



Kuwait Amir, Crown Prince, Prime Minister register biometric fingerprints



Amiri/ Crown Prince/PM Diwan photos

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah register their biometric fingerprints.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah registered Monday his biometric fingerprints with the attendance of First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also registered his biometric fingerprints with the attendance of First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then registered his biometric fingerprints with the attendance of First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Monday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh

Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir received First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

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

Kuwait's relief efforts for Palestine praised

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): The Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait, Rami Tahboub has commended the Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) humanitarian and relief efforts and praised the society's continuous work to deliver aid to the Palestinians.

In a statement to KUNA following his meeting with KRCS Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas, Tahboub emphasized the role played by the society and highlighted that the KRCS was among the first responders to provide various humanitarian aid to Palestine.

Tahboub noted that KRCS has been actively involved in since the beginning of the crisis, assisting thousands of displaced individuals and addressing their urgent needs.

The ambassador applauded KRCS coordination with Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the Palestinian Ministry of Health, lauding their efforts to alleviate the burden on the displaced Palestinians, the sick, and the wounded.

He also affirmed the commitment of the Palestinian Embassy in Kuwait and the KRCS to maintaining communication and coordination regarding humanitarian and relief efforts for Palestine.

Tahboub highlighted the widespread devastation in Gaza, which affected food supplies, healthcare, and education, urging the continuation of relief efforts in light of severe shortages in medicine, vaccines, food, shelter and clean water.

Continued on Page 5

Obstacles continue in hiring domestic labor

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Despite the arrival of 11 Filipino domestic workers, their return to Kuwait continues to face obstacles due to three 'impossible' demands by the Philippine Embassy.

Khaled Al-Dukhnan, the President of the Domestic Labor Offices Union, reaffirmed to Al-Seyassah daily that the problem persists without any resolution.

Al-Dukhnan stated only 6 domestic labor offices are allowed to recruit workers from the Philippines, out of 366 registered offices, meaning 360 offices remain idle.

He added that a delegation from the Union's board, along with representatives of the Philippine Federation, met with Undersecretary of the Philippine Department of Labor Olalia and Assistant Secretary for Migrant Workers Felicitas K.B. to discuss the reasons behind the complications and delays in issuing 'job orders' for Kuwaiti offices by the Philippine labor attaché office in Kuwait.

He explained that they highlighted the difficulty Kuwaiti offices face in obtaining 'job orders' due to the embassy's impossible demands, including requiring Kuwaiti office owners to provide entry and exit records for workers, which is impossible as it is not within the scope of recruitment offices but rather it is the responsibility of the relevant government authorities or through personal authorization from the worker.

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

ONCE again I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Court of Cassation for its ruling that nullified the travel ban imposed on citizens involved in financial lawsuits.

Unlike the rest of the world -- including even the least developed nations -- Kuwait had been uniquely enforcing such measures.

This was largely due to the influence of powerful individuals who prioritized their own interests and manipulated official institutions to serve their agendas. In reality, these influential people are the ones in debt, as it is they who squandered their wealth.

According to Sharia, when a person lends money to someone who is unable to repay, the lender must bear the loss.

Imposing a travel ban in financial disputes amounts to a form of physical punishment, which is incompatible with the principles of modern and civilized societies.

... Yet tomorrow is another day. **Zahed Matar**

MoH seen as cost-effective Afia alternative, KMA says

Medical association affirms ministry's ability to serve retirees

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Kuwait Medical Association (KMA) says the Ministry of Health, with its skilled technical and administrative staff and advanced infrastructure, is capable of serving as the most suitable, well-equipped, and cost-effective alternative if the Afia health

insurance contract for retirees is not renewed.

In a press statement, KMA explained that the Ministry of Health has the ability to expand its provision of integrated health services during evening hours by allocating clinics and scheduling evening surgeries for the beneficiaries of the Afia program. Primary care centers could offer specialized clinics for diabetics and patients with chronic conditions.

Continued on Page 5

KD 34 mln owed to gov't: Audit Bureau

MoH financial records unsatisfactory

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) has recorded several violations of the Health Ministry related to liabilities, dues, allocations, salary refunds and debts, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In its report on the final account of the ministry for fiscal 2023/2024, the bureau indicated that balances remain in the account of debts owed to the government for more than 20 years, which it considers negligence in collecting the amounts allocated for the State treasury. It disclosed that the balance of the account of debts owed to the government reached about KD 34 million at the end of the first quarter of the current year.

This is the result of low collection rates, as majority of the debts of companies and individuals have remained uncollected over the years and the ministry has not taken serious measures to collect these amounts for the State treasury -- a violation of the Cabinet's decision regarding the rules for implementing the budget, the bureau asserted.

SAB confirmed the continuation of balances carried forward in the account of debts owed to the government for many fiscal years, some of which date back to fiscal 2003/2004 amounting to more than KD17 million in the form of uncollected payments from insurance companies and Zakat House during the implementation of the health insurance system for expatriates -- 54.6 percent of the balance amounting to KD 31.234 million.

It also pointed out the failure to complete the data under the 'Reasons for Non-settlement' column; as the phrase 'coordination is carried out on a regular basis with the relevant departments and administrations' is placed for all debts without clearly stating the reasons for each case; thereby, weakening control over these amounts -- a violation of the Ministry of Finance circular 2022 regarding the rules and procedures for closing accounts and preparing the final accounts of government agencies.

On the ministry's debt to the government, the bureau said the ministry dropped balances for government agencies from the account of debts without stating the reasons -- whether they were settled or not, which totaled about KD 1.1 million, including KD 455,000 debts owed to the

Continued on Page 5

Strict mid-job biometrics compliance eyed by MoE

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Ministry of Education (MoE) has reinforced the requirement for all school administration employees to follow the 'three fingerprints' system for daily attendance, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In this regard, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for General Education, Mansour Al-Dhafiri, has issued a directive emphasizing the importance of adhering to this system in line with the previously approved bulletin that outlines the official working hours for employees in the Ministry's General Office, educational districts, and schools.

Al-Dhafiri has urged schools to ensure strict compliance with the fingerprint attendance each day. In cases where fingerprint devices malfunction, schools may temporarily use attendance reports until the issue is resolved by the Information Systems Department.

He also stressed the cancellation of any procedures that conflict with the established instructions from the Assistant Undersecretary for General Education.

MoH, WHO to jointly check lung ailments

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): The Ministry of Health (MoH) launched on Monday, in cooperation with UN's World Health Organization (WHO) a workshop through EMFLU Platform to monitor winter respiratory illnesses.

Director of the Public Health Department Dr. Fahad Al-Ghamlas stated in the opening speech, that the workshop focuses on monitoring and controlling respiratory illnesses cases and classify them using the organization's electronic monitoring platform EMFLU.

He pointed out that the workshop is intended for the medical staff in the emergency department, indicating that health experts and engineers from the Ministry and WHO will provide an explanation on the digital system (EMFLU) and the developed monitoring system (EMFLU-2).

He explained that the workshop identifies the latest developments and recommendations to prevent infectious respiratory diseases, with the aim of monitoring these cases and reducing the rate of infection and death.

NewsWatch

Amiri Diwan mourns Sheikh Jaber demise

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): The Amiri Diwan on Monday mourned the passing away of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah at the age of 82.

The funeral service is to take place at 09:00 am tomorrow (Tuesday).

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned on Monday, the assassination attempt on the President of the Union of the Comoros Azali Assoumani.

The ministry affirmed in a statement Kuwait's absolute rejection of all forms of violence; including this attempt, stressing its support and solidarity with the Union of the Comoros in measures to be taken to maintain its security and stability. (KUNA)



Motorists mount the pavement in a desperate effort to reach their destination.



Photos by Mahmoud Morsi

Excited Class 1 children begin their school journey.

Traffic chaos seen despite MoE efforts

First graders commence their educational journey in Kuwait

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: With eagerness and perseverance, first graders took the first steps in their educational journey Monday morning. The Ministry of Education took all necessary measures to ensure that the first graders are cared for and tended to, to guarantee a successful school year.

With the start of the new school year, Ministry of Interior personnel are working diligently to ensure smoothness of traffic flow, and safety of students and all road-goers.

The Ministry, through its campaign, aims to raise awareness on security and traffic, as well as provide students with the necessary instructions to guarantee their wellbeing.

It is no secret that everyone dreads being stuck in traffic early in the morning on the way to school or work and having the same occur when going back home. As the summer break comes to an end in Kuwait, parents and children alike are bracing for the inevitable traffic jams and difficult commutes, but one solution could prevent being stuck on the road for a long period of time.

Enters the school bus, the solution

might be obvious and come to one's surprise; however, it is a safe and reliable method that might lessen congestion and help smooth traffic.

Speaking to KUNA on the issue, Abdullah Al-Wazzan -- acting head of the transportation department at the Ministry of Education -- said that the ministry offered 1,416 school buses to transport students to and from school.

He revealed that plans were set to boost the number to 1,686 if the need for buses rises.

At the moment, the Department of Transportation was assessing the situation to improve school bus services, he added.

The aim is to lessen the burden on students and their families, he affirmed, noting that each educational district has an allocated number of buses.

The capital district has 100 vehicles, the Hawally district has 100, Farwaniya has 155, Mubarak Al-Kabeer has 86, Al-Ahmadi has 360, and Al-Jahra with 125, Al-Wazzan pointed out, adding that 125 buses were allocated for the religious studies institute, 240 buses for the ministry's specialized schools, and 100 buses for schools for the special needs.

Continued on Page 5

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:13	Asr	15:12
Sunrise ..	05:33	Maghrib ..	17:53
Zohr	11:43	Isha	19:10

Local

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

Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

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

reas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-26 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	41	27
Kuwait Airport	43	25
Abdaly	43	26

Bubyan	43	23
Jahra	43	27
Failaka Island	39	23
Salmiyah	40	32
Ahmadi	38	24
Jal Aliyah	41	26
Nuwaisib	43	26

HH Crown Prince, PM send greetings

HH the Amir congratulates Mexico & Papua New Guinea on nat'l days

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Monday a cable to the President of Mexico Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the president all wellness and Mexico and its people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

Papua New Guinea

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent Monday a cable to Governor General of Papua New Guinea Bob Dadae, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the governor all wellness and Papua New Guinea and its people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a cable to Governor General Bob Dadae, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah also sent a cable to Governor General Bob Dadae, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

Union chief discusses several requests

'Scholarship students must do biometrics before deadline'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Ministry of Higher Education has urged all scholarship students currently spending their summer vacation in Kuwait to complete biometric fingerprint registration before the deadline, in line with a circular issued by the Ministry of Interior, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ministry of Higher Education's Labor

Union Dr. Khaled Al-Barrak said he discussed several requests with the Assistant Undersecretary for Scholarships, Equivalencies, and Cultural Relations at the Ministry of Higher Education Ghaida Al-Madhkur, most notably a special bonus for the Missions Department in the ministry.

He presented several proposals related to scholarships, equivalencies, and cultural relations, and

Al-Madhkur affirmed her commitment to providing full support and cooperation to address the interests of employees in these areas.

Al-Barrak expressed his appreciation for the assistant undersecretary's responsiveness and interest in the submitted requests. He affirmed the importance of ongoing collaboration between the union and the ministry to achieve their shared goals.

'MoCI shuts down recruitment offices for price manipulation'

Gov't agencies told to submit budget projects by Sept end

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently sealed several domestic worker recruitment offices for manipulating prices and failing to comply with the set pricing regulations. These offices now face penalties, including referral to the Public Prosecution and potential commercial closure, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to sources, the ministry issued warnings to the office owners and summoned them for investigations regarding their price increases. If violations are confirmed, stricter penalties will be enforced.

Additionally, the ministry found during inspections that some offices did not record labor delivery receipts, and these offices will be held accountable after the investigations are completed. Over the previous period, the ministry has already shut down several offices for non-compliance with pricing regulations and for not providing electronic payment options, which is mandated by law.

Earlier this year, the ministry amended Resolution No. 103 of 2022, setting recruitment prices at a maximum of 750 dinars for workers from Asian countries and 575 dinars for African countries, along with 350 dinars for a special passport. These amounts include travel costs and represent the maximum allowable recruitment fees.

Sources from the Public Authority for Manpower reported that by the end of August, 448 recruitment offices were registered with the authority. Inspections led to the suspension of 12 offices for non-compliance, while 10 offices had their suspensions lifted after rectifying their violations. Furthermore, 4 office licenses were canceled, while 60 new licenses were issued last month. A total of 377 complaints were filed against recruitment offices during this period.

'Submit budget projects': The Ministry of Finance has requested that all government institutions submit their budget projects by Sept 30, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The agencies are required to provide a complete budget proposal, including all expenditure and revenue items, along with a detailed work plan.

This request is part of the preparation process for the fiscal year 2025/2026, aimed at ensuring that budgets reflect the goals and policies outlined in the development plan.

The ministry emphasized that this step is crucial for reviewing and studying each entity's draft budget. It has outlined several key points for agencies to consider:

Alignment with Development Goals -- Budgets must align with the goals, programs, and policies of the development plan.

Spending Ceilings -- The ministry will set spending limits for ministries and government departments based on the state's development plan, aiming to control the budget deficit, diversify income sources, and reduce reliance on oil revenue.

Executive Capacity -- Agencies must consider their financial, administrative, and technical capabilities to implement their budgets effectively.

Budget Estimates -- Agencies should prepare expenditure estimates at the chapter level, prioritizing new works, services, and projects.

Project Compliance -- Budget projects should reflect the goals and programs from the annual development plan, with financial costs clearly detailed and consistent with the plan's objectives.

The Ministry of Finance is also implementing measures to ensure effective budget management, including setting spending ceilings and engaging in medium-term planning to optimize financial resources.

The agencies are urged to adhere to the guidelines for reducing expenditures, rationalizing spending, and enhancing revenue generation while maintaining performance levels.

Approach combines forward osmosis, gas turbine techs

KISR's novel technology to simultaneously desalinate seawater and generate energy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research is preparing to launch a groundbreaking project that introduces a novel technology for simultaneously desalinating seawater and generating energy, reports Al-Rai daily.

This innovative approach combines forward osmosis and gas turbine technologies, marking a world first in terms of its design, operating mechanism, and production capacity for fresh water. This initiative positions Kuwait as a global leader in cutting-edge desalination technology.

Dr. Mansour Ahmed, Director of the Water Desalination Technologies Program at the Institute, shared these insights during a tour of the Doha East Station.

He noted that Kuwait currently operates eight seawater desalination plants -- seven managed by the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, and one operated by the private sector under the ministry's supervision.

Dr. Ahmed emphasized that Kuwait utilizes the most advanced global technologies for desalination, including multi-stage flash distillation, multi-effect distillation, and reverse osmosis.



The novel technology adapted by KISR.

Al-Rai photo

He cautioned against installing reverse osmosis systems directly into residential freshwater networks.

He further explained that no single technology can be deemed the best for all seawater desalination applications, as the ideal solution depends on various factors, such as the water's salinity, turbidity, and chemical composition.

Dr. Ahmed highlighted the significant energy demands of

traditional desalination methods, which currently require the equivalent of burning 350,000 barrels of oil daily to meet the energy needs of consumers and desalination plants.

He stressed the importance of transitioning to renewable energy to reduce harmful emissions like carbon dioxide while also allowing Kuwait to generate additional revenue by converting saved oil into financial returns for the state.

MoH prepares 928 school clinics

Medical checkup procedures highlighted for new students

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Ministry of Health announced that it has prepared 928 school clinics, including 18 new ones that were opened this year in conjunction with the opening of new schools in the Capital, Farwaniya, Jahra, and Ahmadi health zones.

Meanwhile, the ministry stated that the clinics have been equipped with the latest medical equipment and basic necessities for providing the required health care services to students. These clinics are supervised by approximately 1,043 specialized medical and nursing professionals who are distributed among all schools in various governorates.

School Health Department Director at the Ministry of Health Dr. Wafaa Al-Kandari has affirmed the continuation of the admission, examination and opening of health files for new students; during the special registration period in the designated health centers in all governorates in accordance with the student's address on the civil identification card until Sept 30, 2024.

In a press statement on Sunday, Al-Kandari disclosed that the department has increased the number of health centers for the students and expanded the working hours throughout the registration period to include the morning and evening shifts in order to ease the checkup procedures for new students, especially the kindergartners.

She said these health centers operate from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm for the morning shift, and from 2:00 pm to 8:30 pm for the evening shift. She added 10 clinics in all governorates have been allocated as follows: Hamad Al-Saqer and Northwest Sulaibikhat health centers in the Capital Health District; Rigga and Rabiya health centers in Farwaniya Health District; Adan Health Center (Block Two, Street 60) in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Health



Medical equipment and nursing staff.

Al-Seyassah photo

District; Bayan Health Center (Block Seven, Street One) in Hawally Health District; Fahaheel and Sabah Al-Ahmad health centers (Sector D) in Ahmadi Health District; and Jahra Health Complex and Mutla'a Health Center (N10) in Jahra Health District. She clarified that Sabah Al-Ahmad and Mutla'a health centers operate in the morning only.

She revealed the registration requirements include a copy of the parent's civil identification card, a copy of the student's civil identification card, school admission letter, a copy of the birth certificate, a copy of the vaccination certificate, two recent photos of the student, a recent report of medical conditions if any, and personal presence of the students with the parents for the medical checkup.

She said these procedures are in line with the commitment of the ministry to provide a safe and healthy environment, and ensure the readiness of new students for the new academic year.

Move to monitor rates of diabetes, BP, obesity

'New KU students need health info to get ID'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: As part of Kuwait University's preparations for the 2024/2025 academic year, Acting Director of the university's Security and Safety Department Eng. Yousef Al-Khamis stated recently that a health form will now be required for new students to obtain their university ID, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press statement, he said the department had previously conducted a trial with students in the last two semesters, and successfully gathered necessary medical information about them.

Eng. Al-Khamis explained that new students must visit the health

clinic of their respective college to electronically register their health information, including details on conditions such as diabetes, blood pressure, and weight.

The department has planned a four-year study to collect and analyze students' health data with the aim of monitoring rates of diabetes, blood pressure, obesity, and other conditions. This data will help guide future health care and wellness initiatives for students.

Regarding traffic preparations, Eng. Al-Khamis explained that the department is working on improving road access to various entrances and exits of the university campus

in Sabah Al-Salem University City to prevent congestion and obstacles. This includes ensuring that traffic signals are operational in coordination with the Ministry of Interior.

The department has also been offering road assistance services to campus visitors, including students, parents, faculty, and staff, such as tire repair, fuel needs, and battery jump-starts.

Security personnel have been deployed to various gates, roads, and colleges to help organize and serve the university community.

Eng. Al-Khamis wished success and prosperity to all students.



Tankers at one of the filling stations.

Al-Seyassah photo

Three firms' offers accepted

CAPT opens bids for establishing fresh water filling station in Dhaher

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), in its meeting held on Sept 11, opened the bids for the establishment of a fresh water filling station and related works in Dhaher.

Reliable sources confirmed that the bids of three companies were accepted; and they will be referred to the Customer Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for study and preparation of technical recommendations in accordance with the applicable regulations. Then, these bids will be referred back to CAPT in order to award the contract to the company with the best financial and technical offer, sources revealed.

Sources affirmed the establishment of the station is part of the ministry's efforts

to provide fresh water to the people; especially those residing in remote, border and agricultural areas. It is also a strategic alternative in the event of an emergency, particularly water supply disruption during maintenance works in residential areas.

Sources said the Dhaher station will be an alternative to the water filling station in Mangaf, which causes inconvenience to the residents in the area due to the entry and exit of tankers; considering the citizens' complaints in the midst of densely populated areas.

Sources added Dhaher station will increase the ministry's water filling stations to 27; indicating these stations will operate through an integrated system for prepayment and selling water; thereby, raising safety levels and revenues, while reducing waste to the lowest level.

Other Voices

Traders and employees union

By Ahmed alsarraf

The Kuwait National Union of Students was founded in 1964, and I was an elected founding member.

Over time, the union managed to establish itself on the political scene, receiving substantial support from two main groups -- a faction of representatives and the Muslim Brotherhood.

The union often had young representatives, typically in their twenties, on the university's supreme council. They played a role in shaping university policies, preventing co-education, influencing the curricula, and advocating for changes in faculty. They were also vital in securing a monthly stipend of 200 dinars for each student, later increasing it to 350 dinars, placing a significant financial burden on the public treasury, costing hundreds of millions of dinars annually.

The union also managed to secure high grades for its members, arguing that their involvement in travel and organizational activities justified it. This made them a source of intimidation for many education ministers, university administrations, and professors, as those who had experienced the union's influence can attest.

The union also succeeded in holding general conferences under high patronage, with the presence of prominent political figures. Additionally, they opened branches in countries such as Egypt, Lebanon, Britain, Australia, Canada, Jordan, and the United States.

The union became a recruitment ground for the Muslim Brotherhood, whose members became more active due to the financial and moral support from the Brotherhood. They facilitated the opening of bank accounts for the union, often violating laws, making it easier for the union to receive checks worth millions.

These funds were used for unspecified

activities and to finance election campaigns both in Kuwait and abroad.

For over 60 years, no party ever truly knew how the money was spent, due to a lack of transparency. This secrecy stemmed from the union's illegitimacy, as it lacked any official government recognition and was therefore illegal throughout its existence.

This often led the union to engage in suspicious activities, as later investigations would reveal, including the unclear fate of the millions of dinars it received and the parties who funded it, often in exchange for securing loyalty from its executive members.

These concealed facts, along with the union's deviation from its original goals and involvement in illegal tribal by-elections, became evident to everyone, despite the risks posed to the state.

Eventually, this prompted the authorities to intervene, suspend the union's activities, and close its headquarters.

After all this, some important persons naively challenge our liberalism and belief in democracy, simply because we refused to remain silent about a constitutional, security, and moral violation.

Others, with malice, questioned whether I would have taken the same stance if the union's direction had been different. This accusation doesn't even merit a response, as the Al-Qabas archive holds tens of thousands of articles that clearly reflect my true positions, my independence, and my lack of affiliation with any party.

The illegal union has now been dissolved, its doors closed, and we must focus on finding an alternative as soon as possible. We believe in the importance of student activity, but it must be committed to transparency and free from sectarian and tribal divisions.

One final note: I have been calling for the dissolution of the union for more than 25 years, starting with an article on September 13, 1999, and continuing until my most recent piece on September 9, 2024, all due to the union's illegitimacy.

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

'LOYAC's expertise needed in organizing upcoming Gulf Championship'

'WE'RE all familiar with the big games, especially when our Kuwait national team takes the field, as fans passionately chant, 'We need a goal ... We need a goal ...' But during the recent match between Kuwait and Iraq, we were greeted with an unexpected chant: 'We need water... We need water', columnist and former deputy director-general of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) **Iqbal Al-Ahmed** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"This unusual plea arose from the embarrassing mishaps that plagued the event, from the chaotic entry of fans -- as if we were in a scene from 'Open Sesame' -- to the disorganized setup. It was a disgraceful display that tarnished Kuwait's image on the global stage.

"I won't delve into all the details, as much has already been said about this debacle. Instead, I want to offer solutions to prevent such failures in future events, especially those representing Kuwait. It's crucial that we restore our reputation in organizing major events.



"Let's replace the chant 'We need water', which highlighted a problem, with 'We need LOYAC', which offers a solution.

"By 'LOYAC', I'm referring to the renowned Kuwaiti non-profit organization that empowers youth through its Youth Empowerment Program. While there may be other organizations capable of handling such tasks, I can vouch for LOYAC because of their proven track record.

"LOYAC has earned its reputation by collaborating with government agencies such as the Amiri Diwan, the Tourism Enterprises Company, and the Kuwait Sports Authority. They've successfully managed events with tens of thousands of visitors daily at venues like Al Shaheed Park and Winterland.

"Moreover, LOYAC organized the 2015 opening of Jaber Stadium, an event that saw over 70,000 attendees. The flawless execution of that event is a testament to the competence of this organization and the skill of the young Kuwaitis they empower.

"I, along with many others, have attended numerous events managed by LOYAC's team of over 4,800 national volunteers. Their attention to detail in organizing entrances, managing crowd flow, and ensuring smooth operations was remarkable.

"As we look ahead to the upcoming Gulf Championship in three months, I sincerely hope that the responsibility for organizing it is handed to institutions like LOYAC, who have proven expertise in managing large-scale events.

"The sports body that handled the recent match has shown that they are simply not up to the task, as this was a failure in every sense of the word."

Also:

"The dictator General Francisco Franco, who was known as 'El Corriollo' (the leader), ruled Spain from 1939 until his death in 1975. His rule was marked by tyranny and individualism," columnist **Talal Abdul Karim Al-Arab** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"He established the Spanish parliament, known as the 'Cortes', and appointed all its members, making it merely a decorative institution. Franco could not tolerate opposition, and during his reign, he exiled more than half a million citizens and filled his prisons with his opponents. It is said that he executed over 250,000 of his people. Like many tyrants, Franco lived isolated from the public, believing he was a messenger of divine providence.

"However, five years before his death, Franco began to realize the failure of his rule. He issued a constitutional declaration naming Prince Juan Carlos as his successor, leading to the eventual restoration of the monarchy and the democratization of Spain. This decision was seen as beneficial for the Spanish people and the country.

"In contrast, the leaders of the 'Banu Ya'rub' are described as rulers who cannot be removed except by coup or assassination. Saddam Hussein, after a series of bloody and brutal coups against the Hashemite monarchy, became the president of Iraq.

"His leadership was marked by numerous titles such as the knight, comrade, fighter, leader, hero of liberation, and man of peace.

"However, his dictatorship led to Iraq's collapse, transforming it from a once-rich and powerful Arab country into a failed state ruled by armed militias loyal to external forces.

"Similarly, Muammar Gaddafi, who overthrew King Idris al-Senussi, established a regime based on his own creation, the so-called 'masses', and assumed titles like the King of Kings of Africa, Imam of Muslims, and Leader of the Revolution. His failure resulted in Libya's fragmentation, turning the oil-rich state into smaller regions ruled by warring factions.

"Sudan was divided during the rule of Hassan al-Bashir, who preferred the secession of South Sudan in exchange for retaining his power.

"Today, Sudan, once the Arab breadbasket, is poor and disintegrated, with its people fleeing for their lives. Syria, under Bashar al-Assad, has been effectively divided between foreign powers and parties, with its future controlled by external forces while Assad remains in power.

"The coups within the 'Banu Ya'rub' resulted in corruption, transforming their nations into large prisons for dissenters. Their regimes became worse than Franco's, characterized by poor governance, greed, looting, and efforts to turn republics into hereditary possessions.

"The people of these countries, burdened by their leaders, have begun to

long for the return of monarchy, similar to the advanced and civilized form that Spain achieved after Franco's death, where the people now enjoy freedom, democracy, and a higher standard of living.

"Of course, Iran is not in a better situation. Is there a 'Corello' among the Banu Ya'rab who will do what Franco did? And return the thrones they stole?"

"A shocking statement by the Secretary-General of the Kuwait Society of National Integrity (KSNI) Hamoud Al-Anzi raises concerns over alleged funding of student conflicts at Kuwait University," columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Al-Anzi claims that approximately one million dinars of unknown origin are funneled annually to finance student conflicts at Kuwait University. He alleges that 30 tribal branches are involved in university elections both within Kuwait and abroad, indicating that political parties and influential figures are fueling these conflicts. He highlighted that 30 tribes are represented at the university elections both inside and outside Kuwait. He hinted at possible ties to the international Muslim Brotherhood Group, which he claims operates under a tribal guise.

"At this point, it is expected that KSNI's role concludes, and specialized agencies would take over. These agencies are responsible for receiving and investigating such claims to determine their validity. Their task is to trace the sources that are fueling attacks on national unity and attempting to undermine Kuwait's national identity by provoking tribal conflicts and dangerous partisan affiliations. These issues have contributed to huge divisions within Kuwait society, shifting loyalty from the nation to tribes, parties, or groups, and raising concerns about the future of the state. It prompts us to question whether these are the members of the great Jeddah Conference, and the National Unity Conference that the world had witnessed, or their children.

"The key to addressing this issue lies in cutting off the sources of funding that support this national anomaly, which has become increasingly evident in both National Assembly elections and even cooperative elections.

"The statement of the KSNI's Secretary-General has highlighted the problem and provided important information to the specialized authorities. It is imperative that these authorities act swiftly to verify the information, and then methodically and discreetly trace the connections to those behind the efforts to undermine national unity, erode our identity, and replace national loyalty with partisan, tribal, or other divisive loyalties.

"Another important thing is that there must be a concerted effort to enhance national education across all platforms particularly at home, school, mosque, diwaniya, club, and social media, which plays a significant role in shaping modern discourse. We need to proactively engage with and support the youth before they are swayed by these divisive groups, in order to prevent further deterioration of our national cohesion."

"SURAH Ash-Shams, 7-10 (translated) - And by the soul and He who proportioned it, and inspired it (with discernment) of its wickedness and its righteousness. He has succeeded who purifies it. And he has failed who instills it (with corruption)," columnist **Dr. Khaled Aayed Aljenfawi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"The term 'reformer' in this article describes an ordinary person who does not hold any official position but presents themselves on social media or local visual and audio media as a champion of societal reform. However, it often turns out that such individuals, who are disconnected from their personal reality and are excessively vocal about their reform demands, may be the ones most in need of internal reform in their own private lives and in their interactions with others in public life.

"Based on my humble understanding of psychological motives and general human behavior, there are compelling reasons for individuals in today's world to focus primarily on self-reform rather than attempting to reform society. This approach is often more beneficial to the individuals rather than being preoccupied with reforming society. Here are some key points:

1. The reasons for the "reformer" being preoccupied with the affairs of others while neglecting their own self -

Some individuals become so enamored with their own perceived righteousness that they reached the stage of detachment from reality. They view themselves as the moral exemplars of society, which causes them to stick their noses in others' lives. This delusional mindset results in these individuals offering unsolicited advice, reprimanding others, and making unfounded accusations of corruption, all while failing to address their own internal issues. These individuals often direct their criticism toward imaginary problems and people. They are driven by a desire for fame, media attention, and maintaining a spotlight for as long as possible.

2. The importance of self-improvement -

A wise and intelligent person focuses on reforming their own inner and outer selves religiously, morally and socially, which, in turn, contributes to the betterment of their social environment. Someone who fails to address their own self-reform cannot effectively contribute to societal improvement. Those who acknowledge the need for internal reform will also care for the rights of their family and will respect the autonomy of others, avoiding undue interference in their lives."

- Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh



The car being removed from the flatbed truck in which it was hidden.

Al-Anba photo

Car used in performing stunts found in flatbed truck

The Ahmadi Governorate traffic patrols impounded a vehicle used in performing car stunts on the road, reports Al-Anba daily.

The traffic officers found the vehicle inside a flatbed truck in a recent inspection campaign in the governorate.

Presidential poll

Tunisians in Kuwait to participate in elections from Oct 4 to 6: envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Karim Boudali has announced that the eligible voters among the Tunisian community in the country will participate in the presidential elections from Oct 4-6 at the Tunisian Embassy in Adailiya, Block Three, Abdul Rahman Al-Asousi Street, Avenue 36, House No. 13, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, Boudali confirmed that the embassy will prepare the polling stations until Sept 20; indicating the eligible voters should monitor election related updates through the website -- www.touenssa.isie.tn or by communicating directly with the embassy provided they present a national identity document.

"The embassy expresses its deep gratitude to the Kuwaiti authorities for their cooperation and for providing the necessary facilities for us to fully prepare for this important electoral event," he concluded.

42 drug-related deaths in 2023, 81% of them are citizens: report

'Appeals' upholds blogger's 2 year sentence with hard labor

By Jaber Al-Hamud, Munif Nayef Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Public Prosecution has released its digital report on drug and psychotropic substance cases for 2023, highlighting the statistics surrounding drug-related crimes, offender profiles, confiscated substances, and judicial outcomes.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Public Prosecution emphasized that the purpose of the report is to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and to promote transparency by sharing relevant data. This, they believe, will aid in implementing necessary measures to combat the root causes of drug-related crimes.

According to the report, 2,666 cases were recorded in 2023. Of these, drug and psychotropic substance abuse crimes made up 77.2% of the total cases handled by the Drug and Alcohol Prosecution, while drug trafficking accounted for 22.5%.

A total of 3,554 individuals were prosecuted, with Kuwaiti citizens making up 56% of the accused. The age group most likely to be involved in these crimes was 18 to 39 years, representing 81.4% of all offenders.

Tragically, 42 deaths were reported due to drug abuse in 2023, 81% of which involved Kuwaiti nationals.

The report also detailed the quantities and types of drugs seized during the year. Authorities confiscated 25,668,685 tablets and 3,568,811 kilograms of various prohibited substances, with an estimated market value of 74,059,219 Kuwaiti dinars.

The Public Prosecution concluded 95.3% of these cases, with 82% referred to criminal trial

and 18% dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction. The conviction rate for cases taken to court was 90% in 2023.

'Illegal' expat arrested: An expatriate, who has been staying illegally in the country since 2017, was arrested after staying at a hotel for 35 days without paying, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that a citizen filed a report at Rumaitiyya Police Station against the expatriate, as per the mandate of the hotel. He said the hotel repeatedly asked the expatriate to pay, but the latter fled without paying.

A thorough investigation ensued as the security authorities are keen on finding out how the expatriate managed to book the hotel without a valid identification document, considering he has been violating the Residency Law for several years, the source confirmed.

The source added the expatriate will most likely be deported and banned from entering the country again; stressing the hotel management bears a large part of the responsibility, because it is its duty to ensure the validity of the residency permit or visa of expatriate guests.

Expat admitted to ICU: An expatriate was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) at Jahra Hospital after accidentally drinking petroleum-based thinner, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a source from the security sector.

According to the source, the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior received a call from the concerned office at Jahra Hospital; stating an expatriate was rushed to the hospital after accidentally drinking petroleum-based thinner. The office reported that the patient is in bad condition and he is now confined at the ICU.

The source added another expatriate, who took the patient to the hospital, was questioned; during which he revealed the incident happened in Mutla'a residential area (N7, Block 3).

A case was registered and then referred to the concerned authority.

Blogger's 2 year prison upheld: The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling of the First Instance Court that sentenced a blogger, known as 'Neron', to two years in prison with hard labor in a State security case filed against him for offending the Amiri entity.

The Public Prosecution charged the blogger with insulting HH the Amir, challenging HH the Amir's authority and insulting HH the Amir; stressing his tweets were deemed offensive to HH the Amir. The blogger was also accused of broadcasting false news about the internal situation in the country and misusing the mobile phone.

The accused denied all the charges and pointed out the alleged inaccuracy in the prosecution's accusations, but the court concluded that his denial of some of the charges was invalid; hence, the imprisonment sentence imposed on him.

Mol traffic campaign: Director of Public Relations at the Security Media Department Colonel Faisal Al-Daihani says the Ministry of Interior, based on directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf, carried out a major campaign yesterday, coinciding with the start of the new school year, with the aim of educating students on the importance of safe crossing and to raise awareness among drivers about traffic laws.

In a televised statement, Colonel Al-Daihani explained that the Ministry of Interior deployed approximately 456 officers and personnel to facilitate traffic flow around schools and on major roads. Also, 213 patrols and 27 motorbikes were deployed, and 252 traffic cameras were monitored by the control room to manage traffic congestion and direct patrols as needed.

MoCI's 2 types of e-services

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Acting Director of the Supply Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Salah Al-Rashidi says the electronic services provided by the department are divided into two categories: first is related to the construction card and second to the ration card, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

For the construction card, citizens must submit their application through the Sahel app for obtaining construction materials after receiving approval from the Kuwait Credit Bank for a loan.



Major Al-Qattan in the CCTV control room.

270 surveillance cameras monitor traffic: Al-Qattan

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Major Engineer Ali Al-Qattan, Head of the Central Control Management Department at the Traffic and Operations Sector, announced the activation of 270 surveillance cameras to oversee traffic conditions and manage accidents and vehicle breakdowns with the start of the new school year, reports Al-Rai daily.

Major Al-Qattan went on to say the cameras will be instrumental in monitoring high-traffic areas and detecting congestion, particularly on major expressways such as the Fifth Ring Road, Fahaheel Road, and King Fahd Expressway.

He emphasized that the traffic flow has been smooth and efficient, with real-time monitoring allowing for adjustments to traffic signals and prompt dispatch of patrols to address any issues. This proactive approach aims to alleviate congestion and manage disruptions effectively.

WEDDINGS, UPTO 140

AUDITORIUM

BUFFET

ANNIVERSARY

BIRTHDAY

KIDS CELEBRATION

WE ARE BUDGET-FRIENDLY

MUGHAL MAHAL

FAHAHEEL

Weddings | Seminars | Conferences | Celebrations

Sea view | Ample car parking

For more enquires Call: 23911174 / 23911175

Mr. Jack: 97644421

Email: fahaheel@mughalmahal.com
info@mughalmahal.com

Committee formed to drive 'green urban' development

Ahmadi Governor leads initiative

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Abdulaziz Mahmoud Boushahri issued a ministerial decision to form a higher committee for green urban development initiatives headed by Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Members of the committee include several government agencies, State institutions and the private sector as follows: National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL); Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR);



Dr. Boushahri

Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy; Ministry of Public Works; Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW); Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART); Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Kuwait Municipality; Ministry of Interior; Kuwait University (College of Architecture); Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR); Kuwait Banking Association; Union of Investment Companies; Volunteer Work Center; Union of

Authority intensifies product compliance, revokes licenses

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Public Authority for Industry has intensified its oversight of product compliance with Kuwaiti, Gulf, and international standards, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a recent move, the Authority has assigned 28 employees to enforce the imported and local national conformity assurance system.

These employees are empowered to enter facilities, craft headquarters, warehouses, and shops to sample products and review records to ensure adherence to laws.

They are also authorized to seize non-compliant products, issue reports, and refer violations to the relevant authorities.

In a significant update, the Authority has upgraded the status of the Kuwaiti standard specification for technical specifications for building bricks, part four, cellular concrete bricks, from optional to

mandatory.

Additionally, three Gulf standard specifications related to construction and building materials have been transitioned to mandatory Kuwaiti technical regulations.

These include specifications for steel for prestressed concrete, concrete reinforcing steel, and Portland cement.

Moreover, the authority's privatization committee has decided to cancel the craft licenses and withdraw two craft units in the Fahaeel Crafts Complex.

The concerned parties are required to vacate these units within 10 days, or the Authority will do the needful.

The Allocation Committee had previously canceled licenses and withdrawn units from the Shuaiba Industrial area and Fahaeel Crafts Complex.

Consumer Cooperative Societies and a number of interested entities.

The committee's tasks are as follows:

- Analyze the current status of green spaces (parks and public gardens) in residential areas and borders throughout the country, in addition to ornamental plants along the main and ring roads, roundabouts and bridges and other strategic locations;

- Evaluate the initiatives on green urban development and landscaping submitted by private institutions and initiators of various categories, considering their applicability in a manner that preserves the national identity while taking into account the security aspects.

- Propose plausible development

initiatives and projects related to green urban development, landscaping and marine environment conservation.

- Coordinate with the private sector and companies working in the fields of green urban development and landscaping to financially and technically support feasible initiatives.

In a related development, Boushahri chaired the first coordination meeting on the committee's work with the Ahmadi governor and committee members in attendance.

They deliberated on the priorities of the committee and the need to coordinate efforts in order to achieve the desired goals, which will have a positive impact on the sustainable development of the country.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti female judges in a group photo during the closing ceremony of the training program.

Kuwaiti judges honored for judicial excellence

The Netherlands International Legal Cooperation Center (Silk) honored eight Kuwaiti female judges for their participation in a training program on women's leadership.

The closing ceremony of the training program, part of the Women's Leadership in the Judiciary and Exchange of Judicial Experiences project, recognized the contributions of Kuwaiti female judges Sanabil Al-Houti, Fatima Al-Farhan, Bashayer Al-Raqdan, Lulwa Al-Ghanim, Roaa

Al-Tabtabaei, Shaden Al-Roumi, Farah Al-Ajeel, and Sharifa Al-Mubarak.

During the ceremony, the judges presented several proposals aimed at advancing judicial work and enhancing its quality, with a focus on empowering female judges in Kuwait. They also shared their experiences, achievements, and the journey that led them to the judiciary, while highlighting their role in representing Kuwait in international forums and exchanging judicial experiences with

female judges and public prosecutors from the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The closing ceremony was attended by Bahraini Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Nawaf Al-Muawada, Dutch Ambassador to the Kingdom Laurens Westhoff, and officials from the Silk Center.

It is worth noting that the Kuwaiti judges participated in the training program from January 29 to February 2 of this year, held in The Hague, Netherlands. (KUNA)

Municipality greenlights windbreaks proposal

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Kuwait Municipality has submitted a statement to the Municipal Council regarding the proposal of council members Alia Al-Farsi, Munira Al-Amir, Farah Al-Roumi and Sherifa Al-Shalfan to allocate sites for windbreaks in the country.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the statement approved by Director General of the Municipality Saud Al-Dubous, stating the deputy director general for Urban and Structural Planning Affairs at the Municipality will coordinate with the concerned authorities to implement

the decision that the council issued on Sept 13, 2023 approving the proposal to allocate areas for windbreaks as per the integrated plan laid down for this purpose with the following points:

- Conduct a special geographical study on the places where these windbreakers will be built, especially the roads affected by the Safi phenomenon, in coordination with the Environment Public Authority (EPA) and other concerned authorities.

- Determine the types, cost and period required to plant trees with certain specifications to function as windbreakers, so they can withstand high temperatures and lack of water. They

should be planted at a specific distance from both sides of roads where sand accumulate, in coordination with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) and other concerned authorities.

- Allocate areas (study outputs) for this purpose as per the maps and prepare them for planting.

- The private sector should work with the government sector to build windbreakers as per the timetables.

- Replace the concrete barriers separating the roads with iron or mesh barriers, as the case in some Gulf countries whose climatic conditions are similar to that of the State of Kuwait.

Expanded SMEs and commercial areas

Injaz Market project set for changes

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Projects Sector at Kuwait Municipality has submitted a request to revise the components of the Injaz Market project.

According to a letter, a copy of which has been obtained by the Al-Jarida daily, Eng. Saud Al-Dabbous, the Municipality Director, outlined the new structure for the project, which will be located in the Al Rai area.

The revised plan allocates 25 percent of the market shops to small and medium enterprises, while the remaining shops will be allocated based on supply and demand and the designated uses for the area.

The project will now consist of four distinct areas -- First, Second, and Third Squares; each of these squares will house 38 shops, with a total commercial area of 1,276 square meters per square and the Fourth Square which will cover 1,278 square meters and include an open square for cultural and commercial activities as well as temporary exhibitions.

Additionally, the fourth square will feature six bathrooms. These changes are designed to enhance the functionality of the market and better accommodate various commercial needs.

MoSA set to reinstate two dismissed co-op members

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Ministry of Social Affairs is set to issue a ministerial decision to reverse the recent dismissal of two board members from a cooperative society in the Hawalli Governorate, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting reliable sources.

The decision to remove them was initially made based on allegations of violations and transgressions.

According to the ministry sources, both members have proved their innocence with supporting documents.

The first member had already been exonerated from all charges and violations identified in reports from the ministry's review committees concerning the cooperative's operations and accounts.

The second member, who was initially charged with one of 38 alleged violations, received a final acquittal, leading to the dismissal of all charges against him.

The sources indicated that a decision is expected soon to reinstate these two members to their positions on the board of directors.

The ministry's leadership was reassured by the documents provided, which confirm that the members had not committed any violations affecting the cooperative's funds or financial standing.

KU's College of Social Sciences holds orientation meeting for new students

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The College of Social Sciences at Kuwait University recently held an orientation meeting for new students of the 2024/2025 academic year, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The event, which was organized under the patronage of Acting Dean Dr. Ali Al-Zuabi and in collaboration with the Guidance and Counseling Office, aimed to introduce new students to the college's academic programs and available services. It also sought to strengthen communication between the teaching staff and students.

The orientation meeting took place at the Othman Abdul Malik Theater in the College of Law at the uni-



Dr. Ali Al-Zuabi

versity's Shuwaikh campus. Dr. Al-Zuabi stressed the importance of providing students with all the necessary information for their academic careers.

He highlighted the college's role in preparing students to become active

members of society by enhancing critical thinking and social analysis skills.

During the meeting, department heads presented on the college's academic programs, specializations, and job opportunities available to graduates.

They highlighted the importance of extracurricular activities organized by the college and their role in developing students' personal skills.

The session included an open dialogue where students had the opportunity to ask questions about the study programs, academic courses, registration procedures, and the facilities provided by the university to support them throughout their academic journey.

Kuwait's sky set to experience partial lunar eclipse next Wed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Kuwait's sky is set to witness a partial lunar eclipse next Wednesday, according to the Al-Ajari Scientific Center, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement to KUNA, the center explained that the eclipse will be visible at dawn, coinciding with the full moon.

During the event, the moon will pass through Earth's penumbra before moving into its shadow, causing its color to darken slightly. At the peak of the eclipse, a small part of the right side of the moon's disk will

darken.

The center also noted that the moon will reach full brightness on the same day, with its disk appearing fully round and its brightness at 100 percent.

The moon will rise just after sunset and remain visible throughout the night until it sets at sunrise the following morning. Although the moon appears full to the naked eye from September 17 to 19, its exact fullness cannot be distinguished without special equipment.

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*

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

Committees to address urban issues and traffic solutions reviewed

Municipal Council resumes with key projects on agenda

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyasah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Municipal Council resumed work after its summer break ended on Sept 12.

The Technical Committee will hold its sixth meeting for the third session on Tuesday, headed by member Munira Al-Amir, to discuss the following:

- Jahra Waterfront Project (Corniche): Letter of the acting secretary general of the Council of Ministers about this project;

- Request to reorganize Block 14 in Qibla, which includes a number of plots, Salhiya Police Station and public facilities according to the rules and conditions for regulatory plots;

- Response of the Executive Authority to the proposal of council member Abdullah Al-Da'i on studying floods before allocating sites for housing cities;

- Response of the Executive Authority to the letter of Failaka District Governor Ali Abdul Wahab Al-Naqi on the expropriation of the remaining properties on Failaka Island;

- Letter of the Ministry of Interior regarding the invitation to the fifth meeting of the Technical Committee;

- Letter of the Union of Kuwaiti Engineering and Consulting Offices regarding the proposed amendment of the Construction Works Regulations and the attached tables, for which Ministerial Resolution No. 206/2009 and its amendments were issued.

The Capital Governorate Committee will hold its fifth meeting for the third session on Wednesday, headed by member Dr. Hassan Kamal, to discuss the following:

- Request of the Justice Ministry to reallocate the Constitutional Court and Securities Court sites in Granada, Block Six;

- Final approval for reorganizing part of Block One in Qibla;

- Development of Shuwaikh seafont opposite Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, and allocate sites for future commercial use;

- Request of the Ministry of Finance to convert a surface parking area into a multi-storey parking building in Sharq, Block Two;

- Request of the Expropriation Department for Public Benefit to reject the issuance of a public benefit decision for Plot 296 in Surra, Block Five;

- Proposal of council member Fahad Musaed Al-Abdul Jader to put some public squares in Shuwaikh Industrial Area under the management of the Public Utilities Company;



Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and H.E. Belinda Lewis, British Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, pose for a group photo with the Kuwaiti graduates from the United Kingdom.

Sheikh Mubarak inspires Kuwaiti graduates to serve nation

'Kuwait needs great deal of work, dedication from us'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah called on Kuwaiti graduates from the United Kingdom to exert great efforts, in order to transform their hopes and ambitions into fruitful work in reality on the ground, saying that Kuwait needs a lot of work, honesty and sincerity from us under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince, May God protect them.

Further, Sheikh Mubarak expressed his pleasure to the graduates sharing their joy, in a speech during a ceremony organized by the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS UK branch), under his auspices held last Saturday evening, in the presence of the British Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Her Excellency Belinda Lewis, and a number of academic leaders, to celebrate with the graduates and outstanding students of Kuwaiti nationals sent on scholarships to the United Kingdom, and have completed their university undergraduate and post-graduate degrees.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah stated: "I share with you the joy that you have reached this stage, the stage of reaping fruits, after hard work and efforts, for which you deserve congratulations, celebration and honor. And I see you pursuing towards



Sheikh Mubarak with Ambassador Lewis during recognition ceremony.

the path of knowledge, to reap from it the fruit while away from your home, that has extended for years, to turn your dream into reality."

In addition, Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah recalled the great efforts of his late father, His Excellency, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, may God Bless His Soul, in the 1950's by paving the way for the children of Kuwait to pursue knowledge. He said: "My father, Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah, who was at that time Deputy Ruler of Kuwait, Supreme Commander-In-Chief of the Army and Armed Forces, and Chairman of the Knowledge and Aviation Council, in 1952, he supervised the first Kuwaiti scholarship missions to the Great Britain, moreover, he made the first visit by an official in the history of Kuwait to the Kuwaiti students in the UK, his vision and precedence realization of his understanding on the importance of bridging of civilizations, openness toward others, benefiting from the experiences of advanced nations, and supplying the Kuwaiti labor market with unconventional skills."

Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah concluded his speech by advising the graduates to be good in serving their fathers and mothers, as through parents comes blessings from God and success follows, praying to God to provide them goodness and success, and to serve their religion and their homeland, Kuwait.

MoH seen

Continued from Page 1

Such an approach should be preceded by an amendment to the financial compensation provided to medical staff for overtime work.

Currently, the average compensation is KD 11 per hour, which is often insufficient and forces many medical professionals to decline evening shifts. The compensation could be increased to at least 1.5 times the rate of their regular morning work.

KMA had previously submitted this proposal to the Ministers of Health and the parliament's Health Committee.

The association affirmed that this statement does not indicate a position for or against the renewal of the Afia health insurance contract for retirees.

In an official statement issued yesterday, the Ministry of Health revealed that the measures it took regarding the Afia health insurance contract were intended to safeguard public health and public funds.

It explained that the contract with the company providing health insurance services to retirees included a provision that would allow the ministry to extend the contract for an additional year beyond its original term, under the same conditions and prices, without needing the company's approval.

Hence, this clause was activated and the contract was automatically extended by law until September 16, 2025.

The company failed to fulfill its obligations and rejected the ministry's request for an extension unless it agreed to the company's terms, which included price increases and exemptions from certain financial guarantees specified in the contract. This was mentioned in the letter sent by the company to the ministry on August 14, 2024.

As a result, the ministry referred the matter to the relevant authorities to clarify the legal procedures. Based on guidance from the Fatwa and Legislation Department, the ministry decided to terminate the contract due to the company's refusal to agree to an extension. The company was formally notified of this decision on Thursday, September 12, 2024.

The ministry stressed that the documents circulated by the company on the same date as the contract termination decision to express its desire to continue providing the service, are legally ineffective, as these documents were submitted after the ministry had already notified the company of the contract termination.

It affirmed that providing high-quality services and prioritizing citizens' interests remain its top priorities, and it reassured the public that it will not compromise on citizens' health or allow it to be exploited under any circumstances.

Meanwhile, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed the ministry's capability to accommodate citizens currently benefiting from the Afia program, stressing that a priority and plan are in place to

support them effectively.

During the opening of the Injuries and Emergency Surgeries Center at Jaber Hospital, Dr. Al-Awadhi said the hotline No. 151 is available for their inquiries and has already received about 50 calls.

He indicated that an integrated medical team, including specialists in dentistry, surgery, and internal medicine, is handling these inquiries.

Dr. Al-Awadhi explained that evening clinics are available in primary health care centers to serve retired citizens and people with special needs in various specialties. Evening clinics are also available in all public hospitals, covering a wide range of specialties.

Saturdays are designated for expedited surgeries in addition to the regular weekdays. A dedicated hotline for dental issues has been set up to manage and redirect cases based on residential areas. All of the ministry's laboratories and radiology departments are prepared to handle and expedite examinations for these citizens.

Dr. Al-Awadhi affirmed that the ministry is working based on a clear strategy to effectively manage and accommodate visitors, maintaining their priority in emergency departments.

He assured that emergency departments have been instructed to admit these patients promptly around the clock.

The minister affirmed the ministry's commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities and not abandoning its duty.

Meanwhile, Dr. Al-Awadhi announced the completion of Jaber Hospital's new Trauma and Emergency Surgery Center, a state-of-the-art facility that is in line with the Ministry of Health's strategy to improve health services for citizens.

He explained that the center contains over 100 beds with 50 for general wards and 50 for intensive care. It also includes three specialized intensive care units, eight operating rooms, an integrated laboratory, MRI and CT scan machines, and other advanced equipment. The center also has a research and training facility for doctors, an emergency department, and a helipad.

The center employs 13 specialties, including general surgery, orthopedics, neurology, urology, vascular surgery, and pediatrics, to handle urgent cases. It serves as a hub for all injury cases in Kuwait and is connected to other buildings within Jaber Hospital, which together offer a total of 1,200 beds.

Jaber Hospital has four additional wings being prepared, each with a capacity of over 100 beds. The cardiac intensive care unit is under construction and will be operational soon.

About 130 new nurses have joined the health service, with another 200 expected to join within two weeks. This will bring the total number of nursing staff recruited since the beginning of the year to 2,300.

Also, 40 new doctors will join today, and they will be stationed at Jaber Hospital and the Trauma Center.

Request of Kuwait Ports Authority to allocate land for a development project in Southeast Doha Port and the Injaz Market project.

Meanwhile, Municipal Council member Khaled Al-Dagher submitted a proposal to create a roundabout at the intersection of Jordan Road and Ghaz-

ali Bridge as an alternative to the traffic light between Farwaniya, Omariya, Rabiya and Rehab. He pointed out in the introduction to the proposal that the traffic light at the location mentioned in the proposal causes traffic jams due to the presence of a number of schools in the area.

The minister assured that the implementation of the center will adhere to its planned timeline, and expressed hope that the center will achieve international recognition.

He praised the contributions of the central departments in the ministry, the administration of Jaber Hospital, and the role of national doctors, department heads, and the nursing and technical staff.

Dr. Al-Awadhi expressed pride in the presence of a hospital like Jaber Hospital in Kuwait, highlighting it as a symbol of excellence due to its state-of-the-art facilities and unique medical equipment, as well as its national medical staff.

He confirmed that efforts are underway to complete the opening of the Adan Hospital buildings and other facilities.

Dr. Al-Awadhi affirmed that the ministry is working with an integrated team and a strategic plan to advance these projects.

He revealed that the Trauma Center has begun operations and received five cases today. It operates 24/7 with a team of specialized national staff managing all stages of care, from initial reception to rehabilitation, and has a dedicated floor for patient rehabilitation.

Regarding similar facilities across the country, Dr. Al-Awadhi said, "While there are other similar units in operation in various parts of the country, this center is the first and unique in its scope. The ministry is following a strategic plan tailored to meet actual needs."

First graders

Continued from Page 1

Scholarship students and employees of psychological and social services were allocated 25 buses, he added.

On the vehicles used in transportation, the head of the private transportation department at the state-owned Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC) Mohammad Al-Failakawi touted the perks of using buses during the school year, especially with the fact that there were around half a million school students in the country.

Taking the load off the road not only benefits schools but the country as a whole, he said, stressing that buses were from the latest brands and equipped with the newest technologies as well as being maintained thoroughly.

He commended the cooperation with the ministries of education and interior, hoping that it would contribute to smooth and easy-flowing traffic this year.

Being well-versed in road etiquette is a social responsibility that hopefully would be eager to cooperate on, Al-Failakawi affirmed.

Obstacles continue

Continued from Page 1

Al-Dukhnan added, that the embassy demands that Kuwaiti offices track the whereabouts of workers who have been reported 'absent' or

Ahmadi Governorate holds 'blood donation' campaign

Citizens, expats unite for life-saving cause

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Ahmadi Governorate recently organized its fifth blood donation campaign with the theme, "A Drop of Your Blood ... Life for Others", under the patronage and in the presence of Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Al-Jaber, reports Al-Anba daily.

The campaign was held at Al-Kout Mall in Fahaheel, which is affiliated with Tamdeen Group, in cooperation with the Blood Transfusion Services Department at the Ministry of Health and Al-Kout Mall, as well as with the support of Commercial Bank of Kuwait.

A large number of citizens and expatriates donated blood; such that the campaign led to the collection of 132 bags of blood. This is a confirmation that the citizens and expatriates are fully aware of the importance of maintaining the strategic stock of blood in the Central Blood Bank and hospitals in order to save lives.

In his speech after touring the campaign site and donating blood, Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Al-Jaber pointed out that the remarkable turnout of blood donors in the fifth blood donation campaign of the governorate reflects the commitment of citizens and expatriates to save lives.

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the campaign; including

the blood donors residing in and outside the governorate and its partners in the campaign -- Blood Transfusion Services and Medical Emergency departments at the Health Ministry, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Tamdeen Group, Al-Kout Mall Management and Safwan Medical Equipment Company. He also thanked the media institutions for covering the campaign; especially the Ministry of Information represented by Kuwait TV and Kuwait Radio and several daily and electronic newspapers.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tamdeen Real Estate Company Mahmoud Dawood Al-Marzouq affirmed that Al-Kout Mall's participation in the blood donation campaign for the third year in a row reflects the commitment of Tamdeen Group to continue playing its societal role.

Al-Marzouq emphasized the importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors and public benefit associations in organizing events, activities and programs that contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals of the community.

He stated that the theme of the campaign enhances the idea of integration and cooperation between all components of society, urging all citizens and expatriates to contribute to such campaigns.

Commenting on the success of the campaign, Deputy General Manager of the Corporate Communications Sector at the Commercial Bank of Kuwait Amani Al-Waraa confirmed that the bank is always keen on sponsoring community and humanitarian events in the interest of the entire Kuwaiti society.

Kuwaiti engineers call for agri-sector growth

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Kuwaiti Society of Agricultural Engineers recently participated in the Economic and Social Council meeting held at the League of Arab States headquarters in Cairo, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Abbas Abdul Redha, Chairman of the Society's Board of Directors, emphasized in a press statement that significant progress in economic growth, poverty alleviation, and food security across many countries can only be achieved by strengthening the agricultural sector's human and productive capacities.

He highlighted the need to increase the sector's contribution to broader economic and social development.

have fled from their sponsors.

This is an impossible request, as it falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior, which is actively handling the matter.

He also pointed out another demand, which is to pay end-of-service benefits and overdue salaries to workers who have been repatriated or are about to be repatriated by their sponsors without receiving their entitlements.

This issue is governed by Law No. 68 of 2015 regarding domestic workers, and the labor offices have no role in this matter.

Kuwait's relief

Continued from Page 1

The meeting also reviewed the urgent humanitarian needs and discussed the KRCS's aid programs across various sectors.

On her part, Maha Al-Barjas reaffirmed Kuwait's unwavering stance in supporting the Palestinian people in all international forums, and she



Al-Jarida photo
Agricultural Engineers participating in the Economic and Social Council meeting.

added that the urgent aid provided by the KRCS affirms this position.

Al-Barjas added that the KRCS has implemented numerous emergency relief projects in Gaza, including food, medical and essential supplies, as well as ambulances, medical equipment, shelter, and a field hospital, among other critical needs.

She emphasized that Kuwait would continue to support humanitarian efforts in line with its consistent foreign policy of providing aid to all countries in need.

Al-Barjas also emphasized the importance of coordination among the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to enhance relief efforts for displaced Palestinians, especially given the dire conditions facing the elderly, women, and children, which demands greater assistance from all parties involved.

MoH financial

Continued from Page 1

Ministry of Public Works; KD 255,000 debts owed to SAB and KD 207,000 to the Ministry of Electricity and Water, among others.

It added that some amounts continued to be recorded in the account of debts owed by the government amounting to KDI.271 million; without stating the names of those entitled to them and without filling the 'Reasons for Non-settlement' column correctly, as the form shows them as debts owed by the government that weaken control over them in violation of the circulars on the rules and procedures for closing accounts and preparing the final account for government agencies.

World News Roundup

Europe

EU commissioner quits

UK, Italy hold talks to 'curb' migration

ROME, Sept 16, (AP) — UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer met Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni in Rome on Monday, as the center-left British leader aimed to learn how her right-wing government has achieved "dramatic declines" in the number of migrants reaching Italy's shores by boat. The visit comes after at least eight seaborne migrants died off the French coast over the weekend.

Meloni greeted Starmer with a military honor guard for the meeting at the Villa Doria Pamphili, a 17th century mansion set in a large park not far from the Vatican.

The Labour Party prime minister isn't a natural ally of Meloni, who heads the far-right Brothers of Italy party. But migration has climbed the UK political agenda, and Starmer hopes Italy's tough approach can help him stop people fleeing war and poverty trying to cross the English Channel in flimsy, overcrowded boats.

More than 22,000 migrants have made the perilous crossing from France so far this year, a slight increase from the same period in 2023.

Several dozen people have perished in their attempts, including the eight killed when a boat carrying some 60 people ran aground on rocks late Saturday. The same day, 14 boats carrying 801 migrants reached Britain.

The number of migrants arriving in Italy by boat in the first half of this year was down 60% from 2023, according to the country's Interior Ministry.

Dramatic

Starmer said Italy had seen "some quite dramatic reductions. So I want to understand how that came about."

Ahead of the trip, Starmer said there would be "no more gimmicks," he said before his trip to Rome — a reference to the previous Conservative government's scuttled plan to send some asylum-seekers on a one-way trip to Rwanda under the government of Paul Kagame, with no chance of returning to the UK even if their refugee claims were successful. Starmer scrapped that plan soon after being elected in July.

French EU commissioner resigns: An influential French member of the European Union's powerful executive branch resigned on Monday, calling into question the leadership of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen just as she tries to assemble a new team for the next five years.

Thierry Breton, a French business executive and commissioner for the EU's vast internal market who recently clashed with tech billionaire Elon Musk, suggested that von der Leyen had gone behind his back to get another French official named in his place to the next commission.

In a post on social media platform X containing his resignation letter to the EU's top official, Breton said that von der Leyen's move was "further testimony to questionable governance — I have to conclude that I can no longer exercise my duties in the College."

The commission proposes legislation for the 27 EU member countries and ensures that the rules governing the world's biggest trading bloc are respected. It's made up of a College of commissioners with a range of portfolios similar to those of government ministers, including agriculture, economic, competition, security or migration policy.

Italy army to guard hospital: Italy's army will guard medical staff at a hospital in the southern Calabria region starting Monday, after a string of violent attacks on doctors and nurses by enraged patients and relatives across Italy, local media reported.

Prefect Paolo Giovanni Grieco approved a plan to reinforce the surveillance services already operated by soldiers on sensitive targets in the Calabrian town of Vibo Valentia, including the hospital, the reports said.

Recent attacks on health care workers have been particularly frequent in southern Italy, prompting the doctors' national guild to request that the army be deployed to ensure medical staff safety.

The turning point was an assault at the Policlinico hospital in the southern city of Foggia in early September. A group of about 50 relatives and friends of a 23-year-old woman — who died during emergency surgery — turned their grief and rage into violence, attacking the hospital staff.

Video footage, widely circulated on social media, showed doctors and nurses barricading in a room to escape the attack.

Germany begins conducting checks: Germany on Monday began random checks at its borders with five Western European nations as it seeks to crack down on irregular migration, expanding a system of mobile border controls that are already in place at four other borders.

The checks began at the borders with France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark before dawn Monday, and are initially scheduled for six months. Germany has already been carrying out the checks at its borders with Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria and Switzerland since last year.

Germany, a member of the 27-member European Union, announced last week that it was expanding border checks to all nine of its land borders this week as part of an effort to crack down on irregular migration and crime following recent extremist attacks. Those include a knife attack blamed on a Syrian asylum-seeker in Solingen last month that killed three people. The suspect claimed to be inspired by the Islamic State group.

Central Europe flooding kills 5: Massive flooding in Central Europe killed five more people in Poland and one in Czech Republic, officials said Monday.

The number of flood victims in southwestern Poland rose from one to five after the body of a surgeon returning from hospital duty was found in the town of Nysa, firefighters said.

Earlier, the bodies of two women and two men were found separately in the towns of Bielsko-Biala and LČdek-Zdrój and in two villages.

Water has subsided in those areas since then, but experts are warning of a flood threat in Opole, a city of some 130,000 residents, where the Oder River has reached high levels. Concerns have also been raised in the city of Wrocław, home to some 640,000 residents.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk has convened an emergency government session to consider special measures to speed up financial and other support to flooding victims.



Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, right, welcomes UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer as they meet at Villa Pamphili in Rome on Sept 16. (AP)



A man clears floodwater at his residence in Galati County, Romania on Sept 15. Galati County, Romania, is struggling to recover from the severe floods brought by Cyclone Boris on Sept 14 which has claimed five lives and displaced over 250 residents. (Xinhua)



O'Hara



Donlon

North America

2 quakes hit British Columbia: Two earthquakes struck off the northern coast of the Canadian province of British Columbia Sunday but there were no immediate reports of damage.

The United States Geological Survey said the first earthquake, measuring magnitude 6.5, happened around 3:20 pm local time. It was located off the tip of Haida Gwaii, an archipelago located about 1,720 kilometers (1,069 miles) north of Vancouver and occurred at a depth of 33 kilometers (20 miles).

Natural Resources Canada said a second earthquake, measuring 4.5, occurred about an hour later in the same area.

The US Tsunami Warning Center reported that there was no threat of a tsunami from the quakes. No damage was reported.

Ben Wilson, the food and beverage manager at the Willows Golf Course in Sandspit, British Columbia, said he was home on his break when he felt the ground shake, long enough to know what it was, but not long enough to concern him. (AP)

Dallas vehicle crash kills 4: A vehicle crossed into oncoming traffic on a Dallas interstate and collided with two other vehicles in a crash that left four people dead, police said.

The multi-vehicle accident happened about 1 p.m. Saturday on Interstate 45 in southeast Dallas, police spokesperson Michael Dennis said in a statement.

A preliminary investigation determined a vehicle was northbound on I-45 when it hit a second vehicle and then crossed the median into southbound traffic, where it struck two more vehicles.

Dennis said three people in the northbound vehicle died at the scene, and a fourth person in one of the southbound vehicles died at a hospital. Two other people were hospitalized in unknown condition, Dennis said.

The cause of the accident remains under investigation, and the names of those killed and injured weren't immediately released. (AP)

4 hurt at Brooklyn train station: Four people were wounded at a Brooklyn subway station Sunday when police officers shot a man threatening them with a knife, and inadvertently sprayed bullets that hit passengers, authorities said.

The people struck by gunfire included two innocent bystanders, one of the officers

Politics

Dems put up \$25m to reach voters in 10 states

'Trump target of assassination attempt'

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Sept 16, (AP) — Donald Trump was the target of what the FBI said "appears to be an attempted assassination" at his golf club in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Sunday, just nine weeks after the Republican presidential nominee survived another attempt on his life.

The former president said he was safe and well, and authorities held a man in custody. US Secret Service agents stationed a few holes up from where Trump was playing noticed the muzzle of an AK-style rifle sticking through the shrubbery that lines the course, roughly 400 yards away.

An agent fired the gunman dropped the rifle and fled in an SUV, leaving the firearm behind along with two backpacks, a scope used for aiming and a GoPro camera, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said. The man was later stopped by law enforcement in a neighboring county.

It was the latest jarring moment in a campaign year marked by unprecedented upheaval. On July 13, Trump was shot during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, and a bullet grazed his ear. Eight days later, Democratic President Joe Biden withdrew from the race, giving way for Vice President Kamala Harris to become the party's nominee.

And it spawned new questions about Secret Service protective operations after the agency's admitted failures in preventing the assassination attempt this summer.

Detained

The man who was detained had a calm, flat demeanor and showed little emotion when he was stopped, according to Martin County Sheriff William Snyder.

"He never asked, 'What is this about?' Obviously, law enforcement with long rifles, blue lights, a lot going on. He never questioned it," Snyder said.

In an email to supporters, Trump said: "There were gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumors start spiraling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL!" He wrote: "Nothing will slow me down. I will NEVER SURRENDER!"

He returned to Mar-a-Lago, his private club in Palm Beach where he

plans for Trump on Sunday. He often spends the morning playing golf.

Trump has had a stepped-up security footprint since the assassination attempt in July. When he is at Trump Tower in New York, parked dump trucks have formed a wall outside the building. At outdoor rallies, he now speaks from behind bulletproof glass.

The man in custody was Ryan Routh, three law enforcement officials told the AP. The officials who identified the suspect spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Records show Routh, 58, lived in North Carolina for most of his life before moving to Hawaii in 2018. In 2020, he made a social media post backing Trump's reelection, but in more recent years his posts have expressed support for Biden and Harris.

Vigilant

An email to Trump campaign staffers obtained by AP said, "We ask that you remain vigilant in your daily comings and goings."

"As we enter the last 50 days of President Trump's campaign, we must remember that we will only be able to save America from those who seek to destroy it by working together as one team."

Biden and Harris were briefed on the matter and each issued a statement condemning political violence. Harris added that she was "deeply disturbed" by the day's events and that "we all must do our part to ensure that this incident does not lead to more violence."

Biden said he had directed his team to ensure the Secret Service "has every resource, capability and protective measure necessary to ensure the former President's continued safety."

In the aftermath, Trump checked in with allies, including running mate Ohio Sen. JD Vance, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham and several Fox News hosts. House Speaker Mike Johnson said he spent several hours with Trump and called him "unstoppable."

Fox News host Sean Hannity recounted on air his conversation with the former president's golf partner, Steve Witkoff.

They had been on the fifth hole and about to go up to putt when they heard a "pop pop, pop pop." Within seconds, he said Witkoff recounted, Secret Service agents "pounced" on Trump and "covered him" to protect him.

Trump had returned to Florida this weekend from a West Coast swing that included a Friday night rally in Las Vegas and a Utah fundraiser. His campaign had not announced any public

Also:

ATLANTA: Trying to defend their narrow Senate majority with a challenging slate of contests on Republican-leaning turf, Democrats are pumping \$25 million into expanded voter outreach across 10 states.

The new spending from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, first shared with The Associated Press, comes less than two months until the Nov. 5 election and as Democrats are benefiting from a fundraising surge since President Joe Biden ended his reelection bid in July and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as the party standard-bearer.

"A formidable ground game makes all the difference in close races," DSCC Chairman Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan said in a statement. "We are reaching every voter we need to win."

The latest investment will be distributed across Arizona, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. The money will go toward efforts to defend five Democratic incumbents and open seats in Michigan, Maryland and Arizona that are currently included in Democrats' majority, as well as efforts to unseat GOP incumbents in Florida and Texas.

and the man with the blade, who the police initially confronted because he hadn't paid his fare, officials said.

One of the passengers, a 49-year-old man, was hospitalized in critical condition

after a bullet passed into an adjoining subway car and struck his head.

A video posted by a passenger showed upset passengers fleeing, police running to help the injured and the wounded officer

suddenly realizing he had also been struck by a bullet.

Interim Police Commissioner Thomas Donlon, who was only appointed to his position Friday, promised a thorough investigation, but cast blame for the incident on the man accused of brandishing the knife.

"We will be working through the timeline of today, but make no mistake, the events that occurred on the Sutter Avenue station platform are the results of an armed perpetrator who was confronted by our officers doing the job we asked them to do," Donlon said. (AP)

Motorist kills 16-year-old: A Minnesota woman who was involved in a sidewalk brawl in downtown Minneapolis jumped in an SUV and drove through the crowd, killing a 16-year-old girl and injuring five other people.

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said the 22-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of murder shortly after the events early Saturday. He said there is "no question" that the motorist intended to drive through the crowd. It wasn't immediately clear if alcohol played any role, police said.

"The video of this is absolutely horrific. There aren't words to describe how tragic and senseless it is to lose a 16-year-old female over something like this," O'Hara said. "However, we are thankful because it's clear we could have had more fatalities and more people injured." (AP)



The house of Ryan Routh is seen in Kaaawa, Hawaii on Sept 15. Routh is in police custody in connection with the apparent assassination attempt of Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump on Sunday in West Palm Beach, Fla. (AP)

Africa

ZRP to conduct op

40 dead after boat capsizes in Nigeria

ABUJA, Nigeria, Sept 16, (Agencies): A boat carrying mostly farmers capsized on a river in northwest Nigeria, drowning at least 40 people, President Bola Tinubu said Sunday.

The accident happened in Zamfara state, as farmers were trying to get to their land, Tinubu said in a statement. The president promised support for the victims and directed emergency agencies to assess the incident.

Yazid Abubakar, a police spokesperson in Zamfara, told The Associated Press the accident happened on Saturday and that five people were rescued, but 40 are still missing. It was not immediately clear how many people were on the boat when it went down.

The boat was carrying mostly farmers who use the crossing regularly to sell produce at the markets and locals say they're often overloaded.

Zamfara state is rampant with armed groups who kidnap for ransom, steel cattle and engage in illegal mining.

Boat accidents are common in remote communities across Nigeria because of overloading and boats that are in poor condition.

In August, more than 20 people died in a boat accident on a river in southern Nigeria after the engine exploded.

Most boats don't carry life jackets or have proper safety measures in place, say locals.

□ □ □

281 inmates escape in Nigeria: Nigerian authorities said 281 inmates escaped after devastating floods brought down a prison's walls in the country's northeast.

A major dam collapsed on Sept. 10, unleashing severe flooding that left 30 people dead and over a million displaced, and prompted evacuations across the state of Borno.

Officers attempted to evacuate the city of Maiduguri's main prison last week when they found out that the prisoners had escaped, Umar Abubakar, spokesperson for the Nigeria Correctional Services said in a statement Sunday night. "The floods brought down the walls of the correctional facilities including the Medium Security Custodial Centre, as well as the staff quarters in the city," Abubakar said.

Security personnel were able to recapture seven of the inmates and an operation is still ongoing to locate the rest, he said.

The collapse caused some of the state's worst flooding since the same dam collapsed 30 years ago. The state government said the dam was at capacity due to unusually high rains.

Two years ago, heavy flooding in Nigeria killed more than 600 people across the country.

West Africa has experienced some of the heaviest flooding in decades this year, affecting over 2.3 million people, a threefold increase from 2023, according to the UN.

□ □ □

Kenya police step up security: Kenyan police said they have beefed up security across the country amid fresh threats from terrorists.

Resila Onyango, National Police Service (NPS) spokesperson, reassured the public of their safety following credible warnings that al-Shabab militants are planning fresh attacks in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi and other cities across the East African country.

Onyango said in a statement issued Saturday night in Nairobi that police officers deployed nationwide remain alert to protect the country, which has faced increased terror threats from al-Shabab.

The police spokesperson called on the public to cooperate with police by reporting any suspicious activity or persons to the nearest police station or toll-free numbers. "The National Police Service is working closely with other security agencies at national, regional, and international levels as well as members of the public, through intelligence-led policing," Onyango said. The statement came after the United States cautioned its citizens in Kenya to remain vigilant amid terror threats.

The U.S. embassy, in a security alert issued on Friday, advised their citizens to be on the lookout for potential kidnappings and attacks on areas frequented by tourists. The embassy advised its citizens to exercise caution in areas such as hotels, embassies, restaurants, malls, markets, schools, police stations, and places of worship, as these locations may be potential targets for terrorist attacks. It also stressed the importance of its citizens staying vigilant and adjusting their personal security plans, warning that terrorist groups could attack with little or no warning.

□ □ □

UN to help Guinea-Bissau: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will use "all necessary means" to support Guinea-Bissau's judicial police in combating drug trafficking, the UN agency's representative in Guinea-Bissau Ana Cristina Andrade said here on Sunday.

The UNODC "will mobilize all partners to provide sufficient financial resources to support the efforts of Guinea-Bissau authorities in fighting drug trafficking and organized crime in the country," Andrade told the press after visiting the premises of the judicial police.

"The purpose of this visit is to show our willingness to support the judicial police, who have once again demonstrated their professionalism," she added, referring to the recent arrest of five people transporting 2.6 tons of cocaine aboard a plane at Bissau airport.

□ □ □

ZRP conduct nationwide operation: The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) announced that it will soon launch a nationwide operation to arrest holders of unregistered firearms, following a low response to a month-long amnesty that began on Sept. 1.

The amnesty allows individuals to surrender illegal firearms and ammunition without fear of arrest. However, only eight firearms had been turned in by Friday, prompting police spokesperson Paul Nyathi to issue a warning. "The police are concerned with reports of armed robberies throughout the country which show that unregistered firearms and ammunition are in the wrong hands. These are most likely being used to commit criminal acts," Nyathi said in a statement posted on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

The ZRP has been reporting an uptick in armed robberies across the country, involving homes, churches, businesses and highways. "We urge the public to take advantage of this opportunity to surrender firearms and ammunition voluntarily, without fear of questioning or arrest by the police," Nyathi said.

□ □ □

1 dead in Mexico landslide: A three-month-old baby was killed and 12 people went missing following a landslide in the



A firefighter stands near debris along a business street in the aftermath of Typhoon Bebinca in Shanghai, China on Sept 16. Inset: Firefighters from the Putuo Fire Brigade reinforce a fallen rain shed at an apartment in east China's Shanghai on Monday. (AP/Xinhua)

Strongest typhoon since 1949 hits Shanghai, knocks out power to some homes

The strongest typhoon to hit Shanghai since at least 1949 flooded roads with water and broken tree branches, knocked out power to some homes and injured at least one person as it swept over the financial hub Monday.

More than 414,000 people had been evacuated ahead of the powerful winds and torrential rain.

Schools were closed and people were advised to stay indoors.

One elderly man was injured by a falling tree on Shanghai's Chongming Island, according to state media. He was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Typhoon Bebinca made landfall around 7:30 am in the sprawling Pudong business district with winds

of 151 kph (94 mph) near its center.

Torrential rains flooded roads in the district, according to images broadcast by state media. Elsewhere in Shanghai, uprooted trees and fallen branches blanketed some roads and sidewalks. As the typhoon eased, responders cleared branches and other objects blown around by the storm. (AP)

Asia

US, China military leaders hold routine talks

PNG violence leaves 20 to 50 dead: UN

MELBOURNE, Australia, Sept 16, (AP): Violence among illegal miners in Papua New Guinea has left between 20 and 50 people dead, a United Nations official said Monday.

The fighting started days ago and is continuing in the Porgera Valley, near the site of a landslide in May estimated to have killed more than 2,000 people, according to the South Pacific island nation's government.

The UN's humanitarian adviser for Papua New Guinea, Mate Bagossy, said the death toll of at least 20 as of Sunday was based on information from community members and local authorities in Enga province in the nation's mountainous inland.

"We have confirmed that at least 20 people have been killed, but as per the last news that I have, it's likely up to 50 people," Bagossy told The Associated Press. "The fighting is continuing."

"Today some security forces have started moving in ... so it remains to be seen what effect this will have," Bagossy said, referring to the army and police.

Bagossy did not have information on the numbers wounded. National Police Commissioner David Manning said an emergency had been declared on Saturday after the violence escalated, with police mobilizing to protect residents and infrastructure.

Illegal

"The deteriorating situation has been caused by illegal miners and illegal settlers who are victimizing traditional landowners and using violence to terrorize local communities," Manning said in a statement.

The nearby New Porgera gold mine has halted most of its operations because of the violence until at least Thursday.

"Over the past 24 hours a significant escalation in tribal fighting has impacted many of our local employees. Homes have been destroyed, family and friends injured or killed, and people have been unable to sleep while

living in fear," New Porgera General Manager James McTiernan said in a statement on Sunday.

"I am incredibly saddened by these devastating events and sincerely hope that the government will soon restore peace to the valley," McTiernan added.

Enga Governor Peter Ipatas described the violence in the valley as unprecedented.

"This situation is dire. We have witnessed innocent lives being claimed and properties destroyed within days. The current situation can't continue," Ipatas said in a statement.

A disaster management team led by the national government and the UN Development Program will meet in the national capital, Port Moresby, on Tuesday to coordinate a humanitarian response in a dangerous and remote environment.

Recovery

Tribal warfare is a growing security problem across Papua New Guinea and is rife in Enga, where recovery has been slow since the May 24 landslide.

The United Nations conservatively estimated 670 villagers had died, while the Papua New Guinea government said more than 2,000 people had been buried.

An unknown number of refugees from tribal violence in neighboring areas are thought to be among the casualties, adding to the complications in calculating a credible death toll.

Continued fighting on the road from the disaster area to the provincial capital Wabag delayed the emergency response. Relief workers required army escorts to keep them safe.

Four months after the disaster, the main highway through the province remains buried under the collapsed mountainside.

No heavy earthmoving equipment has been used on the huge expanse of boulders, splintered trees and mud for fear of triggering a second landslide, the UN's International Organization for Migration said.

But a 4.7-kilometer (3-mile) bypass

road that would be safe from landslides was half-finished, the IOM said.

Around 5,000 people remain in the pathway of a potential second landslide in what authorities describe as a high-risk zone downhill from the disaster.

The provincial government is attempting to buy land outside the danger area to resettle those villagers, but complex negotiations have yet to be finalized, IOM said.

Also:

BANGKOK: Military leaders from the US and China met in Beijing for routine talks that only resumed in January after being suspended for two years as ties between the two countries soured. The meetings ended on Sunday and officials discussed ongoing issues such as Taiwan, the Russia-Ukraine war and clashes in the South China Sea.

Michael Chase, deputy assistant secretary of defense for China, Taiwan and Mongolia led a delegation to engage in the bilateral Defense Policy Coordination Talks, which were last held in January. While the talks weren't expected to resolve long-standing differences in stances over issues ranging from South China Sea claims to Taiwan, the U.S. has continued to push for the discussions as a way to avoid conflict.

The meetings were held after Chase attended the Xiangshan forum in Beijing, a defense forum that is China's answer to the Shangri-La Dialogue.

Communication between the two militaries broke off in 2021, as US-China tensions ratcheted up over widening differences on issues such as Taiwan's sovereignty, the origin of COVID-19 and economic issues.

Beijing has ignored US requests to engage in the past, especially over intercepts between US and Chinese aircraft and ships. While communications resumed after US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in San Francisco last November, it is unclear whether the talks could continue as the US is poised for a presidential election.



A World Food Programme (WFP) truck backs up to load food items from a recently landed UN helicopter, in Yida camp, South Sudan on Sept 14, 2012. (AP)



Romero



Evaristo

Lat/Am

Storm Ileana weakens: Storm Ileana has weakened to a tropical depression, the National Hurricane Center said Sunday.

The tropical storm formed Thursday off Mexico's Pacific coast as it moved ashore, making landfall on the coast of the Mexican state of Sinaloa Saturday, a day after it pounded the resort-studded Los Cabos.

On Sunday, wind speed dropped to 35 mph (55 kph), NOAA said in an advisory, as Ileana was nearly 30 miles (45 kilometers) southwest of Los Mochis, Mexico, and moving west-northwest at 2 mph (4 kph). It also forecasts the storm to become a remnant low - a post-tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds less than 34 knots.

On Friday, a warning had been in effect for portions of the Baja California Peninsula, including Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo.

Juan Manuel Arce Ortega, from Los Cabos Civil Protection, said the municipalities of La Paz and Los Cabos had suspended classes in schools due to the storm. Authorities prepared 20 temporary shelters in San Jose del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas, according to Los Cabos Civil Protection.

At the Hacienda Beach Club and Residences in Cabo San Lucas, valet worker Alan Galvan said the rain arrived late Thursday night and has been constant. "The rain isn't very strong right now, but the waves are choppy," he said.

"The guests are very calm and already came down for coffee," Galvan said. "There's some flights canceled but everything is ok at the moment."

The rain remained consistent through Los Cabos Friday afternoon, with several roads flooded and some resorts stacking up sandbags on their perimeters. Some people were still walking around boat docks with their umbrellas.

Ileana was the only active tropical storm in the National Weather Service's Eastern Pacific basin on Friday. In the Atlantic basin, post-tropical cyclone Francine was bringing heavy rain to parts of the southern United States, and Tropical Storm Gordon formed on Friday in the Atlantic Ocean, with forecasters saying it is expected to remain over open water for several days. (AP)

□ □ □

1 dead in Mexico landslide: A three-month-old baby was killed and 12 people went missing following a landslide in the

town of San Luis Ayucan in the central State of Mexico, local authorities confirmed.

Adrian Hernandez Romero, head of Civil Protection for the State of Mexico, said the landslide occurred on Friday night after heavy rainfall drenched the region.

At least 10 homes and businesses were

damaged by the collapse, Romero added.

Authorities have set up an emergency shelter at a nearby church and begun evacuating residents in the surrounding areas due to fears of further landslides.

Search and rescue efforts are ongoing with personnel from the Navy, the Army,

the National Guard, local police, and specialized search dogs combing the area for the missing people. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Hundreds march in Brazil: Practitioners of different religious traditions marched down Rio de Janeiro's iconic Copacabana Beach on Sunday to support religious freedom in Brazil, where cases of intolerance have doubled over the past six years.

Hundreds of men, women and children from more than a dozen faiths participated in the event, known as the March for the Defense of Religious Freedom. Many of the participants were practitioners of Afro-Brazilian religions that have recently faced attacks from members of Christian groups. Brazil's recently appointed Minister for Human Rights Macacé Evaristo also joined the march, which was held for the 17th consecutive year.

"The great challenge today in our country is to reduce inequality," Evaristo told the state-run Agencia Brasil news agency. "So for me it is very important to be present in this march, because the people here are also struggling for many things like decent work and a life free from hunger."

In Rio de Janeiro state, which is home to a quarter of the practitioners of Afro-Brazilian religions, there's been a proliferation of evangelical Christianity, particularly neo-Pentecostal churches founded since 1970 that focus on spreading their faith among non-believers. (AP)



People attend the 'Cry of Dolores' ceremony to commemorate the 214th anniversary of its struggle for independence from Spanish colonial rule at the Zocalo Square in Mexico City, Mexico on Sept 15. (Xinhua)

new leadership to drive growth at Warba Bank: Dr. Barakat joins executive team

Dr. Mohammad Barakat



As part of its ongoing strategy to strengthen leadership and drive growth, Warba Bank has announced the appointment of Dr. Mohammad Barakat as Chief Marketing and Corporate Communication Officer of Marketing & Corporate Communication Division.

In a statement, Warba Bank emphasized that this appointment reflects its commitment to enhancing its human capital by bringing in experts who contribute to the bank's growth and reinforce its competitive edge in the market.

Dr. Barakat's extensive experience in leadership positions across various sectors makes him a valuable addition to the bank's executive team. He holds

a master's degree and a Ph.D. in management from Imperial College, University of London, UK. With over 30 years of leadership experience in banking and marketing, he is recognized as a seasoned leader known for his strategic vision and impactful contributions. He also has a broad spectrum of expertise, including experience in the financial, banking, aviation, retail, and consulting sectors.

His accomplishments in institutional marketing and communications span both local and international arenas, including guiding business strategies for prominent companies in the UK and providing consultancy for major international firms.

Throughout his career, Dr. Barakat has held key leadership roles, adapting to market trends and contributing to sectors such as aviation and retail. He is also a certified trainer with numerous international qualifications as a visiting professor at Westminster University, Regent College and Global Banking School, specializing in project management, professional business practices, and providing commercial consultancy, business restructuring, and mergers and acquisitions.

Warba Bank continues to distinguish itself as a forward-thinking financial institution, achieving rapid success by delivering innovative Islamic banking services tailored to individuals and companies.

Market Movements

16-09-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
DUBAI - DFMGI	+14.75	4,395.24	SAUDI - TASI	-32.93	11,867.37
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+81.35	7,104.20	EGYPT - EGX 30	-237.59	30,260.24
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+157.28	79,557.88			

Business

KPC adjusts strategy amid global oil market volatility

Company cancels non-essential projects to boost efficiency

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: In response to recent fluctuations in the global oil market and concerns about potential price declines, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) is implementing strategic adjustments to optimize operations and financial performance.

As oil prices face downward pressure, with concerns that they could fall below \$70 per barrel, KPC has taken decisive action to streamline its practices and focus on core production activities.

Since August, the KPC has emphasized the need to eliminate unnecessary practices and redirect resources toward increasing production capacity and reducing inefficient spending.

With regards to this initiative, the key measures include screening and canceling tenders. Following directives from Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah, CEO of KPC, the corporation's affiliated companies are reviewing and canceling tenders and practices deemed non-essential.

This move aims to prioritize urgent and financially beneficial projects while reducing extraneous costs. The KPC is focusing on projects that offer significant financial returns, ensuring that investments are directed towards initiatives that will yield the highest benefits.

To mitigate the impact of fluctuat-

ing oil prices, KPC is enhancing its efforts to diversify revenue streams. This includes expanding in the chemical derivatives industry and providing opportunities for the Petrochemical Industries Company to grow both locally and internationally.

Moreover, the practice of wind turbine projects has been canceled following a request from the Kuwait Oil Company, reflecting a shift in focus towards more immediate and impactful projects.

These strategic adjustments are designed to align with the evolving conditions in the global energy sector, including the anticipated changes in interest rates by global central banks.

The upcoming US Federal Reserve meeting, expected to signal the end of the "soft landing" phase and the beginning of interest rate reductions, underscores the need for KPC to adapt swiftly to new economic realities.

By concentrating on production efficiency and strategic investments, KPC aims to navigate the challenges of the oil market while maintaining robust financial health and operational effectiveness.

In response to a significant drop in oil prices since August, the KPC has initiated several measures to ensure fiscal stability and enhance production capacity.

These steps are primarily driven by concerns over potential deficits in the state budget linked to the estimated budget price of \$70 per barrel.

In terms of strategic adjustments and project focus, the KPC is prioritizing projects that boost oil and gas production. This includes new explorations and the development of existing

CBK bonds

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KWD (240) million for (3) months with Rate of Return (4.375%).

oil reservoirs.

The corporation has canceled several tenders, including a high-value project for a wind turbine aimed at producing renewable energy. This cancellation reflects a shift towards projects with immediate financial benefits.

To mitigate the impact of fluctuating oil prices, KPC is focusing on expanding its chemical derivatives industry by facilitating both local and international expansion for the Petrochemical Industries Company, and exploring new markets for Kuwaiti products; increasing production and exporting high-quality diesel to European markets and enhancing production through partnerships with the private sector.

Moreover, the KPC aims to involve the private sector in future projects. To encourage private sector engagement, the corporation is working to eliminate barriers that currently restrict private sector participation in the oil industry.

The KPC is also committed to increasing the number of national employees in the sector, focusing on efficiency and adherence to regulatory standards.



From the MoU signing with Huawei.

Company signs MoU with Huawei

Zain sweeps 'Best 5G Business Development Strategy' Award at 5G Core Summit in Dubai

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Zain has been recognized with the 'Best 5G Business Development Strategy' award at the 5G Core Summit, held recently in Dubai. The award, presented by the GSMA and Informa Tech, recognizes Zain for leading efforts to drive 5G-based innovation.

The summit was attended by executives and leaders from the telecom and IT industries across the MENA region. Zain Kuwait Mobile Networks Team Leader Khalifah Almulla received the award on stage.

This recognition highlights Zain's proactive efforts in advancing 5G solutions and acknowledges the company's readiness to launch 5G New Calling (5GNC), an emerging capability in the 5G network that paves the way for a new era of voice and video communication. Zain plans to roll out this new service commercially across Kuwait by the end of this year.

During the summit, Zain signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with its global partner Huawei to explore further collaboration and development of 5GNC. Last year, Zain showcased this technology at the New Calling Summit in Paris, where it demonstrated the capabilities of its network and successfully trialed the service. Zain was the only operator from the region to be invited by the GSMA to showcase 5GNC to the global telecom community.

Zain was selected for this award based on several key criteria, including its solid 5G deployment strategy, efficient network architecture, the readiness of its operation and maintenance teams, and the introduction of key enhancements for network maintenance and troubleshooting. The company's integration of intelligent solutions and its level of innovation within the net-



Almulla receives the award in Dubai.

work were also pivotal in receiving this recognition.

The 'Best 5G Business Development Strategy' award is presented to operators who have successfully crafted an innovative strategy to transform the user experience. It also recognizes those who have understood the investments required across the entire 5G architecture and have implemented transformative service improvements, such as ultra-fast speeds, low latency, and the ability to handle massive simultaneous connections. Zain has effectively implemented these factors across its technology infrastructure.

5GNC enhances traditional calls with new capabilities, allowing both voice and video calls to be made directly over the network without the need for data services. This advancement introduces ultra-HD, intelligent, and interactive calling features on the native call screen without requiring additional apps.

Users can enjoy enhanced voice and video calls with 5GNC, featuring rich intelligence capabilities such as real-time voice and video recognition, instant live translation during calls, and the inclusion of fun avatars and filters for video calls.

In 2019, Zain led the market as the first operator to commercially launch 5G services, setting a precedent in the local and regional telecom industries. Since then, the company has continued to lead in adapting 5G technologies, revolutionizing the digital journeys of its customers.

Zain remains committed to investing in its 5G infrastructure, achieving the highest speeds and operational efficiencies across its network. The company is dedicated to meeting the growing demand for data while exploring new ecosystems made possible by technological innovation, all with the aim of serving the needs of consumers, businesses, and government agencies.

US dollar weakness & falling treasury yields boost gold prices

Gold prices surge to record high of \$2,578 oz

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The gold prices have experienced a significant rise recently, closing last weekend at a record high of \$2,578 per ounce, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Futures contracts for December delivery also saw a notable increase, rising by \$30 to \$2,610. This 3.4% weekly gain marks a rebound after two consecutive weeks of losses.

The following factors contributed to the increase: US dollar weakness -- The US dollar index fell by 0.3% to 101 points against major currencies, reducing the dollar's strength and enhancing gold's appeal as a safe haven.

Declining US treasury yields -- Yields on US Treasury bonds decreased due to strong expectations of a significant reduction in interest rates by the US Federal Reserve. This environment increased gold's attractiveness to investors seeking stability amid market volatility.

Inflation expectations -- Consumer inflation expectations

in the US dropped to 2.7% for September, the lowest since December 2020. This decline raises the likelihood of the Federal Reserve cutting interest rates by 50 basis points, further supporting gold prices. European Central Bank actions -- The European Central Bank reduced interest rates by 25 basis points last week, reflecting its confidence in the reduction of European inflation and contributing to gold's appeal.

Analysts are optimistic about gold's future price movements. Some predict that gold could reach \$3,000 per ounce due to ongoing economic developments and geopolitical tensions, including issues in the Middle East, the Red Sea region, and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Locally, the price of 24-karat gold is 25,250 dinars per gram, while 22-karat gold is priced at approximately 23,150 dinars per gram. Silver prices have remained stable at 343 dinars per kilo.

OPEC+ delays output hike, US crude stocks hit year-low

Oil market sell-off continues amid demand concerns & OPEC+ output cut fears

By KAMCO Invest

The sell-off in the crude oil market continued this month with crude oil futures prices briefly sliding below the USD 70/b for the first time since December-2021 last week. The crude oil market remained under pressure since the last week of August-2024 as oil watchers feared about an announcement for an imminent unwinding of output cuts from October-2024 by the OPEC+ in its next meeting. This exacerbated the existing worries about future demand growth in the US and in China as economic data pointed to a slowdown. Intermittent news about supply disruptions from Libya and the Middle East region provided minimal support to prices amid significant bearish sentiments in the market.

With a number of data points showing pressure on future oil demand growth, the announcement by the OPEC+ to delay output hikes by an additional two months only had a minimal and temporary impact on prices. This was followed by tropical Storm Francine that affected oil output in the US Gulf Coast that supported prices by more than 1% at the start of last week, but a cut in oil demand forecast by the OPEC in its monthly report pushed prices to USD 69.2/b on 10-September-2024, overshadowing a positive revision to demand forecast by the US EIA. The IEA also warned about a slowdown in Chinese oil demand, prompting the agency to lower demand expectation for this year.

Last week also witnessed the announcement of inflation data by the US fed that showed progress on headline inflation that reached 2.5% y-o-y growth during August-2024. However, core CPI held steady at 3.2% and was up 0.3% vs. last month, growing slightly faster than economist's expectations. The data also showed sticky services inflation as well as steady housing inflation. As a result, consensus estimates now expect a single 25 bps cut this month as compared to a popular expectation of a bigger cut, that would have been positive for the oil market. Data from Europe also showed subdued economic activity in most parts of the region prompting the ECB to cut interest rate for the second time this year by 25 bps. Oil demand in the region also got affected as European refineries entered maintenance season, in addition to unexpected shutdowns and the closure of the Grangemouth refinery in Scotland, the oldest refinery in Britain.

On the supply side, oil production in the US remained stable at 13.3 mb/d over the last three weeks after touching a record high of 13.4 mb/d during the week ended 16-August-2024. On the other hand, oil production in OPEC, declined by almost 0.2 mb/d during August-2024 to an average of 26.6 mb/d led by a steep fall in production in Libya as well as lower production in Iraq and Saudi Arabia, according to data from OPEC secondary sources. These declines were partially offset by higher production in Nigeria as well as small monthly growth in production in most other OPEC countries.

Oil Prices

Crude oil future prices reported minimal recovery last week after reaching the lowest level in 33 months led by a fall in demand expectations for key oil markets that overshadowed lower output by the OPEC+, geopolitical related disruptions in

the Middle East, the steep fall in output in Libya as well as outage of production on the US Gulf Coast due to a tropical storm. Crude oil prices were down by almost 10.0% during the first week of the month, resulting in the biggest weekly sell-off since October-2023. The month started with the news that the output in Libya would be restored, that pushed futures prices down by almost 5% coupled with ongoing demand concerns that were reflected in the PMI data on manufacturing with US remaining below the growth mark of 50 points for the second consecutive month, along with most countries in North America. Data on Europe also showed a similar trend of a contraction in manufacturing while Asia and emerging markets showed a smaller growth.

Data on oil inventory also provided little support to prices. US crude stocks reached the lowest level in almost a year at the end of August-2024 at 418.3 million barrels. Crude stockpiles in Cushing, Oklahoma were also seen reaching their lowest seasonal level in a decade, according to data from the US EIA. Meanwhile, the weekly rig count data from Baker Hughes showed oil rigs in the US reaching the highest level since mid-June-2024 at 488.

In terms of monthly price trend, prices of almost all crude grades reported steep declines during August-2024. Average spot Brent crude oil price was down by 5.3% to reach USD 80.7/b during August-2024 as compared to an average of USD 85.3/b during July-2024. On the other hand, OPEC reference basket price was down by 7.1% to reach USD 78.4/b while Kuwait export grade crude witnessed a steeper decline of 8.1% to average at USD 78.8/b during August-2024. Meanwhile, the consensus estimate for Brent crude showed downward revision for prices over the next six quarters. The consensus forecast for Q3-2024 was lowered by USD 1.0/b while for the first quarter of 2025 witnessed a steeper downgrade of USD 3.0/b, according to data from Bloomberg.

World Oil Demand

In its latest monthly report, the OPEC lowered its world oil demand growth forecast for 2024 by 80 tb/d. The agency now expects oil demand to grow by 2.0 mb/d this year to reach an average of 104.24 mb/d. The revision was seen in data for both OECD and non-OECD countries. Demand for the OECD region was lowered by around 30 tb/d mainly due to a downward revision to demand data for the US by around 60 tb/d coupled with downward revision to demand data for Europe by 20 tb/d. These declines were partially offset by a small upward revision to demand data for OECD Asia Pacific by 20 tb/d. In the non-OECD region, demand was lowered by around 50 tb/d. This mainly reflected lowered expectations for demand in China and Latin America, partially offset by positive revision to data for India. Similarly, the IEA also lowered its demand growth forecast for 2024 for the second consecutive month. The agency lowered its forecast from a demand growth of 0.97 mb/d last month to 0.9 mb/d in its new forecast. The agency said that a rapid slowdown in oil demand in China is driving down global consumption. According to the IEA, global oil demand growth during 1H-2024 decelerated to 0.8 mb/d, the lowest since 2020.

A number of data points from China were underwhelming, showing smaller than estimated growth. This included industrial output growth, retail sales growth, jobless rate as well as YTD measures for fixed asset investment and property investment. However, the drop in crude oil prices prompted higher imports into China last month as compared to a decline seen during July-2024. The country imported 11.56 mb/d of oil in August-2024, the highest level over the last twelve months, also due to higher seasonal demand. On the other hand, India looks like a replacement for China in terms of oil demand growth. According to the IEA, oil demand in India is expected to grow by 0.2 mb/d, surpassing China for the first time. This comes despite a fall in oil consumption in India during August-2024, mainly following a seasonal pattern. Oil consumption in India dropped by 0.3 mb/d during August-2024, also exacerbated by higher rains.

The OPEC also downgraded world oil demand growth forecast for 2025 to 1.74 mb/d from its previous month's forecast of 1.78 mb/d.

World Oil Supply

World oil supply increased by 80 tb/d during August-2024 as compared to the July-2024 to reach total supplies of 103.5 mb/d after increase in supply from Guyana, Brazil and elsewhere, according to data from the IEA. The increase in output from these countries more than offset a fall in output following outages in Libya due to a political dispute coupled with maintenance related outages in Norway and Kazakhstan.

Meanwhile, OPEC's oil supply growth forecast for the non-DoC countries for this year were once again kept unchanged as compared to OPEC's last month's forecast. Supply from these countries is expected to grow by 1.23 mb/d in 2024 to average at 53.07 mb/d during the year. However, there were adjustments at the country level that included a downward revision to supply data for the OECD Europe and Latin America that was fully offset by upward revisions to data for China, Angola and Australia.

The latest data from the US EIA showed nationwide crude and condensates production averaging at almost 13.3mb/d during the week ended 6-September-2024. Production has remained stable for the last three weeks after seeing a decline from a record level of 13.4 mb/d. The weekly data for oil rig counts in the US also showed an elevated level of oil rigs. According to Baker Hughes, total oil rigs in the US reached a total of 488 rigs after increasing by five rigs during the week ended 13-September-2024. This was the highest level of active oil rigs in the US since the first week of June-2024.

Meanwhile, forecasts from Rystad Energy showed increased output from the shale patch in the Permian Basin mainly led by increasing productivity of US oil well. The agency boosted its output growth forecast for the region from a growth of 252 tb/d this year to 333 tb/d and then grow by 315 tb/d next year.

The OPEC also kept its forecast for non-DoC oil supplies unchanged for 2025. The agency forecasts supplies from the non-DoC countries to grow by 1.1 mb/d to reach an average of 54.17 mb/d in 2025.

Data show China's economy slowing further

Asian stocks begin the week with modest gains

HONG KONG, Sept 16, (AP): Asian stocks started the week with modest gains after U.S. stocks finished their best week of the year, approaching record levels.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng swung between gains and losses during the day and closed less than 0.1% higher at 17,371.36 after data released over the weekend showed China's economy slowed further in August. Factory output, retail sales, and investment failed to meet expectations. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate unexpectedly surged to a six-month high, adding further challenges.

"The drums of a deepening economic slowdown are beating louder, and it's time for China's leadership to decide whether to step up or risk sliding further into stagnation," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.3% to 8,121.60.

Markets in Japan, mainland China and South Korea were closed for holidays.

Investors will be closely watching the Federal Reserve's policy meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, when the central bank is expected to announce its first interest rate cut since 2020. The Bank of Japan's policy meeting on Thursday and Friday is expected to leave Japan's rate unchanged.

In currency trading, the Japanese yen strengthened against the greenback, with the dollar falling to 139.75 yen from 140.82 yen. The euro cost

Nippon Steel's stymied US Steel acquisition highlights political roadblocks

TOKYO, Sept 16, (Xinhua): Top executives from the Japanese steel giant Nippon Steel Corporation have left for the United States to meet with senior U.S. officials in an attempt to salvage their acquisition of United States Steel Corporation, according to local media reports, after sources said that U.S. President Joe Biden was set to stymie the deal citing "national security" concerns.

Nippon Steel announced last December its intention to purchase U.S. Steel for 2 trillion yen (about 14.9 billion U.S. dollars), but the acquisition plan has faced strong opposition from the United Steelworkers (USW) union and members of both the Democratic and Republican parties. Presidential candidates from both sides, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, have also voiced their disapproval.

Analysts suggest that the political climate ahead of the U.S. presidential election has motivated the government's interference, driven by the need to appeal to voters, highlighting how market rules and international alliances can be sidelined in favor of "election priorities" in the dictionary of U.S. politicians.

Acquisition plan stalled
Nippon Steel's acquisition of U.S. Steel was scheduled for completion by September this year, according to the company's announcement last December. In April, U.S. Steel convened a special shareholder meeting where the deal was approved, leaving the U.S. government's review as the key hurdle.

On Wednesday, Takahiro Mori, vice chairman and executive vice president of Nippon Steel, met with representatives of the Committee on Foreign In-

vestment in the United States (CFIUS) in Washington D.C. During the meeting, U.S. officials expressed concerns about the deal due to national security. Reports indicated that Biden may soon order to halt the transaction.

Gary Clyde Hufbauer, a nonresident senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told Xinhua that Nippon Steel has superior technology to U.S. Steel, so a takeover would improve the long-run outlook and bring more employment. "All that will be lost with rejection of the Nippon offer," he said.

U.S. Steel CEO David Burritt warned in early September that if the deal fails, the company may close its headquarters and factories in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, putting thousands of jobs at risk and possibly forcing the company to relocate its

headquarters outside the country.

However, the USW opposed the deal, citing a lack of prior consultation with the union that breached the cooperative agreement between the USW and the company. This raised concerns about whether the new management would uphold existing labor contracts, including pensions and health benefits for retirees.

USW President David McCall stressed that Pittsburgh's proud steel-making history, spanning over 200 years, is at stake if the steel mill suddenly becomes Japanese-owned. "It's not good for our communities. It's not good for America ... The steel we find in our cars, buildings and even food cans is a matter of national security," he said.

Political issue
Pennsylvania, where U.S. Steel is

headquartered, is a critical swing state in the upcoming U.S. presidential election, and union members' votes are highly sought after by both candidates.

Analysts suggest that the Biden administration, under pressure from the USW, is blocking the acquisition to counter Trump ahead of the election, leaving the deal's future uncertain.

In March, Biden issued a statement opposing the merger, and Trump has also vowed to block the deal if re-elected. During an Aug. 19 speech in Pennsylvania, Trump reiterated his stance by saying he would "stop Japan from buying U.S. Steel" and "reclaim the manufacturing legacy." At a campaign event in Pittsburgh on Sept. 2, Harris echoed these sentiments, stating that U.S. Steel should remain "American-owned and American-operated."

\$1.1115, inching up from \$1.1076.

U.S. futures dropped while oil prices were higher.

On Friday, the S&P 500 rose 0.5% to 5,626.02 for a fifth straight gain. It is just 0.7% below its all-time high set in July. Rallies for Microsoft, Broadcom and other big technology stocks helped it claw back almost all its recent losses, the worst in nearly 18 months.

The Dow Jones Industrial Aver-

age jumped 0.7% to 41,393.78 and the Nasdaq composite added 0.7% to 17,683.98.

Stocks also got support from the bond market, where Treasury yields eased ahead of the Fed's meeting. The unanimous expectation on Wall Street is for the Fed to deliver the first cut to interest rates in more than four years on Wednesday, and traders are rekindling hopes it may offer bigger-than-

usual relief.

The Federal Reserve has been keeping its main interest rate at a two-decade high to slow the economy enough to stifle high inflation. With inflation having eased substantially from its peak two summers ago, the Fed has said it can turn more focus to bolstering the slowing job market and economy.

How much to cut rates by will be

a delicate balancing act for the Fed: Lowering them relieves pressure on the economy but can also give inflation more fuel. Reports earlier this week showed some underlying upward pressure may remain on inflation, which initially pushed traders to ratchet back expectations for the size of the Fed's upcoming move.

On Friday last week, though, traders were seeing roughly a coin flip's

chance that the Fed could deliver a large cut of half of a percentage point, instead of the more traditional quarter of a point, according to data from CME Group. The federal funds rate is currently sitting in a range of 5.25% to 5.50%. In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude gained 41 cents to \$68.16 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, added 29 cents to \$71.90 a barrel.

'10 years to give the money away'

Buffett heirs positioned to shape global philanthropy

OMAHA, Neb., Sept 16, (AP): The next generation of Buffetts - Howard, Susie and Peter - is poised to become one of the most powerful forces in philanthropy when their 94-year-old father, the legendary businessman and leader of Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett, eventually passes away.

But it wasn't always going to be that way.

Buffett announced in June that he would donate his fortune, now valued at nearly \$144 billion, to a charitable trust managed by his three children when he dies, instead of giving it to the Gates Foundation, as he indicated 18 years ago.

The next generation of Buffetts will then have 10 years to give the money away, Warren Buffett said.

In the meantime, the elder Buffett continues to make huge annual donations to the Gates Foundation and his four family foundations, which will continue throughout his lifetime. He first mentioned plans for a new charitable trust in November.

Howard Buffett told The Associated Press he's learned what his father told him and his siblings about philanthropy was true: "It's not so easy to give away money if you want to do it smart, if you want to be intelligent about it."

The middle Buffett child, Howard said his father is as sharp as ever and that he hopes he lives a long time, adding: "It's pretty amazing that he's giving us this opportunity."

Entrusted

Buffett has entrusted Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates with significant annual gifts to their foundation since 2006 - a remarkable \$43 billion to date.

"Wealthy people don't tend to give their money to other people to give away," said James Ferris, founding director of The Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy at the University of Southern California. But many of the wealthiest people are also hesitant to hand over their fortunes to the next generation over concerns that it hampers their ingenuity, he said.

Ferris thinks the story of Buffett's changing philanthropic intentions is a positive one. "It shows how a donor is making choices and is adapting to circumstances," he said. The Gates Foundation did not say when it learned of Buffett's decision or what the impact will be on its budget. It previously said in a statement that "Warren Buffett has been exceedingly generous,"

and that he has "played an invaluable role in championing and shaping the foundation's work to create a world where every person can live a healthy, productive life."

Over the years, Buffett gave the Gates Foundation large annual donations, but also donated billions to foundations run by his three children and a fourth family foundation. Their work offers some insight into the priorities of the next generation of Buffetts.

Donations

The Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, named after Warren Buffett's first wife, is the largest in terms of donations. It supports organizations that provide reproductive health care and access to contraception and abortion around the world. Susie Buffett, 71, is its board chair and Peter Buffett, 66, is a board member.

Susie Buffett also leads The Sherwood Foundation, a major supporter of early childhood development nationally that gives grants to organizations and projects within Omaha, Nebraska, the Buffetts' hometown.

Peter Buffett's NoVo Foundation has been an important funder of organizations advocating for the autonomy of girls and women and against gender-based violence. In 2020, Peter and his wife, Jennifer, decided to reorient their focus, expanding their support for Native American communities and projects to build sustainable, local communities with a focus on agriculture and food access.

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation has focused on conflict mitigation and agriculture around the world. Since 2022, it has donated some \$800 million - more than most countries - to humanitarian initiatives in Ukraine during the country's war with Russia. These include supporting food distribution at schools, demining activities, and the rebuilding of a major publishing company and a key bridge transporting grain.

In a relatively rare interview for a family that seldom makes time to speak with the media, Howard Buffett, 69, said he couldn't predict exactly how he and his siblings would give away their father's fortune. However, he said they would continue to take risks and find ways to make the biggest difference as their father recommended.

"I can tell you, we'll sit down in a room when the time comes, and we'll get it figured out pretty quickly," he said, acknowledging that the directive to donate all the money within 10 years was a challenge.

The siblings' different ways of thinking and approaches to giving are assets, he said. "What this is going to do is we're going to bring all of our collective experience together," he said.

Will the Fed cut interest rates fast enough to deliver a 'soft landing?'

Many have already fallen in anticipation

WASHINGTON, Sept 16, (AP): American consumers and home buyers, business people and political leaders have been waiting for months for what the Federal Reserve is poised to announce this week: That it's cutting its key interest rate from a two-decade peak.

It's likely to be just the first in a series of rate cuts that should make borrowing more affordable now that the Fed has deemed high inflation to be all but defeated.

Consider Kelly Mardis, who owns Marcel Painting in Tempe, Arizona. About a quarter of Mardis' business comes from real estate agents who are prepping homes for sale or from new home buyers. Customer queries, he recalls, quickly dropped almost as soon as the Fed started jacking up interest rates in March 2022 - and then kept raising rates through July 2023.

As the housing market contracted, Mardis had to lay off about half his staff of 30. It was the worst dry spell he had experienced in 14 years.

After the Fed begins cutting rates on Wednesday, Mardis envisions brighter times ahead. Typically, a succession of Fed rate cuts leads over time to lower borrowing costs for things like mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and business loans.

"I'm 100% sure it would make a difference," Mardis said. "I'm looking forward to it."

At the same time, plenty of uncertainty still surrounds this week's Fed meeting.

How much will the policymakers decide to reduce their benchmark rate, now at 5.3%? By a traditional quarter-point or by an unusually large half-point?

Will they keep loosening credit at their subsequent meetings in November and December and into 2025? Will lower borrowing costs take effect in time to bolster an economy that is still growing at a solid pace but is clearly showing cracks?

Chair Jerome Powell emphasized in a speech last month in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, that the Fed is prepared to cut rates to support the job market and achieve a notoriously difficult "soft landing." That is when the central bank manages to curb inflation without tipping the economy into a steep recession and causing unemployment to surge.

It's not entirely clear that the Fed can pull it off.

One hopeful sign is that as Powell and other Fed officials have signaled that rate cuts are coming, many interest rates have already fallen in anticipation. The average 30-year mortgage rate dropped to 6.2% last week - the lowest level in about 18 months and down from a peak of nearly 7.8%, ac-



Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell speaks during a news conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington, May 1, 2024. (AP)

Opportunities for global economic co-op unleashed

China revs up services trade

BEIJING, Sept 16, (Xinhua): China is gearing up to make its services trade a bright spot in the global arena, creating new opportunities worldwide in its opening-up endeavors and innovation-driven development.

During the hustle and bustle of the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), which runs from Sept. 12 to 16, foreign exhibitors, introducing new products, exchanging ideas, and seeking new cooperation, expressed their optimism in the Chinese market.

"Nestle always has confidence in the Chinese market," said David Zhang, CEO of Nestle Zone Greater China. He stated that the global food giant hopes to use the services trade fair to strengthen cooperation and exchanges further and better meet the demands of Chinese consumers.

Themed "Global Services, Shared Prosperity," this year's CIFTIS has attracted 85 countries and international organizations and over 450 Fortune

Global 500 and leading enterprises.

Shared dividends of services trade

At the Kyrgyzstan exhibition area, Kaparova Kunduz, general manager of Askunay Tour, is describing to the visitors how they can have a good holiday in the country: hiking around beautiful lakes hidden in valleys, visiting cultural heritages along the ancient Silk Road and spending the night in a tent under the starry sky.

"Our company can receive over 50 Chinese visitors each month, more than double that in 2023, and I hope the figure can double again next year," she said, adding that she has felt China's efforts to propel cross-border travel and business opportunities brought by it.

China's travel services trade has rebounded rapidly, significantly promoting international economic and trade cooperation. In the first half of the year, China's travel service export value soared 131.9 percent year on year, while import value rose 41.5 percent

year on year.

At a forum of the CIFTIS, Beijing Mayor Yin Yong said the city will continue to enhance its tourism infrastructure and service quality. In July, the Chinese capital introduced the Beijing Pass, a multi-purpose card for international visitors that facilitates payment for transportation, tourist sites and shopping centers.

Travel services trade is the epitome of the country's robust trade development in services. During the past decade, the average annual growth rate of services trade stood at 6.2 percent in U.S. dollar terms, higher than the global average growth rate, said Wang Dongtang, an official with the Ministry of Commerce.

A succession of policies this year makes China more attractive among the "circle of friends." In March, the country unveiled national and pilot free-trade zone versions of negative lists for cross-border trade in services to boost opening up.

Businesses can now borrow at lower rates than they've been able to for the past year or so, potentially boosting their investment spending.

"The question is if it's helping quickly enough ... to actually deliver the soft landing that everyone's been hoping for," said Gennadiy Goldberg, head of U.S. rates strategy at TD Securities.

Many economists would like to see the Fed announce a half-point rate cut this week, in part because they think the officials should have begun cutting rates at their previous meeting in July. Wall Street traders on Friday signaled their expectation that the Fed will carry out at least two half-point cuts by year's end, according to futures prices.

US delegation talks with Bangladesh's interim leader about the economy

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Sept 16, (AP): A high-level U.S. delegation met Sunday with the head of Bangladesh's interim government, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, to affirm "dedication to fostering inclusive economic growth," according to the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka. Yunus took over after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country last month amid a mass uprising. She was accused of corruption, violation of human rights and exces-

sive use of force against the protesters. During her 15-year rule, Hasina enjoyed close relations with India, China and Russia who have heavily invested in the country's infrastructure development, trade and investment. The U.S. has also become the single largest foreign investor in Bangladesh under Hasina.

Yunus on Sunday said he sought U.S. support "to rebuild the country, carry out vital reforms, and bring back stolen assets," his press office said in a statement

after he met the delegation at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka.

He told the U.S. representatives his interim administration has moved fast to "reset, reform, and restart" the economy, initiate reforms in financial sectors, and fix institutions such as the judiciary and police, the statement said.

The U.S. delegation, led by Brent Neiman, assistant secretary for International Finance at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, had representatives

from the U.S. Agency for International Development, and Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Donald Lu, assistant secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, joined the delegation after visiting India.

They met with several officials in Dhaka, including Touhid Hossain, the country's adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The USAID also signed an agreement to provide \$202.25 million in aid to Bangladesh.

The U.S. embassy on X underscored how American companies are entrenched in the South Asian country. "With the right economic reforms in place, the American private sector can help unlock Bangladesh's growth potential through trade and investment," the embassy wrote on its official account.

The delegation also met representatives of the American companies under the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) operating

in Bangladesh upon arriving Saturday.

Concerns over safety and lack of order in Bangladesh were relayed by the companies' agents. AmCham President Syed Ershad Ahmed said at the meeting that while there were improvements after the interim government was installed, "there are some bottlenecks too." Profit repatriation amid the ongoing crisis of U.S. dollars and challenges in the supply chain resulting from congestion at ports were among the issues he raised.

As part of its committed human capital development and digital transformation strategies

Burgan Bank launches Burgan Lab Academy to develop next generation of tech leaders

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: On its mission to become an employer of choice and lead with innovation, Burgan Bank launched its forward-looking development program, Burgan Lab Academy, which aims to prepare future tech leaders of the Kuwaiti banking industry. Starting September 29, the Burgan Lab Academy, developed in collaboration with CODED, the first coding academy in the Middle East, is set to host its first batch of fresh graduate trainees and provide job opportunities at Burgan Bank. This learning and development initiative comes as part of Burgan Bank's dedicated efforts to invest in Kuwait's human capital and raise the benchmark of professional competitiveness in the domestic labor market. Offering such a development opportunity for the Kuwaiti youth also aligns with the Bank's unwavering adherence to the global Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards in banking.

"We are very proud to announce the launch of a learning and development initiative that will have a great impact not only on Burgan's digital transformation journey but the entire domestic banking industry," said Bashar Al-Qattan, Acting Executive Manager – Learning and Talent Development at Burgan Bank. "Building on our commitment to nurturing the next generation of tech leaders, we were uncompromising in our choice of partner to develop a training experience that uplifts the digital banking landscape in Kuwait. In collaboration with CODED, the Burgan Lab Academy program is meticulously designed to provide our fresh graduates with the essential skills and knowledge in full-stack development, ensuring they are well-equipped to excel in the rapidly evolving tech industry."

"Burgan Bank's robust success rests on several pillars including our outstanding talents and innovation-driven culture," said Mr. Abdulwahab Abdulraheem, Executive Manager – Talent Acquisition at Burgan Bank. "With the launch of the Burgan Lab Academy, we mark a new milestone in merging human capital development, fostering a culture of innovation. As the global markets continue to shift toward digitization, learning and excelling in the latest digital tools is fundamental for the success of the most aspiring talents. In partnership with CODED, we have developed a state-of-the-art program that puts fresh graduates on a track of professional growth and success in IT and digital transformation."

The 14-week Burgan Lab Academy program aims to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical experience by entwining theoretical knowledge with hands-on application. The program is designed to cover a wide range of IT essentials, such as Flutter cross-platform mobile development, backend development with Node.js and Express.js, Scrum and Agile management, cybersecurity fundamentals, as well as DevOps and UI/UX design. The Academy employs a dynamic approach that combines individual, pair, and group projects with practical exercises, mirroring Burgan's collaborative work environments. This aims to guarantee the effective engagement and integration of the participants into the Burgan Bank culture and operations.

Before the start of the program, all applicants will participate in a 2-week pre-academy phase, which focuses on programming fundamentals and identifying candidates with the best aptitude for further training. The selected candidates will then be enrolled in the 14-week-long intensive full-stack boot camp that follows the Scrum methodology. Throughout the program, participants will be rigorously evaluated on their readiness to learn and apply new knowledge, ability to work efficiently in groups and individually, and inclination to think and solve problems innovatively. The top nine candidates will be offered a job at Burgan Bank in the IT department, Digital Transformation department, or HR digital unit.

Burgan Lab Academy marks the latest effort in a long human capital development journey that Burgan Bank has trailblazed for years. Throughout this journey, the Bank has designed numerous learning and development programs tailored to its employees' diverse personal and professional needs, ensuring everyone has a suitable opportunity to hone their skills and expand their knowledge. These programs include but are not limited to Entelaqah, designed for new hires and fresh graduates, Ro'ya, which



Bashar Al-Qattan, Acting Executive Manager – Learning and Talent Development at Burgan Bank



Abdulwahab Abdulraheem, Executive Manager – Talent Acquisition at Burgan Bank



Burgan Lab

fast-tracks the growth of Burgan's future leaders, and Burgan Cares, which paves the path for the Bank's employees to resume their academic endeavors in pursuit of earning their bachelor's or MBA degrees.

About Burgan Bank

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), and Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of 'Driven by You' is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed. Burgan Bank has achieved the LEED v4.1 O+M: EB Gold Certification

for its Head Office in Kuwait City. The Bank has also obtained the ISO/IEC 27001: 2022 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS), ISO/IEC 27701:2019 Privacy Information Management Systems (PIMS), ISO/IEC 20000-1: 2018 Information Technology Service Management System (ITSMS) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS), making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times. At the same time, the Bank has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years. Moreover, in a testament to its dedication to the development of its human capital, Burgan Bank is the first bank in Kuwait to be certified as a Great Place to Work®, earning the distinct honor in 2023.

Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.

Bank introduces 'Call Me' service & 'Ask Sanad' chatbot for easy int'l payments

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait enhances customer banking experience with travel rewards and loyalty points

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: As the summer season comes to an end, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) was successful in its ability to enhance its customers' banking experience once again. Throughout the season, customers had the ability to conveniently redeem their loyalty points and cashback rewards for various travel-related expenses, including flights and hotel accommodations, on the ABK mobile app. Additionally, customers had the opportunity to earn further ABK points and cashback on international transactions, enriching their travel budget.

Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, stated, "We are dedicated to providing innovative solutions that enhance our customers' comfort. We are proud to continuously offer new benefits that address our customers' banking and financial needs with ease and convenience. We reaffirm our ongoing commitment to expanding our solutions portfolio and staying aligned with the evolving landscape of the banking industry."



Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK



Khalil AlQattan, Chief Digital Transformation and Innovation Officer

■ **Johair Marafi:** We reaffirm our ongoing commitment to expanding our solutions portfolio and staying aligned with the evolving banking landscape.

■ **Khalil AlQattan:** Our innovative services help ensure customers have seamless access to their funds at all times.

Transformation and Innovation Officer at ABK, emphasized the challenges travellers often face in managing their finances. He remarked,

"We wanted to ensure that customers had seamless access to their funds during their travels. With our innovative 'Call Me' service, along with our chatbot 'Ask Sanad,' we were able to simplify customers' activation of international payments."

He added, "Customers were able to book their dream getaway at a more affordable rate what with their ability to earn loyalty points and cashback rewards. No matter the plan, our services are tailored to create a seamless and rewarding experience."

The ABK mobile app features a user-friendly interface that allows customers to effortlessly redeem loyalty points and cashback rewards, easily update credit card limits, and connect with an ABK representative for assistance with international payment settings. This comprehensive approach guarantees smooth and secure financial transactions both in daily life and while traveling.

The Conversation

'Storytelling shifts stereotypes'

Study reveals storytelling boosts engineering students' confidence

By Anne Hamby

Boise State University

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



Stories of self-doubt are common among engineering students. That was a key finding of a study conducted recently at Boise State University by a team of researchers.

Students surveyed questioned their abilities. They were sure everyone else understood the material. They said they didn't fit in. They wondered whether they should quit engineering and find a different major.

Many students who possess the aptitude to become engineers choose not to persist in their major because of the stories they tell themselves - about not belonging, about not being the "type" of person who can become an engineer. This is not just a problem for students and engineering or STEM culture. Because of the need to fill a growing number of STEM-related jobs, it affects society at large.

We - an interdisciplinary team of researchers with backgrounds in materials science, engineering education, educational technology and consumer psychology - are conducting research on a new approach to support students who question whether they fit in engineering.

With the aid of National Science Foundation funding, we are two years into testing a simple idea. We started with the assumption that the stories students tell themselves about whether they belong in engineering are related to their negative beliefs about their abilities. And then we asked educators at Boise State University to try a novel approach to changing those stories. While our research is still under review, preliminary findings suggest storytelling could be a game changer.

Through a partnership with The Story Collider, a nonprofit that helps people learn the art of storytelling, engineering faculty at BSU have begun giving engineering students a new assignment: Tell stories about how they overcame a problem.

Students write their stories, receive feedback to help them better develop their ideas, then record themselves narrating their work.

Toward the end of the semester, a few students present their stories in a professionally produced storytelling show. Recent shows, available online, featured stories about realizing potential, starting over and being volunteered for unwanted work.

We conducted before-and-after surveys with 113 students and in-depth interviews with 22 students over the first two years - or four semesters - of the program. The students who participated in the storytelling project identified more strongly as engineers, had a stronger sense of belonging in an engineering community and were more likely to state they intend to continue in their major. The research team is still gathering data to discover whether more students actually stay with their majors and finish engineering degrees.

One student said writing about a time she "freaked out" in a research lab allowed her to validate herself as an engineer. "Yeah, mistakes can happen. But that's OK."

The storytelling exercise resulted in more than one benefit. By telling a story about overcoming a challenge, students' perception of their abilities - as measured on empirically validated self-report scales - improved.

Research shows that the lack of diverse representations of scientists fosters a stereotypical view of engineers. Hearing the students read their stories also reduced listeners' stereotypes of engineers as competent but nerdy and lacking empathy. Audience members surveyed after the presentations said they viewed engineers as more likable and trustworthy.

Like many stories, this project also has a moral: The change in students' self-image after telling their stories, as shown by our research, highlights the ability of something as simple as sharing a story to effect change. When educators recognize this ability and encourage students to take control of their personal narrative, they can ultimately help more students find success. (AP)

Research highlights need for clear boundaries between work & personal time

Study links after-hours work emails to increased employee burnout

By Myoung-Gi Chon

Auburn University

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



Image it's Friday evening. You're about to watch a new Netflix drama, trying to unwind after a long week. Suddenly, your phone pings with a work email marked "urgent." Your heart sinks; your stress levels rise. Even if you choose not to respond immediately, the damage is done. Work has again encroached on your personal life.

The intrusion of work into home life, helped along by smartphones and other technologies, might seem like a triumph of efficiency. But this constant connectivity comes at a cost to employees and employers alike, research suggests.

As a professor of communications, I wanted to understand what happens when people feel compelled to dash off work emails after dinner and before breakfast. So a colleague and I conducted a study investigating the effects of after-hours work communication.

We found a disturbing link between work-related communication outside of regular hours and increased employee burnout. Answering emails after hours was linked to worse productivity, employees badmouthing their employers and other negative behaviors.

The research, conducted through a survey of 315 full-time U.S. employees across various industries, draws upon the "conservation of resources theory" to explain how



People work at the Yelp office in San Francisco on Feb. 14, 2023. (AP)

after-hours communication depletes employees' mental and emotional reserves.

The data is unequivocal: Engaging in work-related communication after regular business hours leads to emotional exhaustion, which in turn can spill over into counterproductive work behavior.

This scenario is increasingly common: More than half of American employees reported checking work-related messages at least once over the weekend, according to a 2013 survey conducted by the American Psychological Association. The

numbers have doubtless only risen since then.

Our findings show the consequences of this shift in the modern workplace. When the boundaries between home and work are eroded, it doesn't just hurt people's job and life satisfaction - it affects organizational performance, too.

We have seen firsthand the long-term impact of blurred lines between work and personal time through communication technology. In my opinion, this study is a critical wake-up call, highlighting the need for clear boundaries that protect em-

ployees' personal time from becoming just another extension of their workday.

The blurring of work and life boundaries remains a major issue in organizational communication, and the impact of artificial intelligence has emerged as a significant research topic since ChatGPT was launched in November 2022. That's why my team is currently exploring how AI influences skills and well-being within organizational communication.

The Research Brief is a short take on interesting academic work. (AP)

'We are shocked, saddened and heartbroken'

Tito Jackson, member of the Jackson 5, has died at 70

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 16, (AP): **Tito Jackson**, one of the brothers who made up the beloved pop group the Jackson 5, has died at age 70.

Tito was the third of nine Jackson children, which include global superstars Michael and sister Janet, part of a music-making family whose songs are still beloved today.

"It's with heavy hearts that we announce that our beloved father, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Tito Jackson is no longer with us. We are shocked, saddened and heartbroken. Our father was an incredible man who cared about everyone and their well-being," his sons TJ, Taj and Taryll said in a statement posted on Instagram late Sunday.

The Jackson 5 included brothers Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon and Michael. The family group, which was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1997, produced several No. 1 hits in the 1970s including "ABC," "I Want You Back" and "I'll Be There."

The Jackson 5 became one of the biggest names in music under the guidance of their father, Joe Jackson, a steelworker and guitar player who supported his wife and nine children in Gary, Indiana. As the family's music careers took off, they relocated to California.

Born on Oct. 15, 1953, Toriano Adaryll "Tito" Jackson was the least-heard member of the group as a background singer who

played guitar. His brothers launched solo careers, including Michael, who became one of the world's biggest performers known as The King of Pop.

Michael Jackson died at age 50 on June 25, 2009.



Jackson

Speaking to The Associated Press in December 2009, Jackson said his younger brother's death pulled the family closer together.

"I would say definitely it brought us a step closer to each other. To recognize that the love we have for each other when one of us is not here, what a great loss," he said, adding he would personally never "be at peace with it."

"There's still moments when I just can't believe it. So I think that's never going to go away," he said.

In 2014, Jackson said he and his brothers still felt Michael Jackson's absence in their shows that continued with international tours.

"I don't think we will ever get used to performing without him. He's dearly missed," he said, noting that his spirit "is with us when we are performing. It gives us a lot of positive energy and puts a lot

of smiles on our faces."

Days before his death, Jackson posted a message on his Facebook page from Munich, Germany, on Sept. 11, where he visited a memorial to Michael Jackson with his brothers.

"Before our show in Munich, my brothers Jackie, Marlon, and I, visited the beautiful memorial dedicated to our beloved brother, Michael Jackson. We're deeply grateful for this special place that honors not only his memory but also our shared legacy. Thank you for keeping his spirit alive," he wrote.

Tito Jackson was the last of the nine Jackson siblings to release a solo project with his 2016 debut, "Tito Time." He released a song in 2017, "One Way Street," and told the AP in 2019 that he was working on a sophomore album.

Jackson said he purposely held back from pursuing a solo career, because he wanted to focus on raising his three sons: TJ, Taj and Taryll, who formed their own music group 3T. Jackson's website offers a link to a single featuring 3T and Stevie Wonder titled, "Love One Another."

Tito Jackson also is survived by his brothers Jermaine, Randy, Marlon and Jackie, his sisters Janet, Rebbie and La Toya and their mother, Katherine. Their father died in 2018.

Jackson's death was first reported by Entertainment Tonight.

Obituary

Variety



Justin Marks, (left center), and Hiroyuki Sanada, (center right), and the team from 'Shogun' accept the award for outstanding drama series during the 76th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 15, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)

Television

'The Bear' and 'Baby Reindeer' take 4 apiece

'Shogun,' 'Hacks' win big at Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 16, (AP): "Shogun" had historic wins in an epic 18-E Emmy first season. "Hacks" scored an upset for best comedy on what was still a four-trophy night for "The Bear," and "Baby Reindeer" had a holiday at an Emmy Awards that had some surprising swerves.

"Shogun," the FX series about power struggles in feudal Japan, won best drama series, Hiroyuki Sanada won best actor in a drama, and Anna Sawai won best actress. Sanada was the first Japanese actor to win an Emmy. Sawai became the second just moments later.

"Shogun" taught me when we work together, we can make miracles," Sanada said in his acceptance speech from the stage of the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

Along with 14 Emmys it claimed at the precursor Creative Arts Emmys, it had an unmatched performance with 18 overall for one season.

"Hacks" was the surprise winner of its first best comedy series award, topping "The Bear," which most had expected to take it after big wins earlier in the evening.

Jean Smart won her third best actress in a comedy award for the third season of Max's "Hacks," in which her stand-up comic character Deborah Vance tries to make it in late-night TV. Smart has six Emmys overall.

Despite losing out on the night's biggest comedy prize after winning it for its first season at January's strike-delayed ceremony, FX's "The Bear" star Jeremy Allen White won best actor in a comedy for the second straight year, and Ebon Moss-Bachrach repeated as best supporting actor.

And Liza Colón-Zayas was the surprise best supporting actor winner over competition that included Meryl Streep, becoming the first Latina to win in the category.

"To all the Latinas who are looking at me," she said, her eyes welling with tears. "Keep believing, and vote."

Netflix's darkly quirky "Baby Reindeer" won best limited series. Creator and star Richard Gadd won for his lead acting and his writing and Jessica Gunning, who plays his tormentor, won best supporting actress.

Accepting the series award, Gadd urged the makers of television to take chances.

"The only constant across any success in television is good storytelling," he said. "Good storytelling that speaks to our times. So take risks, push boundaries. Explore the uncomfortable. Dare to fail in order to achieve."

"Baby Reindeer" is based on a one man-stage show in which Gadd describes being sexually abused along with other emotional struggles.

Accepting that award, he said, "no matter how bad it gets, it always gets better."

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly as Gadd has.

Jodie Foster won her first Emmy to go with her two Oscars when she took best actress in a limited series for "True Detective: Night Country."

Foster played a salty police chief investigating a mass killing in the round-the-clock dark of an Alaskan winter on the HBO show. While her castmate Kali Reis missed out on becoming the first Indigenous actor to win an Emmy in the supporting category, Foster praised her, and the show's collaboration with Indigenous contributors.

Traditional

"The Inupiaq and Inuit people of northern Alaska who told us their stories, and they allowed us to listen," Foster said. "That was just a blessing. It was love, love, love, and when you feel that, something amazing happens."

Greg Berlanti, a producer and writer on shows including "Dawson's Creek" and "Everwood," received the Television Academy's Governors Award for his career-long contributions to improving LGBTQ visibility on television. He talked about a childhood when there was little such visibility.

The long decline of traditional broadcast TV at the Emmys continued, with zero wins between the four broadcast networks.

In the monologue that opened the ABC telecast, Dan Levy, who hosted with his father and "Schitt's Creek" co-star Eugene Levy, called the Emmys "broadcast TV's biggest night for honoring movie stars on streaming services."

Though other than Foster, movie stars didn't fare too well. Her fellow Oscar winners Streep and Robert Downey Jr. had been on the favorites, but came up empty.

"Robert Downey Jr. I have a poster of you in my house!" said Lamorne Morris, who beat Downey for best supporting actor in a limited series, said from the stage as he accepted his first Emmy.

The evening managed to meet many expectations but included several swerves like the win for "Hacks."

"We were really shocked," "Hacks" co-creator Jen Statsky, who also won for writing, said after the show.

"We were truly, really surprised."

And "Shogun" got off to a quiet start, missing on early awards and not getting its first trophy until past the halfway point.

Still, it shattered the record for Emmys for one season previously held by the 2008 limited series "John Adams" in 2008. And its acting wins would have been hard to imagine before the series became an acclaimed phenomenon.

Sanada is a 63-year-old longtime screen star whose name is little known outside Japan, even if his face is through Hollywood films like "The Last Samurai" and "John Wick Chapter 4." Sawai, 32, who was born in New Zealand and moved to Japan as a child, is significantly less known in the US. She wept when she accepted best actress.

"When you saw me cry on stage, it was probably the 12th time I cried today," Sawai said backstage. "It was just mixed emotions, wanting everyone to win all that. I may cry again now."

"The Bear" would finish second with 11 overall Emmys, including guest acting wins at the Creative Arts ceremony for Jamie Lee Curtis and Jon Bernthal.

The Levys in their opening monologue mocked the show being in the comedy category.

"In honor of 'The Bear' we will be making no jokes," Eugene Levy said, to laughs.

Elizabeth Debicki took best supporting actress in a drama for playing Princess Diana at the end of her life in the sixth and final season of "The Crown."

"Playing this part, based on this unparalleled, incredible human being, has been my great privilege," Debicki said in her acceptance. "It's been a gift."

Several awards were presented by themed teams from TV history, including sitcom dads George Lopez, Damon Wayans and Jesse Tyler Ferguson and TV moms Meredith Baxter, Connie Britton, and Susan Kellch Watson.

See Page 12

Features

ARABIC TIMES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

LOS ANGELES: Moviegoers said yes to more "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" this weekend.

After its monster opening, the **Tim Burton** sequel easily topped the domestic box office charts again with \$51.6 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. Down only 54% from a week earlier, the North American gross for the Warner Bros. release is already at \$188 million. Internationally, it added \$28.7 million, bringing its worldwide total to a staggering \$264.3 million.

"To drop just 54% is really impressive and indicative of a pretty solid word of mouth," said **Paul Dergarabedian**, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "Audiences are enjoying the film."

While its hold was strong, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" didn't have much in the way of major new competition. Fresh offerings included the **James McAvoy** horror "Speak No Evil," a satirical documentary following right wing podcaster **Matt Walsh**; and a new **Dave Bautista** action pic, "The Killer's Game."

Second place in weekend ticket sales went to "Speak No Evil," a remake of a 2022 Danish horror film about an unsuspecting family who decides to spend a weekend with new friends in the country. McAvoy stars in it, along with **Mackenzie Davis** and **Scout McNairy**. With positive reviews and a shrewd release date of Friday the 13th, the Blumhouse production released by Universal Pictures made an estimated \$11.5 million from 3,375 locations.

"Deadpool & Wolverine" landed in third place in its eighth weekend with another \$5.2 million. The Disney and Marvel blockbuster is now up to \$621.5 million in North America and \$1.3 billion globally.

The Daily Wire movie "Am I Racist?" placed fourth at the box office, with an estimated \$4.7 million from only 1,517 theaters. Described as a mockumentary in the style of "Borat," the movie has conservative columnist Walsh going undercover as a "DEI trainee." Walsh had a similar gimmick, pretending to be a gender studies professor, in the 2022 movie "What is a Woman?" Both were directed by **Justin Folk**. (AP)

TORONTO: The Toronto International Film Festival's People's Choice Award went to "The Life of Chuck," handing **Mike Flanagan's Stephen King** adaptation one of the most-watched prizes of the fall film festival circuit.

The award for "The Life of Chuck" was announced Sunday as North America's largest film



McAvoy



Hiddleston

festival drew to a close. "The Life of Chuck," based on King's 2020 novella of the same name, stars **Tom Hiddleston** as Charles "Chuck" Krantz, an ordinary man living through apocalyptic cataclysms. **Mark Hamill**, **Chiwetel Ejiofor**, **Karen Gillan** and **Jacob Tremblay** co-star.

TIFF's People's Choice Award

is regarded as a reliable Oscar harbinger. Since 2012, every winner of the festival's top prize has gone on to be nominated for best picture at the Academy Awards. Last year, **Cord Jefferson's** "American Fiction" won, and went on to be a major awards contender.

But "The Life of Chuck" could test that track record. The

film is up for sale and doesn't yet have distribution. It could be acquired and quickly reeled for release this fall, or it might end up a 2025 release. "The Life of Chuck" drew mixed - though mostly positive reviews - out of Toronto, though audiences were clearly charmed by the uplifting drama. (AP)

People & Places

Books

Mitchell lyric inspires

Clinton's memoir offers intimate look at her life

NEW YORK, Sept 16, (AP): At the end of her new memoir, **Hillary Clinton** offers up what sounds like a far-off wish: "I hope I'm alive to see the United States elect a female president."

Turns out her book went to the printers a tad too soon. Clinton wrote that sentence before Kamala Harris became the Democratic presidential nominee, suddenly making that wish feel a whole lot more immediate. It was too late to update the print version of "Something Lost, Something Gained," which comes out this week, though the audiobook now has an epilogue.

So how does Clinton feel about that wish now?

"Really optimistic," she says, praising the vice president as a candidate and in particular her recent debate performance. "I think I'm going to be around to see the first woman president!"

Clinton, 76, has written memoirs before - from "Living History" in 2003 up through "What Happened?" in 2017, about the painful loss to Donald Trump that thwarted her own quest to be the first female US president. This latest feels more intimate. Inspired by the song "Both Sides Now" by one of her favorite musicians, Joni Mitchell, the book aims to be a snapshot of how she sees the world now, she says - rather like catching up with her over dinner.

So it goes from the macro - for example, a chapter on how she imagines the years following a Trump re-election, starting with troops patrolling America's cities - to the micro, describing life as a grandmother or mornings at home with Bill, competing over the Spelling Bee puzzle in *The New York Times*.

First lady, lawyer, senator, secretary of state, and of course presidential nominee. University professor, fledgling Broadway producer. Clinton has lived many chapters, and the book's actual chapters shift easily between eras.

Election

She recounts in spy-novel-worthy detail an operation to save threatened women in Afghanistan as the Taliban were taking over in 2021, then reflects in the next chapter on the unique "sisterhood" of former first ladies, at one point defending Melania Trump from criticism of her attire at Rosalynn Carter's memorial service: "She came. That's what mattered."

But she makes no secret of her animosity toward Donald Trump. It's clear that in the "something lost" category of her title is the election that still hurts, deeply. In one recent anecdote, she recounts running into a retired FBI official who apologized for his role in how the bureau handled the investigation over her emails, a probe that was reopened days before the election.

She writes that she staired for a minute, unable to speak. "I would have been a great president," she then told him, before walking off.

Clinton spoke to *The Associated Press* last week ahead of her book's release. Some more takeaways:

Clinton wore white, honoring women's suffrage, when she accepted the Democratic nomination; Harris did not. Clinton spoke of "18 million cracks" in the ultimate glass ceiling when she lost; Harris has not emphasized gender in her speeches. Why the difference?

Well, says Clinton, it's been eight years. When she ran, it was so new for the country to have a female major-party candidate that it had to be a focus. Nearly a decade later, the country's gotten more used to the idea.

"We now don't just have one image of a person who happens to be a woman who ran for president - namely me," she said. "Now we have a much better opportunity for women candidates, starting with Kamala, to be viewed in a way that just takes for granted the fact that yes, guess what? She's a woman."

Clinton writes that admirers often come up to her and say "You warned us, and I wish we had listened." (She adds: "What am I supposed to say to that?

Yes, I did.")

But Clinton also writes that she takes no pleasure in hearing or feeling she was right - "in fact, I hate it" - even when she learned one afternoon in May that Trump had become the first former U.S. president to be convicted of felony crimes, a moment she says brought "a jolt of disbelief" and "a pang of vindication" plus some tears.

Asked what she is most afraid of "being right" about now, she replies: "I'm most afraid that people will not take Donald Trump seriously. And literally."

Not surprisingly for the woman who coined the phrase "Women's rights are human rights" three decades ago, Clinton writes about many female activists and dissidents she's worked with around the globe. She also tells the story of how she joined with colleagues in a secret operation to get hundreds of women out of Afghanistan - professors, lawyers, activists and their families - who were likely to be targeted by the Taliban once U.S. troops left.

Pursuits

But Clinton also discusses new pursuits. Like teaching, for the first time in 50 years, at Columbia University. And Broadway producing. Clinton was among the producers of "Suffs," the Tony-winning musical about women who fought for the right to vote in the early 20th century. She ends her book with a song from the show, "Keep Marching."

Is there more producing in the future? "I don't know," she says. "I can tell you it's been one of the greatest experiences in my life."

Being a grandmother "truly is the one experience of life that is not overrated," says the grandmother of three, who dedicates her book to them.

But Clinton gets most personal when addressing her marriage, which she says brings her "new joys every day." She does not feel the need to elaborate on her reference to past challenges. "It's no secret that Bill and I had dark days in our marriage in the past," she writes. "But the past softens with time, and what's left is the truth: I'm married to my best friend."

Asked now if she feels some people still don't believe that, and wonder why she stayed, she replies: "I'm sure there are people who don't get it. (But) this was for me an opportunity to basically say what I believe, which is that every life has challenges, opportunities, setbacks, disappointments, successes, achievements. And you have to make a decision almost every day about how you're going to live that day." Hers, she says, were right for her.

Clinton's schedule is organized by an aide, to the minute. A phone call might be planned for 10:14 a.m. But what does that mean about her much-documented walks in the woods near home in Chappaqua, New York.

Clinton schedules time for those, too. Sometimes Bill comes, but his walks are more like "an ambling conversation" where he needs to chat with everyone they see. As for her, she needs to "just get out and walk as fast as I can."

Sometimes she plans speeches while walking. Other times, she says, she thinks about absolutely nothing. "The Japanese have this great phrase that translates to forest bathing, where you just literally walk in the woods and just take it all in."

She advises readers to do the same when the political climate starts to overwhelm: "Put down your phone and go outside. Take a walk."



This cover image released by Simon and Schuster shows, 'Something Lost, Something Gained: Reflections on Life, Love, and Liberty,' by Hillary Rodham Clinton. (AP)



The team from 'Hacks' accepts the award for Outstanding Comedy Series at the 76th Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024 at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)



'The Traitors' team picks up their official Emmy statuette for outstanding reality competition program. (AP)



John Oliver, center, and the team from 'Last Week Tonight With John Oliver' accept the award for outstanding scripted variety series. (AP)



The team from 'The Daily Show' picks up their official Emmy statuette for outstanding talk series. (AP)



Anna Sawai, left, and Hiroyuki Sanada pose with awards for outstanding lead actors in a drama series for 'Shogun.' (AP)



Jodie Foster with her award for 'True Detective: Night Country.' (AP)



Elizabeth Debicki picks up her Emmy statuette for 'The Crown.' (AP)



Richard Gadd picks up his Emmy statuette for 'Baby Reindeer.' (AP)

Top winners at Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES, Sept 16, (AP): The 76th annual Emmy Awards were handed out Sunday at the Peacock Theater in downtown Los Angeles.

Stars presenting Emmys to their peers include: Kathy Bates, Billy Crystal, Viola Davis, Giancarlo Esposito, Selena Gomez, Steve Martin, Maya Rudolph, Dick Van Dyke and Martin Sheen.

Several actors and shows, including Rudolph, are already winners. Rudolph won her sixth Emmy Award at last weekend's Creative Arts Emmys for her voice work on "Big Mouth." Jamie Lee Curtis also picked up a supporting actress Emmy last weekend for her appearance on "The Bear" and "Shogun" set a single season record for most wins with 14, a lead it looks to expand.

Here's a list of winners at Sunday's Emmys:

- Outstanding comedy series: 'Hacks'
- Outstanding drama series: 'Shogun'
- Outstanding lead actor in a drama series: Hiroyuki Sanada, 'Shogun'
- Outstanding lead actress in a drama series: Anna Sawai, 'Shogun'
- Outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series: Ebon Moss-Bachrach, 'The Bear'
- Outstanding supporting actor in a drama series: Billy Crudup, 'The Morning Show'
- Outstanding lead actor in a comedy series: Jeremy Allen White, 'The Bear'
- Outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series: Liza Colón-Zayas, 'The Bear'
- Outstanding supporting actress in a drama series: Elizabeth Debicki, 'The Crown'
- Outstanding lead actress in a comedy series: Jean Smart, 'Hacks'
- Outstanding reality competition program: 'The Traitors'
- Outstanding supporting actress in a limited or anthology series or movie: Jessica Gunning, 'Baby Reindeer'
- Outstanding scripted variety series: 'Last Week Tonight with John Oliver'
- Outstanding writing for a variety special: Alex Edelman, 'Alex Edelman: Just For Us'
- Outstanding directing for a limited or anthology series or movie: 'Ripley,' Steven Zaillian (series)
- Outstanding writing for a comedy series: 'Hacks,' Lucia Aniello, Paul W. Downs & Jen Statsky
- Outstanding talk series: 'The Daily Show'
- Outstanding supporting actor in a limited or anthology series or movie: Lamorne Morris, ' Fargo'
- Outstanding writing for a drama series: 'Slow Horses,' Will Smith
- Outstanding writing for a limited or anthology series or movie: 'Baby Reindeer,' Richard Gadd (series)
- Outstanding directing for a comedy series: 'The Bear,' Christopher Storer
- Outstanding directing for a drama series: 'Shogun,' Frederick E.O. Toye
- Outstanding lead actor in a limited or anthology series or movie: Richard Gadd, 'Baby Reindeer'
- Outstanding lead actress in a limited or anthology series or movie: Jodie Foster, 'True Detective: Night Country'
- Outstanding limited or anthology series: 'Baby Reindeer'



Jon Stewart picks up his official Emmy statuette for 'The Daily Show.' (AP)



Liza Colón-Zayas with her Emmy award 'The Bear.' (AP)



Jean Smart with her Emmy statuette for 'Hacks.' (AP)

Leading Lebanese novelist Elias Khoury dies at 76

BEIRUT, Sept 16, (AP): Lebanese novelist Elias Khoury who dedicated much of his writings to the Palestinian cause and taught at universities around the world, making him one of Lebanon's most prominent intellectuals, has died. He was 76.

Khoury, a leading voice of Arab literature, had been ill for months and admitted and discharged from hospital several times over the past year until his death early Sunday. Al-Quds Al-Arabi daily that he worked for said.

The Lebanese writer, born and raised in Beirut, was outspoken in defense of freedom of speech and harsh criticism of dictatorships in the

Middle East.

In addition to his novels, Khoury wrote articles in different Arab media outlets over the past five decades making him well known throughout the Arab world.

Two days after the Israel-Hamas war broke out on Oct. 7, Khoury wrote an article in Al-Quds A-Arab daily titled "It's Palestine." Khoury wrote then that "the biggest open-air prison, the besieged Ghetto of Gaza, has launched a war against Israel, occupied settlements and forced settlers to flee."

Born in Beirut on July 12, 1948, Khoury had been known for his political stances from his support of

Palestinians to his harsh criticism of Israel and what he called its "brutal" settling policy in Palestinian territories. He studied at the Lebanese University and later at the University of Paris, where he received a PhD in social history.

"The Catastrophe began in 1948 and it is still going on," he once wrote referring to Israel's settlement policies in occupied Pal-

estian territories. The "nakba," or "catastrophe" is a term used by many Arabs to describe the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians when Israel was created in 1948.

Khoury was an outspoken supporter of Arab uprisings that broke out in the region starting in 2011 and toppled several governments.

"The question is not why the Arab revolts broke out," Khoury wrote after uprisings that toppled long-serving leaders such as Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Tunisia's Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

"The question is not how people tore down the wall of fear but how fear built Arab kingdoms of silence for five decades."



Khoury

LuPSMA therapy found to improve outcomes in cancer patients

Radioactive therapy effective for early-stage prostate cancer

SYDNEY, Sept. 16, (Xinhua): A targeted radioactive therapy used to treat late-stage prostate cancer is also effective for patients in the early stages of the disease, Australian research has found.

In a study published on Sunday, a team led by researchers from the world-leading Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne found that Lutetium-177 PSMA-617, commonly known as LuPSMA, therapy can significantly improve outcomes for early-stage prostate cancer patients.

LuPSMA therapy is a targeted radioactive infusion treatment that has been proven to extend lives, and improve quality of life, for patients with advanced prostate cancers who have exhausted all other options.

The new study was the first to test the treatment on patients with newly-diagnosed prostate cancers that had spread. Over 100 patients from 11 Melbourne hospitals were enrolled in the trial and were randomized to receive either chemotherapy alone, which is the standard of

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 16, (AP): Reveal Genomics, S.L., a Barcelona-based biotechnology start-up seeking to revolutionize precision oncology through biomarker innovation, has announced both the development and the clinical validation of TNBCDX, the first genomic test designed specifically for patients with early-stage TNBC. This dual milestone will be presented at the ESMO Congress 2024 in Barcelona (Spain).

TNBCDX represents a significant

care, or chemotherapy and LuPSMA. It found that 41 percent of participants in the LuPSMA group had un-

Test aims to improve treatment for tough-to-treat breast cancer

First genomic test offers hope for early-stage breast cancer

advancement in the management of TNBC, a subtype of breast cancer that is particularly challenging to treat due to its lack of hormone receptors and HER2 expression. This disease is typically treated with neoadjuvant multi-agent chemotherapy regimens that include taxanes, anthracyclines, cyclophosphamide, carboplatin, and pembrolizumab. However, these therapies often pose significant toxicities for patients and can lead to a considerable financial burden and increased use of healthcare resources.

Meanwhile, less intensive systemic therapies involving taxanes and carboplatin without anthracyclines and pembrolizumab are showing outstanding outcomes in selected patients. In this context, a biomarker such as TNBCDX was needed to guide treatment decisions and safely identify patients who could benefit from de-escalation of therapy.

Across two independent validation studies with 418 patients, the TNBCDX scores showed a strong association with pathological complete

response (pCR), distant disease-free survival (DDFS), and overall survival (OS), providing a more refined risk stratification. Notably, the TNBCDX test outperformed tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) in predicting both pCR and survival outcomes.

The first validation study, ADAPT-TN, led by Dr. Nadia Harbeck and Dr. Oleg Gluz of the West German Study Group, was a phase II prospective neoadjuvant trial (WSG-ADAPT TN Trial, NCT01815242) that enrolled patients

diagnosed with stage I-III TNBC. The study involved a treatment regimen of nab-paclitaxel combined with either gemcitabine or carboplatin. Patients who did not achieve a pCR were given additional anthracycline-based chemotherapy. The second validation study, MMJ-CAR-2014-01 (NCT01560663), led by Dr. Miguel Martin, is an ongoing prospective, multicenter, non randomized trial in Spain investigating the antitumor activity of neoadjuvant carboplatin and docetaxel in early-stage TNBC.

detectable levels of Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA), a biomarker for prostate cancer, compared to 16 percent in

the standard-of-care group at 48 weeks after treatment.

"Adding LuPSMA therapy to the

standard-of-care approach was seen to dramatically improve responses compared to chemotherapy alone," Arun

Azad, a medical oncologist at the center and co-author of the research, said in a media release.

3 more mpox cases

India's Kerala confirms 2nd Nipah virus death

NEW DELHI, Sept. 16, (Xinhua): Authorities in the southern Indian state of Kerala Monday said a 24-year-old man has died from Nipah virus.

According to Kerala local health minister Veena George, the man died in Malappuram district, about 370 km north of Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala.

"A 24-year-old man who died in a private hospital the other day was confirmed to be infected with Nipah virus. Nipah virus was suspected during the death investigation conducted by the medical officer after he was convinced that the youth who died in a private hospital had shown symptoms of encephalitis," a statement issued by the local government said.

Health officials have put 151 people who came into contact with the victim under observation to prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

This is the second death caused by Nipah in Kerala since July.

On July 21, a 14-year-old schoolboy from Pandikkad in Malappuram succumbed to the Nipah virus at Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode.

According to the World Health Organization, Nipah virus infection is a newly emerging zoonosis that causes severe disease in both animals and humans. The natural hosts of the virus are fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family, Pteropus genus.

Typically, human infection presents as an encephalitic syndrome marked by fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion and coma, which can potentially lead to death.

Monkeypox: The Philippines' Department of Health has detected three more mpox cases, which have brought the number of confirmed cases around the country to 18 so far this year, Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa said Monday.

Herbosa said five of the 18 patients have recovered, and no patient has died from the infectious viral disease.

Herbosa said the three newly detected mpox cases were all male and were from Metro Manila and the adjoining region.

"The good thing is that all 18 patients have not infected anyone. They have no epidemiological link, meaning that the patients did not transmit the virus during their isolation," Herbosa said at a press conference.

On Aug. 14, the World Health Or-

Australia acts

New online tool to combat AMR

CANBERRA, Sept 16, (Xinhua): Australia's national science agency has launched an online tool to enhance knowledge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and reduce its threat to health.

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites evolve to become resistant to antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines designed to kill them.

Infections that have developed AMR can be difficult or impossible to treat, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, disability and death.

Launched on Monday by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the new AMR Actions and Insights online tool will provide evidence-based information to Australians to inform policy and action to reduce the impact of AMR on human, animal and environmental health.

According to the CSIRO, more than 1,600 Australians die each year from AMR infection. The WHO estimates AMR was responsible for 1.27 million deaths globally in 2019 and contributed to 4.95 million deaths in the same year.

Branwen Morgan, leader of the CSIRO's Minimising AMR initiative, said that many people think AMR does not affect them because they do not take antimicrobials or mistakenly believe new drugs are in the pipeline that will solve the problem.

ganzation declared mpox outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern following the surge of cases in several parts of Africa.

Meanwhile, the Philippines continues to grapple with increasing dengue cases and fatalities amid the rainy season, the country's Department of Health (DOH) said Thursday.

From January to Sept. 6 this year, the DOH has tallied 208,965 dengue cases, 68 percent higher than the same period last year. It recorded 546 deaths during the period.

the standard-of-care group at 48 weeks after treatment.

"Adding LuPSMA therapy to the

standard-of-care approach was seen to dramatically improve responses compared to chemotherapy alone," Arun

Azad, a medical oncologist at the center and co-author of the research, said in a media release.

UN fears major repercussions

Afghanistan halts polio vaccine drive, posing risk to global fight

Misinformation blamed

Falling school vaccination rates raise outbreak concerns in US

DUBAI, UAE, Sept 16, (AP): The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, the UN said Monday. It's a devastating setback for polio eradication, since the virus is one of the world's most infectious and any unvaccinated groups of children where the virus is spreading could undo years of progress.

Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralyzing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan. It's likely that the Taliban's decision will have major repercussions for other countries in the region and beyond.

News of the suspension was relayed to UN agencies right before the September immunization campaign was due to start. No reason was given for the suspension, and no one from the Taliban-controlled government was immediately available for comment.

A top official from the World Health Organization said it was aware of discussions to move away from house-to-house vaccinations and instead have immunizations in places like mosques.

The WHO has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year, all but two in the south of the country. That's up from six cases in 2023.

"The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is aware of the recent policy discussions on shifting from house-to-house polio vaccination campaigns to site-to-site vaccination in parts of Afghanistan," said Dr. Hamid Jafari from the WHO.

"Partners are in the process of discussing and understanding the scope and impact of any change in current policy."

Violence

Polio campaigns in neighboring Pakistan are regularly marred by violence. Militants target vaccination teams and police assigned to protect them, falsely claiming that the campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

As recently as August, the WHO reported that Afghanistan and Pakistan were continuing to implement an "intensive and synchronized campaign" focusing on improved vaccination coverage in endemic zones and an effective and timely response to detections elsewhere.

During a June 2024 nationwide campaign, Afghanistan used a house-

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Sept 16, (AP): On his first day of school at Newcomer Academy, Maikel Tejada was whisked to the school library. The 7th grader didn't know why.

He soon got the point: He was being given make-up vaccinations. Five of them.

"I don't have a problem with that," said the 12-year-old, who moved from Cuba early this year.

Across the library, a group of city, state and federal officials gathered to celebrate the school clinic, and the city. With US childhood vaccination rates below their goals, Louisville and the state were being praised as success stories: Kentucky's vaccination rate for kindergarteners rose 2 percentage points in the 2022-2023 school year compared with the year before. The rate for Jefferson County - which is Louisville - was up 4 percentage points.

"Progress is success," said Dr. Mandi Cohen, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But that progress didn't last. Kentucky's school entry vaccination rate slipped last year. Jefferson County's rate slid, too. And the rates for both the county and state remain well below the target thresholds.

It raises the question: If this is what

success looks like, what does it say about the nation's ability to stop imported infections from turning into community outbreaks?

Local officials believe they can get to herd immunity thresholds, but they acknowledge challenges that include tight funding, misinformation and well-intended bureaucratic rules that can discourage doctors from giving kids shots.

Community

"We're closing the gap," said Eva Stone, who has managed the county school system's health services since 2018. "We're not closing the gap very quickly."

Public health experts focus on vaccination rates for kindergarteners because schools can be cauldrons for germs and the launching pad for community outbreaks.

For years, those rates were high, thanks largely to mandates that required key vaccinations as a condition of school attendance.

But they have slid in recent years. When COVID-19 started hitting the US hard in 2020, schools were closed, visits to pediatricians declined and vaccination record-keeping fell off. Meanwhile, more parents questioned

routine childhood vaccinations that they used to automatically accept, an effect that experts attribute to misinformation and the political schism that emerged around COVID-19 vaccines.

A Gallup survey released last month found that 40% of Americans said it is extremely important for parents to have their children vaccinated, down from 58% in 2019. Meanwhile, a recent University of Pennsylvania survey of 1,500 people found that about 1 in 4 US adults think the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine causes autism - despite no medical evidence for it.

All that has led more parents to seek exemptions to school entry vaccinations. The CDC has not yet reported national data for the 2023-2024 school year, but the proportion of US kindergarteners exempted from school vaccination requirements the year before hit a record 3%.

Overall, 93% of kindergarteners got their required shots for the 2022-2023 school year. The rate was 95% in the years before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officials worry slipping vaccination rates will lead to disease outbreaks.

The roughly 250 US measles cases reported so far this year are the most since 2019, and Oregon is seeing its largest outbreak in more than 30 years.

is not carrying out house-to-house vaccinations, the WHO said. "The overall women's inclusion in vaccination campaigns remains around 20% in Afghanistan, leading to inadequate access to all children in some areas," it said.

Any setback in Afghanistan poses a risk to the program in Pakistan due to high population movement, the WHO warned last month.

The campaign suspension is the latest obstacle in what has become a

problematic global effort to stop polio. The initiative, which costs about \$1 billion every year, has missed multiple deadlines to wipe out the disease and technical mistakes in the vaccination strategy set by WHO and partners have been costly.

The oral vaccine has also inadvertently seeded outbreaks in dozens of countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East and now accounts for the majority of polio cases worldwide.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For your ads on this page

Call: 24813805 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

مركز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE
الفروانية FARWANIYA

Dr. Arshad Patel
MBBS, MD
(Ophthalmology)

Consultation Hours:
Daily (Except Sundays)
9am to 1pm & 5pm to 9pm
Sunday Holiday

Phone : 24 734 000

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex
& Opp. Police station - Farwaniya

www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Dream stays alive in WNBA playoff chase

Wilson reaches 1,000 points as Aces top Sun

US wins 1st Solheim Cup since '17



United States players pose for photographs after the United States won the Solheim Cup golf tournament against Europe at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, Va. (AP)

Vu puts away Europe with closing birdie

GAINESVILLE, Sept 16, (AP): Lilia Vu's teammates ran onto the 18th green after her kick-in of a birdie putt gave the United States the half-point it needed to beat Europe, and U.S. captain Stacy Lewis scooped up her 5-year-old daughter, Chesnee, for a bear hug.

Finally, the Solheim Cup was back in the hands of the Americans.

The Americans took a big early lead a year ago in Spain but let the cup slip out of their grasp on the final day as Europe rallied for a 14-14 tie to retain it.

They only had to wait one year for their next chance because of a change in the competition schedule. Then, with the cup nearly in their grasp Sunday at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, they brought a collapse into play during a tense hour-plus when everything went Europe's way.

GOLF

"That was the longest hour and a half of my life. I'm not going to lie," Lewis said. "It just felt like it was never going to end. Just really nerve-wracking. You felt pretty helpless." Ultimately it was Vu, the No. 2 player in the women's world ranking, who delivered a 300-yard drive and a flawless wedge from 103 yards on the par-4 18th hole while 1 down against rookie Albane Valenzuela. Although Vu's 2-foot putt was a formality, Valenzuela did not concede it, allowing the Americans a proper winning moment.

The final score: United States 15 1/2, Europe 12 1/2, the biggest margin in this tightrope walk of a team competition since the Americans won by five points seven years ago in Iowa.

The U.S. improved its overall record to 11-7-1 in the Solheim Cup, which began in 1990 with financial backing from Ping golf club manufacturer Karsten Solheim and his wife, Louise.

The Americans' relief was evident as they shared quiet hugs behind the closing ceremony stage with a gracious European squad that didn't lose a session after falling behind 6-2 on Friday. There were no magnum bottles of Champagne in sight as players sat for their winning news conference while

BOLINGBROOK, Sept 16, (AP): Jon Rahm ended his first year in the LIV Golf League by closing with a 4-under 66 to win the final individual event Sunday and the season points title with its \$18 million bonus.

Rahm missed a pair of short birdie putts on the back nine that kept Joaquin Niemann and Sergio Garcia in the mix. But then he holed a 12-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole that gave him a three-shot going to the last at Bolingbrook Golf Course.

Rahm won for the second time in the Saudi-funded league, adding to his title in England last month. In between those wins, he lost in a playoff to Brooks Koepka.

Niemann, a two-time winner at the start of the season, was the only player who could have challenged Rahm for the season title. He opened with two early birdies but never could get ahead, closing within two shots after a birdie on the 15th and a big par save on the 16th.

Niemann shot 66, while Garcia shot

68. They tied for second.

Steve Stricker ended a four-hole playoff with a shot out of the rough that banged into the pin and set up a tap-in birdie Sunday, his third straight Sanford International victory and his first PGA Tour Champions title of the year.

Rasmus Hojgaard birdied his last three holes Sunday for a 6-under 65 to win the Irish Open and hand Rory McIlroy another dose of disappointment before a raucous gallery at Royal County Down.

McIlroy had a two-shot lead on the back nine until Hojgaard put together a stunning charge down the stretch to win for the fifth time on the European tour and deny McIlroy a victory in his home country.

"Unfortunately, I'm getting used to it this year," McIlroy said. "Hopefully, the tide is going to turn pretty soon, and I can turn all these close calls into victories."

McIlroy had a pair of bogeys on the closing four holes that allowed Hojgaard, playing two groups in front of him, to charge to victory in stunning fashion.

Lewis and Suzann Pettersen repeating as captains as the competition was staged in back-to-back years to move away from the Ryder Cup. Lewis' team nearly got the job done in Spain, a result that overwhelmed the captain during the trip home.

Lewis maintained her data-driven approach and mixed up her stars and role players into several inspired pairings to build a 10-6 advantage entering singles.

Pettersen said her team needed a "miracle," and the Europeans kept it interesting by denying the Americans the clinching point on the 18th hole in three straight matches.

But during a week of perfect weather at the sprawling lakeside venue about 40 miles west of Washington, D.C., that has hosted four Presidents Cups - the Americans were a little bit better than the Europeans in every phase.

Lewis got standout performances from top-ranked Nelly Korda, 21-year-old Zhang, 31-year-old rookie Coughlin and veteran spark plug Khang.

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Patton Kizzire hits onto the 15th green during the final round of the Procore Championship golf tournament at Silverado Resort North Course in Napa, Calif. (AP)

Talleres grabs point to stay in touch with leaders

Coutinho rescues point for Vasco against Flamengo

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 16, (Xinhua): Philippe Coutinho struck a late equalizer as Vasco da Gama earned a 1-1 draw with Rio de Janeiro rivals Flamengo in Brazil's Serie A championship on Sunday.

Former Roma and Fiorentina midfielder Gerson gave Flamengo the lead at the Maracana by slotting a first-time shot into the far corner following a counterattack.

Coutinho, in his first match back from a hamstring injury, came off the bench to head home in the 87th minute after Jose Rodriguez's cut-back.

It marked the former Liverpool and Barcelona midfielder's first goal for Vasco since rejoining his boyhood club in July.

"I was really anxious to come back [from the injury] as soon as possible," Coutinho said. "I'm glad to have been able to contribute today with a goal. It

was important for us to get a point to stay in touch with the teams above us." The result leaves Vasco eighth in the 20-team standings with 35 points from 25 games, 10 points behind fourth-placed Flamengo.

In other Brazilian Serie A fixtures on Sunday, Gremio drew 2-2 at Braganca, Palmeiras romped to a 5-0 home win over Criciuma, Juventude won 2-1 at home to Fluminense, Bahia cruised to a 3-0 home win over Atletico Mineiro and Sao Paulo prevailed 1-0 at Cruzeiro.

Cristian Tarragona scored late as Talleres Cordoba salvaged a 2-2 draw at Rosario Central in Argentina's Primera Division on Sunday.

Matias Catalan gave the visitors an early lead before Victor Malcorra converted two penalties either side of half-time for the hosts.

Talleres were forced to play the last

35 minutes with only 10 men after Ulises Ortega picked up his second yellow card for a bad foul on Enzo Coppetti.

Despite their numerical disadvantage, Talleres drew level two minutes from time by firing home after combining with Blas Riveros.

SOCCER

The result at El Gigante de Arroyito stadium leaves Talleres sixth in the 28-team Primera Division standings, six points behind leaders Velez Sarsfield. Rosario Central are 12th, five points further back.

In other Argentine top-flight fixtures on Sunday, Platense drew 1-1 at Estudiantes, Sarmiento held Godoy Cruz to a 1-1 draw in Mendoza and Argentinos Juniors cruised to a 3-0 home win over

Newell's Old Boys. Chilean striker Victor Davila has joined Club America after parting ways with Russian Premier League side CSKA Moscow, the Liga MX club said on Sunday.

America announced the signing with a brief statement on social media, without revealing financial details or how long the contract would run.

Local media reported the deal was worth 7.5 million euros (around 8.3 million U.S. dollars).

"Welcome to the biggest club in Mexico, Victor Davila," the Mexico City-based club said. "The time has come to make history together." Davila is no stranger to Mexican football, having previously had spells with Liga MX clubs Necaxa, Pachuca and Leon. The 26-year-old has been capped 15 times and scored three goals for Chile's national team.

LAS VEGAS, Sept 16, (AP): A'ja Wilson became the first WNBA player to score 1,000 points in a season when she had 29 in the Las Vegas Aces' 84-71 win over the Connecticut Sun on Sunday.

Wilson hit a pull-up from the elbow with 2 minutes left in the game to reach the mark. Earlier this week, the Aces' star broke the single-season scoring record that Jewell Loyd set last year. Las Vegas called timeout about 30 seconds later and her teammates mobbed Wilson.

She then went out on the court and acknowledged a loud ovation from the crowd clapping her hands.

BASKETBALL

The Aces (25-13) hold a one-game lead over Seattle for the No. 4 seed in the playoffs and home-court advantage in that series. Las Vegas has won seven of its last eight games.

Connecticut (27-11) trails the Minnesota Lynx by two games for the No. 2 seed.

Dream 76, Mystics 73

In Washington, Tina Charles had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Naz Hillmon made the go-ahead shot in overtime and the Atlanta Dream defeated the Washington Mystics in overtime to stay alive in the WNBA playoff chase.

Hillmon's 22-footer as the shot clock expired gave Atlanta a 74-73 lead with 1:35 remaining in overtime and Rhyné Howard hit two free throws with 59 seconds left for the game's final points.

Emily Engstler's 3-pointer gave the Mystics the early lead in overtime, 73-70 with 4 1/2 minutes remaining, but they did not score again. Their final two shots were desperation 3-point airballs.

The matchup was the first of three straight home games for the Mystics in the final week of the regular season but they face two playoff teams - New York on Tuesday and Indiana on Thursday - as they try to wrap up a playoff berth.

Storm 90, Sparks 87

In Seattle, Skylar Diggins-Smith scored 19 points, including four free throws in the final minute, and the Seattle Storm edged the Los Angeles Sparks.

The Storm (24-14) led by double digits for most of the game until Los Angeles (7-31) rallied in the second half.

Dearica Hamby scored 11 points in the third quarter and the Sparks chipped away at a 14-point halftime deficit to trail 73-65 heading to the fourth.

The Sparks stayed hot early in the final period and Ricketta Jackson's layup got them within 79-77 with less than five minutes remaining. A layup by Odyssey Sims tied it at 79 and she scored again on LA's next possession for the Sparks' first lead since it was 4-2.

Mercury 93, Sky 88

In Chicago, Brittney Griner scored 26 points, Diana Taurasi added 25 and the Phoenix Mercury held off the Chicago Sky.

The loss, Chicago's eighth in the last 10 games, leaves the Sky (13-25) in a tie with Washington and Atlanta in the battle for the league's eighth playoff spot. Chicago plays at Atlanta on Tuesday with the winner having the upper hand for the final



Las Vegas Aces center A'ja Wilson (22) poses after an WNBA basketball game against the Connecticut Sun in Las Vegas. (AP)

playoff spot. Washington hosts league-leading New York on Tuesday.

Taurasi hit two jumpers off the dribble and Griner rolled through the paint for a layup, giving Phoenix a 91-86 lead with less than two minutes remaining. Phoenix forced the Sky into a number of difficult shots before Rachel Banham drew a foul on a 3-point try with 7.6 seconds remaining.

Banham made two free throws for a 91-88 deficit. The Mercury's Sophie Cunningham made two free throws for a five-point lead and the Mercury forced Chicago into a difficult shot as time expired.

Chicago played without several key players, among them star rookie Angel Reese who has been sidelined by a wrist injury.

Fever 110, Wings 109

In Indianapolis, Caitlin Clark scored a career-high 35 points with eight assists, Kelsey Mitchell added 30 points and the duo combined to hit 12 of Indiana's 16 3-pointers to help the Fever beat the Dallas Wings.

Clark, whose 329 assists are a single-season WNBA record, has a rookie-record 761 points this season, breaking the mark set by Seimone Augustus (744) in 2006.

Indiana (20-19), which was coming off back-to-back losses to the two-time defending WNBA champion Las Vegas Aces, clinched the No. 6 seed in the playoffs, which begin next Sunday. The Fever will play the third-seeded Connecticut Sun, who won three of the four regular-season matchups between the teams, in the first round.

Indiana tied its franchise record for single-game scoring and tied its season high for made 3s. The Fever made 38 of 76 from the field, shot 47% from 3-point range and hit 18 of 21 (86%) from the free-throw line.

Clark made a driving layup, stole a pass on the other end and then came off a screen by Temi Fagbenle and made another layup to give the Fever a 90-86 lead with 6:35 to play. Teaira McCowan scored inside to cut the deficit to two, but Clark made back-to-back 3s and, after a transition take foul, hit a free throw to make it 97-88 with four minutes left.

Arike Ogunbowale made a contested runner in the lane and then a layup to spark an 8-0 spurt that pulled the Wings within a point with 2:27 remaining. Mitchell hit a 3-pointer off an inbounds pass from Clark and, after Satou Sabally scored in the paint, Damiris Dantas hit 3s 25 seconds apart to give Indiana a 106-98 lead with a minute to go.

Chris holds off Van Gisbergen

Buescher plays spoiler role at Watkins Glen in chaotic race

WATKINS GLEN, Sept 16, (AP): William Byron's Chevy skidded down the track and came to rest tilted against the wall with a tire jammed into Brad Keselowski's driver-side window in a late fight for position between two NASCAR playoff drivers.

Ryan Blaney never got so lucky to remain in the second playoff race long enough to gobble playoff points. The 2023 NASCAR champion was knocked out at Watkins Glen International on the opening lap Sunday, his Ford towed to the garage against his wishes.

Denny Hamlin, Martin Truex Jr., Harrison Burton. The list of playoff drivers that took a beating on the track - and in the standings - dwarfed the ones that escaped the road course unscathed.

Already set to retire from full-time racing at the end of the season, Truex had seen enough of the demolition derby that sabotaged his championship push.

"I just don't understand how guys can call themselves the best in the world when they just drive through everyone on restarts at the end of the races," Truex said. "It is what it is, these days. I'm out of here."

With championship contenders succumbing to late wrecks, shredded tires, and aggressive driving, Chris Buescher played spoiler and won Sunday at Watkins Glen International, leading a string of five non-playoff drivers to the finish.

"We would have liked to have won a couple of weeks ago, but this is huge," Buescher said.

The chaos on the 2.45-mile course at The Glen - in the playoffs for the first time before it returns to an August date next year - shook up the playoff standings heading into the cutoff race.

Buescher held off Shane van Gisber-

gen in the thrilling two final overtime laps and won for the first time this season for RFK Racing. The 31-year-old Texan, who started 24th, has six career victories.

Chase Briscoe, who entered 16th in the playoff standings and 21 points behind the outline, was sixth and the highest-finishing playoff driver in the field in the second race in NASCAR's postseason. Four drivers will be cut from the field Saturday night at Bristol Motor Speedway.

"I did what we needed to do," Briscoe said. "Just need to go do that same thing next week. Just hit singles and doubles. Don't do anything crazy."

Briscoe shot to 11th in the standings, six points above the outline. Hamlin, Brad Keselowski, Truex, and Burton are the bottom four drivers.

CAR RACING

Austin Cindric was 10th, only the second playoff driver in the top 10. Want to find the contenders? Look all the way to the bottom of the race results. Ten playoff drivers were dumped in the bottom 21 finishers.

The race was bedlam for the contenders from the start, when a wreck on the opening lap that knocked out Blaney also slowed fellow playoff drivers and Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Hamlin and Christopher Bell.

At least 11 playoff drivers ran into some sort of issue, including a rough scene late in the race where Keselowski and Byron crashed battling for position. Byron's Chevrolet landed on top of Keselowski's Ford with six laps left in the scheduled 90-lap race.

There was no way this thriller wasn't going to end in regulation.

Tournament is expected to draw hundreds of players from various clubs

9th edition Kuwait Badminton League to commence on Sept 26



Officials of the tournament.



Team captains patiently waiting for the auction to start.



The player auction in progress.

By P.F.X. Fernandes

Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The highly anticipated Kuwait Badminton League 2024 is gearing up for its 9th edition, with the tournament set to commence on September 26, 2024, at IBAK Salwa.

The title sponsor for this prestig-

ious event -- which will run over four days on September 26 and 27, and October 3, 4 -- is the KDD.

BADMINTON

The Kuwait Badminton League is a prominent team event, featuring five competitive categories --

Professional Doubles (Men), Open Doubles (Men), Advanced Doubles (Men), Higher Intermediate (Men), and Mixed Doubles.

The tournament is expected to draw hundreds of players from various clubs, showcasing the finest in badminton talent.

The excitement began with the captain auction held on September

9, 2024, at Saad Al Awzi School's IBAK Gym. The six competing teams for this year are the Than-jai Ninjas led by Dr. Manimara Chozhan, Shuttle Stingers led by Abdul Jabbar, Team 5.30 led by Hissam Ezzi, the Royal Stars led by Mr. Har-sad, the USC led by Maheshwaran and ISA led by Roshan Sojan.

The player auction took place on

September 13, 2024, at IBAK Gym, with teams owners and captains demonstrating great enthusiasm and strategic acumen in selecting their players.

The auction, managed by Sreen-vas and supported by a dedicated team including Bobby, Tony, Joe, Raj, Abdul Latheef, Arun, Kareem, Ajay Kumar, Subin Varghese, and

Abul Hassan, was a well-coordinated success.

For inquiries, contact Ajay Kumar, President of KBL 2024, at 99841336, or the Tournament Director, Subin Varghese, at 50833630.

IBAK thanks the dedicated team of volunteers whose ongoing support has made each tournament a success.

Kuwait Sports Media Coordinators Association joins forces with Arab Union for Sports Culture

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Arab Union for Sports Culture, led by Ashraf Mahmoud, has approved the membership of the Kuwait Sports Media Coordinators Association, chaired by Manawer Al-Mutairi. This decision recognizes the association's significant contributions to sports and cultural activities that support the growth of sports and culture in Kuwait and across the Arab world.

Manawer Al-Mutairi, head of the Sports Media Coordinators Association, emphasized the association's commitment to playing an active and impactful role in promoting Kuwaiti sports and culture since its inception. This dedication is evident in the vari-



Manawer Al-Mutairi

ous activities the association organizes and participates in.

Al-Mutairi also highlighted the prestige of the Arab Union for Sports Culture, known for its extensive initiatives across Arab countries. The association sought membership to enhance its activities and collaborate on high-profile events with the union, which enjoys strong regional and international support.

The Arab Union for Sports Culture held its annual meeting in Luxor, Egypt, where the membership of the Sports Media Coordinators Association was officially approved. This makes the association the exclusive representative of Kuwait within the union, which is backed by FIFA.



Al Hilal holds its final training session before leaving for Doha.

Al Rayyan looms

Al Hilal begins CL Elite campaign

DOHA, Sept 16: Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia is set to kick off its campaign in the AFC Champions League Elite by facing Al Rayyan of Qatar this evening at 7:00 pm at the Ahmed bin Ali Stadium in Doha. Other key matches taking place today include Pakhtakor of Uzbekistan against Al Wasl of the UAE, Shandong Taishan of China plays Central Coast Mariners of Australia, Guangzhou FC of South Korea taking on Yokohama F. Marinos of Japan, Buriram United of Thailand facing Vissel Kobe of Japan, and Shanghai Shenhua of China locks horns with Pohang Steelers of South Korea.

SOCCER

The Asian Football Confederation has appointed South Korean referee Kim Young-hyuk to officiate the Al Hilal vs. Al Rayyan match, supported by assistant referees Park Kyung-yong, Yang Young-pil, Choi Hyun-jae, and Kim Hee-gon.

Al Hilal, the most successful team in AFC Champions League history with four titles, aims to secure its first championship in the new Elite League format.

Meanwhile, Al Rayyan has bolstered its squad by officially signing Dutch international right-back Joshua Brenet for a one-year contract. The 30-year-old previously played for Dutch side Twente Enschede over the past two seasons and has also had stints with German club Hoffenheim and Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven.

Al Rayyan further strengthened its team during the summer transfer window with the acquisitions of Egyptian star Mahmoud Trezeguet, Moroccan Achraf Bencharki, Brazilian goalkeeper Paulo Victor, Spanish defender David Garcia, and Belgian midfielder Robin de Sart. These signings join an existing roster of Brazilian professionals, including Roger Guedes, Thiago Mendes, Gabriel Pereira, and Portuguese defender Andre Amaro.

Coe 'among' 7 IOC members to enter race to succeed Bach

GENEVA, Sept 16, (AP): Two former Olympic champions are in the race to be the next IOC president. So is a prince of a Middle East kingdom and the son of a former president. The global leaders of cycling, gymnastics and skiing also are in play.

The International Olympic Committee published a list Monday of seven would-be candidates who are set to run for election in March to succeed outgoing president Thomas Bach for the next eight years.

Just one woman, IOC executive board member Kirsty Coventry from Zimbabwe, entered the contest to lead an organization that has had only male presidents in its 130-year history. Eight of those presidents were from Europe and one from the United States.

Coventry and Sebastian Coe are two-time gold medalists in swimming and running, respectively. Prince Feisal al Hussein of Jordan is also on the IOC board.

Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr. of Spain is one of the four IOC vice presidents, whose father was president for 21 years until 2001.

David Lappartient is the president of cycling's governing body, Morinari Watanabe leads gymnastics, and Johan

Eliasch is president of the International Ski and Snowboard Federation. Coe is the president of track's World Athletics.

All seven met a deadline of Sunday to send a letter of intent to Bach, who must leave the post next year after reaching the maximum 12 years in office. Bach declined at the Paris Olympics last month to seek to change IOC rules in order to stay in office longer.

A formal candidate list should be confirmed in January, three months before the March 18-21 election meeting in Greece, near the site of Ancient Olympia.

Only IOC members are eligible to stand as candidates, with votes cast by the rest of the 111-strong membership of the Olympic body.

The IOC is one of the most exclusive clubs in world sports. Its members are drawn from European and Middle East royalty, leaders of international sports bodies, former and current Olympic athletes, politicians and diplomats plus industrialists, including some billionaires like Eliasch.

It makes for one of the most discreet and quirky election campaigns in world sports, with members prevented from publicly endorsing their pick.

Best of the Rest

China tops medal tally: Chinese competitors secured the top spot at the 47th WorldSkills Competition medal tally by winning 36 gold medals as the event concluded in Lyon, France on Sunday night.

In addition to their gold medals, the Chinese team won nine silver medals, four bronze medals and eight medallions of excellence.

Two Chinese participants in the Industry 4.0 competition were honored with the prestigious Albert Vidal Award for achieving the highest overall score in the event.

At the closing ceremony, the WorldSkills flag was officially passed from Lyon to the Chinese city of Shanghai, which will host the 48th edition of the competition.

This year's event, held on Sept. 11-14, drew around 1,400 participants from nearly 70 countries and regions to compete in 59 skill categories. (Xinhua)

Rikunov claims race: Russia's Petr Rikunov pulled away to win the men's elite group title on Monday at the Pingtan International Cycling Race.

The Chengdu Cycling Team rider clocked two hours, four minutes and 35 seconds to emerge the winner in Pingtan County of Fujian Province, beating Venezuela's Carlos Torres into second place. Estonian rider Mihkel Raim came in third.

The 87-kilometer one-day race attracted over 2,000 riders from five international and 15 domestic teams.

The Chengdu Cycling Team won the team title with a total time of 6:14:11. Huansheng-SCOM-Taishan Sport Cycling Team and Ferei Quick-Panda Podium Mongolia Team finished second and third respectively. (Xinhua)

England draws T20 series: England's T20 series decider against Australia was washed out Sunday without a ball being bowled at Old Trafford.

The series finished tied 1-1. The forecast never looked likely to allow for any meaningful play to take place in the third T20 and the umpires finally called the abandonment at 4:20 p.m. local time, almost two hours after the scheduled start.

Australia won the series opener by 28 runs at Southampton before England leveled the series with a three-wicket win at Cardiff.

The first of five one-day internationals between the teams starts Thursday at Trent Bridge. Harry Brook, a 25-year-old batter, is set to captain England for the first time in the series after Jos Buttler's persistent calf injury saw him ruled out.

Barca extend Bonmati deal: Barcelona extended the contract of women's Ballon d'Or winner Aitana Bonmati on Monday until 2028.

The 26-year-old playmaker signed a new contract to June 30, 2028, the club said. Bonmati has played 275 games for Barcelona, scoring 96 competitive goals. She is the club's all-time top goalscorer and is tied with Alexia Patellas for the Champions League record of 22.

One of her Champions League goals came in last season's final, where Barcelona defeated Lyon for its third European title.

Bonmati, also a Spain international, has won 23 trophies with Barcelona, the eighth most in the club's history. (AP)

Britain 'fails' to reach Davis Cup Finals last 8



Canada's Felix Auger Aliassime returns the ball to Britain's Jack Draper during their Davis Cup group stage finals match, at the AO Arena in Manchester, England. (AP)

Serbia secures a place in next year's qualifiers

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 16, (AP): Britain failed to qualify for the last eight of the Davis Cup Finals after losing to Canada 2-1 in its last group-stage tie, while Novak Djokovic helped Serbia secure a place in next year's qualifiers.

The British needed a 3-0 win against the Canadians in Manchester, but Dan Evans lost 6-0, 7-5 to Denis Shapovalov to end Britain's hopes in the opening match in front of a crowd of 15,700 at the AO Arena, the biggest for a Davis Cup tie on British soil, according to organizers.

Felix Auger-Aliassime then defeated Jack Draper 7-6 (8), 7-5 to seal Canada's victory and first place in Group D. England won the final doubles match.

Evans hinted this may have been his last Davis Cup appearance.

"I've probably had my fair share now. It could be and probably will be (the end)," he said. "I need to have a think. If I don't feel capable of playing, I won't come back." Canada and Argentina advanced from Group D. Finland was the other team eliminated.

Four groups have been playing in four cities to qualify for the eight-team Finals in Malaga, Spain, in November. The top two in each four-team group advance.

In Valencia, Spain defeated Australia 2-1 to win Group B with both having already qualified. France and the Czech Republic were eliminated.

In Bologna, the Netherlands won the closing doubles match to clinch its spot in the Finals despite a 2-1 loss to Italy in Group A. The Dutch needed a single win to advance but had lost the first two matches.

The decisive win came with Wesley Koolhof and Botić van de Zandschulp defeating Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori 7-6 (6), 7-5.

Brazil would have advanced had the Netherlands lost 3-0 to group-winner Italy. Belgium had already been eliminated.

In Group C, Chile beat Slovakia in a match in Zhuhai, China between already eliminated nations. The United States and Germany had advanced from the group.

Djokovic led Serbia to a 3-1 win over Greece in a World Group 1 tie in Belgrade. The Olympic champion partnered Hamad Medjedovic to a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win over Aristotelis Thanos and Petros Tsitsipas.

TENNIS

Djokovic beat Ioannis Xilas 6-0, 6-1 in the singles.

Former world No. 4 and two-time Davis Cup champion Tomas Berdych will take over the captaincy from Jaroslav Navratil for the Czech Republic.

Navratil captained the Czechs for nearly two decades, including when it won the 2012 and 2013 titles with Berdych as a player.

Whereas in Mexico, Magdalena Frech defeated qualifier Olivia Ga-

decki 7-6 (5), 6-4 on Sunday to capture her first WTA title at the Guadalajara Open.

Frech became the fourth Polish woman to win a singles title this century joining Magda Linette, Agnieszka Radwanska and current world No.1 Iga Swiatek.

Frech made her first WTA singles final last July at Prague but the Guadalajara Open was her maiden WTA 500 final and first on hard courts.

Gadecki arrived in Mexico with just two career wins over top-100 players but she recorded four this week, including a second-round win over world No. 11 Danielle Collins.

The 22-year-old Australian, who is ranked 152nd, narrowly failed to become the first qualifier to win a singles title at WTA 500 level since 2021, when Liudmila Samsonova won at Berlin.

The tournament was played at the Complejo Panamericano de Tenis, in Guadalajara.



Italy's Matteo Berrettini returns the ball to Botić Van Zandschulp of the Netherlands during the men's singles tennis Davis Cup tennis match, at the Unipol arena, in Bologna, Italy. (AP)



United States players celebrate defeating Germany in a penalty shoot-out of a U-20 Women's World Cup quarter-final soccer match at Pascual Guerrero Olympic stadium in Cali, Colombia. (AP)

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi continue winning streaks

Al-Salmiya president rewards players

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi continued their strong performances in the Zain Premier League with their fourth consecutive victory. Kuwait Club dominated Al-Nasr with 5-1, while Al-Arabi defeated Al-Fahaheel 3-0.

Kuwait Club is on track for a remarkable fourth consecutive title and its 20th championship overall. The team has consistently performed well in recent rounds, overcoming opponents with ease thanks to the impressive displays from most of its players.

Al-Arabi is also showing strong form in its pursuit of the title, which has eluded it for four seasons. The team's determined performances



Players fight for the ball during the Zain Premier League match.

suggest it has learned from last season's mistakes, when it lost crucial points and fell short in the final rounds. This season, it is focused on avoiding a repeat of those errors.

Al-Salmiya has claimed third place after it edged resilient Al-Qadisiya 1-0, adding to the latter's struggles.

Al-Qadisiya dropped to seventh place with only three points, following a hard-fought victory over Al-Yarmouk in the second round. This decline has sparked calls from fans for changes within the team, as recent performances under new Montenegrin coach Zeljko Petrovic have not lived up to expectations.

Kazma has faced challenges;

SOCCER

with Tunisian coach Lassad Chaabi failing in his debut after a 2-1 loss to Tadamon. Kazma has fallen to eighth place, also with just three points.

Al-Fahaheel remains in fourth place with six points. Tadamon, having secured its first win of the season, moved up to fifth place with four points.

Khaitan also has four points, after a 1-1 draw with Yarmouk. Al-Yarmouk remains at the bottom of the table with just two points.

Al-Nasr has dropped to ninth place with three points, suffering their third defeat of the season. Meanwhile, Al-Salmiya Club President Sheikh Turki Al-Yousef rewarded each player with 500 dinars following its narrow 1-0 victory over Al-Qadisiya in the fourth round of the Zain Premier League.

Sheikh Al-Yousef encouraged his players to maintain their strong performance in the upcoming matches.



Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez fights for the ball with Monza's Warren Bondo, left, during the Serie A soccer match between Monza and Inter at the U-Power Stadium in Monza, Italy. (AP)

Croatian coach Ante Miša expressed his satisfaction with the win, stating, "We executed the match plan effectively by solidifying our defense and capitalizing on the opportunity to score the winning goal."

Lookman inspires Atalanta to thrilling comeback against Fiorentina

Lukaku shines, Napoli routs Cagliari as Inter narrowly avoids first defeat

MILAN, Sept 16, (AP): Napoli might have a new hero in Romelu Lukaku.

The former Chelsea forward set up two goals and scored as Napoli won 4-0 at Cagliari for its third straight victory in the Italian league.

Defending champion Inter Milan narrowly avoided its first defeat of the season as it salvaged a 1-1 draw at Monza. There are positive signs that, under new coach Antonio Conte, Napoli is starting to look more like the team that stormed to the league title in 2023 and less like the troubled side of last season.

One of the stars of that team was the now departed Victor Osimhen and he was replaced by Lukaku - reuniting the Belgium striker with Conte after the pair won Serie A at Inter in 2021.

"I strongly wanted Romelu, as I always have throughout my career, because we're talking about an atypical player," Conte said. "He's not yet at his



Napoli's Romelu Lukaku celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the Serie A soccer match between Cagliari and Napoli, in Cagliari, Italy. (AP)

Roberto Piccoli and Sebastiano Luperto and also finger-tipped a remarkable long-range strike from Razvan Marin off the crossbar.

Napoli doubled its lead in the 66th minute when Khvicha Kvaratskhelia ran onto a pinpoint through ball from Lukaku and fired into the bottom left corner.

Kvaratskhelia returned the favor four minutes later following a howler from Cagliari goalkeeper Simone Scuffet who passed the ball straight to the Georgian while trying to play out from the back. Kvaratskhelia passed to Lukaku for a simple finish into the far bottom corner.

SOCCER

Alessandro Buongiorno netted in stoppage time for his first goal since joining Napoli from Torino in the off-season.

After Wednesday's Champions League match at Manchester City, Inter coach Simone Inzaghi rotated his squad and almost paid the price.

The Nerazzurri had a few early chances but looked relatively toothless.

Instead, it was Monza - which had picked up just two points from its previous three matches - that took a surprise lead nine minutes from time when Dany Mota headed Armando Izzo's cross into the top left corner.

However, seven minutes later Carlos Augusto's cross was deflected into the path of Denzel Dumfries for a simple tap-in equalizer at the back post.

Ademola Lookman inspired Atalanta to a 3-2 comeback win over Fiorentina in its first home game of the season after reconstruction work on the Gewiss Stadium.

That will serve as a timely confidence boost after two straight losses and before Thursday's Champions League match at home to Arsenal.

top level but he's a player who will become fundamental for us."

Conte lost his first league match in charge but Napoli has won all three since then, scoring nine goals and conceding just one.

Lukaku scored on his debut last time out and was given his first start for Napoli on Sunday.

He proved dangerous from the start and set up the opener in the 18th minute, rolling Matteo Politano's cutback across the area to Giovanni Di Lorenzo, whose effort was deflected by Cagliari defender Yerry Mina.

The match had to be suspended for around eight minutes in the first half because of crowd trouble but that didn't disrupt the free-flowing action in an entertaining game in Sardinia.

Napoli had Alex Meret to thank for keeping it in the lead as the goalkeeper pulled off several great saves to deny

Warriors top Stars in Kuwait Ice Hockey League opener

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 16: The Kuwait Ice Hockey League for the 2024-2025 sports season begins with five teams competing. The league is organized by the Kuwait Winter Games Club and held at the club's facility in the Bayan area.

In the opening match, the defending champions, the Warriors, de-

ICE HOCKEY

feated the Stars 11-9. The Mossadz, Falcon, and Camels clubs are also participating in this season's league.

Khaled Al-Mutairi, Vice President of the Winter Games Club, stated that this league marks the start of the club's sports season, which will feature various championships across



Khaled Al-Mutairi

all sports managed by the club for both men's and women's categories at different age levels.

Al-Mutairi highlighted the significance of this season as it provides the new German national team coach, Andres Bartkewicz, an opportunity to select players for the Asian Winter Games in Harbin, China, scheduled for next February.

He emphasized the club's commitment to maintaining regular competitions across all five sports it oversees—figure hockey, curling, ice skating, and speed skating—all of which are Olympic sports. Al-Mutairi also extended gratitude to the Ministry of Information for broadcasting the championship matches live on the local sports channel.

Bellingham, Tchouaméni and Militão available for opener

Vinicius in spotlight as Real kicks off CL defense

MADRID, Sept 16, (Agencies): Champions League holders Real Madrid make their debut in this season's competition when they entertain Stuttgart in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Tuesday night.

Carlo Ancelotti's side face their German rivals after a 2-0 win away to Real Sociedad in San Sebastian, in a game which was much more complicated than the final score indicates.

Both of Madrid's goals came from the penalty spot, with the first of those arriving in the second half after Real Sociedad had hit the woodwork three times.

Kylian Mbappe impressed on Saturday and appears to be adapting to life at his new club, but Vinicius Jr is slowly coming under the spotlight at Real Madrid. Despite being a key player for the club, the media have begun to question some of his on-field actions, such as the "be-quiet" gesture he made to the home fans in San Sebastian after opening the scoring.

Although the Brazilian can expect a warm welcome from the fans in the Bernabeu, with rumors of big-money interest from Saudi Arabia, there is increasing noise in the press that the player needs to change his attitude or Real Madrid could consider accepting an offer for him.

Midfielders Jude Bellingham and Aurélien Tchouaméni will be available for Real Madrid's Champions

Dortmund coach in the footsteps of Klopp

BERLIN, Sept 16, (Xinhua): Lothar Matthaus, Germany's record international, has questioned whether Nuri Sahin is part of a growing coaching trend.

"Like Bayern coach Vincent Kompany, who worked under Pep Guardiola, Nuri Sahin has been influenced by Jurgen Klopp," the 63-year-old said ahead of Borussia Dortmund's 2024/25 UEFA Champions League opener

League opener after not playing in the Spanish league this weekend, coach Carlo Ancelotti said Monday.

against Club Brugge.

At 36, the German-Turkish Sahin has brought back fond memories since taking over as Borussia Dortmund's head coach. Following a generational shift enforced by a busy transfer window, the 2012 German champions are playing football that bears a striking resemblance to the style that Klopp established during his time at Dortmund and Liverpool.

Ancelotti said central defender Éder Militão, who missed practice on Monday, also will be fit to face



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior, center, runs during a training session in Madrid, Spain. Real Madrid will play VfB Stuttgart Tuesday in a Champions League soccer match. (AP)

Stuttgart on Tuesday at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

"Bellingham is fine, just like Tchouaméni and Militão, who didn't train today," Ancelotti said. "He needed an extra day to recover."

Bellingham had been dealing with a foot injury and hasn't played since Madrid's Spanish league opener at Mallorca in August. His only other match this season was the UEFA Super Cup final against Atalanta, which kicked off Madrid's season.

Tchouaméni also was nursing a foot injury and missed the team's 2-0 win at Real Sociedad in the Spanish league on Saturday.

Militão played against Sociedad

SOCCER

but didn't practice with the rest of the squad on Monday because of a reported knee ailment.

"He went through some individual work but he will be 100% for the game tomorrow," Ancelotti said.

Not available for Ancelotti is forward Brahim Díaz, who had to be replaced in the first half against Sociedad because of a right leg muscle injury.

Madrid won a record-extending 15th European title last season.

It will be the team's first Champions League match since signing France star Kylian Mbappé, who is expected to start on Tuesday.

Hayat 'denies' involvement in operations amid criticism

KUWAIT CITY Sept 16: Fatima Hayat, a board member of the Football Association, extended her apologies to the dedicated fans who attended the match between Kuwait and Iraq last Tuesday at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. The match was a crucial fixture in the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

Hayat expressed her gratitude to the fans for enduring the hardships caused by organizational and administrative issues surrounding the match. She acknowledged that these difficulties were primarily due to administrative failures and negligence.

In her statement, Hayat clarified that

she had no involvement in the organizational or operational aspects of the match. She emphasized that any personal attacks or misuse of her name on social media, without substantiated evidence, was unwarranted and she reserved her rights to address such issues.

Hayat also commended the Kuwait national team for their performance, which led to Kuwait's qualification for the 2027 Asian Cup and advancement to the next stages of the World Cup qualifiers. She reiterated her commitment to women's football, a priority since her election to the Federation, and stressed her focus on specialization and progress in this area.