz Alrumaih, Meshari Abdullah Yousef Alqattan, and Haitham Hussain Mohammad Abbas.

It serves to note that AlDirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condi-



KIB's Al Dirwaza account.

tion of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a two-month cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

Al Dirwaza account is also in compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer, and the customer's ability

to open it remotely without visiting a branch through KIB Online on the Bank's website or KIB Mobile application on smartphones.

Additionally, Al Dirwaza account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account. To open the account and participate in its draws, a minimum of KD 100 is required and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

### About KIB

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

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

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

IPC KUWAIT REGION  
**CONVENTION 2024**  
SEPTEMBER 4, 5, 6  
7:00 PM-9:30 PM  
WED, THU, FRI

PR. DANIEL KONNANILKUNATHIL  
IPC KERALA STATE SECRETARY

NECK Church & Parish Hall  
Kuwait City

Worship Led by  
IPC Kuwait Region Choir

More information call us  
+965 9786 9964, +965 517 69553

### IPC Kuwait to hold convention

We are delighted to announce that IPC Kuwait Region will be hosting its Convention meetings for this year on September 4th, 5th and 6th, 2024 at NECK Church & Parish Hall, Kuwait City. Our distinguished guest, Pastor Daniel Konnanilkunathil (IPC Kerala State Secretary) from Trivandrum, Kerala, India will preach during these meetings. All are welcome to attend and be a part of this special event. For more information: 97869964, 51769553.

## Over 50 Filipino leaders participate in eye health awareness event in Kuwait

# IPAO-Kuwait hosts successful 'Sight Saving Month' event

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: In line with the tradition of Sight Saving Month, established in the Philippines in 1954 by Presidential Decree, the Integrated Philippine Association of Optometrists (IPAO), Inc. Kuwait Chapter organized a special event on August 30, 2024, at the Kuwait Trade Union Federation (KTUF) facility in Maidan Hawally. The event, which ran from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, aimed to raise awareness about eye health and the prevention of blindness, continuing the annual observance throughout the Filipino community in Kuwait.

Under the leadership of IPAO-Kuwait President Ariel M. De Roxas and in collaboration with the KTUF, represented by Mr. Mohammad Al Arada, Union Advisor and Head of the Migrant Workers' Office, the event drew over fifty Filipino community leaders. A team of optometrists from various optical clinics, hospitals, and other healthcare volunteers gathered to provide essential eye care services to the attendees.

Participating optometrists included Vicky C. Abalos, Connie M. Agapito, Aristotel P. Abat, Elizabeth Aquino, Angelique O. Atienza, Maria Victoria T. Balingit, Lalaine Buniel, Ariel M. De Roxas, Richelle Deligero, Dayna Hisoler, Jennifer G. Maymay, Sharon G. Ortega, Dencee Jean L. Reyes, and Elisa R. Romero. They conducted screening tests such as refraction, color vision testing, non-contact tonometry for intraocular pressure (IOP), and provided ready-to-wear reading glasses to eligible participants.

Volunteer nurses also offered services including blood pressure monitoring and random blood sugar (RBS) testing. Notable nurses who contributed to the event were Charlie Baja (PANIK), Jayvie Bumatay, Judith De Roxas, Norma Guillermo, Joel Javier (PNAK), Katrina Leviste, Tristan Jonathan Malaluan, Glen Olvido, Harriet Ordas (PANIK), Yvonne Ordoño, Loreto Athens V. Ortiz (TSOK), Fran Marie delos Reyes, and Carmen del Rosario. Additionally, other volunteers included Oliver Galang Isip, Roden S.



Ophthalmologist Dr Altaf Arsiwala, DNB receiving certificate and plaque of appreciation from KTUF and IPAO-Kuwait with Philippine Embassy, MWO and OWWA officials.



IPAO-Kuwait President Ariel De Roxas



His Excellency Ambassador Jose A. Cabrera III having his eyes checked by IPAO-Kuwait volunteer optometrist



Registration

Quintinio (KGEC), John Kierby Magdadero, Architect Perfecto Tamayo and Jellita V. Vistro (KGLEC).

Renowned ophthalmologists Dr. Mahmood Mostafa, MRSC, and Dr. Altaf Arsiwala, DNB, Fellowship in Cornea, were also in attendance. They provided consultations for participants with corneal scars, cataracts, and diabetic-related retinal conditions.

Following the screenings, a short lecture on "Eye Myths and Misconceptions" was delivered by IPAO-Kuwait Board Member Elizabeth Aquino and Vice President Aris Abat, which captivated the audience with valuable insights on maintaining proper eye care.

The event was graced by dignitaries from the Philippine Embassy, including Philippine Ambassador to the State of Kuwait Ambassador His Excellency Jose A. Cabrera III, Consul Alex O. Vallespin, Labor Attaché Attorney Manuel M. Dimaano, Assistant Labor Attaché Catherine Duladul, and OWWA Welfare Officers Genevieve C. Aguilar-Ardiente and Emmanuel Santiago C. Diaz, who showed their full support for the initiative.

Out of the 77 registrants, 54 received reading glasses. 7 were diagnosed with color vision deficiencies, several were advised to use over-the-counter eye drops for dry eyes, and at least two

participants were referred for further medical intervention, including one for YAG laser treatment and another for retinal surgery due to amblyopia.

The success of the event was made possible through the support of companies such as Elite Vision Optical (Kuwait City), International Optique Co., W.L.L., and Kefan Optics K.S.C.C., whose contributions helped ensure the success of the initiative.

In conclusion, the Sight Saving Month 2024 event in Kuwait was a resounding success, effectively raising awareness of visual health and the prevention of blindness within the Filipino community.

'Sunbula' offers KD 1,000 weekly prizes

## Warba announces winners of Al Sunbula weekly draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 3: Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate and investment banking services in Kuwait - announced three winners of the weekly Al Sunbula draws. Warba Bank will continue to hold weekly draws for ten winners of Al Sunbula account, in the presence of a representative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

Each of the 10 lucky winners of the Sunbula weekly draw of Warba Bank received KD 1,000, and the winners are: Fahad Mahdi Ramah Al-Qahtani, Bader Abdullah Hadi Al-Ajmi, Noura Fahad Jahar Al-Adwani, Ahmed Faleh Dreameh Al-Azmi, Hussein Abdul Hadi Al-Ajmi, Mohammed Rajih Hadi Al-Hajri, Abdullah Shleweeh Al-Ajmi, Mohammed Jde Saadoun Al-Azmi, Ahmed Abdullah Mohammed Al-Moussawi, and Abdullah Hussein Medeth Al-Ajmi.

Regarding the conditions, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Bakhait, Area Manager Retail Banking Group said: "KD 100 is now required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and major draws, and the client still gets one chance for every KD 10 in the account, and the chances are counted according to the lowest balance in the account during the month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to count the chances. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawal and de-



Abdulaziz Al-Bakhait

posit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the client's chances to win".

Warba Bank launched its latest banking solutions service, "Customer Onboarding", in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, which enables non-Warba Bank clients to apply for opening a Sunbula account in an easy digital way via the Bank's website without the need to visit any of the Bank's branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new clients will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leading 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.



**'Teen idol and charismatic beach boy'**

# James Darren, 'Gidget' star and TV director, dies at 88

LOS ANGELES, Sept 3, (AP): James Darren, a teen idol who helped ignite the 1960s surfing craze as a charismatic beach boy paired off with Sandra Dee in the hit film "Gidget," died Monday at 88.

Darren died in his sleep at a Los Angeles hospital, his son Jim Moret told news outlets.

Moret told The Hollywood Reporter that Darren was supposed to have had an aortic valve replacement but was too weak for the surgery. "I always thought he would pull through," his son told the entertainment trade, "because he was so cool. He was always cool."

In his long career, Darren acted, sang and built up a successful behind-the-scenes career as a television director, helming episodes of such well-known series as "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Melrose Place." In the 1980s, he was Officer Jim Corrigan on the television cop show "T.J. Hooker."

But to young movie fans of the late 1950s, he would be remembered best as Moonoggie, the dark-haired surfer boy in the smash 1959 release "Gidget." Dee starred as the title character, a spunky Southern Californian who hits the beach and eventually falls in love with Moonoggie. "I was in love with Sandra," Darren later recalled. "I thought that she was absolutely perfect as Gidget. She had tremendous charm."

The film was based on a novel that a California man, Frederick Kohner, had written about his own teenage daughter and helped spur interest in surfing - one that influenced pop music, slang and even fashion.

For Darren, his success with teen fans led to a recording contract, as it did with many young actors at the time, among them Tab Hunter and Annette Funicello. Two of Darren's singles, "Goodbye Cruel World" and "Her Royal Majesty," reached the Top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100

chart. ("Goodbye Cruel World" also appeared in Steven Spielberg's 2022 semi-autobiographical film, "The Fabelmans.") Other singles included "Gidget" and "Angel Face."

Darren was the only "Gidget" cast member who appeared in both its sequels, 1961's "Gidget Goes Hawaiian" and 1963's "Gidget Goes to Rome." Dee was replaced by Deborah Wally in the second film and Cindy Carol in the third. ("Gidget" later became a television show, launching the career of Sally Field.)

"They had me under contract; I was a prisoner," Darren told Entertainment Weekly in 2004. "But with those lovely young ladies, it was the best prison I think I'll ever be in."

As a contract player at Columbia Studios, Darren appeared in grown-up films, too, including "The Brothers Rico," "Operation Meatball" and "The Guns of Navarone."

By the mid-'60s, when Darren appeared in "For Those Who Think Young" and "The Lively Set," his big-screen acting career was almost over. He appeared in just a handful of movies after the 1960s ended, last appearing in 2017's "Lucky," directed by John Carroll Lynch.

But he remained active on television, appearing as a lead on the sci-fi show "The Time Tunnel" in the late 1960s, and doing guest spots and small recurring roles in TV shows such as "The Love Boat," "Hawaii Five-O" and "Fantasy Island."



Darren

**Career**

Darren was a series regular for four seasons of the William Shatner-starrer "T.J. Hooker" in the 1980s. While appearing on the show, he noticed that no director was listed for an upcoming sequence and asked if he could try out for it.

"When it was shown, I got several offers to direct," he told the New York Daily News. "Soon I was getting so many offers to direct, I kind of gave up acting and singing."

For almost two years, Darren directed episodes of "Walker, Texas Ranger," "Hunter," "Melrose Place," "Beverly Hills 90210" and other series. He returned to acting in the 1990s with small roles in "Melrose Place" and "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine."

Darren was born James Ercolani in 1936 and grew up in South Philadelphia, not far from such fellow teen idols of the 1950s and '60s as Fabian and Frankie Avalon. Singing came easy to him, and at 14 he was appearing in local nightclubs.

"From the age of 5 or 6 I knew I wanted to be an entertainer, or famous maybe," he said in a 2003 interview with the News-Press of Fort Myers, Florida. He noted that such luminaries as Eddie Fisher and Al Martino had lived in the same area as he did, "a real neighborhood. It made you feel you could be successful, too."

According to a 1958 Los Angeles Times profile, he got a break when he went to New York to get some pictures taken and the photographer's office put him in touch with a talent scout.

He was soon signed by Columbia Pictures, and the newspaper said that after a few appearances, his fan mail at the studio was running "second only to Kim Novak's. ... The studio now feels that the young man is ready to hit the jackpot."

**Variety**



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Joaquin Phoenix in a scene from 'Joker.' (AP)

**Film**

Venice lookback at film's controversy and win

## When 'Joker' stunned festival, critics

VENICE, Sept 3, (AP): After \$1 billion at the box office, 11 Oscar nominations and two major wins, including for Joaquin Phoenix, it's easy to forget the hand-wringing over "Joker."

In the lead up to its release in October 2019, the Todd Phillips film, a dark origin story about the mentally ill man who becomes the deranged Batman villain, hit a cultural inflection point that had divisions forming before most had even seen it. People worried "Joker" would glorify violence, that people would take the wrong message and there'd be incidents at movie theaters. Words like "dangerous," "irresponsible" and "incel-friendly" were thrown around.

Even its inclusion in the main competition at the Venice Film Festival was enough to get people gossiping. (Its sequel, "Joker: Folie à Deux," will also be debuting in competition at Venice on Sept. 4.)

At the time, some assumed Phillips had called in a favor. How else could a comic book movie play alongside auteurs and Oscar-contenders? This, Phillips assured The Associated Press, was not true. But the fact that it wasn't being treated like a standard comic book movie release and instead getting the rollout of an Oscar contender was enough to send movie fans into a tizzy.

The world was further shocked when it won the festival's top prize, the Golden Lion, which in previous years had gone to films like "The Shape of Water" and "Roma." One article called it "insane."

Accepting Venice's top prize from jury president Lucrecia Martel, Phillips thanked Warner Bros. and DC for "stepping out of their comfort zone and taking such a bold swing on me and this movie" and Phoenix for trusting him with his "insane talents."

And it sent a clear message to the skeptical film world: "Joker" was not to be underestimated or dismissed. Neither was Phillips, a filmmaker whose biggest successes had at that point come from frat-boy comedies like "The Hangover" and "Old School."

Phillips took cues from movies like Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver" and "The King of Comedy" to add a disturbing realism to the story. He does not fall into a vat

of acid and come out laughing, he said. Instead, it's a chilling portrait of a loner pushed over the edge.

Phoenix too underwent a drastic physical transformation, losing 52 pounds on an extremely calorie-restricted diet with the supervision of a doctor. He told the AP he expected "feelings of dissatisfaction, hunger, a certain kind of vulnerability and a weakness." Instead, he found the emaciation led to a physical "fluidity" that he didn't quite anticipate.

Reviews were mostly positive and even the more critical responses admired the boldness. In his review, AP Film Writer Jake Coyle wrote that "Phillips and Phoenix have made something to reckon with, certainly, and that alone makes it a bold exception in a frustratingly safe genre."

**Choice**

Phillips wasn't shy about discussing the film, his intentions and the criticisms.

"I just hope people see it and take it as a movie," Phillips told the AP before its release. "Do I hope everyone loves it? No. We didn't make the movie for everyone. Anytime anyone tries to make a movie for everyone it's usually for nobody. ... You have a choice. Don't see it is the other choice."

The concerns continued to escalate as family members of the victims of the 2012 movie theater shooting during "The Dark Knight Rises" wrote a letter to the studio's then CEO urging the company to advocate for gun safety.

By the time it was ready for its US premieres, the studio pressed pause on interviews. The red carpets at the Hollywood and New York Film Festival premieres would be photo-only affairs.

"A lot has been said about 'Joker,' and we just feel it's time for people to see the film," a studio representative said at the time.

And people certainly saw it. It opened to nearly \$100 million in Oct. 2019 and by the end of its run had grossed over \$1 billion, holding the record for highest-grossing R-rated film until "Deadpool & Wolverine" passed it a few weeks ago. Phillips congratulated

Shawn Levy, Marvel and Disney for the feat.

Soon, he'll be heading back to the Venice Film Festival, with Phoenix and Lady Gaga to debut "Joker: Folie à Deux." The expectations are higher. So are the stakes. It carries bigger budget than its \$60 million predecessor, but Phillips told Variety that reports of it exceeding \$200 million are "absurd."

It has also already inspired a fair amount of discourse. But this time it's not about violence: It's about musicals.

**Also:**

**VENICE, Italy:** Venice Film Festival regular Luca Guadagnino is back on the Lido to debut his new Daniel Craig film "Queer" on Tuesday night.

A festival favorite, Guadagnino had to forgo a splashy red carpet premiere for the sexy tennis drama "Challengers" last year, when the studio delayed its release amid the actors strike. But the filmmaker is returning with another highly anticipated project, adapting a William S. Burroughs novel about an American expat in Mexico City in 1950 who develops an obsession with a young, male student.

"Challengers" screenwriter Justin Kuritzkes wrote the script for "Queer," adapting a novel that was written in the 1950s but not published until 1985. It's a story that others have tried to adapt over the years, including Steve Buscemi and Oren Moverman.

"How can a man who sees and feels be other than sad?" William Burroughs asks in the last entry of his personal diary before his death," Guadagnino wrote in his director's statement. "In adapting his second novel, published almost 40 years after he wrote it, we have tried to respond to this humble appeal of the great iconoclast of the beat generation."

Craig, in a performance Venice Film Festival director Alberto Barbera has called "career defining" stars alongside Drew Starkey, Lesley Manville and Jason Schwartzman in the film, which is playing in the main competition. A24 also recently acquired "Queer" for theatrical distribution.

**LONDON:** The Oasis reunion could come earlier than expected.

The Britpop-era band ended a 15-year hiatus last week by announcing a tour of the British Isles next summer, with 17 gigs selling out on Saturday following a scramble for tickets by Oasis fans.

However, Liam and Noel Gallagher, the once-feuding brothers who are the face of Oasis, could be on the stage together way before then if a Saudi boxing promoter gets his own way.

Liam is slated to perform some hits at Wembley Stadium in London on Sept. 21 ahead of the world heavyweight title fight between Anthony Joshua and Daniel Dubois, when more than 90,000 spectators are set to attend.

Turki Alalshikh, the Saudi advisor who organizes boxing events for the kingdom, said Monday he wants Noel to be at Wembley, too.

"It will be something amazing if we get them together," the chairman of Saudi Arabia's General Entertainment Authority said in an interview with British radio station talkSPORT. "We will try, we will try. Why not?"

Oasis' representatives didn't immediately respond when contacted by The Associated Press.

Oil-rich Saudi Arabia has become a major player in sports, enticing top soccer players like Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar to the kingdom, setting up a breakaway golf series, and also being the host to many high-profile boxing fights by offering lucrative purses. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** ESPN has gone off the air on a major carrier for the second straight year during the US Open tennis tournament and in the midst of the first full weekend of college football.

Disney Entertainment channels went dark on DirecTV Sunday night after the sides were unable to reach a new carriage agreement.

The move angered some sports fans, who posted their displeasure on social media. And the US Tennis Association wasn't pleased with another carriage dispute.

ESPN was showing the fourth round of the US Open when it went off the air on DirecTV at

7:20 p.m. EDT.

That was a half-hour before the start of the match between Frances Tiafoe, an American who reached the 2022 US Open semifinals, and Alexei Popyrin, an Australian, who eliminated defending champion Novak Djokovic on Friday.

"It is disappointing that fans



Joshua



Noel

and viewers around the country will not have the opportunity to watch the greatest athletes in our sport take part in the 2024 U.S. Open due to an unresolved negotiation between DirecTV and Disney, resulting in the loss of access to ESPN. We are hopeful that this dispute can be resolved as quickly as possible," the USTA

said in a statement.

It also happened 10 minutes before the start of the college football game between No. 13 LSU and 23rd-ranked Southern California in Las Vegas.

ABC-owned stations in Los Angeles; the San Francisco Bay Area; Fresno, California; New York; Chicago; Philadel-

phia; Houston; and Raleigh, North Carolina, also went off DirecTV.

Last year, Disney and Spectrum - the nation's second-largest cable TV provider - were involved in a nearly 12-day impasse until coming to an agreement hours before the first Monday night NFL game of the season. (AP)



## People &amp; Places

## Television

## Prized memorabilia

## 'Games of Thrones' items up for auction

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 3, (AP) — After watching eight seasons of the epic saga "Game of Thrones," fans can now enter what may be a competition on par with the battle for the Iron Throne: an auction of prized memorabilia from the HBO series.

Fans can now bid on a slew of costumes, props, set pieces and memorabilia from the hit show that ended in 2019. More than 2,000 items - including a melted version of the coveted Iron Throne - distributed across 900 lots will be on the auction block in October through Heritage Auctions.

The starting bids range from \$500 to \$20,000 for items as iconic as Jaime Lannister's full suit of armor and sword to props as granular as prosthetic teeth used for the White Walkers.

Other notable items include Daenerys Targaryen's memorable cloaks, coats and leather ensembles (some that feature dragon chokers and accents) worn by Emilia Clarke, Jon Snow's notorious Longclaw sword wielded by Kit Harington, and the Hand of the Queen Pin donned by Peter Dinklage as Tyrion Lannister. Even items that didn't boast much screen time, like the bell wielded during Cersei Lannister's walk of shame or bloodstained garb from the infamous Red Wedding, are expected to draw fans' attention during bidding.

Jay Roewe, HBO's senior vice president of global incentives and production planning, said the auction - a chance for fans to "grab a piece of history" - speaks to the staying power the series has had five years after its finale.

"'Game of Thrones' was a zeitgeist moment in our culture. It was a zeitgeist moment in high-end television. It was a zeitgeist moment in terms of HBO," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "This is something we all grew up with. It's impacted every single one of our lives. It's impacted the culture, and 'Game of Thrones' has meant something to every single person."

## Sequels

Although the series started in 2011 and several items in the auction date back to then, they have not been "collecting dust," Roewe said. HBO had been carefully preserving thousands of props, costumes and set pieces since the series began for use on potential spinoffs or sequels. With "House of The Dragon" having recently completed its second season and other projects firmly in development - while others have been discarded - Roewe said the studio now knows what they'll need to hold on to and what they can part ways with.

"These items have been curated and taken care of since we finished filming. They are the quality that they were when we finished filming, and we've had people working on them for years to keep them in shape," he said. "We don't need them anymore. It's time to finally open it up to the world."

Beyond the preservation and quality of the items, the sheer scale of the auction required months of collaboration with HBO and countless hours of research and planning to organize, said Joe Maddalena, the executive vice president of Heritage Auctions.

Maddalena wanted to ensure fans and collectors didn't feel like there were any "glaring holes" in the collection by including a wide variety of characters' costumes and props, displayed in a 750-page catalog. There are even multiples of crucial items like Arya Stark's rapier Needle, of which there were several versions throughout the series' run.

The intricate nature and craftsmanship of the costumes and props are part of what make the show so memorable, Maddalena, a fan himself, said. Emmy-winning costume designer Michele Clapton has been praised since the series' start for the detailed and intentional designs that fueled storylines. The catalog features interviews with Clapton, showrunners David Benioff and D.B. Weiss and several of the cast members commenting on the episode-specific usage and significance of hundreds of the items. Maddalena called this kind of access and information "uncharted territory" in the auction world.

"You don't usually get studio-sanctioned auctions like this. This is studio sanctioned," he said. "Everything comes from the archive. Everything was handpicked, scene specific. You know where your piece was used. You know it was actually used on screen."

For fans who want to snag a piece of "Game of Thrones," the vast collection is now open for preliminary bidding with the auction taking place Oct. 10-12 through Heritage Auctions in Dallas. The collection will be available to preview in the auction house's New York and London locations starting Sept. 17 through Oct. 4.

## Also:

**NEW YORK:** Eugene Levy and Dan Levy will make history at the Emmy Awards next month as the first ever father and son co-hosts.

"We are thrilled to welcome two generations of comedy genius to the Emmy's stage as hosts," said Television Academy Chair **Cris Abrego** in a statement recently.

The Levys cleaned up at the 2020 Emmys - the year the winners appeared remotely due to the pandemic - thanks to their hit series "Schitt's Creek." Eugene Levy won for outstanding comedy actor and Dan Levy won for best supporting comedy actor. Dan Levy also picked up wins for writing and directing, while both won the outstanding comedy series trophy as executive producers.

"For two Canadians who won our Emmys in a literal quarantine tent, the idea of being asked to host this year in an actual theater was incentive enough," the Levys said in a statement. "We're thrilled to be able to raise a glass to this extraordinary season of television."

The Levys will be the first-ever father-son hosts at the Emmys and the first duo to do it since 2018 with "Saturday Night Live" stars **Colin Jost** and **Michael Che**.

The 76th Emmys air live in **Los Angeles** on Sept. 15 on ABC, and streams the next day on Hulu.

Eugene Levy isn't just a co-host this year - he also nominated for his Apple TV+ series "The Reluctant Traveler With Eugene Levy," the unlikely wedding of a droll and cautious host with some of the most beautiful places on Earth.



Julianne Moore poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'The Room Next Door' during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Monday, Sept. 2. (AP)

## Film

## Actor discusses his stage fall, new thriller

## McKellen is his own stern critic

LONDON, Sept. 3, (AP) — Ian McKellen is listening to his inner critic.

It's beating him up for not finishing out his latest theater role after he fell off the stage during a June performance of "Player Kings" and spent three nights in the hospital.

"Emotionally, I feel guilty and ashamed, you know, quite irrational because it was an accident. And it could have happened to anybody," he says.

The actor, 85, says it could have been a "great deal worse" if he hadn't been wearing padding to portray the round Sir John Falstaff during the adaptation of Shakespeare's "Henry IV" plays at London's Noel Coward Theatre. While his fractures and chipped vertebrae are healing well, though, McKellen can't shake the negativity of leaving the production early.

"You suddenly abandon all your mates who are putting on the show and you feel something's come to an end prematurely," he says.

But, he says, rumors of his imminent demise were definitely premature. "I got the impression that dozens of friends wanted to come and say hello that, actually, they wanted to say goodbye. They thought I was on the way out," McKellen tells The Associated Press, adding with a laugh: "So I very determinedly always open the front door and run up the stairs and show that I'm not going anywhere!"

Although he's not onstage, McKellen can be spotted at the theater in

"The Critic," a thriller set in the West End of 1930s London that's in cinemas Sept. 13. This time, he's in the audience, as gay newspaper writer James Erskine, who can make or break a career with a wicked turn of phrase in an era when homosexuality is illegal. Written by Patrick Marber and based on Anthony Quinn's novel "Curtain Call," it co-stars a host of British talent like Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong, Romola Garai, Ben Barnes and Lesley Manville.

McKellen spoke to the AP recently about his love of the theater, relationship with critics, the future of Gandalf and going back to work. The conversation has been edited for brevity and clarity.

**AP:** Do you miss being on the stage?  
**McKellen:** I miss the routine. When I first started out, it was a great joy to me that when everybody else was taking time off at the end of a busy day, the actors were gearing up, ready to start theirs - that there was something about being an actor that was separate from the rest of the population. But that was probably because I was hiding the fact that I was gay or not talking about the fact that I was gay. It felt good to be different.

Acting, particularly in the theater, is totally satisfying. And if I'm not doing it, like at the moment. I think, "Well, what is life all about?" 85 is a bit late to be asking that question, because I settled with the fact that life for me was acting a long, long time ago. And so the idea of retiring or not being able to

work fills me with dread really.

**AP:** Have you been able to go and see other productions?

**McKellen:** I haven't. I've been nervous about going out. But I think this next month or two I shall get back to what I enjoy doing: going to the theater and see everything that's on in the West End that I hear people talking about.

**AP:** This film, "The Critic," celebrates theater but you're offstage for a change, in the audience.

**McKellen:** It's the murky side of theater. A corrupt senior drama critic was prepared to give someone a series of good reviews if she will agree to help him out with the problem he's got. I don't think these days any critic has that sort of power but in the 1930s, before social media and when newspapers were everyone's source of the truth, theater critics could be extremely powerful.

**AP:** What did you think of his ruthlessness?

**McKellen:** I think the source of it might be: How do you survive as a bon vivant and social person, who likes the limelight, when you're having to be discreet, if not secret, about what you really are? That's most likely to curdle the brain somewhat, isn't it?

**AP:** What has your relationship been like with critics over the years?

**McKellen:** They began very well when I was at Cambridge University in a play. It was "Henry IV, Part 2," which is part of the play that I've been doing when I played Falstaff.



Ian McKellen, poses for photographers upon arrival at the European Premiere of the The Critic, in London, Monday, Sept. 2. (AP)



Deutsch



McAuliffe

## Variety

**CONCORD, N.H.:** Decades after she was picked to be America's first teacher in space, **Christa McAuliffe** is still a pioneer - this time as the first woman to be memorialized on the grounds of **New Hampshire's** Statehouse, in the city where she taught high school.

McAuliffe was 37 when she was killed, one of the seven crew members aboard the Challenger when the space shuttle broke apart on live TV on Jan. 28, 1986. She didn't have the chance to give the lessons she had planned to teach from space. But people are still learning from her.

**Benjamin Victor**, the sculptor from **Boise, Idaho**, whose work was unveiled on Monday on what would have been McAuliffe's 76th birthday, said McAuliffe's "inspiration hasn't been lost in the disaster and her memory will go on forever."

**Steven McAuliffe**, her former husband, said Christa McAuliffe was proud to represent teachers and would be enthusiastic about being honored "as long as it was shared with all teachers and educators." (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** Linda Deutsch, a special correspondent for The Associated Press who for nearly 50 years wrote glittering first drafts of history from many of the nation's most significant criminal and civil trials - **Charles Manson**, **O.J. Simpson**, **Michael Jackson**, among others - died Sunday. She was 80.

Deutsch was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2022 and underwent successful treatment, but the cancer returned this summer. She died at her **Los Angeles** home, surrounded by family and friends,

said nurse **Narek Petrosian** of Olympia Hospice Care.

AP chief United Nations correspondent **Edith Lederer** was among those with Deutsch at the end. They were friends for

more than 50 years and trailblazing female reporters when they joined AP in the late 1960s.

"She was an incomparable friend to hundreds of people who will miss her wit,



The Iron Throne and costumes on display during the launch of The Game of Thrones Touring Exhibition at the Titanic Exhibition centre in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Wednesday, April 10, 2019. (AP)

wisdom, charm and constant inquisitiveness," Lederer said. (AP)

□ □ □

**NEW YORK:** A bronze statue from the Titanic - not seen in decades and feared to be lost for good - is among the discoveries made by the company with salvage rights to the wreck site on its first expedition there in many years.

RMS Titanic Inc., a Georgia-based company that holds the legal rights to the 112-year-old wreck, has completed its first trip since 2010 and released images from the expedition on Monday. The pictures show a site that continues to change more than a century later.

The trip to the remote corner of the North Atlantic Ocean where the Titanic sank happened as the US Coast Guard investigates the June 2023 implosion of the Titan, an experimental submersible owned by a different company. The Titan submersible disaster killed all five people on board, including **Paul-Henri Nargeolet**, who was director of underwater research for RMS Titanic.

The findings from this summer's trip "showcase a bittersweet mix of preservation and loss," RMS Titanic said in a statement. A highlight was the rediscovery of the statue "Diana of Versailles," last seen in 1986, and the statue now has a clear and updated image, the company said. (AP)



## Life coaching or therapy? Unregulated industry raises concerns

## Is 'coaching' a shortcut to mental health care?

By Emily Hemendinger

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. The Conversation is wholly responsible for the content.

□ □ □

Life coach, wellness coach, business coach, weight loss coach, breakup coach - the list goes on and on. All are different titles for similar jobs, with the same limitation: Anyone can claim to be an expert.

Health "coaching" alone is a US\$7.6 billion market in the United States, linked to the wellness and lifestyle medicine industries, as well as social media influencer culture. With ongoing shortages of physicians and mental health workers, many Americans see coaches as a more personalized alternative to traditional physical and mental health care.

Yet the profession is poorly regulated, which can make it a utopia for scammers; untrained people providing advice about health, psychology and nutrition; and, in some cases, cult-like behavior, such as a coach encouraging customers to cut ties with family and friends.

And now that AI health coaching has entered the chat, these problems are likely to grow.

As a licensed clinical social worker who specializes in mental health and public health, I have observed coaching's growing popularity and how patients' interest appears to stem from a lack of affordable and accessible mental health care.

Coaches have the potential to fill a gap and work alongside therapists to assist clients. Many people seek coaching to help them make a big decision or hold them accountable for making progress toward a set goal - from launching a business to sticking to their wellness routines. Because the industry is unregulated, however, it's important for people to understand its limits before using a coach's services.

In broad terms, coaches assist someone in creating a plan for achieving specific goals - for example, making a change in their career, diet or relationships. It can be effective in helping people manage chronic conditions, such as diabetes, between doctors' visits and to follow their treatment plan.

## Treatment

Amid COVID-19, physical and mental health care became more difficult to access, which may have contributed to coaching's popularity. People who were already skeptical of the health care system have turned to coaches in hopes of one-on-one, specialized treatment.

Another contributing factor may be the rise of the gig economy, with coaching appealing to people wanting to be self-employed. Social media and the internet also have fueled coaching's popularity by making it easier to research and receive health advice, regardless of whether that advice is accurate.

The simple answer is no. While resembling therapy, coaching does not require licensing, credentialing or formal education. Practicing therapists, on the other hand, are required to be in good standing with the law, have years of training, are regulated by governing bodies and professional associations, and abide by licensing bodies' guidelines to keep the client safe.

There's a common stereotype that coaching is for "high-functioning" people and is oriented toward the future, while therapy is focused on the past and finding problems with people. As a licensed, practicing therapist, I think this could not be further from the truth. Therapists focus on helping a person process their past, focus on the present

and work toward goals in the future.

In my experience, I find that these falsities reinforce the stigma around mental health and keep people from getting appropriate help.

According to one academic study, 25% to 50% of people engaging with a life coach have mental health conditions that require a higher level of support. And even though many coaches are savvy in "therapy speak," they often lack the training to recognize when the client's needs are beyond what they should be providing.

One of the biggest concerns about coaching is that it lacks a central governing body to regulate and oversee members. The industry has taken some steps toward better oversight, and there is one established, accrediting body - the International Coaching Federation.

It is not a requirement, however, for people identifying as coaches to join this organization. Certifications can be provided by anyone or any program, but training is not standardized.

## Psychology

This lack of regulation means anyone can provide coaching, including therapists who lost their licenses for unethical conduct. It has also led to social media coaches and influencers spreading misinformation and confusion about mental health conditions. This is concerning because nonlicensed providers, including coaches, are legally not allowed to diagnose mental health conditions, such as depression or anxiety, or provide treatment for them.

Another concern is coaching clients' vulnerability to being scammed financially, mistreated or given dangerous advice, such as abusive child-rearing suggestions. Coaching clients do not have the legal rights that therapy clients have, such as patient confidentiality.

Finally, life coaching relies heavily on positive psychology, which focuses on personal strengths and positive traits for happiness - in short, to look on the bright side and not focus on the negatives. Since its founding, positive psychology has come under scrutiny for debunked scientific claims of the therapy's success. And while this approach works for some, others find that it is too individualistic, not giving enough weight to how external issues such as systemic racism can play a role in mental health.

Ultimately, each person's needs are individual, and a life coach might be helpful. However, there are some considerations to keep in mind during an initial consult:

■ What training does the coach have? What's their background? I recommend looking into their education and licensing, as well as any titles or certificates that you find unfamiliar.

■ Is someone telling you that they can cure you or that they have a product that can fix your problem - a meal plan, diet, coaching course, etc.?

■ Do they have research and evidence, not just anecdotes, to back up the claims they are making? If something is being touted as "tested" or "proven," make sure you ask about the data.

■ Is the person touting their service as the "only" way to get better? Are they making unrealistic claims, such as being able to cure someone of their trauma symptoms in one month? A credible life coach is not going to promise to completely change your life or cure you.

■ Is there a formal contract with the services provided clearly laid out? Does this contract discuss limitations of services provided? Is there clarity around fees and charges?

■ Is the coach willing to be flexible about their approach? Do they become defensive when you ask questions?

Life coaching has the potential to be an evidenced-based, short-term practice, but potential clients need to carefully consider whether it is appropriate for them. (AP)

## New LGSOC awareness day aims to highlight rare ovarian cancer

BOSTON & HOUSTON, Texas, Sept 3, (AP): Verastem Oncology, a biopharmaceutical company committed to advancing new medicines for patients with cancer, and the STAAR Ovarian Cancer Foundation have announced the first Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day or "LGSOC Awareness Day" on September 9, 2024.

September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and LGSOC is a rare ovarian cancer with little information and awareness available to patients and caregivers. This newly created annual LGSOC Awareness Day will educate people about the symptoms of LGSOC, provide resources to people diagnosed with LGSOC, and advocate for more research.

## Treatment

"When I was diagnosed with LGSOC I knew nothing about this rare ovarian cancer and found that very little information existed about the disease. It is one of my goals to ensure that the first-ever LGSOC Awareness Day will bring much-needed awareness and attention to this rare ovarian cancer so that no person diagnosed with this disease feels alone," said Nicole Andrews, Board of Directors Chair, STAAR Ovarian Cancer Foundation. "Currently, there are limited treatment options available for LGSOC and no FDA-approved treatments specifically for LGSOC. As the first US foundation dedicated to funding LGSOC research, we want to do more to elevate the unmet needs for this disease and give patients living with LGSOC a voice in the ovarian cancer conversation."

To help raise awareness and participate in the first LGSOC Awareness Day on Monday, September 9:

■ The inaugural LGSOC Awareness Day builds on the recognition of

Little information, limited treatment options

## FDA clears QuidelOrtho syphilis test

## New syphilis test offers accurate diagnosis

SANDIEGO, Sept 3, (AP): QuidelOrtho Corporation ("QuidelOrtho") has received US Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") 510(k) clearance for its Vitros syphilis assay as part of its menu, strengthening QuidelOrtho's position as a leader in infectious disease testing. Using the automated Vitros, this assay is intended for the qualitative determination of total (IgG and IgM) antibodies to (TP)-specific antigens in human serum and plasma using the automated VITROS 3600, 5600 and XT 7600 systems. The presence of antibodies to TP-specific antigens, in conjunction with non-treponemal laboratory tests and clinical findings may aid in the diagnosis of syphilis infection. The Vitros syphilis assay is not intended for blood and tissue donor screening. With the addition of the US, the Vitros syphilis assay is now available globally where QuidelOrtho products are available.

QuidelOrtho's infectious disease test portfolio spans the healthcare continuum from point-of-care settings to high-throughput laboratories and is critical in addressing the growing syphilis epidemic in the US. With over 176,000 new cases of syphilis reported annually, a 36% increase in the prevalence of primary and secondary syphilis since 2021, the need for comprehensive and accessible testing solutions has never been greater.

"As an in-demand assay for a common sexually transmitted infection ('STI'), we are pleased to offer the Vitros syphilis assay, bolstering QuidelOrtho's infectious disease test portfolio in the US," said Bryan Hanson, Senior Vice President, President North American Commercial Operations at QuidelOrtho. "Not only does this important assay improve laboratory efficiency by allowing labs to follow the CDC's reverse testing algorithm for

syphilis screening, it also reduces costs by providing earlier disease detection, thereby reducing the need to refer tests to outside labs."

This expansion into the U.S. market aims to provide timely and accurate diagnosis, crucial for effective treatment and control of the disease.

"With an increased national incidence of syphilis and other STIs, having a quick and easy way to test in various healthcare settings is essential," said Lily Li, Senior Director, Medical Scientific & Clinical Affairs, QuidelOrtho. "The CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, updated in February 2024, recommends that both nontreponemal and treponemal serologic tests be used in conjunction to aid in the diagnosis of syphilis."

QuidelOrtho continues to expand its menu for infectious disease testing and beyond to help our customers provide the highest level of patient care.

LGSOC as a distinct disease that is different from other ovarian cancers," said Dan Paterson, president and chief executive officer of Verastem Oncology. "At Verastem, we are committed to understanding LGSOC from both a disease and patient perspective. We are conducting clinical trials for an investigational treatment combination for LGSOC and have initiated a rolling new drug application with the FDA to potentially bring the first treatment to patients specifically approved for LG-

SOC. We will continue to do our part to raise awareness about LGSOC with STAAR and the entire LGSOC community while also working to improve outcomes for those living with LGSOC and their families."

The first-ever LGSOC Patient Impact Survey, conducted in 2023, revealed particular challenges with diagnosis, disease management, and mental, physical, and emotional well-being for people living with LGSOC. Nearly all those surveyed (99%) had no

awareness of LGSOC prior to diagnosis, and 60% did not feel that their HCP was "very knowledgeable" about this rare cancer.

This newly formed awareness day is set during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month to bring a focus to low-grade serous ovarian cancer.

Low-grade serous ovarian cancer (LGSOC) is a highly recurrent, chemotherapy-resistant cancer, associated with slow tumor growth and high mortality rate.

## 10 new dengue cases reported in Pakistan

## 160,000 children receive 1st polio vaccine in Gaza

RAMALLAH, Sept 3, (Agencies): The Palestinian Ministry of Health said on Tuesday that about 160,000 children received the first dose of polio vaccine in the Central Governorate in the Gaza Strip on Sunday and Monday.

In a press statement, the ministry said that its teams are working in cooperation with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to vaccinate children in fixed and mobile centers affiliated with the Ministry and UNRWA, amidst a great turnout from the families.

It indicated that vaccination will continue in the Central Governorate until Wednesday, and will begin on Thursday morning in Khan Yunis and neighboring areas for four days, and will begin in Gaza and the North on September ninth, for four days.

□ □ □

**Dengue:** Pakistan's eastern Punjab province reported 10 new dengue cases during the last 24 hours, said a statement on Monday.

The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department of Punjab released the



A health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child at a hospital in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024. (AP)

latest statistics on dengue cases, saying that the cases were reported from three different districts, including five from Lahore, four from Rawalpindi, and one from Chakwal district.

The department added that 54 cases of dengue were recorded in the last

week across the province. According to the statement, the new cases had increased the overall tally of the province to 357 cases reported this year.

The health department affirmed that all necessary arrangements for dengue

prevention are being adopted with an adequate supply of medicines available in all public hospitals.

"Health officials are closely monitoring the situation. However, the public should adopt precautionary measures and report any symptoms promptly to help prevent further spread," added the statement.

□ □ □

**EEE virus:** Massachusetts health officials have announced a second confirmed case of the mosquito-borne eastern equine encephalitis virus in the state. A second case of the virus in a horse was also confirmed.

The human case is a woman in her 30s. Both were exposed in the area of Plymouth County that was aerial-sprayed Tuesday night. Both became infected before spraying was performed.

The detection of the latest case comes after a New Hampshire resident infected with the virus died, state health authorities said Tuesday.

The Hampstead resident's infection was the first in the state in a decade, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services said.

## MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health



To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For your ads on this page

Call: 24813805 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

مركز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي  
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE  
الفروانية FARWANIYA

Dr. Arshad Patel  
MBBS, MD  
(Ophthalmology)

Consultation Hours:  
Daily (Except Sundays)  
9am to 1pm & 5pm to 9pm  
Sunday Holiday

Phone : 24 734 000

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex  
& Opp. Police station - Farwaniya

www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw



## Osimhen, Napoli open negotiations for loan deal

# Gabriel sold to Saudi club to continue 'unlikely' career arc of teen

LONDON, Sept 3, (AP) — The unlikely career arc of Brazilian teenager Angelo Gabriel continued when he completed a move to Saudi team Al Nassr for a reported \$25 million on Tuesday, a year after joining Chelsea from Santos.

In the year he was on Chelsea's books after a \$17 million move, Gabriel never played for the English club because he went on loan to Strasbourg - one of the teams run by Chelsea's American investors.

The 19-year-old Gabriel was part of Chelsea's squad for the preseason tour of the United States but has left on a permanent deal to Al Nassr - where Cristiano Ronaldo plays.

The move was announced a day after the Saudi transfer window shut and will help Chelsea meet financial rules in the Premier League and UEFA.

Another teenage Brazilian, Deivid Washington, joined Chelsea from Santos last year around the same time as Gabriel and reportedly came close to making a permanent move to Strasbourg.

### SOCCER

"We wish Angelo the very best as he begins the next chapter in his career and thank him for his efforts during his time with Chelsea," the English team said.

Gabriel became the youngest player in the history of Brazil's national championship at the time when he made his senior debut for Santos at 15 years, 308 days.

Victor Osimhen appears to have finally found a way

out of Napoli, opening negotiations for a loan deal with Turkish club Galatasaray.

The Nigeria forward had been linked to Paris Saint-Germain, Chelsea and Saudi club Al-Ahli in recent weeks and months but the transfer window in Europe's biggest leagues closed last week without a deal for him.

The Turkish league transfer window doesn't close until Sept. 13 and Galatasaray suddenly needs help at center forward following an injury to Mauro Icardi.

"The player and his club SSCN Napoli SPA have begun official talks regarding the temporary transfer of professional footballer Victor James Osimhen," Galatasaray posted on Instagram late Monday.

Osimhen scored 26 goals when Napoli won Serie A in 2023, but he has also consistently been slowed by injuries

throughout his career.

Osimhen hasn't been training with Napoli, which had already replaced him by signing Romelu Lukaku from Chelsea - reuniting the Belgian striker with coach Antonio Conte after the pair won Serie A at Inter Milan.

At 25, Osimhen still has a lot of years left to play top-level soccer. Known for his aerial prowess and face mask, he has scored a total of 76 goals in 133 matches across all competitions for Napoli since joining in a club-record 70 million euro transfer (\$77 million) four years ago.

Osimhen grew frustrated last season when Napoli finished 10th during its title defense - a campaign in which he scored 15 Serie A goals.

At Galatasaray, Osimhen would be reunited with Napoli's all-time leading scorer Dries Mertens.

# Pregnant archer wins gold



Japan players celebrate with the gold medal after the medal ceremony during the wheelchair rugby gold medal match between Japan and the U.S. at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France. (AP)

## Italian transgender runner fails to reach final of women's 400m

PARIS, Sept 3, (AP) — Ella Sabljak thrust her arms in the air after helping Australia win the bronze medal in wheelchair rugby at the Paralympics on Monday, then turned her thoughts to growing the sport.

As one of three women on Australia's team she is optimistic their medal success will get others to take up wheelchair rugby.

Emilie Miller and Shae Graham were the other women on the 12-strong team, the highest representation of women of any nation competing in Paris in the mixed-gender but male-dominated wheelchair rugby.

### PARALYMPICS

Sabljak hopes for eventual parity with a 6-6 split on teams.

Two other women won wheelchair rugby medals: Kae Kurahashi earned gold for Japan following a 48-41 win against a United States team featuring Sarah Adam.

Pregnant archer Jodie Grinham clinched gold in the mixed team compound event alongside British teammate Nathan Macqueen, after they beat Iran 155-151.

Grinham, who is seven months pregnant, celebrated once again after her bronze medal on Saturday in the women's individual compound event.

# Former Czech Republic soccer boss receives prison term for fraud again

PRAGUE, Sept 3, (AP) — The former head of the Czech Football Association was convicted of fraud again on Tuesday and sentenced to 5 1/2 years in prison.

Prague's Municipal Court also fined Miroslav Pelta 5 million Czech crowns (\$221,000) and banned him from any executive position for five years.

The court issued the verdict in a retrial of the case after it handed Pelta similar sentences in 2021 and 2023. An appeals court canceled those rulings and returned the case

back to the original court.

In the same case, the court also sentenced Simona Kratochvilova, a former deputy education minister, to six years in prison, banned her from working in public offices for six years, and fined her 2 million Czech crowns (\$88,000).

The two pleaded not guilty and still can appeal.

The case dates to 2017 when police raided the association headquarters and the offices of FK Jablonec, a provincial soccer club partly owned by Pelta.

Italian transgender runner Valentina Petrillo failed to reach the final of the women's 400 meters in her classification for visually impaired athletes.

The 50-year-old Petrillo, a transgender woman who was raised as a boy, finished third in her semi-final heat despite a personal best of 57.58 seconds.

World Athletics last year banned transgender women from competing in the female category at international events if they transitioned after puberty. But its para counterpart, World Para Athletics, has not followed suit.

Brazil's 3-0 win against host

France in blind soccer group play means it still has not lost a match in Paralympic competition since its introduction to the Games in 2004.

The Brazilians are chasing a sixth straight gold medal and are spearheaded by Jefferson Gonçalves Mizaél Oliveira, known as Jefinho.

The speedy 34-year-old is gunning for his fifth consecutive gold medal.

Hunter Woodhall hoped to match his wife by winning an Olympic medal but he finished sixth in the 100 meters.

Woodhall is married to long jumper Tara Davis-Woodhall, who

gold at the Olympics last month.

Hunter is a double amputee running in the T62 category. He clocked 10.96 seconds. Costa Rican Sherman Isidro set a Paralympic record winning in 10.65.

Hunter was born with a birth defect that left him without fibulas in either leg and led to amputation below the knees.

Triathlon events in the Seine River finally got the green light and home favorite Alexis Hanquiquant soon had the enthusiastic crowd going.

Hanquiquant raised his arms in triumph and pointed to his name as the home fans chanted his name.

Hanquiquant had his right leg amputated just below the knee in 2013, about three years after it was crushed by agricultural equipment in a work accident.

Sport classes PTS2 to 5 are for athletes with limitations in lower or upper limbs who don't need a handcycle for the cycling segment or a racing chair for the running segment. Prosthetic legs and bike modifications are allowed.

Triathlon events were postponed from Sunday because of concerns about the river's water safety after rainstorms. Heavy rains cause wastewater and runoff to flow into the river, leading to a rise in bacteria levels.

Miles Krajewski and Jayci Simon won America's first medals in badminton - a silver - in the mixed doubles SH6 classification for athletes with short stature.

The two 19-year-olds lost the final to China's Lin Naili and Li Fengmei at Porte de la Chapelle Arena in northern Paris.

But silver was still great after they qualified by grabbing the final available spot back in April.

## Victim receiving treatment

# Ugandan Olympic athlete 'set on fire' by boyfriend

NAIROBI, Kenya, Sept 3, (AP) — A Ugandan athlete living in Kenya was attacked and set on fire by her boyfriend and is receiving treatment for burns on 75% of her body, police said.

Rebecca Cheptegei, a distance runner who finished at the 44th position in the 2024 Paris Olympics, was attacked in her house in the western Trans Nzoia County.

Trans Nzoia County Police Commander Jeremiah ole Kosimoi said Monday that Cheptegei's boyfriend, Dickson Ndiema, bought a jerrican of petrol, poured it on her and set her ablaze during a disagreement Sunday. Ndiema also sustained burn wounds,

and the two are receiving specialized treatment at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret city.

Cheptegei's parents said their daughter bought land in Trans Nzoia to be near the county's many athletic training centers.

A report filed by the local chief states that the couple was heard fighting over the land where the house was built before the fire started.

In 2023, Ugandan Olympic runner and steeplechaser Benjamin Kiplagat was found dead with stab wounds. In 2022, Kenyan-born Bahraini athlete Damaris Muthee was found dead by a postmortem report stating that she was strangled.

## Doheny quits with injury

# Inoue remains 'undisputed' world super-bantam champ

TOKYO, Sept 3, (AP) — Japanese boxing superstar Naoya Inoue remained the undisputed world super-bantamweight champion when Irish challenger TJ Doheny dropped to his knee and quit in the seventh round because of an apparent back injury on Tuesday.

Doheny complained of a "twinge" after walking back to his corner gingerly. Before then, he was getting pummeled by Inoue, who celebrated his technical knockout - for a 28th successive win - in muted fashion in Tokyo.

### BOXING

Inoue's pressure and relentless body work started getting its rewards from the sixth round, and Doheny's face was marked by the end of the fight. The 37-year-old challenger wound up limping away from the ring, propped up on both sides by his team.

"This fight didn't end how we expected," Inoue said through a translator, "but fighting a long career like this, this is a night we might have."

"I want to celebrate," Inoue added, "how TJ Doheny brought the fight into this ring."

This was the 31-year-old Inoue's 23rd world title fight since his first

in 2014, and seventh in a row in Japan.

His promoter, Bob Arum, said Inoue will be defending his titles again in Tokyo at the end of the year and then will fight in Las Vegas.

Inoue, a four-division world champion in light-flyweight, super-flyweight, bantamweight and now super-bantamweight, didn't have it all his own way against Doheny, who made the bout awkward with his sharp movements and experience.

Doheny might even have won the third round after a powerful punch to the body and then a left-right combination to Inoue's head. But in round four, he was getting trapped on the ropes and picked off by Inoue, who slowly broke Doheny down.

The pressure told in the sixth when Inoue's body work and an overhead right hurt Doheny, who - in the final seconds of the round - appeared to clutch the bottom of his back.

The fight was over 16 seconds into the seventh when Doheny wriggled free from a flurry of punches before saying he couldn't continue. The Irishman left the ring in clear pain and without conducting an interview.



Japanese champion Naoya Inoue, left, and Irish challenger TJ Doheny, right, during the first round of a boxing match for the unified WBA, WBC, IBF and WBO super bantamweight world titles in Tokyo. (AP)

# Germany 'goalie' Frohms retires from the national team after being benched

FRANKFURT, Germany, Sept 3, (AP) — Goalkeeper Merle Frohms is retiring from the Germany women's team, shortly after she was surprisingly benched for the Paris Olympics tournament.

Frohms played 52 times for Germany, including its run to the final at the European Championship in 2022 and a shock group-stage exit at the World Cup the following year.

Frohms said on Tuesday in a statement from the German soccer federation that she wanted to focus on her club career with Wolfsburg and looked forward to "having more time with family and friends again."

The 29-year-old Frohms said

she had already decided last year to leave the national team after the Olympic tournament. Gotham FC's Ann-Katrin Berger was Germany's starting goalkeeper as the team won the bronze medal last month. Frohms was on the bench throughout.

Coach Christian Wück, who took over after the Olympics, said Frohms would have remained a key player if she had continued.

"I would have been very happy to work with Merle and I made that clear to her as well in a personal conversation," he said in a statement. "Now she has made this decision, which I obviously must respect."



Switzerland's Catherine Debrunner, right, and Susannah Scaroni of the U.S., foreground left, compete for the lead of the women's 1500 m. T54 during the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France. (AP)



# Ronaldo resumes Portugal career in Nations League

GENEVA, Sept 3, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo has extended his record-setting Portugal career so long he's seeing a new generation of Spain players grow up to rule international soccer.

"When I will feel like I'm not adding anymore, I'll be the first to leave," the 39-year-old Ronaldo said late Monday ahead of national team soccer resuming in Europe this week. "(My motivation) is to come to the national team and to win the Nations League."

Portugal and Spain both play on Thursday to start a new UEFA Nations League less than two months after the European Championship final in Germany.

Though Ronaldo has captained Portugal to win past editions of both competitions - the 2019 Nations League and Euro 2016 - Spain now holds both trophies sparked by an exciting wave of talent.

Lamine Yamal, the 17-year-old sensation of Euro 2024, and 20-year-old Gavi were not born when Ronaldo played in his first major tournament final, the Euro 2004 loss to Greece.

Some of Ronaldo's peak career years clashed with the great Spain team that won an unprecedented three straight titles at Euro 2008, the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012. In the last two of those, Spain eliminated Portugal in the knockout rounds.

Now Spain is back on top before the 2026 World Cup, that could yet see a 41-year-old Ronaldo - and Lionel Messi who would turn 39 during the tournament in North America - play at a record sixth edition.

When asked about his World Cup plans on Monday, Ronaldo said in translated comments, "I can't give you an answer because I don't know what will happen."

Ronaldo was dropped from the Portugal team at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and failed to score in five games at Euro 2024. Now he is preparing to face Croatia on Thursday and add to his men's national-team records of 212 goals and 130 goals.

"I'll go with a clear conscience as always because I know what I am," he said, "I know what I do and what I will continue to do."

The Nations League opens with the next World Cup very much in mind.

European qualifying groups for the 2026 World Cup are set to be drawn in Zurich in December, likely with seedings decided by FIFA world rankings updated in November after Nations

League group play ends.

World Cup qualifying in Europe typically starts in March but the top-tier teams who advance to the Nations League Final Four next June are not free until September.

Those in the Final Four lineup must go into four-team World Cup qualifying groups, playing just six games in total from September-November 2025. Five-team qualifying groups must start in March or June. UEFA members have a slightly different path to the 2026 World Cup because they get 16 places in the expanded 48-team finals tournament hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The 12 group winners qualify direct to the World Cup. The 12 runners-up enter a 16-team playoffs in March 2026. Four more playoff entries are based on Nations League standings.

The 16 playoff teams are drawn into

## SOCCER

four playoff brackets. Single-game semifinals and finals decide the four World Cup entries. By giving teams a qualifying route from the Nations League into World Cups and European Championships, UEFA aims to boost its third-tier national-team event.

Spain was the men's soccer champion at Euro 2024, the Paris Olympics and the 2023 Nations League.

The Nations League defense starts with two away games, on Thursday against Serbia in Belgrade and Sunday against Switzerland in Geneva. Also in the group is Denmark.

The main attraction since Euro 2024 is watching good friends Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams attacking teams from each wing.

Not only have 39-year-old Cristiano Ronaldo, Luka Modrić, who turns 39 on Monday, and 36-year-old Robert Lewandowski not yet retired from international soccer, they will meet in the same Nations League group.

It should be Ronaldo vs. Modrić on Thursday in Lisbon and Modrić vs. Lewandowski on Sunday in Osijek, Croatia.

It is Scotland's honor and challenge to face the veteran trio - combining for 542 national-team games and 239 goals heading into this week - six times in Group A1 through mid-November. France captained by Kylian Mbappé has two standout games, hosting Italy on Friday in Paris and welcoming Belgium on Monday at Lyon.

Israel completes the group and plays its first two games in neutral Hungary because of the ongoing conflict with Hamas. Israel's home game against Italy on Monday is in Budapest, and its away game against Belgium on Friday is in Debrecen.



Ronaldo



Players fight for the ball during Kuwait-Afghanistan match in Thailand.

## Kuwait Futsal team secures first win in Bangkok

Kuwait's Futsal team secured its first victory yesterday in the friendly continental championship held in Bangkok, Thailand. Kuwait

triumphed 4-3 over Afghanistan. Abdul Latif Al-Abbasi led the way with two goals, while Abdulaziz Bourashed and Saleh Al-Fadel

each contributed one goal.

This win comes after losses against Thailand and Guatemala. The team is using this tournament

as key preparation for its upcoming participation in the Asian Indoor Games, which will also take place in Thailand from November 21 to 30.



Beatriz Haddad Maia, of Brazil, reacts during a match against Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, in the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

## Brendon takes over white-ball teams

## 'Bazball' spreading in English cricket

LONDON, Sept 3, (AP): "Bazball" is coming to England's stagnating white-ball cricket teams.

England announced on Tuesday that Brendon McCullum, the coach of the test side since 2022, will also take charge of the one-day international and Twenty20 teams from the start of next year as part of a rejigged leadership structure.

The relentless international schedule has made it difficult for one person to take on both roles, with matches in the shorter and longer formats occasionally overlapping.

McCullum and the England and Wales Cricket Board, which has extended his contract until 2027, believe it is now possible because of changes to the calendar.

"The idea of a unified coaching structure, especially with the schedule easing next year, made perfect sense,"

## CRICKET

McCullum said. "I'm energized by the prospect of guiding both teams and am grateful for the support from the ECB and my family as I take on these added responsibilities."

Matthew Mott resigned as England's white-ball coach on July 30 after presiding over the team's disappointing defenses of its ODI and T20 world titles.

The Australian was in charge for two years - and led England to the T20 World Cup title in 2022 - but was no longer getting the best out of a talented group captained by Jos Buttler, whose position also came under scrutiny.

Rob Key, the managing director of England men's cricket, decided a "new direction" was needed so enter McCullum, the laid-back Kiwi whose "Bazball" approach - as it has been widely labeled - has led to an improvement in

fortunes of England's test team under captain Ben Stokes.

Essentially, it gives players license to be more attacking and emboldened with their shot-making and field placements, and be free from recrimination.

"The talent within English cricket is immense, and I'm looking forward to helping these players reach their full potential," McCullum said. "My goal is to create an environment where everyone can thrive and where we can continue to compete at the highest level across all formats."

McCullum will start his dual roles in January, coinciding with England's white-ball tour of India and the Champions Trophy. In the interim, Marcus Trescothick will serve as coach for the upcoming white-ball series against Australia and the tour of the Caribbean.

"I believe we are incredibly fortunate that a coach of his quality is prepared to commit wholeheartedly to English cricket," Key said of McCullum. "Being able to align all teams now is particularly exciting and we look forward to taking on all challenges that come our way."

"For the last two years, constant clashes between formats have made it challenging for the white-ball environment; fortunately, these are easing starting from January. The timing of the schedule (from January) will allow him to dedicate the necessary focus to both roles, and we're confident this restructure will bring out the best in our players and coaching staff."

The English held both white-ball world titles after winning the 50-over crown in 2019 and the T20 crown three years later.

They surrendered the 50-over title last year in dismal fashion after losing six of their nine group games in India. England was then thrashed in the semifinals of the T20 World Cup by eventual champion India in June.

NEW YORK, Sept 3, (AP): Top-seeded Jannik Sinner reached the U.S. Open quarterfinals by shaking off a slow start and coming through in the clutch at the end of tiebreakers that decided the first two sets, then pulling away to get past No. 14 Tommy Paul 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-1.

Two weeks removed from being cleared in a doping case stemming from two positive tests in March, Sinner moved into a showdown against 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev, the only past winner at Flushing Meadows still in the men's field.

Sinner, a 23-year-old from Italy, claimed his first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January by defeating Medvedev in five sets in the final after dropping the first two. They also met in the Wimbledon quarterfinals in July, and Medvedev won that one.

## TENNIS

Sinner finished the initial set with 15 unforced errors on the forehand side alone, but he cleaned that up quickly and closed the match with just six the rest of the way.

Everything hinged on the tiebreakers. The first was tied 3-all, before Sinner grabbed the last four points. Paul led 5-4 in the second, but Sinner took the last three points.

That meant Sinner has now won 14 of his past 15 tiebreakers, a stretch that dates to a tournament in Halle, Germany, in June. The lone exception was one he lost against Medvedev at Wimbledon.

Sinner dropped the first set he played at the U.S. Open, but he's won the next 12.

Earlier, the No. 5-seeded Medvedev picked up a 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 victory over Nuno Borges that briefly was interrupted early in the third set when the electronic line-calling system was shut down because of a fire alarm.

The other quarterfinal on the top half of the men's bracket will be No. 10 Alex de Minaur vs. No. 25 Jack Draper. De Minaur beat Jordan Thompson 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 in an all-Australian matchup, while Draper became the first British man in the U.S. Open quarterfinals since Andy Murray in 2016 by defeating Tomas Machac 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.

Jessica Pegula is back in the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open after a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Diana Shnaider, her seventh trip to that round at a Grand

## Pegula back in quarterfinals at US Open

## Belgian clubs take net profit of \$302 million

# International transfer spending drops to \$6.46 bln in 2024: FIFA

ZURICH, Sept 3, (AP): Spending on transfer fees in international men's player deals cooled off during the mid-year trading period, according to FIFA research published on Tuesday.

FIFA said clubs committed to spend \$6.46 billion on buying players in cross-border deals during the June-to-September transfer window - down from \$7.43 billion in the same period a year ago.

The average of transfer fees paid by clubs in Europe, by far the richest market, was \$3.13 million compared to \$3.8 million one year ago.

The FIFA study is not a complete guide because it does not count the biggest transfer deal of the European offseason, nor does it include moves by players between two clubs in the same country.

Kylian Mbappé joined Real Madrid without a transfer fee being paid because the France star was a free agent after letting his contract expire at Paris Saint-Germain. Still, Madrid

had to pay Mbappé a signing bonus variously reported as between \$110 million and \$165 million.

The biggest transfer fees in cross-border deals were Julián Alvarez's move from Manchester City to Atletico Madrid, reported to be about 75 million euros (\$83 million) and Leny Yoro from Lille to Manchester United for a reported 62 million euros (\$69 million).

## SOCCER

The FIFA study does not include deals involving two clubs in the same country where the player's registration is not transferred between member federations.

Deals in the top-10 biggest transfer fees not counting toward the FIFA figures include Dominic Solanke from Bournemouth to Tottenham, Pedro Neto from Wolves to Chelsea and Teun Koopmeiners from Atalanta to Juventus. English clubs were the biggest

overall and net spenders with an outlay of \$1.69 billion on international transfers, and \$1.25 billion recouped. Clubs in England, Italy and Saudi Arabia all had a collective net spending of at least \$400 million.

Belgian clubs took a net profit of \$302 million, by receiving \$412 million from selling players abroad and spending \$110 million on players from clubs in other countries, according to FIFA. Those deals included Igor Thiago moving from Club Brugge to Brentford and Ernest Nuamah from Molenbeek to its sister club Lyon.

Clubs from Argentina received about \$130 million more than they spent, and Brazilian clubs made a collective profit of \$98 million on international deals, FIFA said.

Of the record 11,000 international transfers processed by FIFA in the past three months, most did not include a fee and nearly 6,300 were free agent players.

Slam tournament. Now comes the hard part: Pegula is 0-6 in major quarterfinals over her career - and this next one will come against No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

The No. 6-seeded Pegula, an American whose parents own the NFL's Buffalo Bills and NHL's Buffalo Sabres, is on quite a run at the moment, having won 13 of her past

14 matches, all on hard courts. That included her second consecutive title in Canada and an appearance in the final at the Cincinnati Open, where she lost to No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka.

Swiatek was tied at 4-all with No. 16 Liudmila Samsonova on Monday night before grabbing seven straight games en route to winning 6-4, 6-1. When Swiatek captured the 2022



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, returns a shot to Tommy Paul, of the United States, during a fourth round match of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

U.S. Open for one of her five Grand Slam titles, she eliminated Pegula in the quarterfinals.

Indeed, half of Pegula's six quarterfinal exits at Slams came against a No. 1 player - Swiatek twice and Ash Barty once.

Also returning to the quarterfinals was Karolina Muchova, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over No. 5 Jasmine Paolini, the runner-up at the French Open and Wimbledon this season. Muchova next plays No. 22 Beatriz Haddad Maia, who got past 2018 Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 to become the first woman from Brazil in the U.S. Open quarterfinals since Maria Bueno in 1968.

Haddad Maia is a 28-year-old left-hander who was given a 10-month suspension after failing a doping test in 2019.

She was a semifinalist at the French Open last year but had not been past the second round at Flushing Meadows until now.

Muchova enjoyed a breakthrough 2023, getting to the final in Paris and the semifinals in New York, before needing surgery on her right wrist in October, sidelining her for 10 months.





Man of the match Youssef Madouh.

# Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Madouh named best player of the match

## Kuwait starts strong in Asian Handball Championship

By Khaled Al-Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, Sept 3: The Kuwait junior handball team made a strong start in Group Four of the 10th Asian Championship, a qualifier for the 2025 World Cup in Slovenia, which began in Amman, Jordan, and will run until the 14th of this month. The team secured its first two points by defeating Chinese Taipei 37-31. Youssef Madouh was named the best player of the match.

Today, the second round of the preliminary stage will feature five matches. Kuwait faces China at 1:45 pm in Group Four, while Iran takes on Chinese Taipei in the same group. In Group One, Bahrain plays Iraq, India meets Jordan in Group Two, and Qatar locks horns with UAE in a Gulf derby in Group Three. The tournament's system allows for five teams to qualify for the World Cup.

Shahib Al-Hajri, Vice President of the Kuwait Handball Federation and Head of the Kuwait delegation in the Asian Championship, praised the team's impressive performance against Chinese Taipei, noting its well-deserved victory.

"We have great handball talents who gave their best, especially in the crucial opening match. It was the most important match to bring them into the Asian Championship atmosphere and give them the confidence they need for the upcoming games," Al-Hajri said.

He emphasized the significance of today's match against China, calling it a gateway to qualifying for the second round. He expressed full confidence in the Kuwaiti players, their abilities, and their commitment to representing Kuwaiti handball with honor.

The Kuwait junior handball team, led by Montenegrin coach Marko Martinovic and his assistant, national coach Hussein Habib, prepared for the 10th Asian Championship with a training camp in Slovenia, where it played several friendly matches. It also played two friendly matches against South Korea in Kuwait before departing for Jordan.



A Kuwaiti player makes a goal attempt against Chinese Taipei.

## Bangladesh thumps Pakistan to complete 'historic' clean sweep



Bangladesh's officials and players pose for photograph after winning the test cricket series against Pakistan, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (AP)

### Shakib hits the winning boundary

**RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Sept 3, (AP):** Bangladesh completed victory against Pakistan on the last afternoon Tuesday and achieved

an historic sweep of their two-test series.

Needing 143 more runs on the final day with 10 wickets in hand, Bangladesh knocked them off for the loss of four wickets when Shakib Al Hasan hit the winning boundary.

Bangladesh recorded only its second bilateral series win of two or more tests away from home; the last was against the West Indies in 2009.

The tourists won the opening test by 10 wickets and required just four days in the second after the first day was washed out in Rawalpindi.

#### CRICKET

The visitors' second innings finished on 185-4, and Shakib was 21 not out and Mushfiqur Rahim 22 not out.

Bangladesh was 26-6 in the first innings but Litton Das and Mehidy Hasan Miraz led a gallant recovery.

Fast bowlers Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana and Taskin Ahmed

## Kuwait seeks redemption against Qatar

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MANAMA, Sept 3: Kuwait will be looking to bounce back against Qatar in the preliminary round of the 17th Gulf Men's Basketball Championship today at 5:00 pm at Khalifa Sports City Hall in Manama, Bahrain.

In its opening match of the championship, Kuwait narrowly lost to Saudi Arabia 69-75, while Bahrain edged out Qatar 77-75.

#### BASKETBALL



Kuwaiti player dribbles the ball as Saudi defends during the opening match.

dismissed Pakistan for 172 in the second innings to leave Bangladesh a victory target of 184 in four sessions.

The Bangladesh top order showed plenty of resilience to flatten Pakistan plans of a dramatic comeback, with meaningful contributions from opener Zakir Hasan (40), captain Najmul Hossain Shanto (38) and

Mominul Haque (34).

They extended Pakistan's miserable home record in tests to 10 matches without a win. Pakistan's last home win was in December 2021 against South Africa at Rawalpindi. Shan Masood has suffered a second consecutive clean sweep since he was elevated to the test skipper last year, having lost to Australia 3-0.

### 'It hurts to say it'

## Tearful Suárez announces Uruguay retirement

**MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Sept 3, (AP):** Striker Luis Suárez will play his last game for Uruguay on Friday.

Suárez was emotional as he announced he's ending a 17-year international career after the World Cup qualifier against Paraguay at Centenario Stadium.

"It hurts to say it, but Friday will be my last match with my country's national team," Suárez said late Monday, unable to hold back tears at a press conference.

"I am retiring because I want to step aside. I am 37 years old, there

#### SOCCER

are a lot of talented players, and I know it would be difficult to get to the next World Cup. It is comforting to know I can retire on my terms and not have to retire due to injuries, or to not being called up. I want to say goodbye here, with my people. This is the ideal moment."

Suárez made his debut in 2007 and is Uruguay's all-time leading scorer with 69 goals in 142 matches.

He played in four World Cups and five Copa America. He helped to lead the team to the title at the

2011 Copa, where he scored twice in the semifinals and the match-winner in the final and was named player of the tournament.

"It's very difficult but I want to be relaxed when I play my last game with the national team," he said. "I will be just as excited as I was for my first national team appearance in 2007 when I was a 19-year-old kid. Now, I am a vet-

eran, an older player, whatever you want to call it, with an incredible history with the national team and I will give my life for the team on Friday."

In the 2010 World Cup quarterfinals, Suárez prevented Ghana from scoring an extra-time winner with his hand on the goal-line, and was red-carded. Ghana missed the resulting penalty kick, Uruguay won

a penalty shootout and reached the semifinals for the first time in 40 years.

Suárez was hailed at home as a saviour, but he was scorned at the 2014 World Cup when he hit Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini in their last group game. It was the third of four times in his career he hit a player. FIFA banned Suarez for nine games, the longest ban in World Cup history, and he missed the rest of the tournament and the 2015 Copa America.

"My fear has always been that my lasting image for my children and all Uruguayan fans would be of 2014," Suárez said. "I have gotten past that. And I hope the people have also forgotten and they are left with all the great moments I lived in our stadium, with all the things our team accomplished, in Copas America, in World Cups."

He reached 100 caps at the 2018 World Cup and was twice named man of the match en route to the quarterfinals. But in 2022, Uruguay didn't get out of their group.

Suárez will continue at Inter Miami, which he has previously said will be his last club. He's also had a stellar career at clubs including Barcelona, Liverpool, Ajax and Atletico Madrid.



In this file photo, Netherlands' Steven Bergwijn makes an attempt to score during the Euro 2024 Group B qualifying soccer match between Greece and The Netherlands at the OPAP Arena in Athens, Greece. (AP)

## Former England defender Chris 'signs' with Saudi club Al-Fayha

**ROME, Sept 3, (AP):** Former England defender Chris Smalling signed with Saudi Arabian club Al-Fayha, ending his stay at Roma after five seasons.

The 34-year-old Smalling signed a two-year deal, Al-Fayha said late Monday.

Roma also offloaded 19-year-old Brazilian winger Joao Costa to Al-Ettifaq, another Saudi Arabian club, in a permanent deal.

Costa made just five appearances in Serie A and the Europa League for Roma.

Smalling was a key member of the Roma team that won the inaugural Europa Conference League in 2022.

He made 31 appearances for England from 2011-17.

While the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar were attracted by huge contracts in recent years, the Saudi league has not drawn the top international players this year.

While there had been speculation of a move by Victor Osimhen, Al-Ahli instead signed Ivan Toney on deadline day from Brentford after Toney couldn't find a deal in the Premier League.

Steven Bergwijn's move to Saudi Arabia has brought an abrupt end to his international career with the Netherlands.

Bergwijn left Dutch club Ajax,

where he was captain, to join Al-Itihad for 21 million euros (\$23 million).

Commenting on Bergwijn's decision, Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman said "sporting ambition is not the main consideration" for the former Tottenham forward.

Asked if the "book is closed" for Bergwijn in the Dutch team, Koeman said: "In principle, yes."

The 26-year-old Bergwijn played at the recent European Championship, starting for the Dutch in their matches in the last 16 and quarterfinals, and also started against Argen-

#### SOCCER

tina in the World Cup quarterfinals in 2022. He has played for the national team since 2018.

Ajax technical director Alex Kroes said Bergwijn "made no secret of the fact that, if a good offer came from abroad, he would make the move" in the summer transfer window.

Koeman said Bergwijn's situation was different to that of Georginio Wijnaldum, who was selected for Euro 2024 despite playing in Saudi. Koeman said Wijnaldum made the move to get more playing time after falling out of favor at Paris Saint-Germain.