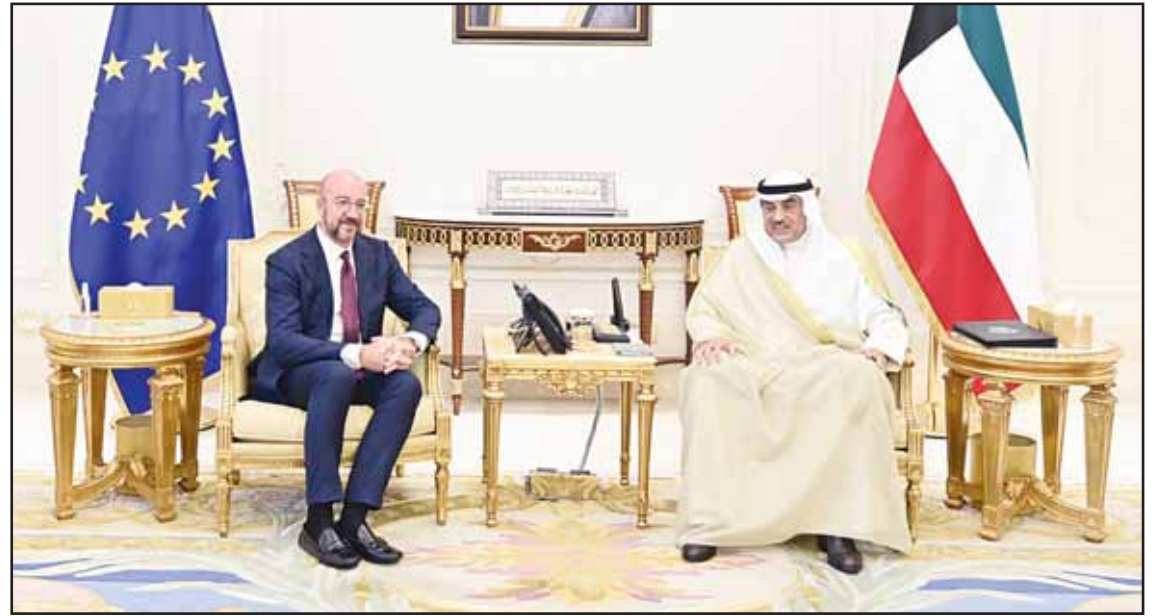
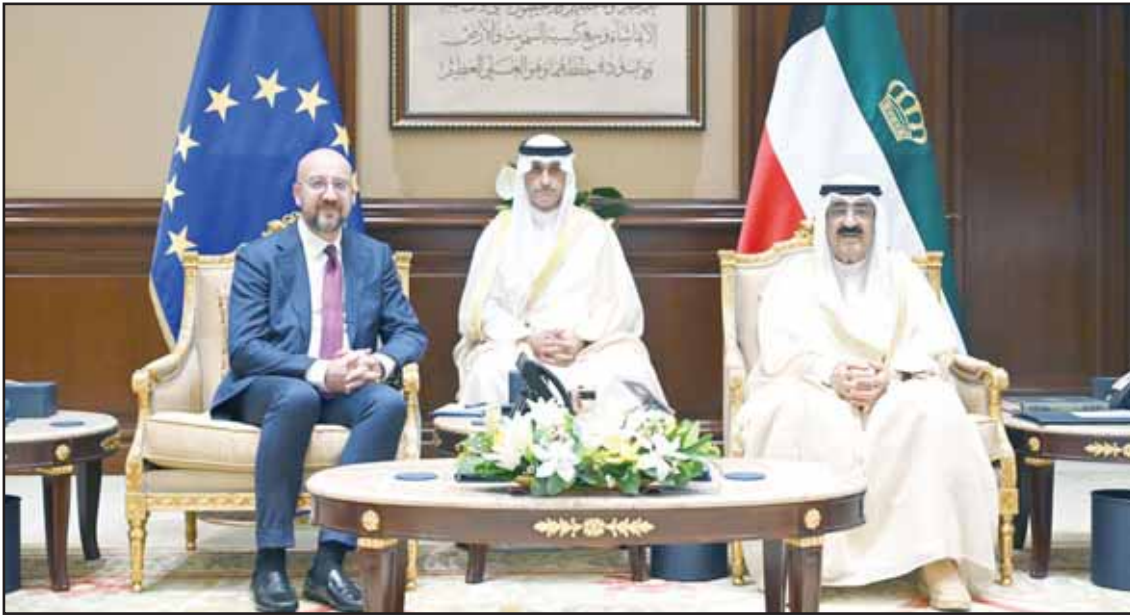




Pages 14-16 **SOCCER**



Kuwait Amir, Crown Prince receive visiting President of European Council



Amiri/Crown Prince Diwan photos

Left: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the European Council head. Right: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the European Council head.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Wednesday at Bayan Palace visiting President of the European Council Charles Michel and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed the agenda of the first European Union (EU) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit which will take place in October in Brussels.

They also tackled the distinguished relationship between Kuwait and the EU

and ways to boost cooperation, various topics of common interest as well as the latest regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and other senior state officials.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received at Bayan Palace visiting President of the European Council Charles Michel and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed the relationship between Kuwait and the EU, ways to boost cooperation, issues of mutual interest and the latest regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Director of the Office of His Highness the Crown Prince Gen. Jamal Theyab, and Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Ma'arafi.

Call for ceasefire

Group of nations pledge support for Palestinians

CAIRO, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Arab League, Ambassadors and Representatives of South America and the Caribbean states missions in Egypt affirmed their support for the Palestinian people rights, namely establishing an independent state within the 1967 borders.

This came in the closing statement of a meeting that grouped the Arab League's delegates with ambassadors, missions and representatives of South African and Caribbean countries in Egypt. The session aimed at demonstrating support for Palestine in obtaining full membership in the United Nations.

Participants discussed necessity that the Israeli occupation forces adhere to the council's decisions that call for a ceasefire in the occupied Palestinian territories.

They also pointed out the importance of implementing the UN General Assembly resolution dated 5/9/2024, which stresses its conviction that the State of Palestine is fully qualified for membership in the United Nations.

They reaffirmed the need of peace as a strategic option to end the occupation and war based on international laws and relevant international legitimate resolutions, including Security Council 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 497 (1981), 1515 (2003), (2334) (2016), and the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002.

The participants submitted the meeting's final statement to the foreign ministers of their countries to adopt, and sign the contract for the 79th General Assembly session.

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Committee meeting to boost Kuwait-Egypt ties

CAIRO, Sept 11, (KUNA): Kuwait and Egypt are tied with deep-rooted historical relations at both official and unofficial levels, marking a model for pan-Arab relations.

Based on deep cooperation and continued rapprochement in various domains over decades, both countries have always been sharing support and solidarity during all Arab events.

The unremitting convening of the Kuwaiti-Egyptian Higher Committee is the normal outgrowth of such close and firm ties between both sides.

In this regard, former Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-Arabi told KUNA that this year's 13th session of the joint committee was one of the outcomes of the significant visit recently paid by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Cairo.

The event comes at a time when the Arab region is undergoing critical circumstances that necessitate persistent consultation and coordination, given that it comes ahead of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which is expected to come up with decisive resolutions aiming at putting an end to the current regional tensions, he said.

The joint committee is meant to promote Kuwaiti-Egyptian bonds and to push them forward at all levels as clear-cut and unequivocal proof of deep relations between sisterly nations, the former minister noted.

Continued on Page 5

Food prices in Kuwait surge by 30 pct since start of 2024

Global scenario, wars push up inflation rates



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah takes an overview of the work progress at the new airport terminal construction site.

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Head of the Kuwait Society for Consumer Protection Mishal Al-Manea has highlighted the significant rise in food prices in Kuwait since the beginning of 2024.

He attributed this increase to several key factors, with the primary one being a surge in the shipping and transportation costs in recent months compared to the end of 2023.

Al-Manea explained that increased demand and ongoing crises in the Red Sea have impacted global shipping rates and consequently led to higher prices in the local market.

The shipping costs were lower last year when shipping routes were operating normally. The combination of higher shipping and transportation costs, along with rising global inflation rates, has contributed to an increase in the prices of basic commodities in Kuwait by approximately 25 to 30 percent.

The ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war continues to influence the rise in prices, particularly for food items. The prices of some food commodities have increased up to 28 percent this year.

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NewsWatch

Iraq and Iran sign 14 MoUs in key sectors

BAGHDAD, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Iraqi and Iranian governments signed on Wednesday 14 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) in several fields.

The signing of the MoUs came during Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani's reception of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

The MoUs covered the training, youth and sports, cultural, artistic, and antiquities cooperation, and educational fields.

The documents also called for boosting media, communication, religious tourism, free trade, agricultural and natural resources cooperation.

BAGHDAD: Iraqi security forces said on Wednesday they are investigating an explosion that hit Baghdad International Airport earlier in the day.

The explosion targeted a US-led coalition's military base at the airport at 2:30 local time (23:30 GMT), the Iraqi security media cell said in a press release. (KUNA)



Pezeshkian

GCC-Turkish FTA to give trade impetus

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez said that the anticipated Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and Turkiye would enhance trade cooperation and new investment opportunities for Kuwaiti and Turkish companies.



Sonmez

In an interview with KUNA, Sonmez said that ongoing negotiations regarding the agreement cover a wide range of

Continued on Page 5

Gov't bodies, MPW must combine efforts to expedite work at T2: PM

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Kuwait International Airport's new T2 passenger terminal is seen as one of the country's mega developmental projects, said His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Tuesday.

His Highness's aforementioned remarks came during the Cabinet's weekly meeting at the premises of the new project. Minister of Information and Culture Abdurrahman Al-Mutairi said, according to a Diwan statement, that His Highness the Premier after inspecting the terminal's site, directed the concerned government bodies to cooperate with the Ministry of Public Works in order to overcome all obstacles that might be faced in the execution of the project, as well as stressing the significance of speeding up work pace to meet the operation deadline.

In this vein, Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan displayed a visual presentation on lat-

est developments in the project, pointing out the T2 is considered a modern and state-of-the-art "smart" project that would contribute to the civil aviation sector, one of the government's top priorities. Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) chief Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also showed a visual presentation on the project. His Highness the Prime Minister commended the "team spirit" of all who are involved in the "qualitative leap" that is the project, said Al-Mutairi, who is also Minister of State for Youth Affairs.

On the T2 terminal, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also thanked the concerned government bodies for their relentless efforts to complete this vital project within the set timeframe.

Continued on Page 5

Chief of army stresses battle readiness in field trip to base

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain, affirmed on Wednesday the wise leadership's commitment to overseeing the affairs and conditions of the armed forces. He emphasized the importance of ensuring their readiness and preparedness, as they are the shields of the homeland and the first to respond to the call of duty in defending its security, stability, and territorial integrity.

This statement was made in a press release from the General Staff following an inspection visit by Lieutenant General Al-Muzain to the

26th Mechanized Brigade. He was received by the Commander of the Land Forces, Brigadier General Fahd Abdullah, the Commander of the 63rd Mechanized Infantry Battalion, and several officers from the brigade. During the visit, Lieutenant General Al-Muzain praised the efficiency, capability, and readiness of the armed forces members, highlighting their ongoing rehabilitation and training. He wished continued success and fulfillment to the armed forces members, calling for their utmost efforts to protect the homeland and uphold

Continued on Page 5

Power cuts warned in residential areas

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The current high temperatures in the country have disrupted the calculations of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, forcing it to carry out programmed power outages in parts of five residential areas - Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak, Rumaithiya, Salwa, and Bidaa.

According to informed sources, this measure is intended to maintain the stability of the electrical system and manage the increased demand for electricity during peak hours, which are from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, according to the ministry's calculations.

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KUNA photo

Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwait Army Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain being briefed on the nature of the tasks and duties carried out by the Sabah Joint Force Command.

KSE & Social Fund ink MoU to revive Kuwait's popular cafés

Collaboration aims to enhance heritage spaces

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE) and the Social Fund for Popular Cafés on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the headquarters of the Ministry of Social Affairs in the presence of Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fund Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi and KSE Chairman Faisal Al-Atal.

According to Al-Ajmi, "signing the MoU with the oldest professional public benefit association in the country stems from the necessity to support and develop popular cafés. These cafés are recreational and heritage spaces linking the past and the present. They need incessant support and development, so they can efficiently play their important societal role. We are proud of this collaboration. We thank Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah for fully supporting our efforts to develop popular cafés."

He pointed out that the Board of Directors of the Fund is keen on monitoring these cafés to provide them with facilities and means to achieve their goals in line with the State's policy in preserving the traditions and customs of society that have become part of the social system. "This commitment matches the desire of KSE to foster cooperation in order to realize the aspirations of the Fund," he affirmed.

On the other hand, Al-Atal stressed that KSE remains committed to provide advice and technical engineering expertise to all government agencies without any cost. He stated: "We are



Group photo during the signing of the memorandum of understanding.

Al-Jarida photo

One-stop car auction site proposed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi has recommended the allocation of an integrated car auction site along Salmi Road to offer all the necessary services like technical inspection, vehicle ownership transfer, commercial and other services, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a letter to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Al-Habashi stated: "We highly appreciate your commitment to improve the services provided to the

people of Kuwait in general, and those residing in Jahra Governorate in particular. Given the importance of holding car auctions along Salmi Road under the supervision and oversight of the concerned authorities, we suggest asking the Kuwait Municipality to allocate a 'one-stop' car auction site along the road to provide all the necessary services, including technical inspection and car ownership transfer among many others, in the interest of the public."

a professional association that aims to contribute to the industrial and urban renaissance of the country through a clear strategy. The MoU is just one of the collaborative steps we have had with the Fund for several years. We support the development of popular cafés through the exchange of expertise and information permitted by law, as well as to support the efforts exerted by the two parties to realize the objectives of the MoU," he explained.

He confirmed the completion of the design of the first of these cafés in Souf Sharq, indicating the designs for other cafés depict the nature and heritage of the site on which they are located and meet the needs of their patrons.

He clarified that the services provided by KSE to popular cafés are voluntary. He revealed the MoU emphasizes the exchange of advice and expertise and support for the efforts exerted by the two parties to achieve their goals in

the fields of business, projects, workshops and training programs.

He said the MoU opens the door for either party to participate in the activities proposed by the other. "In the event that one of the parties chooses not to participate in a certain activity; its name, seal, logo and anything attributed to it will not appear in any form of the activity. Both parties have no financial obligations as per the MoU," he added.

Application runs from Sept 16-Oct 3

PAAET opens nominations for several key deanship positions

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Dr. Hassan Mohammed Al-Fajjam, Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, has announced the opening of applications for nominations for several key deanships within the Authority, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These include the Deanship of Community Service and Continuing Education, the Deanship of Admission and Registration, and the Deanship of Student Affairs. The application period will run from Monday, September 16, 2024, until Thursday, October 3, 2024.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Fajjam emphasized that this announcement reflects the Authority's commitment to fulfilling its 2023-2028 vision and strategy. To advance and develop, the Authority must fill critical positions related to student and community affairs. Regarding the application criteria, Dr. Al-Fajjam outlined that candidates must be faculty members within the Authority's colleges, possess a doctorate, and hold the academic rank of at least associate or assistant professor.

Moreover, applicants must have a minimum of ten years of academic experience since their appointment as assistant professors. Their performance evaluations must have been rated "very good" or higher over the past two years, and they should not have any outstanding disciplinary decisions unless their reputation has been restored.

Dr. Al-Fajjam stressed the importance of adhering to the listed conditions and submitting the necessary documents to ensure a smooth application process.

The required documents are as follows:

- A completed nomination form for the desired deanship position, accompanied by a CV and copies of relevant documents mentioned in the CV.

- A work plan outlining the candidate's vision for the development of the deanship they seek.

- Performance evaluations from the last two years of work at the Authority.
- A recent 4x6 passport-sized photograph and a certificate of career progression from the Department of Faculty Affairs and Training.

The application can be submitted in one of two ways:



Dr. Hassan Mohammed Al-Fajjam, Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training

Al-Faisal appointed as communications head

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Nadia Al-Hajji, CEO of the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, has appointed Sally Al-Faisal as the head of the communications team within the Communications and Services Department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Faisal will report to the Director of Communications and Services, with the decision taking effect from September 10, 2024. Any previous decisions conflicting with this appointment have been annulled.

According to Al-Seyassah sources more announcements are expected from the Petrochemical Industries Company, with upcoming decisions likely to include promotions for middle management.

- In person, by delivering the required documents to the General Authority's headquarters in Shuwaikh, 12th floor, between 9 AM and 2 PM during official working hours or

- Online, via the Authority's website at www.paaet.edu.kw, from September 16, 2024, until the deadline of October 3, 2024, at 2 PM. No applications or documents will be accepted after the specified deadline.

Minister calls for bonus review

Al-Meshari urges CSC to equalize salaries for Municipality workers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdulatif Al-Meshari has requested Chairman of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Essam Al-Rubaiaan to compare the employees in administrative support roles at Kuwait Municipality with their counterparts in other institutions and align their salaries and benefits accordingly, as well as consider the possibility of providing them with a financial bonus, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Meshari emphasized that providing such incentives would positively motivate highly qualified national workers and their supporting colleagues.

He called for including them as beneficiaries of decision No. 27/2012 issued by CSC, which grants bonuses to national workers in literature, arts, and media professions.

Al-Meshari said he has received letters from concerned employees of Kuwait Municipality who referenced Article 29 of the Constitution, which stipulates that public sector workers should be treated equally in terms of duties and rights, with no discrimination among them.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced that Al-Meshari recently visited various directorates of the authority, and reviewed the services provided to citizens and observed the efforts of the Public Relations Department in raising public awareness.



Al-Seyassah photo Road map of the Second Ring Road on Cairo street.

PART announces temporary closure of Second Ring Road

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport (PART) has announced a temporary closure of the entrance to the Second Ring Road on Cairo Street, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This closure, affecting traffic heading towards the Qadisiya and Mansouriya areas, will be in effect for 24 hours from dawn on Friday, September 13, to dawn on Saturday, September 14.

The closure is necessary to facilitate work on the surface asphalt layer and is being conducted in cooperation with the General Traffic Department.

According to a press statement issued by PAHW, Al-Meshari listened to citizens' feedback and issued directives to streamline their transactions. He also stressed the need to accelerate the launch of new online services through the Sahel application.

Council member demands clarity on parking space inspection procedures

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Municipal Council member Dr. Hassan Kamal has submitted a query to the executive body concerning the Municipal Council's decision on the periodic inspection of parking spaces in investment and commercial buildings.

Dr. Kamal explained that the municipality's building regulations require investment and commercial buildings to provide parking spaces within the property's boundaries based on a specified equation. Some buildings have failed to comply with these regulations after receiving licenses, leading to traffic congestion and other related risks in several areas.

Dr. Kamal asked the executive body several questions, including:

1. Does the municipality conduct periodic inspections to ensure that owners of investment and commercial buildings provide the licensed parking spaces required within their properties?



Al-Jarida photo Dr. Hassan Kamal - Municipal Council member

2. What are the current procedures for implementing the Municipal Council's decision on periodic inspections and issuing a certificate every four years?

He requested a copy of the periodic inspection form and a copy of the certificate.

Dr. Kamal called on the municipality to adhere to the legal timeframe for responding to Municipal Council members' questions.

September

Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 1st September to 20th September 2024 Terms & conditions apply*

World News Roundup

Europe

Charles to visit Australia

Blinken and Lammy in Kyiv on joint visit

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 11. (AP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy arrived in Kyiv on a joint visit Wednesday, as Ukraine presses the West to allow it to use long-range missiles against Russia.

The top diplomats reached the Ukrainian capital by train from Poland hours after the U.S. presidential debate during which Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Trump sparred over the 2 1/2-year war in Ukraine.



Shmyhal

Blinken traveled from London, where he accused Iran of providing Russia with Fath-360 short-range ballistic missiles, calling the move a "dramatic escalation" of the war.

For months, Ukraine has been requesting approval to use long-range weapons from the United States and Western allies to strike targets in Russia, and is expected to press harder given Russia's latest reported weapons acquisition.

"We hope that long-range equipment for strikes on the territory of our enemy will be reached and we will have it," Ukrainian Prime Minister **Denys Shmyhal** told Lammy. "We hope for your help and support in this issue."

Targets

At a news conference on Tuesday, Shmyhal said that "if we are allowed to destroy military targets or weapons prepared by the enemy for attacks on Ukraine, it would certainly bring more safety for our civilians, our people, and our children."

"We are working towards this and will continue to push for it every day."

Referring to the missiles from Iran, he added: "Russia's use of weapons from its terrorist allies to strike at Ukraine continues their genocidal war and terrorism on our territory. We must be able to respond to such terrorism in kind by destroying military targets on their territory to ensure greater safety for our citizens."

Wednesday's visit comes ahead of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's upcoming trip to Washington, where he will meet President Joe Biden at the White House on Friday. Ukraine's request for permission to strike Russian targets is due to feature in the discussion.

'France foiled 3 plots targeting Olympics':

French authorities foiled three plots to attack the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris and other cities that hosted the summer events, the national counterterrorism prosecutor said on Wednesday.

Olivier Christen said the plots included plans to attack "Israeli institutions or representatives of Israel in Paris" during the July 26 to Aug. 11 Olympic competition. The prosecutor told broadcaster France Info that "the Israeli team itself was not specifically targeted." He did not give further details.

In all, five people, including a minor, were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the three foiled plots against the Summer Games, which were held against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war and Russia's war in Ukraine. The suspects are facing various terrorism-related charges while they remain in pre-trial detention, the prosecutor said.

France was on its highest security alert in the months ahead of the Olympics and Paralympics, which wrapped up last week. During preparations for the Games, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin repeatedly warned that security threats included those from Islamic extremist groups, violent environmental activists, far-right groups and cyberattacks from Russia or other adversaries.

In May, members of the General Directorate of Internal Security arrested an 18-year-old man from Chechnya on suspicion of being behind a plan to attack Olympic soccer events that were held in the southern city of Saint-Etienne.

Partial bridge collapse in Germany: Officials are investigating why a concrete bridge partially collapsed in eastern Germany early Wednesday, disrupting a major traffic artery in Dresden and interrupting the heating system for a city nicknamed "Florence on the Elbe" for its Baroque architecture.

No one was injured when a section of the Carola Bridge fell into the Elbe River, the Dresden fire department said on its website. Police are treating the collapse as an accident, because there are no signs of foul play, according to German news agency dpa.

The bridge dates back to East Germany's former communist era, dpa reported, and officials at the scene said that chlorine corrosion from the time could have contributed to Wednesday's collapse.

The emergency closure of the entire bridge snarled travel for the city's tram system, as well as motorists, pedestrians and cyclists who use the span to travel between Dresden's Old Town and New Town. Boat traffic is also halted, affecting cargo ships and tourism sightseeing vessels.

UK PM faces unease in Labour: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer faced a battle of nerves with his Labour Party on Tuesday, winning a parliamentary vote on a contentious decision to cut a payment that helps millions of pensioners pay winter heating bills - but not ending unease about it among his lawmakers.

Starmer says the decision to remove the winter fuel allowance, worth between 200 and 300 pounds (\$262 and \$393) a year, from all but the poorest retirees is needed because of the dire state of the public finances left by the previous Conservative government.

But the decision to hit people on fixed incomes in one of the government's first economic moves since winning a landslide election victory in July has caused disquiet in the center-left Labour Party. Seventeen Labour lawmakers backed a call to postpone the cut.

Charles to visit Australia and Samoa: King Charles III has announced plans to visit Australia and Samoa next month on a trip that will span a dozen time zones and test the monarch's stamina as he recovers from cancer treatment.

The Oct. 18-26 tour, which Buckingham Palace outlined Tuesday, marks a watershed moment for the 75-year-old king. Charles is slowly returning to public duties after taking a break following his cancer diagnosis in early February. The decision to undertake such a long journey will be seen as a sign of his recovery.

The trip will begin in Australia before the king and Queen Camilla travel to Samoa for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting, which takes place every two years. Although the tour was first announced in July, no dates were released at that time.



US Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris participate during an ABC News presidential debate at the National Constitution Center on Sept 10 in Philadelphia. (AP)

Politics

Rivals trade accusations

Harris, Trump detail visions in debate

PHILADELPHIA, Sept 11. (AP): Kamala Harris pressed a forceful case against Donald Trump on Tuesday in their first and perhaps only debate before the presidential election, repeatedly goading him in an event that showcased their starkly different visions for the country on abortion, immigration and American democracy.

The Democratic vice president provoked Trump with reminders about the 2020 election loss that he still denies, delivered derisive asides at his false claims and sought to underscore the Republican former president's role in the Supreme Court's overturning of a national right to abortion two years ago. Trump tore into Harris as too liberal and a continuation of Biden's unpopular administration, as he launched into the sort of free-wheeling personal attacks and digressions from which his advisers and supporters have tried to steer him away.

Less than two months from Election Day and hours before the first early ballots will begin to be mailed Wednesday in Alabama, the debate offered the clearest look yet at a presidential race that has been repeatedly upended.

Harris' performance by nearly every measure seemed to be the opposite of President Joe Biden's in June, with sharp, focused answers designed to showcase the contrast between her and Trump, whereas Biden at times was muddled, halting and incoherent. Harris used her body language and facial expressions to confront Trump and express that she found his answers ridiculous, amusing or both - a pronounced change from Biden's slack-jawed expression when Trump attacked him.

Harris appeared intent on casting herself as a relief for voters seeking a break from Trump's acerbic politics - a contrast highlighted as Trump appeared to be set on his back foot by her needling.

In one moment, Harris turned to Trump and said that as vice president, she had spoken to foreign leaders who "are laughing at Donald Trump," and said she had spoken to military leaders, "and they say you're a disgrace."

As Trump, 78, again questioned her racial identity, the 59-year-old Har-

US remembers 9/11 attacks with victims in focus, politics in view

NEW YORK, Sept 11. (AP): The US remembered the lives taken and those reshaped by 9/11, marking an anniversary laced with presidential campaign politics as President Joe Biden, former president Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris stood together Wednesday at ground zero.

Sept 11 - the date when hijacked plane attacks killed nearly 3,000 people in 2001 - falls in the thick of the presidential election season every four years, and it comes at an especially pointed moment this time. The anniversary ceremony at the World Trade Center brought Harris and Trump, the Democratic and Republican nominees, face-to-face just hours after their first-ever debate Tuesday night.

Trump and running mate Sen. JD

Vance arrived at the trade center site around 8 am and posed for photographs with some in the audience. Harris arrived with Biden about a half-hour later, to cheers of "Kamala!" from some audience members.

Biden and Trump shook hands, and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg appeared to facilitate a handshake between Harris and Trump. Then the presidential rivals stood only a few feet apart, with Biden and Bloomberg between them, as the observance began with the tolling of a bell and a moment of silence.

The political backdrop wasn't top-of-mind for victims' relatives such as Cathy Naughton, who came to honor her cousin Michael Roberts, one of hundreds of firefighters killed in the attack.

which bipartisan majorities in Congress have backed, to win the war.

Trump again denied that he lost to Biden four years ago, when a mob of his supporters stormed the US Capitol to try to stop the certification of his loss based on false or unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. He tried to reverse the question of threats to American democracy and suggested criticism of him could be linked to the assassination attempt he survived in July.

"I probably took a bullet to the head because of the things that they say about me," he said. "They talk about democracy, I'm a threat to democracy. They're the threat to democracy."

Trump has in recent days ramped up his threats of retribution if he returns to the White House, saying he would prosecute lawyers, donors, and other officials whom he deems to "cheat" in the election.

"Donald Trump was fired by 81 million people," Harris said, "So let's be clear about that. And clearly he is having a very difficult time processing that."

marked by triple-digit temperatures, police said Monday.

The toddler was found Friday and was pronounced dead with the preliminary cause of death of suspected complications

from heat stroke, pending an official autopsy report, Anaheim police said. Her mother was arrested by police, who reported finding several empty bottles of alcohol in the vehicle. She was later found to have had a

blood alcohol content of nearly four times the state legal limit for driving, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors charged Sandra Hernandez-Cazares, 42, with felony involuntary manslaughter and felony child abuse causing great bodily injury. She faces a maximum sentence of 12 years for both charges.

The Orange County Public Defender's Office could not be reached for comment. (AP)

Personal assistant gets 40 yrs: A personal assistant convicted of killing and dismembering his former tech entrepreneur boss after stealing about \$400,000 from him was sentenced Tuesday to 40 years to life in prison, Manhattan's district attorney said.

Tyrese Haspil, 25, was found guilty in June of murder, grand larceny and other charges in the 2020 death of his former boss, **Fahim Saleh**.

Prosecutors said Haspil had been hired as an assistant for Saleh, whose ventures included a ride-hailing motorcycle startup in Nigeria, but quickly began to siphon money from Saleh's businesses. Haspil resigned a year later but continued to steal money, even after Saleh discovered the theft and let Haspil repay him over two years to avoid criminal prosecution.

Haspil decided to kill Saleh over concerns that his former boss would discover he was continuing to steal from his companies, prosecutors said. (AP)



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy arrive at the train station in Kyiv, Ukraine on Sept 11. The British Foreign Secretary joined his American counterpart on a visit to Ukraine to discuss the country's military needs in its fight against Russia. (AP)



Saleh

Landry

America

Francine takes aim at La coast: Hurricane Francine barreled early Wednesday toward Louisiana and is expected to make landfall in coming hours as forecasters raised threats of potentially deadly storm surge, widespread flooding and destructive winds on the northern U.S. Gulf coast.

Francine drew fuel from exceedingly warm Gulf of Mexico waters to jump from a tropical storm to a Category 1 hurricane on Tuesday night. The National Hurricane Center said Francine might even reach Category 2 strength with winds of 96 to 110 mph (155 to 175 kph) before crashing into a fragile coastal region that still hasn't fully recovered from a series of devastating hurricanes since 2020.

Louisiana Gov **Jeff Landry** warned at midday Tuesday - when Francine was still a tropical storm - that residents around south Louisiana and in the heavily populated state capital of Baton Rouge and nearby New Orleans - should "batten down all the hatches" and finish last preparations before a 24-hour window to do so closed.

Once Francine makes landfall, Landry said, residents should stay in place rather than venture out into waterlogged roads and risk blocking first responders or utility crews working to repair power lines. (AP)

Ex-CIA officer faces prison time: A former CIA officer and contract linguist for the FBI who received cash, golf clubs and other expensive gifts in exchange for spying for China faces a decade in prison if a US judge approves his plea agreement Wednesday.

Alexander Yuk Ching Ma, 71, made a deal in May with federal prosecutors, who agreed to recommend the 10-year term in exchange for his guilty plea to a count of conspiracy to gather or deliver national defense information to a foreign government. The deal also requires him to submit to polygraph tests, whenever requested by the US government, for the rest of his life.

"I hope America will forgive me for what I have done," Ma, who has been in custody since his 2020 arrest, wrote in a letter to Chief US District Judge Derrick Watson in Honolulu ahead of his sentencing. (AP)

3-year-old girl dies in hot car: A 3-year-old girl died after being found unconscious inside a hot car with her mother in Southern California during a heat wave



People walk among the Waves of Flags at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, the United States, on Sept 10. Each September, the university stages the Waves of Flags display to honor the victims of the 9/11 attacks. (Xinhua)

As part of its continuous support of 'Let's Be Aware' campaign

KIB launches financial literacy booth at 'The Warehouse Mall'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the setup of a special booth at The Warehouse Mall with the aim of raising banking awareness and financial literacy among community members. This effort aligns with KIB's ongoing and dedicated initiatives to support the directives and recommendations of the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) financial awareness campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in cooperation with local banks. It also comes as part of KIB's commitment to its leading role in guiding customers, helping them make sound financial decisions, and protecting the security of their banking data.

In this regard, Mariam Al-Nasser, Area Manager of Retail Banking at KIB, said: "One of KIB's top priorities is fostering effective communication with customers across different segments and actively promoting financial literacy within society. We see the cultivation of financial awareness and the strengthening of customer relationships as essential to success in the banking industry. These efforts are crucial in guiding society toward a greater understanding of digital banking advancements, and in helping to prevent the increasing threats of fraud, phishing, and other harmful attempts to steal data and money."

Al-Nasser highlighted that: "The Bank's representative stood an active role in interacting with The Warehouse Mall visitors, showcasing our products and services while offering key information on banking rights, responsibilities, and the protection of personal data as outlined by CBK's guidelines.



KIB's Mariam Al-Nasser.

They emphasized the need for secure banking practices in today's rapidly changing financial environment and addressed the growing concerns around fraud." She added that: "KIB will continue to strengthen its financial awareness efforts by positioning its special booths in busy locations to enhance financial literacy across society and directly engage with a wide range of people to better grasp their banking needs."

It is worth noting that KIB is committed to its leading and effective role in raising community awareness, which is considered an essential part of its comprehensive social responsibility strategy. The Bank constantly strives to launch initiatives that broadly enhance financial literacy and to participate in events that support the goals of the "Let's Be Aware" campaign, embodying its main slogan, "Bank for Life".

About KIB
Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the



KIB's Warehouse Booth Sept 2024.

Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new

strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line

with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

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



KFH Visa cardholders win luxurious Belmond train trips.

Titled 'With KFH Visa ... Your Train is Waiting'

KFH announces 6 winners of its first campaign draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the winners in the first draw of its campaign titled "With KFH Visa ... Your Train is Waiting", targeting holders of VISA debit, credit, and prepaid cards. The campaign which started at the beginning of August and will continue until the end of September, offers an opportunity to win a luxurious 7-star trip aboard the Belmond Train. Winners will have the opportunity to choose between an Asia Trip encompassing Singapore and Malaysia, or a Europe trip exploring France and Italy.

Winners of the first campaign draw are: Ahmed Salem Al-Jafar, Omar Taha Al-Hasawi, Masoud Abdullah Al-Qahtani, Abdullah Fahad Al-Hamlan, Ahmad Omran Al-Sabri, and Abdulaziz Khashman Al-Dhufairy.

Two consecutive draws will be held throughout the campaign period, allowing 12 winners to enjoy several privileges as part of a package that includes: one companion for each winner, round-trip business-class tickets, a suite stay on the Belmond Train, accommodation in a 5-star hotel during the trip, and KD 2,000 pocket money deposited into the winning card's balance.

Each customer will have one chance to enter the draw for each one (1) Kuwaiti Dinar spent of the total local purchasing transactions (including the purchasing made through online websites in Kuwaiti Dinar). The customer will have 10

chances to enter the draw for each one (1) Kuwaiti Dinar of the total purchasing transactions spent overseas (including purchasing made online in foreign currencies). Withdrawal transactions, whether conducted within or outside Kuwait, as well as cards issued after the campaign's launch, will not be eligible for the draw.

The campaign underscores KFH's commitment to providing customers with the best benefits and demonstrates the Bank's ongoing dedication to rewarding card usage while prioritizing customer security and convenience. It also coincides with the summer holiday and travel season, leading to a high demand for round-the-clock credit card use. The campaign involves using KFH Visa cards within Kuwait to encourage online transactions, which stimulates sales while enhancing customer satisfaction through security and convenience in their banking experience.

It is worth noting that KFH has implemented comprehensive measures to optimize the card usage experience for customers by developing automated banking card systems and software, enhancing service devices, and improving card quality. These initiatives prioritize the needs of both cardholders and merchants, with the ultimate goal of delivering an exceptional banking experience to customers, positively impacting customers' satisfaction, usage rates, as well as expanding market share and strengthening KFH leadership in the banking cards market.

Seraida M. Baidin sworn in as UAP-KC president

UAP-Kuwait celebrates 9th anniversary with induction & membership meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The United Architects of the Philippines - Kuwait Chapter (UAP-KC) recently celebrated its 9th Founding Anniversary last August 30, 2024, at the Grand Majestic Hotel. Simultaneously, two other activities were conducted during the anniversary celebrations. First was the Induction of the new set of officers for the fiscal year 2024-2025 and the other was the 1st General Membership Meeting under the leadership of the newly elected President Seraida M. Baidin. It was transmitted live online to Manila together with the UAP National president, who gave the address during the celebrations, along with the other

National officers who subsequently presented, charged and inducted the new set of UAP-KC officers.

The Philippines Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Jose A. Cabrera III, was invited as the Guest Speaker, which he graciously accepted and attended. He gave an uplifting speech and reminded the members and guests that the embassy is just one call away for matters concerning the OFWs in Kuwait.

It was one joyous celebration with the architects and guests wearing the traditional Filipino attire of barong and saya as their motif during the gala. The theme of the celebration was "UAP-KC, A Decade of Excellence and Resil-

ience, Forward Together As One." The theme was in support of the UAP's national motto of "One Strong UAP!"

Following the handover of the gavel from the past chapter president Wilher John Bassig, the incumbent president Baidin gave her inaugural address to the attendees punctuated by a reminder that the UAP-KC is here to stay and that "One Strong UAP!" is not just a motto but an achievable goal.

Although, officially, the UAP-KC was celebrating its 9th anniversary, it has been in existence for 10 years, hence, the theme "A Decade of Excellence and Resilience, Forward Together As One." As narrated by Ar-

Dioscoro Quiblat during the ceremony, a group of 18 architects ushered the creation of an interim Architect's group in 2014 through the initiative of the Philippine Professionals Organization in Kuwait. From there, the interim group was officially chartered by the UAP National Headquarters as the 139th chapter of the UAP on August 22, 2015 with the official ceremony held later on October 2, 2015 in Dubai under the leadership by the founding Chapter President Wilmar Jesus Mago.

The celebration culminated with the ceremonial wine toasting amid the raucous chant of "One Strong UAP!"



Photos during the event.

KIBS launches Certificate in Credit Management with Moody's collaboration

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: KIBS launched the Certificate in Credit Management (CCM) program on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. This program is designed to equip participants with the advanced skills and knowledge required to kickstart or advance their careers in finance, banking and investment.

And for the first time in Kuwait the program is delivered in collaboration with Moody's Corporation, the American provider of financial analysis software and services as a part of the commitment of the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS) to empowering and equipping bankers and financial professionals with the essential skills and knowledge needed to advance their careers. Its approach is grounded in professional and scientific principles, which underpins its many achievements and enhance its esteemed role as a premier training organization in Kuwait and the region.

The program is uniquely designed due to the inclusion of e-learning segments, instructor-led lectures, skill application workshops, case studies

and presentations that all help to convert the knowledge and skills gained by the participants into daily habits at work.

The three-month program aims to equip participants with a structured approach to credit assessment, understand the borrower's credit need and conduct a detailed business risk analysis and equip learners with fundamental skills in preparing and presenting a credit application to their Credit Committees with the aim of obtaining their buy-in.

At the commencement of the program, Ms. Rana A. Al-Nibari, the Director General of the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS), extended a warm welcome to the participants and wished them success and prosperity in all their future endeavors. Eng. Suha Isaac, the Head of Training Department, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the program for both the participants and their respective organizations. Moody's supervisors addressed the attendees and illustrated how the program will enhance the participants' skills and refine their experience through its various



Photo during the event.

components and topics, particularly the practical applications.

KIBS is committed to making diligent efforts to develop the skills of national competencies. Its offerings have evolved to encompass a wide

range of programs and services such as professional certification, executive development, training and development in various fields, assessments and tests, English language training, e-learning and publications on business and finance research. KIBS positions itself as a solutions provider, aiding clients in staff development to drive business growth. Additionally, the Institute has established a network of distinguished international and

regional faculty members who possess both academic qualifications and practical experience. KIBS has also formed global partnerships with top-tier professional institutions to foster long-term cooperation.

Swift endorses Harris for president after debate ends

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11, (AP)—Taylor Swift, one of the music industry's biggest stars, endorsed Kamala Harris for president shortly after the debate ended on Tuesday night.

"I think she is a steady-handed, gifted leader and I believe we can accomplish so much more in this country if we are led by calm and not chaos," Swift wrote in an Instagram post, which included a link to a voter registration website.

Swift has a dedicated following among young women, a key demographic in the November election, and her latest tour has generated more than \$1 billion in ticket sales. In a half hour, the post received more than 2.3 million likes.

She included a picture of herself holding her cat Benjamin Button, and she signed the message "Childless Cat Lady." The remark is a reference to three-year-old comments made by JD Vance, Donald Trump's running mate, about women without children not having an equal stake in the country's future.

A Harris senior campaign official said the endorsement was not coordinated with the campaign. Tim Walz, Harris' running mate, appeared to learn about the endorsement in the middle of a live interview on MSNBC. As Rachel Maddow read the text, Walz broke into a smile and patted his chest.

"That was eloquent. And it was clear," Walz said. "And that's the kind of courage we need in America to stand up."

Swift wrote that her endorsement was partially prompted by Trump's decision to post AI-generated pictures suggesting that she had endorsed him. One showed Swift dressed as Uncle Sam, and the text

said "Taylor wants YOU to VOTE for DONALD TRUMP."

Trump's posts "brought me to the conclusion that I need to be very transparent about my actual plans for this election as a voter," Swift wrote. She added that "I've done my research, and I've made my choice."

The Trump campaign dismissed Swift's endorsement. "This is further evidence that the Democrat Party has unfortunately become a party of the wealthy elites," said spokesperson Karoline Leavitt.

"There's many Swifties for Trump out there in America," she said, herself included.

Surprise

Swift's endorsement was not exactly a surprise. In 2020, she supported President Joe Biden, and she cheered for Harris in her debate against then-Vice President Mike Pence. She also was openly critical of Trump, saying he had stoked "the fires of white supremacy and racism."

Swift is a popular figure nationwide, but especially among Democrats. An October 2023 Fox News poll found that 55% of voters overall, including 68% of Democrats, said they had a favorable view of Swift. Republicans were divided, with 43% having a favorable opinion and 45% an unfavorable one.

AP VoteCast suggests that a partisan divide on Swift was apparent as early as 2018. That's the year Swift made her first political endorsement, supporting Tennessee Democrat Phil Bredesen for Senate over Republican Marsha Blackburn.

Also:

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.: Patti Scialfa, Bruce Springsteen's wife and E Street bandmate, says she has been dealing with multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer.

In a documentary about the band that premiered Sunday, the 71-year-old Scialfa said she was diagnosed in 2018 with the disease.

The guitarist said the condition has led her to curtail touring with the band.

"This affects my immune system, so I have to be careful what I choose to do and where I choose to go," she said in the film, titled "Road Diary: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band."

"Every once in a while, I come to a show or two and I can sing a few songs on stage, and that's been a treat," she said. "That's the new normal for me right now, and I'm OK with that."

A spokesman for Scialfa said Monday no additional information on her condition would be released, including whether she is currently being treated for the disease.

She did not attend the film's premiere in Toronto.

Scialfa has been a member of the E Street Band since 1984, and married Springsteen in 1991. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2014. She has also performed as a solo artist.

Springsteen had to postpone some tour dates over the last two years due to peptic ulcer disease and vocal issues. He is scheduled to play a music festival in **Asbury Park**, the **Jersey Shore** town intimately associated with his music, on Sept. 15.

People

Variety



Carla Gugino arrives on the red carpet for the film 'The Friend' at the Roy Thomson Hall during the Toronto International Film Festival, in Toronto, on Tuesday, Sept. 10. (AP)

Film

Pharrell as a Lego and Robbie Williams as a chimp?

Music biopics get creative twist

TORONTO, Sept. 11, (AP)—Many of the expected conventions of music biopics are present in "Piece by Piece," about the producer-turned-pop star Pharrell Williams, and "Better Man," about the British singer Robbie Williams. There's the young artist's urge to break through, fallow creative periods and regrettable chapters of fame-addled excess.

But there are a few, little differences. In "Piece by Piece," Pharrell is a Lego. And in "Better Man," Williams is played by a CGI monkey.

If the music biopic can sometimes feel a little stale in format, these two movies, both premiering this week at the Toronto International Film Festival, attempt novel remixes. In each film, each Williams recounts his life story as a narrator. But their on-screen selves aren't movie stars who studied to get a part just right, but computer-generated animations living out real superstar fantasies.

While neither Williams has much in common as a musician, neither has had a very traditional career. Their films became reflections of their individuality, and, maybe, a way to distinguish themselves in the crowded field of music biopics like "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "Rocketman."

"This is about being who you are, even if it's not something that can be put in a box," Pharrell said in an interview Tuesday alongside director Morgan Neville.

Also next to Pharrell: A two-foot-tall Lego sculpture of himself, which was later in the day brought to the film's premiere and given its own seat in the crowd.

The experience watching the crowd-pleasing "Piece by Piece," which Focus Features will release Oct. 11, can be pleasantly discombobulating. A wide spectrum of things you never expected to see in Lego form are animated. Virginia Beach (where Pharrell grew up). An album of Stevie Wonder's "Songs in the Key of Life." Jay-Z.

"I'm just so grateful that everybody said yes,"

says Pharrell. "Morgan said yes. Lego said yes. Focus said yes. Universal said yes. When you get to all those yeses, you realize how impossible this is."

Neville, the filmmaker of "20 Feet From Stardom," "Won't You Be My Neighbor" and the recent Steve Martin doc, made "Piece by Piece" like a documentary. When he interviewed people for the film - everyone from Missy Elliott to Kendrick Lamar - he spoke to them by Zoom and told them they'd be animated. But he didn't share how.

Pharrell as a Lego is surprisingly winning. It's a way to represent Pharrell as, at heart, a playful builder of beats, a man hellbent on fame who assembled his own destiny.

"I felt like everything we were doing in the film was totally reflective of the subject of the film," Neville says. "We're not doing Lego because it's a gimmick. We're doing it because it's the only way to tell this story right."

"Piece by Piece" will be the unusual film to potentially vie in both the best documentary and best animated film categories at the Academy Awards, along with the best song category.

Concept

The high concept of "Better Man" began with a query by filmmaker Michael Gracey, who directed the hit musical "The Greatest Showman." He approached Williams, the bad-boy balladeer, with a question.

"I said: 'What animal do you see yourself as?'" Gracey told the crowd, introducing "Better Man" at the film's Monday premiere. "And with a big grin he said, 'Lion.'"

After a moment, Williams reflected and acknowledged the truer answer - for an entertainer who started out in boy band Take That - was a monkey.

In the film, the actor playing Williams is Jonno Davies - only we don't see him, either. Not unlike the process on the "Planet of the Apes" films, Davies performed in a motion-capture suit. Later, digital ef-

fects teams placed the chimpanzee of the film on top of him. One part is Williams himself: the eyes of the monkey's face. Every other character, meanwhile, is human.

While "Piece by Piece" is a more all-ages release, "Better Man" is R-rated and doesn't skimp on the rock 'n' roll debauchery. It's the most cocaine you've ever seen a chimp ingest.

It also makes for a peculiar viewing experience. Is Williams a more sympathetic figure as a wounded animal than he is as a human? Either way, Williams is delighted by the result.

"For a narcissist, it's a wonderful treat," he beamed at the screening. "I've seen it three times. It's not enough."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Joey King stars in Netflix's adaptation of Scott Westerfeld's "Uglies," about a future society in which everyone is required to have beautifying cosmetic surgery at age 16. Streaming on Friday, Sept. 13, McG directed the film, in which King's character inadvertently finds herself in the midst of an uprising against the status quo. "Outer Banks" star Chase Stokes plays King's best friend.

Bill Skarsgård is out for revenge against the woman (Famke Janssen) who killed his family in "Boy Kills World," coming to Hulu on Friday, Sept. 13. Moritz Mohr directed the ultra-violent film, of which Variety critic Owen Gleiberman wrote: "It's a depraved vision, yet I got caught up in its kick-... revenge-horror pizzazz, its disreputable commitment to what it was doing."

"The Boy and the Heron" didn't turn out to be Hayao Miyazaki's swan song. (He's said to be at work again on another film.) But it did live up to the considerable expectations built up for the long-incoming late opus from the Japanese anime master. The film, streaming on Max, was the best animated feature winner at the Oscars earlier this year and - in a first for the 83-year-old Miyazaki.

Features

ARABIC TIMES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

MULLUMBIMBY, Australia:

Australian actor and director **Simon Baker**, best known for his role as **Patrick Jane** in the CBS drama series "The Mentalist," avoided a conviction Wednesday after pleading guilty to a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol near his rural home.

The 55-year-old appeared in the **Mullumbimby** Local Court in **New South Wales** state for sentencing after pleading guilty the week before to a charge of driving with a blood-alcohol concentration exceeding the legal limit of 0.05%.

Baker acted alongside **Meryl Streep** and **Anne Hathaway** in the Oscar-nominated 2006 film "The Devil Wears Prada" before starring as a former professional psychic who became a **California** Bureau of Investigation consultant in the hit series "The Mentalist" for eight seasons until 2015. He has worked on multiple shows and movies since, including a movie adaptation of **Kazuo Ishiguro's** "Klara and the Sun" directed by **Taika Waititi** with an expected 2025 release.

Magistrate **Kathy Crittenden** accepted that Baker was remorseful and was unlikely to drive after drinking again. She released him on a nine-month good behavior bond with no conviction recorded. Australian judges have discretion to not record a conviction against first-time offenders under exceptional circumstances.

Police reported seeing Baker's Tesla electric car driving erratically in the fashionable **Byron Bay** region where he lives at 2:11 a.m. July 20.

That was hours after a faulty software update issued by cybersecurity firm **CrowdStrike** created worldwide technological havoc, disrupting airlines, hospitals, government offices and financial systems. Crittenden said the outage knocked police systems offline and an electronic breath test could not be completed on Baker.

She said police resorted to an "old-fashioned sobriety test."

Police reported Baker was unsteady on his feet and smelled of alcohol. He told police he had consumed four glasses of wine over dinner since 6 p.m., roughly eight hours prior. He was alone in the car. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A Florida judge

has declared **Joe Jonas** and **Sophie Turner** divorced and single, signing off on a confidential agreement reached between the two.

The **Miami-Dade County** judge approved the agreement on Friday, one year after the 35-year-old Jonas Brothers singer filed to divorce the 28-year-old "Game of Thrones" and "X Men" actor and five years



Baker



Turner

after the two were married.

The split brought a quiet and relatively quick end to a divorce that briefly became acrimonious and looked headed for a long and ugly custody fight.

The documents said that moderated negotiations led to an agreement on splitting assets, spousal support and custody of their two

daughters, 4-year-old **Willa** and 2-year-old **Delphine**.

Judge **Gina Beovides** declared that the marriage was "irretrievably broken," and that the couple's agreement, especially their parenting plan, was in the best interest of the family.

After-hours emails seeking comment from representatives of

both Turner and Jonas were not immediately returned.

The couple met through Instagram messages and began dating in 2016. They married in a secretive ceremony at a Las Vegas wedding chapel in May of 2019 after the Billboard Music Awards. Country duo **Dan + Shay** performed at the wedding. (AP)

People & Places

Television

Collins' adventure

'Emily in Paris' goes to Rome, Barcelona

ROME, Sept 11, (AP): First Paris, now Rome and next Barcelona – Lily Collins is taking on two more European cities.

As the star and producer of "Emily in Paris," she's been playing the unlucky-in-love marketing executive, breaking hearts (including her own) in France for the past three seasons of the Netflix show.

That changes in part two of the fourth season when, in her usual dramatic fashion, Emily heads to Italy. The cast, including Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu, Lucas Bravo, Ashley Park and Camille Razat, were all in Rome this week to premiere the new episodes releasing Thursday. Getting away from Paris is something there might be more of in future seasons, as writer and creator Darren Star says he's happy to take this show on the road.

Although he rules out changing the title. "No, it's 'Emily in Paris,'" says Star. "But Emily can have experiences in other cities and I think Rome is a part of the show now. It really is."

Barcelona comes into play this October when Collins makes her West End debut opposite Álvaro Morte of "Money Heist" in a stage thriller named after the Spanish city.

Luckily, filming "Emily in Paris" in public places has helped give the actor the boost to become a leading lady on the stage.

"It did give me a bit more confidence, an understanding of performing in front of a large crowd this year," Collins says. "It just ironically happened to be the year that I would then be doing theater right after."

In a recent interview with The Associated Press in Rome, Collins explains why it's the right time for her London stage debut and how filming in Rome allowed her to channel Audrey Hepburn's on-screen Italian adventure in "Roman Holiday." It has been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: Would you ever play Audrey Hepburn?

Collins: Yes. I mean, I love her. There is no ever replicating her, but she is someone that I've grown up admiring.

AP: There were two distinct nods to her (in part two) – "Roman Holiday" and "Charade" – did I miss anything?

Collins: No, I think those were (the) two. "Roman Holiday" – there's an essence of her the whole time. Because if you're here – how can you not, you know?

AP: What was it like filming those scenes around Rome with the Vespa...

Collins: Stunning.

AP: I imagine you had to go round quite a few times?

Collins: We went around so many times, which was funny because then tourists, of course, are noticing that there's this massive machine and then a car with a Vespa attached to it. And then we are going on an actual Vespa. But then there's also the transport vehicle. So like, what are they filming? And then once they figured out it was our show, it was fun.

It was also surreal because you're going around the Colosseum and everything in Rome is beautiful and ancient. And I was pinching myself, but it was amazing to be able to explore another city. I'd been to Paris before the show, so playing (Emily) who was coming to it fresh, was a character. Whereas this time, I'd been to Rome but never fully explored or been here for a long period of time. So it was a whole new adventure, but genuinely for me as well. And it was more of a vacation mode for Emily, which I was happy for her. I was like, "You go, girl. You get a little vacay."

AP: Do you think this could continue?

Collins: I definitely hope so. We're just, you know, waiting (crosses her fingers). But it would be really nice to explore more of Italy. I think there's so much here. But I don't know.

AP: I want to ask you about moving from the TV show to theater.

Collins: I'm very excited. But of course, I'm also nervous. And it's a whole new world for me. I did theater as a kid, but this is something I've been dreaming of my whole life. And the West End is the West End. But it really feels just surreal and I love my team that we're working with. I think it's a beautiful, beautiful script. And the theater is one of a kind, I love the Duke of York (Theatre) and our director (Lynette Linton). It's a wonderful, wonderful group.

AP: So that's Lily in Barcelona.

Collins: Yes exactly (laughing). All the different cities around Europe.

AP: How does it fit in around your TV work and the show?

Collins: It's all about timing as well because ... doing theater is something I've always wanted to do. But it is a time commitment that when you're doing something like "Emily in Paris," that is also the biggest time commitment. It's making sure that it fits in at the right time. But it also isn't just about that. It's the project. When I read "Barcelona," I went, "This is it." And, "How do I make this happen? What time do we have? How do we make it happen with the theater?" You know? So it was a bit of a Tetris-type of thing, but to me it's a different medium, it's a different skill set, it's a different experience.

This season, because "Emily in Paris" is more known, when you're out and about in the streets, it does become a bit of live theater because you can't control people watching all the time. And so sometimes there are scenes, when you're near (Emily's) apartment building or you're in Rome or you're in the mountains skiing, where there's hundreds of people that just show up to watch. And so it is a bit like theater. You are performing for an audience that weirdly doesn't know the storyline, though, so it's a little bit the same and a little bit different. It's like, "But you won't see this for a few months, so please don't spoil it!" Whereas with theater, it's in the moment.



Collins



A model walks the runway during the Michael Kors Collection spring/summer 2025 fashion show as part of New York Fashion Week, Tuesday, Sept. 10, in New York. (AP)

Fashion

A unique runway

Michael Kors brings bold looks amid boulders at NY

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): Fashion sometimes involves risk and designer Michael Kors would tell you some risks aren't worth taking. Last year, his September show was held outside and the weather did not cooperate, so he decided his spring/summer 2025 collection at New York Fashion Week would bring nature inside instead.

Kors and his team created a unique runway in a cavernous raw space in a midtown building, with stark metal benches lining the rectangular walls and gigantic faux black rocks scattered in the center and sides, similar to the rocky beaches of the Amalfi Coast. The drama of Italian cliffs in an urban setting was part of Kors' abstract inspiration.

Kors says he's "glued" to pop culture and was especially fascinated by the recent Netflix series "Ripley," based on Patricia Highsmith's classic novel, "The Talented Mr. Ripley." The dark story is set in coastal Italy where a man who covets a friend's wealthy life kills him and takes over his identity, killing anyone else who threatens his new persona.

Mysterious

"Seeing this romantic, moody, dark story shot all in black and white, I thought it brought something very different to the romance of it," Kors told The Associated Press backstage before the show. "There was this sort of dark side of romance that's not sweet, not insipid, and mysterious. And then also, this is my 35th anniversary of working with Italian artisans and I really wanted to play up all of the incredible tailors and craftspeople in Italy."

The result was a show that used stark lighting and a haunting instrumental score to set the mood for a lot of black and white and muted colors with looks that evoke Ripley's 1950's hybrid style of city and resortwear.

"There's lots of texture, black raffia, white embroideries. Everything is very tactile," Kors explained. "It's all the colors that you would find in the Mediterranean. So all of the natural colors have very soft browns and creams. And then of course, there's going to be blue."

Simplicity

The brand's craftsmanship was on display with intricate peekaboo lace dresses and skirts and several dresses, skirts and coats adorned with flower applique. Accessories stood out in the collection with leather handbags, hats and shoes teeming with black raffia that looked like leather straw. Nearly every look had a belt – some styled loosely but extra-long and knotted to dangle, and others wide and tight at the waist. The ever-present trench coat appeared for men and women on the runway, mostly oversized and slouchy.

This season's shows brought guests and media to all corners of the city and surroundings, showing off its beauty and designers' creativity – from a horse ranch in the tony Hamptons for Ralph Lauren, to a giant ferry boat docked on the East River for Tommy Hilfiger, to an old Domino sugar factory in Brooklyn for Tory Burch.

The show's front row was packed with celebrities, including Kerry Washington, Mary J. Blige, Shailene Woodley, Mindy Kaling, and Lindsay Lohan.

Lisa Rinna said she was moved and excited that her daughter, Amelia Gray Hamlin, walked in the show but knows she can't come every time. "It's super important for me to not be at those shows. I want her to have the moment," the actor and reality star said. "So when I get to ... I have to be quite 'mindful and demure' because I cannot embarrass anyone!"

National Book Awards for young people's literature has a poetic touch.

Five of the 10 nominees announced



Grohl



Blum

NEW YORK: This year's long list of

Music

Honor soon

Frampton finally enters RnR Hall

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): At the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony last year, Sheryl Crow was about to sing her hit "Everyday Is a Winding Road" when she invited a rock icon up on stage.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have to bring out one of my heroes – Peter Frampton," she said as he appeared to huge cheers, slid on a Gibson electric guitar and made musical sparks immediately curl from the instrument.

Frampton was still jamming away when he got a hug from Crow and then Stevie Nicks. When he went into a blistering solo, there was a wide smile on his face. "That's how you do it, Peter Frampton!" Crow screamed.

Call that electric performance a dress rehearsal. This year, Frampton finally will be inducted into the rock hall himself, an honor his fans believe is long overdue. The ceremony is Oct. 19 in Cleveland.

He thanks Crow for sharing her spotlight. "I don't think I would have been nominated had it not been for Sheryl pushing me out there," he tells The Associated Press from his home in Nashville. "I will always be indebted to her for a wonderful opportunity she gave me."

Albums

Frampton earned his way into the hall in large part on the strength of his 1976 live double album "Frampton Comes Alive!" – buoyed by the hit songs "Show Me the Way" and "Baby, I Love Your Way" – that Rolling Stone magazine listed among the 50 greatest live albums of all time.

The guitarist-singer-songwriter has been eligible for the hall since 1998. "I thought it just wasn't going to happen and I got on with my life," he says. "I never expect awards. Whatever comes my way, I'm honored and thrilled about."

The opening of the door for Frampton coincided with a change in hall leadership in 2023 that led to key legacy acts getting invites, like Foreigner and Cher.

They'll join Mary J. Blige, A Tribe Called Quest, Kool & The Gang, Ozzy Osbourne, Dave Matthews Band, the late Jimmy Buffett, MC5, Dionne Warwick, Alexis Korner, John Mayall and Big Mama Thornton in the class of '24.

"I'm absolutely thrilled for Peter. He's given his whole life to this business and he deserves as much as anyone does," said bassist Rick Wills, who is going into the hall with Foreigner and who played with Frampton for years, including co-writing "Do You Feel Like I Do?"

In her acceptance speech, Crow revealed that in 1976 when she was 14, she and six teen friends caught Frampton in concert in Memphis, Tennessee. "I got to sing along with tens of thousands of strangers to 'Do You Feel Like I Do?'" She called it a pivotal moment.

Perhaps more than any musician, Frampton was associated with the talk box, a guitar effect that runs a tube from an amplifier to the mouth, creating a sound both psychedelic and robotic, a technique that has been used by everyone from Mötley Crüe to Pink Floyd.

Lifelong

"I've never been about the bravado of being a star. I've never thought of myself that way. I'm a lifelong musician and I just want to be able to play as long as I can," he says.

"I speak through my guitar I think more than I do with words. I think more emotion and soul comes from my notes that I play and than anything I could ever say."

Major awards until recently have eluded Frampton, who had his music played in films like "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," "Dazed and Confused" and "The Banger Sisters." Redemption came in 2007 when Frampton's instrumental album "Fingerprints" won a Grammy Award, his first.

"There's two things, that I always had a dream about: One was the Grammy, which I got from my instrumental album, which I'm so proud of because I didn't sing a note. It was just about my guitar playing, so that was thrilling. And then, you know, obviously a dream was maybe one day I'll be in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. But I never felt like, 'Well, I deserve it more than anybody else.'"

Dr. Al-Ghanem urges men to have early checkups and lifestyle changes

Delayed treatment of prostatitis can lead to serious complications

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Head of the Urology Unit at Jaber Armed Forces Hospital Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghanem stressed that delaying treatment for conditions such as prostatitis, diabetes, and heart diseases can lead to more serious complications in the future, due to which early treatment is crucial for effective recovery.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Ghanem highlighted the importance of prompt intervention, as these conditions significantly affect quality of life.

He recommended that men start regular checkups from the age of 50, and adopt a balanced lifestyle to help prevent these health issues.

Dr. Al-Ghanem explained that early detection of diseases like prostatitis, diabetes, and heart disease plays a key role in preventing major com-



Dr. Al-Ghanem

plications and undesirable outcomes associated with these conditions.

Among the health problems facing men is prostate enlargement, which can lead to complications

such as urinary infections, inflammation, and pain during urination. Symptoms may include weak or interrupted urine flow, frequent urination, and potential urinary retention. Risks include weakened bladder muscles, which can lead to permanent retention and the formation of bladder stones.

Treatment options for prostate issues include conservative, medicinal, or surgical approaches, depending on the severity of the condition and the treating physician's assessment. Diagnosis typically involves an ultrasound of the bladder and prostate to determine the size, followed by kidney and urine function tests to rule out urinary tract infections.

Dr. Al-Ghanem advised men to undergo periodic medical tests, follow a balanced diet, engage in regular exercise, quit smoking, and maintain a healthy weight to support overall health.

Drug improves health markers in kids: study

Weight-loss drug Saxenda is proven effective for children as young as 6

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): A drug approved to treat obesity in adults and teens is safe and effective for use in kids as young as 6 when combined with diet and exercise, a small new study shows.

Liraglutide lowered body mass, slowed weight gain and improved health markers in kids ages 6 through 11, according to research presented Tuesday at a medical conference and published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Based on the results of the trial, drugmaker Novo Nordisk has asked US regulators to expand use of the medication for kids in that age group, a company spokesperson said Tuesday. If approved, the drug would be the first authorized to treat the most common type of obesity that affects more than 20% of US kids ages 6 through 11, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"To date, children have had virtually no options for treating obesity," said Dr. Claudia Fox, a pediatric obesity expert at the University of Minnesota who led the study. "They have been told to 'try harder' with diet and exercise."

Side effects were common among those given the drug, particularly gastrointestinal effects such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. And experts said doctors and parents would need to carefully consider those risks and the lack of data about the long-term use of such drugs in young kids.

"Having a medication for that age group, if approved, would be a really nice tool to have, but we're also going to have to be careful about how widely we start using it," said Dr. Melissa Crocker, a pediatric obesity specialist at Boston Children's Hospital who wasn't involved in the study. "And I would answer that differently at 6 than I would at 11."

Liraglutide is in a class of so-called GLP-1 drugs that include blockbuster medications like Wegovy and Mounjaro. The medications mimic hormones that affect appetite, feelings of fullness and digestion. It's taken as a daily injection and is approved under the brand name Victoza to treat diabetes in adults and children ages 10 and older and as Saxenda to treat obesity in adults and children ages 12 to 17.

The new study, paid for by Novo Nordisk, included 82 children with a mean age of 10 and a baseline weight

Age-related muscle loss

FDA approves Immunis trial to combat obesity

IRVINE, Calif., Sept 11, (AP): Immunis, Inc., a clinical-stage biotech developing novel secretome therapeutics for age-related diseases and immune dysfunction, was recently granted permission by the FDA to proceed with its Phase II clinical trial testing its investigational secretome (IMMUNA) in reversing sarcopenic obesity. The news comes shortly after Immunis completed secretome-treatment of its third patient cohort in a Phase I/IIa clinical trial for age-related muscle atrophy (sarcopenia).

In the US, obesity rates have skyrocketed within the past few decades, with a heavy impact on the elderly population. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the percentage of obese Americans aged 65+ has doubled from about 20% to 40% for both men and women. Age-related

of about 155 pounds (70 kilograms). The average starting BMI was 31, above the threshold for childhood obesity. More than half the children had obesity-related health problems such as insulin resistance, asthma or early puberty. The results were presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes in Madrid.

Medications

In the trial, 56 children received daily injections of up to 3 milligrams of liraglutide for nearly 13 months, while 26 got dummy medications. The kids were followed for six months afterward.

All the children received individual counseling to help them follow a plan that called for a healthy diet and 60 minutes a day of moderate to high-intensity exercise.

Researchers found that kids who took the drug for more than a year reduced their body mass index -- a

measure of height and weight that can account for a child's natural growth -- by 5.8%. Children who received the dummy medication saw their BMI increase by 1.6%.

At the same time, children who received the drug slowed weight gain to 1.6% of their body weight during that period, compared with a 10% gain for those who got sham drugs. The study found that 46% of kids who got the drug lowered their BMI by at least 5%, an amount that has been linked to improvements in health problems tied to obesity. In kids who received placebo, 9% met that mark. Lower measures of blood pressure and blood sugar were detected in children who received the drug, researchers noted.

Side effects, mostly mild to moderate, were reported in nearly 90% of both groups of participants. Gastrointestinal side effects including nausea and vomiting were reported in 80% of kids who received the drug, compared with 54% who received sham medications.

Enhance accessibility for the blind

Zain Group joins Be My Eyes to aid the 'visually impaired'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications, operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, has entered a regional first-of-its-kind strategic partnership with 'Be My Eyes' to provide instant visual assistance for people who are blind or have low vision. Following a series of successful pilots across Zain markets, the new-group-wide partnership with Be My Eyes will see Zain personnel regularly act as sighted volunteers on the Be My Eyes platform.

Be My Eyes develops and runs the largest and fastest-growing accessibility app for the blind and low vision community worldwide, with approximately 700,000 users globally of which close to 100,000 are Arabic-speaking blind users. The recipient of several innovation and accessibility awards, Be My Eyes also has over 7.7 million volunteers, spread across 150+ countries providing support in 180+ languages.

Collaboration

The collaboration will see Be My Eyes educate and facilitate 16 volunteering events over a period of a year, for Zain employees, with each event lasting four hours and up to 100 personnel. The volunteering events will allow Zainers to sign up and answer one-way video, two-way audio calls from people in need of some sort of assistance. In practice, once the volunteer gets the video call, they will answer user questions about anything the user's smartphone camera can see, such as reading a document, identifying where something is, in their home, school or workplace, describing a new environment, and many other potential scenarios.

Commenting on the initiative, Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, said, "We are an operator from the region and for the region, passionate about community programs that add meaningful connectivity to all people we have the privilege of serving and beyond. We are proud of our record of introducing new solutions and initiatives to the region for the first time, and our collaboration with Be My Eyes reflects our commitment to inclusion by harnessing technology to better serve the global community."

"At Be My Eyes, we are thrilled to partner with Zain Group, a leader in the digital landscape across the Middle East and Africa. This collaboration represents a significant step forward in our mission to make the world more accessible for blind and low-vision individuals," said Mike Buckley, CEO



of Be My Eyes. "Together, we are not only enhancing accessibility but also fostering meaningful connections that provide information, with speed and elegance, about a world not designed for the blind."

A summary of 'Inclusive' initiatives implemented by Zain

Zain is one of the most active companies regionally with respect to providing access to people with disabilities having implemented a fully-fledged disability inclusive strategy, reflecting its commitment to fostering technology to support this community.

Initiatives

Zain has introduced an array of initiatives under its Disability's We Able program, most recently, in August 2024, having over 80 of its people with disabilities (PWDs), the company introduced 'The Masters', an Employee Resource Group made up of approximately 25 PWDs all with a collective purpose of enabling them to create, lead, and shape their experiences at Zain through a focus on four core impact areas: 1. Disability Inclusion Strategy; 2. Accessibility in Decision-Making; 3. Learn and Lead; 4. Voice and Visibility.

Over recent years, Zain also introduced in Jordan, a service to allow people with low vision, blind, hearing impaired, or deaf individuals to interact with contracts and understand their terms through an audio-visual video available through scanning a QR Code located in Zain showrooms across the

Kingdom.

Moreover, the company's Grow program saw the training of 28 fresh graduates with disabilities teaching them valuable lessons and knowledge and skills related to mastering job interviews, business technology, teamwork and tools that resulted in the recruitment of 10 graduates to join Zain full-time.

Other initiatives include celebrating Braille Day by teaching employees Braille; celebrating World Hearing Day by conducting health checks and tests for employees; Sign language trainings for more than 350 employees; holding multiple sessions where employees are taught about disability and accessibility; a strategic partnership with PurpleSpace, the world's only professional development hub for disability network leaders; Physical accessibility audits of all Zain headquarters across all markets; and implementation of "Reasonable Accommodations and Accessibility Guidelines."

Zain's strategic partnership with Be My Eyes will result in having more volunteers from the company's eight country footprint on the app to act as volunteers for the Be My Eyes user community. The innovative and personal approach aligns with both Zain's Corporate Sustainability program; and the Disability program's 'We ABLE' initiative focusing on empowering its people to practice social responsibility, fostering a society where everyone has equal opportunities to dream and succeed.

No account for children under 16

Australia targets social media access for kids

MELBOURNE, Australia, Sept 11, (AP): The Australian government on Tuesday promised to legislate this year to enforce a minimum age for children to access social media, but it has yet to announce how ages will be verified.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the government would soon trial age verification technology with a view to banning children from opening social media accounts. The line would be drawn between the ages of 14 and 16.

Several countries and US states are attempting to legislate to spare children harm from social media, including bullying.

The Australian move comes as parents increasing call for their children to be protected online and with the opposition party promising a social media ban for children under 16 if it wins elections due by May next year.

"We've committed to introducing legislation before the end of this year

for age verification to make sure that we get young people away from this social harm," Albanese told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"This is a scourge. We know that there is mental health consequences for what many of the young people have had to deal with. The bullying that can occur online, the access to material which causes social harm, and parents are wanting a response," Albanese added.

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Kane scores twice in 100th game for England

Netherlands and Germany draw



England's Harry Kane is in action during the Group F UEFA Nations League soccer match between England and Finland at Wembley Stadium in London. (AP)

LONDON, Sept 11, (AP): Harry Kane marked his 100th game for England with two goals and celebrations with his family in a 2-0 win over Finland in the UEFA Nations League.

Presented with a golden cap before kickoff and playing in gold boots at Wembley Stadium, the England captain was swarmed by his teammates after scoring his first goal in true Kane style. He beat a Finnish defender before unleashing a powerful shot which was still rising as it clipped the underside of the crossbar.

The Bayern Munich star's second goal came with an assist from one of England's new faces as Noni Madueke played the pass for Kane to hit a shot that took a slight deflection - not that it mattered to the crowd which gave Kane a standing ovation when he was substituted off soon after.

"It was a big night for me, obviously really proud to reach 100 caps. I want to score goals, I want to help the team," Kane told broadcaster ITV.

It was the second straight 2-0 win for interim England manager Lee Carsley, who took over on a temporary basis after Gareth Southgate stepped down following England's loss to Spain in the Euro 2024 final.

Carsley could yet remain in the position for a while longer if the search for Southgate's permanent successor extends beyond the next international break in October.

England is playing in the second tier of the Nations League and is level on six points at the top of its group with Greece, which beat Ireland 2-0.

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Manchester City defender Nathan Ake went off with an apparent muscle injury shortly before halftime while playing for the Netherlands in a 2-2 draw with Germany. That could be a blow for City ahead of games against Brentford in the Premier League on Saturday and Inter Milan and Arsenal next week.

Denzel Dumfries' goal helped salvage a draw for the Netherlands, which had started well when Tijjani Reijnders' goal gave the Dutch the lead after just one-and-a-half minutes in Amsterdam after being left in plenty of space by the German defense.

However, Germany had a 2-1 lead at halftime thanks to goals from Deniz Undav and Joshua Kimmich, before Dumfries leveled in the 50th. Germany and the Netherlands were familiar foes who have played seven times since 2018, and most recently in March.

For the Netherlands, it was the first game since coach Ronald Koeman ruled forward Steven Bergwijn out of his plans following the forward's move to the Saudi Arabian league. Koeman suggested Bergwijn, who was on the team at Euro 2024, lacked ambition because of the move.

Germany was without Niclas Füllkrug after the West Ham striker struggled with an Achilles tendon problem and was replaced in the lineup by Stuttgart's Undav.

In the same group, Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina drew 0-0 in the other top-tier game.

Pavel Sulc scored twice to lift the Czech Republic to a 3-2 win over Ukraine, and Georgia beat Albania 1-0.



Participants pose for a group photo at the end of the program.

Bursali praises Kuwait

Regional Special Oly training course wraps up

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The regional training course for preparing trainers for the Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Program (MATP), organized by the Kuwaiti Special Olympics under the supervision of Special Olympics International and the Special Olympics for the Middle East and North Africa region, concluded recently with the participation of 50 trainers from GCC and Arab countries.

Rehab Bursali, National Director of the Kuwaiti Special Olympics, confirmed that the practical applications during the course yielded tangible, positive results that lay the foundation for future efforts to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities, particularly those with severe disabilities.

Bursali explained that Kuwait's hos-

ting of the course reflects the nation's commitment to staying up-to-date with the latest theories and practices related to motor activities for individuals with disabilities. She expressed her gratitude for all the efforts that contributed to the course's success, which aligned with Kuwait's dedication to supporting and caring for people with disabilities.

She further noted that the course included both theoretical and practical components, with the latter taking place at the swimming pool of the Youth Sports Club in Ahmadi, under the auspices of the Care for the Disabled Association in Sabahiya. This association also hosted the first-ever medical examinations for those with severe and multiple disabilities, including eye and hearing tests, with the participation of

students from Al-Risala School's Special Needs Department and the Care for the Disabled Association.

Kuwaiti Special Olympics President, Hana Al-Zawawi, expressed her gratitude to the lecturers from Special Olympics International and the Special Olympics Middle East and North Africa region, as well as the participating trainers from Arab and GCC countries and Kuwait, for their dedication to ensuring the course's success.

Al-Zawawi highlighted that this edition of the course marked the first time medical examinations were conducted for individuals with severe and multiple disabilities. She extended her thanks to the Ministry of Health, the Royal Initiative, the Care for the Disabled Association (Al-Ahmadi branch),

the Youth Sports Club, Nemo Academy, and Al-Risala School.

She also praised the contributions of Kuwaiti youth volunteers, both male and female, as well as the technical and administrative staff of the Ambition Sports Club for Mental Disabilities, and all the state ministries that played a role in organizing the event in a manner that reflects Kuwait's commitment to excellence.

In conclusion, Sherif El-Fouly, Head of the Games and Competitions Sector at Special Olympics International for the Middle East and North Africa, commended the course's organization and the breadth of topics covered. He particularly highlighted the importance of applying the motor activities program materials and conducting athlete evaluations.

SAfrica secures dramatic victory

JUBA, Sept 11, (Xinhua): South Africa secured a dramatic 3-2 victory against hosts South Sudan in the 2025 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers, played at the Juba National Stadium.

South Sudan took an early lead in the 14th minute, but South Africa quickly equalized just two minutes later. The match opened up in the second half, with both teams pushing for a winner, but it was South Africa who clinched victory with a last-gasp goal in the 95th minute.

South African national team coach Hugo Broos expressed relief during the post-match press conference, noting that his team could have settled the game much earlier in the first half.

"I am very happy that we still could win the game, honestly I didn't believe in it anymore, I know that this South Sudanese team plays with a lot of heart and dedication, they have a lot of tall players and our defense was not aggressive enough," Broos said.

He added that defensive errors led to his team conceding two goals, putting them in a difficult position.

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"The big trouble we have now for this moment is that there are players who did not play competitive games, 80 percent of the players played only preseason friendly games, and we saw that in the game, we were not sharp enough, this is not South Africa that we knew in other games," Broos disclosed.

South Sudan's head coach, Nicholas Dupuis, praised his team's efforts despite the narrow loss, stating that they had performed admirably against a strong opponent like South Africa.

"I am very proud of my players today because they were playing against South Africa; it is a very good team. The first half tactically was not very good and we only improved in the second half," Dupuis said, adding that a draw would have been possible if the defense hadn't switched off in the final minutes.

South Sudan will travel to Uganda for their next Group K match on October 7, while South Africa will face the Republic of Congo in the other fixture.

After two games, Uganda and South Africa top Group K with 4 points each.

Late defensive mix-up denied Americans win

Pochettino hiring 'announced' as US draws with New Zealand

CINCINNATI, Sept 11, (AP): Christian Pulisic stared in frustration after the final whistle and made clear how much work Mauricio Pochettino has ahead.

An 89th-minute defensive mix-up had dropped the United States into a 1-1 tie with New Zealand in a friendly on Tuesday night, a match that kicked off 30 minutes after the U.S. Soccer Federation announced it hired Pochettino to coach the Americans through the 2026 World Cup.

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Mike Varas led the team for the second game as interim coach following the firing of Gregg Berhalter, let go after the Americans' first-round elimination in the Copa America. The U.S. was coming off Saturday's 2-1 defeat to Canada, the Americans' first to the Canadians on home soil since 1957.

Pulisic put the U.S. ahead in the 69th minute, 12 minutes after entering, and with 31 international goals moved past Brian McBride for fifth on the U.S. career list. But sloppiness by Caleb Wiley and Mark McKenzie led to Ben Waine's 89th-minute goal.

The U.S. is winless in four straight games overall and in four consecutive



New Zealand midfielder Matthew Garbett (7) heads the ball against United States defender Kristoffer Lund (23) during the first half of a friendly soccer match in Cincinnati. (AP)

home games for the first time since a seven-game stretch in 2010-11.

Pochettino arrives in the U.S. on Wednesday and takes over ahead of exhibitions on Oct. 12 against Panama at Austin, Texas, and at Mexico three days later.

Pulisic scored following an 11-pass buildup that included Chris Richards,

Mbappé and PSG could go to mediation over \$60m dispute

PARIS, Sept 11, (AP): The French soccer league's legal commission is urging Kylian Mbappé and his former club Paris Saint-Germain to agree to mediation in a dispute over wages and bonuses, PSG said Wednesday.

PSG officials and Mbappé's representatives met in Paris after the France superstar asked the commission to get involved. Mbappé, who joined Real Madrid this summer on a free transfer, says PSG owes him 55 million euros (around \$60 million).

PSG, which said it was pleased with the two-hour hearing at the commission on Wednesday, said in a statement it recalled that Mbappé had formerly made "clear, repeated public and private commitments that must be respected, having been afforded unprecedented benefits by the club over seven fantastic years in Paris."

PSG has argued that it does not owe money to the World Cup winner under an agreement when Mbappé was sidelined ahead of the 2023-24 season - following his decision not to prolong his contract with the club - with the player allegedly stipulating that he would relinquish bonuses over his reintegration into the team.

PSG said that the league's legal commission recommended "mediation between the parties," which the club said it had been seeking for months.

The French league and the player's lawyer did not immediately respond to a request for comments from The Associated Press.

Mbappé's relationship with PSG ended amid deep tensions during his

final season at the club.

PSG felt let down by Mbappé after offering him the most lucrative contract in the club's history when he signed a new contract in 2022. But Mbappé was frustrated because he felt promises to sign key players were not kept.

When he signed the new deal, he was paraded in front of fans holding up a jersey with 2025 on it. Mbappé was reportedly annoyed about this because the contract was until 2024 with the option for an extra year.

Mbappé stunned PSG in June last year by informing the club he would not take the option for an extra year. With his contract effectively into its final year, it put PSG in the position of

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needing to sell Mbappé to avoid losing him for free when the contract expired.

His PSG career could have ended in the summer of 2023 amid a tense transfer standoff. After telling the club he would not extend his contract for an extra year, Mbappé was left off a preseason tour to Japan and South Korea and forced to train with fringe players. PSG said it would rather sell him than let the player leave for free in 2024, but he rejected a 300 million euro move to Saudi team Al-Hilal.

PSG left Mbappé out of the team's opening league game of that season as the standoff continued but eventually let him return to the lineup after "constructive and positive talks" between the two parties, PSG said at the time.



Matthijs De Ligt of the Netherlands, left, and Germany's Jamal Musiala fight for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Netherlands and Germany in Amsterdam, Netherlands. (AP)



Players challenge for the ball during the qualifying match between Kuwait and Iraq. (KUNA photo)

Sports

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Medical expert decries decision to ban water at stadium

Al-Mutairi orders investigation into poor organization of Kuwait-Iraq WC qualifier



Fans getting help from the security personnel during the Kuwait-Iraq World Cup qualifying match at the Jaber Stadium in Kuwait.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The match between Kuwait's national football team and Iraq, held at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in the second round of Group Two of the 2026 World Cup Asian qualifiers, has sparked significant governmental concern due to its poor organization and overcrowding issues. The match, marking the Blues' first World Cup qualifier since 2006, was marred by logistical failures that led to a frustrating experience for fans.

Despite the excitement of the match, which drew over 60,000 spectators — exceeding the stadium's capacity — poor organization was evident from the start. Many fans arrived at the gates five hours before kickoff, only to face overcrowding and delays. As gates closed, some spectators climbed fences to enter, and thousands ended up watching the game standing.

SOCCER

Compounding the issue, water was prohibited despite the high temperatures and humidity, leading to multiple cases of exhaustion among fans. The lack of adequate stadium parking forced many attendees to park in nearby areas and walk long distances, further adding to their discomfort.

The poorly managed event and evident organizational lapses have raised concerns about Kuwait's ability to host future tournaments, particularly the upcoming Gulf 26 tournament scheduled from December 21 to January 3.

In response to the situation, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, the Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, has called for an investigation. The Public Authority for Sports has been instructed to work with the Kuwait Football Association to identify the reasons behind the disorganization and to take appropriate legal measures in accordance with regulations.

The Authority also announced that, in preparation for the Gulf 26, Minister Al-Mutairi will present a detailed organizational plan on October 7. This presentation will outline the procedural guidelines for the tournament, ensuring that future events meet international standards and are managed more effectively.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ahmed Abdulmalik, a family medicine consultant, has labeled the decision to prevent water from entering Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium during the Kuwait-Iraq match as not just a mistake but a "medical crime."

Dr. Abdulmalik explained that in hot and humid conditions, the body loses fluids rapidly through

Argentina, Brazil stumble in World Cup 'qualifying'



Minister Al-Mutairi follows the events that accompanied the match.



Medical expert Dr. Ahmed Abdulmalik

sweating, often without the person realizing it. Given that the match was held in such extreme weather and lasted for an extended period, with many spectators arriving up to three hours early, the impact of dehydration is a serious concern.

He emphasized that dehydration is particularly dangerous for the health of individuals, including children, the elderly, and those with kidney issues. This situation highlights the need for better management and preventive measures to avoid severe health consequences or even fatalities.

Dr. Abdulmalik noted that the temperature around 9 p.m. during the match was between 40 and 45 degrees Celsius. He criticized the Football Association for what he termed a significant medical oversight and urged that such issues be addressed to prevent future occurrences.

Bolivia upset Chile

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia, Sept 11, (AP): Two South American soccer powerhouses lost in World Cup qualifying Tuesday in the absence of their biggest stars, with Lionel Messi missing Argentina's 2-1 loss to Colombia and Neymar still on the sidelines for Brazil's upset defeat in Paraguay.

James Rodríguez scored from the penalty spot and had an assist to help Colombia edge defending champion Argentina 2-1 in Barranquilla. Diego Gómez netted the winner for Paraguay in a 1-0 victory over Brazil at Asunción.

Both Argentina and Brazil struggled without their injured stars, with the replacements for Messi and Neymar unable to deliver away wins for their teams.

Yerson Mosquera opened the scoring for Colombia with a close-range header in the 25th minute but Argentina equalized in the 48th after Nico González intercepted a Rodríguez pass. Rodríguez made amends on the hour with his penalty, awarded after a video review, securing the win at the Metropolitano Stadium.

Gómez scored for Paraguay from the edge of the box, with the ball deflecting in off goalkeeper Alisson's right post. Brazil had few opportunities to equalize and gave coach Dorival Júnior his first defeat since taking over in January.

In other games Tuesday, Bolivia upset Chile 2-1 at Santiago, Ecuador beat Peru 1-0, and Venezuela drew 0-0 with Uruguay.

Argentina leads the round-robin competition with 18 points after eight matches, two points clear of Colombia. Uruguay is in third position with 15 points, followed by Ecuador with 14. Brazil is in fifth with 10.

All teams have two more qualifying matches next month. The top six teams in South American qualifying will get automatic spots at the 2026 World Cup.

The 2022 World Cup winners also lifted the Copa America trophy in July after a 1-0 overtime victory over Colombia. The Colombians seemed to have that match on their minds as they found a way to beat Argentina for the first time since 2019.

"It is a great win against an Argentina team that has won it all," Rodríguez said. "The weather was tough, it was so hot, but we had an excellent match. It is a fair win." Colombia once again had the 33-year-old Rodríguez to thank after he gave a perfect cross for Mosquera's opening header. That equalized Carlos Valderrama's record of 11 assists in South American World Cup qualifying.

When he fired past Dibu Martínez, a prolific penalty stopper, in the 60th minute, Rodríguez equalized Falcao García's mark of 13 goals in World Cup qualifying.

Argentina's strikers Lautaro Martínez and Julián Álvarez failed to offer as much danger as they do when veteran Messi is there to create opportunities for them.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said the heat had an impact on the match.

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"The heat is the same for both, but it is evident that there were not good conditions for us to see a spectacle," the coach said.

Brazil's coach, usually reserved in front of the media, told a news conference on Monday that his team will be in the next World Cup final. The defeat at Paraguay suggested he was still miles away from delivering on that promise.

His idea of starting against a defensively sound Paraguay team with a trio of Real Madrid strikers — Vinícius Júnior, Endrick, and Rodrygo — clearly failed. Midfielder Lucas Moura said "The game was over" as soon as the hosts opened the scoring in the 20th minute.

"They already came to defend, even more so after they scored," substitute Moura said.

Defender Marquinhos said Brazil's squad doesn't have "the usual confidence" in recent times.

"We are trying to find the best way to play," he said. "Many pieces are being changed." Paraguay collected a historic win that keeps the team in contention for a spot in the next World Cup. The squad assembled by new coach Gustavo Alfaro seemed doomed to miss out in 2026 until it held Uruguay to a draw last week and then upset Brazil.

Pizzi 'confident' in Kuwait's future despite draw with Iraq in qualifier

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Juan Pizzi, the Argentine coach of the Kuwait, expressed that the team played with the intention to win against Iraq" and was close to achieving its goal. However, he noted that "the hot weather and a lack of luck with scoring opportunities" hindered its success.

Kuwait drew 0-0 with Iraq in the second round of Group Two in the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup. This result dropped Kuwait to fourth place in the group standings with two points, while Iraq moved to

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the top of the table with four points, tied with South Korea and Jordan.

Pizzi remarked in the post-match press conference, "The team's performance is showing positive progress in the qualifiers. I've been with the national team for just twenty days, and we are striving for better results in the future."

He emphasized that "the journey is still long and requires continued hard work," expressing confidence in the players' abilities and their potential to improve further.

On the other hand, Iraqi coach Jesus Casas commented on the match, noting that his team faced technical limitations early on due to a "harsh" refereeing decision. The game saw



Kuwait head coach, Juan Pizzi.

a red card for Iraqi player Rebin Gharib just seven minutes into the first half.

Casas stated, "We felt we deserved a better outcome and had several opportunities to score. Despite the numerical disadvantage, we managed to secure a point, which is better than a loss."

He praised the Kuwaiti team's performance, acknowledging its attempts but also pointed out that it did not pose a significant threat to Iraq's goal. Casas added, "If we had played with a full team, we might have secured a victory."



Paraguay's Isidro Pitta, right, and Brazil's Marquinhos go for a header during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 at the Defensores del Chaco Stadium, in Asuncion, Paraguay. (AP)

United's losses rise despite a year of record revenues

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 11, (AP): Manchester United reported losses of 113.2 million pounds (\$148 million) in its latest accounts Wednesday for the year ending June 30, despite record revenues of 661.8 million pounds (\$866 million).

The Premier League club, which was subject to a partial buyout from British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe this year, said the figures were in part because of increased spending on players.

The league's profit and sustainability rules (PSR) allow clubs to

lose a maximum of 105 million pounds (\$137 million) over a three-year period or face sanctions. Last season Everton and Nottingham Forest were handed points deductions for breaking those rules.

Despite the losses, United said it remained in compliance with the financial rules of both the league and Europe's governing body UEFA.

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PSR is related to more than just net losses, with allowances given for spending in areas such as infrastructure.

United has undergone an extensive restructuring program following Ratcliffe's investment of \$1.3 billion for a 27.7% stake.

New chief executive Omar Berrada was hired from Manchester City and the storied club has implemented cost-saving initiatives that it said included staff redundancies of around 250 roles.

"We are working towards greater financial sustainability and making changes to our operations to make them more efficient, to ensure we are directing our resources to enhancing on-pitch performance," Berrada said Wednesday.

United made losses of 28.7 million pounds (\$37.5 million) in 2022-23, 115.5 million pounds (\$151 million) in 2021-22 and 92.2 million pounds (\$120.5 million) in 2020-21.

The latest figures included costs of 47.8 million pounds (\$62.4 million) primarily related to Ratcliffe's investment.



Colombia's Luis Diaz, right, and Argentina's Paulo Dybala battle for the ball during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 at the Metropolitano Roberto Melendez stadium in Barranquilla, Colombia. (AP)