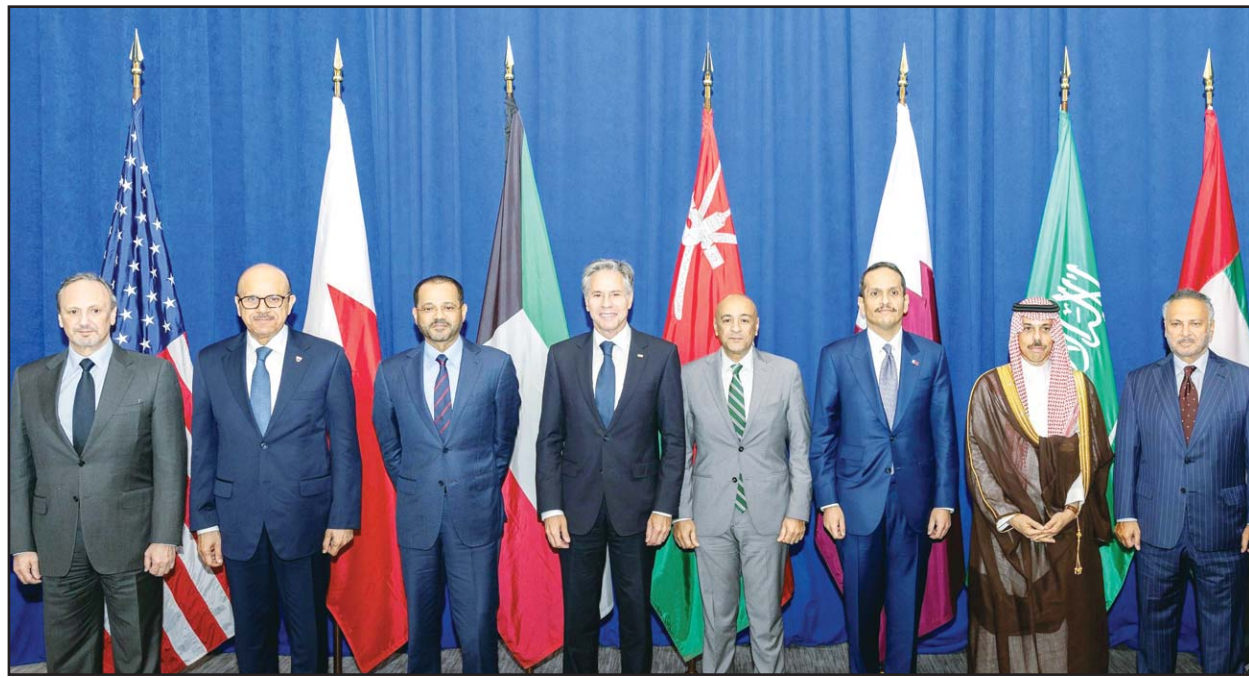




QATAR AMIR VOWS TO CONTINUE EFFORTS FOR PEACE
Biden, Zelenskyy urge world to stand up to Russia

Baghdad warned to respect Kuwait territorial integrity

Erdogan raps Security Council



GCC states foreign ministers and representatives with their US counterpart.

KUNA photo

Khor ... 'core'

NEW YORK, Sept 20, (KUNA): GCC states' foreign ministers and their American counterpart Antony Blinken on Wednesday affirmed necessity that Iraq adhere to the State of Kuwait sovereignty.

They affirmed that Baghdad must respect its territorial sanctity and UN resolutions namely Resolution 833 regarding demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq borders.

Moreover, the ministers in a statement issued at end of a ministerial-level meeting called for completing demarcation of the borders beyond the mark 162 and urged Iraq to rapidly settle the "international legal status" to ensure the treaty that regulates navigation via Khor Abdullah waterway, worked out in 2012.

Furthermore, they renewed their support for the UN Security Council Resolution 2107 (2013) regarding return of all Kuwaitis to their home country including those missing plus the Kuwaiti properties namely the national archive to the UN mission in Iraq.

Continued on Page 5

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 20, (Agencies): US President Joe Biden made his case before the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday that the world must remain united in defending Ukraine against Russian aggression, warning that no nation can be secure if "we allow Ukraine to be carved up" as he tries to rally support for Kyiv's effort to repel a nearly 19-month-old Russian invasion that has no end in sight.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Sept. 19, 2023. (AP)

The U.S. president called on world leaders to not let support for Ukraine diminish, arguing that Russia is counting on countries to grow tired of prolonged conflict in Kyiv which will "allow it to brutalize Ukraine without consequence." Russia alone is standing in the way of a resolution, Biden argued, saying that Moscow's price for peace was "Ukraine's capitulation, Ukraine's territory and Ukraine's children."

"I ask you this: If we abandon the core principles of the United States to appease an aggressor, can any member state in this body feel confident that they are protected?" Biden said in his address. "If we allow Ukraine to be carved up, is the independence of any nation secure?" He continued: "I'd respectfully suggest the answer is no."

The president's forceful rhetoric on Ukraine appeared aimed not just for a global audience but for Washington, where an increasingly isolationist strain of the Republican Party is jeopardizing the prospects of the U.S. successfully replenishing the steady flow of aid that has gone to Kyiv since the war began in February 2022.

The Biden administration has asked Congress to greenlight an additional \$24 billion in security and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, but Republicans who control the House have all but ignored that request as lawmakers scramble to ensure government funding remains flowing beyond the end of September. Animated by the views of former President Donald Trump, a vocal faction of House Republicans remain steadfastly opposed to more Ukraine aid, even as other GOP lawmakers, primarily in the Senate, continue to advocate support for Kyiv to dissuade Russia from spreading its attacks beyond Ukraine's borders.

Sovereignty

"We have to stand up to this naked aggression today and deter other would-be aggressors tomorrow," Biden said in his U.N. address. "That's why the United States - together with our allies and partners around the world - will continue to stand with the brave people of Ukraine as they defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity and their freedom."

Other senior members of the Biden administration were making their case on Tuesday, as Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin pushed allied defense leaders in remarks at Ramstein Air Base in Germany to "dig deep" and provide more air defense systems for Ukraine to help the country wage its counteroffensive.

Indeed, the broader message is intended to resonate beyond Moscow and even Capitol Hill. Washington remains on guard against Chinese aggression in the South China Sea, where competing territorial claims have caused tension in the region. Beijing also wants to reunite the mainland with the self-governing island of Taiwan, a goal that raises the prospect of another war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday that Russia is "weaponizing" everything from food and energy to abducted children in its war against Ukraine - and he warned world leaders that the same could happen to them.

"When hatred is weaponized against one nation, it never stops there," he said at the U.N. General Assembly's annual top-level meeting. "The goal of the present war against Ukraine is to turn our land, our people, our lives, our resources into weapons against you - against the international rules-based order."

He pointed to the war's effect on fuel and food supplies. And he highlighted what Ukraine says were at least tens of thousands of children taken from their families after Moscow's invasion: "What will happen to them?"

"Those children in Russia are taught to hate Ukraine, and all ties with their families are broken. And this is clearly a genocide," Zelenskyy said.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant in March for Russian President Vladimir Putin and another official, accusing them of abducting children from Ukraine. Russian officials have denied any forced transfers of children, saying some Ukrainian children are in foster care.

Russia gets its chance to address the General Assembly on Saturday, when Foreign Minister Minister Sergey Lavrov is expected on the roster. Deputy U.N. Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy sat in Russia's seat during Zelenskyy's speech.

Zelenskyy took to the world stage at a sensitive point in his country's campaign to maintain international support for its fight. Nearly 19 months after Moscow launched a full-scale invasion, Ukrainian forces are three months into a counteroffensive that has not gone as fast or as well as initially hoped.

Meanwhile, Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani reaffirmed the importance of resolving disputes with peaceful means, vowing to continue efforts aiming to promote peace in the region and worldwide.

"The responsibility also prompts the State of Qatar to strengthen its role in providing humanitarian aid, exerting mediation efforts and resolving conflicts that affect our region," the Qatari Amir said in his speech at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly held in New York on Tuesday.

Conflicts

"The path to resolve conflicts through peaceful means is a long and strenuous path, but it is less costly than wars, and our commitment to continue our efforts in facilitating and making peace is a firm commitment deeply rooted in the core of our foreign policy."

He noted that it is the duty of leaders to empower their people with the means to live in peace and security and to look forward to a better future for their posterity.

"There are obstacles at the level of the international community, mainly represented in the failure to subject contradictions and competition between major countries on transient issues to minimum binding principles owing to the variations in governance systems. These issues which concern all of humanity include climate change, environmental matters in general, poverty, and the blatant injustice represented by occupation, racism, and war crimes."

On the Palestinian issue, the Qatari Amir said that it is not acceptable for the Palestinian people to remain prisoners of the Israeli settler occupation arbitrariness, and the rejection of any just political solution in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy by successive Israeli governments.

"You have to bear in mind that the failure of the international organization to take actions against the occupation provided and continues to provide the opportunity for Israel to undermine the foundations of the two-state solution by means of settlement expansion until the occupation has brazenly taken the form of an apartheid regime in the broad daylight of the twenty-first century."

He pointed out that Israel also responds to Arab peace and normalization initiatives with more nationalist and ultra-orthodox intransigence and extremism that is reflected in government coalitions and further settlement expansion, in addition to the Judaization of Jerusalem, attacks on holy sites, besides using heavy-handed means against those languishing under the occupation, and tightening the noose on the Gaza Strip.

"Qatar provides political, humanitarian and development support to the brotherly Palestinian people and contributes towards rebuilding the Gaza Strip which is reeling under the siege, in addition to its continuous contribution to UNRWA funds," Sheikh Tamim said.

Continued on Page 5

Opinion

The minister and university's director must go

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WHAT is happening to Kuwait? Where is the country heading, in light of the struggle for influence over minor matters? Is this how a state that is capable of facing difficulties and dealing with its crises is built?

What does it mean to impose the will of a group of parliamentarians and their orders on society? Does this benefit Kuwait in any way? Have our problems ceased such that we now return to exhuming a law that the Constitutional Court ruled on in 2015, and the Kuwaitis have expressed their opinion? Or has this exhumation been left behind by an attempt to suppress people's lives?

Isn't the university a factory of minds, knowledge, and builders of the future, including fathers and mothers, and male and female officials, and with its own management and independence, and with bright minds that realize the interests of the students?

Or did the authority of the parliamentarians, whose role is to legislate, monitor the work of ministers and their head, and propose laws, extend to imposing their authority on everyone else?!

In this case, we beg to ask - What would happen to Kuwait if each of the 50 parliamentarians tried to impose their will on a minister, and they went along with it in violating the Constitution?

Aren't the laws supposed to be consistent with its texts, and not contradict them? Or has it become a vehicle for those who want to give the illusion of guardianship over the Kuwaitis, and they must accept its cease and desist orders?

We repeat - "What is happening in our country?!" As soon as we emerge from a crisis, we enter another, more complex crisis. What about the role of the Prime Minister? Where is the Cabinet? When do they move? Were they leaving the country's decision-making power to the whims of some people without restraint?

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Day by Day

MOST of those who are advocating prohibiting co-education often have their children studying abroad, where there is freedom of dress, including mini-skirts and the exchange of phone numbers.

May God have mercy on Jamal Abdel Nasser. When followers of the 'Muslim Brotherhood' requested him, through one of their leaders, Hassan Al-Hudaybi, to enforce hijab in universities, he responded saying, 'There is no objection, but begin by having your daughters veil themselves, who are studying at one of the colleges of the Cairo University, and then we can discuss imposing hijab on female students.'

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



A masked Palestinian protester waves his national flag next to burning tires during clashes with Israeli security forces along the frontier with Israel, east of Gaza City, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023. (AP)

NewsWatch

WASHINGTON: The US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned on Tuesday seven individuals and four entities based in Iran, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Russia, and Turkiye in connection with Iran's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and military aircraft development.

"This network has facilitated shipments and financial transactions in support of the U.S.-designated Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company's (HESA's) UAV and military aircraft production, procurement, and maintenance activities," reads a statement by the Dept.

OFAC is also updating HESA's entry on the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN) List to include its new alias which it has used to evade sanctions and export control measures. (KUNA)

BRUSSELS: The European Union has called for a path of de-escalation on the Iran nuclear deal and stressed necessity of finding a diplomatic solution to the Iran nuclear issue.

This position was expressed by EU High Representative Josep Borrell following a meeting Wednesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Borrell raised the most urgent issues affecting EU-Iran bilateral relations and the recent developments on the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the formal name of the Iran nuclear deal) in his role as the Coordinator of the JCPOA Joint Commission, according to a statement released by his office here today.

He underlined the importance of following a path of de-escalation. In that context, he urged Iran to reconsider its decision to withdraw the official designation of several experienced IAEA inspectors and to improve cooperation with the IAEA. (KUNA)

STOCKHOLM: A Swedish appeals court on Wednesday upheld a 4-1/2-year prison sentence for a Turkish man who was found guilty of attempted extortion, weapons possession and attempted terrorist financing, saying he was acting on behalf of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party.

However, the Svea Court of Appeal said Yahya Güngör should not be deported after serving his sentence, reversing the lower court's ruling.

"Since a possible expulsion is not too far in the future, the Court of Appeal considers that it is reasonable to believe that the obstacle will remain at that time," the appeals court said, citing threats the man would face if deported to Turkey because of his ties to the party, also known as PKK.

In July, the Stockholm District Court said he would be expelled from Sweden after serving his sentence and banned from returning. (AP)



Borrell

Israeli 'ops' kill six Palestinians

TEL AVIV, Sept 20, (AP): Israeli military operations in the occupied West Bank and unrest in the Gaza Strip have killed six Palestinians, Palestinian health officials said Wednesday, the latest spike in a wave of violence that has roiled the region for more than a year. At least three of those killed were claimed as militant fighters.

The death toll from the most recent flare-up stood at four late Tuesday. But on Wednesday the Palestinian Health Ministry raised it, saying an Israeli raid into the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank killed four people and wounded some 30 others, while a raid in a separate refugee camp killed another Palestinian. A sixth Palestinian was killed by Israeli fire in unrest in the Gaza Strip, officials said.

The deadly violence between Israel and the Palestinians over the last year and a half has surged to levels unseen in the West Bank in some two decades. Israel has stepped up its raids on Palestinian areas and Palestinian attacks against Israelis have been mounting. Tensions also appear to be spreading to Gaza.

The Israeli military said Wednesday that troops opened fire toward a Palestinian who was throwing explosives at them while they were on an overnight arrest raid in the refugee camp of Aqabat Jabr. The camp, near the Palestinian city of Jericho, has emerged as one of the focal points of Israel's raids.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Israeli forces killed 19-year-old Dhargham al-Akhras in the raid.

## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:15	Asr .....	15:09
Sunrise ..	05:35	Maghrib ..	17:48
Zohr .....	11:42	Isha .....	19:05

# Local

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

## Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Hot and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-32 km/h.

**By Night:** Rather hot and part-

ly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-26 km/h.

**Station** Max Exp Min Rec  
Kuwait City 44 33

Kuwait Airport	43	25
Abdaly	43	25
Jahra	44	28
Salmiyah	41	32
Ahmadi	40	33
Nuwaisib	42	25
Wafra	43	23

## Other Voices

## China and Kuwait strategic partnership enters new era

By H.E. Zhang Jianwei

China Ambassador to Kuwait

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah departed Kuwait on September 20th, heading to China to attend the opening ceremony of the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games. This is the first visit to China by a highest-ranking Kuwaiti leader in five years. President Xi Jinping will meet with Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in Hangzhou. They will witness the signing of a number of bilateral cooperation documents, which will lay out the blueprint for future China-Kuwait relations.

His visit is of important significance, as China and Arab states are working together to build a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era. It will significantly deepen strategic mutual trust between China and Kuwait and elevate our practical cooperation to a higher level. China-Kuwait strategic partnership will thus enter a new stage.

China-Kuwait relationship is steeped in history. The friendly exchange between the two sides along the ancient Silk Road dates back to thousands of years ago. As early as in 1965, the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah who was then Minister of Finance, Industry and Commerce, paid a visit to China, during which he reaffirmed that Kuwait firmly supports the People's Republic of China in defending national unity and territorial integrity, supports the one-China principle and supports the PRC in restoring its lawful seat at the United Nations at an early date.

## Establishment

That visit paved the way for the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Kuwait and the later bilateral cooperation in political, economic and other fields. In 1971, the leaders of the two countries made a visionary decision to establish ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations, making Kuwait the first Arab state in the Gulf region to do so.

In the shifting five decades and more, despite the ensuing global dynamics, China and Kuwait have been committed to the original aspiration upon the establishment of diplomatic relations which features mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and shared development. The two countries have maintained friendly exchanges and worked closely together in the fundamental interests of the two peoples, sharing weal and woe along the journey. China-Kuwait relations now become a forerunner of relations with other countries in the region and a shining example of friendly state-to-state relations.

China and Kuwait always give each other support on the issues bearing on our respective sovereignty and territorial integrity. After Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, China expressed firm opposition to the invasion and made utmost efforts in its capacity as a permanent member of the UN Security Council for the restoration of Kuwait's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Following the Gulf War, China immediately sent a 60-member firefighting team that braved danger and helped Kuwait extinguish ten 10,000-ton oil wells in a short period of two months.

Chinese people will not forget that Kuwait offered China valuable support for the restoration of its lawful seat at the UN. Chinese people also bear in mind that every time China was hit by a serious natural disaster, Kuwaiti leaders would extend their sympathies and lend a helping hand to China at the earliest possible time. Facing the once-in-a-century pandemic, China and Kuwait have stood by each other to tide over the difficulties.

At the height of China's fight against COVID-19 in Wuhan, Kuwait's then-Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah instructed the cabinet to provide three million U.S. dollars of supplies for China, which was very encouraging for the Chinese people to battle with the pandemic at that time. When Kuwait's fight against the pandemic came to a crucial stage, China sent a medical expert team to help with its epidemic control at the request of the Kuwaiti side.

Moreover, Chinese people will keep in mind that Kuwait has made positive contributions to local infrastructure construction, environmental protection, and health and educational development in China, making itself the Arab state offering the largest amount of government concessional loans to China. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) started to offer China loans since 1982.

## Concessional

So far, it has provided 40 projects in China with concessional loans worth about one billion U.S. dollars in total. Kuwait is the only GCC country where a Chinese medical team is stationed. Since 1976, China has dispatched medical teams to Kuwait where Chinese medical workers apply TCM therapies like acupuncture and moxibustion, and cupping, bringing local patients health and happiness and strengthening the friendship between the two peoples.

These are just some of the many touching stories about the friendly exchange between the two sides. The Chinese saying "nothing, not even mountains or oceans, can separate those with a shared goal" aptly describes the state of China-Kuwait friendship that has grown even stronger over the years.

Over the past decade, with the personal guidance and commitment of the leaders of the two countries, China-Kuwait relations have realized a leapfrog growth. As a key gateway in the Gulf region and an important part of the land and maritime Silk Roads, Kuwait is a natural partner of Belt and Road cooperation. In 2014, Kuwait signed the Belt and Road cooperation documents with China, the first among Middle Eastern countries to do so.

The two sides have worked actively to synergize the Belt and Road Initiative and Kuwait's Vision 2035 and deepen cooperation in traditional areas such as infrastructure and energy, thus injecting a strong impetus to

Kuwait's economic and social development. In 2018, Kuwait's then-Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited China. President Xi Jinping met with him and they jointly announced the establishment of a strategic partnership between China and Kuwait, steering the bilateral relationship to a fast track.

Under the framework of the Belt and Road cooperation, we have delivered a steady stream of signature outcomes for major projects including the new headquarters of the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Sabah Al Salem University City, the Dhaman Hospital, the Al-Zour refinery, infrastructure work for the South Al Mutlaa City, the 7th ring road, and soil remediation. These outcomes have become an emblem of China-Kuwait practical cooperation in the new era.

The breakthroughs in bilateral cooperation in business, trade, investment, communications and other areas have delivered tangible benefits to the two countries and peoples. As of 2022, China has remained as the largest trading partner of Kuwait for seven consecutive years, with two-way trade hitting a record 31.48 billion U.S. dollars in 2022. Kuwait has become China's 7th largest source of crude oil imports, as a result of a steady increase of crude oil imported by China.

Moreover, the Kuwait Investment Authority opened its second office in Shanghai to actively expand its financial investment in China. It has been the first foreign investor in China's high-speed rail network. Meanwhile, statistics released by Kuwait suggest that China's direct investment in Kuwait totaled about 550 million U.S. dollars, making China the second largest source of foreign direct investment in Kuwait. Automobiles with Chinese brands have gained increasing popularity among Kuwaiti consumers for their superior quality and considerate service.

The nationwide commercial 5G network built in Kuwait in collaboration with Huawei, the first of its kind in the Middle East, will give a strong boost to Kuwait's economic transformation. Furthermore, our two peoples enjoy closer ties. Now there are four direct flights per week from Kuwait City to Guangzhou, compared with only one when it was launched in 2020. This air route operates just like bridges over the air, facilitating travelers between the two countries.

The first China Cultural Center in the Gulf region, which was put into trial operation recently, will enable the people of Kuwait to get a first-hand experience of the fascinating Chinese culture. All this shows that the development interests of both countries are closely interwoven, the two peoples are more closely connected to each other, and our exchanges and cooperation in many areas have been thriving.

## International

The international landscape today is going through profound transformation.

China and Kuwait share similar visions and ideals in global governance. Although we are different in social system and traditional culture, both countries belong to the family of Eastern civilizations and uphold an independent foreign policy and the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. In addition, both countries advocate multilateralism, uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order based on international law, and work to safeguard regional and international peace and stability and promote an open world economy.

We both stay committed to promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, diversity of global civilizations and the common values of humanity. China and Kuwait are close partners that coordinate with each other on the international stage.

High-level exchange plays an important role in guiding bilateral relations. President Xi Jinping and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah have kept frequent interactions and strategic communication.

They expressed in their messages to each other the strong desire to take forward the traditional friendship and deepen bilateral cooperation on various fronts under the framework of the Belt and Road cooperation. In December last year, President Xi Jinping met for the first time with Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in Riyadh.

President Xi Jinping stressed during the meeting that China will remain as a trustworthy friend of Kuwait and will continue to enhance the synergy of our development strategies. China will take an active part in the construction of major projects in Kuwait, tap the potential of bilateral cooperation in such sectors as new energy, 5G communications and digital economy, and support cultural exchanges and cooperation.

At the same time, Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah emphasized that China is always a friend of Kuwait and that Kuwait will abide by the one-China principle and work with China to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in various areas so as to open up new horizons for the strategic partnership.

Today, China and Kuwait face a new opportunity for expanding bilateral ties. As China is making unwavering efforts to advance Chinese modernization and promote high-standard opening up, it will bring more confidence, hope and opportunities for China-Kuwait relations and the development of other countries across the globe including Kuwait.

China stands ready to work with Kuwait to create an even brighter future for bilateral relationship. I would like to wish Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal's visit to China a full success, which will thus write a new chapter of China-Kuwait strategic partnership.

## 'Co-ops must hire 60% Kuwaitis'

MP: What prompted KAC CEO to quit ?

### First Market shares now KD 5.044bn

## Foreign ownership dips in '23

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Foreign ownership in shares of First Market companies saw a 0.3 percent decrease in value from the beginning of 2023, totaling 16.5 million dinars. This decline brought it down from 5.06 billion dinars at the end of December 2022 to 5.044 billion dinars.

This shift coincided with an 8-month growth of 12.4 percent in the overall market value of First Market shares. The market value decreased from 37.389 billion dinars at the end of December to 32.727 billion dinars at the end of August. As a result, foreign ownership represented approximately 15.4 percent of the total market value of shares in the primary market.

According to the clearing company's report on foreign ownership percentages in First Market shares, the highest foreign ownership value was found in "NBK," accounting for 24.37 percent, equivalent to 1.778 billion dinars. This represented 35.2 percent of the total ownership but marked a decrease of about 12.1 percent from the start of 2023. Foreign ownership in KFH accounted for approximately 13.48 percent of the total foreign ownership in the market, amounting to 1.472 billion dinars, constituting 29.2 percent. Thus, foreign ownership in these two banks, totaling 3.25 billion dinars, made up about 64.4 percent of the total foreign ownership value in the primary market.

Foreign ownership in "Zain" claimed the third position, comprising 6.4 percent of total foreign investments in the First Market, with a value of 324.6

million dinars. The "GFH" company followed with a 4.4 percent share, amounting to 222.4 million dinars. Subsequently, "Agility" Company held a 3.5 percent share, valued at 178.9 million dinars.

Foreign ownership in Mabane Company reached 15.51 percent, amounting to 170.6 million dinars, representing approximately 3.4 percent of the total foreign ownership in the First Market. Their stake in "Human Soft" also reached 37.96 percent, with a value of 156.4 million dinars, constituting about 3.1 percent.

The percentage of foreign ownership in Boubyan Bank was approximately 6.06 percent, with a value of 146.4 million dinars, accounting for about 2.9 percent. Ownership in Gulf Bank stood at about 14.5 percent, with a value of 123 million dinars, making up about 2.4 percent of total ownership. Additionally, Burgan Bank held a 17.55 percent share, valued at 116.7 million dinars.

Foreign ownership in "Jazeera Airways" amounted to about 58 million dinars, representing around 1.1 percent of the total foreign ownership value in the First Market. For "Industries," it stood at 9.07 percent, approximately 47.25 million dinars, and "Boursa Kuwait" Company had a 7.79 percent stake, amounting to about 31.1 million dinars.

"Boubyan Petrochemicals" accounted for 7.61 percent, totaling about 30.1 million dinars, Warba Bank had 4.86 percent, equivalent to 20.1 million dinars, and Projects comprised 3.37 percent, amounting to about 20.7 million dinars.



Lt Gen Al-Mekrad receives the GCC Medal.

KUNA photo

### Kuwait Fire Chief honored

The Chief of the General Fire Force (KFF) Lt.-Gen. Khaled Al-Mekrad received on Wednesday the GCC states medal for his recognizable contribution to the development of fire services in Kuwait.

In a press release, KFF said that Al-Mekrad was assigned by Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, to participate in the ceremony honoring a number of competencies who had noticeable roles in developing work in their

departments and institutions in the GCC countries, which was held in the Omani capital, Muscat.

It added that Al-Mekrad received many praises for his success in administrative supervision and amendments.

On his part, Al-Mekrad expressed his appreciation for the political leadership in Kuwait, which was the main reason for supporting and developing the Fire Force in Kuwait, and he also relayed his gratitude for the employees on their devotion and loyalty in their work. (KUNA)

268,807 benefit from e-service

## PAHW's 'Sahel' app proves successful

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: The Deputy Director General of the Public Relations and Development Sector and the official spokesman of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Omar Al-Ruwaih revealed that 268,807 citizens have benefited from the PAHW's electronic services on the Sahel application from the time of its launch in September 2021 until the middle of September 2023.

In a press statement issued yesterday, Al-Ruwaih explained that the total number of services provided to citizens from September 2021 until this month amounted to 378,403.

PAHW has succeeded in developing its electronic services significantly such that it now provides 24 housing services without the need for citizens to visit

them, from just five services it provided two years ago.

Regarding the most requested housing services on the Sahel application, Al-Ruwaih revealed that transactions for issuing a "To Whom It May Concern" certificate topped with a total of 269,116 transactions, followed by the service for the update of data and phone number in second place with 51,780 transactions.

He said, "PAHW electronically submitted 18,982 applications for the processing of building permits. It received 15,072 requests for allocation to residential units, and 6,088 transactions for opening residential care files with the disbursement of rent allowance during the past two years.

PAHW, through its staff at the Information Systems Center, is continuing to complete the procedures for converting all its services to electronic services through the Sahel application."

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: MPs Saud Al-Asfour, Falah Al-Hajri, Shuaib Al-Muwaizri, Abdullah Fehad and Osama Al-Zaid have submitted a proposal on obligating cooperative societies to ensure that at least 60 percent of their employees are nationals and at least 30 percent are Kuwaiti retirees, in addition to the appointment of a Kuwaiti general manager in every cooperative and the latter should not be a member of the Board of Directors.

On the other hand, Member of Inter-Parliamentary Group MP Fahd Falah Bin Jame'e attended the 32nd Meeting of the Executive Committee in the Arab Parliament held recently in Baghdad, Iraq.

They discussed ways to develop the Arab Parliament, improve its finances and draft its budget for the year 2024.

They will also take a decision on the venue of the 33rd meeting, set the agenda for that meeting and reform the sub-committees which emerged from the Executive Committee.

Meanwhile, MP Marzouq Al-Ghanim forwarded queries to Minister of Finance Fahd Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah on the resignation of the chief executive officer (CEO) of Kuwait Airways Corporation. He pointed out that one of the reasons for the resignation is the alleged interference of the chairman of the Board of Directors in the CEO's job. He wants to know the measures taken to verify the reasons mentioned in the resignation; including the wrong decisions of the board chairman that negatively affected Kuwait Airways, reasons for the resignation of executives and senior officials since the current board chairman assumed office till date, if the board chairman still works as a pilot or he resigned as per the regulations, and if he is still receiving salaries for the two positions.

## Passed

MP Abdullah Al-Anbai asked Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamazy why the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) employees who passed the exams in February 2022 have been prevented from enrolling in the air traffic controller training course, current number of air traffic controllers, specified number of employees who will enroll in the training course, and if DGCA has a plan to fill the expected air traffic controller vacancies once the new Kuwait International Airport opens.

MP Dawoud Ma'arafi forwarded queries to Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Mane about the announcement of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) that the Board of Directors cancelled the job advertisement during the meeting held on May 4, 2023 in order to amend the advertisement to ensure the conditions are fair and match the specified criteria. He added that one month later, PAAET posted on its website that the job advertisement for those with masteral and doctorate degrees will be announced once the required specializations and qualifications are determined. He said he obtained information that the vice chairman of PAAET sent letter number 52634 to the dean of the Basic Education College, indicating the names of only 13 out of 150 applicants who complained about the decision to cancel the job advertisement. The dean was asked to edit the recruitment conditions to match the qualifications of the 13 applicants and forward his response to the Board of Directors of PAAET to decide on the appointment of the 13 applicants, he disclosed.

Maarefi wants to know why only 13 out of the 150 applicants who complained were chosen, copy of the cancelled job advertisement, if all the 13 applicants hold doctorate and masters degrees from accredited Arab and foreign universities as per the requirement stated in the latest job advertisement published by Kuwait University, if PAAET published a new job advertisement, and copy of this advertisement if the answer is 'yes'.

## Kuwait & Google reach partnership agreement

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: According to informed sources, the budget of the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers for the current fiscal year include financial appropriations estimated at six million and 900 thousand dinars allocated for spending on the implementation of the framework agreement for the strategic partnership between the government of Kuwait and the global company Google Cloud.

According to data from the Ministry of Finance, the implementation of the agreement will extend for seven years at a total cost of KD 306 million. This agreement will enable the government to benefit from this innovative technology in data analysis, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and achieve digital transformation, which is one of the most important priorities for the coming years. Therefore, the relevant government agencies are seeking to complete their procedures in this regard.

The agreement will also enable the government to create new job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth and benefit from the agreement in the fields of health care, education, disaster management and recovery, smart cities, and others. The company will launch a training program through which the government aims to enhance the skills of more than 5,000 Kuwaiti citizens, students and workers in the public and private sectors in the field of digital technologies, advanced data analysis, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and information security solutions.

It is noteworthy that the Direct Investment Promotion Authority, the Central Agency for Information Technology, and the Communications and Information Technology Authority earned an achievement in cooperation, which resulted in the intention of the international company Google Cloud to open an office in Kuwait and invest in establishing its own cloud region inside Kuwait in a way that supports government agencies in terms of digital infrastructure and managing digital business tasks efficiently and store them securely.

## Artificial intelligence and prevention of co-education at the university level

"Preventing co-education, a practice that fosters equality and mutual understanding between genders, especially when overseen by competent scientific authorities, is a significant issue. One of the representative's lack of attention or concern for the decline in education adds to the urgency of addressing this matter," columnist **Iqbal Ahmed** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"However, the prohibition of co-education, particularly at the university level where students attain maturity and readiness for practical contributions to nation-building, can be viewed as an encroachment on freedom of educational choice and individual liberties.

"In my pursuit of understanding this issue, I turned to an artificial intelligence website for answers. Yet, I found myself confounded and perplexed, witnessing the unfolding of a local reality in Kuwait that has made safeguarding freedoms much more challenging than before. This predicament is exacerbated by representatives who have muddled matters and made decisions that encroach upon the constitutional freedoms enshrined in Kuwait.



Iqbal Al-Ahmed

"This unsettling trend began with the imposition of legal controls on the right to vote for Kuwaiti women and culminated in the violation of Law 24/1996, which unequivocally mandates the separation of male and female students. This law is a clear and enforceable directive, yet university officials, headed by their director, seemed to acquiesce and yield.

"My fundamental inquiry remains: How can the ordinary citizen in Kuwait navigate a situation where their representatives in the National Assembly fall short of the collective ambition? Their decisions fail to meet the necessary standard concerning responsible freedoms in line with the developmental priorities of society.

The artificial intelligence's answer was: "If you are a citizen of Kuwait and feel dissatisfied with the performance of your representatives in the National Assembly, you can take several steps to voice your concerns and promote change:

1 - Communicate with your deputies: It may be useful to contact your deputies directly to express your concerns and opinions. They may have reasons or explanations for their decisions that need to be understood.

2 - Participation in the democratic process: Participate in the elections and choose the representatives who you believe will represent the best interest of society. The democratic process is a way to change the people who represent you on the council.

3 - Community participation: Join community organizations or associations concerned with issues that concern you. These organizations can be a way to influence decision makers in your community.

4 - Public pressure: You can express your opinions and participate in public dialogue on development and policy issues. This could include writing articles or participating in peaceful demonstrations if permitted by law.

5 - Search for international support: In some cases, you can search for international support, or file international complaints if there are human rights violations.

"I and many others applied 1, 2, 3, and 4, and we never thought of resorting to number 5, because we are determined that our country is the first country in the region that supported freedoms, and our constitution affirmed them, even linking any amendment to any article to "for more freedoms."

"But unfortunately, in application of the proverb that says: "I hear what you say, I like it... I see your actions and I am amazed." I say: "I read our constitution and I like it... I see the actions of some representatives and the acquiescence of the government... I am amazed."

**Also:**

"In recent years, the Ministry of Interior has made remarkable strides in digital transformation, setting an inspiring example for all sectors. The ministry's dedication to digitalizing transactions, providing a seamless technical space for citizens and residents, devoid of paperwork and traffic hassles, is truly commendable. Their adoption of electronic signature and messaging techniques, nationalization of transactions, and smart applications accessible via phone or computer should serve as a blueprint for other institutions and sectors," columnist **Riyad Abdullah Al-Mulla** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"However, it's disheartening to witness the challenges faced by employees of the Ministry of Endowments, including muezzins and imams, in conducting their transactions. Their processes involve shuttle trips, reviewing multiple departments and sections, dealing with paperwork and signatures for various transactions. For instance, renewing residency necessitates a time-consuming journey to the Ministry building, involving multiple signatures and paperwork, impacting their duties and routines.

"In contrast, advancements in technology and the experiences during the pandemic have shown us the potential of modern documentation tools like

barcode technology, enabling efficient electronic transactions and reducing reliance on signatures and seals. Yet, the Ministry of Awqaf seems to lag in embracing digital transformation fully.

"The launch of the Endowments Portal application in 2021 was a step in the right direction, but its functionality and utility have fallen short of expectations. Unlike other government applications such as "Sahl" that have streamlined transactions, the Endowments Portal application has not effectively served its intended purpose.

"Our nation has invested significantly in creating infrastructure for electronic transactions to align with global advancements. To truly enhance convenience and streamline processes, it's imperative for all entities to align with the government's digital direction. The Ministry of Endowments should swiftly adopt a digital approach for transactions, residency renewals, and exit permits. A decisive directive from the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, along with cooperation from advisors and agents, is needed to expedite this transformation.

"We possess the capabilities to match or even surpass others in embracing digital solutions. Let us strive to be a beacon of efficiency and convenience, facilitating the interests of our people. The hope is for the Ministry of Endowments to swiftly implement digital processes, renew residencies, and issue exit permits, ushering in a new era of convenience with a simple stroke of the pen. God bless."

"Dealing with the noticeable increase in the number of lawsuits filed in courts must come with full understanding of the reasons behind such increase, including the inability of the current litigation system — laws and criminal procedures — to keep pace with the increasing number of cases," columnist **Hussein Al-Abdullah** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"The State will not stop issuing laws and addressing new issues. Natural or legal persons resort to litigation to challenge decisions or object to procedures. This requires the creation of judicial chambers in courts and appointment of a larger number of judges to handle the rising number of cases.

"The State will not stop at increasing the number of judicial buildings, which could justify the establishment of more session halls in light of the expected annual population growth and the growing number of lawsuits.

"Therefore, the Kuwaiti legislator should reconsider the judicial system and push for the abolition of the current system that was suitable 60 years ago when the Code of Procedures was issued, and 45 years ago when the Code of Civil and Commercial Procedures was issued.

"The Kuwaiti legislator must abolish laws regulating litigation procedures in the country — whether related to criminal cases as per the Code of Criminal Procedures and Trials or non-criminal cases as per the Code of Civil, Commercial and Administrative Procedures — and replace them with laws that contribute to the development of the management of criminal, civil and commercial cases, and develop the most advanced means to ease the litigation process.

"It is pointless to announce the electronic payment system if the filing of lawsuits and holding trials are still traditional and in person. Even rulings are still printed on paper and the executive form is delivered in a traditional manner. This is an evidence that exercising the right to litigation is complicated, shackled and bureaucratic."

"Instructing the Council of Ministers to complete the Mubarak Port project is an important and noteworthy step, as the port could be a major source of income for our national economy," columnist **Hamad Al-Tarkit** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Nevertheless, I believe this can be achieved only by turning the port into an investment facility like a free zone under the management of companies specialized in managing international ports and free zones, which are included in the list of the best port management companies in the world every year with Singapore Ports Authority on top. Its counterpart in Hong Kong, the European one in Rotterdam and others are on the list that is published annually.

"Perhaps, Mubarak Port has unique advantages in terms of location, area and its proximity to the two largest markets with a huge population — exceeding 150 million (Iraq and Iran). They import more than 90 percent of their life necessities.

"We really need to think about creating a logistics free zone that can accommodate large ships. This free zone must provide all services — container storage yards, light factories, re-exports, unloading ships with liquid cargo, tanks for storing fuel and oil derivatives, and a station for servicing and filling ships.

"It goes beyond the port project to be an integrated free zone that requires a serious look and careful technical study to achieve the greatest added value for the State, its citizens and investors. It should be a wide gateway for young people who are looking for jobs.

"For your information, the volume of trade, import and re-export from the free zones in the Gulf to neighboring countries exceeds 59 percent of the total volume in such zones."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



The seventh plane took off from Kuwait airport, carrying 10 tons of relief materials and an ambulance for Libya.

### 7th relief planeload for Libya

The seventh planeload of aid left Kuwait to hurricane-struck Libya on Wednesday with tons of relief equipment and medical supplies onboard.

The relief air bridge extended by Kuwait to Libyan people comes as directed by political leadership and instructions of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the continuous observation of Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Sabah Deputy Director of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Anwar Al-Hasawi told KUNA that Ku-

wait's humanitarian support stems from the keenness of its political leadership and commitment to international agreements in providing all types of support to those affected around the world.

Al-Hasawi affirmed that KRCS is in constant contact with its Libyan counterpart regarding their medical needs, and expressed his appreciation to the Ministries of Health, Foreign Affairs, and Defense for the constant communication, providing and meeting the needs of Libyan people. (KUNA)

## Maximum punishment eyed for royal in citizen's murder

'Religious officials must work full-time'

By Jaber Al-Hamoud/  
Abdel Nasser Al-Aslami  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: The Criminal Court adjourned to October 10 the case of the murder of citizen Abdulaziz Al-Zaatari by a member of the ruling family. The case was adjourned in order to extract a report on his movements from communications towers on the day of the incident and to summon the witness who owned the vehicle in which the crime was committed.**

During the court session yesterday, Lawyer Bashar Al-Nassar was present on behalf of the victim's family members, and demanded that the maximum punishment be imposed on the accused because he was the perpetrator of the murder with premeditation and deliberation.

He said the defendant's defense team submitted 12 requests, of which three requests were approved - extracting a statement of the communications traffic from the towers mentioned in the accused's memorandum of requests in items one and two for the day of the incident, and summoning the witness who owned the vehicle in which the crime was committed.

Lawyer Bashar Al-Nassar indicated that, after the witness appeared in the next session, "I will detonate a loud bomb for you, which is considered a disaster that cannot be tolerated."

**Full-time duty urged:** The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has urged the religious officials working in revenue-generating roles, to commit to full-time engagement saying failure to do so would result in the suspension of their salary and rent allowance within a week.

The Director of the Support Department at the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs in the Mosques Sector, Faisal Al-Mutairi, said in a letter he sent to the Director of the Capital Government Mosques Department, of which Al-Seyassah obtained a copy, that due to the repeated occurrence of some revenue-generating job holders obtaining another job without taking the necessary procedures towards amending the religious job in the assignment memorandum from full-time to part-time, which results in the continued disbursement of the monthly stipend assigned to full-time employees in violation of the payroll system.

### Other Voices

## 'Know education importance'

By Ahmad alsarraf

In contrast to the Cyprus Maronites and those in the diaspora, Lebanese Maronites have grappled with identity challenges. To this day, they struggle to pinpoint their precise origins, whether they descended from an ancient group known as the Mardaites, if they identify as Arabs, or if their roots trace back to Syriac Aramaic ancestry.

Additionally, the origin of the term "Maronites," whether attributed to Saint Maron or an ancient Syrian Monastery, remains a topic of uncertainty. This confusion arises from the lack of documented Church history for the Maronites before the 17th century.



alsarraf

Considering Vatican references and written accounts from travelers and historians two centuries ago, it is widely accepted that a portion of the Maronites were initially Syriac Orthodox and Jacobians until the 16th century, after which they all transitioned to the Roman Catholic Church. However, some continued to uphold the monothelitic nature of Jesus Christ (PBUH), signifying the union of both human and divine natures in one will and power within Jesus Christ (PBUH).

Yet, one enigmatic aspect remains: the notable figure among the Maronites, Gabriel Idris Al-Qilai (died in 1516), argued that the Maronite Church was Orthodox when accused of monothelism.

Historians have varied conclusions regarding the attribution of the Maronites. Some attribute their origins to Saint Maron in the early 15th century or to the monk John Maron in the late 17th century, the first patriarch of the Maronites.

Others contend that the Maronites initially referred to themselves as Maronites but later abandoned the name in the 17th

century. Bishop Yousef Debs claimed that the Maronites used this name in the 5th century but were also known as the Marodites, signifying rebels, during their rebellion against the Byzantines in the 17th century, coinciding with their settlement in the Lebanese heights and surrounding areas during the early Umayyad rule of Syria.

The role of the Maronites escalated in Lebanon, and their patriarchs played an increasingly significant role in internal matters, particularly in the 18th century. Several factors contributed to this rise such as the conversion of the Shihab Dynasty from Druze, disguised in Sunni veneer, to Maronites; the Maronites gained influence due to their affiliation with the Pope in Rome; the early emphasis of the Maronite Church on education.

The Maronite Church exhibited a substantial financial commitment to bolster education. A Maronite Church Council convened in the Monastery of Lady Louaize underscored the importance of education and advocated for Arabic language acquisition.

Various foreign powers that governed Lebanon demonstrated keen interest in the Maronites. The Ottomans initially marginalized them, but they gained significant importance in the 19th century under French rule. The Maronites' focus on education over the past three centuries propelled them into prominent political, military, and financial roles. Their emphasis on education enabled them to be the first in Lebanon to secure commercial agencies, operate banking institutions, and succeed in global ventures.

It is crucial for our government to recognize the importance of education quality, following the Maronites' example, not merely by allocating necessary funds but by implementing strategic measures that prioritize education as a cornerstone of progress and development.

□ □ □

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

### 'Adamant patients could have heart attack'

## 'Some pain relievers must be taken with caution'

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20:** The Ministry of Health stressed that carrying out unsafe medical practices, which are outside the standard of care, for specific disease cases, sets a precedent for medical practice and deters it from its correct path, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Health said, "In the medical practices governed by the customs and laws regulating the profession, the selection of the necessary treatment is based on the discretion of the treating physician in accordance with approved medical protocols in the field, and not by any other party."

With reference to the reports circulating about a patient's request for

repeated dispensing of a specific medication from the emergency department of a hospital, the ministry explained that this patient suffers from a chronic blood disease, and frequently visits the emergency department. The patient visited the emergency department about three times last week to receive the necessary treatment. She was admitted the third time, but she eventually left on her own before completing the treatment plan, which usually takes several days.

According to the available information, the patient does not regularly visit the pain clinic in the same hospital as required, as the treatment plan is supposed to be drawn up for her with the specified doses of pain-

killers, and not by visiting emergency departments.

This patient used to assault the medical staff in the hospital, and had previously destroyed some of the department's equipment during moments of anger, in her attempts to obtain a specific analgesic drug.

Some pain relievers are classified as narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which should be dispensed with caution in accordance with therapeutic protocols, and cannot be dispensed on a daily basis in order to preserve the health and safety of the patient. If they are dispensed outside the framework of the medical protocol, this exposes the patient to complications that may reach cardiac arrest, God forbid.

Minister issues decision on dismissal of 6 members of co-op board

Ministerial resolution on naming Amer Al-Ajmi as govt spokesman

KD3 million earmarked to rent 23 housing units for female teachers

Cleaning contract at Kuwait Airport gets breakthrough

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20:** The Ministry of Finance has granted approval to the Ministry of Education's request for a one-year extension of lease contracts for teachers' housing in various educational areas. The approved amount for this extension is 3,205,440 dinars, covering 23 buildings, reports Al-Qabas daily.



Al-Sultan

one year. Additionally, there is no objection to renewing licenses for private schools whose contracts have expired, also for a period of one year, pending the completion of contract renewal negotiations based on new rental values.

The Ministry of Education has also sought Finance's approval for a project involving the design, licensing, implementation, and construction of buildings and facilities, including classrooms and related amenities, in a turnkey system at "Hawally Educational Center." The estimated cost for this project is 975,000 dinars for 365 days. Finance has sought further details on the project to facilitate a comprehensive study and appropriate decision-making.

Acting Undersecretary of Education, Osama Al-Sultan, emphasized the importance of maintaining the general appearance of existing flags in all educational institutions. He urged regular replacement of damaged flags to ensure a positive appearance.

The Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education, Anwar Al-Hamdan, has instructed general directors of educational,

religious, and special education regions to coordinate with school principals in cleaning and washing water tanks. Additionally, they are to replace water cooler filters to maintain water quality and ensure the well-being of students, educational and administrative staff, and users of school buildings.

**Cleaning contract:** According to reliable sources, Al-Qabas has learned that the General Administration of Civil Aviation at Kuwait International Airport received approval from the Central Tenders Agency to extend the cleaning contract for the T1 passenger terminal and initiate a new tender, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources revealed that Civil Aviation, subsequent to their meeting with the Central Tenders Agency, secured approval for a third extension with a cleaning company for a duration of nine months. This extension commenced from July 26 of the previous year and will continue until April 25 of the coming year. The contracted amount for this extension is 805 thousand dinars.

It was further disclosed that the cleaning company had previously issued a warning of potentially relinquishing the site and withdrawing its equipment and machinery due to the imminent conclusion of their existing contract. The company had not been notified of the contract extension and their fi-

nanacial dues remained unsettled. Consequently, urgent action was taken by officials at that time to address this pressing issue.

The sources emphasized that Civil Aviation is actively striving to resolve all lingering contracts that remained unresolved from previous periods. These unresolved contracts had led to non-renewals or delayed issuance of new tenders. It was noted that tendering processes typically require a time frame of 6 months to a full year before the expiry of any service or logistics contracts.

They also noted that the tender agency sanctioned the commencement of a new tender for cleaning services encompassing the T1 passenger terminal, airport apron, external buildings, their facades, roads, air cargo area, and related facilities at Kuwait International Airport. The award procedures for this tender are expected to be completed before the current company's extension period concludes.

The sources also mentioned that Civil Aviation communicated with the tendering agency regarding various contracts, proposing either extensions or new tender offerings. This included a contract to operate runway lighting and control devices at the airport for six months, as well as a contract for maintaining baggage inspection in weighing zones 2 and 3, and the "Arrivals" hall, also for a duration of six months.

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20, (KUNA):** Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, Issa Al-Kandari, issued Wednesday Ministerial Resolution No. 23 appointing Amer Al-Ajmi Head of Local Affairs Sector and official government spokesman.

**6 board members dismissed:** Minister of Social Affairs Sheikh Firas Al-Sabah issued a decision on the dismissal of six members of the Board of Directors of Sulaibikhat and Doha Cooperative Society for committing serious financial and administrative violations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

**CEO of KAC, deputy resign:** In response to the interventions of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways Company, Abdul Mohsen Al-Faqaa, the company's CEO, Maan Razouki, has submitted his resignation from his position, followed by other resignations at the executive



Amer Al-Ajmi

management level. The Al-Jarida daily has learned, from its sources, that the Executive Vice President for Operations Affairs, Issa Al-Haddad, the Vice President of Operations, Habib Al-Harbi, and others in the Operations Department have also submitted their resignations for the same reasons.

Thanks to the huge surpluses

'Expected deficit for fiscal '24 will not reflect major problem'

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20:** EFG Hermes stated in a recently issued report that Kuwait's financial position will remain solid in the medium term, especially with the addition of investment income, thanks to high oil prices and strong returns from the sovereign wealth fund, reports Al-Rai daily.

Hermes expected that Kuwait would enjoy a surplus in the fiscal year 2023 of 23 percent of the gross domestic product, and that the surplus would continue in the fiscal years 2024 and 2025, albeit at more moderate levels of 5.4 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively, as a result of the decline in oil prices.

After reviewing the budget presentation presented by the Ministry of Finance, which excludes investment income, Hermes expects a budget deficit in the next two years of 7.4 percent and 6.4 percent of GDP after the large surplus recorded by Kuwait last year by 12 percent.

Hermes indicated that the deficit it expects is smaller than the deficit estimated by the government budget, which was based on a moderate price of a barrel of oil of \$70, expressing its belief that the expected deficit for the fiscal year 2024 will likely not constitute a major problem in terms of financing because the General Reserve Fund was strengthened last year by a surplus of 6.4 billion dinars.

However, there remains a major priority to increase the Fund's liquidity through financial reforms primarily and to issue a debt law to create a more sustainable financial trend in the medium term.

Contraction

EFG Hermes expected a contraction in 2023 of 0.8 percent in GDP growth and growth of 2.6 percent in 2024, compared to growth of 8.2 percent in 2022.

The reasons were attributed to the decline in oil production and the slowdown in private consumption growth. She pointed out that Kuwait adhered to OPEC Plus commitments to reduce production, so that it decreased on average this year by 3.5 percent to 2.61 million barrels per day.

As for private consumption, which was the strongest driver of economic growth over the past two years, it is likely to continue to slow down from a high base. It is also likely that disposable incomes will return to normal levels as high savings rates slow down.

However, Hermes believes that the trend of private consumption will remain good in general, but will slow down from its high base, adding that non-oil growth is therefore expected to slow in 2024 to 3.5 percent from an estimated level of 3.8 percent in 2022.

"Hermes" indicated that the additional driver of the expected moderate growth in GDP is moderate growth in investments. The budget for the fiscal year 2024 expects a decline in investment spending by 21 percent, due to considerations including achieving a balance with the slightly high level of current spending, thanks to the huge awards in the energy sector.

This high level of project awards indicates a somewhat weak growth in corporate credit growth last year, and is therefore likely to continue, especially in conditions of high interest rates.

On the other hand, "Hermes" said that the National Assembly recently approved the final draft of the budget for the fiscal year 2023/2024, in addition to the final accounts for the budget for the fiscal year 2022/2023, and the final accounts show a surplus that enhances the country's financial reserves. She stressed that all cases indicate that Kuwait continues to enjoy a comfortable financial position, as the financial system generates external assets that are likely to have exceeded the level of \$800 billion, or 500 percent of the gross domestic product.

The sharp rise in oil prices in 2022, coupled with a significant increase in oil production, led to a significant increase in oil revenues (which during the year recorded their highest level in 8 years), which in turn created a large surplus in the financial budget amounting to 6.4 billion dinars.

However, non-oil revenues declined by 13 percent on an annual basis for reasons, the most important of which is the end of Gulf War compensation.

The latter was overshadowed by a rather strong growth of 26 percent in tax revenues as the economy recovered strongly from the effects of the pandemic.

Surplus

In addition to the strong rise in oil revenues, the fiscal surplus was also marginally supported by a decline in total expenditures of approximately 3 percent, with current and capital expenditures declining. Wages fell a marginal 1.2 percent from last year's high base, while social benefits fell a further 61 percent year-on-year as healthcare expenditures fell. Overall, total expenditures were 95 percent of the budget, broadly in line with historical trends.

Hermes noted that, in line with recent legislative changes, and despite the large surplus, the Ministry of Finance was not obligated to provide any large transfers to the Future Generations Fund.

The government transferred only 1 percent of the surplus, or only 64 million dinars. Therefore, the surplus is saved to strengthen the general reserve fund. Historically, the law required the government to transfer 10 percent of its revenues to the Future Generations Fund.

On the broader financial level, that is, when investment income is added to the budget, according to the IMF's unified methodology, the fiscal surplus actually swells to 12.5 billion dinars, equivalent to 23 percent of GDP, in a clear indication of the government's strong basic financial position.

"Hermes" expected a decline in the main financial performance this year compared to the exceptional levels witnessed last year, and the main reasons for this are due to the oil prices returning to normal levels of approximately \$100 per barrel last year and in-time expenditure items. Consequently, the government expects a budget deficit of 6.8 billion dinars, which Hermes believes is very conservative.

Hermes noted that in the draft budget approved by the National Assembly on August 2, the government expected a 20 percent decline in oil revenues, thanks to lower prices and oil production. She indicated that, conservatively, the government allocated \$70 per barrel in its budget, which is less than \$80 per barrel assumed in last year's budget and approximately 28 percent lower than the current market price. In parallel, the government assumes that oil production will decrease by 2 percent on an annual basis to 2.68 million barrels per day.

Spending

In addition, Hermes explained that the government is planning a significant increase in spending (+12 percent year-on-year), and spending will be entirely driven by recurrent expenditures, which are scheduled to rise by 15 percent. At the same time, capital expenditures are expected to decline. By 21 percent, Hermes notes that the noticeable increase in current expenses is partly due to one-time items.

The government said that the budget includes 1.55 billion dinars in arrears and settlements, most of which are clear in the components of wages and subsidies. Excluding these one-offs, total expenditures would have increased by a more moderate rate of 5 percent.

Hermes expects the fiscal deficit to reach a relatively more moderate level of 3.7 billion dinars, as oil prices are likely to reach \$80 per barrel. It also expects spending slightly less than the allocated budget.

She said the deficit should be easily financed through government reserves. On the broader financial level, that is, when considering the addition of investment income, according to the IMF's financial presentation, "Hermes" estimates that the budget will record a total financial surplus of 2.2 billion dinars (4.5 percent of GDP), which again shows the financial position The comfortable basic that Kuwait enjoys.

albander hotel & resort

# September

## Room Promotion

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

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Terms & conditions apply\*

Visitors to embark enduring human spirit dating back to ancient times

# Failaka Island exhibition reveals rich layers of history buried within

RIYADH, Sept 20, (KUNA): Dr. Muhammad Al-Jassar, the Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters of Kuwait, remarked on Tuesday that the Failaka Island exhibition unveils the rich layers of history concealed within this enchanting island. Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Jassar described the "Failaka Exhibition from the Underground to the Edges of the Sky," held in Riyadh, as an invitation for visitors to embark on a journey that bears witness to the enduring human spirit on this island dating back to ancient times.

Al-Jassar explained that Failaka Island's strategic significance dates back to the emergence of Ur, the great ancient city in Mesopotamia during the third millennium BC. Located approximately 20 kilometers northeast of Kuwait City and 96 kilometers south, where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flow into the Arabian Gulf, the island served as a crossroads of cultural and economic influences throughout pivotal periods of history. It acted as a microcosm reflecting the evolution of global societies shaped by trade with Mesopotamia, Persia, and the Indus Valley over the past 4,000 years.

**Hidden treasures**

Furthermore, Al-Jassar highlighted the island's unique ability to showcase how communities harnessed water and local resources to create what can be described as a "green paradise" in the Gulf region. He credited the Danish archaeological mission to Kuwait in 1957 for not only unearthing hidden treasures but also shedding light on the social life of Failaka's inhabitants and their relationship with the fertile natural surroundings. This included



Left: The Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature, appointed by Dr. Muhammad Al-Jassar and right: Engineer Jaber Al-Qallaf at the Failaka Island exhibition held in Riyadh.

the development of social systems that revolved around the continuous exchange of goods on the island and the establishment of spontaneous village organization characterized by wisdom, values of justice, and a sense of responsibility towards their land.

Eng. Jaber Al-Qallaf, Director of the Creative Economy Program and a member of the World Heritage Team at UNESCO, emphasized that Failaka Island's cultural and natural heritage is an extension of Kuwait's national identity and a testament to the history of human settlement in

the country. He noted that this heritage reflects cultural openness, peaceful coexistence, and shared values that extend beyond Kuwait's borders, contributing to shaping the island's identity and history, which spans thousands of years.

Al-Qallaf further emphasized that presenting Failaka Island to the international community through this exhibition offers an opportunity to restore its global standing and its connections with various influential cultures. He stated that there is a historical responsibility to present

a comprehensive development model that balances cultural, economic, geopolitical, social, and environmental aspects. This entails the formulation of meticulous plans and policies that preserve the island's spirit, place it on the global cultural map, and utilize it as a tool for soft diplomacy to achieve common goals with neighboring countries and foster stable relations within the international community.

Al-Qallaf mentioned that the team working on the nomination file for the cultural landscape of Failaka Island, as part of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, has prepared an alternative vision for the island's future development within the government's 17th legislative term work program. This vision underscores the need for a comprehensive and integrated structural plan that serves as a national tool to reinvigorate the island's historical legacy and enhance its national identity and heritage.

The exhibition, conducted on the sidelines of the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, showcases images of archaeological artifacts and discoveries spanning four eras: the Bronze Age - Dilmun, the Hellenistic and Parthian eras, the Islamic era, and the pre-Islamic Sassanid era. Inaugurated by Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and attended by Dr. Mohammed Al-Jassar, the Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters, and Ambassador Dr. Adam Al-Mulla, the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to UNESCO, the exhibition began on Sunday and will continue until September 20.



The Guest Show poster

**Rachel Mulholland on TGS**

This Thursday, The Guest Show (TGS) presents Rachel Mulholland, Principal Scientist of CEFAS, the British organisation that is doing extraordinary work in the field of environmental preservation. Rachel's passion and concern for the environment began at a young age. Later, she translated that passion into

her career. Before being posted to Kuwait, Rachel was involved in biodiversity projects in the Caribbean. In this episode, Rachel speaks to Chaitali B. Roy about CEFAS, its scope of work, the environmental challenges facing Kuwait and the world, COP 28 and the road ahead.

# KUFPEC inks accord to acquire 40% stake in exploration zone off Egypt

'Step will also boost company's marine assets'

**Key elements of government's strategy outlined**

## First 4 years key to long term plan from 2024-'40

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Dr. Saad Al-Barak, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, and Acting Minister of Finance, conveyed a resolute conviction in the country's capacity to enact change and attain success, reports Al-Rai daily.

He outlined the key elements of the government's strategy to enhance the economy, emphasizing its critical role as both the "foundation" and "pillar of life." Notably, he underscored that the economy

should be the focal point of politics, emphasizing a strategic shift in perspective.

During his appearance on the "On the Agenda" program featured in Al-Rai newspaper and its digital platforms, Dr. Al-Barak highlighted a fundamental challenge — Kuwait's heavy reliance on oil, constituting a significant 88 percent of the state's revenues. He elucidated the inherent risk in this over-dependence, citing the unpredictable and uncontrollable fluctuations in oil prices due to global political dy-

namics. These uncertainties pose a substantial threat to Kuwait's economic security.

Addressing the imperative to diversify income sources, Dr. Al-Barak stressed a pivotal governmental initiative: the transformation of Kuwaiti islands into economic zones and a vital financial hub. He expressed unwavering confidence in Kuwait's potential, foreseeing the creation of 250,000 jobs over a 15-year period through strategic partnerships with major nations and prominent corporations.

**The minister**

Continued from Page 1

Today, in light of major crises threatening the region including Kuwait, Kuwaitis are preoccupied with a crisis created by some parliamentarians who have begun to investigate people's intentions, and analyze and prohibit according to their personal views.

Aren't there constitutional channels to ask the minister? How could he be summoned by a committee that imposes the orders of a few parliamentarians on him?

This would be if there was a firm stance and a strong will, which seems to be not on the agenda of the Council of Ministers. If its president had the ability to stop this absurdity, this would not happen, especially with a law that is difficult to implement.

Indeed, the Prime Minister must set constitutional boundaries between the works of the executive and legislative branches. However, it seems that we are back to square one when the parliamentarians encroached on the authority of ministers in previous governments and caused several disasters in the country.

The division has raged among Kuwaitis, not only over the banning of co-education, but also over the mass dismissals and resignations in most institutions, the most recent of which happened in the Kuwait Airways Corporation, which was historically one of the best aviation institutions in the world when it was supervised by excellent personalities.

Those were the times when laws were observed, and were distinguished by its experienced people, as they realized at that time that this institution was responsible for the lives of people in the airspace.

On Monday, hackers infiltrated the Ministry of Finance's systems. Every day there are complaints from people about their accounts being hacked and their money being stolen.

Instead of having a force to prevent these intrusions, those concerned are only focused on monitoring people's posts on social media, and imprisoning them on charges of spreading false news if they find something that bothers them.

All this does not happen in a vacuum, as if someone is raising smoke with outdated issues. Instead of paying attention to developing infrastructure, creating incentives for young people to take initiative, and developing the industrial sector, we find ourselves living in a country where all institutions are dysfunctional due to "parachute" employment.

Yes, there must be a will to make a decision that is consistent with the Constitution and the development of laws, as well as a heavy stick that holds those who must be held accountable. It should start with the departure of the Minister of Education and Higher Education and the Kuwait University director, who allowed some parliamentarians to interfere with their work, and led us into this maze... Otherwise we will continue to plow in the sea.

**Baghdad warned**

Continued from Page 1

They expressed hope that Iraq would continue cooperating to make progress in the file and called on Iraq and the UN to spare no effort to resolve relevant issues.

Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had taken part in the meeting between the GCC ministers and Blinken, held on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Sheikh Salem during the session reacted to the rule issued by the Supreme Federal Court in Iraq regarding the border treaty, endorsed by the Iraqi parliament and the Kuwaiti National Assembly in 2013 -- a copy of which had been delivered to the UN.

In his reaction, he shed light on the inaccurate information and the abusive rhetoric against the State of Kuwait from Baghdad.

A decade had passed since the Khor Abdullah agreement was signed between Kuwait and Iraq to organize maritime navigation at the waterway.

However, the Supreme Federal Court decided to make a U-turn on the 2013 agreed upon treaty, which implemented UNSC resolution 833/1993 of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission.

In this regard, professor of international law at Kuwait University's (KU), college of law Dr. Thugel Al-Ajmi indicated that in accordance with international laws and article 27/1969 of the Geneva Convention "A party may not invoke the provisions of its internal law as justification for its failure to perform a treaty."

He added that article 46 "A State may no longer invoke a ground for invalidating, terminating, withdrawing from or suspending the operation of a treaty under articles 46 to 50 or articles 60 and 62."

Dr. Al-Ajmi affirmed that the treat had been implemented for a decade without objection from either party; however, if any grievances may arise, the countries may consult with each other or refer the matter to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to settle disputes.

KU Colleague professor Abdusalam Al-Enizi provided a similar input to KUNA, saying that internal rulings on the Khor Abdullah agreement should not annul any parties' involvement in the treaty.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 stated "Coastal States exercise sovereignty over their territorial sea which they have the right to establish its breadth up to a limit not to exceed 12 nautical miles; foreign vessels are allowed "innocent passage" through those waters," indicated Al-Enizi.

He added that the distance between Kuwait and Iraq coasts was under 12 nautical miles for each country since approving the agreement.

**Biden, Zelenskyy**

Continued from Page 1

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the UN Security Council no longer works to ensure global security but instead is an arena for its five permanent member states to engage in strategic confrontations.

Turkiye considers recent events in Northern Cyprus, where UN peacekeepers tried to block the building of a vital connecting road, "a manifestation of this empty institutional structure that provides neither justice nor trust," Turkiye's Anadolu Agency (AA) quoted him as saying in a speech to the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday.

"We must immediately restructure institutions under the UN roof responsible for ensuring world peace, security, and welfare," Erdogan said.

"We must build a global governance architecture that is capable of representing all origins, beliefs and cultures in the world," he added.

Erdogan once again reiterated his oft-repeated slogan for UN reform, "The world is bigger than five," referring to the unrepresentative nature of the UN Security Council's five permanent, veto-wielding members.

The effectiveness of the Security Council has been questioned in the face of recent crises, especially after Russian launched its war against Ukraine nearly 19 months ago. Russia, one of the five permanent Security Council members, is accused of using its veto power to block resolutions related to Ukraine.

On Turkiye's relations with the European Union, President Erdogan said he expects EU to fulfill "its long-neglected obligations towards our country".

**Subscribe to our service "Arabtimes WhatsApp" to stay updated on the latest local and international news and events**

**To activate this Free Service:**  
 1- Save our number on your contacts **92220947**  
 2- Send "Start" WhatsApp message to the number you saved.

www.arabtimesonline.com | @arabtimeskuwait | arabtimeskuwait | arabtimeskuwait | Join us on Telegram

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday slightly trimmed its growth forecast for developing Asia to 4.7 percent from 4.8 percent, saying economic

growth in the region is expected to remain solid.

Developing Asia covers 46 economies in Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, but excludes industrialized countries of Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

"Growth in the region was upbeat in the first half of this year, driven by healthy domestic demand and reopening in China even as a weaker global outlook reduced export demand. Rebounding tourism, resilient service sec-

tors, healthy money transfers into the region, and improving financial conditions are all helping support economic activity, and inflation is receding in most economies after peaking last year," the ADB said in the report.

"However, weakness in China's property sector is weighing on regional prospects. Sporadic supply disruptions from the continuing Russian invasion of Ukraine, export restrictions, and the increased risk of droughts and floods caused by El Nino could once again trig-

ger rising food prices and challenge food security," it pointed out.

"Developing Asia continues growing robustly, and inflation pressures are receding," ADB chief economist Albert Park said in a statement.

"Some central banks in the region have started to lower interest rates, which will help boost growth. Still, governments need to be vigilant against the many risks that the region faces," said Park.

The bank cut its 2023 growth forecast for China, the region's largest economy,

to 4.9 percent from 5.0 percent estimate in July, while downgraded projection for India to 6.3 percent from 6.4 percent, but it maintained forecasts next year for China and India at 4.5 percent and 6.7 percent respectively.

The ADB is a multilateral development finance institution dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific. Established in 1966, it is now owned by 68 members, mostly from the region, as well as the US, Britain and Germany. (KUNA)

Market Movements

20-09-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+1.56	4,138.40	JAPAN - Nikkei	-0.66	33,023.78
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.04	45,932.52	PHILIPPINES - PSEi	-0.11	6,041.04
			SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.08	11,061.50
			EGYPT - EGX 30	-0.79	19,797.23

# Business

## Primary market sees a decline in foreign investments to KD5b

'In an eight-month span, a decrease of KD16m was recorded'

By Ahmad Fathi

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Foreign ownership of shares in First Market companies has declined by 0.3 percent since the start of 2023, totaling 16.5 million dinars. This decrease brings the value down from 5.06 billion dinars at the end of December 2022 to 5.044 billion dinars.**

This dip coincides with an overall 12.4 percent growth in the total market value of shares listed on the First Market over the past eight months, amounting to 4.66 billion dinars. This figure has decreased from 37.389 billion dinars at the close of December to 32.727 billion dinars at the close of August. Consequently, foreign ownership now constitutes approximately 15.4 percent of the total market value of shares in the primary market.

According to the clearing company's report on foreign ownership per-

centages in First Market shares, "NBK" boasts the highest foreign ownership value among companies listed on the First Market, accounting for 24.37 percent of ownership with a value of 1.778 billion dinars. This comprises 35.2 percent of the total ownership, marking a decrease of approximately 12.1 percent since the beginning of 2023. Foreign ownership in KFH amounts to approximately 13.48 percent of the total foreign ownership in the market, with a value of 1.472 billion dinars, constituting 29.2 percent. Consequently, foreign ownership in these two banks, totaling 3.25 billion dinars, accounts for about 64.4 percent of the total foreign ownership value in the primary market.

Foreign ownership of "Zain" ranks third, representing 6.4 percent of the total foreign investments in the First Market, with a value of 324.6 million dinars. Meanwhile, the "GFH" company holds a 4.4 percent share with a value of 222.4 million dinars. "Agility" Company follows with a 3.5 percent share valued at 178.9 million dinars.

Foreign ownership percentages for Mabane Company stand at 15.51 percent, with a value of 170.6 million dinars, constituting approximately 3.4 per-

cent of the total foreign ownership in the First Market. "Human Soft" also boasts a foreign ownership percentage of 37.96 percent, with a value of 156.4 million dinars, making up about 3.1 percent.

Foreign ownership in Boubyan Bank amounts to approximately 6.06 percent, valued at 146.4 million dinars, comprising about 2.9 percent of the total ownership. Gulf Bank holds a 14.5 percent share with a value of 123 million dinars, making up about 2.4 percent of the total ownership, while Burgan Bank boasts a 17.55 percent share with a value of 116.7 million dinars.

The value of foreign ownership in Jazeera Airways stands at about 58 million dinars, representing approximately 1.1 percent of the total foreign ownership value in the First Market. "Industries" holds 9.07 percent, equivalent to around 47.25 million dinars, and "Boursa Kuwait" company holds 7.79 percent, amounting to approximately 31.1 million dinars.

"Boubyan Petrochemicals" maintains a 7.61 percent share, totaling approximately 30.1 million dinars, while Warba Bank holds a 4.86 percent share with a value of 20.1 million dinars, and projects account for 3.37 percent, equivalent to about 20.7 million dinars."

### Any hint of future rate hikes will be key focus of latest meeting

### Asian shares decline

## What will Federal Reserve do next?

WASHINGTON, Sept 20, (AP): The Federal Reserve was set to leave its key interest rate unchanged Wednesday as it seeks to guide the U.S. economy toward a "soft landing" of cooling inflation without triggering a deep recession.

Chair Jerome Powell and other Fed officials have made clear that they're now inclined to move more gradually and cautiously toward their goal of 2% annual inflation. Their more deliberative approach follows the 11 rate hikes they unleashed beginning in March 2022, which substantially raised borrowing costs for consumers and businesses.

Yet with inflation pressures still underlying the economy, Powell won't be declaring victory on Wednesday, when the Fed's latest policy meeting ends. The attention of investors and economists will instead focus on what signals the Fed may send about its likely next actions.

The clearest signal will likely come from the Fed's 19-member interest-rate committee in the batch of economic forecasts its members issue each quarter. The updated projections are likely to show that the policymakers expect to raise their benchmark rate once more this year. That rate now stands at roughly 5.4%, its highest point in 22 years.

And those projections will likely also show that the Fed envisions fewer interest rate cuts next year than it did in June, when it projected three rate reductions in 2024. Even as the central bank is winding down its rate hikes, Powell and other Fed officials have said their key rate could remain at its peak well into next year. Analysts expect the Fed's forecasts Wednesday to show just one or two rate cuts in 2024.

Further clues about the future path of the Fed's interest rate policy could emerge at a news conference Powell will hold after the central bank issues a policy statement and its quarterly economic projections.

In raising its short-term interest rate at the fastest pace in four decades, the Fed has sought to moderate borrowing and spending, slow the economy and tame inflation. So far, consumer inflation, measured year over year, has tumbled from a peak of 9.1% in June of last year to 3.7% in August. Yet it's still well above the Fed's target.

Powell and other central bank officials have said that while they are making progress, they aren't yet done. Even as overall inflation has declined, the cost of many services - from auto insurance and car repairs to veterinary services and hair salons - are still climbing faster than they were before the pandemic.

Still, most recent data is pointing in the direction the Fed wants to see: Inflation in June and July, excluding volatile food and energy prices, posted its two lowest monthly readings in nearly two years.

And signs have grown that the job market isn't as robust as it had been, which helps keep a check on inflation: The pace of hiring has moderated. The number of unfilled openings fell sharply in June and July. And the number of Americans who have started seeking work has jumped. This has brought labor demand and supply into better balance and eased the pressure on employers to raise

### Self-driving big rigs being tested

## Truck drivers ask Newsom to sign job-saving bill

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Sept 20, (AP): California lawmakers, union leaders and truck drivers are trying to steer Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom toward signing into law a proposal that could save jobs as self-driving trucks are tested for their safety on the roads.

The legislation would ban self-driving trucks weighing more than 10,000 pounds (4,536 kilograms) - which would include vehicles from UPS delivery trucks to massive semi-trucks - from operating on public roads unless a human driver is on board. Proponents of the bill say it would help address concerns about safety and losing truck driving jobs to automation in the future. Under the bill, the rules would be in effect until at least 2029.

Republican Assembly member Tom Lackey, one of the bill's co-authors, said lawmakers aren't "against technology," but they see the bill as a safer way for companies to test self-driving trucks.

"We want balance because we believe in people, and we believe in public safety," Lackey said. "When surprises happen, physics is not your friend."

The bill coasted through the Legislature with few lawmakers voting against it. It's part of ongoing debates about the potential risks of self-driving vehicles and how workforces adapt to a new era as companies deploy technologies to do work traditionally done by humans.

Newsom, who typically enjoys strong support from labor, is facing some pressure from within his administration not to sign it. He has until Oct. 14 to make a decision. His administration's Department of Finance projected it would cost the state about \$1 million annually to implement the bill's requirements, and his Office of Business and Economic Development says it would push companies making self-driving technologies to move out-of-state.

"Our state is on the cusp of a new era and cannot risk stifling innovation," Dee Dee Myers, the office's director and senior adviser to Newsom,

pay to attract and keep workers, which can lead them to raise prices to offset higher labor costs.

Yet the path back to lower inflation has already become more uneven: On a monthly basis, consumer prices jumped 0.6% in August, the most in more than a year. Compared with a year earlier, prices rose 3.7%, the second straight such increase.

Some emerging factors, meantime, are threatening to re-ignite inflation, weaken the economy, or both. Rising oil prices, for example, are making gasoline steadily more expensive.

said in a letter opposing the bill.

Other opponents of the bill say self-driving truck regulations should be left up to the state's Department of Motor Vehicles and officials with expertise on keeping the roads safe. They argue self-driving cars that are already on the roads haven't caused many serious accidents compared to cars driven by people. Businesses say self-driving trucks would help them transport products more efficiently in the future.

The bill comes as the debate over the future of autonomous vehicles heats up. In San Francisco, two robotaxi companies got approval last month from state regulators to operate in the city at all hours, despite concerns about these vehicles making unexpected stops and blocking traffic. In Phoenix, companies have tested self-driving trucks on highways and to deliver mail through a partnership with the U.S. Postal Service.

On Tuesday in Sacramento, hundreds of truck drivers, union leaders and other supporters of the bill rallied at the state Capitol. Drivers wore shirts representing their chapter of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, a large union backing the bill, and chanted "sign that bill" as semi-trucks lined a street in front of the Capitol. Some chants were laced with profanities as they urged Newsom to support their cause. There are about 200,000 commercial truck drivers in California, according to Teamsters officials.

Mike Di Bene, a commercial truck driver of nearly 30 years and member of the Oakland Teamsters chapter, said human drivers have the "intuition and experience" to quickly adapt to unexpected situations, including when there is black ice on the road or when a tire blows out on the freeway. Self-driving technology that "doesn't value" life can't understand what's at stake when operating massive vehicles at high speeds, he said.

Brian Rice, president of the California Professional Firefighters union, said it's important for first responders to be able to communicate with commercial truck driv-

ers when emergencies happen - for example if there is a spill of dangerous materials that can become a health hazard.

"Hazardous materials are everywhere," Rice said. "We don't need robots driving these materials around."

Labor was at the heart of several legislative fights this year, including efforts to raise wages for health care workers, make striking workers eligible for unemployment benefits and allow legislative staffers to unionize. The Legislature sent these proposals to Newsom at a time hotel workers, Hollywood writers and actors are on strike.

In 2012, then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law mandating that companies get approval from the Department of Motor Vehicles before putting their self-driving vehicles to use on public roads. DMV leaders oppose the bill, saying the authority to regulate such vehicles should remain with their agency.

In August, the DMV sent a letter to Assembly member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, who introduced this year's bill, saying the testing of self-driving vehicles across 18.3 million miles (29.5 million kilometers) since 2014 in the state has not led to any fatalities. Autonomous vehicles were not found to be "clearly at fault" for the few collisions that caused serious injuries, the letter said.

California DMV Director Steve Gordon said in the letter that the department meets with companies that make self-driving vehicles after accidents occur to find out the root cause. If the department finds a vehicle poses an "unreasonable risk to public safety," it can suspend or revoke the company's permit to test the vehicle on the roads, Gordon said in the letter.

The bill would require the DMV to submit a report to the Legislature updating lawmakers on the safety of medium- and heavy-duty self-driving trucks. It would require companies to report collisions that caused property damage, injury or death to the department within 10 days.

shortages and higher prices. Inflation worsened after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 sent oil and other commodity prices spiking.

The European Central Bank raised its benchmark rate last week for the 10th time to 4%, the highest level on record since the euro was established in 1999, though it signaled that it could be its last hike. The Bank of England is also expected to increase its rate when it meets Thursday. The Bank of Japan, which meets Friday, is under less pressure to boost rates, although it has taken steps to allow Japanese long-term rates to tick up.

## Wall Street drifts again in countdown to a Federal Reserve announcement

NEW YORK, Sept 20, (AP): Stocks are drifting Wednesday as Wall Street waits to see the Federal Reserve's latest forecasts for where interest rates may be heading.

The S&P 500 was 0.2% higher in morning trading, continuing a quiet run this week where markets have made few big moves ahead of the Fed. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 153 points, or 0.4%, at 34,671, as of 10:45 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.1% higher.

It's nearly a foregone conclusion among traders that the Fed will say in the afternoon that it's keeping its main interest rate steady. The question is what Fed officials say in updated projections they're releasing about where they see interest rates heading in upcoming years.

Will they still pencil in one more hike this year, after they've already pulled the Fed's main rate to its highest level in more than two decades? Will they indicate as many cuts to rates in 2024, which can goose prices for stocks and other investments, as traders are expecting?

Such questions are key because it's still uncertain when the Fed will feel comfortable enough that inflation is moving back to its 2% target for it to stop raising rates. Inflation has come down considerably from its peak above 9% last year, but a recent upswing in oil prices has complicated the trajectory. Last month, it accelerated to 3.7%.

Treasury yields eased ahead of the Fed's announcement. They, though, are still near their highest levels in many years on expectations the Fed may keep rates higher for longer to fully vanquish inflation.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury dropped to 4.33% from 4.37% late Tuesday, near its highest level since 2007.

The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, fell to 5.07% from 5.09% late Tuesday.

An easing up of rates and bond yields would give a boost to all kinds of investments. Some of the biggest beneficiaries tend to be high-growth companies, and tech stocks have swung particularly sharply with expectations for rates.

On Wall Street, shares of Tecton climbed 5.1% for one of the biggest gains in the S&P 500 after it announced a deal where NetJets has the option purchase up to 1,000 of its Citation business jets over the next 15 years.

Pinterest rose 5.4% after the company gave forecasts and recaps of its decisions at its investor day that pushed analysts to upgrade how high they think its stock could go.

Beauty products company Coty climbed 5.3% after it raised its forecasts for the year due to strong demand for its new Burberry Goddess fragrance and other products.

On the losing end of Wall

Street, Instacart gave back some of its gains from its first day of trading as a public stock. It dropped 1.8%.

Arm Holdings, another company recently off a highly anticipated initial public offering of stock, also fell. It lost 3%.

Shares of Klaviyo, which helps advertisers market over email and text messaging, are expected to begin trading later in the day following its IPO.

### Europe

In stock markets abroad, the FTSE 100 in London rose 1% after a report showed U.K. inflation fell unexpectedly in August to its lowest level since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine.

### Asia

Asian shares declined Wednesday as markets awaited a decision on interest rates by the Federal Reserve.

Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 0.1% in morning trading to 33,200.34. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.6% to 7,152.70. South Korea's Kospi edged down 0.1% to 2,556.20. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped 0.4% to 17,932.24, while the Shanghai Composite shed 0.3% to 3,115.10.

Trade data for Japan showed exports fell 0.8% last month from a year ago, marking the second straight month of declines, as exports to China lagged, dropping 11%. Japan's exports to the U.S. rose 5.1%, while exports to Europe surged 12.7%. By product category, auto exports zoomed 40.9%, while those of semiconductors rose 8.1%, according to Finance Ministry data.

"We think the weak recovery in China will continue to have a negative impact on exports for a while, but semiconductors seem like they are bottoming out from the down cycle," Robert Carnell, regional head of research Asia-Pacific at ING, said in a report.

He said the strong contribution to economic growth in the April-July quarter was expected to weaken in this quarter.

In an update on the Chinese economy, officials in Beijing acknowledged challenges in boosting growth in the world's No. 2 economy, but told reporters they were confident that a recovery was underway and that they had the capacity to ensure stability of financial markets.

### Oil

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude lost 10 cents to \$91.10 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell 28 cents to \$91.20 on Tuesday. It's climbed roughly 13% this year as oil-producing countries curtail production. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 36 cents to \$93.98 per barrel.

### Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar rose to 147.86 Japanese yen from 147.81 yen. The euro cost \$1.0686, up from \$1.0681.

## US national debt tops USD 33.05 trillion

NEW YORK, Sept 20, (KUNA): The Dept. of Treasury said Tuesday the US national debt surged to USD 33.05 trillion, the largest amount of outstanding borrowing by the Federal Government accumulated over the nation's history.

Policymakers need to be straight with the American public, and they need to come together on a plan to bring our debt under control, according to a statement by the Treasury's committee responsible federal budget.

The statement coincides with

lawmakers' trying to press ahead with a plan to keep the federal government away from shutdown and meet the deadline of September 30.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said yesterday she saw no

signs the US economy is at risk of a downturn.

However, she warned that failure by the Congress to pass a legislation on federal funding could result in slowing momentum in the economy.

**Kuwait records 3.82% annual inflation surge in Aug**

In August 2023, Kuwait experienced a notable annual inflation increase of 3.82%, driven by a 0.15% monthly rise in the general consumer price index. According to data from the Central Administration of Statistics, the inflation rate in Kuwait reached 130.3 points for the month, compared to 125.5 points in August 2022. This upward trend was influenced by increases across all

twelve groups comprising the index. Leading the way was the clothing and footwear group, with a substantial 6.97% annual increase, followed closely by a 5.70% rise in the prices of food and beverages. Conversely, the cigarette and tobacco group saw a more modest 0.30% annual increase. On a monthly basis, Kuwait's inflation rate grew by 0.15%, with six of the index's groups main-

taining stable prices. Notably, the entertainment and culture group saw a 0.31% price hike, while the clothing and footwear group experienced a 0.30% increase. Excluding the food and beverages group, Kuwait's annual inflation rate stood at 3.32%, with a monthly increase of 0.08%. When excluding the housing group, the annual inflation rate reached 4.02%, marking a monthly increase of 0.15%.

**UK inflation fell unexpectedly in August**

Inflation across the U.K. fell unexpectedly in August to its lowest level since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine, a development that has reined in expectations of a 15th straight interest rate increase from the Bank of England on Thursday. The Office for National Statistics said Wednesday that price rises, as measured by the consumer prices index, moderated to 6.7% in the year to August, down from 6.8% in July. The decline took

inflation to its lowest level since February 2022, when Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to soaring energy and food prices. The ONS credited the fall to lower hotel and airfare costs and a moderation in food price rises. These helped offset an increase in energy costs on the back of higher crude oil prices. The decline was unexpected. Most analysts had expected inflation to increase to around 7% in light of

the bump in prices at the pump. Though inflation is way above the Bank of England's target of 2% and higher than any other Group of Seven major advanced economy, the decline has eased expectations of another rate hike. Before the figures were released, most economists thought the bank would raise its main borrowing rate once again by a quarter of a percentage point to a near 16-year high of 5.5%. (AP)

# Kuwait Arbitration Forum launches with calls for legal reform to boost investor confidence

Gulf, international legal experts grace event

By Ahmad Fathi

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20:** During the inaugural session of the first Kuwait Arbitration Forum, attended by local, Gulf, and international legal experts, Al-Muqatala emphasized the significance of arbitration as a swift dispute resolution mechanism for businesses. They also highlighted its vital role in attracting both domestic and foreign investors.

Al-Yaqout, founder of Al-Yaqout and Al-Fawzan Legal Group, emphasized the urgent need for Kuwait to enact legislation specifically tailored for commercial arbitration. He argued that the current arbitration law, housed within the Code of Procedures, is outdated and must be revamped to attract increased local and foreign investments to Kuwait.

Furthermore, Al-Yaqout stressed that prospective major investors in Kuwait typically inquire about arbitration mechanisms and procedures before entering the local business landscape, viewing arbitration as a protective measure in case disputes

arise. The Kuwait Arbitration Forum, a pioneering initiative in Kuwait, aims to cultivate awareness of arbitration's importance and facilitate discussions on the latest global developments in arbitration legislation. It is expected to serve as a platform for promoting legal awareness and arbitration culture in Kuwait.

Arbitration is characterized by its expediency, confidentiality, and cost-effectiveness. Annually, around 2,000 cases are resolved through judicial arbitration, with an additional 400 cases being resolved through institutional arbitration.

Al-Yaqout is committed to advocating for the passage of an independent arbitration law during the upcoming legislative term in the National Assembly, citing its substantial role in enhancing and advancing the local business environment.

Dr. Muhammad Al-Muqata'a, President of the Kuwait International College of Law, emphasized that arbitration offers a swift resolution for corporate disputes and serves as an appealing option for both local and foreign investors, assuaging concerns regarding dispute resolution.

He disclosed the launch of a new arbitration center and the establishment of an institutional arbitration

association in Kuwait, focusing on developing arbitration rules for institutional practices alongside legislative efforts.

Dr. Mahmoud Hussein, leader of the International Chamber of Arbitration team, emphasized the forum's role in bolstering arbitration culture in Kuwait. He highlighted that investors often prefer arbitration over public court hearings, attributing this preference to arbitration's speed in dispute resolution.

Dr. Hussein also stressed the necessity of legislation to foster foreign investment, citing the UAE's success in this regard after issuing arbitration legislation in 2018, which contributed to increased foreign investments.

Khaled Al-Suwaifan, Secretary of the Kuwaiti Lawyers Association, underscored the association's commitment to participating in such forums, recognizing their vital role in promoting arbitration culture in Kuwait. He highlighted that arbitration is a crucial avenue for resolving commercial disputes between investors and other stakeholders.

Deputy General Registrar at the International Arbitration Center in Dubai, Christopher Hedrig, discussed the Middle East's global significance in promoting arbitration culture. He noted that a significant portion of international trade passes



Kuwait Arbitration Forum inauguration participants

through the Middle East region and emphasized the importance of transparent and equitable arbitration platforms to effectively resolve disputes in commercial and investment sectors.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Shorbaji, head of the International Projects and Disputes Department at Al-Yaqout and Al-Fawzan Legal Group, emphasized the need for updated arbitration legislation in Kuwait, as the existing

law, located within the Code of Procedures, lags behind global arbitration developments. He stressed that independent legislation is crucial to achieving the required speed in dispute resolution.

**Worst since the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war**

## Grain spat drags down Ukraine's ties with Poland

WARSAW, Poland, Sept 20, (AP): A dispute about whether Ukrainian grain should be allowed to enter the domestic markets of Poland and other European Union countries has pushed the tight relationship between Kyiv and Warsaw to its lowest point since Russia invaded Ukraine last year.

Polish leaders have compared Ukraine to a drowning person hurting his helper and threatened to expand a ban on food products from the war-torn country. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy suggested that EU allies that are prohibiting imports of his nation's grain are helping Russia.

Poland, on NATO's eastern flank, has been a staunch supporter of Ukraine, sending weapons and humanitarian aid and opening its borders to refugees.

Now, Polish officials, who are trying to win parliamentary elections next month with the help from farmers' votes, are expressing dismay over some of Ukraine's latest moves, including a World Trade Organization complaint over bans on Ukrainian grain from Poland and two other EU countries.

"Alarmingly, some in Europe play out solidarity in a political theater - turning grain into a thriller. They may seem to play their own roles. In fact they're helping set the stage for a Moscow actor," Zelenskyy said Tuesday during the U.N. General Assembly.

Poland's deputy foreign minister, Pawel Jablonski, on Wednesday voiced "strong protest" of Zelenskyy's comments to Ukrainian Ambassador Vasyl Zvarych.

Jablonski "indicated that it is untrue, as far as Poland is concerned, and that the opinion is unjustified toward the country that has been supporting Ukraine from the very first days of the war," the Polish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Poland's ruling party, Law and Justice, is fighting for the votes of farmers, many of whom are upset that Ukraine's food products have flooded the local market, pushing prices down and hurting their livelihoods.

Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Croatia banned some Ukrainian ag-



A tractor collects straw on a field in a private farm in Zhurivka, Kyiv region, Ukraine, Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023. The European Union faces a Friday, Sept. 15, 2023, deadline to decide whether to extend a ban on Ukrainian food from five nearby countries that have complained the influx has hurt their farmers. But they still allow grain and other products to head to parts of the world in need. (AP)

ricultural goods after the EU recently decided to lift such restrictions. Croatia joined in Tuesday, when Kyiv announced it was responding with a WTO complaint.

"Ukraine is behaving like a drowning person clinging to everything he can ... but we have the right to defend ourselves against harm being done to us," Polish President Andrzej Duda told reporters Tuesday in New York, where he was attending the U.N. General Assembly.

The growing tensions highlight the risks Ukraine faces in maintaining Western support as its fight against Russia drags on.

Ukraine prevailing is so important

to Poland that it would not be likely to restrict the military assistance to Ukraine. Poland has bitter memories of being subjected to Moscow's rule in the past and does not want to see Russia win a war in a neighboring country.

But the ruling party faces an election challenge from a new far-right coalition, Confederation, whose leaders complain that the country is doing too much to help Ukraine and claim Ukraine isn't grateful enough.

The rift also shows how Ukraine and its neighbors are competing agricultural powers and how European defense of domestic farmers could complicate Kyiv's hopes for a future

path into the EU.

Ukraine - a major global supplier of wheat, barley, corn and vegetable oil - has struggled since Russia's invasion to get its food products to parts of the world struggling with hunger. All the EU countries will keep allowing Ukrainian products to move through their borders to world markets.

Russia dealt a huge blow by withdrawing in July from a wartime agreement that ensured safe passage for Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea. That has left more expensive routes through Europe as the main way for Ukraine to get its products to developing nations where food prices have risen since Russia's war began.



Al Yaqout

## UK's new online safety law adds to 'crackdown' on Big Tech cos

LONDON, Sept 20, (AP): British lawmakers have approved an ambitious but controversial new internet safety law with wide-ranging powers to crack down on digital and social media companies like TikTok, Google, and Facebook and Instagram parent Meta.

The government says the online safety bill passed this week will make Britain the safest place in the world to be online. But digital rights groups say it threatens online privacy and freedom of speech.

The new law is the U.K.'s contribution to efforts in Europe and elsewhere to clamp down on the free-wheeling tech industry dominated by U.S. companies. The European Union has its Digital Services Act, which took effect last month with similar provisions aimed at cleaning up social media for users in the 27-nation bloc.

Here's a closer look at Britain's law:

The sprawling piece of legislation has been in the works since 2021.

The new law requires social media platforms to take down illegal content, including child sexual abuse, hate speech and terrorism, revenge porn and posts promoting self-harm. They also will have to stop such content from appearing in the first place and give users more controls, including blocking anonymous trolls.

The government says the law takes a "zero tolerance" approach to protecting kids by making platforms legally responsible for their online safety. Platforms will be required to stop children from accessing content that, while not illegal, could be harmful or not age-appropriate, including porn, bullying or, for example, glorifying eating disorders or providing instructions for suicide.

Social media platforms will be legally required to verify that users are old enough, typically 13, and porn websites will have to make sure users are 18.

The bill criminalizes some online activity, such as cyberflashing, which is sending someone unwanted explicit images.

The law applies to any internet company, no matter where it's based as long as a U.K. user can access its services. Companies that don't fall in line face fines of up to 18 million pounds (\$22 million) or 10% of annual global sales, whichever is greater.

Senior managers at tech companies also face criminal prosecution and prison time if they fail to answer information requests from U.K. regulators. They'll also be held criminally liable if their company fails to comply with regulators' notices about child sex abuse and exploitation.

Oftom, the U.K. communications regulator, will enforce the law. It will focus first on illegal content as the government takes a "phased approach" to bring it into force.

Beyond that, it's unclear how the law will be enforced because details haven't been provided.

Digital rights groups say the law's provisions threaten to undermine online freedoms.

The U.K.-based Open Rights Group and the Electronic Frontier Foundation in the U.S. said that if tech companies have to ensure content is not harmful for children, they could end up being forced to choose between sanitizing their platforms or making users verify their ages by uploading official ID or using privacy-intrusive face scans to estimate how old they are.

The law also sets up a clash between the British government and tech companies over encryption technology. It gives regulators the power to require encrypted messaging services to install "accredited technology" to scan encrypted messages for terrorist or child sex abuse content.

Experts say that would provide a backdoor for private communications that ends up making everyone less safe. Meta said last month that it plans to start adding end-to-end encryption to all Messenger chats by default by the end of year. But the U.K. government called on the company not to do so without measures to protect children from sex abuse and exploitation.

## Xylem, Lorentz partner to accelerate deployment of pumping solutions

WASHINGTON, Sept 20, (AP): Xylem, a leading global water technology company, and LORENTZ, the German solar water pump manufacturer, today announced they will enter into a distribution agreement to expand the availability of solar-powered pumping systems, globally. These sustainable pumping solutions are commonly used in agriculture, irrigation and drinking water applications, enabling water managers to address decarbonization goals while reducing operating costs.

Climate-related droughts and severe weather events have increased stress

on water supplies, putting pressure on communities to both secure supply and decarbonize energy-intensive systems. Solar-based pumping technology uses renewable energy to deliver reliable, sustainable water at lower cost, even in remote locations.

This partnership will extend and strengthen Xylem's and LORENTZ's respective sustainable pumping offerings. Under the agreement, Xylem will harness the power of both companies' solutions. LORENTZ will supply Xylem with solar-powered and solar/grid hybrid pumping systems. In addition, LORENTZ technology will be used to

augment solutions in Xylem's existing portfolio, and the companies will collaborate to develop new Xylem products. Both companies will continue to serve their respective market segments and maintain their existing distribution networks.

"Innovative technologies offer new ways to protect and optimize water while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. LORENTZ's technology is a perfect example. This collaboration provides our customers with new sustainable pumping solutions as they strive to decarbonize and deliver cost-effective, efficient and resilient water

management," said Franz Cerwinka, Senior Vice President, President, Applied Water Systems and Business Transformation, Xylem.

"Moving liquids is a very energy-intensive activity. By harnessing solar power and solar/grid hybrid connections, we can help customers reach their sustainable energy goals using renewable energy. We are excited to join with Xylem to help accelerate the water sector's progress towards net zero," said Bernd Lorentz, founder and chief executive of LORENTZ.

The distribution agreement excludes the Australia market.



KFH Al-Rabeh Campaign Visual

**KFH announces the winners of Al-Rabeh draw**

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the Al-Rabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 36th and 37th weeks of 2023. The winners of KD 1,500 are: Naziha Al-Thaqeb, Fatemah Al-Haifi, Fahad Al-Ajmi, Jenan Al-Twaitan, Mohammad Al-Failakawi, Abdulkareem Al-Moaisib, Sarah Al-Rasheed, Abdullah Al-Azmi, Nehayah Al-Enezi, Ahamed Zhulficar, Sulaiman Abdallah, Eman Al-Jwaiser, Iram Nasr, Abdullah Al-Saleh, Ibrahim Khaleel, Yousef Al-Najjar, Abdullah Al-Fadhahah, Khalaf Al-Mutairi,

Tahreer Abdulkareem, Buti Al-Buti. The Al-Rabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year. The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local

and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards. The Al-Rabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts.

**Company proud to partner with Kuwait Olympic Committee**

**Zain accompanies Team Kuwait to Asian Games in China**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Zain, the proud Official Partner of Team Kuwait at the upcoming 19th Asian Games in collaboration with the Kuwait Olympic Committee, announces that it has accompanied the team's athletes and administrators to China. The move came in support of Kuwait's players who will compete for gold at Hangzhou.

At Kuwait International Airport, H.E. Minister of Commerce and Industry & Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammed Al Aiban visited the team before their departure. In attendance were Public Authority for Sports GM Yousef Al Baidan, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer of Zain Kuwait Waleed Al Khashti, Head of Team Kuwait and Kuwait Olympic Committee Board Member Fatima Hayat, Zain's team who's accompanying the delegation, along with the athletes and administrators of Team Kuwait.

Zain is most proud to be at the national team's side in China, reflecting a fruitful partnership between the country's private and public sectors to support local athletes in international arenas to inspire them to raise Kuwait's flag high in the biggest competitions and bring gold back home.

Under this partnership, Zain supports 141 players representing Kuwait in 25 sports: golf, football, tennis, squash, shooting, archery, cycling, taekwondo, karate, boxing, kurash, judo, fencing, jujitsu, wrestling, rowing, diving, triathlon, handball, swimming, athletics, sport climbing, rhythmic gymnastics, chess, and equestrian.

The Asian Games is a multi-sport event that brings together athletes from across the continent of Asia. It is organized every four years by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) under the supervision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). This year, the 19th Asian Games is set to feature 483 games in 40 different disciplines.

Zain is proud to support Team Kuwait in this major sporting event in collaboration with the Kuwait Olympic Committee. The company is always keen on shouldering sports programs and local athletes to elevate the Kuwaiti sports scene.

The company strongly believes in the role played by the sports sector in



Zain Asian Games Departure 2023

progressing national economy.

As a leading private sector company in Kuwait, Zain is constantly looking to identify and support excellence across the sports sector. The com-

pany will continue to put Kuwaiti sports and athletes at the forefront of its priorities and pledges to continue motivating them to achieve all the recognition and support they deserve.

**A. Al Ghurair Real Estate Group select Yardi to drive its growth**

**Address Beach Resort announces latest flash sale this Sept**

DUBAI, Sept 20, (PR News-wire): Amer Al Ghurair, a fast-growing privately held real estate development company, has chosen Yardi Voyager® to further scale its construction operations and streamline the lead-to-owner sales management lifecycle.

The company has chosen solutions from Yardi's end-to-end property management and accounting suite to drive construction and sales operations, increase productivity and data transparency. With a seamless platform in place, Amer Al Ghurair will be able to efficiently manage vendors through Yardi@ Procure to Pay and enhance customer service while driving operational efficiency.

"Yardi's innovative software solutions will help our team to be more efficient by automating labour and time intensive tasks," said Abdulrahman Hajeid, Group CFO for Amer Al Ghurair. "With a more streamlined operation, we will increase data transparency to reduce unit void periods and establish a customer-centric, proactive approach in our property management."

"The Yardi platform will provide Amer Al Ghurair Real Estate with an effective solution to help with future growth and productivity," said Neal Gemassmer, vice president of international for Yardi. "We're excited to be working with Amer Al Ghurair Real Estate in their journey to grow and expand in the United Arab Emirates."

See how Yardi can help you increase operational efficiency with a fully connected property management and accounting platform.

About Amer Al Ghurair Real Estate Group

Over the past 25 years, Amer Al Ghurair Real Estate created more than 5,000 new homes and 1.5 million square feet of workspace in over 60 regeneration projects. The company's ongoing goal and mission is to provide the highest level of service to its clients. For more information, visit ameralthurair.com.

**About Yardi**

Yardi@ develops and supports industry-leading investment and property management software for all types and sizes of real estate companies. With 9,000 employees, Yardi is working with clients globally to drive significant innovation in the real estate industry. For more information on how Yardi is Energised for Tomorrow, visit yardi.ae.

**Also:**

DUBAI: Address Beach Resort, the epitome of luxury and relaxation in the heart of Dubai, announces its

**Stay protected from increasing gold rates with Malabar Gold & Diamonds**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with an extensive retail presence of over 330 showrooms across 11 countries, has just announced its gold rate protection offer, allowing customers to block gold rates by paying just 10% of the amount as advance. To add more sparkle to the offer for jewellery lovers, the brand is also giving customers a free diamond gift voucher worth KWD 100 for advance bookings made on or before 22nd October.

Through the gold rate protection offer unveiled by the brand, customers can pay just 10% advance for their favorite jewellery and block the gold rate until the 12th of November 2023, protecting themselves from any increase in gold rate during this period. If gold rate increases at the time of purchase, customers can avail the blocked rate and if it reduces, they can still draw mileage of the reduced rate. Due to the upcoming festive season, the gold rate protection offer presents customers with the perfect opportunity to indulge in their festive jewellery shopping without having to worry about fluctuating gold prices.

This offer will be valid across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms. Customers can either pay the advance directly at the outlet or online, via Malabar Gold & Diamonds' mobile app. The free gift voucher will be available only for the first 10% advance booking made by a customer before 22nd October. The gift voucher can be redeemed on or before 12th November 2023 at any Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms in the country of issue.

"Festive season is just around the corner with the next 6 months being all about festivals, celebrations, and weddings. Jewellery shopping is an integral part of this season and we want to ensure our customers get to maximize the benefits during this key shopping period, which is why we have introduced the Pay 10% advance booking offer. Through this, our customers needn't worry about the increasing gold rates as they are assured the low gold rate during purchase. They are also assured a diamond gift voucher

exclusive flash sale, offering travellers an opportunity to experience vacation bliss. With extraordinary discounts of up to 35% off on room rates, free breakfast, and a remarkable 30% off spa and dining experiences, this is the gateway to creating unforgettable memories.

This press release features multimedia.

Exclusive Daycation at Address Beach Resort

Address Beach Resort is located in the bustling heart of Jumeirah Beach Residence (JBR) near some of the best entertainment, dining, and nightlife hotspots. A truly iconic



MGD gold protection unit.

for the first advance booking adding more value to their festive gold shopping", commented Mr. Shamlal Ahmed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is renowned globally for offering an unparalleled jewellery buying experience with convenience, and customer-friendly policies along with the 'Malabar Promise' of incomparable quality and service assurance. The brand had recently announced its latest policy of 100% value on diamond exchange, making diamonds an equally attractive investment option as gold.

**About Malabar G&D**

Malabar Gold & Diamonds was established in 1993 and is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diver-

sified Indian business conglomerate.

With an annual turnover of \$5.2 billion, the company currently ranks as the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally and today has a strong retail network of over 330 outlets spread across 11 countries in addition to multiple offices, design centers, wholesale units, and factories spread across India, Middle East, Far East, the USA & the UK. The group, owned by more than 4,000 shareholders, has more than 21,000 professionals from over 26 countries working towards its continued success. Malabar Gold & Diamonds also features an online store www.malabargoldanddiamonds.com providing customers the opportunity to purchase their favorite jewelry at any time and on any day from the comfort of their homes.

Guests staying for two nights or more can also enjoy either a delightful Afternoon Tea in The Lounge, located in the elegant lobby, or revel in Happy Hour at Li' Brasil, a lively fusion restaurant with Brazilian and Lebanese vibes.

This unbeatable flash sale showcases the very best of Dubai, so don't miss out.

Guest can avail the Afternoon Tea or Happy Hour once per stay. Afternoon Tea is served daily from 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm in The Lounge only. Happy Hour available at Li' Brasil daily from 5.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Other T&Cs may apply.

**5th consecutive month fall**

**Kuwait's August trade surplus with Japan down 44.1 percent**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - announced a partnership with LOYAC, a local non-profit organization that aims to empower youth to become impactful leaders in society. Through this partnership, KIPCO will be sponsoring the '7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens' program sessions that will be offered to youth aged 12 to 18 throughout the year.

The '7 Habits' is a Franklin Covey Education program. The goals of this life empowerment program include increasing self confidence and self-esteem, being responsible, defining one's values, recognizing and prioritizing goals and resisting peer pressure.

Ms Eman Al Awadhi, KIPCO's Senior Vice President - Corporate Communications and Investor Relations, said:

"Both KIPCO and LOYAC share the common desire to contribute to a prosperous society through offering young people the opportunity to evolve into highly effective leaders. We are pleased to be working with LOYAC on this personal development program that specifi-

cally caters to teens, and we look forward to helping young people reflect on their everyday situations and choices and develop habits that will make them more effective members of the community."

On her part, Ms Fareah Al Saqqaf, LOYAC's Chairperson and Managing Director, said:

"We are proud that KIPCO has become our partner, and we are delighted that the company's management has taken interest in the '7 Habits', one of the most renowned personal development programs. At LOYAC, we work with companies that share our vision and goals, and such is KIPCO. We do not believe in quick fixes; we seek sustainable solutions that target the root of problems, thereby building strong and confident individuals who are grounded in their principles and values. This is what the '7 Habits' program represents."

The '7 Habits' workshops focus on habits of effectiveness in young people, with the objective of improving student performance, reducing conflicts, enhancing cooperation and teamwork.

**KIPCO partners with LOYAC to offer training opportunities for teenagers**

DUBAI, UAE, Sept 20, (PR News-wire): Amer Al Ghurair, a fast-growing privately held real estate development company, has chosen Yardi Voyager® to further scale its construction operations and streamline the lead-to-owner sales management lifecycle.

The company has chosen solutions from Yardi's end-to-end property management and accounting suite to drive construction and sales operations, increase productivity and data transparency. With a seamless platform in place, Amer Al Ghurair will be able to efficiently manage vendors through Yardi@ Procure to Pay and enhance customer service while driving operational efficiency.

"Yardi's innovative software solutions will help our team to be more efficient by automating labour and time intensive tasks," said Abdulrahman Hajeid, Group CFO for Amer Al Ghurair. "With a more streamlined operation, we will increase data transparency to reduce unit void periods and establish a customer-centric, proactive approach in our property management."

"The Yardi platform will provide Amer Al Ghurair Real Estate with an effective solution to help with future growth and productivity," said Neal Gemassmer, vice president of international for Yardi. "We're excited to be working with Amer Al Ghurair Real Estate in their journey to grow and expand in the United Arab Emirates."

See how Yardi can help you increase operational efficiency with a fully connected property management and accounting platform.

About Amer Al Ghurair Real Estate Group

Over the past 25 years, Amer Al Ghurair Real Estate created more than 5,000 new homes and 1.5 million square feet of workspace in over 60 regeneration projects. The company's ongoing goal and mission is to provide the highest level of ser-



Eman Al Awadhi



Fareah Al Saqqaf

vice to its clients. For more information, visit ameralthurair.com.

**About Yardi**

Yardi@ develops and supports industry-leading investment and property management software for all types and sizes of real estate companies. With 9,000 employees, Yardi is working with clients globally to drive significant innovation in the real estate industry. For more information on how Yardi is Energised for Tomorrow, visit yardi.ae.



**Calif kids' online privacy law halted**

A federal judge has halted implementation of a California law intended to restrict companies' use of information gathered from young internet users in order to protect the privacy of minors.

US District Judge Beth Labson Freeman on Monday granted a preliminary injunction, saying the legislation interferes with firms' use of the internet in ways the state has failed to justify.

The law would require businesses to report to the state on any product or service they offer on the internet that is likely to be accessed by those under 18, and provide plans to reduce any harms minors might suffer. It would also prohibit businesses from collecting most types of personal information about young internet users, including their physical locations.

"The State has no right to en-

force obligations that would essentially press private companies into service as government censors," Freeman wrote.

The judge wrote that while she is "keenly aware of the myriad harms that may befall children on the internet," the law singles out for-profit businesses for restrictions that do not apply to other users, such as government agencies or nonprofits. (AP)

**TikTok new tool to help creators label AI content**

In its bid to curb misinformation, TikTok said on Tuesday it will begin launching a new tool that will help creators label AI-generated content they produce.

TikTok said in a news release that the tool will help creators easily comply with the company's existing AI policy, which requires all manipulated content that shows realistic scenes to be labeled in a way that indicates they're fake or altered.

TikTok prohibits deepfakes - videos and images that have been digitally created or altered with artificial intelligence - that misled users about real-world events. It doesn't allow deepfakes of private figures and young people, but is OK with altered images of public figures in certain contexts, including for artistic and educational purposes.

Additionally, the company

said on Tuesday it will begin testing an "AI-generated" label this week that will eventually apply to content it detects to be edited or created by AI. It will also rename effects on the app that have AI to explicitly include "AI" in their name and corresponding label.

The move by TikTok comes amid rising concerns about how the AI arms race will affect misinformation. (AP)

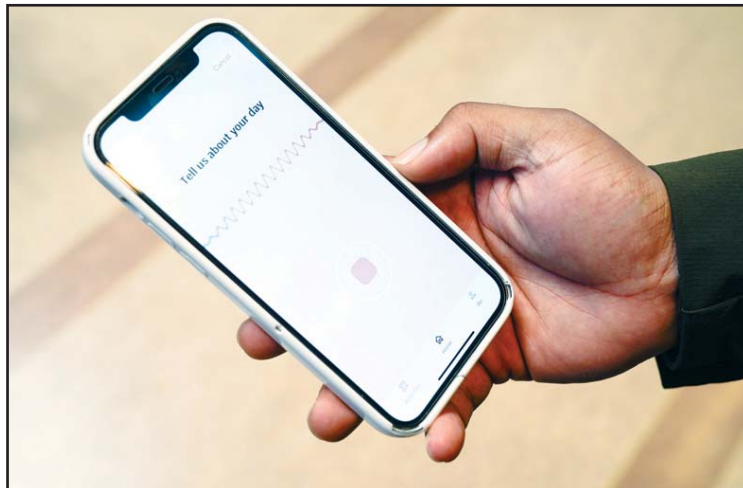
**App suggests bite-sized mindfulness activities****Parkland survivor develops Joy, AI app that helps people heal**

NEW YORK, Sept 20, (AP) - Kai Koerber was a junior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School when a gunman murdered 14 students and three staff members there on Valentine's Day in 2018. Seeing his peers - and himself - struggle with returning to normal, he wanted to do something to help people manage their emotions on their own terms.

While some of his classmates at the Parkland, Florida, school have worked on advocating for gun control, entered politics or simply took a step back to heal and focus on their studies, Koerber's background in technology - he'd originally wanted to be a rocket scientist - led him in a different direction: to build a smartphone app.

The result was Joy, which uses artificial intelligence to suggest bite-sized mindfulness activities for people based on how they are feeling. The algorithm Koerber's team built is designed to recognize how a person feels from the sound of their voice - regardless of the words or language they speak.

"In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, the first thing that came to mind after we've experienced this horrible, traumatic event - how are we going to personally recover?" he said. "It's great to say OK, we're going to build a better legal infrastructure to prevent gun sales, increased background checks, all the legisla-



Kai Koerber showcases his app, Joy, on Thursday, July 27, 2023, in Berkeley, Calif. (AP)

tive things. But people really weren't thinking about ... the mental health side of things."

Like many of his peers, Koerber said he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder for a "very long time" and only recently has it gotten a little better.

"So when I came to Cal, I was like, let me just start a research team that builds some groundbreaking AI and see if that's possible," said the 23-year-

old, who graduated from the University of California at Berkeley earlier this year. "The idea was to provide a platform to people who were struggling with, let's say sadness, grief, anger ... to be able to get a mindfulness practice or wellness practice on the go that meets our emotional needs on the go."

He said it was important to offer activities that can be done quickly, sometimes lasting just a few seconds, wherever the user might be. It wasn't

going to be your parents' mindfulness practice.

"The notion of mindfulness being a solo activity or something that's confined to sitting in your room breathing is something that we're very much trying to dispel," Koerber said.

Mohammed Zareef-Mustafa, a former classmate of Koerber's who's been using the app for a few months, said the voice-emotion recognition part is "different than anything I've ever seen before."

**Effective**

"I use the app about three times a week, because the practices are short and easy to get into. It really helps me quickly de-stress before I have to do things like job interviews," he said.

To use Joy, you simply speak into the app. The AI is supposed to recognize how you are feeling from your voice, then suggest short activities.

It doesn't always get your mood right, so it's possible to manually pick your disposition. Let's say you are feeling "neutral" at the moment. The app suggests several activities, such as 15-second exercise called "mindful consumption" that encourages you to "think about all the lives and beings involved in producing what you eat or use that day."

Yet another activity helps you practice making an effective apology.

Another has you write a letter to your future self, with a pen and a paper - remember those? Feeling sad? A suggestion pops up asking you to track how many times you've laughed over a seven-day period and tally it up at the end of the week to see what moments gave you a sense of joy, purpose or satisfaction.

The app is available for a \$8 monthly subscription, with a discount if you subscribe for a whole year. It's a work in progress, and as it goes with AI, the more people use it, the more accurate it becomes.

"Kai is a leader of this next generation who are thinking intentionally and with focus about how to use technology to meet the mental, physical, and climate crises of our times," said Dacher Keltner, a professor at UC Berkeley and Koerber's faculty advisor on the project. "It comes out of his life experience, and, unlike past technologies, he seems to feel this has to be what technology does, make the world healthier."

A plethora of wellness apps on the market claim to help people with mental health issues, but it's not always clear whether they work, said Colin Walsh, a professor of biomedical informatics at Vanderbilt University who has studied the use of AI in suicide prevention. According to Walsh, it is feasible to take someone's voice

and glean some aspects of their emotional state.

"The challenge is if you as a user feel like it's not really representing what you think your current state is like, that's an issue," he said. "There should be some mechanism by which that feedback can go back."

The stakes also matter. Facebook, for instance, has faced some criticism in the past for its suicide prevention tool, which used AI (as well as humans) to flag users who may be contemplating suicide, and - in some serious cases - contact law enforcement to check on the person. But if the stakes are lower, Walsh said, if the technology is simply directing someone to spend some time outside, it's unlikely to cause harm.

"The driver is there's a huge demand there, or at least the perception of a huge demand there" Walsh said of the explosion of wellness and mental health apps in the past few years. "Despite the best of intentions with our current system - and it does a lot of good work - obviously, there's still gaps. So I think people see technology as a tool to try to bridge that."

Koerber said people tend to forget, after mass shootings, that survivors don't just "bounce back right away" from the trauma they experienced. It takes years to recover.

**In digital age, reality & fiction blur together****Next-gen cameras will combat AI-generated forgeries: PreAct**

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept 20: PreAct Technologies (PreAct), an Oregon-based developer of near-field flash LiDAR technology, says that future camera sensors will be able to determine the difference between real objects and AI-generated deep fakes.

In the digital age, reality and fiction have started to blur into one another, often making it challenging to discern fact from fabrication. With the advent of deep fakes and advanced CGI, the fidelity of our visuals has been questioned repeatedly. Nowhere is this more evident than in computer vision. Computer vision has become a horizontal technology and is poised to significantly impact numerous industries, including automotive, medical imaging, retail, health and safety, security, and entertainment. Computer vision's social impact is only starting to come into focus (pun intended).

In the near term, computer vision will exacerbate problems with deep fakes in the media and communication industries as the authenticity of images and videos is under threat. A looming question resonates: How do we know if what we see is real? It's unsettling to imagine a scenario where we doubt whether the person we chat with on Zoom is who they claim to be. This brings forth the notion of dual-factor authentication for video calls - a step to ensure that the individual on the other side is genuine.

In addition to this unease, companies are venturing into posthumous video chats, allowing individuals to converse with digital replicas of loved ones long after passing. The Washington Post aptly termed one such venture "the next step in the human quest for immortality."

**Concerns**

Moreover, the entertainment industry faces its own set of challenges. Hollywood is abuzz with concerns about AI potentially replacing actors and writers. This is not unfounded: recent films, like the latest Indiana Jones movie, showcased a de-aged Harrison Ford, presenting him in a rendition 40 years younger. The looming question arises: How far are we from movies being entirely created by AI, sans human involvement? This dystopian future does ring bells reminiscent of narratives from shows like "Black Mirror."

While the above might paint a grim picture, there's a silver lining. The very technology responsible for these concerns can also be the solution. As computer vision progresses, it can be employed to detect inconsistencies in AI-generated content.

AI-generated faces, no matter how lifelike, might still struggle to perfectly replicate micro-expressions or minute facial movements that are inherently human. Cameras of the future, with high-resolution sensors and advanced algorithms, can be trained to identify these subtle differences.

AI-generated visuals often leave behind patterns at the pixel level that can be indicative of their artificial nature. Future cameras can discern between factual and fabricated content by analyzing pixels for anomalies or inconsistencies.

Every digital image or video comes with metadata about when, where, and how it was captured. By verifying the

**'Always on' culture toll****Tech was supposed to save us time but instead it's stealing it**

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept 20: Data from a new consumer survey released recently reveals the heavy toll of our "always on" culture. The 2023 Survey of Time study was conducted by tech startup Sixty AI and surveyed more than 1,000 consumers about their attitudes and usage behaviors around digital communications and time management. The survey found widespread dissatisfaction with the constant demands of devices and digital tools that were meant to make work and life easier. More than 85% of survey respondents reported technology has the opposite effect on their lives - overwhelming them, interrupting their focus and creating meeting and email overload.

After years of researching the impact of digital communications on consumers and building products to help alleviate the burden, the Sixty AI team commissioned this study to validate the pervasive feeling of overwhelm that today's consumers feel as a result of an overconnected world. Timed with the release of this study, Sixty AI today launched the public beta of its platform, which is designed to cut through the digital clutter and restore focus and flow in our lives. In addition to the product, the company is sponsoring Take Back Your Time (#tbyt), a movement to reset our relationship to technology and time by prioritizing human connection over constant communication.

Overall, the Survey of Time revealed a substantial disconnect between how people want to spend their time and how they are actually spending it.

"While technology was meant to make our lives more efficient, it has led to an overconnected crisis that comes at the expense of our mental health, our relationships and our ability to spend our time meaningfully," said Mat Ellis, Founder and CEO of Sixty AI. "The modern world requires us to manage these technologies to keep

integrity of this metadata, future cameras can validate the authenticity of the content.

Cameras can also be linked to Blockchain or similar decentralized databases to verify the source of the content, ensuring its legitimacy.

While the advancement in AI and computer vision has paved the way for many innovative applications, it has also increased digitally manipulated content. This raises a concern: How do we discern reality from fabrication, especially in real-time?

One proposed solution lies at the intersection of depth sensing and blockchain technology. Let's delve into how these two technologies can collaboratively combat the rise of deep fakes and digital forgeries.

Depth sensing, a technology used to measure the distance between the sen-

sor and objects, adds an extra layer of information to an image or video. Unlike conventional 2D images, depth maps provide a 3D spatial understanding of the scene. This gives a unique signature to the captured moment, making it incredibly challenging for AI algorithms to generate depth data consistent with the real world.

On the other hand, Blockchain is a decentralized ledger system renowned for its tamper-proof design. Once data is added to the Blockchain, it becomes immutable, meaning it cannot be altered without the network's consensus.

By combining depth-sensing with Blockchain, we can create real time timestamps that inherently distinguish genuine footage from forged content: As a video or image is captured, the Camera's depth sensor simultaneously records the depth map of the scene.

**Communications**

"We know this kind of tool can help people-it's already helped our team feel more focused and in control of our time and communications. But we also know that one tool is not enough," Ellis said. "That's why we've started the #tbyt movement, to bring more attention to this problem, to validate the overwhelm we're all feeling with actual data, and to provide additional resources and support to people looking to reset their relationship to technology and time."

In the months ahead, Sixty AI will be announcing a series of initiatives and events for individuals to actively participate in #tbyt, including Take Back Your Time Day on November 7, 2023.

Sixty AI's 2023 Survey of Time reflects the responses of 1,062 people from the United States. The survey was conducted using an online, self-complete-style interview through SurveyMonkey. Fieldwork was completed in August 2023.

We're on a mission to reimagine our relationship with time and unburden busy consumers from their digital clutter. Our AI-powered platform optimizes for focus and flow, eliminating mundane and timesucking digital tasks to focus on what matters most.

**Firm unveils array of technologies****Intel 'empowers' developers to make AI accessible everywhere**

SAN JOSE, Calif., Sept 20: At its third annual Intel Innovation event, Intel unveiled an array of technologies to bring artificial intelligence everywhere and make it more accessible across all workloads, from client and edge to network and cloud.

"AI represents a generational shift, giving rise to a new era of global expansion where computing is even more foundational to a better future for all," said Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger. "For developers, this creates massive societal and business opportunities to push the boundaries of what's possible, to create solutions to the world's biggest challenges and to improve the life of every person on the planet."

In a keynote presentation to open the event targeting developers, Gelsinger showed how Intel is bringing AI capabilities across its hardware products and making it accessible through open, multi-architecture software solutions. He also highlighted how AI is helping to drive the "Siliconomy," a "growing economy enabled by the magic of silicon and software." Today, silicon feeds a \$574 billion industry that in turn powers a global tech economy worth almost \$8 trillion.

The work begins with silicon innovation. Intel's five-nodes-in-four-years process development program is progressing well, Gelsinger said, with Intel 7 already in high-volume manufacturing, Intel 4 manufacturing-ready and Intel 3 on track for the end of this year.

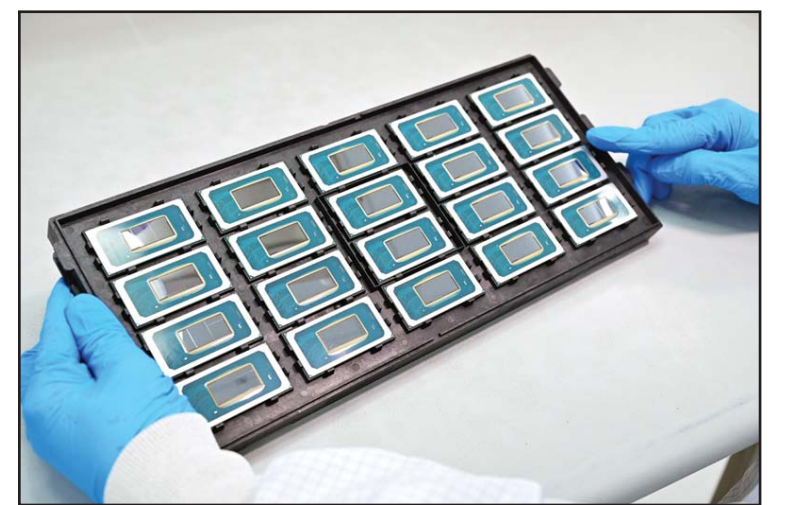
Gelsinger also showed an Intel 20A wafer with the first test chips for Intel's Arrow Lake processor, which is destined for the client computing market in 2024. Intel 20A will be the first process node to include PowerVia, Intel's backside power delivery technology, and the new gate-all-around transistor design called RibbonFET. Intel 18A, which also leverages PowerVia and RibbonFET, remains on track to be manufacturing-ready in the second half of 2024.

**Breakthrough**

Another way Intel presses Moore's Law forward is with new materials and new packaging technologies, like glass substrates - a breakthrough Intel announced this week. When introduced later this decade, glass substrates will allow for continued scaling of transistors on a package to help meet the need for data-intensive, high-performance workloads like AI and will keep Moore's Law going well beyond 2030.

Intel also displayed a test chip package built with Universal Chiplet Interconnect Express (UCIe). The next wave of Moore's Law will arrive with multi-chiplet packages, Gelsinger said, coming sooner if open standards can reduce the friction of integrating IP. Formed last year, the UCIe standard will allow chiplets from different vendors to work together, enabling new designs for the expansion of diverse AI workloads. The open specification is supported by more than 120 companies.

The test chip combined an Intel UCIe IP chiplet fabricated on Intel 3 and a Synopsys UCIe IP chiplet fabricated on TSMC N3E process node. The chiplets are connected using embedded multi-die interconnect bridge (EMIB) advanced packaging technol-



A photo shows a tray of Intel Core Ultra processors being assembled at Intel's advanced packaging facilities in Penang, Malaysia. The Intel Core Ultra processor, code-named Meteor Lake, is the first client processor manufactured on the new Intel 4 process node using its 3D high-performance hybrid architecture, and the first client tile-based design enabled by Foveros packaging technology and features CPU, GPU and NPU.

**Avaya to showcase groundbreaking AI innovations at GITEK Global 2023**

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Sept 20: Avaya, a global leader in customer experience solutions, has announced its participation at the 2023 edition of GITEK Global, where the company will illustrate how organizations can choose their own journey to delivering AI-powered customer experiences.

Avaya's major presence at GITEK Global will showcase a range of vertical-specific use cases that highlight the power of artificial intelligence (AI) in delivering outstanding experiences across the customer journey.

Throughout the week of the event, Avaya will demonstrate solutions that harness AI to reimagine the way customer and employee experiences are delivered. The solutions on display will also show how organizations can chart their own path to delivering these AI-enhanced experiences without disrupting existing operations.

"No two words capture the current business zeitgeist better than 'artificial intelligence'. The capabilities being delivered by AI are super-charging organizations' ability to innovate with their customer experiences. As we're showing at GITEK, Avaya supports its global customers as they seek to bring these innovations, on a large scale, into their contact centers," said Nidal

ogy. The demonstration highlights the commitment of TSMC, Synopsys and Intel Foundry Services to support an open standard-based chiplet ecosystem with UCIe.

Gelsinger spotlighted the range of AI technology available to developers across Intel platforms today - and how that range will dramatically increase over the coming year.

Recent MLPerf AI inference performance results further reinforce Intel's commitment to addressing every phase of the AI continuum, including the largest, most challenging generative AI and large language models. The results also spotlight the Intel Gaudi2

Abou-Ltaif, Senior Vice President - Global Head of Sales, Avaya, and President, Avaya International. "As our global customers look to generative AI technologies, they are seeking a trusted partner to bring it all together without disrupting existing operations. Avaya plays that role both as the contact center incumbent and competitor."

At GITEK Global 2023, Avaya will showcase how organizations - both public and private - can empower their teams with advanced AI tools to better serve customers, as well as empower customers to create their own preferred journeys across multiple touchpoints. The solutions, demonstrated through real-world scenarios, will also reveal how existing investments can be expanded with new capabilities to deliver an even better experience.

The use cases Avaya will demonstrate at GITEK include:

Avaya will host a number of their global technology partners and customers at GITEK, highlighting the breadth and depth of its ecosystem to elevate employee and customer experiences with AI. Avaya's presence at GITEK Global comes in partnership with Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise, Imperium Software Technologies, Sestek among others.

accelerator as the only viable alternative on the market for AI compute needs. Gelsinger announced a large AI supercomputer will be built entirely on Intel Xeon processors and 4,000 Intel Gaudi2 AI hardware accelerators, with Stability AI as the anchor customer.

Zhou Jingren, chief technology officer of Alibaba Cloud, explained how Alibaba applies 4th Gen Intel® Xeon® processors with built-in AI acceleration to "our generative AI and large language model, Alibaba Cloud's Tongyi Foundation Models." Intel's technology, he said, results in "remarkable improvements in response times, averaging a 3x acceleration."

**Moon Surgical secures CE Mark for commercial Maestro System**

Moon Surgical, a French-American pioneer in collaborative robotics, has announced that the latest version of its Maestro System is CE Marked under the Medical Device Regulation (EU) 2017/745.

- In addition to its scalability and refined aesthetics, this updated Maestro boasts several improvements over its predecessor, such as:
- Automated set-up with bedside guidance, and tailored surgeon configurations
- Cloud connectivity for a more integrated Maestro OR and ecosystem experience
- Surgeon guided hands-free scope control for

**optimized vision capabilities**

"This latest evolution of the Maestro System focuses on manufacturing scalability, together with increased capability and has simplified both usability and training," said Anne Osdot, CEO of Moon Surgical, and a Partner at Sofinnova Partners. "It seamlessly integrates into OR workflows while giving surgeons more confidence and delivering an improved surgical experience."

With its new category of robotic surgery, Moon Surgical aims not only to broaden the scale at which robotics are used but also to improve the

quality of care for patients and the bottom line for healthcare providers. The Maestro System is designed to provide an accessible and enhanced version of traditional laparoscopy to over 18 million patients undergoing soft tissue procedures annually who currently lack the benefits of robotic surgical platforms.

The initial version of the Maestro System obtained its CE Mark earlier this April.

Moon Surgical, based in Paris, France, and San Francisco, California, believes the future of the operating room lies in the hands of the empowered surgeon. (AP)



The latest version of the Maestro Surgical Robotics System by Moon Surgical, now also carries the CE Mark.

**Commission to showcase environmental regeneration projects at SER**

**AIUla a blueprint for rejuvenation of arid ecosystems: RCU**

SAUDI ARABIA, Sept 20: The Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) will showcase its extensive environmental regeneration projects at the upcoming Society for Ecological Restoration's 10th World Conference (SER2023) in Darwin, Australia. RCU's participation as a Premium Sponsor of the event will amplify its transformative efforts in AlUla, highlighting its emerging leadership role in the sustainable conservation of natural and cultural landscapes and the rejuvenation of arid, degraded ecosystems.

The importance of this year's event underscores the legacy of SER's World Conferences; serving as a meeting point for experts and scholars, SER events provide vital avenues for knowledge exchange on the latest trends in restoration science, practice, and policy. With the 10th World Conference marking its first in-person gathering since 2019, RCU's contribution to AIUla's comprehensive regeneration will be a major highlight of the event, held from 26 to 30 September 2023.

As the custodian of AIUla, a region with a unique ecological footprint, RCU is spearheading responsible and sustainable development at a pivotal moment for global biodiversity. It has established more than 11,000 sq. km of protected areas, totalling more than 50% of land in AIUla County, and launched impressive nursery operations that prioritise native flora, such as peregrina and acacia. By 2035, RCU plans to deliver the ecological restoration of at least 65,000 hectares.

**Efforts**

Within AIUla's Sharaan Nature Reserve, which covers an area of 1,200 sq km, a 100-hectare restoration pilot site has become a hallmark of RCU's ecological restoration strategy. By taking an approach that harnesses natural regeneration, RCU has successfully integrated more than 100,000 native seedlings into the wild with an extraordinary 90% survival rate, a remarkable feat in such a harsh climate. As it plans to introduce 400,000 more seedlings by 2024, RCU continues its drive to expand green areas, leading the conversation around best practices in eco-restoration.

"Restoration efforts in the desert landscapes of AIUla are shining examples of how determined action

can yield concrete change," said Dr Stephen Browne, Vice President of Wildlife and Natural Heritage at RCU. "RCU's achievements, such as reintroducing native animal species to their natural habitat and rejuvenating native flora, offer the world a message of hope, resilience, and collaboration. Our sponsorship and participation at SER2023 is not only about highlighting our milestones; it is about setting international benchmarks for others to follow."

Beyond its tangible ecological impact, RCU's work emphasises a broader narrative that links nature and culture. A recent RCU study found native flora species are flourishing in 'conservation islands' at the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Hegra, drawing a vivid picture of nature's resilience. RCU envisions AIUla as a blueprint for the protection and rejuvenation of arid ecosystems.

**Goals**

Deep-rooted community involvement is also fundamental to RCU's ecological restoration goals, with 154 Rangers from the AIUla community having been trained and deployed to work across AIUla's network of nature reserves. By entrusting the land's guardianship to those who hold it dear and connecting local wisdom with modern practices, RCU is helping to shape international best practices for protected area management.

Aligning its on-ground efforts with global ambitions, RCU has strengthened its work through strategic partnerships. Its association with entities like the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) underscores its commitment to collaboration. This accentuates RCU's growing prominence in the eco-restoration field and conveys a clear message to the world: restoration is a collective mission, and every initiative is vital to saving our environment.

SER2023 will allow RCU to communicate its overarching agenda of positioning AIUla as a pioneering model for eco-restoration. With achievements ranging from creating expansive protected areas to the detailed conservation of arid ecosystems, RCU stands not just as a participant, but as a leader setting a gold standard for sustainable environmental stewardship worldwide.

**Ropeginterferon alfa-2b effective 1st-line treatment for PV patients**

VIENNA, Sept 20: AOP Orphan Pharmaceuticals GmbH (AOP Health) announced the publication of final results on the recently developed interferon therapy, ropeginterferon alfa-2b, in patients with polycythemia vera (PV) in the prestigious journal *Leukemia*. The full publication expands on results presented at the Annual Meeting of the European Hematology Association. Results of long-term treatment in the CONTINUATION-PV study provide further evidence of the disease modifying capacity of ropeginterferon alfa-2b in PV.

"AOP Health has invested in a comprehensive clinical research program for ropeginterferon alfa-2b in PV, which has led to the approval by the health authorities in several countries. We are very proud that our scientific work has contributed to addressing the questions that are important to patients", says Dr. Rudolf Widman, Founder and Board Member of the AOP Health Group.

Professor Heinz Gisslinger from the Medical University of Vienna, the first author of the paper, adds: "Ropeginterferon alfa-2b is already established as an effective first-line treatment for patients with PV. These new results suggest that its potential should be considered when evaluating treatment options."

**Stabilization**

Ropeginterferon alfa-2b is a long-acting, mono-pegylated proline interferon (ATC L03AB15). It is administered once every 2 weeks initially, or up to monthly following stabilization of hematological parameters.

AOP Health's pivotal clinical development program for ropeginterferon alfa-2b includes the studies PEGIN-VERA, PROUD-PV and CONTINUATION-PV. The latter is an open-label, multicenter, phase IIIB study assessing the long-term efficacy and safety of ropeginterferon alfa-2b versus hydroxyurea (HU) or best available treatment (BAT) in patients with high-risk or low-risk PV who previously participated in the randomized, controlled PROUD-PV study.

Clinical research conducted by AOP Health in Europe since 2010 has led to marketing authorization of BESRE-Mi® for the treatment of PV, first granted by the European Commission in 2019, and thereafter by Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Israel, Bahrain, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and the USA.

Polycythemia Vera (PV) is a rare cancer of the blood-building stem cells in the bone marrow resulting in a chronic increase of red blood cells,

EC approves Inaqovi for acute myeloid leukaemia

**ChoiceSpine earns FDA nod for device**

**Blackhawk Ti 3D Cervical Spacer System helps reduce surgery time**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn, Sept 20: ChoiceSpine LLC, a privately held spinal device company held by Altus Capital Partners in Knoxville, TN, has announced that it has received clearance from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market the Blackhawk® Ti 3D Printed Cervical Spacer System with standalone clearance. Blackhawk® Ti utilizes preassembled anchor technology with a proven cam-locking mechanism. Featuring BioBond® 3D Printed Titanium porous structure, Blackhawk® Ti is available in two anatomical footprints with significant room for graft material and large lateral windows for enhanced visual confirmation.

The expanded indication of the Blackhawk® Ti Standalone Cervical Spacer System to a preexisting lineup of world-class ChoiceSpine solutions comes with great industry enthusiasm. Recognized for providing excellent products to improve people's lives through a positive customer experience, the company promotes product features unique to the industry. ChoiceSpine is eager to release the Blackhawk® Ti Standalone Cervical Spacer

System with expanded indications into the market.

"The Blackhawk® Ti Standalone Cervical Spacer System provides excellent intra and post-operative results for our patients requiring the anterior cervical approach," said Dr. Anders Cohen, DO, Lead Design Surgeon. "The wide variety of implant footprints and profiles allows for restoration of disc height and optimal sagittal balancing. Furthermore, what sets the Blackhawk® Ti apart from others is the simplicity of the implant design with its integrated bone anchors and instrumentation that help reduce surgery time by decreasing the number of steps in the procedure."

**Progression**

"The expanded indication of the Blackhawk® Ti Standalone Cervical Spacer System is the natural progression for the product platform," states Steve Ainsworth, PhD, ChoiceSpine's Executive Vice President of Strategy and Technology. "Blackhawk® Ti is the first to market a 3D printed system that utilizes preassembled integrated anchor technology. Blackhawk® Ti is

just one of ChoiceSpine's numerous 3D printed titanium fusion solutions. This standalone clearance is an excellent example of how ChoiceSpine brings technically superior spinal devices to the market and does Spine the Right Way."

The Blackhawk® Ti Standalone Cervical Spacer System includes:

- ChoiceSpine's proprietary 3D printed BioBond® technology
- Preassembled integrated anchor technology
- Large open space for bone graft containment & maximum visualization
- 6° lordotic and convex profile configurations available
- Simultaneous, single-step anchor deployment
- External locking indication for easy confirmation

ChoiceSpine offers a variety of surgeon-focused product lines designed to be safe, efficient, and easy to use. By focusing on a collaborative team approach with physicians and industry partners, ChoiceSpine continues to deliver upon product commitments, maintain cutting-edge research and development, and bring technically superior products to the forefront of the spinal implant industry.

white blood cells and platelets. This condition increases the risk for circulatory disorders such as thrombosis and embolism, its symptoms lead to a reduced quality of life and on the long run may progress to myelofibrosis or transform to leukemia. While the molecular mechanism underlying PV is still subject of intense research, current results point to blood-building stem cells in the bone marrow with a set of acquired mutations, the most important being a mutant form of JAK2 that make up the malignant clone.

Important PV treatment goals are to achieve healthy blood counts (hematocrit below 45%), improve quality of life and to slow or delay the progression of disease.

Osuka Pharmaceutical Europe Ltd. (Osuka) and Astex Pharmaceuticals,

Inc. (Astex) have announced that the European Commission (EC) has approved INAQOVI® (oral decitabine and cedazuridine) as monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) who are ineligible for standard induction chemotherapy. The EC decision applies to the European Economic Area (EEA), which includes the EU member states, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. INAQOVI® is the first and only oral hypomethylating agent licensed in the EEA in this patient population.

The EC approval is based on the results from the Phase 3 ASCERTAIN clinical trial investigating the pharmacokinetic exposure equivalence of the novel oral fixed-dose combination versus intravenous (IV) decitabine in AML patients. The ASCERTAIN study met its primary endpoint, with the orally administered

decitabine and cedazuridine fixed-dose combination showing pharmacokinetic exposure equivalence to a standard 5-day regimen of IV decitabine using a two-cycle, cross-over study design. Safety findings for the fixed-dose combination of decitabine and cedazuridine were generally consistent with those anticipated for IV decitabine.

The current treatment options for adults with AML range from hospital-administered IV chemotherapy infusions or, for those patients not eligible for chemotherapy, regimens based on parenterally administered hypomethylating agents, with treatment cycles typically extending for 5-7 days. Fatigue can significantly restrict daily activities and impact a patient's quality of life. INAQOVI® may provide both patients and physicians with an oral treatment option in this patient population.



Ecological Restoration in Sharaan Nature Reserve

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

Mahboula Khaitan Fahaheel Mirqab

Health is our Priority

RADIOLOGIST

Dr. ANAS N

MBBS, MD  
FAHAHEEL

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Dr. HEBA SABRI BEDEER

MBBS, MD  
MAHBOULA

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Dr. AMR AHMED OMAR

MBBS, MS  
KHAITAN

INTERNAL MEDICINE

DR. VENKATESWARLU SEETA

MBBS, MD  
FAHAHEEL

[www.cityclinicwt.com](http://www.cityclinicwt.com) | [cityclinicwt.com](http://cityclinicwt.com) FOR APPOINTMENT

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR INSURANCE HOME COLLECTION AVAILABLE 188 00 20

SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE

DENTAL & COSMETIC DEPARTMENT

Dr. Shajahan V.M

BDS, MDS  
Dental Surgeon

Dr. Ayham Askar

BDS  
Dental Surgeon

Dr. Raina Fernandes

BDS  
Dental Surgeon

- ◆ SCALING & GUM TREATMENT
- ◆ COSMETIC SMILE RECONSTRUCTION
- ◆ GUM & ORAL SURGERY
- ◆ BAD BREATH TREATMENT
- ◆ SURGICAL TREATMENT
- ◆ ROOT CANAL TREATMENT
- ◆ COSMETIC FILLING
- ◆ FIXED & REMOVABLE DENTURES
- ◆ CROWN TREATMENT
- ◆ SIMPLE & SURGICAL EXTRACTION

Working Time: From 9am to 1pm & 5pm to 9pm

Ph: 24 734 000

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya

[www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw](http://www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw)

**'Back to the Future' star to use fund for Parkinson's disease treatments**

# Michael J. Fox receives 2023 Elevate Prize Catalyst Award at CGI

NEW YORK, Sept 20, (AP) Actor and philanthropist Michael J. Fox won this year's Elevate Prize Catalyst Award, which the "Back to the Future" star plans to use to further his foundation's work to find treatments for Parkinson's disease.

Fox, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease at the age of 29 in 1991, received the award at the Clinton Global Initiative, or CGI, conference on Tuesday in New York. The annual prize, which went to Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai last year, includes \$250,000 from the Elevate Prize Foundation and support to amplify the winner's messaging.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who interviewed Fox onstage at CGI, credited him with research advances in understanding Parkinson's. "I don't think this work would have made the progress it has if Michael hadn't been so open," she said.

Fox said that once he got support from his family after his diagnosis, he did not hesitate about going public with his diagnosis.

"There's such shame associated with this illness," Fox said. "It's so ridiculous, this great need to keep it secret. The cruel thing of it is it's going to out you eventually."

However, he said there is no choice but to "keep trying to move the ball forward - whether it's world peace, climate change or this

disease."

Former President Bill Clinton said he was "awestruck" by Fox. "I've known Michael J. Fox for a long time, and he looks better every time I see him," he said. "He is a brave, good man."

Joseph Deitch, founder of The Elevate Prize Foundation, called Fox "a lightning rod for good," as he presented him with the award.

"He is an icon," Elevate Prize Foundation CEO Carolina Garcia Jayaram told The Associated Press in an interview. "He was able to use the power of his story to introduce to so many people what this disease was and make us care about it."

## Research

Garcia Jayaram said Fox embodies this year's CGI theme of "Keep Going" and was "the perfect person at the perfect time" as the more than \$2 billion Fox's foundation has raised for research since it launched in 2000 has made a major difference in the understanding of the disease.

"I just can't think of a better person to inspire us all to face our challenges with that much stamina and honesty and vulnerability," Garcia Jayaram said. "It's scary to be that vulnerable and share something so personal to you and your family -- especially in his

case when his job was to be a public figure. He did it anyway. Nothing will stop him."

Deborah Brooks, co-founder and CEO of the Michael J. Fox Foundation, said the award comes at an important time for the nonprofit. In April, a biomarker for Parkinson's disease was identified for the first time, a "seismic shift" that will help improve chances for creating treatments and tests that can detect the disease in living patients.

"We're excited that this kind of recognition allows him to help us continue to keep moving at what feels somewhat like a warp pace in terms of driving progress on some of the most exciting things going on in neuroscience right now," Brooks said.

New developments will require hundreds of millions, if not billions, of research dollars, as well as more volunteers for testing, Brooks said. However, Fox plans to use the award to increase his profile, as well as raise awareness about how people can help.

"Patients and families want to be part of the solution they are looking for," said Brooks, adding that the foundation created the Fox Trial Finder, which helps connect patients to potential testing programs. "Often they have no idea how that manifests, and so it's always been a part of our message."

Philanthropy

## Variety



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Cillian Murphy in a scene from 'Oppenheimer.' (AP)

## Film

Nolan's films always challenge audiences

# 'Oppenheimer' \$900m+ haul uplifts Hollywood

LOS ANGELES, Sept 20, (AP) Hopes were always high for Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer." The studio knew the film was great, and commercial. But no one in the industry expected that a long, talky, R-rated drama released at the height of the summer movie season would earn over \$900 million at the box office.

After an early screening, "Dune" filmmaker Denis Villeneuve said he knew he'd just seen "a masterpiece." He even remembered saying that it would be a big success.

"But where it is right now has blown the roof off of my projection," Villeneuve told The Associated Press. "It's a three-hour movie about people talking about nuclear physics."

As of Monday, "Oppenheimer's" global total was nearly \$913 million, making it Nolan's third highest grossing film, trailing only the "Dark Knight" sequels. It's also the third biggest film of the year behind "Barbie" and "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" and the most successful biopic ever, surpassing "Bohemian Rhapsody." It's a staggering sum that has been driven by audiences of all ages and an enthusiasm for film and large format screenings.

"When you make a film, you hope that you're going to connect with an audience in some form or another," "Oppenheimer" producer Emma Thomas told the AP. "But, particularly with a three-hour film that has a serious subject and is challenging in many ways, this sort of success is beyond our wildest imaginings."

Even after nine weeks in theaters, 11 of the 25 screens capable of projecting the coveted IMAX 70mm prints (Nolan's preferred format) continued to play the film on some of the busiest screens, like the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles and the AMC Lincoln Square in New York.

"The reason we're still in those theaters is because the audience is demanding it," Thomas said. "This is not something that we can impose - I wish we could, but it's genuine."

Thomas, who is married to Nolan, has produced all of his films going back to his short "Doodlebug." From "Memento" and "The Prestige" to "Inception," "Interstellar" and "Dunkirk," their original films have often defied conventional box-office logic. With "Oppenheimer," they felt good about what they'd made but also know that the marketplace, and box-office tracking, has been a little unpredictable since the pandemic.

Chris has always made films that challenge audiences," Thomas said. "He has faith in his audiences and, generally, they've met him where he is."

Their "pipe dream," she said, was that it would beat "Dunkirk's" opening weekend. Instead, it nearly doubled it. Now, "Oppenheimer" has many in the industry looking at the Universal Pictures release as a gratifying affirmation that projection and format aren't just the domain of a few. Mass audiences are interested too.

"When a filmmaker as strong as Chris is pointing a finger at you and telling you where to go...you listen...and audiences have been rewarded for it," filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson wrote in an email. "I know some film buffs who drove from El Paso to Dallas to see the film properly. That's about 18 hours round trip."

## Operation

Twenty-four of the 25 top earning theaters showing "Oppenheimer" played it in IMAX 70mm or 70mm. Domestically, the 25 IMAX 70mm screens have grossed some \$20 million; standard 70mm locations accounted for over \$14 million. And this a decade after production of Kodak motion picture film stock nearly ceased.

"I don't think there's anyone who could disagree - seeing 'Oppenheimer' on film is superior in every single way," Anderson said. "Not to mention, people are tired of asking, 'Why would I go to a movie theater to watch TV?' Good question...you don't have to anymore."

Theaters rallied around "Oppenheimer" from the beginning. The historic TCL Chinese Theatre even brought a film projector back into operation and built a custom booth. It was an effort that was richly rewarded: "Oppenheimer" is the highest grossing film in its 97-year history with \$2.3 million and counting, passing the previous record holder, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," which grossed \$1.5 billion in 15 weeks, after just four.

The highest grossing theater overall, though, is AMC

Lincoln Square, where every IMAX 70mm showing was sold out for over four weeks. Both locations are among the 10 that will continue to present the film in IMAX 70mm in its 10th weekend. By contrast, "Dunkirk" finished its IMAX 70mm run in week eight.

What to make of theaters projecting movies on film often outgrossing the digital projection?

"I would call this nature's way of healing," Anderson said.

Nolan, and other influential film enthusiasts like Anderson, Martin Scorsese and Quentin Tarantino have been beating the drum for celluloid for years, but Thomas said it feels like, "This is a moment where everyone else is sort of catching that bug."

"Chris has always talked a lot about the formats and wanting people to see the best version possible, as far as the way that he intended the film to be seen... Now I'm hearing that there are other studios who are interested in putting their films out on those film screens," she said. "It's not that we think that film is the only way. Every every project is different and requires a different toolkit. We've always just wanted filmmakers to have that option."

And it's not exclusively film that's succeeding either. IMAX overall has seen some of its biggest profits ever from "Oppenheimer," with over \$179 million globally.

"The future of cinema is IMAX and the large formats," Villeneuve said. "The audience wants to see something that they cannot have at home, that they cannot have on streaming. They want to experience an event."

About a month into "Oppenheimer's" run, Thomas took her kids to see a matinee of "Theater Camp" and peeked into the auditorium where their movie was playing "just to see how it was doing."

"It was packed, like it was 7pm, Friday night, opening weekend," she said. "But what was fantastic was seeing the broad range of people in that screening. It was younger people, it was older people. That excitement in theaters is why we make movies."

Thomas has found it especially gratifying that the film has reached younger audiences and teenagers, whom she was told time and time again don't have the attention span for a film like "Oppenheimer."

# Features

## ARABIC TIMES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

NEW YORK: Rihanna and ASAP Rocky are giving the world the first look at their second child together, a boy they've named Riot Rose.

The 35-year-old pop star and the 34-year-old rap star dropped photos Tuesday of their family of four, including their second son, who was born Aug. 1, according to People and other reports.

The couple's first child, RZA, was born in May 2022.

Rihanna made her pregnancy public after her performance at February's Super Bowl halftime show, when the bump that was visible in the tight clothes she wore under her baggy red jumpsuit set off a wave of social media speculation.

The couple used the same street photographer, Diggy, to shoot their new family snaps. In one, they're leaning against a car with their kids. In another, ASAP balances their oldest on his shoulders. Others show Rihanna smiling for the camera with one of her children in her arms.

Diggy shot photos of the two in New York when they formally revealed their first pregnancy.

A nine-time Grammy Award winner, Rihanna has 14 No. 1 Billboard Hot 100 hits, including "We Found Love," "Work," "Umbrella" and "Disturbia."

ASAP Rocky began his career in 2011 with the hip-hop collective ASAP Mob and released his first studio album, Live Love, ASAP, in 2013, when it debuted at No. 1. He's been nominated for two Grammys.

The couple publicly revealed their relationship in 2020. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Bijou Phillips has filed for divorce from Danny Masterson, days after the former "That '70s Show" star was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison for two rape convictions.

Phillips, a 43-year-old actor, filed a petition in Santa Barbara Superior Court on Monday to end her nearly 12-year marriage to the 47-year-old Masterson, according to the court's website. The couple has a 9-year-old daughter. No further details were immediately available.

An attorney for Phillips did not respond to emails, and a representative for Masterson declined comment. Masterson maintains his

innocence and his attorneys have said they plan to appeal, contending there were problems with evidence and constitutional issues with his conviction.

Phillips sat with other Masterson family members in court throughout two long trials, the first of which ended in a mistrial, the second of which ended in a



Rihanna



Phillips

conviction on two of three rape counts from 2003.

She wept when in court when the guilty verdicts were read on May 31, and showed similar emotion at times during his Sept 7 sentencing hearing, when a judge gave Masterson a prison term that will require him to be held for 25 1/2 years before he is eligible for

parole.

In a letter to the judge prior to Masterson's sentencing, Phillips praised him as a husband and father.

"I can say that Danny has literally been a life-saving partner to me," Phillips wrote, an apparent reference to Masterson's care for her and their daughter after Phillips

had a kidney transplant in 2017.

The letter, which was heavily redacted before becoming public after the sentencing, said she and Masterson bought a farm that he turned into a vineyard in rural Santa Barbara County after the revelation of the police investigation led to his losing all his acting work. (AP)

People & Places

Fashion

'We don't give up'

Ukrainian fashion thrives amidst war

LONDON, Sept 20, (AP): For Ksenia Schnaider and her fellow Ukrainian fashion designers, the show must go on despite the war in their country - or precisely because of it.

For much of the past year, Schnaider and her team of seamstresses toiled away in their Kyiv studio, crafting her new collection of designer denim and luxury daywear even as air raid sirens, drone attacks and power cuts took over their lives and made production almost impossible to continue.

Schnaider, 39, fled Ukraine with her husband and young daughter when Russia invaded her country in 2022. They found a temporary home with a British family in a peaceful corner of southern England. But she hasn't put down the fashion business she founded 12 years ago, and continues to divide her time between the UK and Kyiv, where all her garments are still being made against the odds.

"My team needs this sense of normality - they told me they want to go to work and have something to do, to support each other, rather than staying home hiding," she added. "We want to show the world we don't give up."

On Tuesday she and two other Ukrainian fashion designers showcased their latest creations in a joint catwalk show at London Fashion Week, which is adopting Ukraine Fashion Week for the second time this year as the war drags on and Ukraine's fashion industry has nowhere to call home.

At the finale, they took their bows wearing a Ukrainian flag signed by soldiers from three different military units. Some of those men have died since signing the flags, she said.

It's a poignant moment that the designer both looked forward to and dreaded because it's so emotionally overwhelming.

"It's very hard ... but of course, it is important to show our unity. We're not competitors anymore, we're all united in working for our victory," she said.

Since the start of the war, more than 60 Ukrainian fashion brands have showcased their wares in cities including London and New York to "create, in contrast to the destruction brought by Russian aggression," according to Iryna Danyilevska, the founder and head of Ukrainian Fashion Week.

"Ukraine continues to live. Ukraine breathes, fights and creates," reads a note found on every seat at Tuesday's catwalk display. "Our London Fashion Week runway show is another chance to speak to the world about the value of freedom and the price that must be paid for it."

Schnaider, who has dressed celebrities including Dua Lipa, wonders how they keep going. "But for me, it's important to keep producing in Ukraine, to support its people, its economy."

The catwalk may seem a million miles from the battlefield, but fashion is just one of many facets of a huge national effort to keep the world talking about Ukraine and raise funds and awareness for what its people are going through.

Another Ukrainian designer, Ivan Frolov, brought the flag of United24, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's official fundraising platform, to his fashion show in London's swanky Bulgari Hotel on Saturday.

Frolov, who has shot up in prominence after Beyoncé chose his theatrical designs for her recent "Renaissance" tour and her Dubai concert, knows the power of a celebrity fashion moment and how that could help Ukraine's cause.

"For me, fashion is not only about the clothes - it's like a very powerful media platform that can sometimes spread messages better than any other industry," said Frolov, 29.

For his latest show, black and white footage of old-time Ukrainian singers and historic video of Kyiv in bloom in the summer served as a backdrop for a collection of barely-there dresses, lavish silk and lace gowns and corsets encrusted with crystals.

Vision

Frolov acknowledged the seeming incongruity between his romantic vision and the war ravaging his country.

"It's a big challenge, to continue to do my work in the same moment when our soldiers are dying every day on the front line," he said.

"We cry every day, and we continue to sew evening gowns for celebrities and for our clients. Of course we are waiting for victory for Ukraine, when we can wear these gowns," he added. "But right now this is the only way we can show how strong we are. Ukraine is a young and beautiful country with big talents."

To bring home just how challenging the conditions have been for producing her clothes, Schnaider has attached special labels to every finished piece. Her customers can scan the label with their mobile phones to hear an air raid siren sound.

When war broke out Schnaider had a team of about 50. About 20 remain, some staffing her central Kyiv shop, others packaging, producing and shipping her garments to customers. When the sirens blast, her team puts down their tools and runs for shelter. Work would be interrupted for hours, or for the whole day.

Last winter was especially tough when electricity would be cut to just two hours per day, she said. She and her colleagues would try to cram all the work and daily tasks into those precious hours, before going home to "sit in the cold and in complete darkness."

"It was very depressing, but we kept going, and we were joking it was the best time management," she said.

Other workers and small businesses in Kyiv are as determined as she is to keep normalcy going, she said.

"In the coffee shops, the mornings after the drone attacks, everyone would say 'let's drink more coffee' and swear at Russia," Schnaider said. "They are all like 'let's do it, let's get back to work.'"



Zelenskyy

port each other, rather than staying home hiding," she added. "We want to show the world we don't give up."



This image released by the Metropolitan Opera shows Ryan McKinny as Joseph De Rocher, (left), and Joyce DiDonato as Sister Helen Prejean in Jake Heggie's 'Dead Man Walking,' which opens the Metropolitan Opera season on Sept. 26. (AP)

Stage

Third of performances spotlight cutting-edge works

Met opera embraces modernity

NEW YORK, Sept 20, (AP): Jake Heggie recalls that after "Dead Man Walking" premiered in San Francisco in 2000, his first opera was quickly taken up by other companies, but there was "not even a whisper of possibility" that the Metropolitan Opera might be interested.

When Anthony Davis' first opera, "X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X," was staged at New York City Opera in 1986 it was such a hit he says "audiences were around the block waiting to get in." Yet it was ignored by the larger company right next door at Lincoln Center.

And Peter Gelb, the Met's general manager, met with Daniel Catán before the Mexican composer's death in 2011 to discuss staging his "Florencia en el Amazonas," which had premiered at Houston Grand Opera in 1996. But he couldn't find an established Met star willing to take on the title role.

What a difference a few years make. This fall the Met is presenting all three works as part of a season unparalleled in its recent history. Aiming to rebuild its audience from post-pandemic lows by attracting younger and more diverse ticket-buyers, the company is devoting fully one-third of 18 staged productions to contemporary works.

So "Dead Man," "X" and "Florencia" will play in repertory alongside classics like Puccini's "La Bohème," Verdi's "Nabucco" and "Un Ballo in Maschera" and Wagner's "Tannhäuser."

And in the spring, three more recent works will be on the schedule: Revivals of Terence Blanchard's "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" and Kevin Puts' "The Hours" - both big hits in their premiere seasons - and John Adams's "El Niño," an opera-oratorio receiving a full staging.

"For a long time in the 20th century it was about producing old works and then updating them with new productions," Heggie said. "That can only go so far. If you're going to make news,

you have to have something fresh and new. I think companies have recognized that you can be surprising presenting an opera."

Indeed, it has surprised the composer himself that the Met chose to open its season on Sept. 26 with "Dead Man Walking," starring mezzo Joyce DiDonato as Sister Helen Prejean, whose book about counseling inmates on Death Row also inspired a film.

Although the piece is 23 years old and has seen more than 75 productions worldwide, Heggie said that "hopefully and sadly it will resonate with Met audiences because of its subject."

And he's excited iconoclastic director Ivo van Hove is staging the production. "He's going to do something very bold with it that no one else has thought of," Heggie said. "That's the proof of a piece that can stand the test of time."

Davis, who like Heggie has gone on to write numerous other operas - including the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Central Park Five" - thinks the fact that "X" was "ahead of its time in the political issues" may account for why it has only recently been revived.

Commitment

When Yuval Sharon, artistic director of the Detroit Opera, wanted to do a new production in 2022, he found several other companies eager to sign on as co-producers, including the Met. The title role in New York will be portrayed by baritone Will Liverman, who starred in "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" when it opened the 2021-22 season and became the first opera in Met history by a Black composer.

Davis said he's content to be following in Blanchard's footsteps in that respect. "I'm the Larry Doby of opera," he joked, referring to the baseball player who was the second Black man after Jackie Robinson to break the major league color barrier.

"There's a new commitment toward the fact that African American composers have been ignored," he said.

"And there's a new interest in subject matter that relates to where we are and who we are as a people."

Gelb says star singers are increasingly eager to be part of such projects. "When I came to the Met in 2006 I was determined to bring new works," he said, "but the process began somewhat slowly because the audience was much more conservative and also the leading artists were less willing to be featured in them."

"Today everything is different," he added. "Artists understand that new work is key to the future of opera."

His experience with "Florencia" - which will be the first Spanish-language opera at the Met in nearly a century - is telling.

Back then he said he couldn't find an established Met star to take on the title role, that of an opera singer journeying down the Amazon in search of a lost lover.

"But today any number would clamor to do it," he said. "When I offered it to Ailyn Perez she practically jumped up and down in joy."

This season's lineup is just a taste of what's to come. Gelb and music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin said the Met plans to continue presenting recent operas that have had success elsewhere, while also commissioning brand new operas from talented composers. One such commission will open the 2024-25 season: "Grounded," with music by Jeanine Tesori and a libretto adapted by George Brant from his own play. It will have its world premiere in Washington this fall.

The stakes could not be higher for the company, which is facing serious financial challenges. This year's 18 staged productions is the lowest number in more than a century, and the total number of performances has been cut as well.

Marc Scorcia, president and CEO of Opera America, noted that the Met is benefiting from the vision and risk-taking of other opera companies that mounted these operas originally.



Elena Reva wears a Ukrainian Flag backstage on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023 in London. For Ksenia Schnaider and other Ukrainian designers, the fashion show must go on, despite the war in their country or precisely because of it. Schnaider may have fled to the UK as a refugee, but her team still makes every garment in Kiev, often under incessant air raid sirens and lengthy power cuts. (AP)



Madonna



Shakira

Variety

**CHICAGO:** The Chicago Symphony Orchestra and members of the Chicago Federation of Musicians voted Tuesday to ratify a three-year labor contract that includes 3% annual salary raises.

The deal was announced Sunday and replaces a five-year contract expiring this month. The orchestra said health care, insurance and retirement benefits will be retained. The CSO said the deal includes cost reductions, managerial efficiencies, increased revenue opportunities and improved working conditions.

CSO musicians struck for two days in September 2012 and for seven weeks in March and April 2019 before agreeing to a contract calling for a 13.25% wage increase over five years.

Music director emeritus for life Riccardo Muti will lead the CSO season-opening concert Sept. 21 at Orchestra Hall and take the orchestra to New York to open Carnegie Hall's season Oct. 4. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** Édgar Barrera - the producer and songwriter known for his work with such artists as Madonna, Karol G, Peso Pluma, Shakira, Grupo Frontera and beyond - leads the 2023 Latin Grammy nominations with 13.

The Latin Recording Academy announced this year's nominees in a livestream Tuesday. Barrera is nominated for best pop song, record, album, songwriter, and producer of the year - and has two nominations in the song of the year category. He also has three noms apiece in the best tropical song and best regional song categories.

Just behind him are some of his collaborators, like Karol G, Shakira, and Camilo. They have seven nominations each, as does Keilyn Mauricio Cruz Moreno, the Colombian songwriter who works under the moniker Keityn.

Argentine record producer Bizarrap, known for his Bzrp Music Sessions, has six. Barrera and Moreno are also nominated

in the songwriter of the year category alongside Felipe González Abad, Manuel Lorente Freire, Horacio Palencia and Elena Rose. The songwriter of the year is first of three new categories, which also includes best singer-songwriter song and best

Portuguese-language urban performance." The 24th Annual Latin Grammy Awards will take place on Nov. 16 in Sevilla, Spain.

There are 11 nominees in the record of the year category, including Christina

Aguilera, Rosalía, Natalia Lafourcade, Maluma and Marc Anthony. Album of the year contains Pablo Alborán, Camilo, Karol G, Juanes and Carlos Vives.

Song of the year nominees includes Lasso's "Ojos Marrones", Grupo Frontera featuring Bad Bunny's "Un X100to," and Eslabon Armado and Peso Pluma's "Ella Baila Sola." Shakira holds three of the 10 nominations in the category: "Acros-tico," "TQG," Karol G and Shakira, and "Shakira: Bzrp Music Sessions, Vol. 53," Bizarrap featuring Shakira.

The nomination follows her performance and acceptance of the coveted Video Vanguard Award at the 2023 MTV VMAs held last week. (AP)



Actor Michael J. Fox, (right), speaks with Hillary Clinton during a panel at the Clinton Global Initiative, Tuesday, Sept. 19, in New York. (AP) — Details Page 11

**LONDON:** YouTube said Tuesday that Russell Brand will no longer make money from the video streaming site after several women made allegations of sexual assault against the comedian-turned-influencer.

The BBC removed some of Brand's material from its streaming archive, joining a growing list of organizations distancing themselves from the performer, who denies sexual assault and has not been charged with any criminal offenses.

YouTube said monetization of Brand's account, which has 6.6 million subscribers, has been suspended "following serious allegations against the creator." (AP)

**The Conversation**

**Natural threats everywhere**

**IN-CORE tech shaping disaster preparedness**

By John van de Lindt  
Colorado State University

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



Disasters can happen anywhere. Some places are more prone to hazards such as earthquakes, flooding and hurricanes, but there's nowhere where the risk is zero. The good news is that humans can make good decisions to lower the odds of such hazards turning into disasters. Technology can help determine where to make investments to save the most lives.

The terrible devastation caused by a 6.8 magnitude earthquake in Morocco on Sept. 8, 2023, is the result of the presence of centuries-old historic buildings and the continued use of old construction methods such as clay bricks and unreinforced masonry. These building materials are prevalent worldwide, particularly in developing countries.



Obama

His Majesty, Mohammed VI, is the King of Morocco.

Engineers like me tend to focus on tangible decisions related to how buildings are constructed - for example, the amount and location of steel reinforcement. Over the last several decades, I've conducted the world's largest shake table tests, placing a full-size apartment building on a platform that simulates seismic activity, and I've led teams of experts to investigate earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes and floods - but I've never become used to devastation like we are seeing in Morocco now.

As we are reminded by each disaster, mitigation is needed to make our homes, offices and schools safer and more resilient to earthquakes. Retrofitting buildings is expensive - and that cost represents a daunting challenge for developing nations like Morocco and Syria, as well as developed nations like Turkey - all three of which were devastated recently by major earthquakes.

And yet, I am optimistic because I know thousands of engineers around the world are working and collaborating to make earthquakes less deadly.

Before we can discuss how to make people safer in earthquakes, it helps to understand the forces at work during these destructive events.

**Damage**

The extent of the damage done by an earthquake is determined by several factors, including magnitude - or how much energy the earthquake releases from the fault - depth of the fault and how far the building is from the epicenter of the quake.

An epicenter is the location on the surface of the Earth above the fault. Essentially, it is ground zero for the quake, where shaking is most intense and buildings are more likely to collapse.

If the columns and walls of a multi-story building are not stiff and strong enough to resist the forces of an earthquake, gravity takes over. The building usually collapses at the bottom floor level, causing the stories above to follow. Anyone inside can be trapped or crushed by falling debris. Stopping this requires modern design codes, significant investment and enforcement of those design codes. There are always challenges - but that doesn't mean there haven't been some success stories.

Consider the city of San Francisco. More than a decade ago, this densely populated Northern California city realized it had thousands of apartment buildings with parking at the ground level. These are known as "soft-story" buildings and are more prone to collapse because they lack the strength and stiffness of reinforcing at the ground level. Many are likely to collapse in a moderate-to-major earthquake, while many more would require months to repair.

Through a self-study completed in 2010, San Francisco recognized that even if nobody was killed or injured in an earthquake, damage to these multi-unit residential buildings would result in a significant number of people losing their homes and leaving the city, changing the its character forever. In 2013, the city began a mandatory retrofit program. So far, more than 700 soft-story buildings have been retrofitted. Federal grants of up to US\$13,000 that became available in early 2023 are expected to accelerate this progress.

Los Angeles followed suit in 2015, passing a law that required retrofitting of both soft-story wood-framed and older concrete buildings prone to collapse. As of 2023, 69% of soft-story buildings in LA had been retrofitted. Progress on the concrete structures was slower but is moving ahead.

Retrofitting the larger multi-unit apartment buildings in San Francisco and LA costs between \$60,000 and \$130,000 - but the investment for a typical single-family home in the US starts as low as \$3,000.

Communities outside the US have also built back better after earthquakes.

In 2005, Kobe, Japan, was rocked by a major earthquake that resulted in more than 5,000 fatalities and \$200 billion in damage. As the city rebuilt, officials took the opportunity to improve their building code using updated strengthening and stiffening techniques.

Christchurch, New Zealand, was devastated in 2011 by two earthquakes that destroyed much of the downtown area. While many buildings didn't collapse - a sign that the building code worked to some degree - many were damaged beyond repair. Demolishing them presented an opportunity to focus on resilient construction.

So how can people and governments figure out where best to invest to decrease our exposure to natural hazards?

The center I co-direct brings together specialists from 14 universities to determine how to measure a community's resilience to natural hazards to enable them to plan for, absorb, and recover rapidly from hazards. A policy directive during the Obama administration resulted in funds being focused on improving resilience throughout the US.

**Resilience**

To improve resilience, we have to be able to quantify and measure it. To do this, we've developed a computer model called IN-CORE that communities can use to measure the short- and long-term effects of "what if" scenarios on their households, social institutions, physical infrastructure and local economy. Each interacting algorithm that makes up the model is based on scientifically rigorous research documented in the teams' almost 200 peer-reviewed publications over the last eight years. Our system allows stakeholders to make resilience-informed decisions and measure the impacts on vulnerable populations. For example, we know that it is vital that social institutions such as schools and hospitals remain intact after a hazard event.

One example of utilizing IN-CORE is the center's engagement with Salt Lake County, Utah. The county is planning for a major earthquake - an event that is inevitable according to experts from the US Geological Survey. Understanding where investment will have its biggest impact is critical because time and money are limited. Our system will help Salt Lake County determine which building retrofits will provide the most return on investment based on physical services, social services and economic and population stability.

One goal of the IN-CORE Project is to assist communities recently identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as Community Disaster Resilience Zones, or areas in the US most at risk from the effects of natural hazards and climate change.

More broadly, we plan to partner with communities and regions worldwide, always keeping our eye on ensuring socially equitable solutions. For example, as the earthquake in Morocco shows, it is important to consider not just urban centers, but rural communities - like those in the Atlas Mountains that have suffered so much loss. (AP)



People look for survivors after flooding in Derna, Libya, Sept. 13, 2023. The devastating storm that dumped torrential rains along the Libyan coast this month was up to 50 times more likely to occur and 50% more intense because of human-caused climate change, according to an analysis released Tuesday, Sept. 19. (AP)



Britain's Prince William gestures as he attends the Earthshot Prize Innovation Summit in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 19. (AP)

**Climate**

**Trio announce finalists for Earthshot Prize**

**'Innovation provides climate hope'**

NEW YORK, Sept. 20, (AP) - With deadly extreme weather hitting all over the globe, rising temperatures peaking during the hottest summer on record and carbon pollution levels that keep climbing, Britain's Prince William and wealthy entrepreneurs Bill Gates and Michael Bloomberg promised a warming world a degree of hope.

That comes in the form of innovation, creativity and technology, the trio and others said at a summit Tuesday in the posh Plaza Hotel. They announced finalists for William's third annual Earthshot Prize that offers five awards of 1 million pounds (\$1.2 million) to companies and groups that come up with new ways to save the planet.

"We've got to hang onto optimism and hope because it is the biggest driver of change, the biggest driver of innovation," William told the crowd of movers and shakers, after mentioning that he'd slipped away for a morning jog in New York's Central Park.

While a healthy dose of realistic pessimism about Earth's climate is important, the heir to the British throne said he wants people to believe "there is hope; there are people out there doing incredible things that will have massive impacts on our futures."

William's summit highlighted 15 different finalists from around the world, including efforts to reduce London air pollution from vehicle tires, reduce livestock methane emissions by new types of seaweed feedstock and use DNA technology to make more sustainable textile dyes.

**Exaggeration**

Days after protesters in the street, many of them under 30, talked of robbed futures, speakers at the Earthshot summit - named because it was inspired by President John F. Kennedy's moonshot effort in the 1960s - saw a different world developing, mainly because of changes in technology.

"There's a lot of climate exaggeration," said Gates, who founded Microsoft and is now a philanthropist. "The climate is not the end of the planet. So the planet is going to be fine."

The world will not be able to meet its agreed-upon goal to limit future warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial temperatures, but it won't hit the 3-degree Celsius mark either, said Gates, who is not a climate scientist.

Gates cited a reason for thinking it won't be as bad as it once looked: Since 2015, until last year, the world went on a "gigantic" innovation binge in efforts that could help curb climate change.

Gates promoted a winner from last year who tries to use rock-like resources to safely store carbon dioxide sucked from the atmosphere, speeding up a natural process by 100,000 times. If that company can get the price of storing carbon dioxide down to \$50 a ton it "brings in this additional tool that reduces the temperature rise."

Later, at the same hotel, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen talked about more down-to-Earth financial issues - how powerful companies could have what's called net-zero investments, which is not funding industries and firms that emit heat-trapping gases.

"The climate crisis has propelled a massive economic shift," Yellen said.

**Climate change made storms like Libya's far more intense: experts**

NEW YORK, Sept. 20, (AP) - The devastating storm that dumped torrential rains along the Libyan coast this month was up to 50 times more likely to occur and 50% more intense because of human-caused climate change, according to an analysis released Tuesday.

Before crossing the Mediterranean, the storm raged for four days and caused extensive damage in central Greece and parts of Bulgaria and Turkey, a region where such extreme storms are up to 10 times more likely and up to 40% more intense because of climate change, scientists said.

Heavy one-day rains from Mediterranean storm Daniel caused massive flooding across eastern Libya that overwhelmed two dams, sending a wall of water through the coastal city of Derna that destroyed entire neighborhoods and swept bridges, cars and people out to sea. The death toll has varied, with government officials and aid agencies giving tallies ranging from about 4,000 to 11,000 dead.

The analysis was conducted by the World Weather Attribution group, which aims to quickly evaluate the possible role of climate change in extreme weather events.

It also acknowledges that the impacts of the storms were made worse by other factors such as deforestation and urbanization in Greece that changed the landscape and exposed more people to flooding, and by conflicts in Libya that likely led to lack of maintenance on the dams and communications failures. What's more, the dams might not have been designed to withstand such an extreme rainfall in the first place, they say.

"Through these events, we are already seeing how climate change and human factors can combine to create compounding and cascading impact," said Maja Vahlberg from the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in the Netherlands and one of 13 researchers who collaborated on the analysis.

Researchers looked at one-day

maximum annual rainfall in a region over Libya, calculating that this month's storm was a once in 300- to 600-year event in today's climate. They also looked at four-day maximum rainfall in the summer season over a region that includes Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey, finding the recent deluge would be expected to occur once every five to 10 years.

To assess the role of climate change, researchers then combined observations of rainfall and climate models to determine if there had been changes in the likelihood and intensity of those maximum rainfalls.

Researchers acknowledged that there was high uncertainty in their estimates, and the data includes the possibility that warming played no role because the climate models could not accurately capture the very intense heavy rainfall events.

But they gave equal weight to their observations and the climate models, and said they were confident in their findings because it's well-established physics that warming causes the atmosphere to retain more water vapor - about 7% more for every 1 degree Celsius of warming - and nothing else occurred to counteract that effect.

"It would be really careless to say there was no change (based on the models)," because of what they know from physics about the effects of warming on the intensity of rainfall in low-pressure systems, said Friederike Otto, a scientist at Imperial College London's Grantham Institute.

Florida State University climate scientist Michael Diamond, who wasn't involved in the study, said he doesn't disagree that a warmer atmosphere probably contributed. But he said the analysis differs from most traditional climate studies that start with the baseline assumption that global warming is not changing extreme precipitation, then determine if that is right or wrong.

pledge \$340 million to help financial institutions "develop and execute robust, voluntary net-zero commitments," she said.

In a statement, David Arkush, director of Public Citizen's Climate Program, said the new Treasury commitments, "suffer from major shortcomings." "Offsets are a loophole large enough to drive most carbon pollution through," he said.

Afterward, Prince William headed toward ground zero, where he visited with firefighters at FDNY Ten House, the station that was the first on the scene at the World Trade Center after the 9/11 attacks. He then greeted scores of people lined up behind metal barricades across the street. The Prince shook outstretched hands and chatted briefly with people.

**Discovery**

**Aphrodite temple found:** The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities announced on Tuesday an important archaeological discovery of the temple of the "Aphrodite" in the sunken city of Thonis Heracleion, which was built 2,400 years ago.

In a statement, the ministry stated that the joint Egyptian-French archaeological mission between the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the European Institute of Marine Archeology uncovered a temple to the "Aphrodite" from the fifth century BC during underwater excavations in the sunken city of Thonis Heracleion in Abu Qir Bay in Alexandria.

According to the statement, the head of the European Institute of Marine Archeology, Frank Goddio, indicated that the mission also found the area in which offerings, vows and precious items were stored in the Western Temple of Amun.

The sunken city of Thonis Heracleion is located 7 kilometers from the coast of the sea city of Abu Qir. It was considered the largest port of Egypt on the Mediterranean coast before Alexander the Great founded the city of Alexandria in 331 BC. (KUNA)

**Puppies learn new tricks:** Five puppies learning to be assistance dogs had a howling good time during a training exercise at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

During the Tuesday training, the quintet of pooches and their trainers walked through a Transportation Security Administration checkpoint, rode an elevated tram and boarded an airplane.

It was all part of an effort to acclimate the dogs to one of the many settings they may experience later in life. The training was led by Paws With A Cause - a Wayland, Michigan-based nonprofit that oversees the custom training of puppies that become assistance dogs for people with disabilities. The group pairs puppies with volunteers who raise and socialize the dogs for the first year of their lives.

"Eventually, when they're placed with our clients, they may well need to fly with them," said Liz Hood, who coordinates foster puppy curriculum for the organization. "So, if they have this exposure now while they're young, then it means it's not going to be a big deal for them when they're with their clients when they're older."

The trainers also take the puppies to grocery stores, libraries, restaurants and doctor's appointments, Hood said. But the airport provides a unique experience because of its distinct sights and sounds.

The five puppies - Labrador and golden retrievers, and a papillon among them - bounded through the airport, earning more than a few quizzical glances from airline passengers. The dogs shuffled down a jetway and onto a plane, where they nestled at the feet of their trainers, who were seated and provided the pups with treats to stay still. (AP)

**Ohio earthworks join Heritage list:** A network of ancient American Indian ceremonial and burial mounds in Ohio described as "part cathedral, part cemetery and part astronomical observatory" was added Tuesday to the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Preservationists, led by the Ohio History Connection, and indigenous tribes, many with ancestral ties to the state, pushed to recognize the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks for their good condition, distinct style and cultural significance - describing them as "masterpieces of human genius."

The application process for the heritage

designation was slowed by a protracted court battle to restore public access to the earthworks site leased to Moundbuilders Country Club, whose members-only golf course sits inside it.

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee approved the application during a meeting in Saudi Arabia. The massive earthworks join a list of famed sites that includes Greece's Acropolis, Peru's Machu Picchu and the Great Wall of China.



Wallace



Goddio

"Pure excitement and exhilaration" were the immediate reactions of Chief **Glenna Wallace**, of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

"Tears came to my eyes, and exhilaration turned into reflection, knowing that the world will now see and recognize the commitment, spirituality, imaginative artistry and knowledge of complex architecture to produce magnificent earthworks," she said in a statement. "Our ancestors were true geniuses." (AP)

## Seven teams at 2-0

## NFC off to record-setting start to NFL season

WASHINGTON, Sept 20, (AP) — The AFC came into the season with the lion's share of the top quarterbacks and Super Bowl contenders, led by passers such as Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen and Joe Burrow.

Two weeks into the 2023 NFL season, it's the NFC that's off to a record-setting start to the season.

Led by three undefeated teams in both the NFC East and NFC South, the NFC has seven teams off to a 2-0 start, the first time that has ever happened in a single conference.

With the Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers fresh off two convincing wins, along with last season's Super Bowl runner-up Philadelphia, the NFC currently has three of the four biggest favorites to win this season's Super Bowl.

The other undefeated teams in the NFC are Washington in the East and New Orleans, Atlanta and Tampa Bay in the South, which was slated to be perhaps the worst division in the league.

The AFC has only two undefeated teams - Miami and Baltimore - tied for the fewest of any conference after two weeks since the start of the eight-division era in 2002.

The Cowboys are the fifth team in the Super Bowl era to score at least 70 points and allow 10 or fewer in the first two games of the season, joining the

2019 Patriots, 1970 Lions, 1967 Raiders and 1966 Oilers.

Dallas' plus-60 point differential is 30 points better than the second-place 49ers - the biggest gap between the No. 1 and 2 teams after two weeks since 1989, when the Browns were plus-65 and the Bears plus-34.

Sunday was a day for historic comebacks in the NFL.

The New York Giants came back from 21 points down to beat Arizona 31-28 for their biggest comeback win since 1949, while Washington overcame an 18-point deficit to win 35-33

## FOOTBALL

at Denver.

This was the 12th time that two teams overcame deficits that big to win in the same week. It last happened in Week 2 last season.

The turnaround for the Giants was truly impressive. New York took the opener 40-0 to Dallas and trailed 20-0 at the half in Arizona. It was the first time since 1934 that New York failed to score in the first six quarters. The Giants recovered that season to win the NFL title.

The 60 points allowed by the Giants before their first score were the second most since 1950, according to Sportra-



New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley (26) dives into the end zone for a touchdown as Arizona Cardinals linebacker Krys Barnes (51) defends during the second half of an NFL football game in Glendale, Ariz. (AP)

dar, trailing only the 86 for the 1978 Colts and 99 for the 1961 Raiders.

Two other teams came back from at least 11 points down, with Atlanta rallying past Green Bay and Tennessee doing the same against the Chargers. That's one shy of the record for one week.

The Chargers and Broncos were both on the wrong side of the comebacks and have started 0-2 despite leading

both games in the fourth quarter. They are the first teams to do that since 2015, when Seattle and the Giants did it.

One team that was predictably unable to mount a comeback was Carolina. The Panthers lost 20-17 to New Orleans on Monday night for their 52nd straight loss in a game they trailed in the fourth quarter. Their last fourth-quarter comeback came Oct. 21, 2018, against Philadelphia.

A couple of rookie playmakers are shouldering an unusually large load for their offenses. No. 8 pick Bijan Robinson is living up to high expectations early in his career following his 124-yard rushing performance in Sunday's win over Green Bay.

Robinson is tied for fourth in the NFL with 255 yards from scrimmage through two games. He has gained 36.8% of Atlanta's yards from scrimmage - the second-highest mark for a rookie through two games in the last 14 seasons, behind only Kareem Hunt's 38.8% in 2017.

Rams receiver Puka Nacua has been more of a surprise, going from fifth-round pick to a record-setting start to his career. Nacua's 25 catches are the most for a player in his first two NFL games, shattering the mark of 19 Earl Cooper set in 1980.

Nacua has gained 270 yards - nearly one-third of the Rams' total. He has 43.1% of the Rams' catches so far this

season, the highest for any player through two games since Vincent Jackson had 50% of Tampa Bay's catches in the first two games of the 2013 season.

Christian McCaffrey is truly the iron man of running backs.

McCaffrey played every offensive snap for the San Francisco 49ers last week - the 15th time he has done that in his career. In an era when teams rotate backs, McCaffrey is an exception.

Sportradar has snap data back to 2006 and the running back with the second-most games playing every snap is Matt Forte with eight. Only four other backs have done it even three times: Le'Veon Bell (6), Frank Gore (4), Steven Jackson (3) and Ronnie Brown (3).

Since McCaffrey entered the league in 2017, all other running backs have played every snap only 10 times.

It's not as if the heavy workload limits McCaffrey's production. He had a 51-yard run Sunday and finished with 116 yards rushing. His 268 yards rushing are the most through two games of a season since DeMarco Murray had 285 for Dallas in 2014.

Justin Jefferson is off to a record-setting pace to his career with the Minnesota Vikings.

Jefferson had 153 yards receiving last week to give him 5,134 in 52 career games - tying Hall of Famer Lance Alworth as the quickest player to eclipse 5,000 yards.

## Marcelino steps down as coach of Marseille

MARSEILLE, France, Sept 20, (AP) — Marseille coach Marcelino stepped down Wednesday after less than three months in charge amid tensions with fans who complained this week about the team's poor showing and the way the club is run.

Marcelino's departure was announced on the eve of Marseille's Europa League game at Ajax, and only days before the French league's biggest game against rival Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday.

## SOCCER

The former Athletic Bilbao coach had replaced Igor Tudor in June after Marseille secured a third-place finish in the league.

"Olympique de Marseille considers that the events of Sept. 18 do not allow Marcelino and his technical staff to carry out the role for which they were hired in the best possible conditions," the club said. "As a consequence of this deplorable situation, Marcelino and his staff will not continue their mission at Olympique de Marseille."

It was not immediately clear who would be in charge of the team against Ajax.

## Springer 'hits' leadoff homer on birthday, Blue Jays rout Yankees

Twins take another step toward third AL Central title in five seasons

NEW YORK, Sept 20, (AP) — George Springer celebrated his 34th birthday with his 57th career lead-off homer, Bo Bichette hit a two-run drive and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the New York Yankees 7-1 on Tuesday night.

Toronto stayed one game ahead of Seattle and Texas for the second AL wild card. The Yankees are seven back for the last playoff berth, needing to overcome the Mariners and Rangers.

Yusei Kikuchi (10-6) was pulled one batter into the sixth because of a left up-

## BASEBALL

per trap muscle cramp. Kikuchi allowed one run in five-plus innings for his first win since Aug. 2.

Springer reached 20 homers for the eighth time when he connected off Clarke Schmidt (9-9). Springer also walked ahead of Bichette's first homer since Aug. 20.

Alejandro Kirk padded the lead with a two-run shot in the ninth.

## Orioles 9, Astros 5

In Houston, Austin Hays had two homers and four RBIs as Baltimore beat slumping Houston, cutting the Astros' lead in the AL West to a half-game over Seattle and Texas.

Hays hit a three-run shot off starter Hunter Brown (11-12) to put the Orioles up 5-2 in the third inning. He followed with a solo shot in the seventh that made it 8-5.

Houston has lost four of five and six of eight. AL-leading Baltimore has won four straight and has a 2 1/2-game edge over second-place Tampa Bay in the AL East.

Ryan O'Hearn and Heston Kjerstad also homered for the Orioles. DL Hall (3-0) got two outs in relief and Cionel Pérez earned his second save.

Kyle Tucker hit a two-run homer for the Astros. Alex Bregman and Yainer Diaz also went deep.

## Padres 2, Rockies 0

In San Diego, Blake Snell lowered his major league-leading ERA to 2.33 and struck out 10 in seven brilliant innings for the San Diego Padres, who took a combined no-hitter into the ninth before beating Colorado.

Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run homer off Tyler Kinley (0-3) with two outs in the ninth to give the Padres their season-high sixth straight win.

Snell, who has never gone eight innings in the majors, threw 104 pitches before making way for Robert Suarez, who worked a perfect eighth. All-Star closer Josh Hader (1-3) came on to start the ninth and promptly allowed Brendan Rodgers' leadoff single. The last-place Rockies finished with two hits.

Snell is trying to become the seventh pitcher to win a Cy Young Award in both leagues. He won the AL prize in 2018 with Tampa Bay.

## Twins 7, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Willi Castro hit a two-run homer and made two spectacular catches in center field, Kenta Maeda combined with four relievers on a four-hitter and Minnesota beat Cincinnati in another step toward its third AL Central title in five seasons.

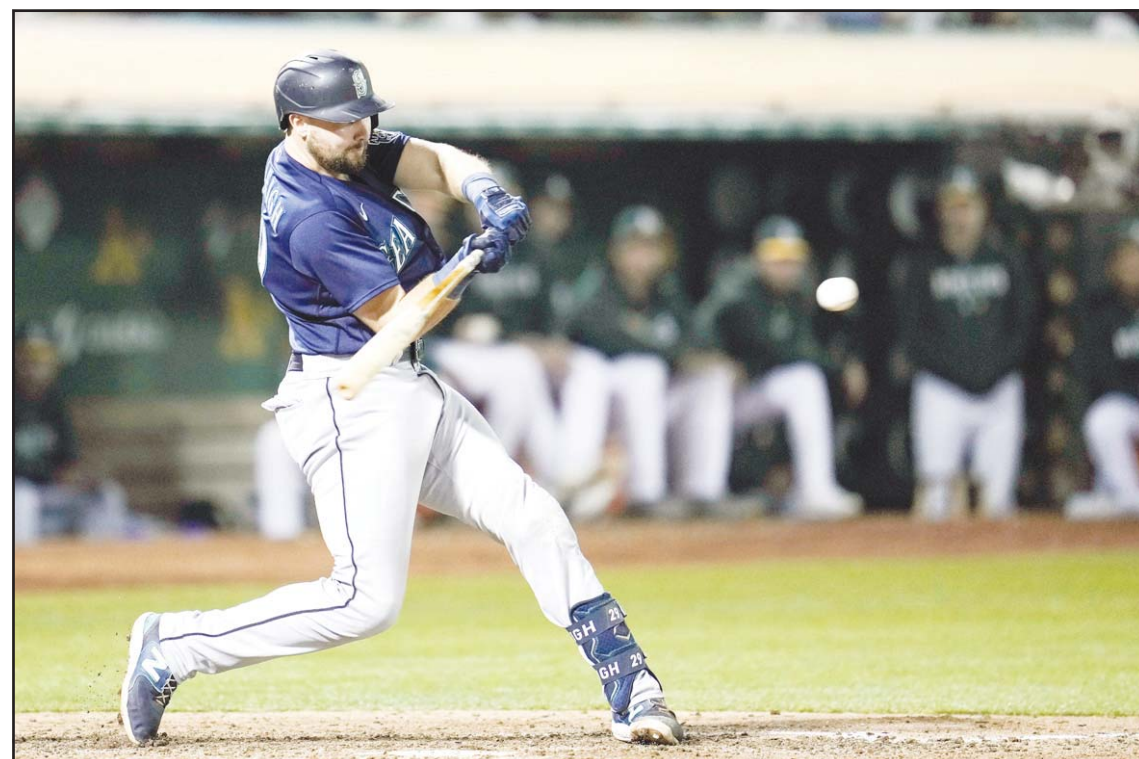
Ryan Jeffers added a solo homer for the Twins, who opened an eight-game lead over second-place Cleveland with 10 to play.

Cincinnati, shut out for the 10th time, remained just outside playoff position in the National League.

## Rays 6, Angels 2

In St. Petersburg, Osleivis Basabe hit a tiebreaking two-run double in a four-run eighth inning and playoff-bound Tampa Bay topped Los Angeles.

Tampa Bay loaded the bases against



Seattle Mariners' Cal Raleigh hits an RBI single against the Oakland Athletics during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif. (AP)

Aaron Loup (2-3) before Basabe lined his double to center field. René Pinto followed with a two-run single.

Randy Arozarena homered for the AL wild card-leading Rays, who remained 2 1/2 games behind first-place Baltimore in the AL East. Yandy Díaz had three hits and Robert Stephenson (3-4) won in relief.

Logan O'Hoppe and Zach Neto homered for the Angels, who have lost six in a row.

## Marlins 4, Mets 3

In Miami, Jake Burger hit a game-winning single in the bottom of the ninth inning and Miami beat New York after blowing a late lead.

Josh Bell had an early RBI double and Braxton Garrett did not allow an earned run in six stellar innings for the Marlins, who are a half-game behind the Chicago Cubs for the final NL wild card.

All-Star infielder Luis Arraez, who leads the majors with a .354 batting average, was a late scratch from Miami's lineup because of a left ankle sprain.

Miami took a 3-1 lead into the ninth, but Tanner Scott (9-5) gave up a two-run double to Brandon Nimmo with two outs.

## Braves 9, Phillies 3

In Atlanta, Ronald Acuña Jr. homered twice on his bobblehead night and stole his 67th base, leaving him one long ball shy of becoming Major League Baseball's first 40-60 player, and Atlanta beat Philadelphia to stop a four-game losing streak.

Spencer Strider (18-5) increased his major league-leading wins total and struck out 11 to increase his big league-high total 270 with his 17th career double-digit strikeout game, his 11th this season.

Acuña homered on the first pitch of the game from Christopher Sánchez (2-5) and had another solo homer off Yunior Marte in the sixth. Acuña has a Braves record 33 leadoff homers, including seven this season.

## Brewers 7, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, William Contreras homered and Tyrone Taylor scored twice and drove in a run as Milwaukee dined St. Louis.

The Brewers stopped a two-game skid and reduced their magic number to clinch the NL Central to six.

Richie Palacios homered for the last-place Cardinals, who were eliminated from playoff contention.

Contreras' solo homer in the third snapped a 16-inning scoring drought for Milwaukee. The Brewers opened the fourth with four straight doubles. Willy Adams, Josh Donaldson, Taylor and Sal Frelick all doubled and scored to give Milwaukee a 5-2 lead.

## Diamondbacks 8, Giants 4

In Phoenix, Ketel Marte had four hits, Zac Gallen earned his 16th win and Arizona won its fourth straight game by beating San Francisco.

The Diamondbacks remained a half-game in front of the Chicago Cubs for the second of three National League wild-card berths. The Giants, who have dropped four of five, fell three games behind the Cubs for the final playoff spot.

Arizona trailed 2-0 early but took a 5-2 lead in the second inning, partly thanks to a daring double steal by Marte and Corbin Carroll that led to two runs when third baseman Wilmer Flores committed two errors on the play.

## Cubs 14, Pirates 1

In Chicago, Cubs rookie Alexander Canario hit a grand slam for his first major league home run in an eighth-inning eighth inning, and Chicago ended a five-game losing streak by routing Pittsburgh.

Cody Bellinger hit a three-run homer later in the eighth for the Cubs, who remained a half-game ahead of Miami for the final NL wild card.

Canario, a 23-year-old who debuted on Sept. 6, had five RBIs. He hit an RBI double in the sixth for his first big league hit.

Dansby Swanson and Seiya Suzuki also homered for the Cubs, and Suzuki had three of Chicago's 12 hits. The Cubs are 10-1 against the Pirates this season.

## Mariners 7, Athletics 2

In Oakland, J.P. Crawford homered in the ninth inning and Jared Kelenic hit a pair of RBI singles to support Luis Castillo's eighth consecutive win, leading Seattle over Oakland.

Castillo (14-7) has won three straight starts and is 8-0 over his last 12 since a July 14 loss to Detroit. The Mariners re-



Arizona Diamondbacks' Corbin Carroll scores on a throwing error after stealing third during the second inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in Phoenix. (AP)

mained tied with Texas for the final AL wild card and closed within a half-game of AL West-leading Houston.

The A's (46-105) lost their sixth in a row and fell 59 games below .500 for the first time since the Philadelphia A's were 47-106 on Oct. 2, 1920.

## Rangers 6, Red Sox 4

In Arlington, Josh Jung hit a tiebreaking single in a two-run seventh inning and Texas beat Boston in its bid for a playoff berth.

Adolis García launched his career-best 35th homer for the Rangers, his first since coming off the injured list.

Texas, which ended a four-game losing streak, remained tied with Seattle for the third AL wild card. Both teams closed within a half-game of first-place Houston in the AL West.

The Rangers play the Mariners in seven of their last 10 games.

Aroldis Chapman (6-4) retired five consecutive batters for the win, striking out three. Jose Leclerc pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

## Dodgers 3, Tigers 2

In Los Angeles, Max Muncy's base hit with two outs in the ninth inning scored Mookie Betts with the winning run, and Los Angeles defeated Detroit for its fifth consecutive victory.

Betts got aboard with a single for his third hit of the night and advanced to second when Will Smith was hit by a pitch. Muncy then lined a curveball from Alex Lange (7-5) into right field, and Betts beat the tag at home plate.

Spencer Torkelson and Parker Meadows went deep for the Tigers.

## Royals 7, Guardians 6

In Kansas City, MJ Melendez homered and drove in three runs, late-season revelation James McArthur struck out three straight batters to end an eighth-inning threat, and Kansas City held off Cleveland.

Maikel Garcia had three hits and Nick Loftin added two RBIs for the last-place Royals, who have won five of six. They ended a five-series losing streak to the Guardians and will go for the sweep of their AL Central rivals on Wednesday.

Logan Allen (7-8) allowed four runs and eight hits in three innings.

## Nationals 4, White Sox 3

In Washington, pinch-hitter Joey Meneses launched a three-run homer in the seventh inning and Washington defeated Chicago.

Jackson Rutledge, a 2019 first-round draft pick, allowed two runs over 6 1/3 innings in his first home start for Washington. The last-place Nationals had lost six of seven.

Luis Robert Jr. and Yoán Moncada homered for the White Sox, who have lost 13 of 18.

## SA load bench with 7 forwards

France fully loaded for Namibia

PARIS, Sept 20, (AP) — France is coming fully loaded for Namibia at the Rugby World Cup on Thursday in Marseille.

After overcoming three-time champion New Zealand on opening night, France served up a second-string side against Uruguay last week and a lackluster and ill-disciplined 27-12 win was booed in Lille in front of President Emmanuel Macron.

The French couldn't even claim a bonus point and now think it would be a good idea to restore confidence and the public's faith instead of rotating players too much with a more challenging test against Italy in their last pool game and an expected quarterfinal looming.

"A lot of players were spared after the match against the All Blacks two weeks ago, and there are still two weeks to go before Italy and other forthcoming matches, I hope," France captain Antoine Dupont said. "We want to play the best possible match, both in terms of results and form."

After 12 changes for Uruguay, France has made 12 changes again for Namibia.

Only lock Cameron Woki, flanker Anthony Jelonech and wing Louis Bielle-Biarry have retained their spots,

## RUGBY

with 10 players who started in the 27-13 win against the All Blacks coming back into the starting XV. Two first-choice players who missed the All Blacks game, inside center Jonathan Danty and prop Cyril Baille, return from injury.

"After the match in Lille, we had seven days to put the All Blacks players back into a classic rotation," coach Fabien Galthie said. "This is the team we fielded the day after the Uruguay match. Our method is based on adaptability. We adapt and read according to the deadlines. It's Darwin's theory: The most intelligent species adapts."

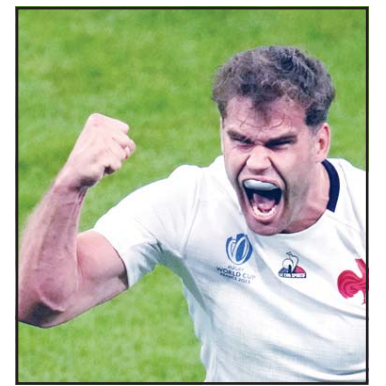
Namibia gave Italy a good run until it run out of puff and lost 52-8, then was overwhelmed by New Zealand 71-3 last week.

Its only two previous meetings with France were both defeats at the Rugby World Cup and in France, in 1999 and 2007. The 87-10 result in 2007 remains France's highest score and biggest margin in test history.

Two French players scored hat tricks in the fixtures; Ugo Mola in 1999 and Vincent Clerc in 2007.

Current wing Damian Penaud is on a career-best five-game try-scoring streak. He has nine tries this year and the opportunity to become the first Frenchman to score 10 tries in a calendar year since 1995, when Phillippe Saint-Andre scored 12.

Penaud has 30 test tries, tied for fourth with Phillippe Sella on France's all-time list. Only Serge Blanco (38), Vincent Clerc (34), and Phillippe Saint-Andre (32) have more.



France's Damian Penaud reacts after his team won a turnover during the Rugby World Cup Pool A match between France and New Zealand at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris. (AP)

Despite the daunting French challenge, Namibia has warned it will keep its attacking mindset at Stade Velodrome. It has one try so far.

South Africa unsurprisingly reverted to its strongest starting lineup to face top-ranked Ireland in a crunch pool game at the Rugby World Cup while also naming seven forwards and just one back on the bench on Tuesday in a clear indication of how the Springboks aim to play.

The defending champion Springboks have gone with a 7-1 bench split just once before, against New Zealand last month in a Rugby World Cup warmup game.

The move was criticized then by some in the game as taking rugby down a dark road of just brute force forward play.

It effectively gives South Africa a new forward pack to bring on in the second half against Ireland at the Stade de France in Paris on Saturday. The winner of the game will likely finish top in Pool B and likely avoid a meeting with host France in the quarterfinals, although that will probably only mean a quarter against three-time champion New Zealand.

Springboks coach Jacques Nienaber reverted to the starting 15 that beat Scotland in their opening game, only without hooker Malcolm Marx, who was ruled out of the tournament with a knee injury. Bongani Mbonambi comes into the starting team for Marx.

Lock Eben Etzebeth was selected to start after sustaining a shoulder injury and going off in the first half against Scotland. Captain Siya Kolisi, Pieter-Steph du Toit and Jasper Wiese are the loose forward combination.

**South Africa Squad:** Damian Willemse, Kurt-Lee Arendse, Jesse Kriel, Damian de Allende, Cheslin Kolbe, Manie Libbok, Faf de Mallerk; Jasper Wiese, Pieter-Steph du Toit, Siya Kolisi (captain), Franco Mostert, Eben Etzebeth, Frans Malherbe, Bongani Mbonambi, Steven Kitshoff. Reserves: Deon Fourie, Ox Nche, Trevor Nyakane, Jean Kleyn, RG Snyman, Marco van Staden, Kwagga Smith, Cobus Reinach.

## MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 20, (AP) — Results and standings from MLB games on Tuesday.									
Tampa Bay	6	LA Angels	2	LA Dodgers	3	Detroit	2		
Washington	4	Chicago W. Sox	3	Miami	4	NY Mets	3		
Toronto	7	NY Yankees	1	Atlanta	9	Philadelphia	3		
Minnesota	7	Cincinnati	0	Chicago Cubs	14	Pittsburgh	1		
Kansas City	7	Cleveland	0	Milwaukee	7	St. Louis	3		
Texas	6	Boston	4	Arizona	8	San Francisco	4		
Baltimore	9	Houston	5	San Diego	2	Colorado	0		
Seattle	7	Oakland	2						
American League					National League				
East Division					East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
z-Baltimore	95	56	.629	—	x-Atlanta	97	54	.642	—
z-Tampa Bay	93	59	.612	2-1/2	Philadelphia	82	69	.543	15
Toronto	84	67	.556	11	Miami	79	73	.520	18-1/2
New York	76	75	.503	19	New York	70	81	.464	27
Boston	75	77	.493	20-1/2	Washington	67	85	.441	30-1/2
Central Division					Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	80	72	.526	—	Milwaukee	85	66	.563	—
Cleveland	72	80	.474	8	Chicago	79	72	.523	6
Detroit	70	81	.464	9-1/2	Cincinnati	79	74	.516	7
Chicago	58	94	.382	22	Pittsburgh	70	81	.464	15
Kansas City	50	102	.329	30	St. Louis	67	84	.444	18
West Division					West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	84	68	.553	—	x-Los Angeles	93	57	.620	—
Seattle	83	68							

## Dallas, Florida and New York to host matches in men's T20 WC next year

# Bangladesh cricketers hungry to gain pre-World Cup boost in series vs NZ

MIRPUR, Bangladesh, Sept 20, (AP): After failing to reach this month's Asia Cup final, Bangladesh is hungry to gain a much-needed boost ahead of the 50-over World Cup by beating New Zealand in the three-match ODI series that starts on Thursday.

Bangladesh rested a host of key players for the Asia Cup, captain Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Najmul Hossain and Towhid Hridoy among them, in order to keep them fresh and injury-free, although it has still not named its squad for next month's World Cup.

New Zealand has sent only five World Cup-bound players to Bangladesh, stand-in skipper Lockie Ferguson, Trent Boult, Rachin Ravindra, Ish Sodhi and Will Young.

Tamim Iqbal, who stepped down as ODI captain last month, is back for Bangladesh after recovering from a back problem. Mahmudullah, axed after the England series in March following poor form, also returns.

Liton Das, who leads the side in Shakib's absence, said: "There are many things to achieve from the series. The first thing is to win, that will be a big achievement ahead of the World Cup."

"We won't play to show just individual brilliance. A five-wicket haul or a century doesn't matter if the team doesn't win."

Ferguson, yet to play on Bangladesh soil, believes conditions will test his New Zealand team to the limit.

"Bangladesh is very good in home conditions and is a huge challenge here," he said. "It's important for us just to focus on what's coming up tomorrow and try to adapt as quickly as possible to the conditions. Some of us haven't played here so we'll have to adapt quicker."

New Zealand hasn't won an ODI match in the country since 2008 and Ferguson said the input of former Bangladesh bowling coach Shane Jurgensen would be invaluable.

"We're leaning on the knowledge of the guys who have been here previously and leaning on Jurgensen about how to play the game, construct our innings with the bat and try to defend it with the ball, or vice versa," he said.

Meanwhile, Dallas, Florida and New York will host matches at next year's men's T20 World Cup, the

governing body of cricket announced Wednesday.

The United States will be staging a global cricket event for the first time as the sport looks to expand into new territory and get Olympic status for the 2028 Los Angeles Games. The country will co-host the June 4-30 tournament with the West Indies.

The International Cricket Council said an agreement has been reached for the construction of a 34,000-seat stadium in Eisenhower Park, a purpose-built sports and events park in Nassau County, New York, pending the awarding of a required permit next month.

Venues in Grand Prairie outside Dallas and Broward County in Florida will be increased in size to expand seating, media and premium hospitality areas to enable them to host matches in the 20-team tournament, which makes it the biggest T20 World Cup yet.

### CRICKET

"The USA is a strategically important market," ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice said, "and these venues give us an excellent opportunity to make a statement in the world's biggest sport market."

The inaugural Major League Cricket competition was held this year in the United States, with teams from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Dallas, New York and Washington - four of which are owned by franchises in the Indian Premier League - taking part. Grand Prairie staged many of the games.

Florida also hosted recent T20s between India and the West Indies at Central Broward Stadium in Lauderhill.

The T20 cricket format is favored to be one of the sports added to the program for the 2028 Los Angeles Games, with decisions by the International Olympic Committee scheduled at meetings next month in Mumbai, India.

Problems in talks between the IOC and the Los Angeles organizing committee on commercial issues have stalled the process.

Cricket is seen as a key driver in India of commercial interest in the Olympics and also is expected to be requested by organizers in Australia for the 2032 Brisbane Games.

# Ronaldo held scoreless as Al Nassr open Asian CL 'campaign' with win Persepolis



Al Nassr's Cristiano Ronaldo (left), vies for the ball with Iran's Persepolis Danial Esmailifar during their AFC Champions League soccer match at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran, Iran. (AP)

TEHRAN, Iran, Sept 20, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo was held scoreless in his first game in the Asian Champions League as his Al Nassr team beat Iranian club Persepolis 2-0 in Tehran.

The game was played inside an empty Azadi Stadium after Persepolis was ordered to play without fans for one game by the Asian Football Confederation after Indian club Goa complained about an offensive social media post made by the club in 2021.

That meant Iranian fans were deprived of the chance of seeing Ronaldo and the Saudi Arabian team's other big-money signings like Sadio Mane and Marcelo Brozovic. But both goals came from Saudi Arabian players.

### SOCCER

Abdulrahman Ghareeb opened the scoring on the hour-mark and defender Mohammed Qassem doubled the lead 12 minutes later, with his first goal for the Riyadh club. Ronaldo, who tops the scoring chart in the Saudi Pro League, had a chance to score after 20 minutes but headed straight at the Persepolis goalkeeper when unmarked at the edge of the six-yard box.

While the atmosphere in the stadium was quiet, Ronaldo's presence had caused considerable local excitement on Monday. Hundreds of local fans stormed into Al Nassr's hotel hoping to get a glimpse of the 38-year-old Portugal star as they chanted his name.

It was so chaotic that Al Nassr, which is still searching for a first Asian championship, was unable to train.

The victory takes Al Nassr to the top of Group E above Al-Duhail of Qatar and Tajikistan's Istiklol, who drew 0-0. Only the 10 group winners and the six best runners-up in the 40-team tournament will progress to the second round.

Japanese champion Yokohama F. Marinos lost 4-2 at home to Incheon United in the South Korean team's first Champions League game.

## Marinos lose at home to Incheon United

### Wings eliminate Dream

# Liberty edge Mystics in OT to advance to playoff semis for first time since '15

NEW YORK, Sept 20, (AP): Breanna Stewart scored 27 points and the New York Liberty beat the Washington Mystics 90-85 in overtime on Tuesday night to advance to the semifinals of the WNBA playoffs for the first time in eight years.

New York hadn't won a playoff series since 2015.

"It means a lot. I don't know if we're thinking about it," Stewart said. "Today there were highs and lows. We knew it was going to be emotional. D.C. was going to go out swinging. We stayed the course. We didn't stop playing until the final buzzer."

The Liberty will play either No. 3 Connecticut or sixth-seeded Minnesota. Those two teams will play the deciding game of their best-of-3 series on Wednesday night. The semifinals begin Sunday. The Liberty had to work to advance after blowing an 11-point halftime lead.

New York built an 84-79 lead in overtime before Washington got within 86-85 with 38 seconds left. The Liberty worked the shot clock down, but Jonquel Jones turned it over. Brittney Sykes drove down the other end before turning it over herself with 14 seconds remaining.

Stewart hit two free throws a few seconds later to give New York an 88-85 advantage. Washington had a chance to tie it, but Ariel Atkins missed a contested 3-pointer with 7 seconds remaining. Stewart hit two more free throws to seal the win to the delight of the sellout crowd that included Carmelo Anthony and Sue Bird.

South Korean champion and two-time continental winner Ulsan Hyundai Horang-i defeated BG Pathum of Thailand 3-1. Japan's Kawasaki Frontale won 1-0 at Malaysian powerhouse Johor Darul Tazim while China's Shandong Taishan picked up a 3-1 win against



Dallas Wings coach Patricia Trammell celebrates late in the second half of Game 2 of the team's first-round WNBA basketball playoff series against the Atlanta Dream in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Jones finished with 19 points and 14 rebounds for New York.

Natasha Cloud scored a career-high 33 points to lead Washington.

"One of the best games of her career," Mystics coach Eric Thibault said. "Especially considering the way they were playing her and put the people on her. To do it on a stage like this was impressive."

Both teams had chances in the final seconds of regulation after New York tied it at 76 on two free throws by Jones

Kaya of the Philippines.

Earlier, Al Hilal and its star forward Neymar were held to a 1-1 draw by Uzbekistani club Navbahor.

Saudi Arabian champion Al Ittihad was without star striker Karim Benzema but still defeated AGMK of Uzbekistan 3-0.

with 11 seconds left. Those came off an offensive rebound when Sabrina Ionescu missed two free throws.

"You all saw it, we felt it, Jonquel's a phenomenal rebounder, she's really hard to keep off the glass," Mystics forward Elena Delle Donne said. "She's going to go at that point. We couldn't pinch her quite right. Those moments are certainly heart-

### BASKETBALL

breaking."

After a timeout, Cloud threw the ball away on the inbounds and then Courtney Vandersloot gave it back to Washington when she tried to get the ball to Stewart at the top of the key with 3 seconds left. The Mystics couldn't get a shot off before the clock expired, sending it to overtime.

Wings 101, Dream 74

In Arlington, Arike Ogunbowale scored 20 points, Teaira McCowan had 12 points and 16 rebounds, and the Dallas Wings advanced to the semifinals of the WNBA playoffs after a 101-74 victory over the Atlanta Dream.

The Wings won a playoff series for the first time since relocating to Dallas for the 2016 season. Dallas will play top-seeded Las Vegas on Sunday.

Dallas became the first team in WNBA history to have seven double-digit scorers in a playoff game. Satou Sabally and Awak Kuier each scored 13 points, Kalani Brown added 12, Crystal Dangerfield had 11 and Natasha Howard 10.

## Probierz appointed as coach of Poland

WARSAW, Poland, Sept 20, (AP): Michal Probierz has been appointed as coach of Poland, the president of the national soccer federation said on Wednesday.

Probierz, who is promoted from the under-21 team, takes over from Portuguese Fernando Santos.

Santos was fired last week with Poland fourth in its five-team European Championship qualifying group.

Santos, who led his native Portugal to the Euro 2016 title, was dismissed after almost nine months in the job.

"The Poland team coach is Michal Probierz," federation president Cezary Kulesza wrote on X, formerly Twitter. "This is the best possible choice. I wish the new coach good luck."

Probierz, who will be 51 on Sunday, previously coached a string of teams including Greek side Aris Salonika and Polish clubs Gornik Zabrze and Widzew Lodz.

A news conference with Kulesza and Probierz is due to take place in Warsaw at noon local time.

Poland is behind leader Albania, Czech Republic and Moldova in Euro Group E qualifying after losing three of its five games, despite three goals from Robert Lewandowski.

Poland next plays rock-bottom Faroe Islands on Oct. 12.



India's Mohammed Siraj celebrates the wicket of Sri Lanka's Dhananjaya de Silva during the Asia Cup final cricket match between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)

# Al-Tarqi earns membership in the Int'l Shooting Players Association

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Daij Al-Otaibi, the President of the Kuwaiti Shooting Federation and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Shooting Sport Federation, has announced that Kuwaiti marksman Abdullah Al-Tarqi has secured a position on the Players' Committee of the International Shooting Sport Federation, specializing in the Trap Shooting discipline.

### SHOOTING

Al-Otaibi conveyed in a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the election of the Olympic champion, Al-Tarqi, to this prestigious role followed virtual meetings of the International Federation. These meetings also saw the selection of Daniel Despino from Italy and Amber English from the United States as fellow members of the same committee. Furthermore, committee members for Pistol and Rifle shooting were elected as well.

He underscored that this triumph represents a significant sporting

milestone for Kuwaiti shooting and serves as recognition of its pivotal role on the global stage. This recognition stems from the achievements of its athletes in various international and Olympic competitions, as well as its hosting of major international and continental championships. Al-Otaibi extended his congratulations to Al-Tarqi for taking on this vital international position for current athletes.

Al-Tarqi, in a similar statement to KUNA, affirmed his dedication, alongside other committee members, to support shooters affiliated with the International Federation. He pledged to provide them with all the necessary resources to pursue their beloved sport and excel on the international championship platform. This support will be coordinated with the Federation's Executive Committee.

Expressing his pride and honor in representing Kuwait in this committee dedicated to the development of Trap Shooting athletes, Al-Tarqi also expressed gratitude for the Kuwaiti Federation's backing during these elections.

## Injured Ashkanani out for 50 days

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20: Arab has officially reported that their player, Hussein Ashkanani, has suffered a torn ankle ligament and a fractured foot. This injury will require an extensive period of treatment and rehabilitation, estimated to be around 50 days in duration.

Ashkanani incurred this injury during his participation with the under-23 national team, a significant contribution to their qualification for the Asian Cup.

As a result of this injury, Ash-

kanani, who was honored as the best emerging player of the previous season, is unable to join Al-Arabi's current roster competing in the Asian Games in China. Additionally, he was absent from

### SOCCER

Al-Arabi's recent match against Al-Zawraa from Iraq in the AFC Cup, which took place last Monday.



Dallas Wings guard Arike Ogunbowale (24) works against Atlanta Dream guard Danielle Robinson during the second half of Game 2 of a first-round WNBA basketball playoff series in Arlington, Texas. (AP)



KUNA photo  
The Kuwaiti sports delegation  
for 19 Asian Games in China.

# Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

## Kuwait sports delegation heads to China for 19th Asian Games

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 20, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti sports delegation departed on Wednesday for the People's Republic of China in preparation for their participation in the 19th Asian Games, scheduled to take place from September 23 to October 8 in the city of Hangzhou.

Fatima Hayat, the chief of Kuwait's delegation and a member of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, stated that Kuwait is sending a contingent of 141 male and female athletes who will compete in 25 individual and team sports. She emphasized that they are well-prepared and equipped to take part in this prestigious event.

### ASIAN GAMES

The delegation includes Faisal Al-Yateem, Deputy Director General of the Public Authority for Sport; Ali Al-Marri, Assistant Secretary of the Kuwait Olympic Committee; Sheikh Jaber Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, a member of the Board of Directors of the Olympic Committee; Ghazi Al-Jraiwiy, committee member; and Hamad Al-Adhan, the head of the President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee's office.

Kuwait has a storied history of participation in the Asian Games since 1982, having garnered a total of 76 medals. Kuwaiti athletes have clinched 24 gold medals, 22 silver medals and 30 bronze medals.

The 13th Asian Games in Bangkok marked a particularly successful chapter in Kuwait's participation, with a tally of 14 medals.

### Perisic suffers ACL 'injury' in training

LONDON, Sept 20, (AP): Tottenham wing-back Ivan Perisic has suffered an ACL injury to his right knee, the Premier League club said Wednesday.

Spurs said Perisic would undergo surgery to repair a "complex" injury sustained in non-contact training.

It was not said how long the Croatia international would be out of action.

The 34-year-old Perisic has been involved in every game for the London club this season, but his only start came in the League Cup against Fulham.

□ □ □

Former U.S. star midfielder Tab Ramos was hired Tuesday as an assistant coach by the New England Revolution, whose staff has been in transition.

New England announced on Aug. 1 that coach Bruce Arena had been put on leave after an investigation began into allegations of insensitive and inappropriate remarks. Richie Williams, a longtime Arena assistant, was appointed interim coach.

Arena quit on Sept. 9 after Major League Soccer said the probe "confirmed certain of these allegations" without publicly specifying any of them.

Three days later, the Revolution appointed Clint Peay interim coach. He had been coach of New England's reserve MLS Next Pro Revolution II team since 2019.

The 56-year-old Ramos, a member of three U.S. World Cup teams, coached the U.S. under-20 team from 2011-19, the Houston Dynamo from 2019-21 and the second-tier Hartford Athletic from August 2022 until this past June.

□ □ □

Cyprus' top soccer body said Wednesday it had averted an indefinite strike by top-tier referees over concerns about their personal safety following the alleged firebombing of a car belonging to a referee's mother.

The Cyprus FA said two days of talks and much "serious contemplation" resulted in referees agreeing to get back to work right away, ahead of a full slate of first division matches this weekend.

The wildcat strike called Monday resulted in the postponement of a first division match the same day.

According to a statement posted on the FA's website, the association along with referees will seek to sit down with both the justice minister and the chief of police to outline "specific suggestions" to ensure referee safety.

FA president George Koumas also dispatched letters to each of the presidents of the first division's 14 teams asking for their contribution in "easing tensions" by taking specific measures.



Manchester City's Erling Haaland, (centre) and Red Star Belgrade's Aleksandar Dragovic, vie for the ball during the Champions League Group G soccer match between Manchester City and Red Star Belgrade in Manchester, England. (AP)

## Barca, City and PSG start CL with wins

Lazio goalkeeper scores late to earn draw

BERLIN, Sept 20, (AP): Barcelona's João Félix, Manchester City's Julián Álvarez and Paris Saint Germain's Kylian Mbappé all scored as their teams made winning starts in the Champions League.

But the wildest celebrations of the night came in Rome, where Lazio goalkeeper Ivan Provedel headed in the team's equalizer in the fifth minute of injury time to earn a 1-1 draw with Atlético Madrid. It was the last action of the game.

### SOCCER

As the group stage began without either Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo for the first time since 2002-03, a 16-year-old almost scored on his competition debut for Barcelona.

Lamine Yamal struck the side netting, then saw an effort saved by Antwerp goalkeeper Jean Butez after coming on as a substitute in Barcelona's 5-0 win over the Belgian team.

Celtic finished with nine players in a 2-0 loss at Feyenoord that stretched the Scottish champion's winless streak in the group stages to 11 games.

Here's a closer look at Tuesday's games:  
Manchester City started its title defense by coming from behind to beat Red Star Belgrade 3-1 at home.

City had 22 shots on goal in the first half yet found itself 1-0 down at the break after Mirko Ivanić played Ghana winger Osman Bukari through to score in first-half injury time.

The linesman raised his flag, but a VAR check confirmed Bukari was onside, setting off celebrations among the 3,000 traveling supporters.

Álvarez equalized right after the break, finishing from a narrow angle after going past the goalkeeper, and it seemed only a matter of time before the second goal arrived as the home team pushed for more.

The otherwise outstanding goalkeeper Omri Glazer was at fault

when it came on the hour mark, missing the ball as he went to punch away a free kick from Álvarez that sailed inside the far post.

Spanish midfielder Rodrigo sealed the win in the 73rd.

Leipzig defeated Swiss team Young Boys 3-1 away in the other Group G game.

Antwerp endured a chastening evening in Barcelona, where Jelle Bataille's own goal in the 22nd minute came after João Félix had already scored and set up Robert Lewandowski for another.

There was no respite for the visitors, with Gavi adding another in the second half before Félix grabbed his second.

Porto defeated Ukrainian champion Shakhtar Donetsk 3-1 away in the other Group H game. Shakhtar is playing its home games in Hamburg, Germany because of the Russian invasion of its country.

Mbappé scored a penalty to break the deadlock as Paris Saint-Germain earned a 2-0 win over Borussia Dortmund. Achraf Hakimi scored against his former team to seal what was a deserved win.

Dortmund midfielders Marcel Sabitzer and Marius Wolf both left the field with injuries.

AC Milan was held to 0-0 draw

### Government intervenes

## Most of Spain's women's players end boycott

MADRID, Sept 20, (AP): Most of Spain's World Cup-winning players ended their boycott of the women's national team early Wednesday after the government intervened to help shape an agreement that was expected to lead to immediate structural changes at the country's soccer federation.

Only two players, Barcelona teammates Patri Guijarro and Mapi León, opted to leave the training camp in the eastern city of Valencia after receiving guarantees from the government that they would not be sanctioned, with the rest staying after being told that some of their demands for reform would be met.

The players reported to camp on Tuesday after being picked by new coach Montse Tomé against their will on Monday in the latest twist in the crisis that has engulfed Spanish soccer since former federation president Luis Rubiales behavior towards Jenni Hermoso during the awards ceremony following Spain's Women's World Cup title in Australia last month.

They had been in open rebellion for more than three weeks, ever since the players said on Aug. 25 that they would not play again for their country until the federation had new leadership. After Rubiales stepped down, the players still refused to come back until federation underwent thorough reform.

Specific details of the changes agreed upon were not immediately revealed following the hours-long meetings involving the government's top sports official, players, Tomé and federation officials. The meetings ended at nearly 5 a.m.

by Newcastle in the other Group F

Atlético coach Diego Simeone was booked for protesting on his

return to the Stadio Olimpico and Lazio, the club he won four trophies with as a player.

Young Atlético midfielder Pablo Barrios put the visitors ahead in what was a heated game, but the biggest drama came at the end, when Provedel left his area to add support in attack and managed to score with a header to Luis Alberto's cross.

Provedel didn't know where to run as the stadium erupted around him.

Also in Group E, Feyenoord had two goals ruled out by VAR for offside and saw a penalty saved in its 2-0 win over Celtic.

Calvin Stengs broke the deadlock in first half injury time but the home team had to wait till the 76th minute for Iran midfielder Alireza Jahanbakhsh to get the second goal.

Celtic defender Gustaf Lagerbielke was sent off with his second yellow card as he conceded the penalty, and substitute Odin Thiago Holm followed him off with a straight red for a dangerous lunge at Mats Wieffer.



Lazio's goalkeeper Ivan Provedel (center), scores his side's opening goal during a Champions League group E soccer match between Lazio and Atlético Madrid, at Rome's Olympic Stadium. (AP)