



Opinion

Amir's measures need competent individuals

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WE are not exaggerating when we reiterate that the measures taken by His Highness the Amir in May continue to resonate both locally and internationally.

Despite attempts by some profiteers and the deep state to undermine the process and possibly influence critical decisions, the Amir's rescue operation managed to settle the controversy. In the eyes of citizens and other countries, these measures represent a beacon of hope for Kuwait to overcome its long-standing challenges.



Al-Jarallah

Undoubtedly, chaos and corruption have plagued the country over the past three decades, necessitating huge efforts for reform and eradicating such phenomena. This highlights the massive role of the Council of Ministers, which requires skilled individuals and

advisors who are capable of connecting the dots and making wise decisions. It is essential to address any shortcomings before they escalate into major crises that could undermine all efforts.

It is indeed necessary to appoint technocratic ministers who are immune to pressures. The people expect His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad's vision and aspirations to be translated into concrete actions. It is imperative to move beyond superficial measures and address the root problems directly.

Therefore, choices must be clear and unambiguous, with all bodies and ministries working impartially, free from favoritism, nepotism, and the "You scratch my back, I scratch yours" mentality.

Kuwait continues to face several challenges that must be solved, as their persistence places immense pressure on people and exacerbates their suffering in terms of loans, physical coercion on the insolvent, education, healthcare, housing, and industrial development. In fact, serious research is ongoing into activating operations at Mubarak Port, which requires the development of a logistics area or even free trade zones.

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Kuwait always keen to support humane issues

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed Kuwait's commitment to promote humanitarian issues in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the United Nations naming His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a humanitarian leader and Kuwait as a humanitarian center.

The Ministry said, in a statement, that this honor came in appreciation of the late Amir's continuous interest in humanitarian issues and his role in supporting afflicted peoples around the globe without discrimination or distinction between religion, gender or race.

It stressed its constant keenness to preserve international peace and security, promote development in the world, and alleviate the suffering of affected peoples, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

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Day by Day

THE Prime Minister and ministers have distanced themselves from the media, unlike other nations where the press is regarded as the eyes of the nation. Through this lens, those in power can gauge the pulse of the people and understand their demands.

Even when there is exaggeration or when some leaders pursue personal interests, it is still not difficult to separate truth from distortion.

What truly matters is that the press brings both the crucial and trivial issues to the attention of those in power, who then have the responsibility to differentiate between them.

... Yet, tomorrow is another day.

Zahid Matar



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives senior judicial officials.

Amiri Diwan photo

Amir receives newly-appointed judicial officials

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Monday the President of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the head of the Court of Cassation Judge Dr. Adel Bouresli, where he presented Counselor Saleh Rasheed Al-Ragdan who swore in as Vice President of the Court of Cassation.

Also during the reception, Counselor Mohammad Al-Rifae swore in as President of the Court of Appeal.

His Highness the Amir also received the Deputy President of the high court, Counselor Khaled Al-Othman on assuming the duties of his new post. Minister of Justice and Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi, and senior state

officials also attended the meeting.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received at Bayan Palace on Monday the President of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the head of the Court of Cassation Judge Dr. Adel Bouresli and the Court of Cassation Vice President Counselor Saleh Rasheed Al-Ragdan. His Highness also received President of the Court of Appeal Mohammad Al-Rifai and Deputy President of the High Court, Counselor Khaled Al-Othman on assuming the duties of their new posts. Minister of Justice and Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi, and senior state officials also attended the meeting. (KUNA)

Female oil minister takes helm

Amiri Decree issued, Al-Ateeqi resignation accepted

In historic first four Kuwaiti women get top judiciary jobs

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: In a significant step forward for gender equality in Kuwait's judiciary, four Kuwaiti women have been appointed as directors of partial and specialized prosecutions for the first time.



Al-Othman

Attorney General Counselor Saad Al-Safraan has issued the groundbreaking decision, marking another milestone for Kuwaiti women in the legal field.

The newly appointed directors include Munira Al-Waqyan as Director of the Public Prosecution for Media, Information, and Publication Affairs; Manouh Al-Othman as Director of the Farwaniya Public Prosecution; Ghanima Al-Sarawi as Director of the Hawalli Public Prosecution and Nouf Al-Saeed as Director of the Juvenile Prosecution.



Al-Sarawi

This historic move comes after years of progress for Kuwaiti women in the judiciary, following their initial appointment as judges in 2020.

With these new appointments, Kuwait continues to lead the Arab world, boasting nearly 90 female judges.

The restructuring also includes key changes in various prosecution departments, reinforcing Kuwait's commitment to improving legal and judicial processes.



Dr. Emad Al-Ateeqi



Nora Al-Fassam

Two ministries defend decision

'Ouster move based on PAHW law'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior affirmed Monday that the decision to vacate the tenants from Sulaibiya and Taima "Public Houses" comes based on the Public Authority for Housing Welfare terms and conditions.

In a joint statement, the two ministries stressed that based on the Public Authority for Housing Welfare's organizing laws, the lease contract is considered terminated if the Kuwaiti beneficiary is under the state housing care or the non-

Kuwaiti beneficiary has ended the military service or the absence of the reasons that granted the housing right for the tenant.

The ministries also stated that the inspection and follow-up teams observed that some beneficiaries were renting these houses to others or were staying outside the country for long periods.

"Therefore, the houses must be recovered, in addition to the fact that there is a large number of eligible military personnel on the waiting list," the statement added.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): An Amiri Decree was issued accepting the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil, Dr. Emad Al-Ateeqi on Sunday.

The decree as follows: Decree No. 153 of 2024 on accepting the resignation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil.

After reviewing the Constitution, and the Amiri Order issued on May 10, 2024.

Decree No. 73 of 2024 in forming the Ministry, including the amended Decree No. 140 of 2024.

And the resignation submitted by Dr. Emad Mohammad Abdulaziz Al-Ateeqi, as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil.

In addition to the presentation by the Prime Minister, we have decreed the following:

Article One:

Accepting the resignation of Dr. Emad Mohammad Abdulaziz Al-Ateeqi - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil.

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NewsWatch

Fishing banned in key coastal zones

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior, through the General Department of Coast Guard, issued a warning on Monday urging citizens and residents to avoid specific areas along the coast, from Al-Akkaz (at the start of Jaber Bridge) to Ras Ashirj, Al-Haisan, Doha, and Sulaibikhat.

In a statement, the General Department of Security Relations and Media highlighted that this directive aligns with the Environmental Protection Law, which designates prohibited areas. It also clarified that fishing permits in Kuwait Bay do not extend to these restricted zones.

The Coast Guard emphasized the importance of following the law and warned that legal action will be taken against those who violate the restrictions.

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwaiti Army Deputy Chief of Staff, Air Marshal Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, discussed on Monday cooperation with Vice President of Business Development, Defense, Space Security Global Services at Boeing Heidi Grant.

In a statement, the Chief of General Staff said the meeting tackled means of buttressing such cooperation, especially in aerospace military industries. (KUNA)

Kuwait nominated to chair human rights committee

CAIRO, Sept 9, (KUNA): The Council of the League of Arab States, at the level of permanent delegates, nominated Kuwait to chair the Arab Permanent Committee on Human Rights for a second two-year term.

This came after the 162nd session of the Arab League Council on Monday, headed by Yemen and with the participation of Kuwait.

The Council approved, in a decision issued after its session, the renewal of the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the Arab League, Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi, as Chairman of the Permanent Committee on Human Rights.

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'Don't buy Kuwait, Iraq match tickets from unofficial sources'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Kuwait Football Association has issued a warning on its social media platforms against purchasing tickets for the upcoming Kuwait vs Iraq match from unofficial sources, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The match is scheduled for tomorrow as part of the second round of Group Two in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers that also includes the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

In its statement, the KFA said, "We have received reports that unauthorized individuals are selling tickets for the Kuwait vs Iraq football match illegally. These individuals are taking advantage of the high demand from loyal Kuwaiti

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28,099 job seekers for over six months

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: According to the latest statistics released by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), the total number of job seekers registered with PAM for more than six months has reached 28,099. These individuals are not currently employed, do not receive a retirement pension, and are not enrolled in any educational institution.

The statistics revealed that these job seekers include 24 who hold a doctoral degree, 561 with a master's degree, 16,395 university graduates, and 5,910 diploma holders.

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Kuwait opens first fiber optics cable manufacturing company

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) Undersecretary Ziad Al-Najem has confirmed that the ministry is keen on diversifying and supporting industrial activities, and that it provides the necessary facilities for establishing companies.

In a press statement Sunday after the opening of Taihan Kuwait Fiber Optics Cable Company -- the first Kuwaiti company for manufacturing fiber optic cables, in cooperation with South Korea's Taihan Cable and

Solution Company and Rank General Trading and Contracting Company -- a local company specialized in contracting, supplies and industry; Al-Najem explained that the licensing of new industrial activities is done by holding weekly meetings with the Activities Committee to vote on them after studying them and identifying whether they follow a global or Gulf code, and then the needs of the owner are covered the following week.

He affirmed that Kuwait is heading towards complete transformation to fiber optic cables.

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KUNA photo

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) Undersecretary Ziad Al-Najem with other officials.

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:09 Asr 15:16
 Sunrise .. 05:29 Maghrib .. 18:01
 Zohr 11:45 Isha 19:19

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h.
By Night: Hot to rather hot and partly cloudy with light to moderate

Weather

northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	47	36
Kuwait Airport	48	29
Abdaly	48	28

Bubyan	45	28
Jahra	49	33
Failaka Island	-	26
Salmiyah	43	32
Ahmadi	45	30
Jal Aliyah	48	30
Nuwaisib	44	28

Kuwait's leadership congratulates Algerian president on re-election

HH Amir congratulates Tajikistan and North Korea on national days

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a cable to the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, congratulating him on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed wishes of welfare and prosperity to the president and the people of Tajikistan.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Emomali Rahmon on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Emomali Rahmon on his country's National Day.

North Korea

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent on Monday a congratulatory cable to North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un in celebration of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir conveyed his best wishes for the president's health and wellbeing, along with hopes for North Korea's continued success and prosperity.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a congratulatory cable to Kim Jong-un in celebration of his country's

National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed his best wishes for the president's health and wellbeing.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a congratulatory cable to Kim Jong-un in celebration of his country's National Day.

Tebboune congratulated: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Sunday a cable of congratulations to Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune on his re-election as president of the brotherly country.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished progress and prosperity for Algeria and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to Abdelmadjid Tebboune, expressing sincere congratulations on his reelection as president of the brotherly country, wishing the Algerian leader good health and the people further progress and prosperity.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

See Also Page 7



The joint ministerial meeting of the GCC foreign ministers and the FM of the Russian Federation.

FM Al-Yahya heads Kuwait's delegation to Riyadh meet

GCC, Russia address escalating ME tensions, strategic co-op

RIYADH, Sept 9, (KUNA): Amid the escalating tensions in the Middle East, Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov warned that the region was on the brink of a major crisis.

His remarks came during the GCC-Russia Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue on Monday in Riyadh, chaired by Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdurrahman Al-Thani. Qatar is the Gulf bloc's current chair. Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya is heading the State of Kuwait delegation in the venue.

The Qatari Prime Minister affirmed his country's rejection of any demographic or territorial changes in Gaza and praised the ongoing cooperation between the GCC and Russia, emphasizing that such dialogues were critical.

He noted the importance of aligning positions on various issues and advancing strategic cooperation as agreed upon during the 6th GCC-Russia ministerial meeting.

For his part, Lavrov highlighted the urgent need for action in Gaza and criticized the international community for failing to stop the violence, which has led to a worsening political and military situation across the region, from the Lebanon-Israeli border to the Red Sea.

Lavrov emphasized that the current level of violence against Palestinians was unprecedented, surpassing any seen in past Arab-Israeli conflicts and stressed Russia's commitment to working with all parties to prevent further escalation, urging for a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

On his part, GCC Secretary General Jassim Al-Budaiwi condemned

the Israeli occupation's continued aggression in Gaza, calling for an immediate ceasefire and highlighted the need for unrestricted humanitarian aid to the Palestinians.

He expressed deep concern over the international community's inability to secure a comprehensive and lasting solution to the conflict, urging for a two-state solution and Palestine's full UN membership.

On the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the GCC reaffirmed its support for a political resolution through negotiations and dialogue, and Al-Budaiwi emphasized the importance of ending hostilities, facilitating the export of essential goods, and ensuring global food security.

Al-Budaiwi stressed the importance of cooperating with Russia, given the historical strategic bilateral ties, affirming that efforts were un-

derway to accelerate the implementation of the joint action plan (2023-2027), which was agreed upon at the previous ministerial meeting in Moscow July 2023.

He expressed concern over security in the Red Sea, calling for de-escalation to ensure safe maritime navigation and protect global trade.

The meeting also focused on other key regional issues like the efforts of Saudi Arabia and Oman to facilitate peace in Yemen; urging the Houthis rebels to engage constructively with UN-led peace efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people.

The GCC-Russia strategic dialogue, first held in 2011, continues to serve as a critical platform for addressing mutual concerns, with both sides committed to advancing their joint action plan and fostering greater cooperation across various

Informatics Award launches its 9th edition on social media platforms

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award launched its ninth edition on Monday titled "Humanitarian Kuwait" on social media platforms targeting all social segments.

Award chief of board of trustees Sheikh Aida Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah told KUNA that the award was launched with this name in commemoration of 10th year-anniversary since the United Nations named Kuwait and its then leader late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah humanitarian center and hu-



Sheikha Aida

manitarian leader.

Sheikha Aida congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the 10-year anniversary.

She indicated that this award sets out to highlight Kuwait's humanitarian work, and recalled that the fifth edition of the award held the same name in an effort to spread awareness on Kuwaiti achievements in humanitarian work.

She also spoke of the award founder, late Sheikh Salem Al-Ali, his directives and generosity that have contributed to the award's fast development and expansion since 2001 as well as reinforcing its regional and international standings.

Other Voices

Pardon ... for money or memory

By Ahmed alsarraf

It was recently reported by various local and Arab media outlets that three Kuwaiti citizens were executed, along with a number of residents. The surprise was that the execution of a woman convicted of killing her friend was stopped just two hours before she was due to die on the gallows, because the victim's family accepted a sum of money from the killer's family, or what is known in common parlance as a 'blood money paid to avenger'!

There is no justice in life. People do not come into this world equal, but are separated by their color, family backgrounds, homeland, language, degree of wealth, and other things.

However, it is the responsibility of a "distinguished minority" in society to mitigate these differences between people and build bridges between them to limit their negative effects.

For example, is it not fair to pardon a prisoner before the end of his sentence because he memorized the Quran, while we don't pardon those who failed to memorize? The first may be a vile wicked person, and the second may be peaceful and good, so we reward the evil one, who had a strong memory, and release him to continue committing his evil deeds, while we keep the good one in prison only because he did not have the same strong memory as the first.

We see the same thing in the issue of blood money for the murdered, which is a strange "innovation" that advanced societies do not know! If there is a large clan or tribe behind him that

will pay his blood money, or a wealthy family behind him that will pay the family of the victim his blood money, then he will commit many evils, and he will be free, despite the severity of his crime, because there are those who were frightened or will be frightened for him, and will pay his blood money, and whoever has no supporter or money will be hanged, even if the circumstances of his crime are questionable!

There is no such thing in Kuwaiti law, in all its branches, as the blood money heirs waive the right to a murderer convicted of a death sentence, which leads to the suspension of the execution of the sentence. Even if it exists in another system, it is completely in conflict with the "principle of the civil state," the idea of public law, the goal of deterrence, preventing the occurrence of crimes, and combating them!

The issue of blood money is shameful and devoid of justice, and it must be stopped. There are few precedents for it, and circumstances, for certain reasons, were lenient with it. However, this is no justification for the continuation of this situation, for which there is no text in the country's civil law that permits it.

In this regard, Professor Lawyer "Imad Al-Saif" says in a tweet, with some modifications; Kuwait is a civil constitutional state, which only takes a small amount of Sharia rules, and there is nothing in its legal system called "the waiver of the blood guardian," and linking this waiver to the issuance of decrees ... or anything else.

If I had been the one who had convicted that woman and pardoned her for a sum of money, it would have made me feel sad and like I had wasted my effort.

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KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Ministry of Interior is pushing ahead with the implementation of the decision to suspend the transactions of citizens and expatriates who do not complete the biometric fingerprinting process on or before the deadline - Sept 30 for citizens and Dec 31 for expatriates; clarifying that non-compliance with the directive will not lead to a travel ban, as the Constitution guarantees the people's right to travel and such a ban is imposed only as per the instruction of the Public Prosecution or the Investigations General Department or through a ministerial decision in the interest of the public, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a reliable source.

The source said it is expected that more than 250,000 citizens and expatriates will not undergo the biometric fingerprinting due to violations or involvement in crimes. "Since the start of the biometric fingerprinting in May 2023; approximately 805,000 citizens have undergone fingerprinting whereas 171,000 citizens have yet to do so and 1,864,000 expatriates have been fingerprinted and about 970,000 have not done so till date," the source disclosed.

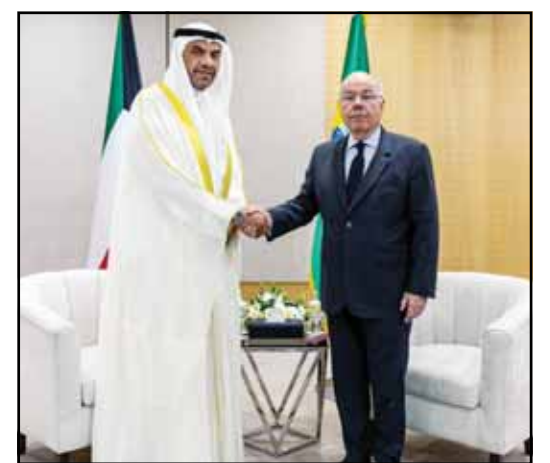
Obligated

He also confirmed that Bedouins are obligated to undergo biometric fingerprinting, but this should be done in coordination with the Information Systems General Department and the Central Agency for Remedying Illegal Residents Status (CARIS) when they travel, renew the security card or process any transaction.

He explained that the biometric fingerprinting is a State project aimed at creating a database for everyone residing in the country -- citizens or expatriates who are 18



FM meeting his Indian counterpart.



FM meeting his Brazilian counterpart.

Kuwaiti FM meets Indian, Brazilian counterparts

RIYADH, Sept 9, (KUNA): Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met on Monday with India's Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation, regional and international developments including the deteriorating humani-

tarian situation in Gaza, and ways to support international initiatives that provide regional security and stability.

Meanwhile, FM Abdullah Al-Yahya met on Monday with Brazil's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mauro Vieira.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation, regional and international developments including the

deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, and ways to support international initiatives that provide regional security and stability.

The meetings were on the sidelines of the 161st Ministerial Council meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the cooperation council in Riyadh.

KU Students Union poll set for Sept 22

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, Khaled Al-Ajmi, has announced that the elections for the Kuwait University Students Union for the 2024/2025 academic year will take place on September 22, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Ajmi stated that these elections will determine the seats for the administrative body of the union.

He noted that the election date has been coordinated with the university's administrative body. The nomination period will remain open

until Sept 11, from 5 pm to 9 pm.

On Sept 12, the process will shift to receiving withdrawal requests for candidates who wish to retract their nominations.

Al-Ajmi emphasized that no candidate will be listed unless the original representative of their list is present with proof of identity and a copy of their academic schedule.

He also stressed the Executive Body's commitment to neutrality and fair competition, urging all participating lists to respect the union's constitution, electoral traditions, and maintain a spirit of fair play.

Blogger's 2 years jail upheld for insulting Amir

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict issued by a lower court which sentenced a blogger to two-year imprisonment for insulting the Amir following the suspension of some constitutional articles.

In the previous session, the execution of the sentence was stayed for three years, with bail set at KD 1,000 for good

conduct after his release on bail.

The Public Prosecution had charged the defendant with offending the Amir through posts on his "X" account, in which he publicly challenged the Amir's rights and authority. It had also included derogatory comments about the Amir's position.

He was also charged with intentional insult using a communication device (a mobile phone), by publishing the offending phrases and words on his account.

mercial license to do a biometric fingerprint, followed by the opening of biometric centers in the six governorates along with a public awareness campaign in this regard, and requiring people to book an appointment through the Sahel application. Once the deadline granted to citizens and expatriates ends;

those who fail to undergo biometric fingerprinting will not be able to process transactions in ministries, other government agencies, banks and companies listed on the stock exchange; and then an investigation will be conducted to identify the reasons for not complying with the directive, the source added.

'Arab nations political structures enable growth of digital armies'

"TO curb the misuse of fake accounts targeting the symbols and peoples of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, a Gulf-wide campaign was launched to combat so-called 'electronic flies'," columnist **Suad Fahd Al-Moajel** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"This effort is not unique, as other Arab countries have previously tried to confront these digital armies. While the phenomenon of 'electronic armies' is global, experts in the field note that it poses a greater danger in the Middle East.

"During the Arab Spring, for example, virtual armies spread misleading information and false reports about ongoing events, with competing groups using this tactic to defame one another.

"In contrast, Western nations typically deploy these armies to disseminate political messages or exert influence, whereas in the Arab world, such armies are often filled with fabricated news and fake identities, bolstered by an army of social media users.

"Electronic flies" refer to a coordinated group of automated accounts programmed to spread information aimed at influencing public opinion or promoting one side over another.

"These groups are especially active during political crises or ideological conflicts and may even target governments and financial institutions.

"The use of electronic armies differs between Arab and Western nations due to political and intellectual structures. Western countries tend to operate with a higher degree of organization, backed by a political and social awareness capable of discerning facts from fiction.

"A prime example is Germany's 2017 launch of its 'Cyber Army', announced by the German minister of defense. The army, part of the Ministry of Defense, operates alongside traditional forces and is tasked not only with defending against cyberattacks but also responding to them, whether through espionage, data theft, or manipulation.

"In the Arab world, however, intellectual disorder prevails due to the lack of political and intellectual maturity, stemming from various political and social factors.

"As is typical in Arab culture, people often address the symptoms without examining the root causes. The real threat is not just the chaos caused by electronic flies but the Arab political and intellectual framework that allows these digital armies to thrive in the region's virtual spaces.

"The societies that offer free platforms for expression tend to experience fewer rumors, and the need for fake names or hidden websites decreases.

"This contrasts with higher levels of transparency, dialogue, and debate found in Western societies, where constitutions ensure a balanced relationship between the citizen and the state.

"This social contract differs from the hierarchical structures in many Arab societies, which are often shaped by tribal, sectarian, or ethnic considerations.

"These vertical relationships deprive citizens of freedom, particularly the freedom of expression, leading many to hide behind pseudonyms and virtual platforms to express what they cannot in public due to political, social, and intellectual taboos.

"These individuals become the fuel for electronic fly armies, which have already proven more dangerous to national stability than conventional military forces.

"There is no dispute that this is a significant issue, but it is essential to address the underlying factors that have allowed these digital ar-

mies to pose such a threat to security, stability, and political and social relations in the Arab world."

Also:

"In the world of education, there once lived a wise sage known as Dr. Rasi Selberg, revered as the godfather of Finnish education," columnist and former deputy director-general of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) **Iqbal Al-Ahmed** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Dr. Selberg was known for his revolutionary ideas on transforming education into a nurturing and effective system that produced bright, knowledgeable students.

"One day, Dr. Selberg set out on a mission to rid the educational world of what he termed the 'six germs' of education -- barriers that hindered learning and student development. His quest began with Finland, a land eager to embrace his visionary approach.

"The first germ Dr. Selberg tackled was the density of the material. He observed that many educational systems overwhelmed students with a flood of information, focusing more on the quantity than the quality of what was taught.

"This approach, he argued, was akin to stuffing students with knowledge that they could neither understand nor apply effectively.

"Next on his list was the abundance of tests and exams. Selberg noticed that students were drowning in assessments, which left them exhausted and stripped of the joy of learning. These constant tests consumed their time and eroded their happiness.

"Closely related was the third germ -- the extension of school hours. Extended hours took a toll on students, leading to fatigue and diminished focus. The lengthy school days drained their energy and hindered their ability to concentrate.

"The fourth germ was home study. Selberg lamented how homework and additional assignments encroached on students' leisure time. Instead of enjoying activities with friends and family or pursuing hobbies, students were burdened with more work.

"The fifth germ was the scourge of private lessons. Selberg believed that many students were coerced into extra tutoring for subjects they disliked, leading to frustration and resentment.

"Finally, Selberg identified the germ of complex subjects -- those that seemed disconnected from students' real lives and interests. He referred to these as 'isolated knowledge,' which, while specialized, often proved irrelevant to students' everyday experiences.

"Finland, inspired by Dr. Selberg's wisdom, embarked on a transformative journey. By eliminating these educational germs, Finland revolutionized its education system. The focus shifted from rote memorization to critical thinking and practical application, fostering an environment where students excelled and flourished.

"Today, Finland stands as a beacon of educational excellence, attracting those who seek to reform their own systems. The country's success is a testament to the profound impact of addressing and overcoming these educational challenges.

"In Kuwait, the lessons from Finland resonate deeply. The struggle with a cramming system -- characterized by memorization and dictation -- continues to plague public and private schools. It is high time to embrace the changes Finland implemented and shift educational priorities from mere memorization to fostering analytical skills, confidence, and creativity.

"It is time for Kuwait to embark on a similar journey of educational reform. By addressing these entrenched germs, Kuwait can pave the way for a brighter, more effective education system, just as Finland did."

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes**



Suad Al-Moajel

Interior minister inspects Health Affairs Dept at Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences Hospital

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah on Monday paid an inspection visit to the Health Affairs Department at Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences Hospital to check on the progress of the examination process for applicants to join the academy and the procedures followed in providing medical services to ensure safety and health.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement on Monday that the tour included a visit to the medical clinics at the academy hospital, where Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef was briefed on the various health, technical and administrative procedures followed to ensure the provision of the best health services to the ministry's employees.

It added that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef listened to a detailed explanation from the Director of the Health Affairs Department, Brigadier Abdul Latif Al-Adwani, on the medical arrangements followed, starting from receiving visitors to providing the necessary medical care to ensure that work is proceeding in an organized and effective manner that meets the needs of all ministry employees and applicants.



Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef reviews the health, technical and administrative procedures followed to ensure the provision of the best health services.

It explained that Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef praised the efforts made by the departments and medical and technical staff in the hospital, stressing the importance of adhering to the highest quality standards in providing medical services

and working to enhance efficiency and develop performance in line with the aspirations of the leadership and the ministry and the necessity of providing a safe and healthy environment for all students and employees of the academy.

Attempt foiled to smuggle drugs, phones into prison using drones

Cassation upholds long prison terms against 'road killers'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Central Prison yesterday morning thwarted an innovative attempt to smuggle a large quantity of narcotics and mobile phones into the prison, using drones, reports **Al-Anba** daily

According to security sources, Central Prison administration had closed all loopholes to prevent smuggling, and implemented stringent control measures such as surprise inspections of the wards, daily checks of visitors, employees, and cleaners, establishing security barriers within the prison complex, and subjecting everyone to thorough inspections, as well as transferring all drug dealers from wards to prison No. 3 with heightened security and complete jamming around the prison to disrupt mobile networks.

Due to these measures, smugglers attempted to use drones to deliver drugs and mobile phones. However, the shipment, which included hashish, shabu, chemicals, and mobile phones, was successfully intercepted and confiscated.

It was discovered during investigations that the smugglers used three drones - the first for surveying the area to ensure there were no security personnel present, the second loaded with narcotics and mobile phones, and the third for monitoring to ensure the delivery was not intercepted. The plan involved the orchestration of fights among some inmates to distract prison security, while others brought in the shipment.

The prison administration has contacted the Drug Control General Department to apprehend those responsible for launching the drones and smuggling the contraband into the prison.

The sources said the security personnel in the General Department of Correctional Institutions work tirelessly to protect inmates, ensure their comfort, and prevent any attempts to smuggle contraband into the prison.

They explained that intensified surprise raids in the prison wards, continuous rotations of military personnel, the transfer of drug dealers to prison No. 3, and rigorous inspections of everyone entering the prison including officers, military staff, maintenance workers, and cleaning workers have significantly contributed to keeping the prison nearly free of contraband. This heightened security led drug dealers to resort to using drones, which take off from areas near the prison complex at dawn, to deliver contraband. Despite these efforts, the security personnel successfully thwarted the smuggling attempt.



Various types of drugs (left) and mobile phones, chargers seized from the drones.



Mol photos

20-year sentence upheld: The Court of Cassation has upheld a 20-year prison sentence with hard labor issued by a lower court against a motorist who was responsible for the death of a Gulf national on Subiya Road in September 2022. The court also sentenced his accomplice to 15-year imprisonment with hard labor, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The two defendants were convicted of stealing the victim's vehicle after he was stopped in front of a mobile grocery store near Jaber Bridge. The victim, with the assistance of others, pursued the thieves.

The defendants, in a deliberate act, crashed into his vehicle from behind, causing it to overturn and leading to his death.

8 establishments shut: Inspectors from the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition in Ahmadi Governorate recently carried out an inspection campaign that resulted in the issuance of five violation citations for transporting food items without obtaining a health license, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The governorate's inspectors also conducted a similar campaign; which led to the issuance of 28 violation citations, obtaining six pledges, destruction of 108 kilograms of adulterated food items, and closure of eight food establishments.

The uncovered violations include non-compliance with public sanitation regulations due to the presence of cockroaches and mice, sale of adulterated food products, employees handling food items without a health certificate or hold an expired certificate, hiring a worker without a health

certificate or with an expired certificate, opening a food establishment without obtaining a health license, and operating a food establishment even if the license is expired.

Cases postponed: The Court of Appeals has adjourned to Sept 30 to issue a verdict on the State Security case filed against former MP Hamad Al-Alyan who was accused of transgressing the status of the Amir, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The court had previously suspended the execution of Al-Alyan's sentence and released him on bail of KD 2,000 pending the appeal decision.

Meanwhile, the Court of Appeals rejected the request for the release of Musaed Al-Quraifa, and has set the session of September 30 to hear the State Security case filed against him for transgressing the status of the Amir.

The Criminal Court had previously sentenced Al-Quraifa to four years in prison with hard labor for transgressing the status of the Amir and broadcasting false news.

In addition, the Court of Appeals decided to release former MP Anwar Al-Fikr on a bail of KD 2,000 and imposed a travel ban on him. A session has been set for October 14 to hear his case.

The Criminal Court had earlier sentenced Anwar Al-Fikr to three years in prison with hard labor.

The Public Prosecution had charged him with "challenging the rights and authorities of His Highness the Amir, transgressing the status of the Amir, and broadcasting false news that undermines the country's prestige and harms its national interests," through his "X" account.

Over 1,700 apply for delivery company licenses on 1st day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The One Stop Shop Department in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry received more than 1,700 applications to establish delivery companies on the first day of lifting the ban on issuing licenses to engage in delivery business, reports **Al-Qabas** daily quoting sources.

Sources said it is expected that the number of applications to establish a delivery company will increase daily until the end of this month such that the total number of applications will reach about 40,000 to 50,000.

Sources explained those applying for this type of commercial license must obtain approval from the Ministry of Interior to engage in the delivery business -- one of the commercial activities under the General Traffic Department.

It can be recalled that five years ago, the ministry suspended the issuance of licenses for delivery companies. Last week, a decision was issued to resume the issuance of such licenses as per new conditions and regulations.

Key appointments at KA

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Kuwait Airways has announced key appointments within the organization. Ghazlan Al-Tasha has been named the new Director of the Training Center Department, while Najji Al-Otaibi will take on the role of Director of the Security Department. The decision was made by the Board of Directors, led by Abdul Mohsen Al-Faqan.

In addition to these appointments, the board has promoted several pilots from the national pool to the rank of captain this year. The board plans to continue promoting pilots who demonstrate the required competencies throughout the year.

Kuwait Airways is also focusing on improving its operations and financial efficiency. The airline is examining various strategies to enhance its performance and achieve better profitability in the future. This is part of a broader effort to ensure that resources are used effectively and to minimize financial waste.

Recently, Kuwait Airways participated in the 125th anniversary celebration of the Anglo-Kuwaiti Agreement, highlighting the deep and strategic partnership between Kuwait and the UK. This event underscored the historical and ongoing significance of the relationship between the two nations.

CMA announces results of brokerage firm tests

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has updated brokerage firms on the results of recent tests related to qualified brokers, the central counterparty system, sub-accounts, index funds, and bonds, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

The tests, which began on August 25, yielded satisfactory results for most companies, though some did not meet the desired completion rates.

The CMA has scheduled the second round of tests for market members on Sept 22, aiming to finalize preparations before the launch of the new market system.

Additional tests will follow to ensure readiness. Approximately 25 preliminary tests have been completed, and

brokerage firms are expected to pass these to support their roles in managing trades and funds.

The upcoming tests will evaluate brokerage firms' ability to handle sub-accounts, index funds, bonds, and sukuk, as well as their integration with commercial banks. Companies that do not qualify will operate as sub-brokers through qualified brokers.

The successful upgrading of brokerage firms is crucial for Kuwait's financial market development and its ambition to join advanced emerging markets. The CMA emphasizes the importance of these tests in maintaining market integrity and expanding investment opportunities.

WEDDINGS, UPTO 140

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PAHW secures KD90m deal for South Sabah Al-Ahmad project

Contract signed for 6,568 homes

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has signed a contract for the construction, completion, and maintenance of road works and infrastructure service networks for 6,568 housing units in South Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City.

According to informed sources, the envelopes for two tenders were opened recently for the implementation of the two largest main power stations in the South Saad Al-Abdullah Housing City project.

Three companies submitted bids for the supply and installation of the two power stations, with the total lowest bids amounting to KD 58 million. The lowest bid for the first tender was KD 29.2 million, and the lowest bid for the second tender was KD 29.6 million.

The concerned committee will study all bids thoroughly, and examine them from organizational, financial, and legal aspects to ensure they meet the requirements and evaluation standards stipulated in the tender documents.

The acting Director of PAHW Rashid Al-Enezi said, "The infrastructure contract for 6,568 housing units in South Sabah Al-Ahmad has been signed with an international company

for a total value of KD 90,011,955.

The contract, which covers the work in suburbs N1, N2, N3, and N11, is the third and final contract for roadworks and infrastructure networks in the South Sabah Al-Ahmad project. Its implementation period is set at 900 days.

PAHW had previously signed two other contracts - one for the infrastructure and roadworks of 7,623 housing units in the suburbs N5, N7, N9, and N10, and the other for 6,189 housing units in the suburbs N4, N6, and N8.

The three infrastructure contracts collectively serve 20,380 housing units.

PAHW is closely following up the implementation of the main roads contract in the city, which includes the construction, completion, and maintenance of main roads, infrastructure service networks, and rain-water tanks. The completion rate for this work has reached 26.54 percent, ahead of the project schedule by 14.79 percent."

Implementation

Regarding the additional contracts for the South Sabah Al-Ahmad project, Al-Enezi explained that work is ongoing on four contracts for the supply, installation, implementation, and maintenance of four main power stations with voltages of 400/132/11 kV. These stations are intended to supply electricity to the residential suburbs in the city, with an implementation period of 730 days.

Two tenders have been awarded for the supply, installation, and implementation of 20 main stations with voltages of 132/11 kV for the residential suburbs.

Procedures for finalizing these two contracts are currently underway.

Al-Enezi affirmed PAHW's commitment to ensuring that these stations are operational and that electricity is provided to the city in line with the completion of residential plots by citizens.



Al-Enezi



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al Nasser receives the Food and Nutrition Inspection Department officials in Farwaniya.

Farwaniya Governor advocates for healthy habits, stricter regulations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser emphasized the importance of promoting healthy habits and enforcing stringent measures against those who compromise human health, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During a recent meeting, Al-Nasser received key officials from the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, including Dr. Nawaf Al-Enezi, Director of the Inspection Department, Amer Al-Mutairi, Health Licenses Supervisor, Mona Al-Tawakli, Head of the Khaiteira Food Inspection Department, Munira Al-Mutairi, Head of the Al-Firdous Food Inspection Department, and Abdulrahman Al-Daihani, Violations Officer.

The Governor commended the ef-

forts of the General Authority for Food and Nutrition in safeguarding community health. He stressed the need to promote a culture of healthy habits alongside the enforcement of relevant laws and regulations.

Al-Nasser was briefed on the Food and Nutrition Department's activities within the Farwaniya Governorate. Dr. Al-Enezi provided a comprehensive overview of the Authority's programs and plans, which aim to establish a robust system to protect public health.

The Governor highlighted the necessity of applying legal measures to rule violators and taking strong actions against anyone who jeopardizes public health and safety.

MoSA launches 'Hadaneti' app to streamline nursery services

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Ministry of Social Affairs has launched

the 'Hadaneti' (My Nursery) application for private nursery services, as part of its digital transformation efforts and to ease procedures for nursery owners -- individuals and companies.

In a press statement, the ministry disclosed that the application simplifies procedures for the submission and processing of requests to establish, renew, cancel, change the location or transfer ownership of a nursery without the need for personal visits. It added that this is a trouble-free workflow for the automated internal system to guarantee faster processing of requests; thereby, reducing delays and errors.

Application

According to the ministry, the application provides integrated government services; as users benefit from the link with key entities such as the Ministry of Interior, Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) and others. This simplifies verification and approval procedures, in addition to real-time updates through email notifications and the 'Sahel Business' application, it affirmed.

The ministry pointed out that the application will reduce administrative burdens as requests and approvals are automated, making the entire process faster and more efficient; not to mention the enhanced transparency in tracking the status of requests.

Meanwhile, the Charitable Societies and Endowments Department has announced that the declaration of charitable societies and endowments will be done electronically.

The ministry confirmed this move is aimed at keeping pace with the latest developments in digitization, such that the QR Code system will be launched to ease and expedite the registration procedures for charitable societies and endowments, and to improve transparency and efficiency in completing electronic transactions.

KPC as NWE top jet fuel supplier

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the largest supplier of jet fuel to Northwest Europe (NWE) this year, according to Sheikh Khaled Ahmad Al-Sabah, the company's Managing Director for International Marketing, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Speaking at the Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference today, Al-Sabah highlighted KPC's success in capturing a substantial market share in the region and expressed optimism about expanding the company's presence in other markets. He noted that there are promising opportunities to grow their share of refined fuel products in various global markets.

Abdali, Kabd expansion eyed

PAAAFR unveils 'consultancy study' for Wafrat Recreational Park project

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources has announced the initiation of a consultancy study for the development of the Al Wafrat Recreational Park project, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to a source, the authority is currently awaiting bid submissions to design a comprehensive concept for the park, which will span approximately one million square meters.

The authority is also exploring the possibility of establishing similar recreational projects in the Abdali and Kabd agricultural areas. Equal-sized areas are being considered for these projects to promote recreational and tourism investments, in line with recommendations aimed at accelerating project completion.

The planned uses for the Al Wafrat Park include a diverse range of facilities and activities such as fish lakes, animal farms, agricultural nurseries, covered botanical gardens, horse stables, various sports fields, accommodation cabins, swimming pools, and lakes.

Moreover, the park will feature water activities, cinemas, an indoor play area, a wall climbing center, a bowling alley, bird sanctuaries, cultural centers, free-sliding sports, restaurants and cafeterias, open-air theaters, a moving train, and retail stores.

The consultancy study will provide a unified vision for the park's development, outlining the stages of the executive plan and evaluating the potential involvement of the private sector, public benefit associations, and other contributors to achieve the park's objectives.

The authority is coordinating with all relevant state agencies to enhance infrastructure, including road paving, parking facilities, and utilities such as electricity, water, sewage, communications, and internet networks.

MoCI opens 2 tenders

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched two tenders -- one for the maintenance of the electronic certificate of origin issuance system and the other for the supply, installation and operation of licenses for protection, response and detection devices for network security.

On Saturday, the ministry announced in the official gazette -- 'Kuwait Al-Youm' -- that tender nos. 6/2024-2025 and 7/2024-2025 were launched according to the general and special conditions and specifications stated on the lists; which can be obtained from the Legal Affairs, Purchasing and Warehouses Control, Tenders and Contracts departments and the Ministries Complex for KD75 per copy starting Sunday. The deadline for submitting offers for both tenders is on Sept 24.

The ministry indicated that offers should be submitted to the Purchasing and Warehouses Control Department, stressing the offers should be valid for 90 days from the date of opening the bidding envelopes.

It added that the price offered is final, the value of the initial guarantee for the offer is not less than two percent of the value, and the guarantee must be valid throughout the validity period of the offer.

Interested consulting firms are invited to obtain the project documentation from the Financial Affairs Department, Tenders Section, located in the Authority building in the Rabia area.

Restrictions, high costs affect supply

Mead fish scarcity hits local market

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: In view of the scarcity of Mead fish in the country, Al-Jarida daily recently interviewed fishermen, fish stall owners and buyers at the fish market in Sharq.

September is one of the months when the supply of local fish is abundant, considering the large quantities of fish from territorial and international waters. However, there has been a significant decline this year. The scarcity of Mead fish is surprising, considering two months have passed since the fishing ban was lifted.

The daily interviewed fishermen at the dock near the fish market and they confirmed that the scarcity of Mead outside Kuwait Bay is the main reason behind the lack of supply in the market. They explained the Mead fish breeding area is near the beaches and within the bay where fishing is prohibited as per the decision of the Envi-



Al-Jarida photo

Fishermen transporting their catch to the market.

ronment Public Authority (EPA) that declared the bay an environmentally protected area and a haven for marine life.

The fishermen were quick to add that the scarcity of Mead fish will not last long, as supply is expected to increase by the beginning of November. "Nonetheless, the fishing ban will be imposed again by the

end of November until next year. The boats used for catching Mead face many obstacles, specifically the reduction of diesel subsidy for fishermen who cannot bear the high cost of diesel throughout the month. The small number of fishermen, as many of them have migrated, also contributed to the problem," they explained.

September

Room Promotion

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

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

World News Roundup

Europe

Police chase injures 14

Be wary of strongman politicians, says Türk

GENEVA, Sept 9, (AP): The UN rights chief is urging voters to be wary of "strongman" politicians and personalities "that throw glitter in our eyes" as more elections loom in a busy electoral calendar this year.

Volker Türk didn't mention leaders or countries by name, but alluded to a schedule that includes votes to come in countries like Georgia, Tunisia and the United States.

The rights chief spoke Monday in his traditional opening remarks to sessions of the Human Rights Council, which typically list a wide array of rights concerns globally. The 47-country body - whose membership changes each year - was opening a five-week autumn session.

"I urge voters to ask themselves which of the political platforms or candidates will work for the human rights of everyone," Türk said. "And I urge all voters to be vigilant. Be wary of the shrill voices, the 'strongman' types that throw glitter in our eyes, offering illusory solutions that deny reality."

He denounced some politicians who "scapegoat migrants, refugees and minorities" around electoral periods in places like France, Germany, Hungary, the United Kingdom and the US.

High in his mind were the spillover of conflicts on civilians. He warned of "cycles of hatred" that could continue in the Middle East after the "horrific" Oct 7 attacks in Israel, which took over 1,200 lives, and the subsequent war in Gaza, saying more than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces.



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Lamented

Ukrainian civilians were "trapped in cycles of terror" due to repeated military strikes by Russian forces in Ukraine, Türk said. He also lamented that Russia has declined to grant access to his team to look into the rights situation in its southwestern Kursk region - which Ukrainian forces recently invaded.

"Troubled by the impact of recent escalations on civilians, including in Kursk, my office has pursued access to all affected areas to be able to monitor the human rights situation. I regret the Russian Federation has so far declined to grant such access to relevant areas," he said.

The rights chief spoke of a humanitarian crisis amid conflict in Sudan and cited estimates that at least 20,000 people have been killed, saying: "The world cannot let this continue."

Faster progress toward ending war

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Sunday he and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy agree that Russia should be included in a future peace conference aimed at ending Russia's war against Ukraine. He called for stepped up efforts to solve the conflict.

A previous peace conference June 15-16 in Switzerland ended with 78 countries expressing support for Ukraine's "territorial integrity" but otherwise left the path forward unclear. Russia did not participate.

"I believe that now is the moment when we must discuss how we get out of this war situation faster than the current impression is," Scholz said in an interview with Germany's ZDF public television aired Sunday.

"There will certainly be a further peace conference, and the president and I agree that it must be one with Russia present," Scholz said.

Scholz is facing more political discontent at home over his government's support including money and weapons for Ukraine after populist parties that oppose arming Ukraine did well in state elections Sept. 1 at the expense of parties in his three-party governing coalition. Some members of his Social Democratic Party have also called for more emphasis on diplomacy toward Russia.

Zelenskyy has presented a 10-point peace formula that calls for the expulsion of all Russian forces from Ukrainian territory and accountability for war crimes.

Kasselakis ousted by Syriza

Greek opposition leader Stefanos Kasselakis was ousted by his party's central committee Sunday via a motion of no confidence, just a year after his election to the post by party cadres who accused him of being an authoritarian and not fully ideologically aligned with the party.

After an often tense and acrimonious two-day session, the central committee of the left-wing Syriza party approved the no-confidence motion 163-120, with three members voting blank. Another eight abstained.

It was not a single event that precipitated Kasselakis' ouster but, a buildup of discontent over the past year, which caused many who had viewed him as a charismatic savior to view him as someone bent on turning the party into a personal vehicle.

Kasselakis reacted to the result of the vote by saying that he felt "liberated." He did not say whether he will join a new leadership contest.

"Now, the people know how I felt censured ever since I was elected," Kasselakis said. He attacked Syriza's "bureaucracy" for overturning the decision of the party base and, criticized the secret ballot. He and his supporters preferred an open show of hands.

He compared the secret ballot's promoters to the hooded collaborators in World War II. Cries of "shame!" greeted his comparison, which has been taken up by vociferous Kasselakis supporters on social media. Kasselakis, 36, was elected in September 2023 by voters stunned over the magnitude of defeat in two successive elections in May and June 2023 at the hands of a conservative party that had already served a full term.

14 hurt after Croatia police chase: A van apparently packed with migrants veered off a road and hit a lamp post in Croatia while speeding to escape police on Monday, injuring 14 people, police and doctors said.

The accident happened around 3 am in eastern Croatia when police tasked with stopping illegal entry into Croatia spotted a van with Swiss license plates that had too many people inside and signaled the driver to stop, police said. Instead, the driver sped up, they said. A few minutes later, police saw the van by the side of the road after it hit a lamp post. Doctors at nearby hospitals reported that 14 people were hurt, including seven children, state HRT television said.

Migrants from the Middle East, Africa and Asia often seek help from people smugglers to cross borders without authorization to reach wealthy Western European countries. Migrants are often forced to travel in crammed vans or boats.



Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. speaks as he endorses Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump at a campaign rally at the Desert Diamond Arena on Aug 23, 2024, in Glendale, Ariz. Kennedy scored a pair of legal victories in the battleground states of North Carolina and Michigan, and a setback in Wisconsin on Sept 6 in his quest to get his name off of the ballots in some states after he suspended his campaign. (AP)

Politics

RFK Jr notches wins in North Carolina, Michigan

Harris plans for outreach in swing states

PITTSBURGH, Sept 9, (AP): US Vice President Kamala Harris plans a four-day campaign trip through major swing states after the Democrat's debate Tuesday with Republican Donald Trump.

Her "New Way Forward" tour will include a new television spot, rallies, canvassing events and programs designed to target important voting groups, the campaign said Sunday, adding that the tour will culminate at the start of Hispanic Heritage Month on Sept 15.

In a tight race against the former president, the Harris campaign sees itself as having the room to persuade voters before focusing more intently on turnout with the beginning of early voting before the Nov 5 election. Trump has also stepped up his outreach with rallies and interviews in seemingly friendly forums.

Race

The period after the debate in Philadelphia marks the start of the aggressive sprint toward the end of what has been a dramatic race.

"Our campaign will take the vice president's message directly to the voters wherever they are -- on the airwaves, on the doors, and online," said Michael Tyler, the campaign's communications director. "With so much at stake in this election, we are blitzing the battlegrounds and leaving it all out on the field."

Trump, who campaigned Saturday in Wisconsin, posted on social media that "when" he wins, anyone who he deems as having been "involved in unscrupulous behavior" tied to the election "will be sought out, caught, and prosecuted at levels, unfortunately, never seen before in our Country."

After the debate, political leaders on Wednesday are set to commemorate the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Harris kicks off her tour Thursday in North Carolina and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, will be in Michigan. On Friday, Harris will return to Pennsylvania while Walz is in Michigan and Wisconsin.

The candidates' spouses will also be part of the tour. Doug Emhoff, Harris'

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, (AP): House Republicans have issued a scathing report on their investigation into the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, blaming the disastrous end of America's longest war on President Joe Biden's administration and minimizing the role of former President Donald Trump, who had signed the withdrawal deal with the Taliban.

The partisan review lays out the final months of military and civilian failures, following Trump's February 2020 withdrawal deal, that allowed America's fundamentalist Taliban enemy to sweep through and conquer all of the country even before the last US officials flew out on Aug 30, 2021. The chaotic exit left behind many American citizens, Afghan battlefield allies, women activists and others at risk from the Taliban.

But House Republicans' report breaks little new ground as the withdrawal has been exhaustively litigated through several independent

reviews. Previous investigations and analyses have pointed to a systemic failure spanning the last four presidential administrations and concluded that Biden and Trump share the heaviest blame.

Texas Republican Rep Michael McCaul, who led the investigation as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the GOP review reveals that the Biden administration "had the information and opportunity to take necessary steps to plan for the inevitable collapse of the Afghan government, so we could safely evacuate US personnel, American citizens, green card holders, and our brave Afghan allies."

"At each step of the way, however, the administration picked optics over security," he said in a statement.

McCaul earlier in the day denied that the timing of the report's release ahead of the presidential election was political, or that Republicans ignored Trump's mistakes in the US withdrawal.

husband, will go to Nevada, Arizona and Florida. Gwen Walz is scheduled to be in Georgia, New Hampshire and Maine.

More details are to come.

Harris' campaign will start running a new television ad that will speak to her plans for middle-class tax cuts, limiting prescription drug prices and addressing the housing shortage. The ads are part of a broader \$370 million media investment and will be tailored state by state for voters in Arizona, Nevada, Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Nebraska.

Also:

RALEIGH, NC: Robert F. Kennedy Jr scored a pair of legal victories in the battleground states of North Carolina and Michigan, and a setback in Wisconsin, in his quest to get his name off of the ballots in some states after he suspended his campaign and endorsed former President Donald Trump.

North Carolina's intermediate-level Court of Appeals issued an order granting Kennedy's request to halt the mailing of ballots that included his name, upending plans in the state just as officials were about to begin sending out the nation's first absentee ballots for the Nov. 5 presidential election.

The court - a three-judge panel ruling unanimously - also told a trial judge to order the State Board of Elections to distribute ballots without Kennedy's name on them. No legal explanation was given.

In Michigan, its intermediate-level Court of Appeals ruled that Kennedy should be removed from the ballot, reversing a decision made earlier this week by a lower court judge.

And in Wisconsin, a Dane County circuit court judge denied Kennedy's request for a temporary restraining order to put on hold the state elections commission's decision to keep him on the ballot.

ficials said.

County officials, who declared an emergency Saturday evening, issued evacuation orders for Running Springs, Arrowbear Lake, areas east of Highway 330 and other regions. Gov Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency for San Bernardino County Saturday night. (AP)

Santa Fe shooting suspect held: Authorities say a suspect has been arrested after a police-involved shooting Sunday in Santa Fe that canceled the Desfile de la Gente parade.

Santa Fe police reported the incident occurred near downtown Santa Fe Plaza around 10:30 am, hours ahead of the parade that had been scheduled to run from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Details weren't immediately on the shooting, but Police Deputy Chief Ben Valdez said in a statement that officers and the unidentified suspect weren't injured.

Valdez said people were being asked to avoid the area while New Mexico State Police conducts its investigation into the incident.

Dan Shipp said he was a half block away from the plaza when he saw a white pickup truck go through a barricade.

Shipp said he then heard "six or seven shots" fired but didn't know if it was police or the suspect who was doing the shooting.

Shipp said hundreds of people were at the plaza setting up tents along the parade route to sell trinkets, rugs and other things. (AP)



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, (right), and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy meet for bilateral talks at Frankfurt Airport, Frankfurt, Germany on Sept 6. Scholz said on Sept 8 he and Zelenskyy agree that Russia should be included in a future peace conference aimed at ending Russia's war against Ukraine. He called for stepped up efforts to solve the conflict. (AP)



Newsom



Valdez

America

Missing Calif. woman found alive: A California woman was found atop a river canyon this week near the Yuba River in Northern California 12 days after disappearing from a mining camp site.

The Nevada County Sheriff's Office said Friday the 24-year-old Sacramento woman was severely dehydrated and emaciated when found. She was airlifted to a hospital for treatment. Officials said the extent of her injuries were unknown.

"The Sheriff's Office and our search and rescue volunteers covered extensive ground throughout our search, and we are thankful today to find her alive," Sgt Dustin Moe, who found the woman, said in a statement.

Esmeralda Marie Pineda went missing in August when she was camping with friends in Nevada City, a town about 63 miles (101 kilometers) from Sacramento. Pineda had told her friends she wanted to go back to Sacramento before she disappeared the next morning, KYMA reported. Officials said Pineda must have climbed up the canyon walls before being rescued. They weren't sure how Pineda survived nearly two weeks in the wilderness. (AP)

'2 sisters drowned in pond': Two young sisters apparently drowned in a pond near their Long Island apartment complex, authorities said.

A family member called police Saturday afternoon to report that the girls, ages 2 and 4, had gone missing. Officers and locals searched the girls' apartment complex in Holtsville and found them unresponsive in a nearby pond shortly before 3:30 pm, police said.

Lifesaving measures were performed and the girls were brought to a hospital, where they were pronounced dead, officials said.

Suffolk County homicide detectives are investigating the deaths. Authorities did not provide additional details.

Holtsville is about 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Manhattan. (AP)

Lightning could worsen fire: An out-of-control wildfire in the foothills of a national forest east of Los Angeles threatened

ten of thousands of buildings and forced hundreds of residents to flee Sunday amid a days-long heat wave of triple-digit temperatures.

The fire burned so hot Saturday that it created its own thunderstorm-like weather

systems of pyrocumulonimbus clouds, which could bring more challenging conditions such as gusty winds and lightning strikes, according to the National Weather Service. Firefighters also faced steep terrain, which limited their ability to control the blaze, of



People wearing traditional costumes of Slovakia participate in the parade of the 51st National Costumes and Clothing Heritage Day in Kamnik, Slovenia on Sept 8. The 51st National Costumes and Clothing Heritage Day ended Sunday in Kamnik with a traditional parade, during which about 2,000 participants dressed in national costumes walking through the center of Kamnik. (Xinhua)

Africa

Tanker explosion kills 48

Algeria prez claims irregularities in poll

ALGIERS, Algeria, Sept 9, (Agencies): After being declared the winner of Algeria's election, President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** joined his two challengers in criticizing the country's election authority for announcing results that contradicted earlier turnout figures and local tallies.

The claims of irregularities mar what had earlier appeared to be a landslide re-election for the 78-year-old head of state.

Algeria's National Independent Election Authority, or ANIE, on Sunday announced that Tebboune had won 94.7% of Saturday's vote, far outpacing his challengers Islamist Abdelali Hassani Cherif, who received only 3.2% and socialist Youcef Aouchiche, who got just 2.2%.

Hours later, Tebboune joined his opponents in questioning the reporting of results with the three campaigns jointly issuing a statement accusing the country's top election official of announcing contradictory results.

In a country where elections have historically been carefully choreographed affairs, such astonishing questions about irregularities shocked Algerians who expected Tebboune to win in a relatively uneventful fashion.



Tebboune

Legal

It's unclear what will follow all three candidates casting doubt on irregularities and whether they will prompt legal challenges or delay the final certification of the result.

The tally reported on Sunday gave Tebboune a total vote share that was far more than the 87% that Vladimir Putin won in Russia's March elections and the 92% that Ilham Aliyev got in Azerbaijan's February contest.

But efforts from Tebboune and members of his government to encourage voter turnout to project legitimacy appeared to have fallen short, with less than one out of every four voters participating.

Election officials on Sunday reported 5.6 million of the country's roughly 24 million voters had turned out to vote. Such high abstention rates, which remain unofficial, would surpass the 2019 presidential election when 39.9% of the electorate participated.

Officials did not explain why they had earlier announced 48% voter turnout at the time of polls closing. Before the three candidates joined in questioning the discrepancy, both of Tebboune's challengers raised concerns about it, citing their own tallies.

Aouchiche called it "strange." Ahmed Sadok, Cherif's campaign manager, blasted delays and the way the figure was calculated.

"It's a shame. It's an attack on the image of Algeria, which will become the laughing stock of nations," Sadok said earlier in the day.

Recorded

He also said there had been a failure to deliver vote-sorting records to the candidates' representatives and that said the party had recorded instances of proxy group voting and pressure put on poll workers to inflate certain figures.

The claims of irregularities cap off an election season that outraged activists and civil society groups. Human rights advocates railed against the campaign season's repressive atmosphere and the harassment and prosecutions of those involved in opposition parties, media organizations and civil society groups.

Some denounced this election as a rubber stamp exercise that can only entrench the status quo. Amnesty International last week condemned Algeria's "brutal crackdown on human rights including the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association in the run up to the country's presidential elections."

Before the candidates questioned the results, Tebboune's supporters and detractors each had drawn conclusions from the results.

Pro-Tebboune university professor Abdellaoui Djazouli said on public television that the result was a resounding endorsement of Tebboune's program.

But his runaway victory fueled criticism from pro-democracy activists who have long seen elections as tools that the country's political elites have used to give off an appearance of popular support.

Many said the loudest message to come out of the election came from those who chose to abstain out of fear that the election would only entrench and legitimize "le pouvoir" - a term used to describe the military-backed elites who run the country.

11 dead in Morocco heavy rains: At least 11 people have been killed and nine others went missing after torrential rains battered southern Morocco, the Interior Ministry said in a provisional report on Sunday.

Seven of the fatalities were reported in the Tata province, while four others, including a foreign national, were found in the provinces of Errachidia and Tiznit, ministry spokesperson Rachid El Khalfi told reporters in Rabat. The spokesperson also noted that the missing individuals are from the provinces of Tata, Errachidia, and Taroudant.

The heavy rainfall also caused significant material damage, including the collapse of 40 homes and damage to 93 road sections. Traffic has been restored on 53 of the affected sections. The rains also disrupted electricity, drinking water supply networks, and telephone networks.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Equipment and Water, nearly 200 people and 96 earthmoving machines have been deployed to restore traffic in the affected regions.

The Interior Ministry urged local residents and visitors to exercise extreme caution due to the unstable weather and to follow all guidelines issued by authorities, the spokesperson added.

Nigeria gas tanker explosion kills 48: A fuel tanker collided head-on with another truck in Nigeria on Sunday causing an explosion that killed at least 48 people, the country's emergency response agency said.

The fuel tanker was also carrying cattle in the Agaja area in north-central Niger state and at least 50 of them were burned alive, Abdullahi Baba-Arab, director-general of the Niger State Emergency Management Agency, said.

Search and rescue operations were underway at the scene of the accident, Baba-Arab said.

Baba-Arab said initially that 30 bodies were found but in a later statement said an additional 18 bodies of victims who were burned to death in the collision were found. He said the dead had been given a mass burial.



A bridge collapse due to floods triggered by typhoon Yagi in Phu Tho province, Vietnam on Sept 9. Inset: This photo taken on Sept 8 shows buildings destroyed by typhoon in Vietnam's northern province of Hung Yen. (AP/Xinhua)

Asia

Vietnam bridge collapses as storm deaths rise to 59

China announces joint drills with Russia

BEIJING, Sept 9, (AP): China's Defense Ministry on Monday announced joint naval and air drills with Russia starting this month, underscoring the closeness between their militaries as Russia presses its grinding invasion of Ukraine.

The ministry said the "Northern United-2024" exercises would take place in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk farther north, but gave no details.

It said the naval and air drills aimed to improve strategic cooperation between the two countries and "strengthen their ability to jointly deal with security threats."

The notice also said the two navies would cruise together in the Pacific, the fifth time they have done so, and together take part in Russia's "Great Ocean-24" exercise. No details were given.

China has refused to criticize Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, now in its third year, and blamed the U.S. and NATO for provoking President Vladimir Putin.

While China has not directly provided Russia with arms, it has become a crucial economic lifeline as a top customer for Russian oil and gas as well as a supplier of electronics and other items with both civilian and military uses.

Overtake

Russia and China, along with other US critics such as Iran, have aligned their foreign policies to challenge and potentially overturn the Western-led liberal democratic order. With joint exercises, Russia has sought Chinese help in achieving its long-cherished aim of becoming a Pacific power, while Moscow has backed China's territorial claims in the South China Sea and elsewhere.

That has increasingly included the 180-kilometer (110-mile) wide Taiwan Strait that divides mainland China from the self-governing island democracy that Beijing considers its own territory and threatens to invade.

Based on that claim, the Taiwan Strait is Chinese. Though it is not opposed to navigation by others through one of the world's most heavily trafficked sea ways, China is "firmly opposed to provocations by countries that jeopardize China's sovereignty and security under the banner of freedom of navigation," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing on Friday.

Mao was responding to a report that a pair of German navy ships were to pass through the strait this month for the first time in more than two decades. The U.S. and virtually every other country, along with Taiwan, considers the strait international waters.

anti-government opponents who have holed up for months in the Argentine ambassador's residence seeking asylum.

Venezuela's foreign ministry said in a statement it had notified Brazil of its decision, which will take effect immediately. It said it was forced to take action based on what it called evidence - which it hasn't shared - that those who sought refuge in Argentina's diplomatic mission were conspiring to carry out "terrorist" acts including the assassination of President **Nicolas Maduro** and his vice president.

Magalli Meda, the former campaign chief of opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, was among a half dozen government opponents who fled to the Argentina ambassador's residence after Maduro's chief prosecutor in March issued an order for her arrest for allegedly propagating destabilizing, political violence.

In retaliation, Maduro broke off diplomatic relations with Argentine President **Javier Milei**'s right-wing government, which tapped neighbor Brazil to represent its interests and safeguard the asylum seekers.

Brazil's foreign ministry, in a statement, said it was "surprised" by Venezuela's decision. Under the Vienna Convention governing diplomatic relations, Argentina must now name a substitute custodian acceptable to Venezuela's government, the foreign ministry said. Meanwhile, Brazil will remain responsible for the diplomatic mission, whose physical integrity cannot be violated, the statement said.

Since Friday, armored vehicles from the SEBIN political police have been parked outside the Argentina ambassador's residence in a leafy Caracas neighborhood. Electricity to the diplomatic mission was also cut, according to Meda, who has taken to social media to denounce what she fears is an impending raid to arrest her and the other government opponents. (AP)

Vietnam bridge collapses: A bridge collapsed and a bus was swept away by flooding Monday as more rain fell following a typhoon Vietnam that has caused at least 59 deaths in the Southeast Asian country and disrupted businesses and factories in the export-focused northern industrial hubs, state media reported.

Nine people died when Typhoon Yagi made landfall in Vietnam on Saturday before weakening to a tropical depression, and at least 50 others have died in the consequent floods and landslides, state media VN Express reported. The water levels of several rivers in northern Vietnam were dangerously high.

A passenger bus carrying 20 people was swept into a flooded stream by a landslide in mountainous Cao Bang province Monday morning. Rescuers were deployed but landslides blocked their path.

Rescue

In Phu Tho province, rescue operations were continuing after a steel bridge over the engorged Red River collapsed Monday morning. Reports said 10 cars and trucks along with two motorbikes fell into the river. Three people were pulled out of the river and taken to the hospital, but 13 others were missing.

Pham Truong Son, 50, told VN-Express that he was driving on the bridge on his motorcycle when he heard a loud noise. Before he knew what was happening, he was falling into the river. "I felt like I was drowned to the bottom of the river," Son told the newspaper, adding that he managed to swim and hold on to a drifting banana tree to stay afloat before he was rescued.

Dozens of businesses in Haiphong province hadn't resumed production by Monday because of the extensive damage to their factories, reported state media Lao Dong newspaper. The report said that the roofs of several factories were blown apart while water had seeped into industrial units, damaging finished goods and expensive equipment. Some companies said they still didn't have electricity on Monday and that it would take at least a month to be able to resume production.

Toppled electricity poles meant that Haiphong and Quang Ninh provinces were still without power on Monday. The two provinces are industrial hubs, housing many factories that export goods, including EV maker VinFast and Apple suppliers Pegatron and USI. Authorities are still assessing the damage to industrial units but initial estimates show that nearly 100 enterprises were damaged by the typhoon, resulting in losses amounting to millions of dollars, reported the newspaper.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh



Motorcycle taxis pass through a flooded street in Kasese, western Uganda on Sept 8. Three people were killed in flash floods triggered by heavy downpours Saturday in the western Ugandan district of Kasese, according to a humanitarian relief agency. (Xinhua)



Maduro



Milei

Lat/Am

One killed in Peru wildfires: At least one person was killed and 16 others treated for smoke inhalation as wildfires raged in northern Peru's Lambayeque region, local authorities said Sunday.

The fatal victim, a 40-year-old female farmer in the town of Incahuasi, suffered burns all over her body, according to Radio Programas del Peru, a radio and television broadcasting company in Peru.

She had been rushed to the local clinic but succumbed to her severe injuries. Several locals were treated for smoke inhalation and later discharged, as they were "out of danger," the network reported.

Peru's National Meteorology and Hydrology Service warned that from Sunday through Wednesday, atmospheric conditions could lead to the "start and spread of forest fires."

The absence of precipitation is expected to persist in these regions, along with decreasing humidity and increasing daytime temperatures, it added. (Xinhua)

'Pay for Amazon reforestation': A judge in the Brazilian state of Rondonia has found two beef slaughterhouses guilty of buying cattle from a protected area of former rainforest in the Amazon and ordered them, along with three cattle ranchers, to pay a total of \$764,000 for causing environmental damage, according to the decision issued Wednesday. Cattle raising drives Amazon deforestation. The companies Distriboi and Frigon and the ranchers may appeal.

It is the first decision in several dozen lawsuits seeking millions of dollars in environmental damages from the slaughterhouses for allegedly trading in cattle raised illegally in a protected area known as Jaci-Parana, which was rainforest but is now mostly converted to pasture.

Four slaughterhouses are among the many parties charged, including JBS SA, which bills itself as the world's largest protein producer. The court has not decided on the cases involving JBS.

Brazilian law forbids commercial cattle inside a protected area, yet some 210,000 head are being grazed inside Jaci-Parana, according to the state animal division. With almost 80% of its forest destroyed, it ranks as the most ravaged conservation unit in the Brazilian Amazon. A court filing pegs damages in the reserve at some \$1 billion.

The lawsuits are based on transfer documents first reported by the Associated Press that show cattle going directly from protected areas to slaughterhouses. The documents were filled out by the illegal ranchers themselves.

Part of the decision is a collective penalty of \$453,000 against the five defendants, who are linked to one farm. The money will be used to reforest 232 hectares (573 acres) of what is now pasture there. (AP)

Venezuela revokes Brazil's role: Venezuela's government said that Brazil can no longer represent Argentina's diplomatic interests in the country, putting at risk several



Police guard Argentina's embassy in Caracas, Venezuela on Sept 7. Venezuela's government said that Brazil can no longer represent Argentina's diplomatic interests in the country, putting at risk several anti-government opponents who have holed up for months in the Argentine ambassador's residence seeking asylum. (AP)

Bangladesh's inflation eases slightly in August

Bangladesh's inflation eased slightly in August, but remained at double-digit levels for the second consecutive month as consumer prices persistently stayed high.

Bangladesh's inflation decreased to 10.49 percent in August from 11.66 percent in July, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Food inflation eased slightly

to 11.36 percent in August from 14.10 percent in the previous month.

Inflation for non-food items edged up to 9.74 percent in August from 9.68 percent in July, the data showed.

The country's average inflation, however, surged to 9.73 percent in the fiscal year 2023-24 (July 2023-June 2024), much higher than the budgetary target of 7.5 percent.

In the previous 2022-23 fiscal year, overall inflation was 9.02 percent.

On June 30, the Bangladesh parliament passed a record 7.97-trillion-taka (68 billion U.S. dollars) national budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Inflation rate announced at 6.5 percent for the 2024-25 fiscal year in the budget has been revised to 6 percent. (Xinhua)

Spanish PM visits China to shore up trade and cultural ties

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and other top officials on Monday during his second trip to China in a year-and-a-half that comes amid a spat over electric cars.

The center-left Socialist leader will also attend a business forum in Beijing for Spanish and Chinese companies before traveling to Shanghai later Monday. The next day he will attend more business events and the inauguration of a

Cervantes Institute, a center that promotes Spanish language and culture.

Prior to holding talks and dining with Xi, Sánchez will meet with his Chinese counterpart, Li Qiang, and the head of the ceremonial legislature, Zhao Leji. Sánchez arrived late Sunday and departs Wednesday.

Sánchez visited China in March 2023 when Spain held the rotating European Union presidency.

Spain was among the EU mem-

bers that expressed support earlier this year for a 36.7% tariff on Chinese electric vehicles. The Chinese government responded by launching an investigation into EU pork imports.

EU exports of products to China hit a peak at 7.4 billion euros (\$7.9 billion) in 2020 when Beijing had to turn abroad to satisfy domestic demand after its farms were decimated by a disease. (AP)

CPI up 0.6 percent year on year

China's consumer prices maintain stable growth in Aug

BEIJING, Sept. 9, (Xinhua): China's consumer prices continued to rise in August amid a sustained recovery of domestic demand, while declines in producer prices indicated more time needed for market sentiment to get fully restored.

The consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, was up 0.6 percent year on year last month, quickening from the 0.5-percent increase in July, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in a statement. On a monthly basis, the CPI grew 0.4 percent in August, slightly lower than the 0.5-percent increase in July.

NBS statistician Dong Lijuan attributed the price changes last month to factors including high temperatures and frequent rainfall in the summer.

In breakdown, food prices, up 2.8 percent year on year and 3.4 percent on a monthly basis, became the major contributor to the overall price increase. Prices of eggs, vegetables and fruits gained because of downpours in multiple regions, and pork prices also climbed with reduced production capacity and strong market expectations.

Non-food prices remained moderate due in part to falling demand for travel and hospitality as summer vacation was coming to an end.

NBS data also showed China's producer price index (PPI), which measures costs for goods at the factory gate,

went down 1.8 percent year on year in August, bigger than a 0.8-percent year-on-year dip registered in July.

The PPI decrease was due to insufficient market demand and the downward trend in prices of some international commodities, Dong said.

Analysts believe the consumer and producer prices in August point to warming domestic demand, while also calling for more to further improve market expectations.

China in March unveiled a program of promoting large-scale equipment upgrades and consumer goods trade-ins in an effort to stimulate domestic demand and shore up the economy. Under the program, factories are encouraged to replace old machines with advanced new ones, and individual consumers can enjoy subsidies on automobiles and home appliances, among others.

Recently, the central government added policy support for the program, arranging 150 billion yuan (about 21 billion U.S. dollars) of ultra-long special treasury bonds to help local policy implementation. Multiple regions including Hunan, Guangdong and Shanghai have rolled out specific plans.

Feng Lin, a researcher of Golden Credit Rating, said the government measures will boost the growth of consumer goods by 2 percentage points this year, making consumption a stronger economic driver in the second half.

Ruling declaring search engine a monopoly

Google faces new antitrust trial

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Sept. 9, (AP): One month after a judge declared Google's search engine an illegal monopoly, the tech giant faces another antitrust lawsuit that threatens to break up the company, this time over its advertising technology.

The Justice Department and a coalition of states contend that Google built and maintains a monopoly over the technology that matches online publishers to advertisers. Dominance over the software on both the buy side and the sell side of the transaction enables Google to keep as much as 36 cents on the dollar when it brokers sales between publishers and advertisers, the government contends in court papers.

Google says the government's case is based on an internet of yesteryear, when desktop computers ruled and internet users carefully typed precise World Wide Web addresses into

URL fields. Advertisers now are more likely to turn to social media companies like TikTok or streaming TV services like Peacock to reach audiences.

In recent years, Google Networks, the division of the Mountain View, California-based tech giant that includes such services as AdSense and Google Ad Manager that are at the heart of the case, actually have seen declining revenue, from \$31.7 billion in 2021 to \$31.3 billion in 2023, according to the company's annual reports.

The trial over the alleged ad tech monopoly begins Monday in Alexandria, Virginia. It initially was going to be a jury trial, but Google maneuvered to force a bench trial, writing a check to the federal government for more than \$2 million to moot the only claim brought by the government that required a jury.

Summit boosts cooperation

S. Africa looks to Beijing for modernization collab

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 9, (Xinhua): China has made remarkable achievements on the path to modernization, and South Africa sees huge potential for cooperation with China on advancing modernization, a senior official of South Africa's ruling party has said.

Gwen Ramokgopa, treasurer general of the African National Congress (ANC), said the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has delivered fruitful outcomes through mutually beneficial cooperation programs over the years.

The 2024 FOCAC summit has been an important opportunity to strengthen the Africa-China cooperation in various fields even further, especially the robust bilateral economic and trade ties, Ramokgopa told Xinhua in an interview in Johannesburg.

The summit was held from Wednesday to Friday in Beijing under the theme "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future."

Ramokgopa said the theme is significant for both China and Africa as the two sides are striving to achieve economic growth and improve people's wellbeing through their respective modernization efforts.

"To advance modernization in Africa, we need to look at our economic endowments and how it can unlock the huge development opportunities, which means creating a very positive business environment, improving the services to African people, and leveraging new technologies, including cleaner technologies around energy and the electrical vehicles," she said. "China is leading in these areas, so there is huge potential that we can strengthen our cooperation on advancing modernization."

Ramokgopa, who is also chairperson of Progressive Business Forum, a South African business engagement platform, has visited China many times.

Ramokgopa said she was impressed by the increasing interest from the business community in the two coun-

tries in investing in each other's market.

"During my business trip to China by leading a delegation of 19 companies last year, I'm impressed that there was growing commitment among Chinese companies for partnership to work with local companies in Africa to strengthen cooperation in multiple fields, including new energy and the processing of agricultural products," she said.

Ramokgopa also expressed her confidence in vigorous people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

"As China has been one of the sources of foreign tourists into South Africa, we would like to invite Chinese to our offerings in tourism as we've got wonderful tourist attractions," she said. "We would also want to promote the relationship between our academic institutions as China has premier universities to skill our people to be able to manage the modernization and industrialization programs."

On increasing interparty exchanges between the ANC and the Communist Party of China (CPC), Ramokgopa said they treasure their relationship with the CPC, because the relationship between the two parties has been rooted in a struggle for liberation, the prosperity of the two peoples, and the advancement of the two nations.

Ramokgopa spoke highly of the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization, the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization and the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development, which were proposed by China.

"The three initiatives are very critical and will play an important role in promoting the development of African countries," she said.

Both South Africa and China are members of BRICS and representatives of the Global South, cooperation between the two countries in multilateral platforms has helped to raise the voices of the Global South, the official said.

Asian stocks hit by Wall St slump, US job market fears

Nikkei 225 index slipped 0.5% to close at 36,215.75

HONG KONG, Sept. 9, (AP): Asian stocks fell Monday after another rout hit Wall Street on Friday, as a highly anticipated update on the U.S. job market came in weak enough to add to worries about the economy.

The Nikkei 225 index was hovering around its lowest level in almost a month during morning trading, and it slipped 0.5% to close at 36,215.75. Japan's gross domestic product grew by an annualized 2.9% in the second quarter, according to revised data from the Cabinet Office released on Monday. This was below expectations.

"Any broader risk aversion may have an amplified effect on Japanese equities, with safe-haven flows potentially supporting the yen, which is looked upon as negative for the country's exporters," Yeap Jun Rong, market strategist at IG, said in a commentary.

The U.S. dollar was trading at less than 143 Japanese yen in Monday trading.

Stocks in Chinese markets also racked up losses after worse-than-expected inflation data disappointed investors. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics on Monday showed deflationary pressure continues to loom large, as the consumer price index grew by 0.6% year-on-year in August, while the producer price index, which measures costs for manufacturing, was down 1.8% compared to August last year.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index declined 2.2% to 17,068.34 and the Shanghai Composite index was down 1.2%, at 2,731.70.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dipped 0.3% to 7,988.10. South Korea's KOSPI lost 0.4% to 2,534.11.

U.S. futures and oil prices were higher.

On Friday, the S&P 500 dropped 1.7% and ended at 5,408.42 to close out its worst week since March 2023. Broadcom, Nvidia and other tech companies drove the market lower amid ongoing concerns that their prices soared too high in the boom around artificial intelligence, and they dragged the Nasdaq composite down by a market-leading 2.6% to 16,690.83.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1% to 40,345.41.

Sharp swings also hit the bond market, where Treasury yields tumbled, recovered and then fell again after the jobs report showed U.S. employers hired fewer workers in August than economists expected. It was billed as the most important jobs report of the year, and it showed a second-straight month where hiring came in below forecasts. It also followed recent reports showing weakness in manufacturing and other areas in the economy.

Such a softening of the job market is actually just what the Federal Reserve and its chair, Jerome Powell, have been trying to get in order to stifle high inflation, "but only to a certain extent and the data is now testing Chair Powell's stated limits," said Scott Wren, senior global market strategist at Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

Friday's data raised questions about how much the Federal Reserve will cut its main interest rate by at its meeting later this month. The Fed is about to



People stand near an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei index at a securities firm Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, in Tokyo. (AP)

China's green energy projects to boost development in Africa

BERLIN, Sept. 9, (Xinhua): Clean energy projects are becoming increasingly pivotal in China-Africa economic relations, as trade between the two sides has seen consistent growth over the past two decades, said a report by German media Deutsche Welle.

During the recent 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China announced plans to implement 30 clean energy projects in Africa to support the continent's green development. Additionally, China will provide a further 360 billion yuan (50.8 billion U.S. dollars) of financial support for African countries over the next three years.

These initiatives are expected to generate at least 1 million new jobs, said the German report titled "China eyes bolstering green energy ties with Africa."

The report highlighted that trade between China and Africa has grown at an average rate of 17.2 percent annually since the start of the century. In the first seven months of 2024, the trade volume has reached a record high of 1.19 trillion yuan (about 168 billion U.S. dollars).

Green energy stands out as one of the highlights of the future China-Africa partnership. Africa will play an important role in China's green supply chain, while the continent's need for a green transition will have a significant

impact on bilateral ties, Christian-Geraud Neema, a China researcher from Mauritius who has studied and worked in China for a decade, was quoted as saying.

Neema noted that Chinese green products like solar panels and electric cars are very popular and have great prospects in Africa, as many regions there face energy shortages which hinder economic growth, especially industrial development. "We are therefore looking forward to new green solutions from China," he said.

The Chinese government has completed several hundred solar, wind and hydro energy projects in Africa. Although Africa accounts for only a fraction of global renewable energy capacity, the pace of its growth is impressive. In 2023, the continent's installed solar power capacity increased by 19 percent, the report noted.

Chinese green products are facing growing challenges in accessing U.S. and European markets due to tariff barriers, Lina Benabdallah, an expert on China-Africa relations at the Wake Forest University in the United States, was quoted as saying in the report.

"It's quite ironic that a few years ago, Western countries were still accusing China of having done too little for green energy. But now they see the Chinese are doing too much," said Benabdallah.

Boeing has deal to avoid strike by more than 30,000 machinists

SEATTLE, Sept. 9, (AP): Boeing and its largest union said Sunday they reached agreement on a new contract that, if ratified, will avoid a strike that threatened to shut down aircraft production by the end of the coming week.

Boeing said 33,000 workers represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers would get pay raises of 25% over the four-year contract, with average wages rising 33% due to seniority step increases. That is less than the 40% the union had demanded during negotiations.

But the company agreed with a key union demand to build its next plane in Washington state, presumably by union members.

Workers also would get \$3,000 lump sum payments and a lower share of health care costs, Boeing said. The company would make new 401(k) contributions of up to \$4,160 per employee, but the union would not achieve its demand to restore a defined-benefit pension plan that was eliminated in 2014.

"Negotiations are a give and take, and although there was no way to achieve success on every single item, we can honestly say that this proposal is the best contract we've negotiated in our history," Jon Holden, president of IAM District 751, the machinists' union outpost at Boeing, said in a statement posted on the union website.

The union's bargaining committee is recommending that members ratify the contract, Holden said.

The president of Boeing's commercial airplanes division, Stephanie Pope, said Sunday in a video for employees that the proposed contract includes the company's largest-ever general wage increase. She said the promise to build Boeing's next new airliner in the Puget Sound area means job security for generations to come.

The proposed contract is contingent on union members ratifying before midnight Thursday Pacific time, after which the union was threatening to strike.

The union has scheduled a two-part election for Thursday, with workers voting whether to accept the contract, and whether to authorize a strike if they reject the offer. Voting will occur at about a half-dozen locations in Washington state and one in California.

A strike would have added to the headwinds facing Boeing, which is hurtling toward a sixth straight money-losing year and just hired a new CEO to turn things around.

The new chief executive, Kelly Ortberg, will try to reverse \$27 billion in losses since the start of 2019. His assignment includes fixing problems in Boeing's aircraft-manufacturing

process, gaining regulatory approval for the long-delayed 777X jumbo jet, limiting damage from over-budget government contracts, paying down \$45 billion in net debt, and absorbing Spirit AeroSystems, the money-losing key supplier that Boeing just bought for \$4.7 billion.

Ortberg has sounded conciliatory toward the machinists' union.

"He understands that they are basically contentious relationships with the union, and he wants to make those relationships better," TD Cowen aerospace analyst Cai von Rumohr said.

A walkout at Boeing would not affect consumers, but it would shut down Boeing's airplane production cut off needed cash. Von Rumohr said aircraft makers typically get about 60% of the purchase price on delivery, "so not delivering planes has a massive impact on your cash in-flow, and your costs probably continue on."

An eight-week strike in 2008, the longest at Boeing since a 10-week walkout in 1995, cost the company about \$100 million a day in deferred revenue.

Before the tentative agreement was announced, Jefferies aerospace analyst Sheila Kahyaoglu estimated that a strike would cost the company about \$3 billion based on the 2008 strike plus inflation and current airplane-production rates.

erode the benefits from lower rates.

Still, the jobs report did include some encouraging data points. For one, the unemployment rate improved to 4.2% from 4.3% a month earlier. That was better than economists expected. And even if August's hiring was weaker than forecast, it was still better than July's pace.

All the uncertainty sent Treasury yields on a wild ride in the bond market as traders tried to handicap the Fed's next moves.

The two-year Treasury yield initially fell as low as 3.64% after the release of the jobs report, before quickly climbing back above 3.76%. It then dropped back to 3.66% following Waller's comments, down from 3.74% late Thursday.

turn its focus more toward protecting the job market and preventing a recession after keeping the federal funds rate at a two-decade high for more than a year.

Cuts to interest rates can boost investment prices, but the worry on Wall Street is that the Fed may be moving too late. If a recession does hit, it would undercut corporate profits and



Zain is keen to invest in its human capital.



From the training program.

Staff join insightful Digital Transformation Program, facilitated by KFAS

Zain employees learn about digitization and emerging technologies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Zain employees recently participated in the insightful Digital Transformation Program organized by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). The program aimed to deepen their knowledge of digitization and introduce them to the impact of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence in reshaping industries and transforming work environments.

This step falls under the umbrella of Zain's Purpose and Human Resources strategy that aims to empower and invest in its human capital. The company continuously focuses on enhancing the capabilities and talents of its national

workforce in various fields to achieve sustainable growth and enrich their career journeys, especially in topics related to technology that are central to its operations.

The program provided a great opportunity for Zain employees from non-technical departments to learn about digitization and digital transformation, understanding how these concepts have had significant impact in major industries worldwide in recent years, opening entirely new opportunities for growth and expansion, and evolving the day-to-day operations of businesses and organizations.

The program covered several topics related to digital transformation, including the concepts of digitization and the digital economy, and how they drive growth and establish new business models. The participants were also introduced to emerging technologies that continue to bring massive changes to business environments, such as generative AI, the Internet of Things (IoT), fintech, big data, virtual and augmented reality (VR & AR), machine learning (ML), robotics, and more.

Additionally, the program addressed key aspects of the digital transformation process, such as vision development, strategy formulation and execution, cultivating an empowering work culture, building tech skillsets, investing in the tech infrastructure, leveraging data, optimizing work processes, and translating strategic vision into actionable plans. It also covered analyzing market requirements and understanding the challenges organizations face.

The training program featured a combination of lectures, interactive activities, theoretical and practical concepts, and self-reflection sessions to enhance interpersonal skills. Various training methods were employed to maximize the impact of the program, which was facilitated by certified trainers and specialists from KFAS.

Zain is committed to playing a strategic role in attracting aspiring local talents to the private sector, bolstering the presence of the national workforce in the job market, especially in STEAM fields and digital capacities that have become a priority in today's markets.

An exceptional number since 2014

KFH boosts national workforce development with 19 new scholarships and academic fair

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced accepting 19 employees in its scholarship and study grants program for the current year, marking an exceptional number since the program launch in 2014. The program has granted several employees who wish to pursue their higher education the opportunity to study in the best universities in Kuwait. It reaffirms KFH's leading position in developing its national workforce according to the highest international standards.

Academic fair

As part of its efforts to support employees wanting to benefit from the scholarship program, KFH organized an academic fair in Baitak Tower, inviting top universities in Kuwait to showcase their programs for employees and familiarize them with areas of studies, requirements and privileges offered by participating universities.

During his tour in the academic fair, KFGroup Chief Human Resources and Transformation Officer Zeyad AlOmar, said that the event is the first to be organized by KFH for its staff. "The fair responds to the high demand of employees," noted AlOmar "Thanks to the successful organization of the fair and the ongoing efforts by the Human Resources sector in highlighting the significance of the scholarship program and its opportunities, many employees interested in pursuing their studies have applied."

Privileges and full support

AlOmar stressed KFH's support for employees during their completion of their postgraduate or graduate studies, adding that KFH fully sponsors the employees' scholarship program such as study fees. The program also provides many privileges for the accepted employee including a supporting environment, sabbatical leave and reduced working hours during the semester, allowing employees to attend lectures and exams.

Human capital

KFH consistently works on providing a qualified human resource infrastructure in various disciplines closely related to banking. This is considered one of the success factors and essential incentives for sustainable growth that aligns with and serves the overall strategic objectives of KFH. The scholarship program was introduced to maximize the value of KFH human capital and prepare a generation of well-rounded and young national leaders according to the best scientific standards. This is achieved with the aim of keeping abreast of the diverse developments in the field. The program also contributes to the development of talented, creative, and outstanding individuals, thus having a workforce capable of staying up to date with the banking industry advances and can drive the change and innovate solutions based on modern technologies.

Since the launch of the program in 2014, KFH has sponsored over 60 employees studying for their bachelor's or master's degrees. This year, KFH is supporting 19 employees in their studies.



Zeyad AlOmar during a tour of the academic exhibition.



Academic exhibition.



High turnout from employees at the exhibition.

Bank expands digital banking for Bloom clients

Warba Bank announces Al Sunbula draw winners

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate and investment banking services in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Al Sunbula draws, the monthly Al Sunbula Kids account, and the monthly student allowance. Warba Bank will continue to hold weekly draws for ten winners of Al Sunbula account and five winners of the monthly student allowance account, in the presence of a representative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

Each of the 10 lucky winners of the Sunbula weekly draw of Warba Bank received KD 1,000, and the winners are: Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al-Amiri, Abdullah Mutlaq Al-Otaibi, Abdul Aziz Soud Al-Azmi, Soud Hmoud Al-Saeedi, Zaher Mujahir Zakhari Saeed, Abdullah Is'haq Mohammad Ateah, Abdul Aziz Omran Al-Rashed, Fahad Awad Mohammad Baghouza, Abdullah Turki Awaad Al-Shemmari, and Mshari Munim Munther Jaber.

There are 7 winners in the Sunbula Kids draw, and they are: Khaled Fahad Khaled Al Shamroukh, Mohammed Falah Badah Al Azmi, Fatma Yousef Abdul Majeed Al Najjar, Sara Barjas Habab Sayel, Fajer Adel Najji Al Bejjan, Othman Faisal Saleh Al Eidan, Saleem Mubarak Abdullah Al Qattan.

Warba Bank also congratulates the winners of the "student allowance" monthly draw for Bloom clients, who are: Aisha Nasser Abdullah Al-Ghaith, Anfal Ali Asi Al-Mai, Moudhi Tarahheeb Al-Otaibi, Adhbi Abdul Latif Khazal, and Rahaf Suleiman Jaza Al-Mutairi.

Warba Bank distinguished the "Bloom" clients with a unique digital banking experience that lives up to their aspirations and orientations, which is considered the cornerstone of development through a private banking application, the first of its kind not only in Kuwait, but in the entire region, it is inspired by social media applications, the most widely used in terms of design, interface, browsing methods, and choice of colors, especially for young people.

As for the Sunbula account, it is the ideal choice for all those wishing to save money and achieve appropriate financial returns on their accounts at the same time, in addition to the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year.

Regarding the conditions, Mr. Ahmed M. Al-Mutawa, Area Manager



Ahmed M. Al-Mutawa

Retail Banking Group said: "KD 100 is now required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and major draws, and the client still gets one chance for every KD 10 in the account, and the chances are calculated according to the lowest balance in the account during the month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to calculate the chances. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the client's chances of winning."

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

Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent components that make the Bank close to all members of community.

Younger parents prioritize local universities over traditional study destinations

Generational divide emerging on international education, says report

LONDON, Sept 9, (PRNewswire): A generational divide in attitudes towards international education and where to study is emerging, according to a new report from HSBC.

HSBC's Quality of Life report, which surveyed more than 11,200 affluent adults in 11 markets around the world, reveals that while the US, UK and Australia remain the top study destinations, younger generations of current and future parents, such as Gen Z (68%) and Millennials (67%), are more likely to prioritise a university closer to their home region.

The report found new emerging destinations for overseas university education:

Mainland China is increasingly popular among younger Singaporean parents

Singapore is emerging as a top destination for younger parents from Mainland China, India, Malaysia and Taiwan

Continental Europe is emerging as the top region for parents from the United Kingdom

Canada is growing in popularity with parents from the United States

Commenting on the study, Katie Wilkins, Global Head of International Propositions, HSBC, said:

"We're seeing a shift in attitudes towards international education in younger generations of parents, who are looking to balance their child's education with global aspirations and proximity to home, compared to their older counterparts.

"More families are coming to us as they begin their in-

ternational education journey, as the complexity of choice means they need a globally-connected financial services partner to help them navigate decisions with clarity and confidence."

Most parents (78%) would select a university if it allowed their child to pursue their passions, with Millennials (83%) 10 per cent more likely to prioritise their child's interests when selecting a university compared to Boomers (73%). Millennial (81%) parents are 15 per cent more likely than Boomer (66%) parents to 'strongly or somewhat agree' with an education option that allowed their child to explore an entrepreneurial path if it had a positive impact on their child's overall well-being while studying overseas.

Television

Jamie Lee Curtis gets her first Emmy award

'Shogun' wins record 14 Emmys at Creative Arts ceremony

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 9, (AP): "Shogun" won the most Emmys ever for a single season of a television series with 14 at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Sunday night, while "The Bear" won seven including best guest actress in a comedy series for Jamie Lee Curtis.

Presenters were saying "Shogun" all night at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles on the second night of the two-night Creative Arts Emmys, where awards are handed out that don't quite make the main Primetime Emmys ceremony. It broke the record of 13 set by the 2008 limited series "John Adams" before even reaching the Sept. 15 main Emmys ceremony, when it can pad its record with up to five more.

"Shogun," the FX series about political machinations in feudal Japan, won all but two of the possible 16 trophies it could have claimed on Sunday night, including Emmys for costumes, makeup, editing, stunts and cinematography, along with a best guest actor in a drama Emmy for Néstor Carbonell.

As he accepted, Carbonell thanked the crew, then marveled at how many of them were in the audience.

"You're all here! You're all nominated!" Carbonell said. "I love the team sport of this."

Curtis was emotional on stage after winning her first Emmy 18 months after winning her first Oscar for "Everything Everywhere

All at Once."

"I'm the luckiest girl in the world," Curtis said backstage. "I just never thought I would get to do work at this level of depth and complexity and intelligence. It's been the thrill of my creative life these last couple of years."

Asked if she could win a Grammy and a Tony to make it an EGOT, she said no way.

"I can't sing at all," she said, "and I've never been on stage."

Appearance

The songwriting team of Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, however, did become the 20th and 21st members of the elite EGOT club when they won their first Emmy for a song they co-wrote for "Only Murders in the Building." The duo had previously won an Oscar for "La La Land" and a Grammy and Tony for "Dear Evan Hansen."

Curtis won for the season two "Bear" episode "Fishes," in which she played the mother of star Jeremy Allen White at a nightmare holiday family gathering. Jon Bernthal, who played White's big brother in the episode, won best guest actor in a comedy.

Michaela Coel won best guest actress in a comedy series for her appearance on "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

"Shogun" shook up the Emmys race when it switched from the

limited series to the drama series category in May and led all nominees with 25 when nominations were announced in July.

It won so steadily that the few who beat it - it lost only in two music-composition categories - felt the need to comment on it.

"I didn't write a speech, because there was no way I was beating 'Shogun' tonight," said Siddharta Khosa, who won best music composition for a series for "Only Murders in the Building."

When Eric Andre was asked only one question in the media room after winning his first Emmy for his performance on his self-titled talk show, he said, with fake exasperation, "Sorry I'm not on 'Shogun!'"

Maya Rudolph and Angela Bassett were among the Creative Arts winners on Saturday night, which focused on reality and variety TV. Rudolph won her sixth career Emmy, for her voice-over work on the animated "Big Mouth." Bassett won her first, for her narration of the National Geographic wildlife documentary series "Queens."

Both nights of the show will be edited into a single 2 1/2 hour show that will air on FXX on Sept. 14 and stream the following day on Hulu.

Dan and Eugene Levy will host the Primetime Emmy Awards, also at the Peacock Theater, airing on ABC on Sept. 15.

Variety



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Michael Keaton in a scene from 'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice.' (AP)

Film

O'Hara and Burton return for a laugh-filled hit

'Beetlejuice' sequel, a comedy joyride

By Jocelyn Noveck

I have global entry!

Now, does that sound like a funny line? Of course it doesn't. Whatever in the history of mankind and airport lines could be funny about global entry?

But put it in the mouth of comedy goddess Catherine O'Hara, and place it in the singularly inventive world of Tim Burton and that wacky afterlife waiting room from "Beetlejuice," and it may become the one blessed time in your life you'll ever guffaw about global entry.

It likely won't be the only thing you'll guffaw about. Burton is back - and, more significantly, he is BACK - with "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," 36 years after the original. And for once, the question "Why a sequel?" is moot.

Not because we know the answer. (Do we?) But, who cares? It's funny. It may even make you feel better about, well, death, though not "death death." And Michael Keaton somehow looks exactly the same as he did in 1988 (to be fair, it helps that his character was already dead.)

Returning to his tale of Keaton's ghostly, fiendish "bio-exorcist," director Burton brings back much of the team behind the original, including, alongside O'Hara and Keaton, the still-lovely Winona Ryder as Lydia the Goth Girl (also, Bob the shrunken-head guy).

And we've gained Justin Theroux, Monica Bellucci, Willem Dafoe, and for the younger generation, Jenna Ortega, who, as a relatively normal figure, serves as an appealing anchor, her story moving the plot along.

Speaking of plot: if you didn't see the original, not to worry. It all gets explained (as much as it should be) in time. We begin in Winter River, Connecticut, still home to Lydia Deetz (Ryder), who came as a teenager with batty stepmom Delia and dad Charles, only to learn her new house was haunted by the re-

cently deceased Adam and Barbara (Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis, alas not back).

Lydia looks much the same - dressed all in black, with spiky bangs and pale skin - but is now a widowed mother, a psychic mediator, and host of a cheesy reality show, "Ghost House," in which she sees ghosts and asks, "Can the living and the dead co-exist?"

But one day she sees something in the audience that scares her: visions of Beetlejuice, who wrought havoc when she was a teen and who, when we last left him, was wasting away in the afterlife waiting room (apparently, HE did not have global entry.)

Waiting just off set to comfort Lydia after this terrifying vision is her manager and boyfriend, Rory (Theroux), who has a little ponytail almost as smarmy as himself.

Lydia then gets a concerning message from Delia (O'Hara), an artist of questionable talent and unquestionable ego, who's mounting a gallery show in which she herself is the canvas. There, Delia tells Lydia that she's lost Charles. "Is he divorcing you?" gasps Lydia. "What a horrible thought!" replies Delia. "No, he's dead." (Such lines are catnip for O'Hara, a genius of comic timing.)

Relationship

Lydia calls her daughter, Astrid (Ortega), at boarding school. Astrid lists Lydia in her contacts as "Alleged Mom," which tells you much of what you need to know about their fraught relationship.

But let's pause this account of the living, because we also have to catch you up on the dead. Down where Beetlejuice is stuck, where the dead live - but not the "dead dead" -- Delores, Beetlejuice's ex-wife, has escaped from the crates (emphasis on plural) in which her body has resided. Watching the glamorous Bellucci literally staple herself together is just one of the glorious creative moments Burton and crew give us here. Alas, Delores doesn't have much else to do, but this is rather spectacular.

We're approaching spoiler territory, so let's just say

that things really get complicated when Astrid goes home to Winter River for her father's funeral. There, she watches as Mom accepts a marriage proposal from smarmy Rory. Racing off to escape, Astrid runs into a cute young guy reading Dostoyevsky.

A relationship begins, one that will lead to unexpected mayhem. Let's just say Lydia will need to call upon - gasp! - Beetlejuice, who will exact a fearsome price for his services, as he is wont to do.

And he appears none too soon. Keaton, in his white caked makeup and blackened eyes and hair that looks like he is perpetually sticking his hand into a plug in the wall, slips remarkably smoothly into his old role. "The juice is loose," as he likes to say.

But you know who's also got the juice flowing? Burton. It's his inimitable energy that infuses this movie - a joyously rendered sequel that sometimes makes sense, and sometimes doesn't, but just keeps rollicking. Among the ridiculous delights along the way: A "soul train" in the afterlife, which is not only literally a train of souls, but a replica of the variety show "Soul Train," with people in Afros dancing their way to wherever they are going.

And if we don't have the lip-synced "Day-O (The Banana Boat Song)" from the original, we do have a lip-synced "MacArthur Park," the Donna Summer version. "Someone left the cake out in the rain," go the ridiculous words of the disco classic. "I don't think that I can take it, 'cause it took so long to bake it, and I'll never have that recipe again."

In the Burtonian spirit, let's just say it took a long time to bake it, yes, but the director has recovered the recipe - at least enough to make us smile, chortle, even guffaw, for 104 minutes. And we can be happy with that.

"Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," a Warner Bros. Pictures release, has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association "for violent content, macabre and bloody images, strong language, some suggestive material and brief drug use." Running time: 104 minutes. Three stars out of four. (AP)

a great cast of a revered generation of actors and then having young actors who are making their own mark."

The electric opening weekend kicks off the fall movie season with a bang after a sleepy Labor Day weekend and a relatively slow August that saw never films struggle as holdover movies ruled



O'Hara



Swift

the box office. (AP)

NEW YORK: Taylor Swift was at the US Open to watch another Taylor perform. Swift was at the men's final along with Travis Kelce on Sunday, four days after watching her boyfriend's Kansas City Chiefs open their NFL season

with a victory.

The singing superstar was wearing a red-and-white checkered dress when she arrived for the match between American Taylor Fritz and Jannik Sinner of Italy. Kelce was dressed in a white shirt and sweater, looking appropriately attired for Wimbledon.

The couple sat in a box at

Arthur Ashe Stadium along with Patrick Mahomes. Kelce's teammate with the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs, and his wife, Brittany.

The US Open posted a photo on social media of Swift enjoying a Honey Deuce, the tournament's cocktail phenom that runs for \$23. (AP)

People & Places

Music

Slide over salsa

K-pop's revolution hits socialist Cuba

HAVANA, Cuba, Sept 9, (AP): Socialist Cuba, the birthplace of salsa and other rhythms that have conquered the world, is now surrendering to the invasion of South Korean pop music.

Thirteen thousand kilometers of distance separate the Asian nation and the communist-run island, as well as a different language and cultural traditions. However, all of these barriers would seem to vanish in a split second thanks to K-pop's infectious beat and elaborate choreography.

Korean popular music, or K-pop, has spread far and wide from its Asian roots as boy bands like BTS and NCT and their female counterpart Blackpink, comprising Jennie Kim, Lisa, Rose and Jisoo, rival Taylor Swift for downloads and album sales globally.

But it was slow to catch on in Cuba, where salsa is king and internet speeds were glacial until recently.

On Saturday, far from Seoul, dozens of teenagers clad in plaid, prep school skirts, baggy bomber pants and heavy black eyeliner busted their best moves as images of the genre's idols were projected on a large screen of a Havana dance club.

"K-pop has opened a new world to me," said 24-year-old Fransico Piedra, who when not working with his father as a blacksmith dreams up meticulous dance steps. Known by his artistic name Ken he one day aspires to be a professional K-pop choreographer. "It's a place where I can be myself, and share with friends the joy of laughter, song and dance."

Many of the teenagers hope to follow in the footsteps of two Cuban groups - Limitless and LTX - that before the pandemic traveled to South Korea to partake in the K-POP World Festival, an annual talent competition.

K-pop - a catch all for musical styles ranging from R&B to rock - first penetrated the island when Cubans fell in love with South Korean soap operas about a decade ago. As internet speeds improved, and government controls eased, more young Cubans got online and started streaming videos like teenagers everywhere.

Generation

While Cuban kids may be mesmerized by K-pop, an older generation of leaders have had frostier ties to South Korea. The two countries only restored diplomatic relations that were severed following the 1959 Cuban revolution this year and have yet to exchange ambassadors. Meanwhile, Cuba remains a staunch ally of North Korea, which views K-pop as a dangerous form of propaganda from a capitalist enemy with whom it has been locked in a military standoff since the 1950s.

Xian Zhang was hired Thursday as music director of the Seattle Symphony, becoming the first woman conductor to head a major West Coast orchestra and filling a post that had been vacant since **Thomas Dausgaard** quit abruptly in January 2022.

Zhang agreed to a five-year contract starting in 2025-26, the orchestra said Thursday. She becomes music director designate this season.

She first conducted the orchestra at Seattle's Benaroya Hall in June 2008 in Prokofiev's "Alexander Nevsky" and has returned several times, including for performances of Orff's "Carmina Burana" in 2023 and Copland's "Appalachian Spring" this April.

"With each visit, I realized the depth and the understanding of the music from the musicians," she said. "It felt in a way musically speaking that we're really on the same page and speaking the same language."

Zhang has been music director of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra since 2016-17 and won a 2023 Grammy Award for a recording with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the string trio Time for Three of works by **Jennifer Higdon** and **Kevin Puts**.

Seattle Symphony President **Krishna Thiagarajan** said he was impressed by "the energy and the connection between her and the orchestra that also translated to the audience."

"She brings a new perspective to anything that she conducts while being truthful to traditional interpretations of what we would call core repertoire," he said. "She has a great sense of contemporary American composers, especially contemporary American composers that have an ethnic background, of immigrant composers. She's been a champion for the causes of women in music over her career."

Following lengthy music director tenures of **Gerard Schwarz** (1985-2011) and **Ludovic Morlot** (2011-19), Dausgaard was hired in October 2017 to start a four-year contract in 2019-20. After Dausgaard quit with 1 1/2 seasons remaining in his contract, he told Danish National Radio's P2, "I have felt threatened and I haven't felt safe with going to work" and told The New York Times "I felt my life is too precious to be in such tension." Orchestra officials denied any impropriety.

Orchestra

Jon Rosen, the lawyer who has chaired the orchestra's board since August 2021, said Dausgaard's messy departure "certainly was at least a subliminal consideration" in the search for a successor.

"We all wanted to have someone who was going to be very congenial, be able to relate to the musicians," he said. "I certainly wanted to learn from the experience with Thomas."

Born in China, Zhang started playing piano at 3, went to Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music and was invited by a teacher to step in to conduct Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro" at 19 with the China National Opera Orchestra.

She attended the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, won the Maazel/Vilar International Conductors' Competition in 2002 and was hired as the New York Philharmonic's assistant conductor and later associate. Zhang became music director of the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra from 2005-07 and the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi from 2009-16.

Seattle had 176 scheduled concerts and 6,583 subscribers last season when it sold 69.65% of tickets, exceeding its 58.94% in the 2018-19 season before the pandemic. Revenue last season is estimated at \$31.6 million, including \$11.9 million from tickets.

Zhang is committed to up to 14 weeks annually with Seattle and eight with New Jersey, where she lives. Her 2024-25 season includes performances with the Metropolitan Opera, Boston Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Montreal Symphony Orchestra and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Zhang returns to the Seattle Symphony for programs in March and June.



Jennie



A model walks the runway during the Tommy Hilfiger Spring/Summer 2025 fashion show onboard a Staten Island Ferry as part of New York Fashion Week on Sunday, Sept. 8, in New York. (AP)

Fashion

NYFW rocks Staten Island ferry with Wu-Tang

Hilfiger goes nautical for NY show

NEW YORK, Sept 9, (AP): Tommy Hilfiger loves celebrating New York City and its landmarks. He also loves a nautical theme - and a big surprise.

So for his New York Fashion Week show on Sunday night, the designer brought all those elements together in his typically splashy way, inviting guests aboard a decommissioned ferry boat and giving them not only a runway show but a rap-filled finale.

The live musical performance, which electrified the fashion crowd, featured Ghostface Killah, Method Man, and Raekwon from Staten Island's own Wu-Tang clan weaving through the runways and seats as they sang. The soundtrack was curated by Questlove, who also served as DJ for Hilfiger's February show at the Oyster Bar in Grand Central Station.

Inspired

"We're inspired by nautical this season," Hilfiger told The Associated Press before the show. "But it's nautical, preppy, collegiate, all-American and modern. So we needed to show it either on the water, on a boat or near the water. Then we found out the Staten Island Ferry was available."

The boat, called the John F. Kennedy, served as a Staten Island Ferry until it was decommissioned in 2021. It was bought the following year by investors including actor-comedian Pete Davidson and "Saturday Night Live's" Colin Hanks, who both grew up in the New York City borough.

"We are really the first people to utilize it (the ferry) for an event," Hilfiger said. "We're really excited."

Just was delighted to see the boat being used for the purpose he imagined. "It's pretty crazy," he said. "It's one of the few days where I've been on the boat and been like, 'Oh, say, this is nice. This is how it can work.'"

"I took this exact boat every single morning to high school," Jost added, explaining why he'd bought the boat. "And when it was available, I just loved the vibe of it."

Hilfiger's Spring 2025 collection featured nautical style stripes "inspired by sailing heritage," the label explained, and casual styles like capri

Tennis attire trends thanks to social media, pickleball

NEW YORK, Sept 9, (AP): While tennis fans savor the last matches of the US Open, a subset of spectators and TV viewers have watched the year's final Grand Slam tournament as a source of fashion inspiration they can use to serve looks off the court.

It may have escaped people who don't pay attention to clothing trends, but cities from Australia to America are awash in short pleated skirts, tennis dresses, polo collars and other garments that can make anyone look like they possess a country club membership and a respectable backhand.

The styles naturally are on full display in the stands of Flushing Meadows. Students are sporting skirts - the skirt-short mashup often worn by tennis players - and crew socks as they return to college campuses. Young professionals and middle-aged parents are taking the posh and preppy aesthetic to cafes, parks and wherever they run errands.

"I've never played pickleball or tennis in my life, and I have like five tennis skirts," Stacy Sierra, 19, said while walking on the University of Notre Dame campus in Indiana. Si-

erra said she likes the look of the skirts and preferred their flowy material to denim during the summer and early autumn.

The trend, dubbed "tenniscore," owes its timing to multiple factors. It's an extension of athleisure, the time-saving, comfort-minded concept that made elevated yoga pants, spandex shorts and other recreational attire acceptable to wear in public, no workout required.

The popularity of pickleball - an easy-to-play mix of tennis, ping pong and badminton - as well as interest in timeless fashions that exude "polished comfort" help explain why clothing and shoe lines for inspired by racket sports are so ubiquitous this year, according to Kristen Classi-Zummo, an analyst with market research firm Circana.

The market research firm's data showed sales of women's tennis apparel spiked 22% in the U.S. between the beginning of the year and early August, while men's tennis apparel saw a 19% increase. Athletic brands such as Nike, Fila and Adidas have rolled out fashion-forward collections of tank tops, shorts and visors to capture the momentum.

was taking a break from her freshman year at college to appear on her first fashion week runway.

"I got very emotional," Shields said. "It was her first show and this is something she wanted to do. And I said, 'You've got to go to college, but it's a Sunday, so it's okay.'"

Actors Shay Mitchell and Madelyn Cline were among the admirers of the collection.

"Incredible, as always," said Mitchell. "I want every piece. The accessories were phenom, and how do you end a show better than what he did?"



Jamie Lee Curtis poses with her award for outstanding guest actress in a comedy series for "The Bear" on night two of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 8, in Los Angeles. (AP) — Details Page 11



Flowers



Ehmer

Variety

NEW YORK: The impasse between DirecTV and Disney over a new carriage agreement has become more heated as it entered its second week.

DirecTV filed a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission on Saturday night accusing Disney of negotiating in bad faith.

Disney channels, including ESPN and ABC-owned stations in nine markets, have been off DirecTV since the evening of Sept. 1. That meant DirecTV customers were blacked out from viewing most college football games and the final week of the US Open tennis tournament, including the women's and men's finals.

DirecTV has 11.3 million subscribers, according to Leichtman Research Group, making it the nation's third-largest pay TV provider.

ABC and ESPN will have the "Monday Night Football" opener between the New York Jets and San Francisco 49ers. ABC will also produce and carry a presidential debate between **Kamala Harris** and **Donald Trump** on Tuesday in Philadelphia.

ABC-owned stations in **Los Angeles**; the San Francisco Bay Area; **Fresno, California**; **New York**; **Chicago**; **Philadelphia**; **Houston**; and **Raleigh, North Carolina**, are off DirecTV. (AP)

PANAMA CITY: Matias Delacroix has been taking photos for The Associated Press since 2019. The award-winning Chilean photojournalist, currently based in Panama City, has covered some of the biggest events in Latin America for the AP. They include the COVID-19 pandemic, the aftermath of the assassination of Haitian President **Jovenel Moïse**, soccer great Pelé's funeral, **Javier Milei's** election in **Argentina**, **Nicolas Maduro's** election in **Venezuela**, and the 2023 Pan American Games among other moments. This is what he had to say about this extraordinary photo.

"I'm always looking to capture everyday moments. With Deadpool on everyone's mind due to the new movie 'Deadpool & Wolverine,' I knew I'd find plenty of fans in costume at a Comic-Con event. It was just a matter of patience to find a moment that would grab the audience's attention and make it a standout feature in our photo report. (AP)

ATLANTA: **Walt Ehmer**, the president and CEO of Waffle House and a member of

the board of trustees for the Atlanta Police Foundation, has died at age 58, the foundation announced Sunday.

Ehmer joined Waffle House in 1992 and quickly rose to senior leadership, becoming president of the company in 2002, and later adding the titles of CEO and chairman, according to information from Georgia Tech University, his alma mater.

His leadership, dedication and warmth touched the lives of many, both within the Waffle House family and beyond. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy," Mayor **Andre Dickens** said in a news release.

The board of directors for Waffle House issued a statement Sunday afternoon saying Ehmer died after a long illness. "He will be greatly missed by his entire Waffle House family," the statement said.

Ehmer was chair of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association Board of Trustees from 2012 to 2013 and served numerous organizations, including the Georgia Tech Foundation Board and the Georgia Tech Advisory Board. (AP)



Angelina Jolie and Pax Jolie-Pitt arrive on the red carpet for the premiere of 'Without Blood' at TIFF Lightbox during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Sunday, Sept. 8. (AP)

LONDON:

Bass guitarist **Herbie Flowers**, who played with **David Bowie**, **Elton John**, **Lou Reed** and other music legends in a decades-long career, has died at 86.

The musician's family confirmed his death on Facebook Saturday.

Flowers was a founding member of the pop group Blue Mink, who later joined the rock band T Rex. He won acclaim for his work with many of the biggest names in U.K. music in the 1970s, giving Reed's "Walk On The Wild Side," from the 1972 "Transformer" album, its recognizable twinned bassline.

He also played bass for Bowie's "Space Oddity," **Bryan Ferry's** "The Bride Stripped Bare," and **Paul McCartney's** "Give My Regards To Broad Street," and featured in two of John's early '70s albums, among many others.

In a tribute, Bowie's estate said "his work with Bowie and associates over the years is too long to list here." (AP)

Drug to offer new treatment option to improve vision

Roche's Vabysmo secures CHMP nod for Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO)

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Roche, represented by Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Company (AAW) in Kuwait, announced today that the European Medicines Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has adopted a positive opinion for the extension of the Vabysmo® (faricimab) marketing authorisation to include the treatment of visual impairment due to macular edema secondary to retinal vein occlusion (RVO). A final decision regarding the approval is expected from the European Commission in the near future.

Roche Chief Medical Officer and

Head of Global Product Development said: "This CHMP recommendation represents an important step towards bringing Vabysmo to even more patients living with vision loss worldwide. Recognizing the disruptive impact retinal vein occlusion can have on the everyday lives and independence of these patients, we hope that Vabysmo will offer a new treatment option that can effectively help preserve and improve their vision."

The CHMP decision is based on full 72-week data from the Phase III BALATON and COMINO studies evaluating Vabysmo in more than

1,200 people with macular edema due to branch and central RVO (BRVO and CRVO). In both studies, Vabysmo demonstrated early and sustained vision improvements non-inferior to aflibercept, and robust retinal drying. Vabysmo was well tolerated and the safety profile was consistent with previous studies. Current available treatments for RVO are typically given every one to two months.

Vabysmo was first approved for RVO by the United States Food and Drug Administration in October 2023 and later by the Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in



March 2024. It is also approved in more than 95 countries around the world for people living with neovascular or 'wet' age-related macular degeneration (nAMD) and diabetic macular edema (DME).



Roche has the broadest retina pipeline in ophthalmology. Led by science and informed by insights from people with eye conditions, Roche is committed to saving people's eyesight from the leading causes

of vision loss through pioneering treatments.

In Kuwait, Vabysmo® is provided in Ministry of Health hospitals through Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co., the local agent for Roche Pharmaceuticals. The Ministry of Health in Kuwait has granted approval for the use of Vabysmo® in treating adults with Diabetic Macular Edema (DME) and Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD). Ali Abdulwahab is also currently working with the Ministry of Health to obtain approval for the use of the drug in cases of Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO).

Study offers hope for 65 million people

Targeting immune cells can reverse long COVID lung damage: research

By Harish Narasimhan
University of Virginia

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

The long-term effects of respiratory viral infections such as COVID-19 are a major public health burden. Some estimates suggest over 65 million people around the world suffer from long COVID-19.

Efforts to better understand this condition, however, have been hampered by its ability to affect multiple organ systems, such as those involving the lungs, brain and heart. This is further complicated by the lack of animal models that can sufficiently mimic the disease.

Animal models, such as mice and rats, are a crucial tool that researchers use to study human diseases and develop treatment strategies. Although there are major differences between humans and animal models, the vast majority of our immune and organ systems function similarly. Such similarities in physiology have made significant health care discoveries, including those related to COVID-19, possible.

I am an immunology researcher in the Sun Lab at the University of Virginia. We study the role the immune system plays in respiratory viral infections such as influenza and COVID-19. In our newly published research, we developed a new mouse model to study long COVID-19 and found that blocking certain overactive immune cells can restore lung function.

Our team wanted to better understand the long-term effects of COVID-19 on the respiratory system. To do this, we worked to identify key features associated with lung scarring following COVID-19.

First, we examined lung samples from patients with long COVID-19. Although these patients were infected several months to years before the samples were taken, we found evidence of an overactive immune system in their lungs, particularly within areas that failed to fully repair themselves after infection.

Next, we aimed to create a mouse model for long COVID-19 by comparing the pathology of mice infected with four different types of respiratory viral infections. Surprisingly, we found that mice infected with influenza virus, rather than the COVID-19 mouse models scientists currently use, best replicated the physical features of severe chronic lung disease.

Infections

The reasons why infections from different respiratory viruses affect the lungs in different ways are unclear. But preliminary evidence suggests it may be because each virus targets different types of cells in humans and mice.

Additionally, since long COVID-19 is about the damage left behind after infection, it seems less important what virus causes the problem in our animal model than that the damage is similar to what we want to address in human patients.

Using our new mouse model, we were able to identify the presence of an abnormal cluster of cells in mice

lungs - made up of the same dysfunctional immune and epithelial, or structural, cells seen in the lungs of long-COVID-19 patients. Additionally, we found that the uncontrolled activity of these immune cells in the lungs impeded structural cells from repairing themselves. It also hindered them from restoring gas exchange, the process of taking in oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide.

Importantly, when we blocked the activity of proteins associated with this overactive immune response, it reduced lung scarring and restored optimal lung function in mice.

Most approaches to addressing long COVID-19 rely on starting treatment early after infection. To the best of our knowledge, our study is the first to identify strategies to treat the respiratory symptoms of long COVID-19 after this chronic disease develops.

The drugs we tested in our study have already been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat severe COVID-19 and other inflammatory conditions. We hope our findings can spur further research on using these drugs to treat long COVID-19.

Our work may have applications beyond long COVID-19. Growing evidence suggests that many respiratory viral infections, such as influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus, may result in chronic lung disease. Considering the four pandemics and even more respiratory viral epidemics that have occurred in the past 100 years, studying the cellular and molecular similarities between respiratory viral infections may be critical to how medical practitioners respond to future viral outbreaks. (AP)

Pakistan launches anti-polio campaign

India reports suspected case of monkeypox

NEW DELHI, Sept 9, (Xinhua): India's federal health ministry on Sunday said a suspected case of mpox (monkeypox) was identified in the country.

"A young male patient, who recently traveled from a country currently experiencing mpox transmission, has been identified as a suspect case of mpox. The patient has been isolated in a designated hospital and is currently stable," the ministry said in a statement.

Mpox is a zoonotic disease that presents symptoms which include fever, an extensive characteristic rash and usually swollen lymph nodes.

The World Health Organization declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern in mid-August, warning of the potential for increased transmission of the disease

globally.

Polio: Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday kicked off a special nationwide anti-polio campaign as part of efforts to completely eradicate polio from the South Asian country.

"Our efforts to eliminate polio from Pakistan are certainly bearing fruit ... The federal government, in collaboration with provincial governments and partners, will succeed in eliminating polio from the country," the prime minister said during a launching ceremony.

He said that the role of parents is crucial in ensuring that their children receive the polio vaccine to protect them from lifelong disability, adding that friendly international organizations and partners are cooperating with the Pakistani gov-

ernment in its fight against polio.

Under the special vaccination drive, more than 30 million children up to age five would be administered polio drops by health workers across 115 districts of the country, according to the country's Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination.

Also, over 286,000 polio workers will go door-to-door to administer polio drops to the children.

Pakistan has reported 17 polio cases so far this year. A total of 12 cases were reported from southwest Baluchistan province, while three cases were reported from the southern Sindh province, and one each from the eastern Punjab province and the federal capital Islamabad, respectively, according to the health ministry.

Next-gen AI co-pilot to redefine cancer diagnosis and treatment

Hope for personalized medicine

AI adoption soars

ChatGPT hits 200 million weekly users worldwide

NEW YORK, Sept 9, (AP): Paige, a leader in next-generation AI technology unveils Paige Alba, a clinical-grade multimodal co-pilot designed to revolutionize personalized medicine and precision oncology. Using the power of Paige's Foundation Models, Alba delivers AI-driven patient insights in real-time and marks a significant step toward Artificial General Intelligence (AGI).

Alba seamlessly integrates state-of-the-art computational pathology large vision models (LVLMs) with conversational large language models (LLMs). Bringing together multiple AI-driven insights into a single, cohesive solution provides a unique, real-time interactive experience for pathologists, oncologists, multidisciplinary clinical teams and in clinical trials management.

A standout feature of Alba is its ability to aggregate and summarize patient data from the multiple data sources that exist in hospitals, including Electronic Health Records (EHRs), Laboratory Information Systems (LIS), and Image Management Systems (IMS).

Pathology

By eliminating the need to navigate multiple platforms, Alba allows pathologists to access comprehensive, patient-specific summaries-including prior pathology reports, radiology findings, and patient history-within seconds. This reduces time spent on administrative tasks and enables faster, more informed decision-making.

"Pathologists often struggle with the lack of clinical context essential for reaching a precise diagnosis," said Dr. Juan Retamero, Medical Vice President, Pathology Operations for Diagnostic Products at Paige. "Alba's natural language processing capabilities, combined with its integration with other clinical software solutions, provide this critical context, facilitating multidisciplinary collaboration and resolving discrepancies between radiology and pathology."

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Since its launch nearly two years ago, ChatGPT has significantly evolved, and recent statistics provide a detailed picture of its growth and user demographics. According to Hollywood Cosette, a website specializing in internet trends, the ChatGPT language model introduced by OpenAI has made substantial strides in the AI landscape, reports AI-Seyassah daily.

OpenAI's ChatGPT-4, which debuted in 2022, has seen remarkable growth. As of late last month, the number of active weekly users has surged to over 200 million, up from 100 million a year ago. This increase highlights the growing adoption of AI tools, reflected in OpenAI's financial performance, with revenues soaring to \$1.6 billion in 2023 from \$100 million in 2022.

ChatGPT's user base is notably diverse, with a strong representation among younger individuals. Approximately 34.8 percent of users are between 18 and 34 years old, with the 18-24 age group making up about 27.7 percent. This indicates a significant inclination towards AI technologies among younger age groups.

Gender distribution among users shows that 65 percent are male, while 34 percent are female. Additionally, ChatGPT-4 is designed to be more cautious, with an 82 percent reduction in responses to prohibited content compared to its predecessor.

Geographically, the United States leads in the number of ChatGPT users, followed by India, showcasing the technology's global acceptance and reach.

The foundation of ChatGPT is its extensive dataset, encompassing 300 bil-

lion words, which underpins its capability to deliver accurate and contextually relevant responses. The advancement to GPT-4 represents a leap in enhancing accuracy and enabling multimodal interactions, such as understanding both text and images.

The following are the key statistics and features of GPT-4:

Training Data: The previous version of GPT was trained on 570 GB of data, which included 300 billion words. Of this data, 60 percent was sourced from the internet and 16 percent from academic books.

GPT-4 Capabilities: The latest GPT-4 model can generate up to 25,000 words in a single output and supports 95 languages. Notably, 93 percent of its data is in English.

Application Integration: GPT-4 integrates with various applications, including Stripe, Be My Eyes, and Image Creator, enhancing its versatility and functionality.

Academic Performance: GPT-4 has achieved impressive results in various examinations, including passing the US Bar Exam and ranking in the top 10 percent of test takers. It has also passed Wharton MBA exams, regular school exams, and medical licensing exams.

Access Restrictions: Despite its capabilities, ChatGPT is banned in many universities, schools, and colleges worldwide due to concerns about its impact on education.

Valuation and Costs: OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, is valued at \$29 billion, reflecting its growing popularity and influence. The daily operational cost of running its AI technology is approximately \$100,000.

AI Olympiad begins in Riyadh with 25 nations

RIYADH, Sept 9, (KUNA): The inaugural of International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (IOAI), organized by the Saudi Data & AI Authority (SDAIA), kicked off in Riyadh late Sunday will continue until September 12th, with participants from 25 countries.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), IOAI is organized in cooperation with the International Center for Artificial Intelligence Research and Ethics (ICAIRE) and the International Research Center on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) in Slovenia.

The event is held under the patronage of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Olympiad stimulates participants to engage in active discussions to explore the diverse AI applications and encourage exceptionally talented youths in this field, which is gaining increasing global attention.

It also hopes to contribute to organizing AI competitions for high school students, motivating them to find intelligent solutions by designing algo-

rithms based on learning, data structuring, and programming.

IOAI is part of SDAIA's endeavors to strengthen Saudi Arabia's global position as a leading country in the field of data and AI.

It aims to help achieve the goals of Saudi Vision 2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030, which seek to raise awareness about the importance of advanced technologies and equip communities with the knowledge and skills necessary to master them.

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Yuyan emerges as most decorated athlete of Games

Paris 2024 Paralympics closes to begin new era of inclusion

Ronaldo scores late winner as 'substitute' for Portugal

10-man Spain overpowers Switzerland

LISBON, Sept 9, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo is showing just why Portugal is persisting with him at the age of 39.

Make that a record-extending 132 international goals for the five-time World Player of the Year after Ronaldo came on as a half-time substitute and slotted home an 88th-minute winner for Portugal in its 2-1 victory over Scotland in the Nations League.

Minutes earlier, Ronaldo had struck both posts within a matter of seconds. Indeed, he was an ever-present danger in Lisbon, demonstrating he is far from finished as a force in international soccer - especially against the likes of a struggling Scotland.

Ronaldo failed to score at all in five games at the recent European Championship, but Portugal coach Robert Martinez has kept faith with the country's greatest-ever player and is reaping the rewards.

SOCCER

On Thursday, Ronaldo scored his 900th career goal - spanning games for club and country - in a 2-1 win over Croatia.

The quest for 1,000 began three days later and he didn't disappoint, despite only playing one half.

In stoppage time, a spectator got on the field and attempted to get a selfie with Ronaldo, but was stopped by security. That happened repeatedly at Euro 2024.

Scotland went ahead through Scott McTominay in the seventh minute before an equalizer from the edge of the area by Bruno Fernandes in the 54th.

Luka Modric turns 39 on Monday but, like Ronaldo, remains as integral as ever for his country.

The Real Madrid midfielder again demonstrated his enduring quality by clipping home an exquisite free kick from the edge of the box in Croatia's 1-0 win over Poland.

It was Modric's 27th goal in 180 appearances for his country, which left him tied with former Spain defender Sergio Ramos as the second highest-capped European player in men's international soccer - only behind Ronaldo with 214.

Robert Lewandowski, another veteran at age 36, hit the goal frame for Poland, which beat Scotland 3-2 in the first round of Nations League group games on Thursday.

Fabian Ruiz scored twice for Spain in its 4-1 win at Switzerland, with the recently crowned European champion emerging victorious despite playing the majority of the game with only 10 men.

Center-back Robin Le Normand was shown a straight red card in the 20th minute for bringing down Breel Embolo as the last man, by which time Spain was leading 2-0 thanks to Joselu's header from Lamine Yamal's cross in the fourth minute, and Ruiz's goal in the 13th after Nico Williams' shot was saved.

Zeki Amdouni pulled a goal back for the Swiss before halftime but substitute Ferran Torres set up Ruiz for his second goal and then scored himself to clinch Spain's first win of its Nations League title defense. The team drew 0-0 at Serbia on Thursday.

Swedish soccer fans paid tribute to one of the country's most famous coaches - and then celebrated the further blossoming of the team's new strikeforce.

There was a minute's silence before Sweden's home match with Estonia in honor of Sven-Goran Eriksson, who died on Aug. 26 after battling cancer. An image of Eriksson was shown on the big screens in the Strawberry Arena just outside Stockholm.



Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi speaks to the players on the eve of the World Cup qualifier against Iraq.

Minister pledges full support to Kuwait in WCup qualifiers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi reaffirmed his commitment to fully supporting the Kuwaiti team in its journey through the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup. His aim is to help the team meet the expectations of loyal fans and restore Kuwait's legacy of sporting achievements.

SOCCER

During his visit to the team's training session at Thamer Stadium, Al-Mutairi expressed confidence in the players' ability to perform at a high level in the qualifiers. He highlighted the significance of the team's strong start in the tournament, viewing it as a critical momentum booster for securing positive results in upcoming matches.

Al-Mutairi emphasized the Kuwaiti youth's determination and spirit, which were key in its qualification for the



Portugal's Nuno Mendes, right, and Scotland's Ryan Christie challenge for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Portugal and Scotland at the Luz stadium in Lisbon, Portugal. (AP)

Sweden won 3-0, with Viktor Gyokeres - with two goals - and Alexander Isak scoring. They also

2027 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia. He expressed full confidence in the team's capability to deliver impressive results in the qualifiers, urging the players to give their best for the nation and its passionate fans. He also relayed the well-wishes of the country's political leadership, emphasizing the importance of making Kuwaiti football proud.

The Minister praised the efforts of the Kuwait Football Association, its administrative and technical teams, for their excellent preparation of the squad. He expressed optimism about the team's upcoming match against Iraq, hoping for a performance that would boost Kuwait's standing in regional and international sports and delight the local fans.

The visit was attended by key figures, including Kuwait Football Association Chairman Haif Al-Mutairi, Vice Chairman Ahmed Aqla, and board members Jamal Al-Otaibi, Abdulaziz Al-Samhan, and Secretary-General Salah Al-Qanaei.

each scored in a 3-1 win in Azerbaijan on Thursday, with the Swedes showing improved form after missing out

round to compete for two more places. In Group B, South Korea also

started with a disappointing result, a 0-0 draw with the Palestinian team in Seoul. Led by English Premier League stars Son Heung-min and Hwang Hee-chan as well as Paris Saint-Germain's Lee Kang-in, South Korea travels to Muscat to face Oman, which lost 1-0 to Iraq.

Son suggested the poor pitch condition in Seoul was a reason for the result. The Palestinians will play Jordan in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as the team is unable to host games at home. Jordan had a 1-1 draw with Kuwait in its opening game and now faces Iraq, the only team in the group to win.

In Group A, the United Arab Emirates won 3-1 at Qatar and hosts this week Iran, also with three points already on the board after beating Kyrgyzstan 1-0. Qatar, the 2022 World Cup host has never qualified for the tournament, will take on North Korea.

A Saudi player shoots the ball as an opponent defends.



A Saudi player shoots the ball as an opponent defends.

Mancini pushes for more playing time for Saudi players

RIYADH, Sept 9, (AP): While the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar thrill supporters of Saudi clubs, Roberto Mancini is concerned that his national team players aren't getting enough time in the league to prepare for World Cup qualifying.

Saudi Arabia was among the high-profile Asian teams that struggled in third-round openers last week in continental World Cup qualifying. The Saudis were held 1-1 by Indonesia, the lowest-ranked of the six teams in Group C. Tuesday is a crucial match against China at Dalian for coach Mancini's team.

"We have had problems capitalizing on opportunities, which have been evident in the last few games," Mancini said.

With most clubs in the Saudi Pro League using their full quota of 10 foreign imports, Mancini, who left his

job as head coach of Italy a year ago to join Saudi Arabia's national team, has complained that local players are not getting enough action.

"Saudi Arabia's national team players must participate as core players with their clubs," Mancini said. "I have 20 players sitting on the bench in local matches." He said there needed to be greater cooperation between the national team and clubs.

Australia's attempt to qualify for a sixth successive World Cup tournament was damaged by a shocking 1-0 loss to Bahrain at home.

The early pacesetters in Group C meet when Bahrain hosts Japan, which opened with a thumping 7-0 win over China.

The 18 teams in the third round of qualification have been divided into three groups of six. The top two from each automatically qualify for the

Jaragh heads to Junior Grand Prix

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Kuwait Winter Games Club has announced that Sama Jaragh, a member of the Kuwaiti girls' figure skating team, will compete in the Junior Girls' Figure Skating Grand Prix in Bangkok, Thailand. The tournament, organized by the International Skating Union (ISU), will begin next Wednesday and run for three days, featuring competitors from around the globe.

Salem Al-Ajmi, the manager of the Kuwait figure skating team, emphasized the significance of this event for Jaragh, describing it as one of the premier competitions for her age group. Al-Ajmi noted that Jaragh has been intensively preparing

FIGURE SKATING

for the tournament under the guidance of coach Yulia Martyshva, praising her dedication and effort to excel.

He explained that participating in such major international tournaments at a young age is crucial for Kuwaiti athletes, as it enhances their technical skills and helps accumulate important points toward qualifying for the upcoming Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina 2026. Al-Ajmi also commended the club's board of directors, led by Fahid Al-Ajmi, for their significant support, which has contributed to the club's success in regional, continental, and international competitions. He highlighted the club's commitment to nurturing talent across all age groups in figure skating and other winter sports.

on qualification for both the World Cup in 2022 and this year's Euros.

There was another Scandinavian win as Denmark beat Serbia 2-0 thanks to goals by Albert Gronbaek and Yussuf Poulsen.

PARIS, Sept 9. (Xinhua): Amid a festive atmosphere of lights and music, the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games came to a close, honoring the para athletes who amazed audiences with their remarkable performances over the past 11 days.

Athletes and accompanying staff from nearly 170 National Paralympic Committees, including the Paralympic Refugee Team, participated in the closing ceremony at Stade de France, alongside 64,000 spectators.

During his speech at the closing ceremony, Tony Estanguet, President of the Paris 2024

Organizing Committee, urged the audience to stand and offer para athletes the "loudest, craziest, and longest" ovation.

"Every time you competed, more people joined the party. Every time you succeeded, the intensity grew... You changed how people see sport and how they see disability," Estanguet said.

"You have launched this Paralympic revolution, and now there is no turning back," he added.

International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Andrew Parsons declared the official closing of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, delivering a speech focused on "inclusion." "The best Paralympic legacies are the ones that continue post-Games," Parsons noted.

"Beyond 12 days of sport, we must break down the barriers that exist in society. We must enable and empower persons with disabilities to excel outside of the field of play, in education, in employment, in entertainment, in government, in civil society - everywhere!" The flags of the participating nations and the Paralympic Refugee Team were paraded in, accompanied by a performance from the band of the Republican Guard.

Jiang Yuyan, who carried the flag for the Chinese delegation, emerged as the most decorated athlete of the Games, winning seven gold medals and setting two world records in para swimming. She was joined by her fellow athlete, Di Dongdong, who won gold and set a world record in the men's long jump - T11 event in para athletics.

PARALYMPICS

The six newly elected members of the IPC Athletes' Council were introduced, including Chinese para powerlifter Tan Yujiao, elected by her peers from among the 1,800 athletes participating in the Games.

After a stunning breakdance performance symbolizing the power of inclusion, the Paralympic flag was lowered and handed from Paris' mayor Anne Hidalgo to Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass, as attention shifted to the 2028 Games in Los Angeles.

A para athlete carried the Paralympic flame into the stadium, where it was ceremoniously extinguished after a brief relay. Meanwhile, the cauldron above the Jardin des Tuileries was also extinguished.

As the Games officially concluded, the celebrations began in earnest. To the beats of France's top DJs, people with and without disabilities danced together, turning the final night of the Games into a joyful celebration of inclusion.

A new era of inclusion is hoped to begin, as Parsons remarked, "What a Paralympic legacy this would be, not just for these athletes, but for the world's 1.3 billion persons with disabilities that they represent." After 12 days of thrilling competition, China finished atop the medal tally for the sixth consecutive Paralympic Games, with a total of 220 medals - 94 golds, 76 silvers, and 50 bronzes.

Orient Express exits Am's Cup

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 9, (AP): Orient Express Racing became the first team eliminated from the America's Cup after losing to Britain's INEOS Britannia on Monday.

The French boat finished last after the round-robin regattas and will not move on to the four-team playoffs that begin on Saturday.

Orient Express ended with a 1-7 record. Switzerland's Alinghi Red Bull Racing, the other boat in danger of being eliminated on Monday, won its point against Italy's Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli to finish at 3-5 and make it to the playoffs.

Luna Rossa was disqualified from the race against Alinghi after not making the start because of an issue with the boat.

The final round-robin day was originally scheduled for Sunday but the races had to be postponed because of bad weather in Barcelona.

That meant Orient Express had more time to deal with structural damage on its boat after a nosedive during a practice run on Sunday. But the team still couldn't pull off the win it needed against INEOS Britannia.

A victory for Orient Express, and a loss by Alinghi against Luna Rossa, would have forced a single-race tiebreaker.

INEOS Britannia and NYCC American Magic both locked up spots in the playoffs on Saturday, along with already-qualified Luna Rossa.

INEOS Britannia beat Luna Rossa in a sail-off race to determine the first-place team, which gets to select its rival for the first playoff series. INEOS Britannia and Luna Rossa had arrived with six wins and two losses each.

American Magic, which sailed without skipper Paul Goodison because of injury, ended the round-robin with a 4-4 record.



Sama Jaragh with coach Yulia Martyshva.



President of the International Paralympic Committee Andrew Parsons passes the Paralympic flag to Mayor of Los Angeles Karen Bass, (unseen), after receiving it from Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo, (not pictured), during the closing ceremony of the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France. (AP)



Kuwait holds its final training session for a key World Cup qualifying match against Iraq.

Sports

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Sinner wins US Open amid doping drama

Grand Slam drought for American men continues

NEW YORK, Sept 9, (AP): Jannik Sinner started slowly at the U.S. Open, dropping the first set he played after being exonerated in a doping case no one knew about until shortly before play began at Flushing Meadows.

If that episode initially hung over him during the tournament, Sinner was able to put it aside while on the court. Was he ever. The No. 1-ranked Sinner beat Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 with his typical relentless baseline game to win the men's championship at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday, less than three weeks after word emerged of the Italian's two positive tests for a trace amount of an anabolic steroid.

It was not easy, that's for sure, but... I tried to stay focused, which I guess I've done a great job, mentally staying there every point I play." This 2-hour, 15-minute victory gave him a second Grand Slam trophy - the other was at the Australian Open in January - and prevented No. 12 Fritz from ending the major title drought for American men that has lasted 21 years.

Andy Roddick's triumph at Flushing Meadows in 2003 was the last Slam title for a man from the United States. The last before Fritz, a 26-year-old from California, to even contest a final at one of the four big-

TENNIS

gest tournaments in tennis also was Roddick, who lost to Roger Federer at Wimbledon in 2009.

Still, this tournament was a success in many ways for U.S. tennis, with two women and two men from the country all in the semifinals for the first time at a major since the 2003 U.S. Open. Jessica Pegula reached the women's final before losing to Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus.

Sinner improved to 55-5 with a tour-high six titles in 2024. That includes a 35-2 mark on hard courts, the surface used at both the Australian Open and U.S. Open. He's the first man since Guillermo Vilas in 1977 to win his first two Grand Slam trophies in the same season.

This was the first year since 2002 in which no member of the Big Three - Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, or the retired Federer - won at least one major. Instead, Sinner, who is 23, and Carlos Alcaraz, 21, split the four Slam titles.

"Nice to see new champions," Sinner said. "Nice to see new rivalries." The world found out on Aug. 20 that he tested positive twice in eight days during March for a substance sold in an over-the-counter product in Italy, but he was cleared because his use was ruled unintentional - his defense was that the steroid entered his system via a message from a team member he later fired.

While some players wondered whether Sinner was accorded special treatment, most believed he wasn't trying to dope. And the U.S. Open's fans never gave him a hard time.

"You can understand why people are upset about it. In anti-doping, it sounds so ridiculous," said Travis Tygart, CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which wasn't involved in the case. "But the science is such that, if the facts are actually proven out, it is actually plausible." Sinner, who dedicated this win to an aunt that is in poor health, said the months before his case was resolved were not easy.

As expected, Fritz enjoyed a home-court advantage on a cool afternoon under a nearly cloudless sky. In a celebrity-filled crowd that included Taylor Swift and her boyfriend, Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, some spectators occasionally engaged in chants of "U-S-A!" between games or rose whenever Fritz picked up what felt like a crucial point.

The loudest they got was at 3-all in the third set, when Fritz smacked an overhead winner, punched the air, and screamed, "Let's go!" People all around rose, applauding and shouting. After Fritz deposited a volley winner to earn a break point, he celebrated in the same fashion, and thousands in the seats went wild. Sinner then double-faulted, putting Fritz in front 4-3.

Kuwait draws massive fan support after Jordan match

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: The Blues have garnered significant public support following their draw with Jordan, driven by Kuwaiti fans' eagerness to see the national team compete and deliver impressive performances that have been lacking in recent years.

Having just qualified for this stage during the 2006 World Cup qualifiers, Kuwait is currently experiencing unprecedented interest from fans, sports federations, and officials. This heightened focus is fueled by the expanded opportuni-

ty in the qualifiers, with eight and a half spots now available for teams from Asia, increasing Kuwait's chances of progressing.

This surge in support led to a frenzy for "symbolic" match tickets, which sold out within 24 hours of their release. The high demand even caused ticket prices to soar and some to be resold at inflated rates.

Similarly, when 5,000 seats were made available for the fans of the Lions of Mesopotamia, they were quickly snapped up within 48 hours of their release.

Kuwait seeks to build on momentum 'against' Iraq in World Cup qualifiers

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 9: Kuwait is set to leverage home-field advantage and enthusiastic fan support as it hosts Iraq tonight at 9:00 pm at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium for the second round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers. Kuwait opened with a last-minute 1-1 draw against Jordan, while Iraq defeated Oman 1-0.

Under the guidance of Argentine coach Juan Pizzi, the Kuwaiti technical staff is focused on capitalizing

on the momentum from its recent draw and the players' strong morale to achieve a positive result that will solidify the team's position in the qualifying campaign. Kuwait is determined to secure a win against Iraq and claim four points, building on the resilience it demonstrated in its match against Jordan.

Kuwait's starting lineup is expected to remain mostly unchanged from the first match, with Suleiman Abdul Ghafoor in goal, and Sami Al Sanea, Khaled Ibrahim, Fahad Al Hajri, Sultan Al Enzi, and Mahdi

Dashti in defense. The midfield will feature Adhbi Shehab, Ahmed Al Dhafiri, and Reda Hani, while Faisal Zayed and Yousef Nasser will lead the attack.

The inclusion of Mohammed Daham and Mashari Ghannam depends on their fitness. If ready, they may replace Mahdi Dashti and Adhbi Shehab, potentially prompting a shift to a 4-4-2 formation with Sultan and Zayed in midfield and Daham partnering with Yousef in attack. There's also a possibility Eid Al Rashidi could start the game.

Since returning from Amman, the team has been in an internal camp to maintain stability and enhance readiness in preparation for the crucial qualifier match.

Although Kuwait wasn't initially seen as a strong contender to advance from the group, it now finds itself in a promising position. This

SOCCER

has fueled a high demand for match tickets, which have sold out completely. However, many supporters hope that the pressure of playing at home won't overwhelm the team as it seeks a positive result in its first home qualifier.

On the other side, Iraq will be without star player Ayman Hussein, who experienced a health issue during the match against Oman and was transferred to Kuwait for treatment, a gesture that earned praise from Iraqi fans.

Spanish coach Jesus Casas is not expected to make many changes to his lineup, apart from replacing Ayman Hussein. The Iraqi Football Association has announced that Ali Jassim is ready for the match after resuming training, having missed sessions for recovery from fatigue.

Iraq is likely to field Jalal Hassan, Zaid Tahseen, Mirkhas Doski, Rebin Sulaka, Hussein Ali, Osama Rashid, Amir Al-Ammari, Ibrahim Bayesh, Yousef Al-Amin, Ali Jassim, and Ali Al-Hammadi. The Iraqi team held a single training session yesterday at Jaber Stadium after arriving in Kuwait in the afternoon, following a training camp in Basra that commenced after their win against Oman.



A file photo of Kuwaiti fans cheering the team.

Nissanka scores century in win over England

Sri Lanka earns 4th test victory on English soil

LONDON, Sept 9, (AP): Sri Lanka earned only its fourth test victory on English soil after an unbeaten century by opener Pathum Nissanka helped secure an eight-wicket win in the third and final match of the series against England at The Oval on Monday.

England won the series 2-1 but missed out on a second clean sweep of its international summer, having defeated the West Indies 3-0 in July.

Starting Day 4 on 94-1 and requiring 125 more runs to win, the Sri Lankans needed barely two hours to complete the job clinically. The platform was built on Sunday when they skittled England for 156 in just 34 overs and were given a victory target of 219.

Nissanka underpinned the chase with his second test hundred, reaching three figures in 107 balls and finishing 127 not out as Sri Lanka got 219 in 40.3 overs.

The diminutive opener, who struck 13 fours and two sixes, spread his arms wide, soaked in the applause inside a half-full ground after passing 100, then kissed his bat and looked to the sky. His other century was against the West Indies in 2021, his first year in the Sri Lankan test team.

The quality of his knock raised the question of why he didn't start the first test against England at Old Trafford last month before he was

recalled for the second test at Lord's. Fittingly, Nissanka scored the clinching runs with a cut for four.

But when Fritz tried to serve out the set at 5-4, Sinner pulled even. He used a drop shot to lure Fritz forward, then hit a passing shot that drew a netted volley. Fritz bounced his racket off the court. Sinner loped to the towel box, not even smiling.

Ten minutes later, it was over, thanks to Sinner's closing four-game run. He raised his arms, threw his head back and closed his eyes.



Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka on day four of the Third Rothesa Men's Test at The Kia Oval, in London. (AP)

The tourists' previous test wins in England came in 1998 - that famous 10-wicket victory in a one-off test at



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, holds up the championship trophy after defeating Taylor Fritz, of the United States, in the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

The Oval - as well as at Trent Bridge in 2006 and Headingley in 2014.

This latest one looked unlikely after they won the toss but couldn't capitalize on perfect bowling conditions on Day 1, which England ended on 221-3. It was all Sri Lanka after that, however, as England got sloppy and occasionally reckless.

The only wicket to fall on Monday was that of Kusal Mendis (39), who pulled a delivery from Gus Atkinson and saw Shoaib Bashir take a diving catch in the deep.

Angelo Mathews was unbeaten on 32 alongside Nissanka at the end, with the pair putting on 111 runs in an unbroken stand for the third wicket.

A wet outfield at the Greater Noida Sports Complex meant that day one of the solitary Afghanistan-New

CRICKET

Zealand cricket test was abandoned without a ball being bowled on Monday.

No toss took place at the venue, which is situated on the outskirts of Delhi, India's capital. The region has received incessant rainfall over the past week.

The umpires, Kumar Dharmasena of Sri Lanka and Sharfuddoula Saikat of Bangladesh, inspected the conditions twice in the first session and then once each in the remaining two sessions.

Finally, at 4.30pm local time, they took the decision to call off play.

Play will now begin 30 minutes early on each of the remaining four days to make up for lost time. This is Afghanistan's third test of 2024, following one-off matches against Ireland and Sri Lanka. Star wrist spinner Rashid Khan is unavailable following back surgery.

Best of the Rest

Morgan says goodbye:

Fighting tears, Alex Morgan waved to the crowd and walked off the field for the last time on Sunday as she capped an impactful 15-year career.

The two-time Women's World Cup winner announced on Thursday she was pregnant with her second child and retiring from the game.

She started and wore the captain's armband for the San Diego Wave in her final match, playing for the first 13 minutes against the North Carolina Courage before subbing out of the game to an ovation at San Diego's Snapdragon Stadium.

"What a ride it's been," Morgan told the crowd after the match. (AP)

Bernal out for a year:

FC Barcelona confirmed on Monday that young midfielder Marc Bernal will be out of action for around a year after an operation to repair torn cruciate and meniscus ligaments in his left knee.

The 17-year-old suffered the injury in Barcelona's third La Liga game of the season, away to Rayo Vallecano, and had to be carried from the pitch in obvious pain.

The club immediately confirmed that he had suffered a torn cruciate ligament in his left knee, but his operation on Monday revealed further damage to the meniscus ligament, complicating his recovery.

"Marc Bernal has undergone a successful surgical procedure on the injury to the anterior cruciate ligament and lateral meniscus in his left knee. Recovery time is expected to be 12 months," read a club statement. (Xinhua)