



Opinion

UAE's reception of First Deputy PM noteworthy

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

FROM the time of the second National Assembly until a few months ago, the political history of this nation has been marked by actions and policies that have often harmed Kuwait more than they have helped, resulting in more negative than positive outcomes.

It is fair to say that in the past thirty years, the vast majority of lawmakers have deviated from the values they were expected to uphold in their interactions with authorities, organizations, and even the general public.

Since Kuwait has been socio-politically diverse since the 1980s, it is essential to publicly address the repercussions of implementing policies that lead to anarchy under the guise of democracy. This was symbolized following the invasion in the most horrifying images that endangered the state's ability to continue functioning as an institution.

However, this outcome was avoided because the focus of political visions extended beyond mere voting practices. Efforts were directed toward building a cohesive social, political, and economic identity for the country.

In fact, the nation's loyalists, who gathered at the Jeddah Conference in 1990, aimed to define a strong national identity and instill in the next generation the importance of protecting their homeland.

Unfortunately, those who are still alive today are often disheartened by the state of the nation, especially the deterioration of the social compact. They now regret their support of the "flawed democracy" and have long been calling for a change.

Prior to the invasion, there was a plan by the ruler to revise the constitution in order to modernize democratic and parliamentary practices. This initiative followed an extensive study involving many experts and elites.

As previously mentioned, after the invasion, the political landscape shifted significantly. Some parliamentarians began to undermine social relations among citizens, and between Kuwait and other Gulf Cooperation Council countries. They did this by inciting tribal or sectarian tensions or insulting the rulers of these countries.

Others provoked conflicts with Arab nations, attacking them simply because their party, sect, or political group opposed those countries' policies. Unfortunately, when these issues were raised during official visits, the response was that "this is the nature of our democratic system. Parliamentarians have their own viewpoints, and we cannot prevent them from expressing themselves."

Such a response highlighted the state's weakness and provoked the rulers of other countries, leading to strained relations. Such tensions exacerbated Kuwait's vulnerability both within the Gulf and Arab regions and on the international stage.

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Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Prices of items tampered with at many outlets: MoCI

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Director of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) Faisal Al-Ansari says 611 violations were recorded in the month of August. Of these, 448 violations were identified during inspection tours conducted by the department's inspection teams, accounting for 73 percent of the total violations. The remaining 163 violations, representing 27 percent, were based on consumer complaints.

In a press statement, Al-Ansari explained that the statistics from the Commercial Control Department for the month of August highlighted 95 types of violations across 32 categories. These categories include:

- Violations of ban on certain goods and their circulation
General provisions
Recruitment of domestic workers
Regulations governing the sale and circulation of vegetables and fruits
Regulations governing the sale and circulation of meat
Regulations for after-sales services
Artificial price inflation
Requirements for food and shop licenses
General conditions for traded goods and services
Advertising data and invoice regulations

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A young Palestinian throws a stone at an Israeli armoured carrier.

KUNA photo

DUO WITH FOREIGN LINK CAUGHT SELLING FAKE SICK LEAVES
Mol seizes 1.5 kg pure heroin

'Kuwait used as transit route to smuggle drugs'



The Minister of Information, Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi on Friday visited the injured Iraqi football player Ayman Hussein at Al-Sabah Hospital. - See Page 16

KUNA photo

Citizenship of ten more individuals revoked

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Kuwait Al-Youm newspaper has announced the publication of three decrees and three decisions by the Council of Ministers, resulting in the revocation of citizenship for ten individuals, along with those who acquired it through them, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The reasons for the withdrawal include acquiring citizenship through fraudulent means, false statements, or convictions for crimes violating honor or trust, all within 15 years of being granted citizenship.

The names of the individuals affected are: Israa Fathy Abu Nuwayer, Nasser Abdul Hadi Al-Ajmi, Farhan Mukhlief Al-Najah, Jazwi Salem Al-Yami, Sa'ada Jaber Al-Ajmi, Talal Mohammad Al-Ajmi, Fayez Dhafer Al-Ajmi, Ghanem Dhafer Al-Ajmi, Dhaidan Mohammad Al-Ajmi and Bakhait Ali Tainan.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Civil Information has removed the residential addresses of 574 individuals from its official records. This action was taken either based on a declaration from the residence owner or because the building no longer exists.

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Kuwait tightens controls over precious minerals

No fraud detected in gold market

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Commercial Control and Precious Minerals departments at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry continue to tighten control over the precious minerals and gold jewelry shops throughout the country, as per Decision No. 963/2024 issued by Undersecretary of the ministry Ziad Al-Najem at the end of July regarding the formation of a joint team tasked to eliminate fraud in precious minerals and jewelry markets.

Meanwhile, Receiving and Sorting Supervisor at the Precious Minerals Department in the ministry Kholoud Jawhar confirmed there is no fraud in the yellow minerals market in the country. She said the ministry is keen on closing all outlets of fraud, especially at the land and air ports.

She disclosed that the foreign offices of the ministry examine any mineral before it enters the country. She added one these offices had earlier confiscated copper blocks being sold as gold bars and prevented the entry of these bars into the country; stressing this is a confirmation that the ministry is keen on eliminating commercial fraud.

She stressed that the department plays a major supervisory role in the local market, as it is responsible for all precious minerals; indicating the examination of precious minerals is done in three stages -- before entering the country, after the entry and stamping, and after the sale.

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Lt. Gen. Al-Muzain

Remain vigilant, says Army chief

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain on Saturday inspected a number of military units and sites, during which he was briefed on combat and administrative readiness and listened to a briefing on work progress.

In a press statement by during his inspection tour, the army chief stressed the need to maintain the highest levels of combat readiness.

He appreciated the efforts made by various army units' members, stressing the importance of continuing the hard work to maintain the homeland's security and safety.

Free entry visas for Iraqis to see match

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait, Al-Manhal Al-Safi, has announced that Iraqi fans will get free entry visas for the upcoming football match between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi national teams next Tuesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement on the "X" platform, Al-Safi revealed that he discussed the issue with key Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior officials, including Major General Ali Al-Adwani, Assistant Undersecretary for Residency, Nationality, and Passports Affairs, and Major General Hamad Al-Munifi, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs.

The discussions covered logistics for the event, including the entry of private Iraqi cars with new license plates and international traffic books (KT).

Major General Al-Adwani confirmed that the entry visas for Iraqi fans would be provided free of charge.

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US activist's killing condemned

Gaza death toll surges to 40,939

GAZA, Sept 7, (KUNA): At least 61 Palestinians fell martyred and 162 others injured in four new massacres committed by Israeli occupying forces in the Gaza Strip over the last 48 hours, according to medical sources.

Thus, the death toll of Palestinian martyrs killed in the Israeli aggression against the territory since October 7 has climbed to 40,939, mostly children and women, the sources were quoted by the Palestinian news agency (WAFA) as saying.

The number of Palestinians injured in the atrocities committed by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians has jumped to 94,616, while

emergency teams are still unable to reach many casualties and dead bodies trapped under the rubble of destroyed houses in the enclave, added the sources.

The occupation Israeli Army on Saturday carried out three massacres taking lives of 24 Palestinians in various sectors of Gaza Strip.

Revealing details, the Palestinian civil defense apparatus said in a statement five Palestinians joined the martyrs' rank in air bombing of an apartment flat in Al-Burajj camp in the center of the enclave.

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KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): The Interior Ministry has succeeded in foiling the smuggling of 1.5 kilograms of pure heroin, said a statement on Friday.

The Interior Ministry's criminal investigation arrested an individual, who has connections with international drug-smuggling networks in Asia, in coordination with Kuwait customs service, revealed the Interior Ministry's public relations department.

While interrogating the suspect, he confessed to the crime and revealed that the illicit material was to be delivered to certain "associates" abroad for sale, it added.

It affirmed that the suspect and confiscated material were handed to the narcotics prosecution department to implement further legal action against the defendant.

Meanwhile, a gang, consisting of two expatriates, was arrested for selling fake sick leave certificates, said the Interior Ministry on Saturday.

According to a statement by the MoI, the arrested felons confessed to their crime, revealing that they were coordinating with individuals abroad to sell the fake documents via online links.

The two were referred to legal authorities for sentencing, the statement concluded.

Biometrics centers stay open till 10 pm

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (Agencies): The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has extended the working hours of biometrics fingerprinting centers across the six governorates, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the ministry the centers will now operate every day of the week, from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.

These centers, located in personal identification departments and shopping malls, have adjusted their hours to accommodate the approaching deadline for citizens to complete their biometric fingerprinting.

The extension aims to streamline the process and make it more convenient for everyone to fulfill the necessary procedures.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Central System for the Remedy of Situations of Illegal Residents (CARIRS) announced on Saturday amending the situation of 10,256 illegal residents (Bedoun) to their original nationalities from 2011 to August 2024.

Director of the Department of Situation Amendment at CARIRS Brigadier Mohammad Al-Wuhaib stated to KUNA that 6,054 residents status was changed to the Saudi nationality, 1,188 to the Iraqi nationality, 868 Syrian, 131 Iranian, 53 Jordanian and 1,962 others to different nationalities.

He added that these statistics include individuals with parents or relatives with documents from different countries.

Al-Wuhaib called on people wishing to amend their situation to follow up with CARIRS at their headquarters at Sharq area.

Newswatch

BAGHDAD: Three Islamic State (IS) militants were killed on Friday in an airstrike on an IS hideout in Iraq's eastern province of Daïyala, the Iraqi military said.

Based on intelligence reports, the Iraqi military carried out an airstrike at 7:00 p.m. local time (1600 GMT) on an IS hideout in the Hamrin mountain range, destroying the hideout and killing three IS militants inside, according to a statement from the Security Media Cell, a media outlet affiliated with the Iraqi Joint Operations Command.

The statement said all weapons and equipment inside the hideout were destroyed, stressing that more details about the raid will be revealed later. (Xinhua)

NEW YORK: Director and Deputy to the High Representative of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Adedeji Ebo warned of an extremely worrying development of chemical weapons program in Syria.

Addressing the UN Security Council on Thursday, Ebo recalled that the Declaration Assessment Team of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), following its 27th round of consultations with the Syrian Government, requested explanations regarding the results of an analysis of several samples it collected between September 2020 and April 2023 at two formerly declared chemical-weapon sites. (KUNA)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:07 Asr 15:18
 Sunrise .. 05:28 Maghrib .. 18:04
 Zohr 11:46 Isha 19:22

Local

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

Contributions impactful as number of females rises

Empowered Kuwaiti women transforming real estate brokerage

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 5: Kuwaiti women continue to prove their ability to keep up with the language of the times and effectively work in various economic sectors, including real estate brokerage.

The number of women keen on working in the field of real estate brokerage has increased. Men dominated this field for many years, but the number of Kuwaiti female real estate brokers has exceeded 100.

The newspaper interviewed several Kuwaiti female real estate brokers to learn about their experience in working in the real estate market and the challenges they are facing to advance in this field, considering the dominance of males on one hand and the changing geopolitical circumstances on the other hand.

They confirmed that Kuwait has always been a haven for women as the State fully supports them, and that their contributions to real estate brokerage have been clear to everyone since the beginning of women's work in the field – the time of the oldest real estate broker, Munira Al-Hasawi, until the present.

Expert and real estate broker, Sabiqah Al-Bahar, who owns Al-Bahar Real Estate Brokerage disclosed: "I have been working in the real estate field for more than 25 years. I used to work in real estate development companies. I carried out leasing and sales operations in various real estate investment, commercial, residential and property management sectors."

Succeeded

"Over time, I succeeded in establishing a private company operating in this field. I have strong and diverse relationships with various companies and workers in the sector. Everyone knows me. I enjoy a good reputation and credibility among real estate brokers, companies and traders."

"In the past, male entrepreneurs managed the sector due to the hard working conditions and the enormous physical efforts required by this work."

"However, in recent years, female entrepreneurs with great potential have been included in the real estate market. They have excelled in this sector, considering their exceptional skills and strategies in completing real estate transactions."

"We noticed an increase in the number of women entering the local real estate market as investors, experts, buyers and sellers. Due to their high standards, they are paving the way for a more diverse and comprehensive real estate market."

On the reasons behind women's success in the real estate sector, Al-Bahar attributed this to the innate creativity of women; as well as their ability to perform several tasks at the same time, while combining innovation and creativity with attention to the smallest details.

Revolution

She pointed out this is causing a revolution in the local real estate sector, which reflects women's skills and the diversity of their capabilities in engaging in real estate work. She stated this enhances the comprehensiveness of the sector and drives the wheel of development.

She added that women's increased financial independence has enabled them to take the initiative as independent investors to invest heavily in real estate properties and the real estate brokerage sector; thereby, addressing the demand for real estate properties.

On the society's view of the real estate broker, she stressed that the society fully supports women in their journey as real estate brokers, affirming the market in general encourages women to work in this sector.

She noted that Kuwaiti women have a

complementary role on the path of urban development as they are considered the foundation of society and a partner of men in urban development as per the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

She confirmed that women have made great strides in various fields, especially real estate, which reflects the increasing demand for women's presence in the market and their practice of real estate brokerage work and their achievements in closing successful real estate deals.

She added: "I do not see any challenges for women engaged in real estate brokerage work. At the beginning of women entering the field, they suffered difficulties and challenges in proving themselves in this field."

"Women should have exerted more effort to prove themselves to men and have credibility in the field of real estate brokerage. They have to prove their presence, effectiveness and efforts in going to sites, inspecting properties and meeting companies. Once they succeeded in breaking these barriers, they became pioneers in real estate brokerage and other related sectors," she stressed.

Experience

Hanouf Al-Khubaizi revealed that she has been working in the field of real estate brokerage since 2010, indicating she was not the first woman to have this experience in the world of real estate brokerage, as she was preceded by Munira Al-Hasawi -- the first Kuwaiti female real estate broker with vast experience and expertise in the field, paving the way for her and others to be active in this field and stand side by side the male brokers.

She added "since the beginning of my work in real estate brokerage, I have witnessed the warm welcome of many workers in the field, as well as those looking for real estate to buy or sell. Everyone has been supportive and welcoming."

She pointed out the advantages that the real estate broker enjoys in terms of understanding what the client needs from the process of searching for the appropriate property to buy.

"Women in general care and focus on the aesthetic aspects and means of comfort in the property, while what matters most to men in the purchasing process is the age of the building and the price," she added.

Challenges

Regarding the challenges that the real estate brokerage profession is facing in general and the female real estate brokers in particular, Al-Khubaizi cited the lack of a strong and clear deterrent to intruders in the profession. "This is considered the biggest challenge for those working in this field," she asserted.

She explained those who work in real estate brokerage without a license cause chaos and harm the profession by practicing real estate fraud and deception, which distorted the image of the brokers who are licensed and accredited by the Ministry of Commerce.

She said the challenges affect men and women alike, but they became less difficult when the Kuwaiti Union of Real Estate Brokers overcame many challenges by providing a clear reference for information. She affirmed that working under the umbrella of the union eliminated the problem of random information.

She stated that the union organizes training courses to keep pace with developments in the real estate market and the laws, all of which directly contributed to facilitating the work of the Kuwaiti real estate broker.

On licenses of a special nature, including home licenses to practice the real estate brokerage profession; Al-Khubaizi indicated that every decision or idea has positive and negative sides. "To distinguish between the two sides and to determine whether the decision is a success or not, we must wait for its implementation. Through my follow up with the concerned authorities to evaluate the negative or positive impact of the decision on the real estate brokerage market, I did not hear any complaint from home license holders," she concluded.

New traffic plan unveiled

Al-Loughani highlights potential of Arabs in 'sustainable aviation fuel' production

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Jamal Al-Loughani, Secretary-General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), has emphasized that Arab countries are well-positioned to lead in the production and export of sustainable and low-carbon aviation fuel, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a new study titled 'Sustainable and Low-Carbon Aviation Fuel', Al-Loughani outlined that Arab nations possess the necessary infrastructure, financing resources for renewable energy projects, and a diverse range of suitable materials for producing sustainable fuel.

He noted that international and Arab initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions from the aviation sector are critical in addressing climate change.

The study highlighted that aviation emissions were about 780 million tons in 2023, representing 2.5% of global emissions, with projections indicating this could triple to 2.6 gigatons annually by 2050 due to increasing air transport demand.

Despite having significant oil and gas reserves, many Arab countries are actively diversifying their energy mix and reducing carbon emissions.

Al-Loughani also pointed out that oil refineries in OAPEC member states are well-equipped to contribute to the production of low-carbon aviation fuel, leveraging existing infrastructure such as warehouses and pipelines.

Traffic plan unveiled: Director of the Traffic Awareness Department at the Ministry of Interior Colonel Fahad Al-Essa has unveiled the plan to dispatch 150 traffic patrols, 100 rescue patrols and 26 police motorcycles to monitor traffic movement at the beginning of the new academic year with the support of helicopters to monitor and ease traffic congestions, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Essa made the announcement during the exhibition organized by the Traffic and Operations Sector at the 360 Mall under the slogan, "With Determination, We Achieve our Dream."

He revealed a number of security patrols will be assigned in several locations, particularly along the highways and vital intersections. He said the ministry will closely coordinate with schools that have high student population and usually witness traffic congestion in order to assign teams tasked to organize the movement of students.

He affirmed the instructions are clear on the heavy presence of security patrols an hour before the start and end of classes, indicating a team from the Traffic Awareness Department consisting of female officers and military personnel will organize seminars and workshops in public and private universities, institutes and schools to raise public awareness on the importance of adhering to traffic regulations to prevent road accidents and guarantee the safety of everyone.

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate north-westerly wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h.

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate north-

Weather

westerly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	46	35
Kuwait Airport	45	33

Abdaly	45	27
Bubyan	46	23
Jahra	46	31
Failaka Island	41	-
Salmiyah	42	33
Ahmadi	41	29
Jal Aliyah	45	29
Nuwaisib	45	30

HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send greetings

HH Amir congratulates President of Brazil on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday sent a cable to President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir

wished the president good health and well-being, and for Brazil and its friendly people progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, congratulating him on his

country's National Day, and wishing him good health and well-being.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

Envoy highlights efforts to boost co-op between Kuwait and China

Chinese center holds 'A Moonment to Remember in Kuwait'



KUNA photo

Issa Al Habib receiving the award.

Award 'promotes best practices'

Kuwait's Habib wins SGCA content creator

SHARJAH, Sept 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's Issa Al Habib won on Thursday the best content creator award as part of the 18+ category of 11th Sharjah Government Communication Award (SGCA).

This came during a ceremony, in which Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and Chairman of Sharjah Media Council, honored the winners, UAE's news agency (WAM) reported.

Speaking in the ceremony, Tariq Allay, Director General of

Sharjah Government Media Bureau (SGMB) said: "Over the past eleven years, SGCA has not only recognized outstanding efforts but has also been a catalyst for positive change".

"It supports those committed to advancing government communication and aligns with Sharjah's vision to create a new paradigm in government communication, contributing to community development, he said, according to the agency.

Meanwhile, media personality Mona El Shazly, on behalf of the

SGCA jury committee, said: "SGCA has consistently played a key role in improving the performance of government institutions and raising public awareness about the importance of transparent and innovative communication."

She noted that the award "promotes best practices, encourages exchanging ideas and experiences, and elevates government messaging to be more effective and responsive to society's needs".

Some winners in varied categories have been honored as well.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: In a recent statement, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei highlighted the ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation between Kuwait and China, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This includes significant progress on the implementation of seven agreements signed during His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad's visit to China last September.

Zhang made these comments during the 'A Moonment to Remember in Kuwait', a cultural festival organized by the Chinese Cultural Center in collaboration with the American University of the Middle East (AUM).

The cultural event, attended by dignitaries including the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mishal and numerous diplomats, featured performances by the Chinese acrobatic troupe. This troupe showcased traditional Chinese culture with vibrant performances, complemented by a photo exhibition and demonstrations of cultural practices such as tea ceremonies and weaving.

The Chinese envoy also took the opportunity to visit the Al-Qurain Martyrs Museum, underscoring the importance of continued cultural and diplomatic engagement. He expressed gratitude to AUM and its President, Dr. George Al-Yahouchi, for their support in organizing the event.

Zhang said that as the Mid-Autumn Festival approaches, this cultural exchange further cements the deepening friendship between China and Kuwait, highlighting the shared commitment to peace and cooperation.

During the event he highlighted the high-level visit to Kuwait by delegation from the Chinese CCC company is seen as a crucial step in advancing the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project, as well as other initiatives related to renewable energy and additional projects.

The ambassador explained that CCC, a leading global company with extensive experience in port construction and operation, is now conducting comprehensive surveys of the port.

This follows a hiatus in the project due to natural changes over the past decade. Zhang expressed optimism that the construction process would soon commence after thorough technical studies and fieldwork.

In addition to the port project, Zhang revealed that the Chinese delegation also discussed renewable energy projects, reflecting ongoing cooperation in this sector.

The ambassador emphasized the mutual commitment of both parties to expedite the implementation of these agreements.

Reckless motorists held

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
 KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The General Traffic Department has been actively targeting reckless drivers who exploit improved weather at night-time to drive dangerously on public roads.

During a recent campaign during the weekend, traffic officers raided a hotspot for reckless driving, involving over 200 motorists, and arrested many among them who were referred to the concerned authorities.

The General Traffic Department announced that the campaign included the use of drones to monitor reckless drivers and capture their license plate numbers. As a result of the campaign, three reckless drivers were arrested and referred to the traffic police, a juvenile was referred to the Juvenile Prosecution, and 15 vehicles were seized. In addition, 46 citations related to vehicle violations and 12 related to gathering violations were issued.

Other Voices

The four most popular stores in my life

By Ahmed alsarraf

Thirty years ago I had the pleasure of visiting the El Corte Inglés store in Marbella. I thought it was a local store, but 30 years later I discovered that its branches cover all of Spain, and are present in many other countries, even outside Europe.

El Corte was founded in 1934 by Ramón Areces Rodríguez in Madrid as a small tailor's shop specializing in children's clothing. It expanded into a department store and by the end of World War II, Ramón's relatives had joined the company. The store became active in the marketing of real estate, travel, insurance and grocery stores, and dominated the retail trade through its network of branches and its distinguished services.

After the founder's death in 1989, his nephew took over the management, until his death in 2014, when his daughter Marta Alvarez Gil took over the management.

The strange name of the company means "English store", as the original activity was sewing clothes for the elite. In those years, English taste was prevalent, and evidence of precision and quality. This store with a non-Spanish name became one of the most famous brands in Spain.

Selfridges in London took my breath away when I first walked in, in 1968, and it was, and still is, my favourite store whenever I visit the former horse stud. It is one of the most famous department stores in Britain and Europe, always distinguished by innovation, luxury and a distinctive approach to retail.

Founded in 1909, the store celebrated its 100th anniversary with the help of American retail magnate Harry Selfridge, son of Robert Selfridge, who abandoned his family. The strong-willed mother,

Louise, a schoolteacher, raised his four children and played a significant role in shaping the character of the eldest son, Harry.

His marriage to Rose Buckingham, a wealthy heiress, was a turning point, as her wealth supported his ambitions and he moved to London to establish his famous store. Their marriage was not ideal, due to Harry's lavish lifestyle and infidelities.

After Harry's death in 1947, his family continued to live in Britain and Europe, with varying degrees of involvement in public life. While none of the children succeeded in replicating their father's success in business, they remained prominent social figures due to their family name and connections.

The third and final store that played a romantic role in my life is Harrods, founded by Charles Harrods in 1824 as a small grocery store in London's East End. It moved to its current location in 1849, initially focusing on groceries.

Under his son Charles, the store grew significantly, and in the 1860s it expanded further, but a fire in 1883 forced its owners to rebuild it.

In 1894, the store became a joint stock company, which enabled House of Fraser to take over in 1959. The store continued to grow, building a global reputation synonymous with luxury and high-end retail, until 1985, when Egyptian businessman Mohamed Al Fayed succeeded in purchasing it, changing a lot of it, modernizing it and strengthening its position as a global luxury brand.

In 2010, Al Fayed sold the store to Qatar Holding for £1.5 billion, and I remember that he only paid £600 million to buy it.

The fourth and final store that affected my life was my father's store in the flour market, and it still stands in its place today, after it was transformed into a grilled fish restaurant!

□ □ □

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

'Gov't needs to up budget for the applied education'

"ACCORDING to the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training regulations all students who met the conditions were accepted in line with the approved admission plan for the first and second semesters of the 2024/2025 academic and training year," columnist Prof. Dr. Bahija Behbehani, wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"A total of 17,171 male and female students were admitted over the two semesters, distributed among the authority's colleges and institutes according to their preferences.

"With over forty years of experience at this distinguished Arab educational institution, serving as a faculty member at the College of Basic Education, I have witnessed the tenure of all the authority's directors.

"I have actively participated in various committees within the scientific department, the college, and even the authority, holding numerous supervisory positions from department head to college dean.

"This extensive experience has given me a comprehensive understanding of the institution's accomplishments as well as the challenges it continues to face.

"One of the most pressing issues, which has consistently troubled the institution's successive administrations, is the excessive number of students admitted each year.

"These numbers far exceed the planned intake capacity, which is determined based on the human and material resources available at the authority's colleges, institutes, and scientific departments.

"The overflow of students has resulted in overcrowded classrooms, with some theoretical courses accommodating up to 100 students in rooms designed for only 50.

"Similarly, the applied courses now host 50 students, whereas regulations set the limit at 25. This increase also places additional strain on the financial resources required for laboratory equipment, while raising concerns about safety and security.

"The colleges and institutes of applied education play a crucial role in supplying the labor market with graduates in specialized fields not available at Kuwait University.

"The country's economic development relies heavily on the quality and competence of these graduates. Therefore, we urge the esteemed government to increase the budget for 'applied education,' particularly for colleges offering applied scientific specializations.

"This will ensure the provision of essential equipment and resources, enabling students to fully engage in the practical components of their studies, and preparing them to meet labor market demands.

"Moreover, student density in laboratories and workshops must be revisited to align with their capacity, ensuring maximum benefit and adherence to safety standards.

"Strengthening the educational infrastructure of laboratories, workshops, and lecture halls through increased financial allocations and adherence to spatial capacity limits is the best way to guarantee the production of high-quality graduates who are equipped to contribute effectively to the labor market."

Also:

"Disguised unemployment refers to the phenomenon of employing more workers than are actually needed for a particular task or maintaining ineffective and complex work procedures. Often, this is done to create jobs under the guise of 'employment', and in some cases, the term becomes synonymous with disguised unemployment," columnist Dr. Abdulaziz Youssef Al-Ahmad, wrote for *Al-Anba* daily.

"The danger lies in having a workforce that far exceeds the actual labor needs, resulting in reduced productivity and the underutilization of workers' skills and abilities. This form of unemployment is especially problematic in developing countries, as it is closely linked to low labor force productivity.

"Several factors contribute to disguised unemployment and its negative impact on economic development such as the rapid population growth.

"Over the years, population growth has led to an increased labor force, which puts significant pressure on the economy.

"This is in addition to poverty which limits individuals' access to land, whether for settlement or agriculture, reducing the state's income and economic potential.

"A state's available capital plays a crucial role in employment. Insufficient capital leads to underutilization of resources, hindering economic

growth and exacerbating unemployment.

"The overall economy plays a pivotal role in addressing disguised unemployment. Without a strong economy, efforts to provide meaningful employment for workers falter.

"There are several approaches to tackling disguised unemployment and boosting productivity such as offering vocational and practical training helps align individuals' skills with the demands of the labor market, enhancing their suitability for available jobs.

"Creating a more flexible and efficient work environment which will encourage better productivity and makes work procedures more effective.

"Another area is enhancing the quality of economic inputs can lead to better labor productivity, which is key to reducing disguised unemployment; and creating job opportunities where the government should focus on generating jobs, particularly in urban areas, to shift the unemployed population into productive roles.

"Beyond these immediate solutions, there are broader strategies that can address unemployment more effectively:

-- Focusing on youth development -- Creating projects that harness the energy and creativity of the youth population can stimulate innovation and productivity in the workforce.

-- Replacing expatriate workers with nationals -- Reducing reliance on expatriate workers from developing countries and prioritizing the employment of local nationals can help boost domestic employment rates.

-- Developing education -- Improving the education system to meet the evolving needs of the labor market is critical. Education should be aligned with modern industry demands to prepare workers for the challenges of the future economy.

-- And by implementing these strategies, countries can work toward minimizing disguised unemployment and fostering sustainable economic development."

"There has been a lot of controversy and debate regarding the entry of Iraqi fans into Kuwait under the guise of supporting their national team. The situation has become a major topic of discussion among those with direct stake in the matter and those without," columnist Talal Al-Saeed wrote for *Al-Seyassah* daily.

"The issue has escalated to such an extent that some are now setting limits on the number of fans allowed, while others are issuing threats and attempting to intimidate anyone perceived as acting against Iraq, despite the fact that these individuals may have no formal standing in the matter.

"The controversy has intensified. Fools from both sides are irresponsibly stirring up tensions and provoking one another at the expense of the relations between the two countries. This has led to a confusing and heightened dispute that has been exacerbated even before the Gulf Cup tournament has begun.

"The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef has resolved the matter. As the top security official in the country, he holds the ultimate responsibility for national security. He has the sole authority to decide on the appropriate number allowed. In short, he is the decision-maker. Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef has put an end to the debate and prevented those seeking to capitalize on the situation amid the turmoil and discussions between our side and the Iraqi side.

"Sports carry a noble message, often helping to bring people closer together and strengthen relations between countries. This is the true essence of sports, despite the fact that fan enthusiasm can sometimes lead to political disagreements and strained relations.

"While there are many such experiences, it is important for everyone to realize that national security outweighs the significance of sports. The Qatari experience, particularly with the fans of the Iraqi national team, serves as a relevant example and provides valuable insights into what may lie ahead.

"Therefore, the decision is not for the Kuwait Football Association, FIFA, or anyone who, after enjoying the comforts of air conditioning and a full stomach, starts posting on social media with the mistaken belief that they can influence the outcome.

"The responsible minister made the decision. He has set the appropriate number and conditions that best serve the interests of the country and its citizens. It is time for the so-called 'active madman' and his followers to remain silent and for the matter to be left in the hands of those who are truly in charge."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh



Mol photo
Governor of the Capital, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, during the inspection tour of the Capital Security Directorate.

Capital governor reviews security readiness

Governor of the Capital, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, went on an inspection tour of the Capital Security Directorate to review the security readiness across the governorate, reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

During the visit he emphasized the importance of adhering to the directives of Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior to uphold security and enforce the rule of law effectively.

The governor was updated on the security and traffic plans, including the deployment of personnel to ensure the safety and security of both citizens and

residents.

He highlighted the necessity of integrating technological advancements and enhancing service quality to achieve swift and effective results.

Sheikh Al-Ali commended the security forces for their dedicated efforts and urged them to maintain high standards of discipline and vigilance in monitoring the security situation across the governorate.

He was accompanied by Brigadier General Suleiman Al-Jarrah, Director General of the Directorate, along with other senior security officials.

Citizen gets one year jail with hard labor for assaulting police officer

Arrest of 1 man helps resolve 12 fraud cases

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Criminal Court sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to one-year imprisonment with hard labor for assaulting a police officer from the Ministry of Interior, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

The suspect was brought to trial on charges of using a narcotic substance, assaulting the officer, threatening to kill him, and deliberately damaging the officer's patrol car. The incident occurred while the officer was attempting to intervene in a fight between the suspect and another individual in front of one of their houses, and the suspect crashed into the patrol car during the altercation.

Complaint filed over tweet: The Popular Action Movement, through its Legal Office, has filed a complaint with the Attorney General, Counselor Saad Al-Safran, against academician Dr. Muhammad Al-Maqati, over a controversial tweet he posted on the social media platform "X", reports *Al-Seyassah* daily.

The movement alleges that the tweet, which referred to approximately 810,000 people as forgers, fraudsters, and double-crossers, has caused a rift in national unity.

According to the complaint, the tweet poses a significant threat to national security by potentially spreading discord and hatred among citizens.

The timing of the tweet, coinciding with the 33rd anniversary of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, is particularly sensitive as it is a period meant for national unity, solidarity, and remembrance of brotherhood among the Kuwaiti people.

The movement argues that instead of fostering unity, the tweet has become a source of division and spreading false information.

The legal team asserts that Dr. Al-Maqati violated Decree-Law No. 19 of 2012, which pertains to the protection of national unity.

They emphasize that under Article 1 of this law, anyone who commits an act outside Kuwait that contributes to a crime occurring within the country is subject to the law.

The tweet, being disseminated through social media, is considered a form of expression under this law. Consequently, the movement is urging legal authorities to take action and initiate a criminal case against Dr. Al-Maqati.

The complaint was formally submitted by Ayed Al-Hajri, Mutlaq Al-Jadaei, Mubarak Hadi

Bids acceptance from Dec 3

CAPT gives nod for design, study of Juvenile Court bldg

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Central Agency for Public Tenders has given the green light to the Ministry of Public Works to move forward with the design and study of the new Juvenile Court building in Sulaibiya.

The agency announced that bids for the project would be accepted from interested companies starting on December 3.

According to informed sources, this approval marks a crucial step in realizing the Ministry of Justice's plan for the project, which is part of the broader construction efforts by the Ministry of Public Works for government facilities.

The design phase will span 18 months from the signing of the contract, during which a modern juvenile court will be planned to accommodate the needs of juveniles attending investigations and court sessions.

The building will also provide a functional space for court users, visitors, and specialists handling juvenile cases. This court facility is seen as a key addition to the juvenile home complex, previously completed by the Public Works Authority for the Ministry of Social Affairs.

The Municipal Council had previously allocated 9,400 square meters for the project in 2016, and the study will focus on designing the building's structure, floors, and basements, as well as allocating space for essential facilities like electricity and air conditioning.

On December 3, companies interested in the project will submit their bids, which will then be reviewed by the Ministry of Public Works, the implementing agency.

The bids will be evaluated according to technical recommendations and regulatory guidelines, with the award decision following soon after. Once the design phase is completed, the next tender will be issued for the building's construction.

'Remove cars within 48 hrs from parking'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Ministry of Health has established a mechanism to allow the overnight parking of vehicles in the parking lots of hospitals and health centers, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

One of the conditions stipulated in the decision is that vehicles should not remain in the abovementioned parking lots for more than 48 continuous hours in order to regulate the entry and exit of vehicles in such parking lots.

The ministry has instructed the concerned officials to closely follow up the implementation of the mechanism, which is under the supervision of the public relations departments in hospitals and health centers in coordination with their public service counterparts.

4 food outlets closed, 21 violations recorded

PAFN destroys 50 kg chicken, 40 kg meat

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: As part of its efforts to ensure food security in the country, the Emergency Center of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) in Hawally Governorate organized an extensive inspection campaign recently, resulting in the closure of four food establishments, issuance of 21 violation citations, and destruction of 50 kilograms of chicken and 40 kilograms of meat deemed unfit for human consumption, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

Shift officer at the center Adel Awad said a food establishment was found to have been violating the regulation on utilizing a public space, selling adulterated food and non-compliance with public sanitation regulations. He disclosed the inspectors discovered rats, insects and filth throughout the establishment; affirming the PAFN inspectors are keen on punishing those proven to have committed violations. He added the penalties include fine and closure of the establishment.

"We recorded 21 violations and closed four food establishments during the inspection campaign. The closure decision is in line with licensing resolution no. 25/2017 and ministerial decision no. 20/2017," he stated.

Meanwhile, Assistant Food Section Supervisor at PAFN Adel Al-Abbasi confirmed the discovery of many violations during the campaign. He revealed that one of the establishments utilized about 20 meters of public space without obtaining a license.

He also clarified that settlement is permissible for certain violations; but not the violations related to food safety and public health, adding the



Al-Anba photo
PAFN officials sealing one of the violating food facilities.

confiscated food items are destroyed.

Food Inspector Khaled Al-Qallaf at PAFN affirmed that some violations could lead to immediate shut down of the facility. "If the owner wants to settle, he should submit such a request to PAFN. Once the request is approved, he must remove the violation and another inspection will be conducted to ensure compliance with the regulations," he added.

Food Inspector in Hawally Governorate Bader Al-Saffar said the confiscated adulterated food products include about 50 kilograms of chicken and 40 kilograms of meat, all of which will be destroyed.

On the process of destroying confiscated food items, he explained the inspectors usually submit a violation report, sort the items that will be destroyed and then refer them to the Kuwait Municipality for proper disposal.

Al-Harbi, Hazaa Abdullah Al-Hazaa, and Fajr Ahmed Al-Darba on behalf of the Popular Action Movement.

One arrested over fraud: With the arrest of an individual who committed fraud, the Hawally Investigation and Research Department has successfully resolved 12 cases of fraud and deception, reports *Al-Anba* daily.

According to security sources, several fraud activities of a similar manner occurred in Hawally

Governorate. The suspect posted an advertisement on Instagram about the availability of domestic workers. The victims who responded were sent pictures of domestic workers and they would pay him advance amount of up to KD 500. After receiving the money, he would disappear and stop responding to their calls.

Several cases were filed in this regard against the suspect. Investigations were conducted to find and arrest the suspect. Investigators tracked down and arrested the suspect at his residence, where it was revealed he had a criminal record.

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KRCS expands humanitarian aid in Afghanistan, Pakistan & Tajikistan

Agreements signed to implement medical and relief efforts

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has signed several agreements to implement crucial medical and relief projects in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Tajikistan, furthering Kuwait's humanitarian efforts to support communities in need across the globe, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These initiatives aim to alleviate human suffering and improve the quality of life of people who are vulnerable to man-made and

natural calamities.

Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, Chairman of the KRCS, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the association has signed a cooperation agreement with the Afghan Red Crescent to support a project providing treatment and surgical interventions for Afghan children suffering from congenital heart defects.

Al-Sayer emphasized the urgent need for such medical care, as many Afghan children require immediate surgery.

The KRCS has also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Pakistani Red Crescent to implement a housing project for families affected by recent floods and torrents.

Another agreement was made with



KUNA photo
Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the KRCS.

the Red Crescent in Tajikistan to provide essential relief supplies to those impacted by floods and heavy rains.

These agreements reflect the cooperative spirit between humanitar-

ian organizations, highlighting the shared mission of national societies to deliver aid to those in need.

Al-Sayer noted that the KRCS's strategy focuses on providing diverse humanitarian support, ranging from medical assistance to shelter and relief supplies, ensuring that aid is tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of affected populations.

He further stressed the importance of coordinated efforts between national societies and strengthening partnerships to effectively aid countries and communities affected by crises and disasters.

Through these collaborations, KRCS aims to deliver long-term, positive impacts on the lives of those they serve.



KUNA photo
Dr. Mahmoud Boushehri, center, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, receives Eng. Ahmed Al-Dosari in the presence of Undersecretary of the Ministry Eng. Haitham Al-Ali.

Minister outlines future strategies

MEW reaffirms nat'l efforts to diversify energy sources

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Minister of Electricity and Water Dr. Mahmoud Boushehri has underscored Kuwait's strong commitment to advancing renewable energy as a key strategic focus for the country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During a meeting with Ahmed Al-Dosari, the newly appointed Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and in the presence of Acting Undersecretary Haitham

Al-Ali, Dr. Boushehri highlighted the significance of upcoming renewable energy projects.

He emphasized that these initiatives are crucial for diversifying Kuwait's energy sources and optimizing their use, which will contribute to environmental protection and a reduction in reliance on fossil fuels.

The Minister expressed confidence that these new and promising projects will play a vital role in the country's sustainable development goals.



Al-Jarida photo

Minister of Housing Abdullahif Al-Mishari during his field inspections.

Al-Mishari inspects residential cities

Minister of Municipality and Minister of Housing Abdullahif Al-Mishari continued his field inspections on Friday, visiting the cities of Al-Mutlaa and Sabah Al-Ahmad, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to the Public Authority for Housing Care, this visit is part of ongoing efforts to monitor housing projects and ensure that work is proceeding as planned.

The Minister emphasized the

importance of adhering to contractual specifications and accelerating project completion. He also highlighted the need for continued effort to serve citizens effectively.

'Keep manholes clean'

MPW urges public for proper waste disposal

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Ministry of Public Works has urged citizens and residents to dispose of waste properly in designated areas to prevent the blockage of sewage manholes, emphasizing the importance of cooperation for the public interest.

Through its official account on the X platform, the ministry shared details of its ongoing campaign to clean sewage manholes.

The campaign highlights the persistent issue of various types of waste being found inside the manholes and calls for greater collaboration from the public to maintain the cleanliness and functionality of the sewage system.

Al-Huwailah underscores Kuwait's dedication to regional cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Dr. Amthal Al-

Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Child-

hood, announced Kuwait's intention

to host the Committee

of Ministers of Social Affairs and

Development of the Gulf Cooperation

Council (GCC) in

September 2025,

reports Al-Seyassah

daily.



Dr Al-Huwailah

She emphasized the significance of

these meetings in advancing sustainable social development and fostering joint initiatives for the benefit of GCC citizens.

Dr. Al-Huwailah highlighted that Kuwait's hosting of the meeting underscores its dedication to regional cooperation and aims to generate practical outcomes that enhance quality of life and build more interconnected, dynamic, and sustainable societies across the Gulf.

UPAC secures 17-year management deal

Messila beach set to open spring '25

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: By Spring 2025, in approximately six months, Kuwaitis will welcome a new entertainment destination as the Al-Messila Beach Project (Beach 2) opens its doors to the public, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This launch will coincide with the opening of the "Wonder Winter Land" amusement park in the Shaab Al-Bahri area.

The announcement came after United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC) officially took over the project from the Touristic Enterprises Company, according to a disclosure on the Kuwait Stock Exchange.

According to "Construction Week," the contract between the Touristic Enterprises Company and UPAC to manage and operate the site spans 17 years.

It includes a monthly franchise fee of \$560,000 (approximately 171,000 Kuwaiti dinars), amounting to a total of \$114.2 million, or around 34.8 million Kuwaiti dinars, over the entire contract duration.

The Al-Messila Beach project will feature water sports, swimming pools, restaurants, cafes, retail stores, an event hall, chalets, administrative offices, and parking spaces for 350 cars.

Referring back to UPAC's disclosures on the Kuwait Stock Exchange, the company announced in June that it had received notification from the Touristic Enterprises Company confirming its successful bid for the Al-Messila Beach site (Beach 2) for a 17-year period.

The management and operation contract was signed in July, and UPAC officially confirmed two days ago that it had taken over the project site to begin preparations for its operation and the execution of the contracted scope of work.

PAHW allocates 58 million dinars for power stations

By Mohammed Al Musleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare has signed an infrastructure contract worth 90 million dinars for the construction, completion, and maintenance of road works and service networks for 6,568 housing units in South Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City.

The authority has also opened tenders for the implementation of the two largest main power stations in the South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing City project, with an allocated budget of 58 million dinars.

Confirming earlier reports by Al-Seyassah daily, it has been noted that building permits have been issued for 23,551 plots in the city after a three-year period.



Road diversion

Jamal Abdel Nasser road 'diverted' effective Friday

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Traffic and Operations Affairs Sector has announced a traffic diversion from Jamal Abdel Nasser road towards Jaber Al-Ahmad Residential City, effective from Friday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This diversion will redirect vehicles from the intersection roundabout with the Second Ring Road exclusively towards Jaber City.

The change comes as part of efforts to ease traffic flow following the reopening of the tunnel and the removal of concrete barriers, signaling the completion of ongoing maintenance work in the area.

Kuwait prepares to host 4th Dushanbe forum on counter-terrorism in Nov '24

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Abdullah Al-Yahya, engaged in a virtual meeting with Tajikistan's Foreign Minister, Sirodjidin Muhridin, and Vladimir Voronkov, the Undersecretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The primary focus of their discussion was Kuwait's upcoming role in hosting the Fourth Dushanbe Conference on November 4 and 5, under the theme: "Enhancing International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism and Building Flexible Border Security Mechanisms."

According to a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting

centered around preparations for the conference and explored ways to bolster international cooperation against terrorism.

Al-Yahya, Muhridin, and Voronkov coordinated efforts to promote joint actions that would address terrorism, violence, and extremism. Their discussions emphasized achieving tangible, constructive outcomes in the global fight against terrorism by enhancing countries' capabilities in countering terrorist threats and sharing expertise in border security.

They also discussed supporting regional and international initiatives to ensure global security and stability.



September

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MoE congratulates winners on advanced positions

Three Kuwaiti students win at Gulf Hackathon competition

MANAMA, Sept 7, (KUNA): Three Kuwaiti students won on Saturday at Gulf Hackathon contest in its second edition for artificial intelligence employment in Bahrain.

In a ceremony organized at the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Kuwait's students Hawraa al-Sharif and Ahmad Al-Sharika were honored for winning the first place for education compass project.

Their compatriot Abdulwahab Haider came third for interactive educational platform project.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement on the sidelines of the ceremony, Mona Al-Awadhi, an official at Kuwait's Ministry of Education, expressed her happiness for Kuwaitis' outstanding in the competition and making this wonderful

achievement which encourages them for innovation.

The competition is a chance to get acquainted with the latest tests and expertise of participating teams that contribute to developing skills of students, she added.

Meanwhile, Al-Sharif expressed his pride for raising Kuwait's flag through getting the first place for the project.

Haider also expressed gladness to KUNA for his position, saying his project aims to enhance the interactive side of education process.

For his part, head of Kuwait's cultural bureau in Manama Dr. Mohammed al-Daghaim commended the outstanding performance of Kuwaiti students in the competition which shows skills and potential in various fields.

The win in this scientific accomplishment is a source of pride for all, he said, congratulating all students on this progress. Bahrain's Minister of Education Mohammad Juma voiced his happiness for hosting this event, referring to much attention paid by the Kingdom of Bahrain to artificial intelligence.

Applying artificial intelligence has become essential for all fields, mainly education, he elaborated.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) congratulated on Saturday students on winning advanced positions at Gulf Hackathon contest's second edition for artificial intelligence employment which featured 34 students.

In a statement on its 'X' account, the ministry said the

team which had the first place featured Hawraa al-Sharif from Fatima al-Hashimiya secondary school and Ahmad Al-Sharika from Al-Fajr Al-Jadid secondary school.

Abdulwahab Haider who came third is from Palestine High School in Hawali Education area, it added.

The ministry commended the advanced positions won by students, it said, adding that the event aims to develop innovative projects and skills of solving problems as well as enhance artificial intelligence techniques.

Bahrain's Minister of Education Mohammad Juma and head of Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States Ahmad Al-Asi honored the students who won the first places at the end of the contest organized at the bureau on September 2-7.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti students, along with the three winners, participated in the competition alongside Dr. Mohammed Al-Daghaim, head of the Kuwaiti Cultural Office, and representatives from the Ministry of Education.

Authorities monitor compliance

Local fish prices soar at Sharq auction; import varieties vary

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The fish market auctions in Sharq concluded recently with prices ranging from KD 5 to KD 150 for ten kilograms of local fish, and from KD 5 to KD 95 for a basket of imported fish.

Director of the Commercial Control Department Faisal Al-Ansari said, "Based on instructions from the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ziad Al-Najem, the Commercial Control Team, led by Al-Ansari and accompanied by Head of the East Center Yousef Al-Fanani and a group of inspectors, attended the auction. Their role was to monitor the adherence to fish auction requirements and ensure compliance with the ministry's conditions and instructions.

The prices for the Kuwaiti Zubaidi fish, which is popular among both citizens and residents, range from

KD 30 to KD 150. The price of a basket of shrimp (Umm Naira) ranges from KD 21 to KD 60. A basket of shrimp (Shahamiya) ranges from KD 13 to KD 21, Hamour fish from KD 22 to KD 35, Sheem fish from KD 10 to KD 32, Sea Bream fish from KD 16 to KD 35, and Nuwaibi fish from KD 25 to KD 36."

Regarding imported fish, Al-Ansari said the auction prices ranged from KD 40 to KD 95 for Zubaidi cod and KD 14 to KD 38 for Hamour cod. A basket of jumbo shrimp was priced between KD 65 and KD 73, a basket of Umm Naira shrimp ranged from KD 40 to KD 55, and a basket of Shahamiya shrimp ranged from KD 15 to KD 21.

He affirmed that the Commercial Control Department will continue its inspection tours to ensure adherence to Ministry of Commerce and Industry's regulations and to enforce laws against any price manipulation or non-compliance.

KFAS symposium highlights key breakthroughs in generative AI

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) organized a symposium focusing on the significant advancements in generative artificial intelligence, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event, led by Dr. David Restrepo Amarales, an Associate Professor at HEC Paris and a prominent AI expert, highlighted the rapid development of AI technology and its current capabilities.

The symposium brought together senior officials, stakeholders from

the private and public sectors, and representatives from civil society.

The discussions centered on the major risks that artificial intelligence poses to government institutions and companies, particularly when used covertly and without adequate oversight.

The event also covered the mechanisms behind generative AI, the conditions required for its professional and responsible use, and the operation of large language models, which are essential for understanding the technology's value and implications.

UAE's reception

Continued from Page 1

Everyone seems to have forgotten that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was originally a Kuwaiti initiative. At the Amman Conference in 1980, the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad proposed the idea to the late King Fahad bin Abdulaziz. On that very night, the GCC project began to take shape.

Subsequent agreements among the member countries led to the establishment of this Gulf entity, which demonstrated its effectiveness and strength in responding to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. However, denial of this achievement began with the onset of parliamentary chaos and irresponsible democracy.

Internally, Kuwait's economy has declined, and various sectors, including infrastructure, services, and education, have become plagued by systematic corruption. The deep state has been increasingly controlling all aspects of the institutions.

Parliamentarians began to see themselves as the de facto rulers, with the ability to halt any procedure and prevent ministers or even the Prime Minister from holding corrupt individuals accountable. Their interference extended to matters such as traffic violations and criminal cases, leading to a situation where citizens wielded a "de facto power" that often overshadowed the authority of the state.

On the other hand, anyone who attempted to highlight these defects, call for constitutional reform, or criticize practices that have nothing to do with democracy faced intense backlash and were even canceled.

Since last May, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad has been taking bold measures that are beginning to yield positive results with the aim of restoring Kuwait to the respectable position it enjoyed in the past centuries.

Evidence of this important development and the success of these corrective

actions can be seen in the positive changes occurring in the country and Kuwait's renewed role in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Currently, officials visiting other countries are received at the highest levels, the latest of which was the warm welcome given to the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef during his recent visit to the United Arab Emirates.

This reception highlights the significant progress in Kuwaiti-Gulf relations and reflects the gratitude towards His Highness the Amir for his role in rescuing the country.

Indeed, Amir's visits to Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE early in his reign marked the first signs of Kuwait's reintegration into the Gulf community. These visits were also a clear indication of Kuwait's new direction.

The Council of Ministers must invest in this by further opening up to the Gulf and the world, and most importantly, opening up to Kuwaitis, and addressing the negative effects left by the past periods.

Prices of

Continued from Page 1

- Controls for the sale of goods and services
- Special offers and discounts
- Rules governing warranties for used spare parts in cars, as well as installation and repair warranties
- These violations reflect a broad range of regulatory concerns managed by the department.

Al-Ansari revealed that price-related violations were the most common in the month of August, totaling 73 cases. This category included 49 violations for failing to set prices, 22 violations related to restaurant delivery pricing, and two violations for not specifying the prices and weights of bread. Also, cooperative societies and central markets designated for selling food and consumer goods

failed to provide the ministry with a price list at the beginning of the month.

He explained that violations related to advertising data, contracts, and invoices were the second most common, with 48 cases recorded.

This was followed by 57 violations related to the replacement and return of goods, 47 violations of regulations related to trading and selling goods and services, 41 violations concerning the retail sale of vegetables and fruits, and 39 cases of commercial fraud, among other violations.

Free entry

Continued from Page 1

The Iraqi Ambassador expressed gratitude to Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, as well as to the officers and members of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior for their cooperation and support.

Citizenship of

Continued from Page 1

The authority has urged these individuals to visit its offices within 30 days to register their new addresses and provide the necessary supporting documents. Failure to do so will result in penalties in accordance with Article 33 of Law No. 32 of 1982.

No fraud

Continued from Page 1

She advised consumers to buy from well-known stores, not the unlicensed and doubtful websites on social media. She said all types of jewelry are available in the local market; so it is better to buy from the stores, where the buyer can

By Hanadi Watfa

MADRID, Sept 7, (KUNA): The real estate market in Spain is gaining significant interest from property owners and investors worldwide, with particular appeal among Kuwaiti and Gulf nationals seeking homes for residence, vacation, or investment.

Spain attracts those interested in purchasing property due to its security, political stability, advanced infrastructure, and organized and stable real estate market.

Spain offers real estate that caters to all tastes and needs, along with competitive prices, fees, and taxes compared to other European countries.

The southern region of Spain, especially Malaga, continues to attract Kuwaiti investors due to its unique features, such as moderate Mediterranean climate, strategic location, landscape, diverse cultural offerings, comprehensive services, and accessible real estate financing.

Malaga and its famous coastal towns, such as Marbella, Fuengirola, Torremolinos, Mijas and Benalmadena have long been attracting tourists and visitors since the 1950's, the area has also become a popular destination for Kuwaiti, who began acquiring houses there since the 1980's.

Cities like Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia in northern Spain, Madrid, the Spanish capital, as well as Segovia and Toledo, have also attracted Kuwaitis' interest in real estate investments, albeit on a much smaller scale.

To meet the need of Kuwaiti property owners and investors, several companies have been established to provide comprehensive real estate services, consulting, and property management, ensuring the care of the owners' assets.

Data from the Kuwaiti Embassy in Spain indicates that Kuwaitis own more than 7,000 properties in Spain, with an increase in the demand for purchases in recent years, especially after the pandemic COVID-19, where Kuwaitis buy between 45 to 50 properties annually, topping the ranking of GCC nationals buyers in Spain.

Kuwaitis own homes in Spain with an average area of 100 square meters and prices ranging from EUR 250,000 to EUR 450,000 (USD 279,000 to USD 502,000), and a small number invest in homes worth EUR one million (USD 1.12 million).

Property purchases in 2024 saw a 20

percent increase compared to 2014, with most properties located in Andalusia, while properties in other Spanish regions remain below 100.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Spain Khalifa Al-Kharafi told KUNA that the stable security and political environment, along with competitive real estate prices compared to neighboring European countries, the climate and other factors all contributed to attracts investors and buyers.

Ambassador Al-Kharafi noted that there were real estate companies in Kuwait that promote homeownership and investment in Spain, he also mentioned that marketing companies were offering properties that cater to Gulf nationals' tastes and requirements, with social media also playing a role in enhancing interest in Spain's real estate market.

The ambassador highlighted that the demand for purchasing real estate in Spain grew post-COVID-19, driven by political and financial security, he also noted that some Kuwaitis have sold their properties in other countries to purchase in Spain.

The Kuwait embassy in Spain plays a significant role in ensuring a positive experience for Kuwaiti investors and property owners by providing specialized services through its consular office in Malaga, which operated from June to the end of September each year.

Ambassador Al-Kharafi stated that the consular offices address the needs of Kuwaitis who travel to Spain, whether for vacation or property ownership, by facilitating procedures and handling emergency cases.

He also mentioned that the embassy communicates with the authorities in Malaga to ease the needs of Kuwaiti visitors at airports and state institutions, offering property and commercial document authentication services, and issuing emergency travel documents when needed through (Sahel) application.

It is customary for the Kuwaiti ambassador to host an annual banquet in honor of Kuwaiti property owners in Spain, which is attended by most summer vacationers, it is highly anticipated and appreciated, offering an opportunity for citizens to communicate their needs directly to the embassy.

Spain was also attracting an increasing number of Kuwaiti tourists, whose numbers have grown after Kuwait Airways launched direct flights to some Spanish cities, bringing the number of tourists in 2023 to 150,000 visitors, including 100,000 through Kuwait Airways alone, while expectations indicate that their numbers would continue to grow this year.

Spain's real estate market attracts Kuwaiti investors

Gulf buyers eye new opportunities



KUNA photo
Spain's stable and attractive real estate market draws Kuwaiti buyers.

MoH announces shift system for 47 healthcare centers on Sept 15

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Ministry of Health has allocated 47 primary healthcare centers to operate under the shift system during the Prophet's (PBUH) Birthday on Sept 15.

In a press statement, the ministry announced that four health centers in the Capital Health District will operate 24 hours a day as follows: Ali Al-Ghanim in Sulaibikhat, Mirza Al-Ishaq in Daiya, Hamad Al-Saqer Specialized Clinic in Adailiya and Jaber Al-Ahmad Center 2. Two health centers in the district will operate from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight -- Munira Al-Ayyar in Kaifan and Yousef Al-Abdullahi in Yarmouk.

In Hawally Health District, the health centers that will operate round the clock are Rumaithiya Specialized Clinic, Sabah Al-Salem Specialized Clinic, West Salmiya and Salwa health centers; while West Hawally and Mahmoud Haidar health centers will operate from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight.

In Farwaniya Health District; South Firdous, West Farwaniya, Andalus,

Rabiya, Manahi Al-Asimi and Abdullah Al-Mubarak clinics will operate 24 hours a day, while South Ardiya, South Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Sabah Al-Nasser will operate from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight.

In Ahmadi Health District; 14 health centers will operate 24 hours a day -- West Sabahiya, Sabah Al-Ahmad, Khairan Chalets, Khairan Residential, Wafra Residential, Abdulaziz Al-Rashed, Bneider, Wafra Agricultural, Ali Sabah Al-Salem, Raqqa, Jaber Al-Ali, Fahheel, Fintas, Khairan Coastal and Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City.

In Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health District; Adan Specialized Clinic, Salaam and Mubarak Al-Hasawi in Hattin will operate round the clock; while Bayan and West Mubarak Al-Kabeer health centers will operate from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight.

In Jahra Health District; Jahra, Saad Al-Abdullah, Block Two, Qasr, Abdally and Mutlaa N11 health centers will operate round the clock; while South Sulaibiya Health Center will operate from 7:00 am to 12:00 midnight and Kabad Health Center will operate from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

According to data from Spanish Notary, non-resident foreigners invested EUR 11.6 billion (USD 12.9 billion) in buying homes in Spain in 2023 and in the first quarter of this year around EUR 2.9 billion (USD 03.24 billion), a growth of 1.4 percent in the same period last year.

It noted that non-resident foreigners invested EUR 12.1 billion (USD 13.5 billion) in 2022 and EUR 9.6 billion (USD 10.7 billion) in 2021, down from

EUR 14.6 billion (USD 19.6 billion) in 2018.

Since 2013, buying homes worth more than half a million euros (USD 557.9 million) has allowed foreigners to obtain the golden visa, which, according to data from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Agenda, has been granted to 14,576 people in the last decade, mostly from China, Russia, Iran, the US and Britain, respectively.

First Othman bin Affan course kicks off

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Under the patronage of Assistant Undersecretary for the Mosques Sector at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Bader Al-Otaibi, the Turath (Heritage) Platform for Islamic Sciences, in collaboration with Al-Hassawi and Al-Khashti mosques, launched Friday the First Othman bin Affan Academic Course. This week-long course will cover various topics including the Sunnah (tradition of Prophet Muhammad PBUH), Tafsir (interpretation of the Qur'an), the Prophet's biography, and the sciences of Hadith.

The general supervisor of the course

obtain an invoice with all the data. She added the buyer can review the invoice within five days after the purchase to take the necessary measures in case the invoice data do not match the specifications of the purchased item.

Director of the Commercial Control Department Faisal Al-Ansari revealed that about 10 violation citations have been issued since the joint team started working on July 31 till date. He said the violations include failure to display the replacement policy and selling counterfeit products.

He added the inspection teams have inspected gold shops and work shops in some governorates including the Capital and Hawally, indicating the inspection campaigns will be intensified in Farwaniya Governorate soon.

Gaza death

Continued from Page 1

Elsewhere, medics retrieved corpses of six martyrs in an identical attack on Al-Hasayneh district in Al-Nusairat

Dr. Farhan Al-Shammari highlighted the significant role of such academic courses within the Islamic tradition.

He explained that these courses are an extension of the efforts of the Turath Platform for Islamic Sciences to promote Islamic teachings in line with the principles of moderation, wisdom, and good counsel.

The course will feature the President of the Islamic University of Minnesota Sheikh Dr. Walid bin Idris Al-Munisi as a guest speaker. It will kick off with an opening symposium on the value of knowledge and its scholars, delivered by Al-Munisi in collaboration with Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Al-Najdi and Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Al-Nuristani,

camp. Simultaneously, the shanty town was bombed with artillery shells.

In Jibalya camp, there were four martyrs in bombardment and medics whisked a number of injured Gazans to hospitals. Additionally, two children were killed in Al-Nasr neighborhood.

Other air attacks targeted a location northeast of Rafah city, killing two people and wounding others. Moreover, the bodies of five martyrs were taken to Al-Nasser medical center in Rafah, and a single Palestinian died in artillery attacks near Abu Salem checkpoint.

Witnesses told KUNA that the occupation troops blew up residential buildings in Al-Sabra and vicinity of the university college west of Gaza city.

The health authorities meanwhile confirmed that the occupation army executed four massacres over the past 48 hours, killing 61 people and wounding 162 others.

Meanwhile, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned on Saturday the abhorred killing of a Turkish-US dual national activist Aysenur Eygi, 26, during a peaceful rally in the occupied West Bank.

following the Maghrib and Isha prayers.

The course will include seven listening sessions presented by Al-Munisi starting from Friday. There will be scientific sessions after the Fajr and Maghrib prayers, including a discussion on the system of jurisprudential rules by Ibn Sand Al-Filkawi after Fajr, and an explanation of the book "Al-Tuhfa Al-Latifah fi Hadithat Al-B'itha Al-Sharifah" by Ibn Al-Dayba' Al-Shaibani on Saturday.

Al-Shammari added that the course, even before its official launch, has already witnessed the registration of approximately 250 participants for its online version.

In a statement, the OIC held the Israeli occupation responsible for the crime, deemed as an extension of the occupiers' genocide against Palestinian citizens.

The statement also mentioned the heinous murder of Bana Amjad Bakr, 13, who was killed by Israeli settlers under the protection of security forces in the town of Qaryut, a village south of Nablus, saying that this crime also reflected the Israeli occupiers' disregard of international and humanitarian laws.

The OIC called on the UNSC and the international community to intervene to hold the massacre of Palestinians in the West Bank as well as the Gaza Strip, which is in need of an immediate ceasefire.

The issue of illegal settlements and the occupation of Palestinian lands must be resolved swiftly, added the statement.

Turkiye expressed wrath on Friday over the deadly shooting of a pro-Palestinian American woman of Turkish descent during a demonstration in the West Bank.

World News Roundup

Europe

Ukraine destroys scores of Russian drones: Scores of drones were shot down over Ukraine Saturday as the country continues to face increased long-range bombardment from invading Russian forces.

The Ukrainian Air Force said that 67 drones were launched over the country overnight, with air defenses active in 11 regions across the country, including in the capital, Kyiv. Fifty-eight drones were shot down, with three more destroyed by electronic weapons systems, it said.

Debris from one drone was photographed on the street outside Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada. Ukraine's parliamentary press service confirmed that drone fragments had been found but said there were no casualties and no damage to the parliament building.

The bombardment follows a week of increased long-range attacks across Ukraine, including a missile strike on a Ukrainian military academy and hospital Tuesday in the city of Poltava that killed 55 people and wounded 328 more.

Another attack Wednesday on Lviv - a city near the border with NATO member Poland and far from the front lines - killed seven people, including a mother and her three daughters.

Meanwhile, Kyiv has continued to launch its own strikes against Russia. In the Russian border region of Voronezh Saturday, Gov **Aleksandr Gusev** said that a drone strike had sparked a fire and the detonation of "explosive objects." (AP)



Gusev

Ukraine mourns dead from Russian strike: Funeral services were held Saturday for victims of one of the deadliest Russian airstrikes since the war in Ukraine began, as Ukraine's president vowed to increase domestic military production by creating underground weapons factories.

The funerals took place in the eastern Ukrainian city of Poltava for the victims of a Russian missile attack on a military training facility that left over 50 dead and more than 300 injured.

Hundreds of mourners, including grieving families, local residents, and officials, gathered at the Cathedral of the Assumption in the city, some 350 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Kyiv, for the solemn ceremony. Sobbing relatives, many holding red carnations, stood over caskets placed outside the church, draped in yellow-and-blue Ukrainian flags. An air raid siren sounded during the service.

Russia has intensified missile and drone attacks on Ukrainian cities in recent weeks, targeting energy infrastructure across the country and causing deadly strikes in residential areas. (AP)

'Let Ukraine strike deeper in Russia': Ukraine needs the ability to strike deep within Russia now, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told US and allied military leaders Friday as Kyiv more fervently pressed the West to loosen weapons use restrictions and allow it to target Russian air bases and launch sites far from the border.

Zelenskyy made the case during an in-person meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. He appeared to make inroads with some of the defense leaders from the 50-plus partner nations who regularly gather to coordinate weapons aid for the war.

But he did not appear to sway the ally he needs most. After the talks, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin pushed back on the idea that long-range strikes would be a game-changer.

Zelenskyy's request comes after a series of recent deadly Russian airstrikes, including against a Ukrainian military training center that killed more than 50 and wounded hundreds this week. (AP)

Italy culture minister resigns: Italy's culture minister resigned Friday days after tearfully acknowledging an affair with a ministry consultant that embarrassed Premier Giorgia Meloni's government.

After standing by him for nearly two weeks as the scandal brewed, Meloni accepted the resignation of Gennaro Sangiuliano, a member of her far-right Brothers of Italy party, calling him "an honest man."

Beyond the affair, the scandal included speculation that the consultant, Maria Rosaria Boccia, had been given access to sensitive government documents pertaining to an upcoming G-7 culture ministers meeting. She has since filled her Instagram feed with rebuttals as Sangiuliano tried to tamp down the firestorm surrounding her. (AP)

Man gets 9 yrs in prison following riot: A man who helped fuel a fire outside a hotel housing more than 200 asylum-seekers was sentenced Friday to nine years in prison, the longest punishment handed so far to those involved in last month's wave of far-right riots in England.

At the sentencing hearing at Sheffield Crown Court in the north of England, painter and decorator Thomas Birley pleaded guilty to the charge of arson with the intent to endanger life at the Holiday Inn Express hotel in nearby Rotherham last month.

Judge Jeremy Richardson told Birley, 27, that his case was "unquestionably" one of the most serious of the dozens he has dealt with in the past month in relation to the rioting outside the hotel on Aug. 4. (AP)

Poland charges 3 Belarusian officials: Polish prosecutors on Friday charged three Belarusian officials with using a ruse to divert a Poland-registered plane while in flight three years ago and violating the freedom of 132 people on board as they sought to arrest a dissident.

The three officials are accused of ordering the plane carrying a dissident blogger to make an unplanned landing in the Belarus capital of Minsk, leading to the arrest of Raman Pratasevich, a Belarusian blogger who was living in exile in Lithuania at the time. On May 23, 2021, the Ryanair Flight FR4978 was traveling from Athens, Greece, to the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius and was in Belarus airspace, about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the Lithuanian border, when it was told to change direction and turn toward Minsk. (AP)

Japanese man arrested in Belarus: A Japanese man has been arrested in Belarus and is facing charges of working for Japan's special services by photographing military and civilian infrastructure near the border with Ukraine.

A report on Belarusian state TV on Thursday said suspect Masatoshi Nakanishi was arrested in July, and faces seven years in prison if convicted.

The TV report said Nakanishi took 9,000 photographs of military installations, airfields, railway lines, bridges and other infrastructure in the Belarusian-Ukrainian border area. Nakanishi had lived in Gomel, Belarus' second-largest city, near the border, since 2018 and taught Japanese at a local university, the report said. Belarus has been a staging point for Russian troops in the war in Ukraine, but Belarus has not sent its own troops into Ukraine. (AP)

'Man believed to have extremist motive': A man armed with a machete was overwhelmed and arrested after threatening to kill officers at a police station in western Germany early Friday, prosecutors said. Investigators said they believe he had an Islamic extremist motive.

The 29-year-old Albanian citizen arrived at the police station in the small town of Linz am Rhein, between Koblenz and Bonn, at about 2:40 a.m.

Police officers who were on guard duty locked the police station's door and the entrance to its interior courtyard. The suspect tried and failed to force them open, prosecutors said in a statement. Special forces officers were called to the scene and subdued him with a stun gun. (AP)



Denmark's King Frederik X, (third left), and Queen Mary, (right), at the parade during the flag day for Denmark's deployed at Christiansborg Palace Square in Copenhagen, on Sept. 5. (AP)

Politics

Former VP Cheney to vote for Harris

Harris, Trump get ready for debate

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 7, (AP) — Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are veering sharply in how they gear up for Tuesday's presidential debate, setting up a showdown that reflects not just two separate visions for the country but two politicians who approach big moments very differently.

The vice president is cloistered in a historic hotel in downtown Pittsburgh where she can focus on honing crisp two-minute answers, per the debate's rules. She's been working with aides since Thursday and chose a venue that allows the Democratic nominee the option of mingling with swing-state voters.

Dismisses

Trump, the Republican nominee, publicly dismisses the value of studying for the debate. The former president is choosing instead to fill his days with campaign-related events on the premise that he'll know what he needs to do once he steps on the debate stage at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

"You can go in with all the strategy you want but you have to sort of feel it out as the debate's taking place," he said during a town hall with Fox News host Sean Hannity.

Trump then quoted former boxing great Mike Tyson, who said, "Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the face." Harris said she is prepared for Trump to rattle off insults and misrepresent facts, even as her campaign has seen value in focusing on the middle class and the prospects of a better future for the country.

"We should be prepared for the fact that he is not burdened by telling the truth," Harris said in a radio interview for the Rickey Smiley Morning Show. "He tends to fight for himself, not for the American people, and I think that's going to come out during the course of the debate."

In her own preparation, Harris has the Democratic consultant Philippe Reines, a longtime aide to Hillary Clinton, portraying Trump. She likes to describe Trump as having a "playbook" of falsehoods to go after Democrats such as Clinton and former President Barack Obama.

Prosecutors charged a Utah man with murder Friday, alleging he killed his adult daughter, a Salt Lake City sheriff's deputy. Hector Ramon Martinez-Ayala, 54, of

Biden to host Britain PM Starmer next week for White House talks

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7, (AP) — US President Joe Biden will host British Prime Minister Keir Starmer for talks in Washington next week that are expected to touch on the wars in Ukraine and Gaza and other issues.

Next Friday's meeting with the leader of one of America's closest allies comes as Biden looks to step up engagement on the international stage in his final months in office. US allies and adversaries are also intently watching how the race to succeed Biden between Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican former President Donald Trump plays out.

Harris has said she understands Trump on a deeper psychological level. She has tried in speeches like her remarks at the Democratic National Convention to show that she would be a stronger leader than him - an argument that gets at Trump's own desire to project and show strength.

Trump's June 27 debate against President Joe Biden shook up the election, with Biden's disastrous performance ultimately leading to him stepping aside as the Democratic nominee and endorsing Harris. Both campaigns know the first in-person meeting between Harris and Trump could be a decisive event in a tight race.

Trump is preemptively criticizing the ABC News debate moderators, claiming he will not be treated fairly. But he said he plans to let Harris speak, just as he did during his debate with Biden.

Also:

CHEYENNE, Wyo: Former Vice President **Dick Cheney**, a lifelong Republican, will vote for **Kamala Harris** for president, he announced Friday.

Liz Cheney, who herself endorsed Harris on Wednesday, first announced her father's endorsement when asked by **Mark Leibovich** of The Atlantic magazine during an onstage interview

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement that the Oval Office visit, the second by Starmer since he was elected earlier this summer, will focus on continuing Western support for Ukraine as it tries to repel Russia's invasion, ongoing efforts to secure a hostage and cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas, threats to commercial shipping in the Red Sea posed by the Houthis, an Iranian-backed group, as well as shared concerns about the Indo-Pacific.

Starmer visited the White House two months ago for one-on-one talks with Biden when he was in Washington for the NATO Summit.

at The Texas Tribune Festival in Austin.

"Wow," Leibovich replied as the audience cheered.

Like his daughter, Dick Cheney has been an outspoken critic of former President **Donald Trump**, notably during Liz Cheney's ill-fated reelection campaign in 2022.

Dick Cheney put out a statement Friday confirming his endorsement, which read almost entirely as opposition to Trump rather than support of Harris.

"He can never be trusted with power again," the statement said. "As citizens, we each have a duty to put country above partisanship to defend our Constitution. That is why I will be casting my vote for Vice President Kamala Harris."

Trump responded on his Truth Social platform by calling the former vice president "an irrelevant RINO, along with his daughter." The acronym stands for "Republican in name only."

Asked for comment, Trump spokesperson **Steven Cheung** said, "Who is Liz Cheney?"

The campaign confirmed Cheung was being sarcastic by also pointing to a comment Liz Cheney posted online four years ago in which she called Harris a "radical liberal."

said in court documents. The victim was Marbella Martinez, 25, said Tooele Police spokesman Colbey Bentley.

Martinez had started working as a corrections officer with the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office in January. The department had memorialized her in a Facebook post Thursday, noting her death was being investigated as "suspicious" by Tooele police.

She had lived with her father in Tooele, west of Salt Lake City, until her father's escalating series of obsessive texting, surveillance and stalking drove her to move into a hotel for a few days, according to court documents. (AP)

State Rep Alexander dies: State Rep Kelly Alexander Jr., a scion of an influential civil rights family in North Carolina who advocated for legalizing medical cannabis, died Friday. He was 75.

A family statement posted on an Alexander social media site said the Mecklenburg County Democrat died Friday morning. It didn't say where or provide a cause of death.

A former president of the state NAACP, Alexander was appointed to the House in mid-2008 and had been reelected to a Charlotte-area district ever since. He did not seek reelection this fall, telling WFAE radio in December that health issues would make it hard to run in 2024. "Kelly's unwavering commitment to his city, district, state, and this nation has been both profound and heartfelt throughout the years," the family statement said. (AP)



A member of the Harford County Sheriff's department tries to clear the way for an emergency vehicle as it heads toward Joppatowne High School after a shooting at the school on Sept. 6. A student at a Maryland high school died after being shot by another student during an altercation on Friday in a school bathroom, Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler said. (AP)



Trump



Merchan

America

Judge delays Trump sentencing: Donald Trump's sentencing in his hush money case has been postponed until after the November election, granting the former president a hard-won reprieve as he navigates the homestretch of his current campaign and the aftermath of his criminal conviction.

In a decision Friday, Manhattan Judge **Juan M. Merchan** delayed Trump's sentencing until Nov. 26, three weeks after the final votes are cast in the U.S. presidential election. The sentencing had been scheduled for Sept. 18, about seven weeks before Election Day. The delay is the latest bit of good fortune for Trump in an election season that has been laden with legal perils for him.

The new date means voters will choose their next president without knowing whether the Republican nominee is going to jail, nor whether he will even be sentenced at all. Merchan now plans to rule Nov. 12 on Trump's request to overturn the verdict and toss out the case because of the US Supreme Court's July presidential immunity ruling.

Merchan explained that he was postponing the sentencing "to avoid any appearance - however unwarranted - that the proceeding has been affected by or seeks to affect the approaching presidential election in which the Defendant is a candidate." (AP)

Maryland shooting kills 1: A student at a Maryland high school died after being shot by another student during an altercation on Friday in a school bathroom, Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler said.

Warren Curtis Grant, 15, died after the shooting at Joppatowne High School, the sheriff said at a media briefing.

A 16-year-old student whom police identified as the shooter fled shortly afterward but was caught minutes later nearby.

"He has yet to be charged, but will be charged, and at the time those charges are preferred as an adult, we will release the name of the suspect," Gahler said. Gahler also said that the sheriff's office has had more than 10 incidents since 2022 "where the suspect was either the victim, witness or the suspect in an incident handled by the Harford County Sheriff's Office," adding that the investigation was in its early stages. (AP)

Utah sheriff deputy killed by dad:



Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force of the US Gen CQ Brown, (from left), US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Ukraine's Defense Minister Rustem Umerov attend a meeting at Ramstein Air Base in Ramstein-Miesenbach, Germany on Sept. 6. Ukraine needs the ability to strike deep within Russia now, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told US and allied military leaders on Friday as Kyiv more fervently pressed the West to loosen weapons use restrictions and allow it to target Russian air bases and launch sites far from the border. (AP)

Africa

Algerians vote

18 dead & 27 hurt in Kenya dorm fire

NAIROBI, Kenya, Sept 7, (AP): A fire in a school dormitory in Kenya has killed 18 students and 27 others have been hospitalized, with 70 children unaccounted for, the country's deputy president said Friday.

President **William Ruto** declared three days of mourning during which flags will be flown at half-staff in honor of the children who died.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said only 86 out of more than 150 children had been accounted for, and urged community members who may have sheltered some of them to help account for them.



Ruto

Gachagua said that one more student had died at the hospital and that 37 pupils had been reunited with their parents so far.

The cause of the fire Thursday night at Hillside Endarasha Primary school in Nyeri County was being investigated, police spokesperson Resila Onyango said. The school serves children up to the age of 14.

Nyeri County Commissioner Pius Murugu and the education ministry reported that the dormitory that caught fire housed more than 150 boys between ages 10 and 14. Since most of the buildings are made from wooden planks, the fire spread quickly.

The mixed day and boarding private school, which has 824 students, is located 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of the capital, Nairobi, in the country's central highlands, where wooden structures are common.

Hampered

Nyeri County Gov Mutahi Kahiga told journalists that rescue efforts were hampered by muddy roads caused by rains in the area.

Anxious parents who had been unable to find their children among the survivors waited at the school, engulfed with grief.

The parents were overcome by emotions after they were allowed to view the scene of the fire.

John Rukwaro told journalists that his 11-year-old grandson was missing and he had checked with area hospitals without success.

The education ministry's permanent secretary, Bello Kipsang, said that the government was working with the school administration to account for all the children in the boarding section.

"We are asking the parents who picked up their children and the community to support us as we consolidate the numbers to ensure that we account for every child who was boarding in this school," he said.

Ruto called the news "devastating."

Horrific

"I instruct relevant authorities to thoroughly investigate this horrific incident. Those responsible will be held to account," he said in an X post.

His deputy, Rigathi Gachagua, urged school administrators to ensure that safety guidelines recommended by the education ministry for boarding schools are being followed.

School fires are common in Kenyan boarding schools, often caused by arson fueled by drug abuse and overcrowding, according to a recent education ministry report. Many students board because parents believe it gives them more time to study without long commutes.

Some fires have been started by students during protests over the workload or living conditions. In 2017, 10 high school students died in a school fire in Nairobi started by a student.

Kenya's deadliest school fire in recent history was in 2001 when 67 students died in a dormitory fire in Machakos county.

Also:

ALGIERS, Algeria: Algerians head to the polls Saturday to cast votes for president and determine who will govern their gas-rich North African nation — five years after pro-democracy protests prompted the military to oust the previous president after two decades in power.

Since elections were scheduled in March — ahead of the predicted schedule — there has been little suspense as military-backed President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** appears poised to breeze to victory against the two challengers running against him.

The question is how many voters will stay home. Members of Tebboune's government as well as his challengers have all urged voters to cast ballots after boycotts and high abstention rates in previous elections marred the government's ability to claim it enjoys the population's support.

"I call on Algerians to vote en masse to reinforce our country's democratic processes," **Mohamed Larbaoui, Tebboune's** Prime Minister, said at the polls on Saturday morning.

Algeria is Africa's largest country by area and, with almost 45 million people, it's the continent's second most populous after **South Africa** to hold presidential elections in 2024 — a year in which more than 50 elections are being held worldwide, encompassing more than half the world's population.

The campaign — rescheduled to take place during **North Africa's** hot summer — has been characterized by widespread apathy from the population, which continues to be plagued by inflation, high costs of living and a punishing drought that brought water shortages to some parts of the country. On public television, where it's required that candidate and surrogate appearances be covered, election season has been presented as a vibrant affair, but elsewhere voters have been less enthused.

□ □ □

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's justice minister on Friday denied corruption allegations against her related to a mutual bank scandal in which thousands of retirees lost their life savings.

VBS Mutual Bank, which held the savings of retirees mostly from the northern **Limpopo** province and also unlawfully secured investments from local municipalities, was declared insolvent and bankrupt in 2018 after it emerged that more than 2 billion rand (\$112 million) had been stolen from the bank.

Police investigations showed that money held by the bank was used to purchase luxury houses and vehicles, among other things, and to distribute financial gifts to various people and organizations, including political parties.

Justice Minister **Thembi Simelane** was only appointed to her position in June in the country's newly-formed government of national unity, after the former ruling African National Congress party lost its parliamentary majority in the May 29 election.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, a vehicle moves past trees along a road in Haikou following the landfall of typhoon Yagi, in south China's Hainan Province, on Sept 6. Inset: A man rides a motorcycle in the rain caused by typhoon Yagi in Hanoi, Vietnam on Sept 7. (AP)

Typhoon Yagi kills 4 and injures 78, say Vietnam authorities

Vietnamese authorities say Typhoon Yagi has killed at least four people and injured 78 others after making landfall Saturday afternoon in the north of the country.

Yagi, described by Vietnamese meteorological officials as "one of the most powerful typhoons in the region over the past decade," made its way to the Southeast Asian country after it left three people dead and nearly a hundred others injured in the Chi-

nese province of Hainan.

The typhoon landed at Vietnam's coastal provinces of Quang Ninh and Haiphong with wind speeds of up to 149 kilometers per hour (92 miles per hour), state media reported. Before landing, strong winds felled a tree, killing a woman in the capital, Hanoi, local media said Saturday.

Quang Ninh is home to the UNESCO World Heritage

site Ha Long Bay, known for its many towering limestone islands. Hundreds of cruises were canceled at the popular site before the typhoon landed. Haiphong is an industrial hub, home to large factories, including EV maker VinFast and Apple supplier Pegatron.

The typhoon has also triggered power outages in large parts of Quang Ninh and Thai Binh provinces. (AP)

Asia

'Arrested protesters tried to overthrow govt'

Japan PM makes farewell visit to Seoul

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 7, (AP): Less than a month before leaving office, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited Seoul and reaffirmed his sympathy for the suffering of Koreans during Japan's colonial rule, as he and his South Korean counterpart Friday underscored the need to maintain warming ties between the Asian neighbors.

Since early last year, Kishida and conservative South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol have worked together to repair ties badly frayed over grievances stemming from Japan's brutal 1910-45 occupation of the Korean Peninsula. As a result, the two countries revived high-level talks and withdrew reciprocal economic restrictions imposed due to wrangling over the issue of Koreans forced to work for Japanese companies during the colonial period.

But experts say challenges lie ahead after Kishida's departure.

"It's important to uphold the efforts by our predecessors to overcome difficult periods and cooperate with the Republic of Korea for the future," Kishida said at the start of a meeting with Yoon, according to Yoon's office.

Avoided

Kishida said he has "strong pains in my heart" over the suffering of victims of forced labor. Yoon's office said, similar to comments he made last year. On both occasions he avoided a new, direct apology for colonization.

Yoon said "difficult issues" between the two countries remain but he hoped that Seoul and Tokyo will continue their pushes to achieve "a brighter future" for them.

South Korea and Japan, both key US allies in Asia, face same major challenges such as the intensifying strategic rivalry between the U.S. and China, North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal and supply chain vulnerabilities.

Their cooperation is also crucial for US efforts to upgrade its regional alliances in response to increasing Chinese influence and North Korea's nuclear threat.

Kishida said close cooperation between Tokyo and Seoul is essential for regional peace and stability. Yoon said positive momentum for bilateral cooperation is necessary to reinforce a trilateral South Korea-US-Japan partnership.

Cooperation

No big announcement was made after the Yoon-Kishida summit, their 12th. However, the leaders reached an agreement on strengthening cooperation on protecting each other's citizens living in third countries.

Kishida's two-day trip was arranged after he "actively" expressed hope for a meeting with Yoon to end his term on a high note in bilateral relations, South Korean officials say. He is credited with boosting Japan's security and diplomatic partnerships with neighboring countries but suffered low popularity due to his governing party's political scandals.

"Prime Minister Kishida has put his personal political capital on the line to improve relations with South Korea. With President Yoon, Kishida upgraded bilateral diplomatic and security cooperation and elevated trilateralism with the United States" at a summit at Camp David in the United States last year, said Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul.

Also:

TAIPEI, Taiwan: A former Taiwanese presidential candidate who was once mayor of the capital Taipei has been returned to custody as part of a sprawling corruption investigation.

Ko Wen-je was returned to detention Thursday night in handcuffs after a legal panel overruled an earlier order allowing him to return home. sure. He is being held incommunicado, unable to speak to anyone outside the facility in which he is being held.

Ko's case involves alleged illegal favors and payments from a web of business people and local level politicians brought to light by an urban rede-

velopment project that stood to bring investors massive profits by avoiding required reviews. He has the option of further appealing on Friday.

Despite intense media attention, the case appears to be having little effect on Taiwan's robust democracy and independent legal system. Ko heads the Taiwan People's Party and drew support in this year's elections from young Taiwanese looking for an alternative to the two party system that has governed Taiwanese politics for the last two decades.

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PHNOM PENH, Cambodia: Cambodia's leader condemned international human rights groups for criticizing the arrest of nearly 100 people for protesting against a decades-old regional development agreement with neighboring countries.

London-based Amnesty International and **New York-based** Human Rights Watch issued a joint statement of concern last week over what they called the arbitrary arrests since late July of at least 94 people for publicly criticizing the agreement that the Cambodian government signed with neighboring **Laos and Vietnam**.

"At least 59 of those arrested, which include environmental, human rights and other activists, remain unlawfully detained and charged for peacefully expressing their views, including several children," said the statement.

"These wrongful detentions and charges show Prime Minister Hun Manet's disrespect for the rights of Cambodians and the country's international human rights obligations," the statement quoted Bryony Lau, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch, saying.

Hun Manet, speaking at a ceremony for law school graduates, defended the crackdown, saying the authorities must protect the social order and security for the sake of all Cambodians, and accused the protesters of seeking to overthrow his government.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken gives a joint press conference with Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader at the National Palace in Santo Domingo on Sept 6. Blinken and Abinader held private talks on Friday on a range of issues, from human rights, economic prosperity and regional security. (AP)



Abinader



Lula

Lat/Am

'De-icing problems in crash': The pilots of a Brazilian passenger plane that crashed last month, killing all 62 people aboard, reported failure in the system to remove ice from the plane, according to a preliminary report made public Friday.

Investigators in Brazil were careful to avoid saying this was the cause of the accident, and stressed there was more work to be done. Still, their report lent further credence to aviation experts' main hypothesis: that the lift loss had been caused by ice formation on the plane's wings and failure of its de-icing system.

Weather reports from the day of the accident predicted ice formation in the region where the plane went down.

Audio from the cockpit's voice recorder included comments from pilots indicating ice was accumulating and there was a failure in the de-icing system, Paulo Fróes, an investigator in the air force's center for the investigation and prevention of air accidents, told reporters in Brasilia. (AP)

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Lula fires human rights minister: Brazil's President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** has fired Human Rights Minister **Silvio Almeida** following reports he engaged in misconduct, the presidential palace said in a statement Friday evening.

"The president considers keeping the minister in his position to be unsustainable considering the nature of the accusations," the statement said. Almeida has denied any wrongdoing.

Local media outlets reported Thursday night that **MeToo Brasil**, an organization that defends women victims of sexual violence, had received complaints of misconduct by Almeida. The organization confirmed that in a subsequent statement.

The minister for racial equality **Anielle Franco** — who the press named as one of the alleged victims — saluted Lula's decision.

"Recognizing the seriousness of this practice and acting immediately is the right course of action, which is why I would like to highlight President Lula's forceful action and thank him for all the expressions of support and solidarity," Franco said in a statement on Instagram late on Friday. (AP)

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An ambulance drives inside the Hillside Endarasha Primary school following a fire incident in Nyeri, Kenya on Sept 6. A fire in a school dormitory in Kenya has killed 18 students and 27 others have been hospitalized, with 70 children unaccounted for, the country's deputy president said Friday. (AP)

Haiti dominated the discussions.

Blinken visits Dom Rep: The US secretary of state and the leader of the Dominican Republic held private talks Friday on a range of issues, from human rights, economic prosperity and regional security. However, the crisis in violence-wrecked

led by Kenya to fight rampaging gangs there.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in the Dominican Republic for a one-day visit after landing in neighboring Haiti on Thursday to support a UN-backed mission led by Kenya to fight rampaging gangs there.

Blinken said he spoke with Dominican President **Luis Abinader** about the latter's concerns regarding Haiti, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic.

Abinader told reporters that his administration is concerned over the apparent lack of resources for the mission and the thousands of inmates who escaped after gangs raided Haiti's two biggest prisons earlier this year as part of a coordinated attack. (AP)

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US sends \$45m aid to Haiti: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced sending an additional USD 45 million worth of humanitarian aid to Haiti, as the country suffers lack of security and the spread of diseases.

"We're the largest contributor of humanitarian assistance to Haiti. That includes an additional USD 45 million in humanitarian aid that I'm announcing today — bringing the total US aid to over USD 210 million this year. That means more food, more water, more sanitation, more health and support services, for one and a half million more Haitians," Blinken said in statement in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince late Thursday.

"I came to Haiti today to meet with Prime Minister Conille, the Transitional Presidential Council, other political and security leaders, to advance our shared commitment to a secure and democratic Haiti," he noted. (KUNA)

oil plunges

The Kuwaiti oil price went down one cent to USD 74.64 per barrel on Friday, compared with USD 74.65 pb the previous day, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Saturday.

On a global scale, Brent crude futures went down USD 1.63 to USD 67.06 pb, and West Texas Intermediate crude dropped USD 1.48 to USD 67.67 pb.

Kuwait and seven other OPEC+ alliance members decided on Thursday to extend the voluntary oil output cut for two months. (KUNA)

The Bursa Kuwait experienced a robust recovery on Thursday, with its indices showing significant gains after a mid-week dip, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The General Market Index increased by 0.42 percent, or 30.16 points, closing at 7,186.65 points. The Market liquidity surged to 68.2 million dinars, bouncing back from a decline to 47 million dinars during Wednesday's session.

A total of 331 million shares were traded across 20,408 deals, with 130 shares actively traded: 78 saw gains, 31 experienced losses, and 21 remained unchanged.

The Premier Market Index rose by 0.33 percent, or 25.88 points, to close at 7,819.16 points, supported by a liquidity of 29.7 million dinars. This segment saw 101.9 million shares traded through 7,990 transactions, with 34 shares traded -- 23 gaining, 6 losing, and 5 unchanged. The Main Market Index also saw an uptick of 0.85 percent, or 51.75 points, closing at 6,109.86 points with liquidity reaching 38.5 million dinars.

The index recorded 229 million shares traded through 12,418 transactions, with 96

Bursa indices surge following mid-week decline

shares changing hands: 55 gained, 25 lost, and 16 remained stable.

Trading continued to focus on small and medium-sized stocks, particularly within the Eva block, which saw significant liquidity, amounting to 25 million dinars, about 45 percent of total market liquidity. Key performers included Eva, Arzan, Kuwait Real Estate, and Sanam Income.

The Unicap stocks surged by 33 percent, marking a substantial gain, while MENA Real Estate also saw unexpected increases. Oula Takaful, part of the EFA Group, jumped by 11.5 percent with trading volumes surpassing one million dinars, contributing to a positive close for the market despite some declines in leading stocks like KFH and Al-Safa.

Across the GCC markets, most indices recorded gains, with Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain ending on a positive note. UAE markets (Dubai and Abu Dhabi) will continue trading on Sunday due to their weekend, while the Saudi and Muscat indices saw slight declines. Oil prices stabilized at \$73 per barrel for Brent crude.

Market Movements

06-09-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
DUBAI - DFMGI	+1.83	4,372.87	JAPAN - Nikkei 225	-265.62	36,391.47
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+28.12	6,936.09	BRITAIN - FTSE 100	-60.24	8,181.47
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+63.89	79,002.32	EUROPE - Euro Stoxx 50	-77.09	4,738.06

Business

Other Voices

Delays possible due to oversupply

OPEC+ faces uncertainty over planned production increases

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

It was agreed that OPEC+ would increase its production starting from the fourth quarter of this year, in anticipation of strong demand for oil and concerns about tightness in the oil markets. However, it seems this increase would not happen due to the long time of crude oil pouring into the markets.

One clear indication of this is the reduction of Libyan oil supply by more than 800,000 barrels per day, which has not caused any notable reaction in the markets.

Brent crude prices have dropped further, seemingly unaffected by the recent reductions in production. Unlike previous years, when such reductions typically drove prices higher, oil is currently trading below \$75 per barrel.

Meanwhile, concerns continue over the economy of China. The ongoing stagnation is continuing with no clear signs of improvement. This raises questions about when this economic giant will return to driving global demand. China's demand is important for growth and oil market progression. It affects the ability of oil producers to utilize or activate their idle spare capacity of six million barrels. This excess capacity remains in storage, yielding no return on investment, and



Al-Harami

risks being labeled as a bad investment.

Here comes the role of OPEC+ to observe and decide if the time is right to delay the planned production increase of 80,000 barrels per day from next month, and gradually to 500,000 barrels per day by year-end.

Currently, the situation is not looking good and does not favor an increase in production. Brent crude is trading near \$73 per barrel, a level not seen in a long time. Market forces are not yet prepared for additional crude entering the market. Unless there is a significant surge in demand, the outlook remains uncertain. Given these conditions, OPEC+ might need to consider further production cuts in December, though such a move could have potentially severe consequences.

How and why did oil prices lose its momentum and drop into the low \$70s within a short period without prior warning? This decline has even shocked OPEC+, with Brent crude trading below \$70 per barrel.

The next question is - What would happen if oil prices fall further to around \$70? How would they recover? How long will it take?

OPEC+ is scheduled to meet in December and is unlikely to convene earlier unless faced with urgent decisions. For now, the organization must wait. Meanwhile, oil producers are seeing daily revenue losses of more than \$10 per barrel, while independent producers continue to benefit from their daily income.

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Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

OPEC+ extends voluntary oil output cuts

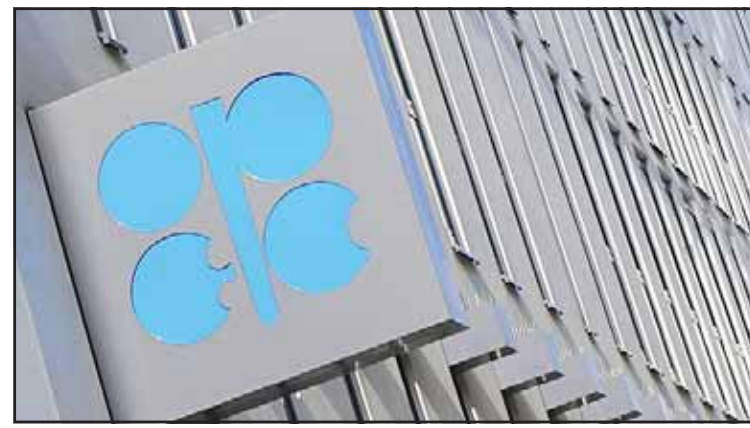
Eight countries agree to maintain 2.2 million barrels per day cut

RIYADH, Sept 7, (KUNA): Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman have extended voluntary cuts of their output of the crude oil.

The OPEC+ countries, which previously announced additional voluntary cuts in April and November 2023, including Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria, and Oman, held a virtual meeting today (Thursday) during which the eight member countries emphasized their collective resolve to ensure full compliance with the voluntary production adjustments.

The decision was declared following a virtual meeting that grouped oil and energy ministers and officials of Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the UAE, the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman.

The group includes Iraq and Kazakhstan, that have overproduced since January 2024, but have strongly reaffirmed their commitment to



OPEC headquarters

KUNA photo

the agreement and to their compensation schedules submitted to the OPEC Secretariat as agreed under the 53rd meeting of the JMMC on April 3rd 2024.

In August 2024, Saudi Arabia, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Algeria, and Oman, conducted two ministerial discussions with Iraq and Kazakhstan. Both countries were urged to achieve full conformity and compensate for the overproduced volumes since January 2024. Iraq and Kazakhstan committed to engage with second-

ary sources to outline their plans for production adjustments to achieve compliance and meet the compensation schedules they submitted to the OPEC Secretariat on August 22nd.

Iraq and Kazakhstan reinforced their commitment during the OPEC Secretary Generals visits in late August, conducted in coordination with Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy and the Chairman of the OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meetings. During those visits, the OPEC Secretariat organized workshops with the secondary sources where both

countries provided extensive details on the immediate and concrete measures they are implementing to achieve full conformity with the required production levels and to meet their compensation schedules for August and for September.

These measures included advancing field maintenance plans and reducing production alongside with delaying and canceling spot sales for the month of August. Moreover, the countries committed to adjust compensation plans for any over produced volumes in August.

In recognition of this strengthened resolve and renewed firm commitment, the eight participating countries have agreed to extend their additional voluntary production cuts of 2.2 million barrels per day for two months until the end of November 2024, after which these cuts will be gradually phased out on a monthly basis starting December 1st, 2024, according to the attached schedule, with the flexibility to pause or reverse the adjustments as necessary. The overproducing countries also reconfirmed their commitment that the entire overproduced volume will be fully compensated for by September 2025.

Economic vision and mega projects highlighted in talks

Kuwait and Hungary discuss strengthening business relations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7, (KUNA): Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Nora Al-Fassam held talks on Thursday with the visiting Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commerce Peter Szijjarto on boosting relations at the trade and business levels.

Minister Al-Fassam said in a statement that the discussions with the Hungarian side touched on the State of Kuwait's economic vision, the high pace execution of mega development projects, in coordination with strategic partners, while maintaining the state financial sustainability. She indicated that the latter's goal is attainable through economic and financial reforms.

The two sides affirmed their mutual aspiration to make the best results possible from the forthcoming fifth



Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Nora Al-Fassam meets with Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commerce Peter Szijjarto.

KUNA photo

session of the joint commission for economic and technical cooperation, due in the Hungarian capital Budapest in October.

She added that the two parties broached the investment relationship between the two countries, the desire to examine prospected opportunities in sectors of joint interest, in addition to the invitation to the Hungarian companies to broaden investments in the Kuwaiti economy and benefit from the incentives granted to the foreign investors.

The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to the State of Kuwait, Andras Szabo, the Managing Director of the Public Investment Authority Ghanem al-Ghnamain, the Assistant Undersecretary of the Public Budget and the Ministry's Acting Undersecretary, Saad Al-Alati.

Gold prices rise as dollar weakens

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Gold prices rose on Friday as the US dollar declined against a basket of major currencies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

As of 10:20 Moscow time, Comex gold futures were trading at \$2,548.20 per ounce, marking a 0.20% increase from the previous settlement price.

Spot gold contracts were priced at \$2,519.13 per ounce, up 0.09% from the last closing price.

This increase in gold prices was accompanied by a 0.18% drop in the dollar index, which measures the value of the US currency against major currencies, bringing it to \$100.9240.

'Platform helps clients achieve their investment goals and grow their wealth'

Gulf Bank's 'Wise' platform revolutionizes global investments & supports women's financial growth

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: As part of the GB Talks series, Gulf Bank's Assistant Investment Manager, Ms. Hanan Al-Ashwak, discussed a variety of investment options available through Gulf Bank and Invest GB, with a special focus on women.

Al-Ashwak emphasized that the Bank's digital investment platform, the most innovative in Kuwait, follows a Nobel Prize-winning investment strategy and offers many advantages to clients in global markets. The platform offers an investment solution that is easy, transparent and cost efficient.

Clients can achieve long-term, risk-adjusted returns by investing in diversified international portfolios, while also having the ability to monitor their investments anytime, from anywhere.

In 2023, the platform achieved remarkable returns, exceeding client expectations despite difficult economic and geopolitical conditions. Conservative portfolios saw an average return of 10.7%, while high-risk portfolios delivered 20.9%. The Islamic portfolio "Wise" returned 22%, and the income portfolio achieved a return of 9.2%, supported by annual dividends of 6%.

Al-Ashwak emphasized that the Wise platform is the top choice for global market investments due to its competitive advantages. It consistently offers clients effective solutions for reaching their investment and savings goals by utilizing carefully curated and geographically diverse investment opportunities.

The platform offers customized



Hanan Al-Ashwak speaks during the GB Talks session.

portfolios designed to align with clients' financial goals, investment timelines, and risk preferences. It provides access to a diverse range of investment options and tools, including Sharia-compliant choices, empowering clients to grow their wealth and achieve their financial objectives.

Clients can fully control their portfolios, adjust investments, or withdraw funds as needed. They can

also monitor portfolio performance from their mobile phones and choose to reinvest or withdraw profits. As a digital investment tool, Wise allows clients to invest in globally diversified portfolios with a long-term outlook.

After clients complete a straightforward questionnaire to outline their financial goals, risk tolerance, and investment horizons, the platform recommends a tailored portfolio.

Gulf Bank's investment managers then continuously monitor and review these portfolios to safeguard and enhance clients' wealth, ensuring that investment performance aligns with their objectives.

The Wise platform is accessible to both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti clients who have accounts with Gulf Bank, with a minimum investment of \$10,000 required to open a portfolio.

GDP growth slows to 2.2% in Q1 2024

Central Bank of Egypt holds interest rates steady for 3rd consecutive time

CAIRO, Sept 7, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Egypt decided Thursday to keep the benchmark interest rates unchanged for the third time in a row.

In a press release following its meeting Thursday, the CBE's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) said the CBE's overnight deposit rate, overnight lending rate, and the rate of the main operation will remain at 27.25 percent, 28.25 percent, and 27.75 percent, respectively. Moreover, it decided to keep the discount rate also unchanged at 27.75 percent.

The MPC argued that the decision reflects recent developments and outlook at the global and domestic levels since the previous MPC meeting.

It indicated that Egypt's real GDP growth softened to 2.2 percent in Q1 2024 compared to 2.3 percent in Q4 2023.

"The softening is driven by declining public contribution to economic activity due to the impact of Red Sea maritime trade disruption on the service sector," it pointed out.

Moreover, the recent uptick in private economic activity was not sufficient to offset the decline in public economic activity. Updated leading indicators for Q2 2024 indicate that real GDP growth has started to pick up and is expected to gradually recover as of fiscal year 2024/25, following a marked slowdown in fiscal year 2023/24.

Nevertheless, real economic activity remains below potential, supporting the forecasted disinflation path over the coming period, and is projected to remain so until it converges towards its potential over the medium term.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate declined to 6.5 percent in Q2 2024 compared to 6.7 percent in Q1 2024, mainly driven by robust employment in the agriculture sector.

"With the gradual easing of previous

shocks, inflationary pressures continued to subside, as annual headline and core inflation edged downward for the fifth consecutive month to reach 25.7 percent and 24.4 percent in July 2024, respectively.

"Despite persistent non-food inflation, the significant decline in annual food inflation continues to drive down overall inflation and reflects a contained inflationary impact," the MPC noted.

It added that the recorded annual food inflation at 29.7 percent in July 2024 is the lowest in almost two years, reflecting the favorable base effect from the strong inflationary episode in 2023. Accordingly, the gradual unwinding of food inflation along with the improvement of inflation expectations suggest that inflation is currently on a downward trajectory.

"The deceleration of inflation implies a return to normal monthly dynamics given the recent tightening cycle, with the receding impact of previous exchange rate and supply shocks," the MPC clarified.

"Inflation is forecasted to hover around current levels until Q4 2024 given the implemented and projected fiscal consolidation measures."

Nonetheless, inflation is expected to decline significantly in Q1 2025 due to the cumulative impact of monetary policy tightening and favorable base effect.

However, risks to the disinflation path are tilted to the upside given tighter global oil supplies, escalation of regional geopolitical tensions, uncertainty regarding the adoption of protectionist trade policies, and higher than anticipated pass-through of fiscal measures.

In view of the above and leveraging previous MPC decisions, the Committee judges that current policy rates remain appropriate to maintain the prevailing tight monetary stance until a significant and sustained decline in inflation is realized, it affirmed.

Telegram CEO defends himself against French charges

Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov promised to step up efforts to fight criminality on the messaging app, his first public comments since French authorities handed him preliminary charges for allegedly allowing the platform's use for criminal activity.

In a Telegram post late Thursday, Durov defended himself against the French judicial investigation, suggesting that he shouldn't have been targeted

personally. "Using laws from the pre-smartphone era to charge a CEO with crimes committed by third parties on the platform he manages is a misguided approach," the post said. "Building technology is hard enough as it is. No innovator will ever build new tools if they know they can be personally held responsible for potential abuse of those tools." While insisting that Telegram is

not "some sort of anarchic paradise," Durov said surging numbers of Telegram users "caused growing pains that made it easier for criminals to abuse our platform."

"That's why I made it my personal goal to ensure we significantly improve things in this regard. We've already started that process internally, and I will share more details on our progress with you very soon," he said. (AP)

UK signs first international safe use treaty of AI

Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice Shabana Mahmood signed on Thursday the first legally-binding treaty governing the safe use of artificial intelligence.

In a statement by the British Ministry of Justice, they said that the new framework agreed by the Council of Europe commits parties to collective action to manage A.I products and protect

the public from potential misuse, such as spreading misinformation, or using biased data.

Artificial Intelligence has the capacity to radically improve responsiveness and effectiveness of public services, and turbocharge economic growth, said Lord Chancellor Mahmood.

She continued by saying that this convention is a major step to ensure these new technolo-

gies can be harnessed without eroding our oldest values like human rights and rule of law.

She stated that the new arrangement has three overarching safeguards, the first of which ensures protecting human rights, including ensuring people's data is used appropriately, their privacy is respected, and that A.I does not discriminate against them. (KUNA)

Award reflects its commitment to ESG and leading role in championing sustainability in Kuwait

Burgan Bank receives prestigious LEED Gold Certification for head office building

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 8: Burgan Bank announced that it has been awarded the prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design- LEED v4.1 O+M: EB (Operations and Maintenance - Existing Buildings) Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for operations and maintenance at its head office building in Kuwait City. This notable achievement underscores the Bank's commitment to sustainability, operational excellence, and environmental stewardship while adhering to the highest standards of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices in banking.

"Obtaining the LEED Gold certification for our existing building is a testament to our rigorous efforts to retrofit and optimize the operational performance of our head office, improve our staff's health, and protect the environment," Mr. Fadel Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer - Kuwait at Burgan Bank, said. "This certification demonstrates that our building meets the highest standards for energy consumption, lighting, water and materials use, along with sustainable practices and strategies. Stemming from our commitment to the welfare of our community and the health of our environment, we spare no effort to ensure that Burgan Bank reduces its carbon footprint



Burgan Bank head office building

and contributes effectively to the global movement for environmental preservation, which echoes our commitment and strategy for long term sustainability."

"The journey to receiving the LEED Gold certification for Burgan's head office building was marked by meticulous planning and dedication", Mr. Fadel noted.

"Retrofitting the head office to meet these stringent standards required a comprehensive approach that included several initiatives, such as implementing updated energy savings systems and water-saving fixtures and enhancing indoor air quality. Other initiatives that focused on reducing the environmental footprint through



Mr. Fadel Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer - Kuwait, and Eng. Saud Al Hadbah, Deputy General Manager - General Services Administration, with the LEED Gold Certification.

optimizing energy efficiency include the installation of motion sensors for lighting, solar panels for external signages, and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, in addition to minimizing the reliance on single-use plastics at the Bank."

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification is a globally recognized symbol of excellence in green building design and architecture, awarded for projects that meet certain criteria for electricity cost savings, lower carbon emissions, and building healthier living, working, and learning environ-

ments, and is valid for three years. The key metrics that projects are evaluated on to receive the certification include energy and water use, waste management, air quality, user comfort, and staff commuting. On this premise, the certification was awarded to Burgan Bank in recognition of its efforts in optimizing the head office and its overall building performance, enhancing the quality of the indoor environment, and reducing environmental impact through sustainable practices in operations and maintenance.

It serves to note that Burgan



Mr. Fadel Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer - Kuwait at Burgan Bank.

Bank remains a dedicated champion of environmental awareness and a committed advocate of ESG standards. In addition to its outstanding performance in operations and maintenance to meet global standards, Burgan Bank continues to innovate digital banking products and services that contribute to its efforts in reducing its carbon footprint, such as introducing virtual bank cards, constantly advancing "Banki" chatbot the virtual assistant, and enabling customers to open new accounts conveniently through Burgan Bank's digital banking portals, among a wider range of digital transformation initiatives and innovations.

UK watchdog 'blasts' Google for anti-competitive behavior

LONDON, Sept 7, (AP): Google was slammed Friday by U.K. regulators who say it's taking advantage of its dominance in digital advertising to thwart competition in Britain, ratcheting up pressure that the tech giant is facing on both sides of the Atlantic over its "ad tech" business practices.

Britain's Competition and Markets Authority said that the U.S. company gives preference to its own services to the detriment of online publishers and advertisers in Britain's 1.8 billion pound (\$2.4 billion) digital ad market. The watchdog leveled its accusations after an investigation, and the findings could potentially lead to a fine worth billions of dollars or an order to change its behavior.

Google is a major player throughout the digital ad ecosystem, providing servers for publishers to manage ad space on their websites and apps, tools for advertisers and media agencies to buy display ads, and an exchange where both sides come together to buy and sell ads in real time at auctions.

"We've provisionally found that Google is using its market power to hinder competition when it comes to the ads people see on websites," the watchdog's interim executive director of enforcement, Juliette Enser, said in a press release.

The watchdog's charges, known as a statement of objections, arrive two years after it opened its investigation. Google's digital ad business is also the focus of a European Union antitrust investigation and a U.S. Jus-

tice Department lawsuit that's set to go to trial this month.

The CMA said that Google's "anti-competitive" conduct is ongoing, but the company disputed the allegations Friday.

"Google remains committed to creating value for our publisher and advertiser partners in this highly competitive sector," the company said in a prepared statement. "The core of this case rests on flawed interpretations of the ad tech sector. We disagree with the CMA's view and we will respond accordingly."

The U.K. watchdog alleged Google has been exploiting its dominance since 2015 to strengthen the market position of its own AdX ad exchange and protect it from rivals. AdX is where Google charges the highest fees in the ad tech system, taking about 20% of the amount from bids, the CMA said.

The regulator's accusations include charges that Google manipulates advertiser bids so they have higher value when they go into AdX auctions than rival exchanges. AdX also gets to bid first in auctions run by Google's publisher ad server, potentially shutting out rivals from the chance to bid, the watchdog said.

Google now has the chance to reply to the charges. The CMA said it's considering what is needed to make sure Google ceases the anti-competitive practices. It has the power to impose a fine worth up to 10% of a company's annual worldwide revenue or issue a legally binding order to stop violations of competition law.

Real-time trading

People's Bank of China conducts reverse repos

BEIJING, Sept 7, (Xinhua): China's central bank conducted 141.5 billion yuan (about 19.95 billion U.S. dollars) of seven-day reverse repos at an interest rate of 1.7 percent Friday.

The move aims to keep liquidity reasonable and ample in the banking system, the People's Bank of China said in a statement.

A reverse repo is a process in which the central bank purchases securities from commercial banks through bidding, with an agreement to sell them back in the fu-

ture. Meanwhile, China's interbank treasury bond index in net price opened at 1,038.48 points Friday, slightly lower than the previous close of 1,038.72 points, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System.

The index reflects real-time trading of treasury bonds in China's interbank bond market.

The index opens at 9 a.m. on every workday and is updated every five minutes until closing at 5 p.m.

Sluggish US jobs report clears the way for Fed to cut interest rates

Unemployment rate ticked down to 4.2%

WASHINGTON, Sept 7, (AP): Hiring by America's employers picked up a bit in August from July's tepid pace, and the unemployment rate dipped for the first time since March in a sign that the job market may be cooling but remains sturdy.

Employers added a modest 142,000 jobs, up from a scant 89,000 in July, the Labor Department said Friday. The unemployment rate ticked down to 4.2% from 4.3%, which had been the highest level in nearly three years. Hiring in June and July, though, was revised sharply down by a combined 86,000. July's job gain was the smallest since the pandemic.

"The labor market is weakening," said Eugenio Aleman, chief economist at Raymond James Financial. "It is not falling apart, but it is weakening."

The cooling jobs figures underscore why the Federal Reserve is set to cut its key interest rate when it next meets Sept. 17-18, with inflation falling steadily back to its target of 2%. Still, Friday's mixed jobs data raises the question of how large a rate cut the Fed will announce. It could decide to reduce its benchmark rate by a typical quarter-point or by a larger-than-usual half-point. In the coming months, the policymakers will also decide how much and how fast to cut rates at their subsequent meetings.

Christopher Waller, an influential Fed policymaker, suggested in a speech Friday that the central bank is leaning toward a quarter-point reduction this month. But he left the door open for larger rate cuts, if necessary, later this year.

"I do not expect this first cut to be the last," Waller said in a speech at the University of Notre Dame. "With inflation and employment near our longer-run goals and the labor market moderating, it is likely that a series of

Biden signs order that prohibits federal grants for higher worker-wage projects

ANN ARBOR, Mich., (AP): President Joe Biden on Friday signed an executive order for federal grants that will prioritize projects with labor agreements, wage standards, and benefits such as access to child care and apprenticeship programs.

Biden said the ideas in his order "are common sense."

"Economists have long believed that these good job standards produce more opportunities, better outcomes for workers and more predictable outcomes for businesses as well," he said from an Ann Arbor, Michigan union training center where he made the announcement. "A good union job is building a future worthy of your dreams."

The Biden administration is trying to make the case that economic growth should flow out of better conditions for workers. His administration has stressed the vital role that organized labor will likely play for Democrats in November's election. In her matchup against Republican Donald Trump, Vice President Kamala Harris is de-

pending on backing from the AFL-CIO and other unions to help turn out voters in key states.

Biden has prided himself on his support of labor unions, joining striking Michigan union workers on the picket line last year. On Friday, he came on stage to chants of "Thank you, Joe!"

Trump has tried to make inroads with organized labor as well by having Teamsters President Sean O'Brien speak at the Republican National Convention. The Teamsters have yet to formally endorse any candidate, though Harris is expected to meet with them.

Biden said that under his administration "we buy American. And we're making sure federal projects are made in America projects."

Some in the construction industry criticized the order for possibly increasing construction costs and excluding non-unionized workers from projects.

"These policies steer taxpayer-funded infrastructure contracts to unionized businesses and create jobs exclusively

for union members at the expense of everyone else and the rule of law," said Ben Brubeck, an executive with Associated Builders and Contractors, a construction industry trade group.

The order will establish a task force to coordinate policy development with the goal of ensuring more benefits for workers. The administration's funding for infrastructure, computer chip manufacturing and the development of renewable energy sources has led to a wave of projects.

By the administration's count, its incentives have prompted \$900 billion worth of private-sector investments in renewable energy and manufacturing. Those commitments have yet to resonate much with voters who are more focused on the lingering damage caused by inflation spiking in 2022, but many projects will take several years to come to fruition.

Though he wasn't in Michigan for a campaign event, Biden spoke on his predecessor, saying that Trump would much rather "cross a picket line than walk one."

reductions will be appropriate."

"I am open-minded," he added, "about the size and pace of cuts, which will be based on what the data tell us about the evolution of the economy."

Waller also said the economy and job market are still growing, "and the prospects for continued growth and job creation are good," a sign that for now, he thinks a quarter-point reduction is appropriate for the Fed's first rate cut.

Collectively, Friday's figures depict a job market slowing under the pressure of high interest rates but still growing. Many businesses appear to be holding off on adding jobs, in part

because of uncertainty about the outcome of the presidential election and about how fast the Fed will reduce its benchmark rate in the coming months.

Daniel Zhao, lead economist at the career website Glassdoor, said some of the details in the August jobs report indicate that businesses' demand for workers is slowing. The number of Americans who are working part time but would prefer full-time work rose, extending a year-long trend.

"When you look under the hood, you're seeing numbers that confirm that the job market is on that cooling trajectory," Zhao said.

America's labor market is now in an unusual place: Jobholders are mostly secure, with layoffs low, historically speaking. Yet with the pace of hiring having weakened, landing a job has become harder.

Christopher Millan, an out-of-work operations manager in Miami, has found the job market to be much more unforgiving than it was when he last looked for work in 2022. Millan, 34, who was laid off in February from an interactive-kiosk company, has since applied for more than 1,000 jobs. He has landed just a few interviews and received no offers.

With Musk's X banned in Brazil, its users carve out new digital homes

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 7, (AP): As billionaire Elon Musk's clash with a Brazilian Supreme Court justice came to a head last week, there were legal twists, insults, ultimatums, defiance and then, finally, capitulation. When the digital dust settled, X had become an ex-

Musk's social media platform was banned nationwide and Justice Alexandre de Moraes set a whopping \$9,000 daily fine for anyone using a virtual private network (VPN) to skirt the suspension. Brazil's X users, left casting about for a new platform, mostly started washing up on Threads and Bluesky.

"Hello literally everyone in Brazil," Shauna Wright posted on Threads the day de Moraes ordered X's suspension.

Everyone hadn't been on X; Brazil's social masses are primarily on TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. But X had outside influence in terms of newsmakers, agenda setting and thought leaders. It was the local battleground of the global culture war and the peanut gallery for soccer games and reality shows, especially Big Brother. So as X went dark in this highly online country of 213 million, its users started migrating.

Wright's post was an in-joke for fellow former employees of the company then known as Twitter, and an homage to its award-winning post when Meta's Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp all went down in 2021, sending users flocking to Twitter for info. But Wright also intended her throwback as a genuine

greeting to all the friendly Brazilians.

"It took off even among those who didn't get the reference, but they didn't have to!" Wright, a content designer who posts as "goldengateblond", told the Associated Press from San Francisco. "I was glad it made people feel welcome."

Meta launched Threads last year amid widespread backlash to Musk's 2022 purchase of Twitter and his upending many of its policies and features - from content moderation to its user verification system.

Opening a Threads account was seamless for Instagram users, so it scaled rapidly; it had 175 million monthly users globally as of July, Meta's CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced.

Visionary and mentor leaves rich legacy as she returns to Britain

Theatre icon Price takes final bow after 40 years in Kuwait

By Chaitali B. Roy

Special to the Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Alison Shan Price MBE, a British woman in Kuwait, has relocated to Britain after 40 years, leaving behind an extraordinary body of theatrical work and promises of new beginnings that will continue to shed new light on the Middle East – British relationship. For more than four decades, Alison has significantly impacted Kuwait's cultural landscape through her work in theatre, mentoring local talent, and recently through her academic research on Victorian women in the Middle East. Her contributions include founding the KAST drama school in 1999, which evolved into the One World Actors Center in 2012, establishing the Lamda examinations in Kuwait, and providing professional qualifications to many local talents. She has trained hundreds of Kuwaiti and international students and produced notable productions like "Antigone" at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Some of her mentees, like Hamad Al Jenia, have launched their own theatre companies that will continue to enrich Kuwait's cultural landscape. Over the years, she has brought Kuwait into the professional ambit of luminaries like Adam Darius and Dame Judy Dench. Her collaboration with another Briton in Kuwait, Harriet Bushman, has led to some extraordinary productions. Alison Shan Price received an MBE for her numerous contributions to English theatre in Kuwait. Post-COVID, Alison's professional graph evolved when she became a notable presence in the cultural calendar of Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, where she has given several enlightening lectures.

In the last two decades, I have known her as a journalist. I have seen her immersed in the theatrical arts, which have made an indelible imprint on Kuwait's cultural landscape. Her influence on the growth of theatre, especially English theatre, in Kuwait and her mentoring of local talent will be remembered for a long time. As she returns to the UK to pursue her PhD at Newcastle University, Arab Times looks back at her contribution and legacy.

"Coming to Kuwait made it all happen," says Alison, "and the support I've got from Kuwait has been amazing, something I'd never imagined would have happened in Britain." Alison began her professional life with theatre because her parents were into theatre before she moved to physics. "I thought I'd probably go through with physics the rest of my life. But after I married John, a chemist, we decided to come to Kuwait as soon as we were married for adventure, a little bit of fun, and stayed for 40 years." Alison's husband, John Price, is a noted educationist with his own legacy in education in Kuwait.

When Alison saw that there was not much for her children to do in Kuwait in terms of entertainment in the 1980s, she started hosting theme parties for them and their friends. "Suddenly, I realized around 50 children were coming to the parties, as the students kept inviting all their friends," she recalls. The success of theme parties for children led to the founding of the first drama school, KAST, in 1999. "My parents, who were into theatre, came to Kuwait to give the school more structure."

KAST continued to operate until 2007, when Vera Al Muttawa of the British School of Kuwait approached Alison to become one of the directors of the British Academy of International Arts. By then, Alison had already introduced LAMDA, a pioneering British conservatoire offering industry-leading vocational training in acting, directing, musical theatre, and production and technical arts in Kuwait. "I have always believed that if you're going to go down a path, you have to get qualifications, certainly as a woman, because otherwise, it is a marvellous hobby," she says. "Therefore, I studied with LAMDA, received an associate acting diploma and became its International Representative. I was then able to start up examinations officially." The involvement of experts from around the world in KAST and LAMDA contributed to the development of theatre and talent in Kuwait. A significant number of students passed LAMDA, with many taking multiple



Combo photos of productions and lectures in Kuwait.

examinations. Hamad Al Jenia is a talent that Alison mentored and nurtured for 18 years. "Hamad has now opened his own company, ACT Media, a wonderful organisation that has staged its first production, Macbeth, which was a roaring success." She says of future pans, "Hamad will handle LAMDA in Kuwait, and I am available online. Whenever I come back, I will do workshops. Hamad will also do workshops and ensure the students will continue to be trained." Interestingly, the person Alison mentored and guided for almost two decades will now be an active collaborator. That is just one of the footprints Alison will leave behind in Kuwait. "It is an honour because Hamad is an exceptional talent," says Alison. "He thinks outside the box. And I realised in him the same energy and excitement I had many years ago for the subject. He has excelled

in ways I could not imagine."

In 2012, Alison founded the One World Actors Center (OWAC), a UK-registered company in Kuwait. As a UK-based company, One World obtained the licenses for Evita and Sweeney Todd and presented at the Edinburgh Fringe. Over the years, OWAC has produced and presented several groundbreaking shows, including Story of Ibn Haytham, The Little Princess, A Night at the West End, Blue Box, Antigone: An Arabian Tragedy, The Lion in Winter, Mother Courage and many other productions, all of them remarkable examples of multicultural collaborations.

It is not easy to sustain any form of performing arts in Kuwait. Corporate support is negligible, and selling tickets is a nightmare. The only things keeping the art scene alive in Kuwait is government patron-

age and support from organisations like Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. "It's not just theatre. Any performing arts in Kuwait or any other country requires support from corporations and individuals. This is important because you can't put a show on without funding." Alison speaks warmly of the support she has received from organisations like Dar AL Athar Al Islamiyyah and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. "We have always started with zero budget," she laughs. "We made it happen with help from Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Mr Sayed, our technical coordinator, friends from KAMCO and Wiz. It would be best if you built relationships. You need to understand that you can't do your show without them. It is a fusion of multiculturalism that helps and supports talent."

In 2016, Alison Shan Price received an MBE from the late Queen for her contribution to theatrical arts in Kuwait and the Middle East. "It was an honour," says Alison. "It was an honour to be nominated in the first place. It is only then you realise that people have to send in testimonials from all over the world." The recognition was based on Alison's work with LAMDA, the One World Actors Centre and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. "It made me realise that the work we are doing in Kuwait is worth it," she recalls. "It was a wonderful moment."

It was Alison's collaboration with noted theatre personality Huda Shawa that started her on her journey with history and academia. "It has been an adventure because I had my original degree in physics. I never thought I'd go into history. Huda Shawa asked me to perform the role of Freya Stark, who came to Kuwait in 1933 and 1937. I knew nothing about Freya. Why didn't I, a British woman, know about her?" When Alison mentioned on social media that she would perform the role of Freya Stark, someone on Instagram directed her to the existence of 5000 photographs in the Middle East Center of St Anthony's College in Oxford. That comment prompted Alison to contact Oxford for access to the archives and thus began her research on Victorian women in the Middle East. "My research into their lives shows that they were women of our times, not women of their times. They were liberal, new, independent women who travelled through the Middle East. They spoke Arabic and understood the problems everybody was going through in the region." Alison's research led her to do her Postgraduate studies and join the cultural season of Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah as a lecturer. It also led her to do her ongoing PhD at Newcastle University. This year, she has been invited to give a talk at Raleigh House at Oxford University in October. Alison Shan Price MBE has had a very successful and productive forty years in Kuwait. As she marks out new milestones for her onward professional journey, her legacy in Kuwait will continue through her students, future collaborations, memories of her productions in Kuwait, and research work and lectures.

Emphasizes literacy as tool for mutual understanding and peace

ICESCO calls for enhanced literacy efforts on Int'l Literacy Day

RABAT, Sept 7, (KUNA): The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) called on Saturday for intensifying efforts for literacy and maximizing benefits from it to boost mutual understanding and peace.

The organization made the statement on the occasion of marking International Literacy Day (ILD) falls on September 8.

The statement called for following preventive ways to treat sources of illiteracy, adding that the organization focuses through its vision and policy on education as it is a human right.

This is done through disseminating awareness on the need of combating illiteracy and focusing on mar-

ginalized groups and the poorest, mainly women and girls, out of the importance of comprehensive and fair education for all, it added.

The statement stressed the need of mobilizing funds and increasing investments for this field, in addition to providing more open educational resources.

The ICESCO prioritized literacy programs among its members, due to the key role of education in boosting human development.

It called for more efforts and cooperation for this field, it said, referring that there are 765 million illiterate people, two thirds of whom are females and women.

As the pace of technology in this world is acceler-

ating and cultures are enormous, rehabilitating individuals through a multilingual educational approach focusing on mother tongue is much needed than ever, it stated.

This approach contributed pivotally to boosting reading and writing skills, and encourages mutual understanding and the respect for cultural diversity, it noted. This backs efforts for building fairer and safer societies, and provides wide horizons for continued education, the statement pointed out.

Since 1967, the world has been marking the ILD to remind policy-makers and specialists of the key role of literacy to build more sustainable, fair and safe societies to be aware of reading and writing skills.

The Conversation

Pandemic increased screen use and parental guilt

'Guilt over kids' screen time is common, uncomfortable and can stress family relationships – but it can have silver lining'

By Robin Nabi

University of California, Santa Barbara

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

What parent hasn't been there? It's been a long day, you still have dinner to make, maybe lunches for tomorrow too, and you just don't have the energy to wrangle your kids into a new art project or plead with them to pick up a book.

Instead, you give in when they beg for more iPad time. Or maybe they promise they'll do their homework after just a few more YouTube videos, and it's easier to agree than have another argument. Now you're not only exhausted, you feel like a bad parent too.

If this resonates with you, you're not alone. Concern over how - and how much - their children are using media is a common source of parental guilt, which makes sense given the reputation of screen use as a frivolous waste of time, with no intrinsic value. So even if people are on their screens for a great reason - to relax, for example, or otherwise manage their moods - they are inclined to feel guilty about it. And this guilt undermines any stress-reducing benefit they might have otherwise enjoyed.

But as unpleasant as this guilt is, the good news is that those feelings, if you listen to them, can help encourage healthier choices for you and your kids.

Studies, including from my own media research group, have found that screen media use is among the most common tools that people of all ages use to decompress, relax and enjoy themselves.

But parents worry about their kids' screen use and for good reason. Without adequate management, screen time can too easily get out of hand, raising concerns about negative outcomes, such as compromised sleep, increased obesity risk, reduced academic performance and mental health challenges.

So here's the dilemma. Well-meaning parents set various rules to protect their children from the harms associated with too much screen time. But research shows that most parents break those rules. If a child is sick, why not let them play several hours of video games? Maybe you plop your child in front of the TV to keep them busy while you sort laundry or hop on a work call.

So what happens when you break your own rules - especially when those rules are in place to protect your children? You're primed to feel guilt, and because guilt is its own form of stress, this dynamic sets up tension that can be



An 11-year-old boy plays with his father's phone outside school in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, June 17, 2024. (AP)

unhealthy for both parents and kids.

The COVID-19 pandemic, when media use of all sorts increased among all demographics in the U.S. and internationally, gave my research team a unique opportunity to study the guilt that parents feel over their children's screen use.

Our research considered how the sudden and substantial increase in screen use at the onset of the pandemic affected how parents felt about their relationships with their children. We surveyed parents in March 2020 and another group of parents in both April and May of 2020. We asked about their child's amount of screen time, their feelings of guilt about their child's screen use, the stress they felt about it and how satisfied they were with their relationship with their child.

We found that 73% of parents experienced at least some guilt, and 48% felt moderate to intense guilt over their child's use of screens. So, parental screen guilt was quite common.

We also found that parents who felt more guilt about their child's screen use

also experienced greater stress about that screen use, and that greater stress was linked to feeling less satisfied with their relationship with their child. Importantly, parents' initial screen guilt in April predicted higher stress about screen use in May, but initial screen stress in April did not predict screen guilt in May. What does this mean? Screen guilt was, in fact, increasing stress, and not the other way around.

What about the amount of time kids spent on screens? Is that the reason why parents felt guilty and stressed? It turns out: not really. In our research, we found little to no relationship between how long children used screens and parents' screen guilt, screen stress or relationship satisfaction. In other words, it was the feelings of guilt over children's use of screens, regardless of the amount of use itself, that was problematic for the parents and, by extension, their children.

So, what can a parent do? Rather than berating yourself over perceived mistakes or misjudgments regarding media choices, it would be far more productive to find the value and deeper lessons in your screen guilt.

People feel guilt when they see their actions conflict with their internalized belief systems or standards of behavior. And as uncomfortable as guilty feelings may be, that guilt can be useful in helping you repair any harms you think you may have caused, particularly within relationships.

In other words, screen guilt can be useful information, nudging you to reflect on and adjust your own rules or choices. Was there a good reason to relax your usual limits on screen use, like when trying to comfort your child when they are sick? On the other hand, is your child suffering negative consequences, for example, not completing homework or getting exercise, because of leniency with screens? Or do you simply feel like a bad parent because you've internalized the belief that good parents don't let their children use screens?

Such reflection can be an opportunity to consider not only how your family is using screens but, importantly, what guardrails you might need to put in place, or adjust, to support family wellness.

Although you might not hear this sentiment often, not all screen media use is bad. There is, in fact, evidence that screen use and content can contribute to a range of wonderful outcomes, including learning, social connection, inspiration and, yes, relaxation and stress relief.

Although guilt may not be pleasant, if you take a moment to understand why you feel it, it can help guide you in creating not only a more balanced diet of media and real-world experiences for you and your family, but also more satisfying relationships with your kids. (AP)

She's here to 'save pop music'

Hilton waited 18 years to drop a new album 'Infinite Icon'

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): Nearly two decades ago, Paris Hilton released her debut album, 2006's eponymous "Paris," at one height of her powers — an album of breezy pop music that offered a soundtrack to her cheery and decadent public-facing lifestyle, anchored by the reggae-lite sugar rush of "Stars Are Blind."

Not that she's abandoned music in the time since. Atop of her endless parade of projects — most recently including a memoir, a documentary, a forthcoming reboot of "The Simple Life" for Peacock called "Paris and Nicole: The Encore," and activism centered on fixing Utah's troubled teen industry after opening up about the abuses she faced at Provo Canyon School — she's a DJ, and her long-awaited sophomore album "Infinite Icon" reflects her long-held interest in dance music and club culture.

"Music has always been such a huge passion for me," she told The Associated Press over Zoom. "Someone needed to come and save pop music. So I'm here." But those expecting a cut-and-paste repeat of "Paris" should look elsewhere.

"My first album was very much on just how my life was at that point. It was my Party Girl-era. The songs are just very carefree and fun and all about going out looking hot and having a great time," she continued. "This album definitely has a lot more deeper

meaning to it, and I just wanted the songs to really reflect on my life and my journey and be introspective."

There's "ADHD," a song that reframes the diagnosis as a kind of superpower; "Legacy," which she describes as an ode to her husband, children and fans all in one — an energetic electro-pop-punky track that sounds like it could've been cut from "Paris" and contemporized for a 2024 audience.

Sentiment

And the lead single "I'm Free," featuring Rina Sawayama, a disco-pop celebration of autonomy. For Hilton, the sentiment takes on a few different meanings.

"Going through what I went through at Provo Canyon school, it was just so traumatizing and so painful. And I remember the first song that I heard, when I got out of there, when I got out was 'Free' by Ultra Naté," she says. The song became her anthem, and when it came time to write her lead single, she wanted to pay homage to the track that resonated with her in that time.

To make "Infinite Icon," Hilton teamed up with Sia, who executive produced the record. The pair connected after performing "Stars Are Blind" with Miley Cyrus at Miley's New Year's Eve

Party on Dec. 1, 2022. Sia told Hilton she was "born to be a popstar," and so they got to work, bring in an all-star team of women to collaborate with: Sawayama, Megan Trainor, Megan Thee Stallion and Maria Becerra.

"It was really important to me to really do this album with all women," she says.

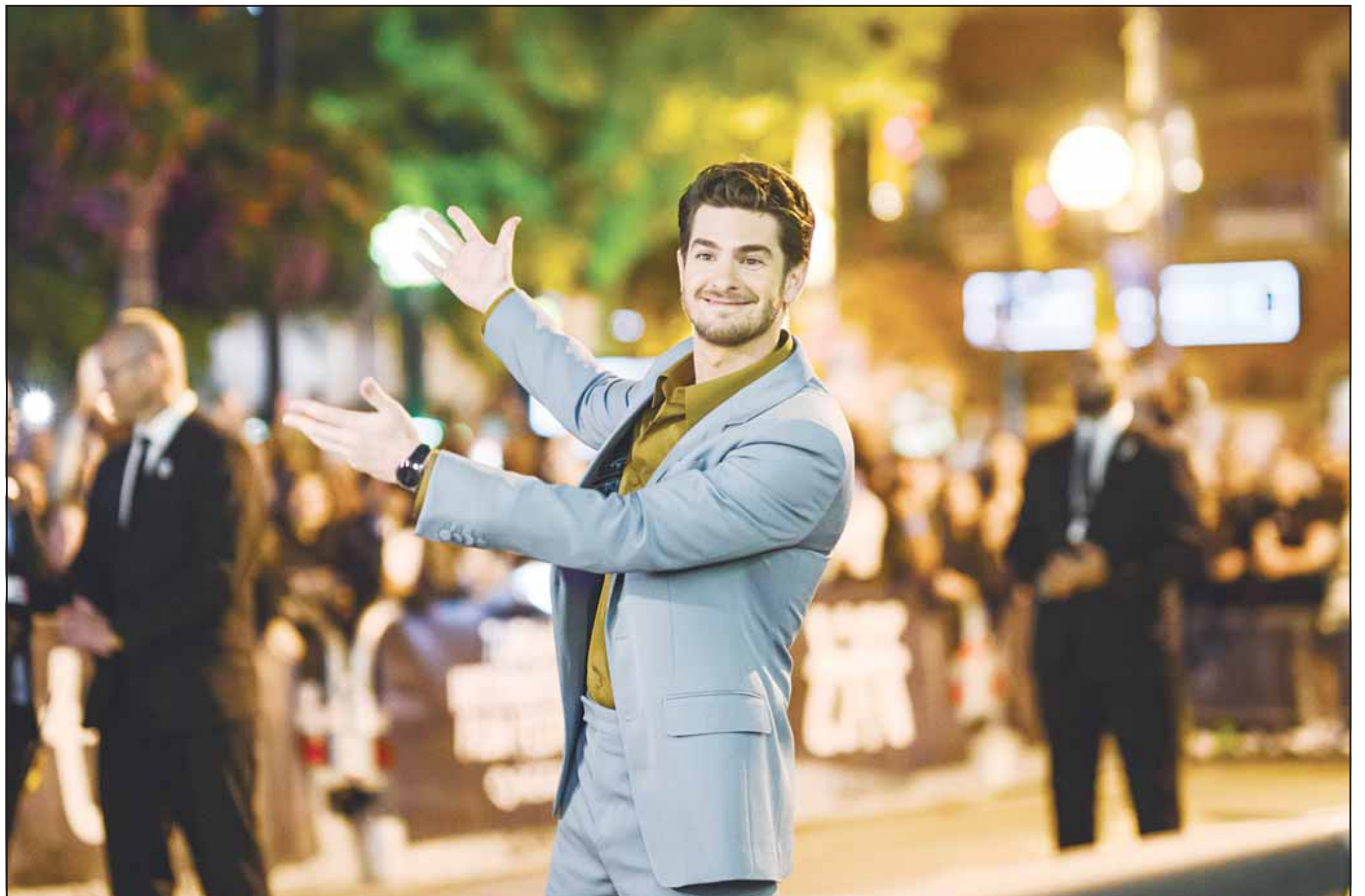
"I just wanted to have this album really be about empowering women," she adds. "Just songs for my girls, my gays, and songs for people to feel alive to. I want everyone who listens to this album to feel like their own unapologetic icon."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: They call him King George for a reason. On Friday, **George Strait** will release his 31st studio album, "Cowboys and Dreamers," a collection of classic-sounding contemporary country from a Texas troubadour who has nothing left to prove, and no reason to quit. Standouts include a collaboration with **Chris Stapleton** ("Honky Tonk Hall of Fame"), who opened for Strait on his recent stadium tour, a cover of **Waylon Jennings'** "Waymore's Blues," and the **Jimmy Buffet**-informed vacation stomper, "MIA Down in MIA."

Music

Variety



Andrew Garfield arrives on the red carpet for the film 'We Live in Time' during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto on Sept. 6. (AP)

Film

Protesters disrupt opening night of TIFF

Anderson takes a bow at Toronto Fest

TORONTO, Sept 7, (AP): The Toronto International Film Festival has played host to many comeback stories over the years. Brendan Fraser was cheered here two years ago for his performance in "The Whale." This year's unlikely comeback story might be Pamela Anderson.

On Friday, Gia Coppola premiered her film "The Last Showgirl," an indie drama starring Anderson as an aging Las Vegas showgirl. Shelley (Anderson) is the long-running star of casino dance show of scantily clad, feather-adorned women that has seen better days. With attendance dwindling, the show's stage manager (Dave Bautista) announces they will soon give their last performance, leaving Shelley - who believes sincerely in the show - pondering her choices.

The film, which is for sale in Toronto, drew mixed reviews but warm applause for the 57-year-old Anderson.

"I've been getting ready my whole life for this role," Anderson told the crowd at the Princess of Wales Theatre following the premiere.

For Anderson, whose most notable credits include "Baywatch" and "Borat," the festival acclaim was a novel experience. Even just getting a script like "The Last Showgirl" was something new for her.

"It's the first time I've read a good script, first of all. I've never had a script come to me that was coherent," said Anderson. "I was like: I'm the only one that can do this. I've never felt that strongly about something."

"The Last Showgirl" extends a run of good fortune for the former Playboy Playmate that includes her 2023 memoir "Love, Pamela" and the Emmy-nominated Netflix documentary "Pamela, A Love Story." It also shares some of the same themes as another TIFF entry, the body horror film "The Substance." That film, starring Demi Moore, likewise grapples with agism for female entertainers.

Jamie Lee Curtis, who co-stars as a very bronze casino waitress in "The Last Showgirl," got emotional discussing her character.

"I'm just a product of that same reality," said Curtis. "You know who Annette is. Every single one of you know an Annette. It's a movie about dreams and going after your dreams. But of course, the dreams become a really (expletive) harsh reality. And for women, it's a really harsh reality that men don't have as much."

Curtis then added, with a grin, "And a spray tan helps." Pro-Palestinian protesters disrupt opening night of Toronto Film Festival

Pro-Palestinian protesters disrupted an opening night screening at the TIFF, chanting "Stop the genocide!" during opening remarks.

At the screening for the David Gordon Green comedy "Nutcrackers" on Thursday evening, four protesters walked down the center aisle of the Princess of Wales Theatre, carrying signs and flashlights while shouting criticism of festival sponsor Royal Bank of Canada. "Cut ties with RBC," they yelled.

Cameron Bailey, festival director, was speaking at the podium on stage when the protest began. He tried to maintain order, urging the protestors, "We are here to start the festival." Numerous crowd members booed the protestors.

The protest lasted for a handful of minutes before the demonstrators were ushered out by security. Several attendees posted videos online of the episode.

Representatives for the festival didn't respond to requests for comment.

Attention

In a statement, RBC said: "We respect the right of individuals to make their voices heard, but it's unfortunate to see activist groups attempting to co-opt this important cultural event. Protestors targeting corporate sponsors are shifting attention from the work of artists and weakening support for essential arts and cultural programs."

The bank added: "The humanitarian crisis in Israel and Gaza continues to have a devastating impact and we feel deeply for everyone who is affected."

The TIFF is the clean-up hitter of the fall festival circuit. Coming on the heels of Venice and Telluride, Toronto tends to pull together many of the top films from those festivals, as well as a whole bunch more.

But it's been a few years since TIFF was quite itself. The pandemic stretched across several editions and, last year, the actors strike left Toronto's red carpets unusually bare.

This year's festival, running through Sept. 15, is opening Thursday with the premiere of David Gordon Green's "Nutcrackers," starring Ben Stiller as a workaholic forced to care for his rural Ohio nephews.

More than most years, it's hard to say what's likely to stand out the most at this year's TIFF. But with more than 200 feature films set to unspool, the festival is sure to offer up many of the fall's top films. Here are five questions heading into North America's largest film event.

VENICE, Italy: The 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival set to close Saturday, with the world premiere of **Kevin Costner's** "Horizon: An American Saga - Chapter 2" and the awards ceremony.

With no real consensus pick going into the evening, eyes are focused on what the **Isabelle Huppert**-led jury will bestow prizes upon this year. Many of the 21 titles playing in competition have been divisive, with passionate supporters and detractors.

Among the highest profile of the films up for the top prize include: **Todd Phillips'** "Joker: Folie à Deux," the not-a-musical-musical with Joaquin Phoenix and **Lady Gaga;** **Pablo Larrain's** **Maria Callas** film "Maria," starring **Angela Jolie** as the famed soprano; the erotic thriller "Babygirl" in which **Nicole Kidman** gets entangled in a complicated affair with an intern, played by **Harris Dickinson;** **Luca Guadagnino's** **William S. Burroughs** adaptation "Queer," with **Daniel Craig** as a junkie expat obsessed with a young student; **Brady Corbet's** 215-minute post-war epic about an architect and a Holocaust survivor rebuilding a life in America, "The Brutalist," starring **Adrien Brody;** and **Pedro Almodóvar's** English-language meditation on death and friendship, "The Room Next Door," starring **Julianne Moore** and **Tilda Swinton**.

Five years ago, the Venice jury surprised the film world by giving the Golden Lion to "Joker," which went on to win a best actor Oscar for **Phoenix**. Last year the top award went to "Poor Things" and the year before, the documentary "All the Beauty and the Bloodshed."

Though always a player in the international festival scene, Venice has cemented its reputation as a major launching pad for awards campaigns over the past 12 years. Since 2014, they've hosted four best picture winners ("Birdman," "Spotlight," "The Shape of Water" and "Nomadland") and 19 nominees. And buzz is already swirling about possible best actress nominations for Kidman and Jolie, actor for Craig and supporting actress for Gaga, as the fall film season kicks into full gear.

The festival this year marked a return to form with true A-listers back on the Lido to celebrate films both in and out of competition after last year's strike added outing. In addition to the names above, **George Clooney, Brad**

Pitt, Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder, Ethan Hawke, Sigourney Weaver were all lending their star power to the event.

And many rose to the occasion with their fashion. Gaga's Christian Dior gown paired with a vintage lace **Philip Treacy** headpiece made for a major red-carpet moment. As was Kidman's body



Kidman



Costner

hugging Schiaparelli, Blanchett's Armani Privé with strands of pearls cascading down her back, and Jolie with her fur stole. **Rachel Weisz** and **Daniel Craig** also played the power couple, with her in a glittery blue Versace gown and him in a cream Loewe suit. The "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" cast did also did a spin on the movie's

aesthetic with their wares. (AP)

SALEM, Ore.: Country singer **Jelly Roll** has been playing sold-out shows across the US as part of his "Beautifully Broken" tour. But earlier this week, his venue wasn't a massive arena: it was the **Oregon State Penitentiary**.

The award-winning artist posted a video and photos of his visit to the Salem prison on Instagram, showing him singing a cover of **Johnny Cash's** "Folsom Prison Blues" and signing autographs for people incarcerated at the prison.

According to Jelly Roll, it was the first live music in the prison yard in 20 years. (AP)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

People & Places

Books

Prestigious medal

Kingsolver receives US top literary award

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): **Barbara Kingsolver**, this year's recipient of a National Book Award medal for literary achievement, remembers well the years she couldn't imagine receiving such honors.

"I just felt this continuous skepticism, not from readers but from critics and the gatekeepers. It was on two counts," Kingsolver, 69, said during a recent telephone interview. "One: Because I was a rural writer and I lived in a rural place. I'm not a New Yorker. I don't write about city things, so that's always sort of positioned me as an outsider. Two: I'm a woman, and, certainly 30 years ago that was a strike against the writer."

On Friday, the National Book Foundation announced that Kingsolver was the 37th winner of its medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters (DCAL), which has previously been given to Toni Morrison,

Philip Roth and Joan Didion among others. Kingsolver's novels, including "The Bean Trees," "The Poisonwood Bible" and "Animal Trees," have sold millions of copies and have touched upon social issues from immigration and drug abuse to the environment and income inequality.

Nominations for the medal, which includes a \$10,000 cash prize, are made by former National Book Award winners, finalists, judges and other members of the literary community. Kingsolver will be honored during a Nov. 20 dinner ceremony in Manhattan, when winners in five competitive categories will be announced.

"I feel like I've been on this steady course, and it's a remarkable and wonderful feeling to be appreciated and honored this way by my peers," Kingsolver said. "It's not someone outside the field. It's the people who see literature as our livelihood and our spiritual anchor. And that means the world to me."

Achievement

At the ceremony, the Book Foundation will also present a lifetime achievement medal to activist-publisher W. Paul Coates for "outstanding service" to the American Literary Community. He will be introduced by his son, the author-journalist Tanehsi Coates, himself a National Book Award winner. Kingsolver will receive her award from her agent, Sam Stoloff of the Frances Goldin agency, whose eponymous founder was like a "mother to both Sam and me, so it felt perfect to me that we should stand together on this special occasion," she said.

Kingsolver is being celebrated at a time when her career has never been stronger; her most recent novel, "Demon Copperhead," was her most successful yet. A retelling of Charles Dickens' "David Copperfield," the young narrator a boy from Appalachia, "Demon Copperhead" was endorsed by Oprah Winfrey, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2023 and sold so well for so long as a hardcover that only this fall is it coming out in a paperback edition.

Kingsolver has received numerous other awards, including a National Humanities Medal, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize and the Women's Prize for Fiction - twice. She even established her own award, the Bellwether Prize for Social Change, which has cited books by Lisa Ko and Gayle Brandeis among others.

"Barbara Kingsolver's writing embraces the personal and the political, examining complex issues of social justice, exalting the natural world, and exploring progressive social change with care and specificity," Foundation Executive Director Ruth Dickey said in a statement. "For Kingsolver, writing is a tool for community activism - a way of shining a light on some of the most intricate environmental and social injustices of our time, and an art form through which she can share stories of her beloved Appalachia with the world. We have all benefited from her brilliance."

Kingsolver is a native of Annapolis, Maryland, who has lived everywhere from the Republic of Congo to Tucson, Arizona, among other places. But she identifies most strongly with Appalachia, where she spent much of her childhood and has lived for the past 20 years, on a farm in southwest Virginia with her husband, Steven Hopp. Kingsolver majored in the sciences at DePauw University and the University of Arizona, worked as a freelance journalist in Arizona after graduating and unofficially launched her literary career when she won a local story writing contest.

Generation

Over the past generation, Kingsolver has seen changes she believes enabled voices like hers to be heard. When she started out, she says, the anti-Communist blacklists of the 1950 and 60s had still left the artistic landscape "scarred," reluctant to take on issues beyond families and relationships. But more recently she has welcomed what she calls "green sprigs of grass," writers such as Jesmyn Ward and Colson Whitehead who take on race, or the environmental fiction of Richard Powers. Her own work demonstrates that you can raise larger questions and sustain a mass readership.

"In another part of my life, I write op-ed pieces, I write letters to the editor of my local paper, I go to school board meetings. I know how to do that," she says. "But that isn't literature. Literature is not telling a reader what to think. There's a modicum of condescension in any didactic work that you do. I leave that at the door to my writing. I never condescend to my readers. I never assume to know something they don't."

As a bestselling author, she has the rare luck to tour nationwide for her books and meet at least some of her fans - those, she notes, who are "at liberty to come to a reading," often in urban settings. Kingsolver thinks of readers she wouldn't expect to turn up. She receives letters from Africa, from prison, from people who grew up in foster care.

"They all know things that I don't know," she says. "I go into this as I would go into a conversation with a friend. I say, 'Here's something that troubles me. I wonder if it troubles you. Let's take a walk. I'm going to give you a story. I'm going to give you a reason to turn the page while we take this walk.'"



This image released by Briarcliff Entertainment shows Maria Bakalova, (left), and Sebastian Stan in a scene from the film 'The Apprentice.' (AP)

Film

They made a Trump film, now no distributors

'Apprentice' battles for screen time

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): Hard as it may be to believe, there aren't a lot of Hollywood agents clamoring for their star clients to take the role of one of the polarizing political figures of the 21st century.

Sebastian Stan, though, was committed to "The Apprentice." More than anything, he believed in its director, the Iranian Danish filmmaker Ali Abbasi. And, even though it made him nervous - or maybe because it made it him nervous - he wanted to do it. He wanted to play Donald Trump.

"There wasn't a lot of competition," Stan says, chuckling.

"It was one of those things I thought: If this isn't going to happen, it's not going to happen because of me," Stan says. "It's not going to happen because I'm scared."

By a landslide, "The Apprentice" is the most controversial movie of the fall. It stars Stan as a young Trump playing apprentice to the attorney Roy Cohn (Jeremy Strong) while trying to make a name for himself in 1980s New York real estate. Already, "The Apprentice" has had one of the most tortured paths to movie theaters of any 2024 release.

After its debut at the Cannes Film Festival, all the major studios and top specialty labels passed on making an offer. One potential issue was a cease and desist letter from Trump's legal team. Another was that one of the movie's investors - Dan Snyder, the former owner of the Washington Commanders and a Trump supporter - wanted to exit the movie.

Campaign

Only last week, Briarcliff Entertainment announced that it will open "The Apprentice" on Oct. 11, just weeks before Election Day. And it's still fighting for more screens. On Tuesday, the filmmakers took the unusual step of launching a Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign to raise money for its release.

"This project has been pretty crazy, from beginning to the end," Abbasi says. "It's still not completely there. It's going to get more crazy, maybe."

Trump's reelection campaign has vigorously opposed the movie. After its Cannes debut, Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung called the film "pure fiction." On Friday, after its release date was confirmed, Cheung declared it "election interference by Hollywood elites."

What role, if any, "The Apprentice" might play in the lead-up to Nov. 5 will be one of the most notable storylines at the movies this fall. While many Hollywood stars are vocal supporters of Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, it's far rarer that plainly political films squeak through today's sequel- and superhero-dominated movie industry. That makes for a unique election-year test case: Will liberals want to see a film about Trump? Will conservatives turn out for a film Trump opposes?

Abbasi, whose previous film "Holy Spider" turned a questioning eye on Iranian society through the story of a serial killer targeting women, says he's not

demand levels can fluctuate and lead to surging prices while also sometimes leading to lower prices. It is a more common practice in the US than in the UK.

Many Oasis fans who queued online at the Ticketmaster site for hours Saturday complained that they ended up paying more than double the face value of the ticket as a result of dynamic pricing, with standard standing tickets often sold for 355 pounds (\$470) as com-

Footage of motorcade racing JFK to hospital to hit auction

DALLAS, Sept 7, (AP): Newly emerged film footage of President John F. Kennedy's motorcade speeding down a Dallas freeway toward a hospital after he was fatally wounded will go up for auction later this month.

Experts say the find isn't necessarily surprising even over 60 years after the assassination.

"These images, these films and photographs, a lot of times they are still out there. They are still being discovered or rediscovered in attics or garages," said Stephen Fagin, curator at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, which tells the story of the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963.

RR Auction will offer up the 8 mm home film in Boston on Sept. 28. It begins with Dale Carpenter Sr. just missing the limousine carrying the president and first lady Jacqueline Kennedy but capturing other vehicles in the motorcade as it traveled down Lemmon Avenue toward downtown. The film then picks up after Kennedy has been shot, with Carpenter rolling as the motorcade roars down Interstate 35.

"This is remarkable, in color, and you can feel the 80 mph," said Bobby Livingston, executive vice president of the auction house.

The footage from I-35 - which lasts about 10 seconds - shows Secret Service Agent Clint Hill - who famously jumped onto the back of

the limousine as the shots rang out - hovering in a standing position over the president and Jacqueline Kennedy, whose pink suit can be seen.

"I did not know that there were not any more shots coming," Hill said. "I had a vision that, yes, there probably were going to be more shots when I got up there as I did."

The shots had fired as the motorcade passed through Dealey Plaza in front of the Texas School Book Depository, where it was later found that assassin Lee Harvey Oswald had positioned himself from a sniper's perch on the sixth floor. The assassination itself was famously captured on film by Abraham Zapruder.

After the shots, the motorcade turned onto I-35 and sped toward Parkland Memorial Hospital, where Kennedy would be pronounced dead. It was the same route the motorcade would have taken to deliver Kennedy to his next stop, a speech at the Trade Mart.

Carpenter's grandson, James Gates, said that while it was known in his family that his grandfather had film from that day, it wasn't talked about often. So Gates said that when the film, stored along with other family films in a milk crate, was eventually passed on to him, he wasn't sure exactly what his grandfather, who died in 1991 at age 77, had captured.

ascend."

"The Apprentice" found a mixed reception from critics at Cannes, though Stan and Strong were widely praised. The movie notably includes a scene in which Trump, as played by Stan, rapes Ivana (played by Maria Bakalova). In Ivana Trump's 1990 divorce deposition, she stated that Trump raped her. Trump denied the allegation and Ivana Trump later said she didn't mean it literally, but rather that she had felt violated.

But, Abbasi maintains, "The Apprentice" is not a hit job. He has insisted that Trump, himself, might like the movie. At the same time, some critics have questioned whether "The Apprentice" shows too much empathy to Trump and Cohn, who was Sen. Joseph McCarthy's chief counsel during the 1954 communist hearings.

"I don't think any of us are above it. I don't think any of us are born perfect people or we're not morally compromised," says Stan. "It's really, really much muddier and trickier than that, life is. I think the only way we can learn is through empathy. I think we have to protect empathy and continue to nourish it. And I think one way of nourishing empathy is showing what its exact opposite can be."

pared to the expected 148 (\$195). Critics said it was deceptive and inappropriate to use dynamic pricing for the concerts given that it was well-known in advance that demand for the fixed number of tickets would be sky-high.

The CMA said it would scrutinize whether Ticketmaster, the UK's biggest seller of tickets, may have engaged in unfair commercial practices and whether it breached consumer protection law. (AP)



Pamela Anderson attends the premiere of 'The Last Showgirl' during the Toronto International Film Festival on Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, at Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto. (AP) - Details Page 11

Variety

ATLANTA: An autopsy was performed Friday on rapper **Rich Homie Quan**, but his cause of death won't be given until further tests are completed, officials said.

Georgia's Fulton County medical examiner said the examination had been completed a day after Quan, whose legal name is **Dequante Devontay Lamar**, died in an Atlanta hospital at age 33.

"The cause and manner of death are pending the completion of laboratory studies and microscopic examination of tissue slides," the medical examiner said. It was not immediately clear when the tests would be done, but the process can take months.

The Atlanta rapper was one of the biggest names in hip-hop in the mid-2010s, gaining mainstream fame through trap singles "Type of Way" and "Flex (Ooh, Ooh, Ooh)."

Quan was one of the biggest names in hip-hop in the mid-2010s. He released a slew of mixtapes before he broke through in 2013 with the infectious "Type of Way." The song became such a success that several other rappers jumped on the remix, including **Jeezy** and **Meek Mill**. (AP)

RIO DE JANEIRO: **Sergio Mendes**, the celebrated Brazilian musician whose 1966 hit "Mas Que Nada" made him a global superstar and helped launched a long, Grammy-winning career, has died after months battling the effects of long COVID. He was 83.

The death Thursday of the Brazilian pianist, songwriter and arranger was confirmed in a statement by his family.

"His wife and musical partner for the past 54 years, **Gracinha Leporace Mendes**, was by his side, as were his loving children," the statement Friday said. "Mendes last performed in November 2023 to sold out and wildly enthusiastic houses in **Paris, London and Barcelona**."

Mendes was born in **Niterói**, Rio de Janeiro's sister city, and studied classical music at a conservatory before joining jazz groups. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, he began playing Bossa Nova as the genre was heating up in Rio's nightclub scene with **Antonio Carlos Jobim, João Gilberto** and others. (AP)

LONDON: The UK's competition watchdog has launched an investigation into the way more than one million tickets were sold for next year's reunion concerts from iconic 1990s Britpop band Oasis.

In a statement Thursday, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said its investigation into Live Nation Entertainment's unit Ticketmaster will look specifically at "dynamic pricing," whereby prices can vary rapidly in light of changing market conditions.

It is a pricing strategy used in flight sales and home food deliveries, where



Quan



Mendes

Genetic disorder DMD affects up to 500,000 globally

WHO commends Kuwait efforts on Duchenne Awareness Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The World Health Organization (WHO) praised Kuwait for its efforts to raise awareness about Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) through various platforms, aiming to advance treatment and care for the genetic condition. WHO Representative to Kuwait, Dr. Asad Hafeez, issued the statement on the occasion of World Duchenne Awareness Day, observed annually on September 7.

The statement highlighted Kuwait's significant role in promoting World Duchenne Awareness Day across different forums, including the United Nations in New York. These efforts are intended to enhance understanding of rare genetic disorders, promote early diagnosis, and support advancements in treatment

and care. Dr. Hafeez emphasized that Kuwait's contributions extend beyond national borders, aligning with the international community's efforts to improve the lives of individuals affected by DMD and similar genetic disorders, which, while rare, have a profound impact on quality of life and impose substantial health costs.

Dr. Hafeez described World Duchenne Awareness Day as a crucial opportunity to amplify the voices of those affected by the disease. He reaffirmed WHO's commitment to collaborating with Kuwait and other member states to improve healthcare access, early diagnosis, and therapeutic support, ensuring that affected families receive the necessary care and support.

The theme for this year's awareness day, "Raise Your Voice for Duchenne,"

underscores the importance of advocating for individuals with Duchenne and other dystrophin diseases, calling for action to defend their rights and ensure they receive proper inclusion and care.

The United Nations and the WHO continue to work with member states to raise awareness, provide best practice guidelines, and integrate the needs of vulnerable populations into health and non-health policies through ongoing collective action and commitment.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is a genetic disorder transmitted from generation to generation, predominantly affecting males. It occurs in approximately 1 in every 3,500 live births, with global estimates of affected individuals potentially reaching up to half a million cases.

Focus on surveillance, lab testing

WHO and Africa CDC launch \$600M mpox response plan

DAKAR, Senegal, Sept 7, (AP): The Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization launched on Friday a continent-wide response plan to the outbreak of mpox, three weeks after WHO declared outbreaks in 12 African countries a global emergency.

The estimated budget for the six-month plan is almost \$600 million, with 55% allocated to the response to mpox in 14 affected nations and boosting readiness in 15 others, Africa CDC director-general Dr. Jean Kaseya told reporters on Friday. The other 45% is directed towards operational and technical support through partners. The organization didn't give an indication of who would be funding it.

The plan focuses on surveillance, laboratory testing and community engagement, Kaseya said, underscoring the fact that vaccines aren't enough to fight the spreading outbreak.

Infections

The organization said that since the start of 2024, there have been 5,549 confirmed mpox cases across the continent, with 643 associated deaths, representing a sharp escalation in both infections and fatalities compared to previous years. The cases in Congo constituted 91% of the total number. Most mpox infections in Congo and Burundi, the second most affected country, are in children under age 15.

The plan comes a day after the first batch of mpox vaccines arrived in the capital of Congo, the center of the outbreak. The 100,000 doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine, manufactured by the Danish company Bavarian Nordic, have been donated by the European Union through HERA, the bloc's agency for health emergencies. Another 100,000 are expected to be delivered on Saturday, Congolese authorities said.

"These vaccines are vital in safeguarding our health workers and vulnerable populations, and in curbing the spread of mpox," Kaseya said Thursday.

The 200,000 doses are just a fraction of the 3 million that doses authorities have said are needed to end the mpox outbreaks in Congo, the epicenter of the global health emergency. The European Union countries pledged to donate more than 500,000 others, but the timeline for their delivery remained unclear.

Emmanuel Lampaert, a representative of Doctors Without Borders in Congo, said that vaccination was an additional tool. Basic health measures were still crucial to combat the outbreak, and there were challenges with that in many parts of Congo.

Congo issued an emergency approval of the vaccine, which has already been used in Europe and the United States in adults, but it remained unclear on Friday when the vaccination campaign would begin. For the moment, the rollout would be reserved for adults, Kaseya said, with priority targeted groups being those who have been in close contact with infected people and sex workers.

The European Medicines Agency is examining additional data to be able to administer it to children ranging in age from 12 to 17, which could happen at the end of the month, HERA Director-General Laurent Muschel said.

"We don't have all the answers," Muschel told reporters on Friday. "We learn by doing. We are going to adapt the strategy depending on the impact of the vaccination campaign."



A man suffering from mpox waits for treatment at the Kamituga General Hospital in South Kivu Congo, Wednesday, Sept. 4. (AP)

More required

The first 100,000 'doses' of mpox vaccine reach Congo

KINSHASA, Congo, Sept 7, (AP): The first batch of mpox vaccine arrived in Congo's capital on Thursday, the country's authorities said, three weeks after the World Health Organization declared mpox outbreaks in 12 African countries a global emergency.

The 100,000 doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine, manufactured by the Danish company Bavarian Nordic, have been donated by the European Union through HERA, the bloc's agency for health emergencies. Another 100,000 are expected to be delivered on Saturday, Congolese authorities said.

UNICEF is going to be in charge of the vaccination campaign in the most impacted provinces, Congo's Health Minister Roger Kamba told reporters after the delivery of the vaccine. But it remained unclear when the vaccination drive would begin.

About 380,000 doses of mpox vaccines have been promised by Western partners such as the European Union and the United States, Dr. Jean Kaseya, head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told reporters last week. That is less than 15% of the 3 million doses authorities have said are needed to end the mpox outbreaks in Congo, the epicenter of the global

health emergency.

The organization said that since the start of 2024, Congo has reported more than 4,900 confirmed mpox cases, with more than 629 associated deaths, representing a sharp escalation in both infections and fatalities compared to previous years. Most mpox infections in Congo are in children under age 15.

"These vaccines are vital in safeguarding our health workers and vulnerable populations, and in curbing the spread of mpox," Kaseya said on Thursday.

Following the global mpox outbreak in 2022, wealthy countries quickly responded with vaccines and treatments from their stockpiles. However, only a few doses have reached Africa despite pleas from its governments.

MVA-BN vaccine has already been used in Europe and the United States, the E.U. said, and it is authorized for use in adults. The European Medicines Agency is examining additional data to be able to administer it to children aged 12 to 17, which could happen at the end of the month.

215,000 doses were pledged and purchased for an undisclosed amount specifically to be donated to Congo, said Laurent Muschel, the Director-General of HERA.

Legionnaire's disease kills 3 in US

ALBANY, N.Y., Sept 7, (AP): Three people who tested positive for Legionnaires' disease have died after an outbreak at an assisted living facility in upstate New York, officials said Thursday.

Albany County health officials became aware of a cluster of cases at Peregrine Senior Living at Shaker in Albany on Friday. Ten people tested positive for the disease, including the three who died. Two of the people who died were hospitalized for other health issues, according to a news release from the county.

Further information about the deaths was not immediately available.

Twenty people have been hospitalized since Friday, with some released since then.

Legionnaires' disease is a serious

type of pneumonia caused by inhaling small water droplets containing legionella bacteria. People who are older, have weakened immune systems, or have certain medical conditions like chronic lung disease are at higher risk for developing Legionnaires' disease.

The operators of Peregrine said they have been coordinating with state and local health officials to safeguard residents, staff and visitors.

"Since that time, we have installed advanced water filters in as many locations as possible, including in designated bathing and showering locations," Peregrine executive director Kristyn Ganim said in a prepared release. Residents also are being provided with bottled water, she said.

An email seeking information was sent to the state Department of Health.

Test pilots return was too risky: NASA

Two astronauts left in space as Boeing's capsule returns empty

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): Boeing's first astronaut mission ended Friday night with an empty capsule landing and two test pilots left in space, left behind until next year because NASA judged their return too risky.

Six hours after departing the International Space Station, Starliner parachuted into New Mexico's White Sands Missile Range, descending on autopilot through the desert darkness.

It was an uneventful close to a drama that began with the June launch of Boeing's long-delayed crew debut and quickly escalated into a dragged-out cliffhanger of a mission stricken by thruster failures and helium leaks. For months, Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams' return was in question as engineers struggled to understand the capsule's problems.

Testing

Boeing insisted after extensive testing that Starliner was safe to bring the two home, but NASA disagreed and booked a flight with SpaceX instead. Their SpaceX ride won't launch until the end of this month, which means they'll be up there until February - more than eight months after blasting off on what should have been a quick trip.

Wilmore and Williams should have flown Starliner back to Earth by mid-June, a week after launching in it. But their ride to the space station was marred by the cascade of thruster trouble and helium loss, and NASA ultimately decided it was too risky to return them on Starliner.

So with fresh software updates, the fully automated capsule left with their empty seats and blue spacesuits along with some old station equipment.

"She's on her way home," Williams



Boeing and NASA teams work around NASA's Boeing Crew Flight Test Starliner spacecraft after it landed uncrewed, Friday, Sept. 6. (AP)

radioed as the white and blue-trimmed capsule undocked from the space station 260 miles (420 kilometers) over China and disappeared into the black void. Williams stayed up late to see how everything turned out. "A good landing, pretty awesome," said Boeing's Mission Control.

Cameras on the space station and a pair of NASA planes caught the capsule as a white streak coming in for the touchdown, which drew cheer.

There were some snags during reentry, including more thruster issues, but Starliner made a "bull's-eye landing," said NASA's commercial crew program manager Steve Stich.

Even with the safe return, "I think we made the right decision not to have Butch and Suni on board," Stich said at a news conference early Saturday. "All of us feel happy about the successful landing. But then there's a piece of us, all of us, that we wish it would have been the way we had planned it."

Boeing did not participate in the Houston news briefing. But two of the company's top space and defense officials, Ted Colbert and Kay Sears, told

employees in a note that they backed NASA's ruling.

"While this may not have been how we originally envisioned the test flight concluding, we support NASA's decision for Starliner and are proud of how our team and spacecraft performed," the executives wrote.

Setbacks

Starliner's crew demo capped a journey filled with delays and setbacks. After the space shuttles retired more than a decade ago, NASA hired Boeing and SpaceX for orbital taxi service. Boeing ran into so many problems on its first test flight with no one aboard in 2019 that it had to repeat it. The 2022 do-over uncovered even more flaws and the repair bill topped \$1 billion.

SpaceX's crew ferry flight later this month will be its 10th for NASA since 2020. The Dragon capsule will launch on the half-year expedition with only two astronauts since two seats are reserved for Wilmore and Williams for the return leg.

As veteran astronauts and retired Navy captains, Wilmore and Williams anticipated hurdles on the test flight. They've kept busy in space, helping with repairs and experiments. The two are now full-time station crew members along with the seven others on board.

Even before the pair launched on June 5 from Cape Canaveral, Florida, Starliner's propulsion system was leaking helium. The leak was small and thought to be isolated, but four more cropped up after liftoff. Then five thrusters failed. Although four of the thrusters were recovered, it gave NASA pause as to whether more malfunctions might hamper the capsule's descent from orbit.

Harmless asteroid burns up over Philippines

China lands reusable trial spacecraft

JIUQUAN, Sept 7, (Agencies): A reusable experimental spacecraft successfully returned to its scheduled landing site on Friday.

The spacecraft, which launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, returned after 268 days of in-orbit operation.

The success of the experiment demonstrates the growing maturity of China's reusable spacecraft technologies, which will pave the way for more convenient and affordable round-trip methods for the peaceful use of space in the future.

Meanwhile, China plans to carry out the Tianwen-3 mission through two launches around 2028, aiming to bring back samples from Mars, a Chinese space expert said on Thursday.

Liu Jizhong, chief designer of China's Mars sample-return mission, unveiled the details at the 2nd International Deep Space Exploration Conference in Tunxi of Huangshan City in east China's Anhui Province.

Also:

NEW YORK: A small asteroid discovered on Wednesday harmlessly burned up in Earth's atmosphere the same day,

NASA said.

The asteroid - about 3 feet (1 meter) across - was spotted by astronomers in Arizona and broke apart over the coast of the Philippines hours after the discovery.

This space rock, dubbed 2024 RW1, is only the ninth to have been spotted before its impact. Asteroids around this size hurtle toward Earth about every two weeks without posing any danger.

The asteroid was discovered through the Catalina Sky Survey, which is run by the University of Arizona and funded by NASA.

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Sky ends 7-game skid with victory over Sparks

Lynx overcomes Clark's 25-point night for win over Fever

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 7, (AP): Napheesa Collier scored nine of her 26 points in the third quarter, Bridget Carleton made three 3-pointers in the final four minutes and the Minnesota Lynx overcame a 25-point night by Caitlin Clark to snap Indiana's five-game winning streak with a 99-88 win over the Fever on Friday night.

The Lynx trailed 50-45 at halftime before Collier scored nine of their opening 20 points of the third quarter for a 65-57 lead.

Collier blocked Clark's shot in the paint and Courtney Williams made a jumper from the free-throw line at the other end to extend Minnesota's lead to 70-60. Clark went to the bench and Myisha Hines-Allen scored the next three points to give Minnesota a 13-point lead.

Indiana made just three field goals in the third quarter before making three in the opening two minutes of the fourth to get back in it.

The Fever were within 81-80 before Carleton sank a 3-pointer from the corner. She added a 3-pointer from the top of the key to make it 87-80 and she grabbed an offensive

rebound on the Lynx's next possession, leading to Williams' 3-pointer.

Sky 92, Sparks 78

In Chicago, Angel Reese finished with 24 points and 12 rebounds for her rookie record 26th double-double of the season and the Chicago Sky snapped a seven-game losing streak with a victory over the Los Angeles Sparks.

BASKETBALL

Reese made 9 of 15 shots with a 3-pointer and all five of her free throws as Chicago (12-22) remained tied with the Atlanta Dream for the final spot in the postseason with six games remaining.

Chennedy Carter finished with 15 points, nine rebounds and seven assists in her return for the Sky. Carter had not played since Aug. 25 due to health and safety protocols. Kamilla Cardoso totaled 12 points and nine boards.

Dearica Hamby had 21 points, five assists and four steals to lead Los Angeles (7-27), which has lost three

in a row and 10 of its last 11. Rookie Rickea Jackson added 17 points and six rebounds.

Dream 107, Wings

In College Park, Rhyne Howard scored a season-high 33 points to become the first Atlanta player since 2013 to put up consecutive 30-point performances and the Dream beat the Dallas Wings in overtime.

Howard, who was coming off a 31-point game against Phoenix on Tuesday, reached the mark by making a free throw with 19 seconds left in regulation for a 92-90 lead.

On Dallas' final possession of regulation, Arike Ogunbowale missed a 3-pointer and Teaira McCowan grabbed the offensive rebound before missing another shot. Dallas guard Jacy Sheldon secured the loose ball and it eventually landed in the hands of Natasha Howard, who made a tying jumper near the free-throw line.

But Atlanta (12-22), which trailed by as many as 16 points, dominated overtime 15-4.

Atlanta started strong in over-

time with Rhyne Howard making a 3-pointer with three minutes left for a six-point lead. Tina Charles put Atlanta ahead 104-96 on a hook shot in the lane after her team grabbed three offensive rebounds on one possession.

Aces 72, Sun 67

In Uncasville, Kelsey Plum had 27 points, A'ja Wilson scored 20 and the Las Vegas Aces rallied to beat the Connecticut Sun.

Plum sank 8 of 15 shots with three 3-pointers to help Las Vegas (22-12) extend its win streak to four. Wilson made 8 of 15 shots, adding eight rebounds. The two-time MVP needs 10 points to set the league's single-season scoring record. Jewell Loyd set the mark with 939 for the Seattle Storm last season.

Chelsea Gray made three 3-pointers and finished with 13 points and six assists for the Aces.

Brianna Jones led Connecticut (24-10) with 17 points. Marina Mabrey scored 15, while DeWanna Bonner totaled 11 points and nine rebounds. Alyssa Thomas had 10 rebounds but also had eight of the



Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) drives on Minnesota Lynx guard Kayla McBride (21) in the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

Sun's 18 turnovers.

Plum scored the first five points to put Las Vegas on top early. Jones and Mabrey combined to score 14 from there as Connecticut battled back for a 22-17 lead after one quarter.

The Aces made one shot in the second quarter - a 3-pointer by Plum - and six free throws, falling behind 38-26 at halftime. Wilson, who leads the league with a 27.2 scoring average, had five points at the half on 2-for-7 shooting.

Woodhall wins sprint title to join wife as a gold medalist



Iran Men's Sitting Volleyball Team poses after winning the Men's Gold Medal Match in Paris, France. (AP)

PARIS, Sept 7, (AP): One month after Tara Davis-Woodhall's Olympic title in the long jump, her husband Hunter Woodhall, a double amputee, won his own Paralympic gold medal Friday at the Stade de France.

Davis-Woodhall's rush into the stands for a celebratory hug from her husband became a viral mo-

PARALYMPICS

ment during the Olympics, and the roles switched this time in the Paralympics.

Woodhall won the T62 400 meters in 46.36 seconds, leaving Germany's Johannes Floors the silver in 46.90 and the Netherlands' Oliver Hendricks the bronze in 46.91.

Woodhall, who raced for the able-bodied track team in college at Arkansas, also won a bronze medal as part of America's 4x100 universal relay team. This comes a year after he didn't make it to the starting line at Para world championships because his prosthetics were malfunctioning.

Yui Kamiji swept the women's wheelchair tennis competition at the Paris Paralympics.

She won the singles final over Dutch favorite Diede De Groot 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 at Roland Garros.

The day before, Kamiji won her first gold medal in the doubles with Japan teammate Manami Tanaka. They beat



Australia's James Turner celebrates after winning the Men's 100 M. T36 at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France. (AP)

De Groot and Aniek Van Koot. Wheelchair tennis officially joined the Paralympics in 1992. Since then, only Dutch players had won the women's singles and doubles.

De Groot was the defending champion in both.

Star Chinese swimmer Guo Jincheng won a fourth gold medal at these Games.

Guo claimed the S5 50-meter butterfly in 30.28 seconds, a world and Paralympic record.

Two countrymen completed the podium, Yuan Weiyi and Wang Lichao.

The 23-year-old Guo, who doesn't have arms, has gained online recognition for his dolphin-like swimming style, which relies on the strength of

his legs.

Overall, Guo has six medals from these Games and set two world records.

British cycling star Sarah Storey claimed her 19th gold medal in the women's C4-5 road race.

The 46-year-old Storey finished just ahead of French teenager Heidi Gaugain in a sprint to the line as both completed the 71-kilometer course in the Paris suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois in 1 hour, 54 minutes, 24 seconds.

Colombia's Paula Andrea Ossa Velez was 20 seconds behind for bronze.

Storey won the C5 individual time trial for her 18th Paralympic gold on Wednesday.

She also won the time trial and road race at the Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro and London Games, while she won a women's LC1/LC2/CP4 time trial in Beijing in 2008.

She has five more Paralympic gold medals from the track, and yet more from swimming since she won her first gold in the pool in Barcelona in 1992.

The Paris Games are her ninth Paralympics.

China set a world record in the 4x100 universal relay, clocking 45.07 seconds in the final.

It beat its own previous record of 45.09 from the heats.

The 4x100-meter universal relay is a mixed-gender and mixed-disability race featuring two men and two women with different disabilities.

Each team begins with a visually impaired athlete, followed by an amputee sprinter, then an athlete with cerebral palsy, and finishes with a wheelchair racer.

China's team was Zhou Guohua, Wang Hao, Wen Xiaoyan and Hu Yang.

Britain was second and the United States third.

Iran defeated Bosnia and Herzegovina 3-1 in the sitting volleyball final for a second successive gold medal.

Iran has won eight Paralympic golds in sitting volleyball since its first at the 1988 Seoul Games.

In the final, Iran's Morteza Mehrzadselakjani was the top scorer with 27 points. Mehrzadselakjani is the world's second-tallest man at 8-foot-1 (2.46 meters). Even when he's sitting, he's more than 6 feet (1.8 meters) with his arms raised.

Xi's pledge not working

China soccer looks like 'going down the drain'

TOKYO, Sept 7, (AP): Chinese President Xi Jinping is reported to be a big soccer fan, and he promised in a 2015 document to resuscitate the men's national team, damaged by abysmal results on the global stage and widespread corruption in local leagues.

He cannot be happy.

Japan defeated China 7-0 on Thursday in a World Cup qualifier in Saitama, Japan, a brutal loss that came against one of China's biggest sports and geopolitical rivals in Asia. It was China's most lopsided loss against Japan, and a historic loss in World Cup qualifying.

China's national team coach Branko Ivankovic of Croatia called it a "most difficult night," as quoted in English by the official Xinhua news agency, which termed the loss "humiliating."

Wataru Endo and Kaoru Mitoma scored in the first half on a night of Asian World Cup qualifiers. Takumi Minamoto scored twice in the second half with others from Daizen Maeda, Junya Ito and Takefusa Kubo.

"It was a tough match," Xinhua quoted Ivankovic as saying. "And as a coach, this was the most difficult night for me."

Reaction in China was muted on state media. The China Sports Daily had a very short story titled: "China lost to Japan in World Cup qualifier" with few details.

But there was more discussion on Chinese social media.

Zhang Feng, a journalist and commentator with a popular blog, was direct.

"Football cannot be boosted by singing odes, or telling stories," he wrote. "It needs skill, and physical and tactical training. It cannot be accomplished through politics."

Tang Yinghong, a prolific writer with a large following, suggested football is not a good fit for China, which won 40 gold medals in the recent Paris Olympics to tie the United States. Some were in sports like diving and others that do not have a large global following.

"In my opinion, let's just let football develop on its own," Tang wrote. "Leaders should not place high hopes on the sport, and the government needn't give it a lot of care."

China has nine more qualifying matches remaining, and still has a shot at reaching the expanded, 48-team World Cup in 2026, hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada. But even with the larger and weakened field, China still might not make it.

China has qualified only once for the World Cup. It lost all three matches in 2002 and failed to score a goal.

China is No. 87 in the most recent FIFA rankings for men's teams, just below the Caribbean island of Curaçao (population 150,000), and just above the African nation of Equatorial Guinea (1.7 million). China's population is about 1.4 billion.

American to focus on expanding family

Alex Morgan leaves women's soccer 'in an amazing place'

SAN DIEGO, Sept 7, (AP): Alex Morgan walked into her retirement news conference Friday thinking she'd be the only player there from the San Diego Wave.

She was surprised by an ovation from her teammates who packed the first two rows.

"This is your day off!" Morgan said, clearly touched by the moment.

After becoming one of the more recognizable athletes in the United States during her brilliant 15-year professional career, Morgan can expect a lot more of the same Sunday, when she'll play her final match for the Wave, against the North Carolina Courage at Snapdragon Stadium.

Morgan is retiring because she's pregnant with her second child. She's confident she's done all she can both on and off the pitch for the women's game, which she said is in "an amazing place."

"I will be playing limited minutes this weekend, but nonetheless, it's always an honor to be able to lace up my boots and step out on that field for one last time," Morgan said.

Morgan, 35, said she didn't expect to retire midseason but found out a few weeks ago she was pregnant. She and husband Servando Carrasco, a former MLS player, have a 4-year-old daughter, Charlie.

"As unexpected as it was, I was so happy because this was what our family wanted, a couple of months sooner than expected, but, nonetheless we were very overjoyed," said Morgan, who had originally planned to retire at the end of the season.

After speaking with her husband and doctor about how long she could safely play, she decided Sunday would be her final match with the National Women's Soccer League club. She informed her teammates Wednesday.

"I just felt like this was the right time," she said. "I felt like the last couple of weeks I've sort of lost a step, you know, in playing and I felt like for my body and my mind and my heart, this was the right decision at this time."

While focusing on expanding her family, she'll continue to support women's sports through her Alex Morgan Foundation and various businesses. She said she plans to invest in

the Unrivaled 3 on 3 women's basketball league set to debut in September.

"I don't think coaching is in my future," she added.

Having a bigger family is more important.

Even before she started playing soccer at age 5, she was going to her sisters' soccer games and kicking a ball around on the sidelines.

"That's a big reason that I wanted to grow our family. I want Charlie to have siblings like that. I want siblings to look up to her. I want a big, chaotic family like I had growing up. My sisters meant everything to me. And they were the inspiration behind why I wanted to play soccer in the first place," she said.

Morgan has had Charlie around the Wave so much that defender Naomi Girma asked at the end of the news conference, "Can we still bring Charlie on road trips?"

Said Morgan: "OK, well, the Charlie thing, I don't know. I mean, she has grown a liking to Hillary (Beall). Somehow she jumped to first place in the last three weeks."

Morgan has helped make the Wave one of the biggest draws in San Diego. As much as the focus will be on her on Sunday, Morgan said it will also be a celebration of the people who helped her along the way. She'll have more than 80 family members in the stands.

Morgan will try to soak up all the small things players sometimes take for granted, including getting her ankle taped one last time and then singing the national anthem with her daughter by her side.

She recalls going to Mia Hamm's retirement game in 2004.

"My mom took me because she knew I wanted to become a professional soccer player. And so that just had a profound impact on me. I couldn't tell you how many minutes she played or what she even did on the field, but the fact that I saw her for the last time ever, step on the field and step off, it changed me," she said.

Morgan played in 224 matches for the national team, ninth all-time, with 123 goals (fifth all-time) and 53 assists (ninth all-time). She was named the U.S. Soccer Player of the Year in 2012 and 2018.

UEFA fines Roma \$2.22m and warns Basaksehir of Euro ban

GENEVA, Sept 7, (AP): UEFA fined Roma 2 million euros (\$2.22 million) and threatened Istanbul Basaksehir with a one-year ban from European competitions in the latest rulings by club finance investigators on Friday.

Basaksehir also was fined 100,000 euros (\$111,000).

Fines of 60,000 euros (\$66,500) for Aston Villa and 20,000 euros (\$22,100) for Marseille were imposed for late delivery of accounts for the monitoring system once known as "Financial Fair Play."

Villa will play in the Champions

League this season, likely earning at least 40 million euros (\$44 million) in UEFA prize money. Marseille, which was fined by UEFA in 2022, did not qualify for any UEFA competition after reaching the Europa League semifinals last season.

FFP was approved by UEFA in 2009 to promote financial stability in top-level European soccer by evaluating revenue and spending by clubs which qualify for its competitions. It was amended two years ago and rebranded as "Financial Sustainability."

Critics of the system have said it tries to limit investment by wealthy owners of emerging teams trying to challenge the established elite, and also has not been a deterrent to state-backed clubs Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain.

UEFA required clubs last season to spend no more than 90% of revenue on wages and transfer fees. The so-called "squad cost rule" is being phased in over three seasons toward a 70% limit.

"All clubs reported a squad cost ratio within the 90% limit applicable

for the 2023-24 season," UEFA said. PSG, Inter Milan and AC Milan were among clubs fined in previous years which met financial targets last season, UEFA said.

Roma "slightly exceeded the intermediate target" and was fined, UEFA said. Roma will play in the Europa League this season which can pay clubs tens of millions of euros in UEFA prize money.

UEFA's club finance monitoring panel judged Basaksehir "slightly breached the final target foreseen" last season.

SPORTS

Italy earns rare win over France in Paris

Haaland kept scoreless by Kazakhstan's five-man defense in NL

PARIS, Sept 7, (AP): Maybe the English Premier League teams struggling to contain Erling Haaland should consider employing the 5-4-1 formation that Kazakhstan used against Norway.

Kazakhstan's yellow-clad defenders swarmed around Haaland for the full 90 minutes of a 0-0 draw in the Nations League and kept the striker scoreless following his consecutive hat tricks in the Premier League.

Haaland failed to hit the target with any of his four shots during a match in which Norway had 65% of the possession and produced 19 shots to Kazakhstan's four.

Haaland has seven goals in three Premier League matches for Manchester City this season and hadn't been held scoreless for nearly a month - since City won the Community Shield in a penalty shootout over Manchester United on Aug. 10. Haaland did find the



Participants pose for a group photo.

SOCCER

target in the shootout of the Community Shield, though.

Haaland has been the joint top scorer with six goals in each of the past two editions of the Nations League. Overall, he has 31 goals in 34 matches for Norway.

He still needs two more goals to match Norway record-holder Jørgen Juve, who scored 33 from 1928-37.

On Wednesday, Haaland was among the 30 players nominated for the Ballon d'Or.

Norway is in League B of the Nations League, in a group with Austria and Slovenia, who drew 1-1 after both sides advanced to the knockout stages of the European Championship.

Italy turned on the style to beat France 3-1 in Paris for the first time in 70 years.

After Bradley Barcola put France ahead 13 seconds in, Italy struck back with goals from Federico Dimarco, Davide Frattesi and Giacomo Raspadori.

Barcola's first international goal came after Italy full back Giovanni Di Lorenzo lost possession, allowing Barcola to advance on goal and shoot past the onrushing Gianluigi Donnarumma.

DiMarco's equalizer was an extraordinary angled volley into the far corner following an exchange with Sandro Tonali, who provided the assist with a backheel flick.

Frattesi scored his sixth goal in 20 appearances - impressive production for a midfielder - by redirecting a cross from Mateo Retegui.

Then Raspadori, a substitute, sealed it by concluding a counter-attack.

After losing to Switzerland in the round of 16 at Euro 2024, Italy coach Luciano Spalletti eliminated over-30 players like Francesco Acerbi, Jorginho, Matteo Darmian and Stephan El Shaarawy from his squad.

Dimarco is 26 and Frattesi and Raspadori are 24.

"It was not easy to get back on track after the Euros," Dimarco said. "We needed this victory to raise the morale of the team."

Kevin De Bruyne scored twice for Belgium in a 3-1 win over Israel in neutral Hungary.

De Bruyne put Belgium ahead after being set up by his Manchester City clubmate Jeremy Doku and converted a second-half penalty.

Youri Tielemans restored Belgium's advantage following an own goal for Israel by Belgium full back Timothy Castagne.

The game was in Debrecen after the Belgian soccer federation said in July "no local authority in Belgium considers it possible" to stage a game against Israel for security reasons.

Euro 2024 quarterfinalist Turkey was held to 0-0 at Wales after playing the final half hour with 10 men after Baris Alper Yilmaz was sent off for two yellows.

Former Wales captain Craig Bellamy made his debut as Wales coach - his first senior coaching role.

Iceland beat Montenegro 2-0 with goals from Orri Steinn Osarsksson and Jon Dagur Thorsteinson.

Romania won 3-0 at Kosovo and Cyprus beat Lithuania 1-0.

The European qualifying groups for the 2026 World Cup will be drawn in Zurich in December, likely with seedings decided by FIFA world rankings updated in November after Nations League group play ends.



Kazakhstan's Yan Vorogovskiy, left, fights for the ball with Norway's Erling Haaland, right, during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Kazakhstan and Norway at Ortalyk Stadium in Almaty, Kazakhstan. (AP)

INEOS, Magic into playoffs

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 7, (AP): Britain's INEOS Britannia and NYAC American Magic both locked up spots in the America's Cup playoffs along with the already qualified Italians after winning races on Saturday.

The British booked their spot in the playoffs by beating Switzerland's Alinghi Red Bull Racing. The boat skippered by Olympic great Ben Ainslie then dealt Italy's Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli its first loss in competitive racing in the opening round robin. INEOS improved to 5-2 while Luna Rossa remained atop the standings with a 6-1 record.

American Magic of the New York Yacht Club started the day by losing to Luna Rossa before bouncing back by edging Orient Express to reach 4-4.

"We have a lot of work to do to keep progressing, but we are really happy to move into the semis," said American Magic helmsman Tom Slingsby.

Now it will come down to Switzerland's Alinghi Red Bull Racing and France's Orient Express Racing Team to see which one will also move on and which will go home after the final round-robin regattas on Sunday.

Alinghi is 2-5 and Orient Express 1-6. The French will need to beat the British on Sunday and hope the Swiss lose to the Italians to pull level on points and force a single-race tiebreaker.

The playoff series will start on Sept. 14 to decide which challenger will claim the Louis Vuitton Cup and earn a place in the America's Cup match, where it will face holder Emirates Team New Zealand in October. New Zealand is participating in the opening phase, but its races don't count.



Turkey's Baris Alper Yilmaz, left, and Wales' Ethan Ampadu fight for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Wales and Turkey, at the Cardiff City Stadium, Wales. (AP)

Tournament attracts enthusiastic crowd of over 250 participants

KCICAI's bowling 'bash' with family: An evening filled with strikes, spares, and laughter in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Kuwait Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (KCICAI) recently organized a vibrant and fun-filled Bowling Friendly Tournament at the Kuwait Bowling Sporting Club in Salmiya. This social event, open to men, women, and children aged ten years and above, attracted an enthusiastic crowd of over 250 participants.

The Bowling Friendly Tournament was a wonderful opportunity for KCICAI members and their families to come together for an enjoyable day of sport, camaraderie, and healthy competition. The event was designed to foster a sense of community among the members while encouraging physical activity and family participation in a relaxed and engaging environment.

The day began with a warm welcome from CA Aditya Dhanuka, Chairperson of KCICAI, who expressed his excitement about the large turnout and emphasized the importance of such social events in strengthening the bonds within the KCICAI community. He noted that the event was not just about

BOWLING

competition but also about creating lasting memories with family and friends.

Participants were divided into teams, mixing men, women, and children to ensure a balanced and inclusive competition. The atmosphere was electric, with cheers and laughter resonating throughout the bowling alley as participants took turns aiming for strikes and spares. For many children, this was their first experience in a bowling tournament, and their enthusiasm added a lively energy to the event.

Special awards were given out at the end of the tournament, recognizing top scorers. These awards highlight the inclusive spirit of the event, where the focus was on participation and enjoyment rather than just winning.

The top three winners in each category were as follows:

Male category	Female category
CA Jai Garg	Mrs Nimisha Bindal (w/o CA Avinash Bindal)
CA Mohammed Dalal	Mrs Sweta Choudhary (w/o CA Arun Choudhary)
CA Huzefa KD	CA Monica Chopra (w/o CA Ankit Chopra)

Children (Above 18 years) category



Participants enjoying proceedings.

Special Olympics Kuwait's new course enhances training for motor activities and health screening

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Special Olympics Kuwait has organized a regional training course for trainers in the Special Olympics Motor Activity Program (MATP). This course, supervised by Special Olympics International for the Middle East and North Africa, involves 50 trainees from 11 Gulf and Arab countries and spans three days.

Rehab Bursali, National Director of Special Olympics Kuwait, shared on Saturday that the training course includes 40 athletes specializing in various motor activities and 13 athletes focused on swimming. Bursali highlighted that the course aims to enhance the skills of trainers and align with the goals of the Special Olympics, which strives to empower individuals with intellectual disabilities through sports, health care, and

diverse programs.

This course also marks the introduction of a new health screening program, designed to advance the skills of both trainers and athletes with severe mental and motor disabilities. Bursali commended the efforts of the "Ambition Club" and Special Olympics Kuwait for their significant contributions to raising the country's profile in international and global forums.

Dr. Niamh Morton, Director of the Motor Activities Program at Special Olympics International, emphasized that the course is intended to develop a core group of trainers who will, in turn, train more individuals in the region, covering both theoretical and practical aspects.

Children (Below 18 years) category

Faraz Mohammed (S/O CA Asif Mohammed)	Vani Handa (D/O CA Gaurav Handa)
Simran Midha (D/O CA Shaleen Midha)	Ali Hussain (S/O CA Akil Hussain)
Anika Goswami (D/O CA Sabyasachi Goswami)	Akhil Konduri (S/O CA Anuradha Konduri)

The organizing team members CA Jatin Bagaria, CA Kunal Dalmia, CA Rinkesh Sukhwani led by CA Umesh Soni, Treasurer, KCICAI

ensured safety of all the participants with necessary precautions. Thanks to this organizing team for their hard work, and dedication in making this event successful and memorable for all involved. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by all the participants. KCICAI Executive committee extends sincere gratitude to its annual Sponsors NBK and AlMulla Exchange for their continued support to

the chapter activities.

KCICAI continues to demonstrate its commitment to fostering community spirit through various social, sporting, and charitable events. The Bowling Friendly Tournament was another step towards creating a vibrant and connected KCICAI family in Kuwait.

For more information on upcoming KCICAI events, please visit ic-ai.org.

Kuwaiti teams intensify training ahead of Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: The Kuwaiti handball teams of Kuwait Club, Qadsia, and Salmiya are intensifying their preparations for the 39th Arab Clubs Championship for League and Cup Champions, scheduled to take place from September 15-26 at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall. Each team is currently engaged in external training camps to sharpen their skills ahead of the tournament.

Kuwait Club is training in Croatia, where it recently secured a victory against a local first division team. Meanwhile, Qadsia's camp in Doha, Qatar, saw them narrowly defeat Al-Ahly of Qatar 30-29. Salmiya, also based in Doha, has played two friendly matches - drawing 29-29 with Al-Sadd and losing 27-30 to Al-Rayyan. It is scheduled to face Al-Duhail tomorrow and will conclude its friendly matches against Al-Arabi of Qatar on September 12. All three

teams will return to Kuwait on September 13.

The tournament's first round on September 16 will feature five

matches: Mudhar vs. Al-Karkh, Al-Hashd vs. Al-Bank Al-Ahly, Al-Salmiya vs. Al-Ahly of Qatar, Al-Qadisiya vs. Al-Gharafa, and Kuwait Club vs. Al-Qoton.

Before the draw, several teams, including Mouloudia Bordj Bou Arreridj and Olympique El Wadi from Algeria, Al-Huda from Saudi Ara-

HANDBALL



Players intensify training for the championship.

bia, and Al-Sha'la from Yemen, had withdrawn from the competition.

Sameh Al-Hajri, Director of Handball at Kuwait Club, stated that the team's Croatian camp is progressing as planned. He praised the players' adherence to the training regimen and expressed confidence in their readiness to defend their title and represent Kuwait in the Arab Championship.



Kuwait's head coach Juan Pizzi (right) with player Fahad Hajri.

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Kuwaiti ministers visit injured Iraqi player at hospital

Kuwait resumes training for World Cup qualifier after drawing with Jordan

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassh/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: Kuwait resumed training at Thamer Stadium after returning from Amman, where it drew 1-1 with Jordan at Amman International Stadium in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers on Thursday.

The Kuwaiti team has begun preparations for its upcoming match against Iraq, scheduled for Tuesday, at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. The Iraqi delegation is expected to arrive tomorrow afternoon and will have a single training session on the match field.

The technical staff addressed some issues from the game against Jordan, particularly the first half where the team struggled with organization and control.

Despite the draw, Kuwait gained confidence and broke a decade-long streak of poor results against Jordan. This match also highlighted the tactical boldness of Argentine coach Juan Pizzi, who opted for an aggressive approach despite the odds. Pizzi's substitutions put pressure on Jordan and showcased the strengths of players like Moaz Al-Dhafiri, Yousef Majed, and Mahdi Dashti, while veterans such as

Faisal Zayed, Sami Al-Sanea, Khaled Ibrahim, Fahad Al-Hajri, Yousef Nasser, and Suleiman Abdul Ghafoor also demonstrated their experience.

The Football Association began selling tickets for the Kuwait vs. Iraq match the day before yesterday, setting a nominal price of two dinars per ticket. Over 60% of tickets for Kuwaiti fans have been sold, while all 5,000 tickets allocated for the Iraqi supporters are sold out.

SOCCER

Iraqi striker Ayman Hussein will miss the match against Kuwait due to a chest injury sustained during a World Cup qualifier against Oman on Thursday. Hussein was transferred from Basra Stadium to Al-Sabah Hospital for further evaluation and will be sidelined for approximately 30 days. He reported that his condition is stable and expressed gratitude for the support from officials and fans in both Iraq and Kuwait.

Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of



The meeting in progress.

Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, Vice Chairman of the Kuwait Football Association Ahmed Aqla Al-Enezi, former Chairman Abdullah Al-Shaheen, and Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Munhal Al-Safi visited Hussein in the hospital to check on his condition.

Aqla also thanked the First Deputy and Minister of Interior and Defense Sheikh Fahad Al-Youssef for facilitating Hussein's entry to Kuwait for

treatment and expressed wishes for his speedy recovery and return to the field.

Juan Pizzi, the Argentine coach of the Kuwait, commended his players' performance in their match against Jordan, noting that securing a draw is preferable to a loss.

Pizzi highlighted Jordanian player Musa Al-Taamari, calling him "one of the top 50 players in the world" and attributing the late draw to Al-Taamari's

KFA hosts coordination meeting for Kuwait vs Iraq World Cup 'qualifier'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 7: A coordination meeting was held in the conference hall at the Kuwait Football Association headquarters at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. The meeting brought together representatives from various state ministries and stakeholders involved in organizing the upcoming match between the Kuwaiti national team and the Iraqi national team, scheduled for the day after tomorrow as part of the 2026 World Cup Asian qualifiers.

The meeting was attended by the Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah, Vice Chairman of the Kuwaiti Football Association, Ahmed Aqla, Secretary General of the Federation, Salah Al-Qanaei, along with representatives from the organizing bodies. Discussions focused on the match's organizational program and reviewing the readiness and preparedness of all involved parties and committees to ensure the event's success.

absence due to injury.

Jamal Al-Salami, the Moroccan coach of the Jordanian team, expressed disappointment over losing two valuable points despite having an advantage on the field. He acknowledged that early matches in the qualifiers are

often challenging. Al-Salami noted that injuries to Musa Al-Taamari and the unavailability of Yazan Al-Naimat weakened the team's offensive capabilities. He expressed hope for a stronger performance in their upcoming match against Palestine.

Fritz wins epic five-set battle, reaches first Grand Slam final



Taylor Fritz, of the United States, returns a shot to Frances Tiafoe, of the United States, during the men's singles semifinal of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Sinner looms in US Open final

NEW YORK, Sept 7, (AP): When Taylor Fritz, a 26-year-old from California, and Frances Tiafoe, a 26-year-old from Maryland, strode under the Arthur Ashe Stadium lights for the first U.S. Open semifinal matching two American men in 19 years, the crowd might have been forgiven for not knowing which to support.

There was a burst of clapping right before the initial point, a curtain-raiser befitting the show about to unfold. Once the contest got going, maybe the momentum shifts made it tough to choose between a pair of close pals who've known each other since they were playing tournaments for kids younger than 14.

TENNIS

In the end, the roars were for Fritz, who surged with a six-game run against a fading and frustrated Tiafoe to come out on top 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 and reach his first Grand Slam final.

He will be the first U.S. man to appear in a major final since Andy Roddick lost to Roger Federer at Wimbledon in 2009. And if he can get past Sinner, Fritz would become the first U.S. man to win a Slam trophy since

Dr. Bouzabar to chair Asian Olympic Council elections

NEW DELHI, Sept 7: The General Assembly of the Asian Olympic Council will convene this afternoon in New Delhi, India, to elect the Executive Council members for the 2024-2028 term. The elections will be overseen by former Justice Minister and lawyer Dr. Muhammad Bouzabar. Key positions to be filled include the President of the Asian Olympic Council, five Vice Presidents representing East, Southeast, South, Central, and West Asia, as well as five female members from the same regions. Additionally, the President and members of the Council's Integrity and Ethics Committee will be elected.

This meeting follows the constitu-

Roddick got his 21 years ago at the U.S. Open.

From 4-all in the fourth set Friday, he seized control as Tiafoe's strokes and usual confidence betrayed him. After Tiafoe's double-fault handed over a break to make it 4-0 in the fifth, more than three hours into the proceedings, he chucked his racket. Fritz repaid the favor by double-faulting to end the next game, but broke right back and soon it was over. They met at the net for an embrace.

Sinner, a 23-year-old from Italy exonerated in a doping case less than three weeks ago, finished off a 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-2 victory over No. 25 Jack Draper on Friday that featured simul-



Dr. Muhammad Bouzabar

taneous treatment of both competitors by trainers deep in the 1 1/2-hour second set.

The top-ranked Sinner, a 23-year-old from Italy, who was exonerated in a doping case less than a week before play began in New York, was the better player throughout and finished off a 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-2 victory over Draper to reach his first title match at Flushing Meadows - and second at a Grand Slam tournament this year.

"It was a very physical match, as we see," said Sinner, who is a righty but uses both fists for his backhands and kept flexing his left wrist after it got hurt. "I just tried to stay there men-

tally."

While both competitors were being looked at during a changeover, a vacuum was being used to clean up the green ground behind the baseline where the 25th-seeded Draper, a 22-year-old from Britain, had thrown up, finishing the cleaning job he tried to do himself by wiping the court with a towel. It hearkened back to when Pete Sampras lost his lunch during a win over Alex Corretja during the 1996 U.S. Open -- and created, to say the least, an unusual scene Friday at Arthur Ashe Stadium, where the temperature was in the high 70s and the humidity was above 60%.

Uruguay settles for 0-0 draw at home

Brazil ends losing run World Cup qualifying

CURITIBA, Brazil, Sept 7, (AP): Real Madrid star Rodrygo scored a goal in the first half. Brazil defeated Ecuador 1-0 to end a three-match losing streak in South American qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

The 23-year-old Rodrygo scored with a shot from outside the box that was deflected by a defender to the right post in the 30th minute.

SOCCER

Five-time world champion Brazil lost consecutive matches to Uruguay, Colombia, and Argentina at the end of last year and was in sixth place in the standings after six rounds. The Brazilians now have 10 points and are in fourth place.

The Ecuadorians had a five-game unbeaten streak snapped and remained with eight points in sixth place, the last direct qualifying spot from South America for the World Cup which will be played in the United States, Mexico, and Canada in 2026.

Striker Luis Suarez retired from his national squad earlier as Uruguay settled for a 0-0 draw at home against Paraguay.

The team managed by Marcelo Bielsa finished in third place in the last Copa America, with 14 points in second place, four fewer than first-place Argentina.

The 37-year-old Suarez had announced that the match against Paraguay was his last with Uruguay. The former Liverpool and Barcelona



Brazil's Gabriel, right, and Ecuador's Enner Valencia go for a header during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 at Couito Pereira Stadium in Curitiba, Parana state, Brazil. (AP)

player retired with 69 goals scored with the national team.

Also on Friday, Colombia remained undefeated with three wins and four draws and in third place in the South American standings after a 1-1 draw with Peru at Lima.

Liverpool striker Luis Diaz leveled the match in the 81st minute for the Colombians after Alexander Callens gave Peru the lead in the 67th.

Peru is in 10th and last place in the standings with three points.

Roglic on brink of 4th Vuelta title

PICON BLANCO, Spain, Sept 7, (AP): Primož Roglic is one stage away from a record-equaling fourth Spanish Vuelta title after the Slovenian rider protected his lead in the northern mountains on Saturday.

Roglic padded his lead to 2 minutes, 2 seconds over Ben O'Connor, who led the Grand Tour for two weeks before Roglic moved ahead on Friday.

Enric Mas was third overall at 2:11 back, followed by Richard Carapaz at 3:00.

Irish cyclist Eddie Dunbar, of Team Jayco AlUla, won the grueling 20th stage, a 172-kilometer (106-mile) jaunt over seven categorized peaks finishing with an ascent of the category-one Picon Blanco summit. He completed the stage in 4 1/2 hours.

Roglic finished the stage third and O'Connor sixth.

Instead of the usual low-key arrival to Madrid on the final stage when cycling custom dictates that the overall challengers respect the race leader's advantage, this year's edition closes with an individual time trial in the capital.

The 2021 Olympic gold medalist in time trialing, Roglic is poised to match the Vuelta record of four titles won by Spanish rider Roberto Heras in 2000, 2003-05.

Best of the Rest

Police investigate fixing: Police in Germany are investigating potential match-fixing in lower-league soccer games after a newspaper reported that the scores of allegedly fixed games may have been sold online for betting purposes.

The Hamburger Morgenpost newspaper reported Friday that message logs detailed the apparent sale on the "dark web" of information up to 17 games ranging from the third division to regionalized fifth-tier competitions.

The newspaper didn't publish the messages and didn't identify any games or teams, but said some games included refereeing mistakes or unusual goals. (AP)

Yeats dies at age 86: Ron Yeats, who captained Liverpool to six trophies in the 1960s, has died, the English club announced Saturday. He was 86.

Yeats "suffered with Alzheimer's in recent years," Liverpool said in a statement, adding that he died late Friday.

Signed from Dundee United in 1961, Yeats was immediately named captain and became a key defender in Liverpool manager Bill Shankly's teams, helping lift the club out of an extended spell in the second division. (AP)