

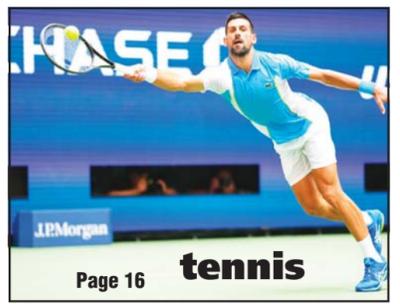


baseball

Page 14

ARAB TIMES

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Page 16

tennis

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 / SAFAR 22, 1445 AH

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150 FILS

Oil sector achieves KD 2.6b in '22-'23

Zour refinery key asset



Group photo at the 3rd session of the Arab-Japan Political Dialogue Forum hosted by the Arab League.

KUNA photo

Forum tackles challenges

The Third Arab-Japan Political Dialogue Forum, convened in Cairo on the foreign minister-level at the Arab League on Tuesday, adopted a joint statement highlighting the importance of cooperation to address the challenges facing the international community. The conferees expressed hope to open new horizons for cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, educational, environmental and energy areas, according to the statement. Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivered a speech to the third session of the Arab-Japan

Political Dialogue Forum, hosted by the Arab League on Tuesday. The ministerial session, co-chaired by Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, from the Arab side, and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, was attended by the League's Secretary-General Ahmad Abul-Gheit. In his speech to the gathering, Sheikh Salem said the Arab countries and Japan maintained friendly relations, fruitful cooperation and constructive understanding in various fields. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): Kuwait's oil sector achieved "exceptional" profits of KD 2.6 billion (USD 8.4 billion) for the fiscal year 2022/2023.

The remarks were made by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah in a speech on Wednesday, during the annual meeting of senior oil sector officials, organized by the Petrochemical Industries Company. KPC is following international standards in the field in training and preparing young employees to

develop their skills, he said.

Meanwhile, the CEO said that one of the prominent achievements of the oil sector is fully operating Al-Zour Refinery, producing 615,000 barrels a day, which is one of the biggest refineries in the world. The other one is fully operating Duqm Refinery with a capacity of 230,000 barrels a day, the biggest joint-GCC oil project, he added. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah also said that KPC is one of the pioneers in supervising projects and creating global partnerships, leading the company to gain profits worth KD 1.7 billion (USD 5.5 billion) in the past ten years. On her part, CEO of the Petrochemical Industries Company

Continued on Page 4

'Roadmap' to fight inflation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Muhammad Al-Aiban, has drawn up what looks like a clear road map to combat inflation and combat the high prices of food commodities, especially major ones. Responsibility for its implementation includes the Council of Ministers and more than one government agency, in addition to cooperative societies, reports Al-Rai daily. Minister Al-Aiban's vision for the success of confronting inflation locally amid the continued escalation of global price increases for external reasons included 10 urgent recommendations, including canceling price fixation, in addition to postponing the implementation of the value-added tax.

It is clear that the solutions presented to the issue of high prices of food commodities were not limited to urgent recommendations, but rather included other divisions that can be implemented in the short or medium term, thus contributing to achieving sustainable price stability in the local market and avoiding the risks of high global inflation rates.



KUNA photo
CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah during his speech.

'Dead-on-delivery'

MP issues 'warning' on alleged VAT plan

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: "If it is true that the government has started discussing bills on the value added tax (VAT), selective tax and public loan; this will mark the end of parliamentary coordination with the executive authority," says MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari.

Al-Kandari made the statement in view of the recent headline of Al-Jarida daily about the abovementioned move by the government, stressing the people were stunned upon reading this news. He pointed out that if this is fake news, it only means the government is incapable of defending itself since it did not deny such erroneous information. He wondered about the absence of the official spokesperson of the government in the midst of this controversy, while the ministers have refrained from clarifying the issue. He said the people are waiting for vital bills like salary and pension increments, only to find out the government is working against their demands. He added if the news is true, the abovementioned bills will never be ratified; as the parliamentary majority represents the people of Kuwait.

On the recent decision of the Iraqi Federal Court to nullify the treaty between Kuwait and Iraq to organize sailing at Abdullah Bay, he asked Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah to explain the issue to the people. He pointed out that although Kuwait is protected by the United Nations resolutions, the government must take action regarding the Iraqi decision as it unveils the bad intentions of Iraq, which previously invaded Kuwait. "In 2014, the Iraqi Court declared that the treaty is constitutional, only to nullify it in 2023. Nothing has changed except the Iraqi attitude and intentions. Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah should issue an official statement to reveal the facts. The people are concerned and they must be informed," he asserted.

Privatize

Talking about the news on the plan of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to privatize cooperative societies, Al-Kandari said Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Othman Al-Aiban did not deny the news; while Chairman of the Cooperative Societies Union Abdulwahab Al-Fares disclosed that he called the minister who denied it. He added the ministry intends to take this step in response to the query of a lawmaker.

Meanwhile, MP Hamdan Al-Azmi forwarded queries to Deputy Prime Minister, State Minister for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari about the violations that the Civil Services Commission (CSC) committed regarding the recruitment of public sector employees. He asked if there are applicants nominated for jobs even if they did not meet the requirements. If yes, he wants to know their number and the institutions that hired them, total number of applicants registered at the CSC including their qualifications and if there is a plan to hire those who submitted their applications three years ago. MP Majed Al-Mutairi has forwarded queries to Minister of Public Works Amani Bugamaz about the violations of National Aviation Services (NAS) since it signed the contract with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) more than 20 years ago.

He asked about the remarks that the State Audit Bureau (SAB) recorded against NAS, measures taken regarding the company's violations, if it is true that the DGCA will extend the contract of NAS for two years despite the violations like occupying State properties without paying the charges and delayed payment of debts amounting to KD1 million to DGCA as stated during the parliamentary session allocated for discussing the State budget and final accounts in 2020, if a fact-finding committee was formed to investigate the violations recorded from 2017 to 2019, and conclusion and recommendations of the committee. MP Fayeze Al-Jomhour asked State Minister for Municipal and Communication Affairs Fahd Al-Shuala if Kuwait Municipality signed a contract with a cleaning company to collect waste from Jleeb Al-Shuyouh. If yes, why does the area remain unhygienic, not to mention the accumulated waste?

Day by Day

THE cities of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are consistently ranked among the world's most desirable places to live, a sentiment shared by other Gulf countries as well.

Visitors from 90 different nations can enter the UAE without needing a visa; they are granted a 90-day stay with the option to renew their residence for an additional 90 days. Moreover, these visitors enjoy the privilege of investing in the Emirates and are eligible to obtain golden residence status.

The UAE stands out as a nation where adept governance is evident, demonstrated by the annual passage of over a hundred million travelers through its airports. Furthermore, its airport markets achieve impressive yearly sales of approximately 50 billion dirhams. Bravo, to the visionary leaders of the Emirates for their remarkable achievements. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Opinion

O people of Kuwait... speech is almost forbidden

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

WHAT is happening in Kuwait? It is worsening everyday. The country is at a standstill, as there are many conflicts either between parliamentary blocs or between members of the ruling family. On the other hand, some come to us by proposing laws titled "Shut your mouths, and cover your ears," and provoking fear.

Is this the Kuwait that seeks to be a global financial and commercial hub? Is this the country that used to be a beacon of knowledge, creativity and freedom of opinion in the region?

One time a minister proposes a unified media law with enough repression to make the media content themselves with "he received and he bid farewell". Another time, the government announces a tender to restrict people through the so-called Kuwait Electronic Portal. And then another time, it proposes exceptional salaries for ministers and some parliamentarians.

Given that the scientific reports indicate faltering investments or a decline in some of them, we are even ashamed to say that our country will one day become a financial and commercial hub.

While the world is opening up to each other, and cultures, arts, and sports are flourishing, we are closing in on ourselves more and more everyday. In fact, the world is getting bigger but we are getting smaller.

When international conferences such as "BRICS" are held, we distance ourselves from foreign policy to the dream of obtaining a Schengen visa.

Indeed, this has become our utmost ambition. While industries expand in various countries east and west, we still depend on oil for 95 percent of our income.

Continued on Page 4

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Russia, Riyadh in dual announcements

Prices spike as two extend oil cut

DUBAI, Sept 6, (AP): Saudi Arabia and Russia agreed Tuesday to extend their voluntary oil production cuts through the end of this year, trimming 1.3 million barrels of crude out of the global market and boosting energy prices.

The dual announcements from Riyadh and Moscow pushed benchmark Brent crude above \$90 a barrel in trading Tuesday afternoon, a price unseen in the market since November.

The countries' moves could increase inflation and the cost for motorists at gasoline pumps. It also puts new pressure on Saudi Arabia's relationship with the United States, as President Joe Biden last year warned the kingdom there would be unspecified "consequences" for partnering with Russia on cuts as Moscow wages war on Ukraine.

Saudi Arabia's announcement, carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency, said the country still would monitor the market and could take further action if necessary.

"This additional voluntary cut comes to reinforce the precautionary efforts made by OPEC+ countries with the aim of supporting the stability and balance of oil markets," the Saudi Press Agency report said, citing an unnamed Energy Ministry official.

State-run Russian news agency Tass quoted Alexander Novak, Russia's deputy prime minister and former energy minister, as saying Moscow would continue its 300,000 barrel a day cut.

The decision "is aimed at strengthening the precautionary measures taken by OPEC+ countries in order to maintain stability and balance of oil markets," Novak said.

Benchmark Brent crude traded Tuesday above \$90 a barrel after the announcement. Brent had largely hovered between \$75 and \$85 a barrel since last October. A barrel of West Texas Intermediate, a benchmark for America, traded around \$87 a barrel.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan declined to comment on the market

impact of the decision, though he said U.S. officials had regular contact with the kingdom. He added that Biden would look to utilize "everything within his toolkit" to assist American consumers.

"The thing that we ultimately stand for is a stable, effective supply of energy to global markets, so that we can in fact deliver relief to consumers at the pump, and we do this in a way that is consistent with the energy transition over time," Sullivan said.

Bob McNally, the founder and president of the Washington-based Rapidan Energy Group and a former White House energy adviser, said Saudi Arabia and Russia had "demonstrated their unity and resolve to proactively manage" the risk of oil prices potentially dropping in tougher economic conditions with their announcement Tuesday.

"Barring a sharp economic downturn, these supply cuts will drive deep deficits into global oil balances and should propel crude oil prices well above \$90 per barrel," McNally said.

The average gallon of regular unleaded gasoline in the U.S. stands at \$3.81, according to AAA, just under the all-time high for Labor Day of \$3.83 in 2012. However, gasoline demand typically drops for U.S. motorists after the holiday so it remains unclear what immediate effect this could have on the American market, AAA spokesman Andrew Gross said.

"I'm more concerned about what the rest of hurricane season may hold," Gross told The Associated Press. "A big storm along the Gulf coast could move prices dramatically here."

Hurricane Idalia just plowed through Florida and U.S. forecasters said Tuesday that Tropical Storm Lee in the Atlantic Ocean will become an "extremely dangerous" hurricane by Friday.

Meanwhile, higher gasoline prices can increase transportation costs and ultimately push the prices of goods even higher at a time when the U.S. and much of the world is already raising interest rates to combat inflation.

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah announced on Wednesday that the ministry would study solutions to tackle "the liquidity crisis facing the government."

Minister Al-Jarallah said in a press statement that the sought solutions and options over the "liquidity crisis entail preemptive solutions to avert any disruption in the monetary flows."

Media report suggesting that "the public law and taxes are among the government priorities are inaccurate," he said, adding that such priorities are included in its manifesto. (KUNA)

CAIRO: Arab Foreign Ministers examined Wednesday a number of topics concerning joint Arab work, and regional and international challenges, during the Arab League's 160th ministerial meeting.

The meeting, held at the secretariat's headquarters in Cairo, was chaired by Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita and attended by League's Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit, Arab Foreign Ministers and heads of delegations as well as UNRWA Commissioner General Philippe Lazzarini. (KUNA)

HERZLIYA, Israel: A former head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Israel is enforcing an apartheid system in the West Bank, joining a tiny but growing list of retired officials to endorse an idea that remains largely on the fringes of Israeli discourse and international diplomacy.

Tamir Pardo becomes the latest former senior official to have concluded that Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank amounts to apartheid, a reference to the system of racial separation in South Africa that ended in 1994. (AP)

US-backed rivals undermine war

Clashes feared opening for DAESH

BEIRUT, Sept 6, (AP): The week-long clashes between rival U.S.-backed militias in eastern Syria, where hundreds of American troops are deployed, point to dangerous seams in the coalition that has kept a lid on the defeated Islamic State group for years. That could be an opportunity for the radical group to reemerge.

The violence also points to rising tensions between Kurds who dominate the region and the mainly Arab population, opening the door for Syrian President Bashar Assad and his allies, Russia and Iran, to try to make inroads in an oil-rich territory where they seek to drive out U.S. troops and restore Damascus' rule.

Eastern Syria has largely been off the world's radar, particularly in the United States. But the U.S. has had some 900 troops stationed there alongside an unknown number of contractors ever since the defeat of the Islamic State group in 2019. The troops, who

first arrived eight years ago, work alongside the Syrian Democratic Forces, an umbrella group of militias dominated by Kurdish fighters.

At the same time, a U.S.-supported Kurdish-led administration has governed parts of northern Syria and most of Syria east of the Euphrates River, including key oil fields, with government forces and Iranian-backed militias positioned just across the river on the western bank. The region's Arabs have roles in both the SDF and the administration but have long resented the Kurdish control.

The clashes involve the Syrian Democratic Forces and an allied faction, the Arab-led Deir el-Zour Military Council. The trigger was the Aug. 27 arrest by the SDF of the council's commander Ahmad Khbeil, better known as Abu Khawla.

Continued on Page 4



A U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighter stands next to an armored vehicle, at al-Sabha town in the eastern countryside of Deir el-Zour, Syria, Monday, Sept. 4, 2023. Week-long clashes between rival U.S.-backed militias in eastern Syria, where hundreds of American troops are deployed, point to dangerous seams in a coalition that has kept on a lid on the defeated Islamic State group for years. (AP)

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:07	Asr	15:19
Sunrise ..	05:28	Maghrib ..	18:05
Zohr	11:46	Isha	19:23

Local

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

Kuwaitis take part in Abu Dhabi event

'Hunting, equestrian exhibition will help build trade relations'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): Kuwaiti participants, who confirmed their attendance on Monday at the 20th edition of the Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition in Abu Dhabi, expressed their belief that this international event significantly contributes to the expansion of products in both global and regional markets. They view it as a crucial step towards fostering bilateral trade relations with Emirati and international companies.

In separate meetings with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), the participants unanimously emphasized the significance of global participation in the exhibition, which will run until September 8th with the involvement of 65 countries. They see it as an exceptional opportunity to enhance brand visibility and boost sales of their products, services, and relationships.

Nasser Al-Ajmi, the CEO of Yamluk Swords and Luxury Gifts Company, highlighted that the exhibition holds a prestigious position in the international arena and draws numerous companies and enthusiasts from across the world. For Kuwaiti companies, it offers a unique chance to engage with the global market and connect with a diverse audience of potential customers.

Al-Ajmi elaborated, stating, "Our participation aims to showcase our national product, the craftsmanship of swords, incorporating distinctive Arabic designs and handcrafting techniques. We present them as symbolic and official gifts suitable for all occasions while preserving the rich Arab heritage."

Ali Al-Hammad, owner of Rimai Weapons and Hunting Ammunition Company, expressed that the exhibition serves as a platform for Kuwaiti companies to promote and market their products and services within the hunting and equestrian sector. They can introduce modern technologies, innovations, and special offers to an interested audience, thereby increasing brand recognition and expanding their customer base.

Al-Hammad also stressed the company's commitment to participating annually in such specialized exhibitions. This commitment

aims to broaden their network of commercial relationships and collaborations with international and local entities in the hunting and equestrian industry. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to engage in discussions with potential partners and exchange knowledge, experiences, and cooperation.

Mohammad Al-Rashed, the owner of Camouflage Supplies Company, emphasized that their participation itself represents a new commercial opportunity. It allows them to showcase their national products, exchange knowledge with international companies, and explore new job prospects in the Emirati market and the surrounding region.

Al-Rashed highlighted the importance of Camouflage Supplies' presence at the 20th edition of the Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition, as it enables them to display their diverse products and identify potential investment and business opportunities. This contributes to the growth of the wilderness enthusiasts' hobby and affirms Kuwaiti companies' leadership in innovation and technology in this sector.

Ataa Al-Azami, the administrator at Al-Azami Company for Land and Hunting Supplies, noted that this participation offers Kuwaiti companies proximity to their target audience interested in hunting and equestrianism. It plays a crucial role in enhancing brand recognition and increasing the sales of their products and services.

Al-Azami pointed out that the exhibition provides an excellent opportunity for companies to stay updated on the latest innovations in the hunting and equestrian sectors. They can learn about the latest technologies and products available in the field, enabling them to refine their offerings to better meet customer needs and enhance their competitiveness in the market.

The Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition, initiated in 2003, has become an annual fixture hosted by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. It is widely recognized as one of the region's most significant exhibitions for hunting and equestrian enthusiasts.



Some of the home-made items put up on display at the exhibition.

KUNA photo

Cybersecurity level 'primitive': report

Non-implementation of counter-strategy criticized

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: A recent parliamentary report revealed the reason for the large number of electronic fraud operations in Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to this report, the level of cybersecurity at the national level in Kuwait is 'primitive' in comparison with the international standards, which makes vital institutions and individuals vulnerable to hacking due to the lack of advanced protection platforms. This is despite the existence of a strategy proposed by the government for cybersecurity since 2017.

In an official assessment of the cybersecurity situation in Kuwait, the recently-issued parliamentary report revealed that the level of cybersecurity at the national level in Kuwait is "novice" in most areas based on the global standards, and the Cybersecurity Capacity Maturity Model for Nations (CMM) which is affiliated with the University of Oxford.

The report was based on a study recently conducted by the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) regarding the assessment of the country's cyber situation. The study revealed that the electronic attacks that most vital sector institutions are exposed to are distributed between advanced persistent threat (APT) attacks, Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks, access to networks and applications from external sources, and phishing attacks that come from web pages or e-mail.

It evaluated the first international index of "Cybersecurity Strategy and Policy" as novice for Kuwait, the second index of "Electronic Culture and Quality of Society" as composed, the third index of "Training and Skills for Cybersecurity" as novice, the fourth index of "Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for Cybersecurity," as novice, and the fifth index of "Technology and Controls Used" as novice also.

The report stated that the general level of cybersecurity in Kuwait is "amateur," indicating the presence of primitive capabilities that are barely negligible in the institutions' practice of cybersecurity, and methods for confronting and responding to electronic risks.

As for the "comprehensive" level, it indicates the presence of indicators and evidence of the institution's abilities and capabilities in practicing the fields of cybersecurity and managing electronic risks.

The report criticized the failure to implement the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2017/2020 despite the completion of its preparation. It includes three main goals for enabling the government to achieve its vision of cybersecurity. The goals are to enhance the culture of cybersecurity that supports the safe and correct use of cyberspace, and protect and monitor assets, vital infrastructure, national information, and the information network in Kuwait, and provide means of cooperation and information exchange among various local and international bodies in the field of cybersecurity.

The report explained that the project to launch the comprehensive cybersecurity system is the second project in digital transformation in the government work system. An Amiri decree was issued on February 2, 2022 for this purpose. Accordingly, the National Center for Cybersecurity was established to be responsible for building an effective cybersecurity system at the national level to protect the state from cyber threats and protect its vital interests in cyberspace.

Based on the decree, the financial appropriations for this center will be within the budget of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers. The decree also stipulated the transfer of the Cybersecurity Department of the CITRA to this center.

The government indicated in its current work program its endeavor to launch the comprehensive cybersecurity system within the center's development strategies in the first year of implementing its 2023/2024 program.

To achieve this goal, the budget of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers included financial allocations of KD 7.840 million allocated to the cybersecurity center, including a financial allocation of KD 100,000 for the costs of official tasks.

Police visits banned: The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Anwar Al-Barjas issued circular No. 186/2023 stipulating that members of the police force should not travel to countries witnessing unrest such as Iran, Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Sudan, without prior permission from the employer (head of the sector, assistant undersecretary and director general depending on the circumstances), reports Aljarida daily.

The circular indicated that this decision comes within the framework of the ministry's concern for the safety of the members of the police force, and to preserve their security and safety.

It stressed that whoever violates the circular exposes himself to legal accountability in accordance with the provisions of administrative order No. 3/1994 regarding standing orders for members of the police force and the instructions issued in this regard.

The ministry called on all its agencies to work on implementing the circular with precision.

Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

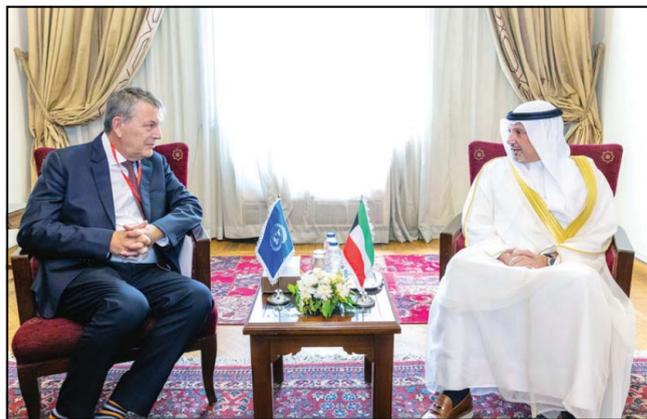
By Day: Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind changing to northeasterly wind with speeds of 15-50 km/h with a chance for ris-

ing dust over western areas.

By Night: Hot to rather hot and humid with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-32 km/h with a chance for light fog forming.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
Kuwait City 50 37

Kuwait Airport	50	30
Abdaly	49	29
Salmiyah	39	36
Ahmadi	40	37
Nuwaisib	45	32
Wafra	47	31



KUNA photo

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Sabah holds talks with Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini.

Kuwait reaffirms Palestinian support

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Sabah emphasized Wednesday Kuwait's unwavering support to the Palestinian people, the acquisition of their legitimate political rights and establishment of independent state.

This was during a meeting with Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini.

The meeting, discussing mechanisms ensuring the sustainability of UNRWA's work, took place on the sidelines of Arab League 160th ministerial meeting

at the league's headquarters in Cairo. Lazzarini spoke of the agency's efforts, its humanitarian projects and activities in alleviating the suffering of Palestinian refugees around the globe.

The UN Commissioner-General also took the opportunity to hail Kuwait's support to the Palestinian people and commended its contributions to projects aiding refugees.

On his part, Minister Al-Sabah further reassured Kuwait's stance towards the agency's projects and its noble aims as it plays a pivotal role in providing necessary services to Palestinian refugees. (KUNA)

Site to serve 'Al-Samoud Camp'

Municipality nods KNG car park

By Enas Awadh
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Kuwait Municipality approved the request from the headquarters of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) to allocate a site for a multi-storey parking building with a total area of 6,000 square meters to serve the Al-Samoud Camp in the Mubarakiya Camping Area.

According to the technical opinion from the executive body for the transaction, which was approved by the Acting Director General of the Municipality Saud Al-Dabbous, the multi-storey car parking building should have two basements, and five floors, with the possibility of using the roof as shaded parking lots for light materials.

The National Guard's headquarters is also committed to submitting a traffic study before starting the building licensing procedures, in addition to adhering to the requirements contained in the responses of the members of the subcommittee on facilities and public services during its meeting held on May 2, and coordinating with it before implementation.

It allowed the relevant departments to be authorized to modify the building's dimensions and area no more than the designated areas, in the event that it conflicts with any existing infrastructure services, or any regulatory reasons, during installation.

On the other hand, the municipality also approved the request of the Public Authority for Road and Transportation to allocate sites for open basins to collect rainwater, open water channels, underground water connections, and rainwater drainage paths, around the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak

residential area.

The technical opinion of the executive body in the transaction specified the locations, which are 3 open basins for collecting rainwater of varying sizes and depths and defined by a fence, open channels with a width of 40 meters, two underground water connections with a width of 40 meters, in addition to paths for draining rainwater under the surface of the ground with a width of 25 meters.

At its meeting held on May 27, 2021, the executive branch required the party submitting the request to adhere to and abide by the requirements of the Subcommittee on Public Facilities and Services, and to coordinate with them before implementation. It also required it to present a comprehensive study to evaluate the environmental and social impact of the project, approved by the Environment Public Authority, and coordinate before implementation with the Environmental Affairs Department in the municipality. It was urged to adhere to its recommendations to create a mesh fence and a trench separating any site within the project, overlapping with the two waste landfill sites - landfills on South of Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, and landfills of north of the Seventh Ring Road - and bear the legal consequences in the event of non-compliance.

It authorized the Urban Planning Department to move any site within the project, and modify its dimensions, in a way that does not conflict with the approved area of any site in the event of a conflict with any existing infrastructure services or for any regulatory reasons, for the purpose of stabilization.

Mol-MoC link activated

'No obstacles in collecting dues'

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Communications Dr. Ahmad Al-Mijren says the automated interface with the Ministry of Interior to collect the ministry's dues from expatriates before they exit the country was carried out smoothly in record time without any obstacles.

In a press statement issued yesterday after activating the link with the Ministry of Interior, Dr. Al-Majren said subscribers benefiting from the services provided must ensure that there are no outstanding financial dues to the ministry before completing travel procedures so that they do not experience any delay in their flights.

He affirmed that this step comes in implementation of the directives of the Council of Ministers to urge government agencies to collect state dues and protect them from loss.

Dr. Al-Mijren highlighted the opening of a customer service office to collect dues from expatriates at the airport over a 24-hour period through KNET.

In parallel, informed sources said the interface with the Ministry of Interior will reduce the Ministry of Communication's debts amounting to KD 94.5 million.

Three dues expatriates must pay before departing The Government Communication Center published in its account on "X" (formerly known as Twitter) the dues that must be paid before foreigners leave the country.

According to the center, these dues include: 1. The fines for the traffic violations recorded against foreigners must be paid through the website of the Ministry of Interior or at the Kuwait Airport or by visiting one of the departments affiliated with the General Traffic Department in the governorates or the offices located at land and sea ports.

2. Foreigners' financial dues and debts to the Ministry of Communication must be paid before departure through the ministry's website, by visiting the ministry, or via the Sahel application.

3. Foreigners' electricity and water bills must be paid before departure via the Sahel application or the MEWPAY application, or at the customer service office at T4 terminal of the Kuwait Airport.

S. Sabah Al-Ahmad City cost KD712mn

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Ruqba, in his response to a parliamentary question, affirmed that the projects related to the South Sabah Al-Ahmad City amounted to KD 712 million.

He said the rest of the infrastructure contracts for the plots of South Sabah Al-Ahmad City will be offered gradually starting from the current fiscal year.

On the other hand, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) stated that the number of basic infrastructure contracts that will be offered in March 2024 for the South Saad Al-Abdullah project is four.

This includes the contract for the construction, completion and maintenance of road works and infrastructure networks for 6,233 plots and electricity substations in the two suburbs N1 and N2. The project implementation period will take 730 days.

There is also a contract for the construction, completion and maintenance of road works and infrastructure networks for 3,454 plots and electricity substations in the N3 suburb. The project implementation period is also 730 days.

There is also a contract for construction, completion and maintenance of road works and infrastructure networks for 4,943 plots and an electricity station in N4 suburb, and another for the road works and infrastructure networks for 7,523 plots and the electricity station in N5 suburb.

Meanwhile, PAHW announced the distribution of the eleventh batch of N3 government plots in the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project amounting to 281 plots from today.

Regarding the distribution of the eleventh batch for N3 of government plots in the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project, the original cards will be distributed today and on Sunday. The reserve cards will be distributed on Monday, September 11, with the lottery taking place on Wednesday, September 13.

'Summer temps begin to drop'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Al-Ujairi Center says starting today (Wednesday), the residents of Kuwait will feel the change in temperature, revealing that the astronomical date for the end of summer and the entry of the autumn solstice will be on the Sept 23, according to the calculation of the official Kuwait calendar (Al-Ujairi calendar), reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sun's rays are perpendicular to the equator, and the daylight hours begin to decrease, until they become equal to the night, on the Sept 27, when the sun will rise at exactly 5:39 minutes in the morning and set at 5:39 minutes in the evening.

and the time for the dawn prayer will be at 4:20 minutes in the morning.

The center stated: "During the Earth's annual rotation around the sun, solar rays cross the equator twice a year, one at the beginning of spring (vernal equinox) on March 20, and the other at the beginning of autumn known as the autumn solstice on September 23."

Al-Ujairi Scientific Center said that it observed the rise of the Suhail star in the sky of Kuwait, which indicates the actual feeling of a drop in temperatures, especially during the night.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Has the state of institutions ended? Loyal citizens must fulfill their duty'

"THE unsettling and suspicious trend of dismantling state institutions while simultaneously consolidating them has reached an advanced stage across all levels. This alarming development demands a strong and immediate response to ring the alarm bells before it's too late," columnist **Dr Muhammad Al-Maqati** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"The current government, led by HH Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf, has regrettably stepped back from its pivotal political program and fundamental reforms aimed at safeguarding state institutions.

"Notably, the establishment of a public policy apparatus has been removed from its agenda, supreme councils have been suspended, and the criteria and procedures for appointing leaders have been abolished. These changes have been replaced with a ministerial committee consisting of three ministers, a move that raises concerns about the potential for parachute appointments, nepotism, and favoritism.

"It's worth recalling the Speaker of the National Assembly's remarks during his parliamentary sessions, some of which we may disagree with, but where we concur on certain issues. He rightfully pointed out the former prime minister's statement that competence was not the primary criterion for selecting leaders in state ministries and institutions; rather, instrumentality was prioritized.

"The government's recent actions, including attempts to curb freedoms through the proposed media law and the National Information Technology Agency tender, along with the omission of the establishment of the General Authority for Citizenship from its program, underscore the worrisome direction the government is heading. These actions suggest a move toward centralization of power, concentration of executive authority, and a distribution based on influence and power rather than adherence to constitutional principles, legal frameworks, and institutional structures.

"What adds to the apprehension is the broad parliamentary coalition seeking to advance the projects and directives of the current stage. This coalition appears to be a hybrid and dubious alliance, including members with diverse agendas, ranging from reformist tendencies to opportunism and personal gain, and even newly elected members. What raises suspicion is their parallel efforts to obstruct, hinder, or even dismantle the institutional functions of the state, as evident in the numerous parliamentary questions, law proposals, and statements they put forward.

"The fundamental question we must address is whether these developments align with the vision of our founding fathers and the aspirations we had for our democracy. It's essential to recognize that the tampering with the electoral system over the past three decades was designed to enable members to circumvent the system governing them and alter their parliamentary and political trajectory.

"The consequences of these actions are now becoming apparent, with attempts to shield members from accountability. This undermines the Constitution, and regrettably, some continue to speak in its name while violating its provisions.

"The days ahead may witness further dismantling of state institutions, the disruption of successful initiatives, and the harnessing of sovereign institutions and capabilities for personal gain or advancement. If loyal Kuwaitis do not fulfill their duty of offering advice, criticism, and evaluation, the state of institutions and the constitution may face continued challenges."

Also:

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, our sisterly nation, has consistently achieved remarkable success, marking a continuous journey of accomplishments and leadership on various fronts, spanning economics, culture, prosperity, and holistic development," columnist **Dr. Issa Muhammad Al-Amiri** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"As we approach the significant national occasion of Saudi Arabia's 93rd National Day, it is evident that the nation has made substantial progress, providing safety, and assurance to its citizens and accomplishing numerous long-awaited milestones. The economic and social growth accompanying these achievements has brought significant benefits domestically.



Dr Al-Maqati

"These achievements are not just commendable but vital. It is important to acknowledge that these tremendous successes and tangible advancements have been made possible by the unwavering support of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the Islamic world. The generous support extended to Islamic centers and organizations worldwide has had a profound and far-reaching impact.

"As observers of Saudi Arabia's development, we take pleasure in witnessing the remarkable progress made at all levels, particularly since the last National Day celebration. This progress serves as a significant impetus for the continuation and sustainability of internal and external achievements.

"The choice of the slogan "Vigor to the Summit" for Saudi Arabia's National Day in 2023, inspired by the words of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, signifies the unwavering determination of the honorable Saudi people.

"They aspire to advance development comprehensively within the country and contribute significantly to its prosperity, under the wise leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

"This particular date holds several meaningful connotations, the foremost being the issuance of the royal decree that united all regions of the modern Saudi state, forming the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This historic act pays tribute to the efforts of King Abdulaziz in establishing the Kingdom, preserving its rich history, and reviving the ancient heritage passed down through generations.

"In light of these sentiments, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to our sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its honorable people. As Gulf Arabs, we take immense pride in their accomplishments on this cherished national occasion, which we wholeheartedly celebrate. We pray that the Almighty guides the leaders of this generous nation to continue achieving great good for their people and the world."

"Some time ago, the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee in the National Assembly organized a panel discussion with the theme, 'Correction of the Educational Path... from Diagnosis and Solutions to Legislation and Implementation,'" columnist **Dr Bahija Bahabani** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The committee chairman explained at the outset: 'The aim is to create a tool for developing education that does not change whenever a new minister is appointed. It should be a map for the development of education, for which the government is held accountable.'

"He added: 'Many meetings have been held—around 300 working hours—to reach the first stage of work that will start in the 'People's House'. We aspire for public interaction to develop this campaign.'

"Participants also stressed the importance of laying down a systematic road map for the development of education that is not affected by political changes, including radical amendments addressing imbalances in curricula, administration and method of improving the teachers' skills.

"In my opinion, the content of these statements is one way of achieving goals like development of education and the quality of its outputs, but the mistake lies in the failure of successive governments to implement these proposals.

"The evidence is that the educational affairs and matters being discussed now have been studied for several decades in conferences, which I attended, held in educational institutions such as the Ministry of Education, College of Education at Kuwait University, College of Basic Education in the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, and the Teachers Association.

"All of them exerted tremendous efforts and consumed huge budgets. Recommendations were prepared to reform education in order to achieve the sustainable development goals. The methods of improving the skills of teachers, curricula and school administrations were also identified to ensure the quality of education outputs. The importance of linking education outputs to the need of the labor market was emphasized as well."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**

Maid wins \$21,000 comp after sexual assault by sponsor's son

Hearing of Fashionista case set for Sept 14

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The judge overseeing the detention renewal case refused to release the "Fashionista" responsible for the tragic traffic accident that occurred on Thursday, August 24, at the junction of Al-Soor Street and King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Road during the early hours.

The accident resulted in the loss of two lives and injuries to other individuals traveling with them. The court has scheduled a hearing for the ongoing proceedings on the Sept 14, to address the case.

Reliable sources have informed Al-Seyassah daily that the accused has vehemently denied all charges against her, providing a comprehensive account in her defense.

Furthermore, the court rejected two requests from the team of defense lawyers to release her on any terms deemed suitable by the Detention Renewal Panel, emphasizing that as a Kuwaiti citizen, she has no intention of fleeing and asserting that there are no valid grounds for pretrial detention.

The defendant faces a total of 10 charges, including manslaughter, accidental injury, driving a vehicle under the influence of intoxicants or narcotics, exceeding the speed limit, running a red traffic light, reckless driving, driving a vehicle without valid insurance, driving without a driver's license, causing damage to the property of others, and causing damage to public property.

Compensation for maid: A Sri Lankan domestic worker has returned to her home country from Kuwait, where she received the largest compensation ever awarded to a domestic worker in the Middle East following a sexual assault, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the Sri Lankan newspaper 'Daily News', the 32-year-old woman from the Mahyangana district received compensation totaling 6.8 million Sri Lankan rupees, equivalent to approximately 21,000 US dollars, as a result of a sexual assault she suffered at the hands of her employer's son in Kuwait, which resulted in her becoming pregnant.

The report further stated that her employer had secretly brought a doctor to the house to perform an abortion on her and had threatened her not to disclose the incident to anyone.

As her health deteriorated due to the abortion, the employer took her to the airport and provided her with a ticket to return to Sri Lanka. However, airline officials refused to allow her on the plane due to her condition, and they subsequently informed the Sri Lankan embassy.

The Sri Lankan embassy filed a lawsuit against the employer in Kuwait, and after a lengthy legal battle, the court awarded compensation to the victim.

'Arabs targeted': Permanent Secretary of the Cypriot Foreign Ministry, Kyriakos Kouros said, the ambassador of an Arab country, whose name was not mentioned, lodged a protest on Saturday after tourists who were citizens of his country were targeted during a demonstration in Cyprus, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He added: "They cut short their visit and I doubt that they will ever return to Cyprus. It is the first time I feel..."

However, some reliable sources said the assault was on Kuwaitis at a demonstration in Cyprus.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
A file photo showing school bags at one of the stores.

'Grievances welcomed'

Kuwait shuts retailer for price manipulation on school goods

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): Kuwait's Commerce Ministry on Wednesday closed a shopping center after prices for school supplies there were found to have been tampered with, citing such practices as infractions of state laws.

Ahead of the new school year, the ministry has ratcheted up surveillance measures in a bid to detect any illegal alterations to prices by unauthorized parties, according to a statement, underlining ongoing efforts to

clamp down on such deceit.

The aforementioned efforts resulted in the closure of a "renowned retailer" for offering school supplies for "inflated prices," added the statement, calling on stores nationwide to adhere to wholesale price display.

As part of consumer protection commitments, the ministry welcomes any grievances consumers may have over suspected attempts by retailers to hike the prices of goods.

Mechanism to hire doctors

PAM bans amending data on work permits of expatriates

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) announced it has banned the amendment of data on work permits for expatriates regarding name, date of birth, and nationality. If the employer wishes to do so, he must apply for the visa cancellation service for the worker he wants to bring, within two weeks from the date of issuance, through the Sahel service, and then visit the Ministry of Interior to amend the worker's data and apply for a new permit, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Sources from PAM affirmed that this approach is based on joint coordination between PAM and the Ministry of Interior, the aim of which is to prevent any manipulations that were previously carried out by some to defraud and bring in some workers of nationalities whose recruitment permits have been suspended since a long period or during the past period.

Meanwhile, PAM launched a new electronic service to cancel an entry visa for an expatriate worker by entering PAM's electronic forms portal, selecting the expatriate worker icon, clicking on 'Cancel Work Visa', registering the application data, and submitting a data validation declaration.

Bid to hire doctors: Minister of Health Dr Ahmed Al-Awadi recently issued a ministerial decision to amend the mechanism for hiring doctors born to Kuwaiti women married to foreigners, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources affirmed that the decision stipulates better employment benefits

for these doctors as follows:

- end of service privileges,
- right to promotion with the corresponding financial benefits,
- career advancement and job title modification
- job security

Sources said this is a continuation of a previous decision to directly employ doctors born to Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis.

Job appointments: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, Acting Chairman of the Civil Service Council, Essa Al-Kandari, said recently the appointments of persons in senior position are subject to certain mechanism, conditions, rules and procedures, in accordance with the organizing decrees and decisions issued in this regard, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Kandari added, "The nomination begins with those who meet the conditions, in terms of qualification, duration of experience, necessary requirements, and obtaining the initial approval of the Civil Service Council, to fill the leadership position, through the candidate's submission to the test, whether through a university that conducts approved tests for personal characteristics, in accordance with international standards."

He went on to say, "Also the Civil Service Council evaluates the candidate according to a specific criteria and elements, ending with the matter being submitted to the competent authority in preparation for the issuance of the appointment decree."

Public Prosecution to take necessary action

'Nazaha' preps report on persons having inflated accounts, assets

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: The Anti-Corruption Authority, "Nazaha," confirmed that it is "preparing a report on persons subject to the financial disclosure statement who are likely to have an unjustified increase in their accounts or property balances, and it will be sent to the Public Prosecution to take whatever action it deems necessary, reports Al-Rai daily.

This came in a letter from the head of the authority, Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim, attached by the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Fahih Al-Ruqaba, in response to a parliamentary question by Representative Muhannad Al-Sayer about suspicions of inflated accounts and properties monitored by "Nazaha."

The letter also clarified that due to the legal obligation placed on banks by Law No. 32 of 1968 to maintain the confidentiality of customer information and data, banks are the entities that have knowledge of any suspected financial inflation.

Therefore, banks are obligated to notify the Financial Investigation Unit of any suspicious financial activities related to proceeds from criminal activities or suspicious money,

analyze the data, and take appropriate measures to inform the Public Prosecution, in accordance with Cabinet Resolution No. 1532 of 2013 concerning the Financial Investigation Unit.

Regarding property inflation, the letter emphasized that individuals subject to financial disclosure requirements must provide a comprehensive inventory of all their assets, including cash, real estate, and movable assets, whether located inside or outside Kuwait.

These disclosures are submitted on legally mandated dates. The audit of financial disclosure statements may vary depending on the individual's circumstances and the number of statements submitted. In cases where an unjustified increase is suspected, a report is prepared and forwarded to the Public Prosecution for appropriate action. The entire process is expected to be completed within a maximum of two months from the commencement of the examination process.

Bid to return halls: The Ministry of Social Affairs has asked the Council of Ministers to look into the possibility of returning some wedding

halls to the donors, reports Al-Seyassah daily quoting sources.

Sources clarified the ministry cannot take this step, unless the Council of Ministers issues a directive in this regard. Sources said the council issued a decision on the cancellation of some wedding halls in 2016, indicating the number of such halls totaled 35 and some of them were closed during the Corona pandemic while others were handed over to the government agencies to use them at the height of the pandemic.

Union express regret: The Kuwaiti Fishermen's Union has expressed its deep regret over the "public war on the local marine product, especially since the challenges of the fishing sector have become endless, due to some ill-considered decisions, the most recent of which is reducing the gasoline and diesel quota, which disrupted the movement of fishing boats for more than half of the past month," reports Al-Jarida daily.

The union asked, in a statement: "Who is responsible for the losses of fishermen and the disruption of the movement of fishing boats?"

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First-of-its-kind skilling initiative in Kuwait created by Mercedes Vazquez

'50 women in cybersecurity' empowering women in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: 50 Women in cybersecurity is a first-of-its-kind, groundbreaking skilling initiative in Kuwait created by Mercedes Vazquez, under the patronage of the U.S. Department of State through the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

This exclusive and innovative skilling initiative was created by Mercedes Vazquez, in an increasingly interconnected world to address the ability to respond to ever-evolving complex cyber threats. The inclusive role of women in cybersecurity has become essential to ensure cyber resilience and unlock prosperity & opportunities.

Empowered women, power economies. Technology is for everyone and cybersecurity in particular provides an unprecedented opportunity for women to join and be part of a cyber-resilient thriving future.

The "50 women in cybersecurity in Kuwait" program will provide the diverse & inclusive selection of talents with innovative and pioneering upskilling and re-skilling to foster inclusion in a digital competitive economy and job market to foster future-proof skills, while generating employability and contributing to a thriving digitized knowledge-based

economy, contributing to empower communities in Kuwait by fostering world-class skills development through the United States' leading position in cybersecurity technology, women's economic security and education.

"We are delighted to sponsor the '50 Women in Cybersecurity' program, which provides a chance for women and girls in Kuwait to build their tech skills and increase their awareness about cybersecurity through an academic workshop and a hackathon, led by experienced trainers. Through these programs, we ensure that women and girls have an opportunity to witness first-hand the necessary skills to explore academic and career paths in cybersecurity. We hope to continue fostering inclusion and economic security for women with the help of U.S. expertise and our local partners in Kuwait." Kevin Kocher, Acting Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

Mercedes Vazquez, a dynamic business & technology executive known for her public actions to empower communities, and recent winner at the 2023 Global Women in Leadership awards that took place in Dubai, U.A.E. under the



Left: U.S. Embassy in Kuwait Charge d'Affaires James Holtsnider with Mercedes Vazquez, creator of the '50 women in cybersecurity' initiative, under the patronage of the U.S. Department of State through the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. Right: 50 women in cybersecurity in Kuwait - announcement post.



Photos courtesy of Mercedes Vazquez

patronage of HH Eng Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, elaborates further on the creation of this innovative motion: "The 50

Women in Cybersecurity initiative was created & architected with my deep desire to empower communities with future-proof skills, as I

relentlessly advocate for the role of women in technology and the benefits of diversity to innovate while solving some of the world's largest

challenges in cybersecurity, closing the gender gap and ultimately increasing the GDP as an opportunity through tech innovation in an ever-growing field. Globally, cybersecurity remains an untapped area for women to join and be part of a thriving secure future while nurturing our leadership potential, our role in technology and therefore economic participation. This pioneering initiative also contributes to & addresses the State of Kuwait's Vision 2035 objectives to invest in human capital and to achieve sustainable economic diversification. I am very grateful to the U.S. Department of State through the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait for their trust and for their unwavering support to make this initiative a reality"

The exclusive "50 women in cybersecurity in Kuwait" skilling initiative will happen in Kuwait on October 20, 21, 27 & 28, 2023 with a comprehensive, holistic and multi-layered rigorous certification program and an innovative hackathon. To register, subject to T&C's, please click on the following link: Event Registration - Google Forms

Be part of a cyber resilient future & a robust digitized economy!



KUNA photo

KRCS and King Salman aid center signed agreement to aid Sudan.

Kuwait was and still is a beacon of charitable work: Zakat House

'Humanitarian tradition long-standing'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Dr. Majid Al-Azmi, the Acting Director General of the Zakat House, has emphasized Kuwait's enduring commitment to charitable endeavors and extending support to those in need worldwide, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He made these remarks in a press statement on the occasion of the International Day of Charity, underscoring Kuwait's long-standing tradition of humanitarian

work, a legacy further solidified by the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, may God rest his soul, who was a prominent figure in the realm of humanitarian initiatives.

Al-Azmi highlighted that Zakat House consistently demonstrates its leadership in charitable work through its actions and positions. He also noted that the Zakat House plays a crucial role within the framework of this charitable ecosystem, embodying the core principles of Kuwait's humanitarian policy, which aims to sponsor humanitarian projects and offer assistance to all those in need, regardless of their circumstances.

It's worth noting that the International Day of Charity, established by the United Nations, serves as a platform to raise awareness and inspire individuals and non-governmental organizations worldwide to engage in volunteer work and charitable activities to aid others.



The Guest Show poster

Dr Khan on TGS

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: This Thursday The Guest Show (TGS) will present eminent cardiologist, Dr Hassan Ali Khan. Dr Khan has been in Kuwait for more than four decades and throughout this time he has served patients both in the private and public sectors. Later in life, the people friendly doctor became a regular on Urdu radio where he was called upon for expert advice.

In this episode, Dr Hassan speaks to Chaitali B Roy about his life, his memories of early Kuwait, the challenges of cardiovascular issues in Kuwait and worldwide, his memories of the invasion and his work on his autobiography.

0 people of

Continued from Page 1

What kind of affliction have we been afflicted with, as it is causing confusion of ideas and words to prevail among us? What future can we expect from a country that refuses to move forward, and prefers regression and backwardness over progress and civilization?

As soon as the formation of the government is announced, some ministers submit their resignation, as if they only want to carry the title of "former minister," and they do not care about Kuwait and its fate, or that those who chose them found them not worthy of this national mission due to which he pushed them to resign.

This is confusing, and it gets even worse. This is why it is not surprising that the Kuwait Investment Authority gets assigned to the Minister of Oil, and when another minister gets appointed, it returns to the Ministry of Finance. The fear is that in the future it will be assigned to the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, or as we said a previous time, to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs!

In the whole world, there are specialists and experts. There is also a societal culture that cannot be deviated from, but we see that all of this has been ignored, and whims, desires, and illusions have become prevalent.

While a minister wants to arrest the ideas of Kuwaitis, and comes up with tender, another one presents a law that, to say the least, takes away the lives of Kuwaitis, and a third wants to prevent criticism of MPs, or else, imprisonment and a fine of KD 20,000 would be the punishment for whoever commits this "weird" crime.

Isn't there a rational mind among us who can understand the risks arising from all these suggestions? Is there no one among you - ministers and parliamentarians - who can foretell what will happen to Kuwait if these laws are implemented?!

For Allah's sake, is it reasonable for a government to pay money to a company to monitor social media, as well as those that sell citizens' information to the world? Have we reached this point of implementing impulses that are, to say the least, childish?

Haven't you seen the scandals about referrals to anti-corruption, the corrupt people, the systematic looting, and the stealing in projects that cost many times their real cost? Haven't you heard about the social

violence that has spread in Kuwait? Are you all focused only on forcing people to "gag their mouths"?

A thousand salutes to MP Jenan Bush-ehri, who stood with the Kuwaiti women, and for the integrity of her patriotic sentiments in the face of this scourge, which some want to be the cause of the disease that is devastating society.

We miss the beautiful times when our country was truly a beacon, because today we are all concerned with the question asked by every Kuwaiti - "Oh Lord, where are we heading?"

Oil sector

Continued from Page 1

Nadia Al-Hajji said the event is a chance to celebrate the oil sector's 2022 achievements, despite the many challenges in the field, posed by the global economic and political crises.

She affirmed the need to execute strategic initiatives on sustainability, turning to renewable energy, protecting the environment, digitalization and encouraging innovation.

The meeting focuses on discussing the previous year's achievements and the upcoming years goals, with the aim of achieving the oil sector's 2040 strategy.

Clashes feared

Continued from Page 1

The SDF accused Khbeil of criminal activity, corruption and of opening up contacts with the Damascus government and Iranian-backed militias.

The U.S. military has called for an end to the fighting, warning that "distractions (from opposing IS) create instability and increase the risk of DAESH resurgence," using the Arab acronym for the Islamic State group.

Over the weekend, a meeting was held among SDF figures, tribal leaders and U.S. officials, including Maj. Gen. Joel Vowell, the commander of Operation Inherent Resolve, which oversees U.S. military operations against IS, the U.S. Embassy announced. It said they agreed on the "importance of addressing the grievances of residents" in Deir el-Zour, avoiding civilian deaths and the need for de-escalation as soon as possible.

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Nine companies compete for railway study & design tender

GCC rail link 1st phase

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Sources within the Ministry of Public Works have disclosed that the Central Agency for Public Tenders recently opened bid envelopes for the "Agreement A/H I/1 Study and Design Work and Preparation of Railroad Tender Documents - First Phase." Among the 10 companies whose bids were opened, one was excluded due to non-compliance with Article 40 of the tender regulations.

The agreement's beneficiary party is the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport. In accordance with the prevailing regulations and laws under the Public Tenders Law, the authority will evaluate the technical bids after a referral period of one month through a technical committee established by the authority. Subsequently, they will forward their recommendations to the agency for the award decision, following the procedures and regulations stipulated in the Public Tenders Law.

The first phase of this project involves establishing a rail link with Gulf Cooperation Council countries. This phase spans from the southern border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Nuwaiseeb area) to the passenger station in Kuwait City, situated "behind Kuwait International Airport on the Seventh Ring Road," extending north through the Silk City to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port. It encompasses 111 kilometers of the Gulf Cooperation Council route and an additional 154 kilometers leading to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port. This phase aims to facilitate passenger and freight transportation and support future transport of goods to and from Boubyan Island, totaling 265 kilometers in length.

The General Authority for Roads and Land Transport is overseeing the project's implementation, guided by Law No. 115/2014, which established the authority, and Cabinet Resolution No. (1278), which entrusted the authority with coordinating the railway project's tasks.



Photo during a seminar organized by KRCS.



KUNA photos
Left: Director General of Kuwait Red Crescent Society Abdulrahman Al-Aoun. Right: Sadeq Karam, the head of the society service at the medical emergency of the Ministry of Health.

KRCS promotes culture of 'first aid' through training

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): Director General of Kuwait Red Crescent Society Abdulrahman Al-Aoun affirmed on Wednesday necessity of promoting the culture of first aid by training volunteers and personnel of the civil society and state civil servants.

Al-Aoun, in a statement during a seminar organized by the society, said first aid is crucial for saving lives, particularly in accidents where quick and correct medical intervention is quite necessary.

The KRCS is seeking to shed light on the medics' profession and their

major role in saving lives of people in critical condition, Al-Aoun has said, affirming that the society will continue to organize training course to enhance volunteers' skills and youth potentials.

Meanwhile, Sadeq Karam, the head of the society service at the medical emergency of the Ministry of Health, affirmed in remarks to KUNA necessity of promoting awareness of the adults and children with respect of providing first aid.

First aid is quite necessary particularly in cases where the victims suffer from suffocation and fractures, he has indicated.

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Roku to cut about 10% of its workforce

Roku is cutting about 10% of its workforce, or 360 people, and it will limit new hiring as it cuts costs to stem a series of quarterly losses. The streaming platform also said in a regulatory filing Wednesday that it expects adjusted third-quarter revenue of between \$835 million and \$875 million, which is much better than the \$828.6 million that Wall Street was projecting, according to analysts polled by FactSet.

Shares, which have already doubled since the start of the year, jumped 10% at the opening bell. Roku Inc. anticipates a restructuring charge of \$45 million to \$65 million related to the job cuts. The charge will mostly include severance and benefits costs, with the majority of the charge expected to occur in its fiscal third quarter.

The Silicon Valley company also expects impairment charge

of \$160 million to \$200 million in its third quarter as it consolidates some offices. An impairment charge of \$55 million to \$65 million is anticipated for removing certain existing licensed and produced content from Roku-operated services on its tv streaming platform.

The San Jose, California-based company had 3,600 full-time workers in 14 countries as of Dec. 31, 2022, according to its annual report. (AP)

Cell Impact participates in the Stuttgart hy-fcell confab

Cell Impact participates in hy-fcell in Stuttgart, Germany, one of the world's largest and most important hydrogen technology industry events. Cell Impact will present the company's flow plate production offer based on the unique forming technology Cell Impact Forming™.

Flow plate production is critically important for the growth of the hydrogen industry and at hy-fcell, Cell Impact will share its ex-

periences and knowledge from more than 50 flow plate projects involving a wide range of applications and materials.

Cell Impact's production offer involving Cell Impact Forming, an environmentally friendly and scalable flow plate production technology. A Cell Impact forming line capacity comes with short lead time.

With a small floor print it takes two weeks to install. The speed

and precision in the forming makes a long tool life possible, which avoids significant cost in flow plate production.

"In this year's event I would really like to share the fact that Cell Impact is a company that is truly up and running, producing, and supplying flow plates. We carried out more than 50 flow plate and tooling projects during the last 5 years. (PR Newswire)

Market Movements

06-09-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
JAPAN - Nikkei	+0.62	33,241.02	UAE - DFM	-0.38	4,037.87
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.70	45,835.66	SAUDI - Tadawul	-0.99	11,298.16
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.27	6,241.69			
EGYPT - EGX 30	+0.95	19,224.52			

Business

Bid to expand in MENA region

TRAY signs partnership deal with Alraedah Digital Solutions

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Sept 6, (Business Wire): TRAY, a global leader in cloud-native enterprise-class POS systems, is pleased to announce a strategic partnership with Alraedah Digital Solutions, a prominent digital solutions provider based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This agreement aims to empower small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as larger Enterprise customers across various industries in Saudi Arabia with cutting-edge electronic cash register solutions.

Bespoke tech solutions providers team up to empower digital transactions of small-and medium-sized business enterprises across MENA with cloud-based software.

As an exclusive reseller of TRAY's software in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Alraedah Digital Solutions is uniquely positioned to cater to the needs of businesses in the hospitality sector, with customized solutions that meet the unique requirements of the KSA SME market. TRAY's state-of-the-art POS systems, which can meet the needs of various types of hospitality businesses, will enable Alraedah Digital Solutions to provide existing and future customers with efficient and reliable electronic cash register solutions that optimize business operations and enhance customer experiences.

"With TRAY's advanced technology, we are thrilled to elevate the value and quality of services offered to SMEs in Saudi Arabia," stated Paul Melotto, CEO of Alraedah Digital Solutions. "This partnership signifies

our commitment to championing entrepreneurial growth and contributing to a comprehensive and integrated approach to servicing SMEs in Saudi Arabia. We recognize the great need for TRAY's cloud-native enterprise-class POS systems in the market."

Through this strategic partnership with TRAY, Alraedah Digital Solutions will offer hospitality operators in food and beverage, cafes, lounges, and more, an efficient, reliable and one-of-a-kind POS solution to optimize customer business operations, enhance in-store consumer experiences and ultimately thrive in the digital era. TRAY's extensive experience in delivering electronic cash register solutions to businesses worldwide, coupled with Alraedah's commitment to championing growth for independent and fast-growing brands, will empower and enhance existing service offerings such as POS financing, and also contribute to the overall development of the SME sector in Saudi Arabia.

"The signing of this agreement marks an important step in the growth and global expansion of TRAY, and we could not ask for better partners in bringing our technology to businesses in the Middle East," said Peter Kellis, Chief Executive Officer of TRAY. "We see great synergies between our two parties as we continue to provide our restaurant partners the technology they need in a constantly evolving digital age. With this partnership, TRAY's existing partners, many of whom have an international presence, will benefit as TRAY develops and perfects our international ca-

pabilities. What we build in collaboration with Alraedah Digital Solutions will position us well for strategic global growth and success."

The agreement between TRAY and Alraedah Digital Solutions expands Alraedah's ability to serve SMEs, and establishes a holistic ecosystem to support their growth, aligning with the goals of Vision 2030 to enhance Saudi Arabia's GDP. Additionally, this partnership demonstrates Alraedah Digital Solutions' capacity to attract international companies into the Saudi market, further enhancing the value and quality of services offered to the underserved SME market.

TRAY is a leading provider of cloud-native enterprise-class POS systems for the hospitality industry. The company's mission is to empower businesses to operate more efficiently, increase revenue, and provide a better experience for their customers. TRAY's advanced POS system is used by hospitality businesses of all sizes and types, including full service and quick service restaurants and family entertainment centers. For more information on TRAY and its POS solutions, please visit tray.com.

Alraedah Digital Solutions is a Kingdom of Saudi Arabia-based digital solutions provider, committed to supporting SME growth and driving the development of the sector. With a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by SMEs, Alraedah Digital Solutions empowers businesses with innovative tech-enabled solutions that optimize operations and enhance customer experiences.

Wall Street 'loses ground' as weak stretch continues

Asian markets are mostly lower as oil prices push higher

NEW YORK, Sept 6, (AP): Stocks fell in afternoon trading on Wall Street Wednesday, continuing a weak stretch in a holiday-shortened week.

The S&P 500 fell 0.9% and is heading for weekly losses. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 234 points, or 0.7%, to 34,407 as of 12:28 p.m. Eastern. The Nasdaq fell 1.3%.

Big technology stocks fell and weighed on the market. Apple slipped 3.3%. Health care stocks had some of the broadest losses. Johnson & Johnson fell 1.3% and Pfizer shed 2.3%.

Several companies made big moves after reporting earnings and other updates. Roku surged 4.2% after giving investors an encouraging financial update and saying it would cut 10% of its staff. AeroVironment jumped 25.8% after the maker of unmanned aircrafts raised its sales forecast for the year.

Markets in Europe fell and markets in Asia were mixed.

GameStop and Dave & Buster's will release their latest results after the closing bell.

Investors face a relatively quiet week as they come off the Labor Day holiday in the U.S. and a busy August. The services sector in the U.S. remained healthy, according to a survey from The Institute for Supply Management.

The survey showed that the sector, which employs most Americans, grew at a faster pace than economists expected in August. The sector is among the biggest pieces of the U.S. economy and it has remained resilient throughout 2023 despite persistent inflation and rising interest rates squeezing consumers.

"That suggests there is still a tremendous amount of demand for the services sector," said Tom Hainlin, national investment strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

Bond yields jumped following the report. The yield on the 10-year Treasury, which influences interest rates on mortgages and other loans, rose to 4.30% from about 4.25% just prior to the survey's release.

The yield on the 2-year Treasury, which tracks expectations for the Federal Reserve, rose to 5.03% from 4.96% just prior to the survey's re-



Traders work on the New York Stock Exchange floor in New York City on Tuesday, Sept 5, 2023. (AP)

sults being released.

The dominant economic theme continues to be inflation and interest rates, which the Fed has boosted in an effort to bring down prices. Investors are hoping that the Fed might moderate interest rate increases going forward as inflation has been easing for months.

Wall Street expects the Fed to hold its benchmark interest rate steady at its next meeting later in September. Investors are mostly betting that the central bank will maintain that pause through the rest of the year. Economic updates last week on consumer confidence, jobs and inflation reinforced those hopes.

"It seems we're all coalescing around a potential pause," Hainlin said.

Inflation has been easing for months under the weight of the Fed's aggressive rate hikes that started in 2022 and brought its main interest rate to the highest level since 2001. The policy raised concerns that the central bank might be too aggressive and hit the brakes on economic growth with enough force that the economy would be thrown into a recession.

A strong jobs market and consumer spending have propped up the broader economy and staved off

a recession, so far. Wall Street will get several more economic updates on inflation and retail sales later in September ahead of the Fed's next meeting.

Europe

Shares opened mostly lower in Europe and Asian stocks were mixed Wednesday as Chinese benchmarks were lifted by hopes for fresh support for the country's faltering property market.

Germany's DAX lost 0.5% to 15,695.66 and the CAC 40 in Paris sank 0.9% to 7,186.56. Britain's FTSE declined 0.9% to 7,371.08.

Asia

Shares were mostly lower in Asia on Wednesday after a decline on Wall Street as traders returned from a long holiday weekend.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index advanced but most other regional markets fell.

Crude oil prices pushed higher, adding to inflationary pressures at a time when investors are hoping to see central banks back away from interest rate hikes.

"While oil bulls are dancing in the street, the notable price uptick could prove challenging for central banks and financial markets, which were

embellishing the current lower inflation groove," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

Coming off the Labor Day holiday in the U.S., investors have few economic reports to look forward to this week, while the latest round of corporate earnings is essentially finished.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 advanced 0.5% to 33,208.26. In Seoul, the KOSPI declined 0.6% to 2,567.12.

The S&P/ASX 200 in Australia slipped 0.8% to 7,257.70 as the government reported the economy grew at a 2.3% annual pace in the last quarter. In quarterly terms, it expanded a modest 0.2%. The figures were better than expected.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index sank 0.8% to 18,306.24, extending losses as the market eases back from gains fueled by recent stimulus measures for the ailing Chinese property market.

The Shanghai Composite index shed 0.3% to 3,143.62. India's Sensex edged 0.1% lower.

Currencies

In currency dealings, the dollar slipped to 147.44 Japanese yen from 147.73 yen late Tuesday. The euro rose to \$1.0732 from \$1.0721.

The Conversation

What is geospatial intelligence?

A geographer explains the melding of maps and data

By Darren Ruddell

University of Southern California

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

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With record-breaking temperatures across the South, smoke from Canadian wildfires across the North, historic flooding in the Northeast and a powerful hurricane in the Southeast, the summer of 2023 has presented a range of threats to the safety of the majority of Americans. The good news, through all of this: Geospatial intelligence has offered valuable insights to help governments and organizations protect communities.

Geospatial intelligence is the collection and integration of data from a network of technologies, including satellites, mobile sensors, ground-control stations and aerial images. The data is used to produce real-time maps and simulations to help identify when, where and to what extent a threat is likely to emerge. Government officials, individuals or both can use this information to make informed decisions.

One long-standing contribution of geospatial intelligence is in emergency preparedness and response. For example, the National Hurricane Center actively monitors the location, formation and trajectory of tropical cyclones. Detailed information on the timing, location and strength of a given hurricane helps officials distribute resources and personnel, as well as issue storm warnings and evacuation orders.

Geospatial intelligence also provides valuable guidance for search-and-rescue and recovery efforts following a disaster. For example, in the immediate aftermath of the February 2023 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria, maps and aerial images quickly identified the extent of damage and the populations affected. In addition, they helped first responders locate access points in the transportation network to rescue survivors, set up aid stations and provide emergency supplies.

Another use of geospatial intelligence is environmental monitoring. A stable environment is essential for human health and security. Monitoring temperature, precipitation, snowpack and polar ice helps scientists and government officials anticipate and prepare for potential disturbances.

For instance, understanding temperature profiles - past, current and forecasted temperatures over an area - provides information on when, where and to what extent that area is likely to be affected by events such as heat waves. Heat waves often result in human suffering, increased energy demands and crop damage.

With climate change intensifying extreme weather events, there is likely to be a corresponding increase in threats to human safety and security.

The Russian-Ukraine war is another area where geospatial intelligence has made contributions. Maxar Technologies, a commercial satellite imagery company, was the first to report the 40-mile-long convoy of Russian ground forces heading toward Kyiv in February 2022.

While governments historically could choose whether to release intelligence-related information, commercial satellite companies now play a vital role in providing this type of information to the public. In this way, geospatial intelligence represents an extension of the free press.

Another use of geospatial intelligence is in transportation, logistics and global supply chains. The global economy runs on GPS, which generates spatial data. GPS provides governments, businesses and people with detailed information on the time, location and destination of ships and cargo. This leads to greater efficiency and more consistent and reliable operations.

Geospatial intelligence is also helping with the rollout of autonomous vehicles. Using high-resolution imagery of about a foot (30 cm) per pixel, city planners and engineers are able to detect markings and features on the ground such as bicycle lanes and traffic direction. These advances help planners build safer, smarter, more efficient and better connected communities.

Yet another use of geospatial intelligence is contributing to the development, implementation and evaluation of digital twins. Digital twins are virtual representations of real systems - buildings or cities, for example - that mimic the systems' characteristics and can be updated in real time to reflect changing conditions in the systems.

Digital twins are being used in many civilian and military settings to improve decision making. They are useful for modeling changes and predicting outcomes. Digital twins have been highly effective in conflict settings by simulating weather and terrain to help militaries and peacekeepers develop and enact strategies.

The need for geospatial intelligence is more important than ever. Average temperature is projected to increase between 2 to 9.7 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 to 5.4 degrees Celsius) by the end of the century. The global population is expected to reach 11 billion by 2100, and urban areas are becoming denser and more prone to disasters. (AP)

GingerMay proudly joins the B Corp Movement to do business, better

LONDON, Sept 6, (Business Wire): GingerMay, a multi-award-winning global agency for integrated B2B tech communications, today announced its B Corp Certification, a significant achievement that verifies its sustainable values. GingerMay joins a global community of businesses that prioritise social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency, and redefining sustainable success.

As environmental awareness grows, expectations of planet-conscious practices are increasing. According to De-

loitte, nearly half of businesses (46%) set minimum sustainability thresholds for their partners. GingerMay's B Corp status not only ensures alignment with the highest ethical benchmarks, but also helps clients demonstrate their green commitments.

Choosing a B Corp Certified partner provides the dual advantages of shared values and clear validation. For companies keen to protect the environment and promote social equality, working with GingerMay gives assurance of mutual dedication to principle-driven opera-

tions. At the same time, the company's rigorously assessed approach further enhances the credibility of partners' sustainability statements and goals, fostering greater evidence-based trust.

This certification underscores GingerMay's ambition to continue being a purpose-driven change agent - one that is legally committed to making a positive and meaningful difference to people and the planet. And, by donating between 0.5% and 1% of our client fees to important causes as part of our B Corp efforts, we ensure clients can

also make an immediate positive difference - even if their own framework is in development. This includes providing essential funding for charities that align with key company values of supporting people and the planet.

GingerMay has made a legal commitment to uphold B Corp™ values, the highest standard a socially responsible business can attain. It will be publishing an annual impact report to assess its performance against set targets as agreed by stakeholders, which will be shared publicly once completed.

KFH announces winners of Your Card...Your Dreams Gate campaign

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the winners of the second draw of its summer campaign with VISA; (Your Card...Your Dreams Gate). The draw was attended by a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the names were announced as follows:

- Fahad Hamid Ghunnaem Al-Suwaileh
- Nasser Munawer Mutlaq Al-Thufairy
- Mohammed Fahem Ghanim Taher
- Ayman Ahmed Shakhshiro
- Layla Mehri Alayyan Al-Bathali

This second draw is part of three campaign draws in which 15 winners will win a trip of their dreams that include:

- Round trip ticket on Business or an equivalent class for international flights to the selected destination.
- Accommodation in a 5-star, or equivalent hotel.
- One companion.
- Transportation from and to the airport.
- Pocket money amounting to K.D 2,000.
- Variety of activities during the trip (available for some destinations).

KFH also allows the winners to pick their preferred travel destinations available which are:

- Japan.
- India (Delhi, Jaipur, Udaipur, Mumbai).
- USA, Mexico & Cuba (New York, Cancun, Havana, Miami).
- Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand (Bali, Singapore, Koh Samui, Bangkok).
- Maldives.
- England (Manchester, London).
- South Africa (Johannesburg, Kruger National Park, Cape Town).
- Egypt (Alexandria, Sharm El Sheikh).

Austria and Switzerland (Zurich, St. Moritz, Geneva).

The campaign will continue until September 18th, during which all KFH Visa debit, credit and prepaid cardholders can qualify for the draw for every purchase transaction of K.D 1 and more.

KFH Visa credit or prepaid cardholder gets one chance to qualify for the draw for every K.D 1 spent on local purchasing transactions, or e-commerce transactions in the Kuwaiti dinar currency, and ten chances for every K.D 1 spent on international purchas-

ing transactions, or e-commerce transactions made in foreign currencies. KFH Visa debit cardholder is qualified to enter the draw only through purchasing transactions made via POS outside Kuwait, or through e-commerce transactions in foreign currencies.

Thanks to its high-demand campaigns, KFH is keen to enhance its cooperation with Visa and partners to execute other positively impacting campaigns to boost its customers satisfaction, usage rates, expand market share and strengthen its leadership in the banking cards market.



Left to right: Photos taken from the program

Collaborative effort exemplifies shared vision

Lulu Hypermarket, LOYAC empower Kuwaiti youth through innovative internship program

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Lulu Hypermarket, a pioneer in the retail industry, has teamed up with LOYAC to launch a groundbreaking internship program aimed at nurturing the talents of Kuwait's youth. This collaboration is a testament to both organizations' commitment to youth development, education, and community engagement.

The internship program, which took place at Lulu Hypermarket's esteemed Qurain and Egaila outlets, brought together a diverse group of professionals and specialists who volunteered their

time and expertise to mentor and train LOYAC's ambitious young individuals. This initiative was designed to provide hands-on learning experiences and to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

Over the course of the internship period, Interns had the unique opportunity to gain real-world insights into various aspects of the retail industry, including customer service, merchandising, logistics, and management. They received personalized guidance and mentorship from Lulu Hy-

permarket's seasoned professionals, who shared their expertise and industry best practices.

To celebrate the successful completion of the internship program, Lulu Hypermarket recently hosted a certificate award ceremony at their Regional Office in Farwaniya on 5th August 2023. During this event, certificates of achievement were presented to the dedicated Interns of LOYAC who had shown exceptional commitment and enthusiasm throughout the program.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Mohamad Haris, the Director of

Lulu Hypermarket Kuwait expressed their delight in witnessing the growth and development of the young talents.

This collaborative effort between Lulu Hypermarket and LOYAC exemplifies their shared vision of empowering Kuwaiti youth and providing them with opportunities for personal and professional growth. By fostering such partnerships, they aim to contribute to the overall development of the community and create a brighter future for the young generation.

Zeitview acquires Heliolytics

SANTA MONICA, Calif., Sept 6, (Business Wire): Zeitview today takes the lead in advanced aerial inspections for energy and infrastructure by acquiring Heliolytics, which specializes in photovoltaic (PV) system performance via aerial inspection and integrated analytics. The acquisition of this former division of NovaSource Power Services enables the combining of Heliolytics' data insights with Zeitview's expertise in aerial inspection technologies. The majority of Heliolytics staff will join Zeitview, and the team's presence in Toronto, Canada, will continue. The amount of the deal was not disclosed.

"Heliolytics are pioneers in the solar industry and have earned a commendable reputation for their unwavering commitment to quality, precision, and exceptional customer service-values we hold in the highest esteem," said Dan Burton, founder and Chief Executive Officer at Zeitview. "Their expertise and dedication are valuable as we continue developing groundbreaking solutions that redefine inspection standards within the renewable energy sector. We

are excited for this next chapter in our journey, where our united teams create a complete market-winning solution."

For renewable energy customers, this collaboration reinforces Zeitview's multi-asset approach to solar, wind, and utilities. For property owners, it offers critical insights into the performance of their rooftop solar facilities. For all customers, Heliolytics' international operations in Europe, Latin America, and the Asian Pacific are also being combined with Zeitview's global footprint in those same regions.

"Joining forces with Zeitview is a tremendous opportunity to further the renewable energy industry," said Jocelyne Moyer, Head of Heliolytics. Post-acquisition, Moyer takes the title of Senior Director of Strategy and Operations at Zeitview. "We have a shared commitment with Zeitview to deep client partnerships, science-driven innovation, and unparalleled responsiveness to our global clients. I am excited to join the leadership team and look forward to collaborations that will strengthen Zeitview's role in the operations and maintenance of renewable energy assets."

EU targets Apple, Amazon, Meta and other Big Tech in next phase of digital crackdown

'DMA means more choice for consumers'

LONDON, Sept 6, (AP): Six Big Tech companies including Amazon, Apple and Microsoft faced fresh pressure Wednesday from the European Union, which moved to counter their digital dominance with far-reaching rules aimed at giving users more choices and making competition fairer.

Google parent Alphabet, Facebook owner Meta and TikTok parent ByteDance also were classified as online "gatekeepers" subject to the strictest requirements of the 27-nation EU's Digital Markets Act, which amounts to a list of do's and don'ts seeking to prevent tech giants from cornering digital markets, with the threat of whopping fines or even forcing companies to sell parts of their business to operate in Europe.

That means European users of Big Tech social media or chat services could soon be able to send messages to rival platforms, avoid having their data used to show personalized ads and choose which search engine or browser they prefer rather than being stuck with a default version.

It's part of a sweeping update to the EU's digital rulebook taking force this year and comes weeks after a companion package of rules aimed at keeping internet users safe, the Digital Services Act, started kicking in.

"The most impactful online companies will now have to play by our EU rules," European Commissioner Thierry Breton, who's in charge of the bloc's digital pol-

icy, said on X, previously known as Twitter. "DMA means more choice for consumers. Fewer obstacles for smaller competitors. Opening the gates to the Internet."

The European Commission, the EU's executive body, said digital platforms can be listed as gatekeepers if they act as key gateways between businesses and consumers by providing "core platform services."

Those services include Google's Chrome browser, Microsoft's Windows operating systems, chat apps like Meta's WhatsApp, social networks like TikTok, and others playing a middleman role like Amazon's Marketplace and Apple's App Store.

The companies now have six months to start complying with the Digital Markets Act's requirements, which are spurring changes in how Big Tech companies operate.

Google said the new law will require it and other companies "to make various changes to the way their products and services work."

One of the main goals is to break up the "closed environment where you are in a way locked in and you cannot go elsewhere," said Alexandre de Streel, a professor of European law at the University of Namur and an academic director at CERRE, a think tank in Brussels.

"Consumers will be better off because you will pay less and will be able to move more easily from one one platform to another," de Streel said. "So that's the endgame."

For example, under the DMA, tech companies can't stop consumers from connecting with businesses outside their platforms.

That could put pressure on Ap-

ple to open its App Store further. Video game maker Epic Games and music streaming service Spotify have both complained that Apple wouldn't let them bypass its Apple Pay system to avoid paying its 30% commission for subscriptions. Apple has since eased some of its longstanding restrictions.

Messaging services will be required to work with one another. That means Telegram or Signal users could exchange texts or video files with WhatsApp users.

Platforms are banned from ranking their own products or services higher than their rivals' in search results. So, Amazon isn't allowed to make its own-brand products easier to find than those from third-party merchants. The e-commerce giant already started giving European buyers more visible choices when it settled an EU antitrust investigation last year by offering a second "buy box" with a different price or delivery option for the same product.

Online services can't combine a user's personal data to build up a profile for targeted advertising. That means Meta can't mix together a user's data from Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp services without clear consent.

Essential software or apps such as web browsers can't be installed by default along with the operating system, in the way Google's Chrome comes bundled with Android phones. Consumers will instead be given a choice screen for search engines and browsers to use on their devices. Google noted that it's already doing this and said it would remind European users of their choices.

Meta said it's studying the commission's announcement, which had no impact on its services. Amazon said it will work with Brussels on its implementation plans.

Microsoft said it accepted being named as a gatekeeper and welcomed the commission's decision to consider its request to exempt some of its services, including its Bing search engine and Edge browser.

TikTok "fundamentally" disagrees with the commission's decision, EU public policy chief Caroline Greer said on X. The video sharing app, which entered the European market about five years ago, has "brought choice" to an industry largely controlled by incumbents, she said.

Violations could result in fines of up to 10% of a company's annual global revenue and up to 20% for repeat offenders, or even a breakup of the company.



In this Aug. 11, 2019 file photo, a smartphone displays the apps for Facebook and Messenger in New Orleans. (AP)



Momentum wins

MOMENTUM is the first of its kind to invest in the GCC markets. The Fund's strategy is to invest in shares that have sustained high momentum scores over the past 12 months and tracks the S&P Momentum GCC Composite Index.

The Fund caters to investors seeking to invest in the GCC markets and with an investment objective to achieve a long-term favorable risk-adjusted return, and benefiting from the compounding effect.

For more information about the Fund



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Important disclaimer before investing



Al-Hassad
More draws and annual returns

10,000 250,000 100,000

ahli united bank

Al-Hassad prize promotion visual

AUB announces the KD 100,000 monthly prize winner

Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the result of the monthly draw in Al Hassad Islamic prize program held on Wednesday 06 September 2023 at the bank's head office in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as well as a representative from Deloitte as the external auditor to oversee the draws as per the instructions of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in this regard. The bank named Bahyyah Shujaa Naser as the lucky winner of KD 100,000.

On this occasion, Mr. Amresh Nandkeolyar, Head of Marketing and Product Development, Retail at AUB congratulated the winner, wishing

her all the best.

Nandkeolyar expressed his hope that all the Bank's customers will be lucky in the upcoming draws. He also expressed his happiness with the valued trust of the customers in the Bank.

Nandkeolyar assured that AUB is keen since the beginning of launching Al-Hassad Islamic prizes program to offer a host of exclusive prizes to contribute to making the aspiration and dreams of its clients true, and to enhance the culture of savings, stressing that the Bank is committed to provide state-of-the-art banking solutions, which are in line with the client's different requirements.

In its current package, Al-Hassad Islamic Saving Account presents a broader variety of rewards. Customers could now participate in the draw to win a monthly KD 100,000 prize, in addition to 10 weekly prizes of KD 1,000 each. The grand quarterly prize of KD 250,000 in cash for the winner remains the most important aspiration of customers. It is a real chance for them to realize their life dreams. In addition to this attractive package, there will be the annual expected profits on the basis of a Wakala contract that increases the attractiveness of the Al-Hassad Islamic Saving Account to customers.

KIB names winner of Al Dirwaza digital account opening draw for Aug



Gaming event

'Warba' sponsors the largest e-sports tourney in Kuwait

Warba Bank announced its sponsorship of the largest e-sports tournament in Kuwait. The Bank is keen to support e-sports and its players, and is interested in executing this tournament to the fullest extent due to its importance in Kuwait.

Director Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, said that Warba Bank continues its unlimited support for Kuwaiti sports in general through the sponsorships it provides from time to time. He stressed that Warba Bank's interest in sports and its sponsorship of various sports activities in Kuwait and the region constitute an integral part of the Bank's mission and social responsibility, through which it is keen to care for the young generations and provide all possible means of support to hone and develop their talents. Warba has translated this interest into various shapes and forms, especially through its support of various national sports activities, its hosting of some tournaments and famous international sports stars, or through its adoption and sponsorship of many national sports activities and teams in regional and international sports forums and meetings.

He added: We aim to raise the level of sporting events in the region, through Warba Bank's sponsorship of distinguished sporting events, and

we are happy with the success of the previous e-sports tournaments that were sponsored and supported by Warba Bank. Pointing out that Warba Bank's support for this tournament falls within the sports initiatives within the framework of its comprehensive social responsibility program, and these initiatives aim to encourage a variety of sports and activities.

Al-Mutairi pointed out that Warba is committed to supporting sustainability at the societal, economic and environmental levels, through initiatives that are strategically selected and defined.

Al-Mutairi concluded his statement by stressing that Warba Bank is always keen to sponsor sporting events, support sport in Kuwait, and enhance its positive impact on social development in the country.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that achieved great successes during 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 its shareholders, and these are among the most important elements that make the bank close to all members of society, in addition to that, Warba Bank is considered among the 50 largest banks in the Middle East in terms of market value for the year 2023 - Forbes Middle East classification.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the name of the winner of its Al Dirwaza digital account opening campaign for the month of August, whereby customer Ahmad Saleh Ahmad Alnamash won the draw. This draw comes as part of the Bank's renewed campaign that is designed to provide a distinctive digital banking experience and reward customers who open an Al Dirwaza account through its digital platforms, whether KIB Online or the KIB Mobile application.

On this occasion, Nawaf Al-Khrayef, Assistant General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, said: "We continue to announce new winners of the draws and prizes of this distinctive campaign on a regular basis. Apart from rewarding customers, the campaign contributes to educating them about the importance of saving and allows them to enjoy the latest innovative digital banking solutions. Furthermore, the Al Dirwaza account, the best of its kind in Kuwait, continues to attract those interested in economizing, saving, and profiting, thanks to KIB's professional team and its continuous efforts, in addition to the loyalty and constant support of existing customers."

Al-Khrayef added: "KIB continues to hold this unique campaign as part of its approach to injecting innovation into the integrated banking experience provided to all customer segments, offering them many advantages by focusing on their priorities and meeting all their needs. To this end, the Al Dirwaza digital account opening campaign continues to witness success, thanks to the high competency level



Nawaf Al-Khrayef

of the team, the swift response for accessing digital services, the added value of prizes and rewards, and the maximum possible use of the best banking product in its category. More importantly, the account provides customers with the highest expected monthly returns, in addition to draws for excellent cash prizes, while being compliant with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB Sharia Supervisory Board."

It is worth noting that KIB seeks to constantly enrich its customers' banking experience, by developing advanced digital solutions to ensure greater ease and a higher level of performance and efficiency in banking operations. The Bank also aims to keep pace with its customers' modern lifestyles and reward all segments through innovative offers and promotional campaigns to realize their aspirations and meet their needs.

Adeeb Ahamed wins Fintech Personality of the Year Award

MUMBAI, Sept 6: It was an evening to remember at the prestigious Global Fintech Awards (GFA) 2023, held annually as part of the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2023 in Mumbai, India.

This year, the coveted global award for 'Leading Fintech Personality of the Year' from the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) region was awarded to Mr. Adeeb Ahamed, Managing Director of the Abu Dhabi based Lulu Financial Holdings.

A visionary entrepreneur in the financial services world, Adeeb has been instrumental in revolutionizing cross-border payments between the GCC and India. His company operates a network of 300+ customer engagement centres and digital payment solutions in 10 countries across the Middle East, Asia Pacific and GCC regions.

Accepting the award, Mr. Adeeb Ahamed, said, "I am deeply honoured to receive this year's 'Leading Fintech Personality of the Year Award - GCC'. The GCC payments landscape is among the fastest evolving globally, and this award is a testament to the collective efforts of the LuLu Financial Holdings team to revolutionize cross-border payments. I am also immensely grateful for the regulatory support that has accelerated

our progress in the region and beyond. This award isn't just my win; it reflects the tireless efforts of those working towards a shared vision: of enhancing lives through an inclusive financial system."

Recognising outstanding accomplishments of individuals and entities in the fintech ecosystem around the globe, GFA award are given in three categories, divided into 15 subcategories.

Other winners of the night include Mr. Bhavesh Gupta, President & COO, One97 Communications Ltd., for 'Fintech Leader of the Year', Mr. Tom Greenwood, Founder & CEO, Volt, for 'Leading Fintech Personality of the Year - Europe', and Mr. Kailash Nadh, CTO, Zerodha, for 'Fintech CTO of the Year'.

Among various enterprises that received GFA in different categories, the 'Fintech Company of the Year' award was given to the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

The winners were selected from a large number of nominations, through meticulous adjudication by a jury comprising 15 members, all leading captains of the fintech industry.

For more information, visit: globalfintechfest.com

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait empowers youth to embrace the future with AI workshop

Event organized in cooperation with Australian University

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently concluded its summer workshop on artificial intelligence (AI) for children and relatives of staff aged 14 to 17, further highlighting the Bank's commitment to supporting its employees and their families.

In cooperation with Australian University, ABK organized a three-week workshop for 15 students from August 13 to 28 that provided attendees with a unique opportunity to explore the captivating world of AI and robotics using Python as well as AI techniques.

Through this workshop, ABK aimed to empower the next generation with necessary skills and knowledge in AI, an industry that is rapidly shaping the future. By providing access to cutting-edge technologies at a young age, the Bank hoped to ignite a passion for AI and equip participants with valuable tools that will open doors to invaluable opportunities in the digital era.

Workshop

Afrah Al Arbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, emphasized the significance of this workshop, stating, "In today's technology-driven world, AI is becoming increasingly important across various industries. It is essential for youth to gain exposure to AI concepts and applications at an early stage. We believe that this workshop has enabled them to develop critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and creativity, which will be advantageous to their educational and professional journey."

The interactive sessions were conducted on the Australian University campus, offering a conducive environment for the applicants to immerse themselves in hands-on learning and collaborate with like-minded peers.

Participants had the opportunity to gain insights from the esteemed instructors, who guided and mentored them through the diverse aspects of AI. From understanding the fundamentals and ethics of AI to exploring practical



Participants of the workshop on AI.

applications, attendees were exposed to a comprehensive curriculum designed to enhance their theoretical and practical understanding of this revolutionary field.

Celebrating their achievement, ABK held a graduation ceremony for the talented young participants during which they were encouraged to pursue their aspirations and shape the future with their newly acquired knowledge.

Al Arbash concluded, "At ABK, we believe in the power of knowledge and continuous learning. Through this workshop, we aim to inspire and empower young minds to explore the limitless possibilities of AI."

This initiative reaffirms the Bank's ongoing commitment to investing in the development of future leaders by diving into the exciting world of AI. By nurturing young talent and encouraging their exploration of emerging technologies, ABK aims to create a workforce that is future-ready and can drive innovation in the fast-paced digital landscape.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region

that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank offers individuals and corporates the convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt's network of 44 branches.

This is in addition to ABK's three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's 'Let's Be Aware' awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.



Ms. Afrah Al Arbash GM of Human Resources at ABK



GLOBAL FINTECH AWARDS 2023

BUSINESS

Air Canada apologizes for booting passengers

Air Canada says it has apologized to two passengers who were escorted off a plane by security after protesting that their seats were smeared in vomit.

The airline said Tuesday that the passengers "clearly did not receive the standard of care to which they were entitled."

The incident during boarding for an Aug. 26 flight from Las Vegas to Montreal was described in graphic detail by another pas-

senger, Susan Benson of New Brunswick, who said she was in the row behind two women and a man.

"There was a bit of a foul smell but we didn't know at first what the problem was," Benson wrote on Facebook three days later. "Air Canada attempted a quick cleanup before boarding but clearly wasn't able to do a thorough clean."

Benson said workers sprayed

the area with perfume to hide the smell. The passengers assigned to those seats told a flight attendant that the seat and seatbelt were wet and they could still see vomit. The attendant and a supervisor told them that the flight was full, and they would just have to sit there.

The women were attempting to use blankets and wipes to settle in when one of the pilots showed up, Benson wrote. (AP)

outage was not a cybersecurity issue: United Airlines

United Airlines said Tuesday that a software update triggered a glitch that forced it to halt departures nationwide, briefly crippling one of the nation's biggest carriers on a busy travel day.

Federal officials said United crews had been unable to contact airline dispatchers through normal means.

"A software update caused a widespread slowdown in United's technology systems," United said

in a statement. The airline said it was not a cybersecurity issue.

The Federal Aviation Administration, which runs the nation's airspace, said United asked it to stop the airline's departures nationwide. The FAA said the issue was limited to United and its subsidiaries.

The ground stop - it did not affect planes already in the air, United said - lasted a little more than an hour.

By late afternoon Tuesday

on the East Coast, United had canceled only seven flights, well below its average of about 16 per day over the busy Labor Day weekend, according to figures from tracking service FlightAware.

However, more than 350 United flights were delayed - 13% of the carrier's schedule, far more than rivals American, Delta and Southwest - on a day that many holiday vacationers were expected to fly home. (AP)

The Conversation

To finish the job, Fed has to fix the trade system

US broke global trade rules to try to fix climate change

By Noah Kaufman, Columbia University; Chris Bataille, Columbia University; Gautam Jain, Columbia University, and Sagatom Saha, Columbia University

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



The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, President Joe Biden's landmark climate law, is now expected to prompt a trillion dollars in government spending to fight climate change and trillions more in private investment. But the law and Biden's broader "buy American" agenda include measures that discriminate against imports.

One year in, these policies, such as the law's electric vehicle subsidies, appear to be succeeding at growing domestic clean energy industries - consider the US\$100 billion in newly announced battery supply chain investments. But we believe the law also clearly violates international trade rules.

The problem is not the crime but the cover-up. Today's trade rules are ill-suited for the climate crisis. However, simply tearing them down could hinder economic growth and climate progress alike.

If US leaders instead take responsibility for forging an improved international trade system - rather than denying the violations of trade rules or pointing fingers at similar transgressions by trade partners - they could help put the global economy in a better position to weather increasing climate-related trade tensions.

The United States has shaped international trade rules more than any other country. In the 1940s, the US proposed rules that were eventually largely adopted as the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, or GATT, a series of multinational agreements to reduce trade barriers. The most ambitious of the GATT agreements was the US-instigated Uruguay Round of the 1990s, which created the World Trade Organization.

Some WTO rules are vague, but others are crystal clear, including an unambiguous prohibition of subsidies contingent on the use of domestic products instead of imports. Certain provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act do exactly that, such as the electric vehicle subsidies that require a large percentage of parts to be produced in North America.

The choice facing US policymakers was between accepting the Inflation Reduction Act, including its rule-breaking, protectionist elements, or missing the small window to pass federal climate legislation.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) explicitly refused to provide the 50th vote needed

to pass the law if it wasn't to his liking, and among his asks was domestic sourcing requirements. More broadly, any meaningful climate legislation that does not support the local economies of fossil fuel-heavy regions may be dead on arrival in the US Senate.

Without the Inflation Reduction Act, however, the US had next to no chance of meeting its climate commitments, which would have dampened climate policy momentum across the world.

US leaders might have been justified in begging for forgiveness after passing the legislation rather than asking for permission to violate trade rules. Instead, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), who chairs the powerful Senate Finance Committee, said his team reviewed the international trade laws very carefully and found no violations.

Instead of an apology, US leaders have said, "You're welcome," arguing that the subsidies will benefit other countries by accelerating the deployment of clean energy technologies and lowering costs.

While there is strong evidence to support this argument, it falls flat from a country that has failed to fulfill its obligations to take federal action on climate change for decades and just violated trade laws it has held others accountable to for so long. India's power minister accused the West of hypocrisy, saying the Inflation Reduction Act's protectionism will inhibit the energy transitions in developing economies.

Contradiction

The Inflation Reduction Act contains a fundamental contradiction. Its promise to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions relies on the rapid diffusion of technologies, knowledge and finance across borders. Yet, its domestic subsidies may accelerate the adoption of trade barriers that inhibit these same cross-border flows, thus slowing progress on climate change.

Moreover, the investments it catalyzes will immediately benefit the US economy, while the shared benefits of technological progress and emissions reductions will unfold over many decades for other countries. In the intervening years, other countries may respond with protectionist policies of their own.

Indeed, the real concern might not be the opening salvo, but the shootout of growing protectionism that ensues. For all its drawbacks, the growth in international trade since World War II has led to immense economic progress in much of the world, including the United States. The WTO and its predecessors have been instrumental in

reducing harmful tariffs and providing a consistent set of trade rules to which countries are supposed to adhere.

The Biden administration is attempting to assuage these concerns by forging agreements that make more foreign producers eligible for Inflation Reduction Act subsidies. But, in our view, bespoke agreements with a handful of countries aren't enough. A new vision is needed for international trade rules that support low trade barriers and "green industrial policies" alike.

Global trade rules have not been updated in a generation. They are sorely in need of reform.

The usefulness of the WTO is contingent on most parties agreeing that its rules are worth following. Without a new working consensus and backing from the largest powers with effective vetoes, the organization will become irrelevant.

The first step to fixing the situation is to stop denying the problem or digging deeper holes, such as the United States' ill-advised blocking of appointments to the WTO's dispute settlement Appellate Body since 2017 to protest what it sees as overreach by the body.

More proactively, the US can reestablish its commitment to trade rules by instigating a process to develop equitable reforms.

That could begin with a global summit to discuss the changes necessary to reflect new realities. High-level leadership from the United States would add considerable heft to the ongoing efforts to reform global trade rules.

Any fundamental rewrite of WTO rules will be a long and painstaking process. Instead, it may be sufficient to add a few clauses to existing agreements - like GATT Articles 20 and 21, which deal with exceptions to the trade rules - that clearly and transparently recognize that governments will need to nurture emerging domestic industries to cut emissions fast, ensure energy security and support vulnerable economies.

New rules could limit and define the appropriate use of green subsidies, carbon border tariffs, export and import controls and supply chain coordination. For example, the US and other developed countries could agree to limit subsidies' domestic sourcing requirements to only emerging, innovative clean technologies that require public support to commercialize. Building on this, all countries could work toward an explicit list of clean energy, transport and industrial technologies needed by all that can be traded with reduced or minimal tariffs. (AP)

'Simplifies emigration'

UIS Canada helps aspirants achieve Canadian dreams

OTTAWA, Ontario, Sept 6: UIS Canada, a market player in the Canadian immigration consultancy industry, expanded its comprehensive suite of immigration services, designed to empower international candidates with turn-key yet personalized support for their relocation journey to Canada. Against a backdrop of increasing international migration, emigrating to Canada is now much easier with UIS Canada's comprehensive suite of immigration services. As a pioneer in the Canadian immigration consultancy landscape, UIS Canada is primed to support global candidates in achieving their Canadian dreams.

UIS Canada is revolutionizing the immigration process through its unique combination of expert guidance and tailored solutions, aimed at overcoming the typical challenges of bureaucracy and profile competitiveness. These offerings are structured around the premise that every client deserves the highest possible level of service, no matter the chosen plan.

Canada's many sectors, such as health care, law and engineering, are experiencing a need for skilled workers. The retirement of an aging population is leaving vacancies that urgently need to be filled. To address this, Canada is actively promoting skilled immigration, inviting talent from around the world to contribute to its dynamic landscape and fill critical workforce gaps. Key to understanding the immigration pathway is the point system: a candidate needs at least 67 points to qualify. After entering the pool, the Comprehensive Ranking System ranks profiles, with successful candidates receiving an "Invitation to Apply (ITA)" - a significant step towards acquiring the visa.

Immigration

"We're passionate about transforming dreams of Canadian living into reality," stated a UIS Canada spokesperson. "We're here to equip clients to shine both for the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and prospective employers."

For those unfamiliar, the Canadian government's website clearly states, "Completing an Express Entry profile is the first step to immigrate to Canada permanently as a skilled worker." However, this doesn't guarantee an invitation for permanent residence; prospective immigrants can opt for the Federal Skilled Worker program, ideal for skilled professionals with foreign work experience, the Federal Skilled Trades Program designed for foreign workers qualified in specific skilled trades, or the Canadian Experience Class, tailored for skilled workers who have Canadian work experience. To proceed, one needs to craft a profile on the IRCC's Express Entry stream.

Driven by a commitment to excellence, UIS Canada presents clients with individualized solutions. Whether you're focusing on improving your CV or your grasp of English or French, the services UIS Canada provides are specifically designed to boost your chances of successfully immigrating.

Their consultants stand ready to guide clients through every stage, sim-

Attractive destination

Australia offers wide range of visa options

SYDNEY, Sept 6: UIS Australia, with its seasoned team of consultants, is at the forefront of guiding international aspirants through these complexities for those US residents who are willing to start a living in Australia. As Australia, home to more than 7.5 million immigrants, becomes an increasingly attractive destination, offering a plethora of visa options from Skilled Migration Visas to Business Visas, the intricacies of the immigration system become ever more pronounced.

Every year, Australia sees an influx of half a million immigrants drawn to its democratic policies, robust economy, and appealing lifestyle. However, with over 60 visa categories, each having its own nuanced requirements, the path to Australian residency can be a maze.

Factors like visa requirements, educational qualifications, work experience, English proficiency, and prior visa histories can considerably influence the application's complexity. For instance, while a Skilled Independent Visa may take between 5 to 12 months for processing, a Skilled Regional Visa can extend up to 24 months.

Salaries

"The quality of life in Australia is quite high. People prefer a low-stress lifestyle, salaries are competitive, and the country runs one of the best healthcare systems. As in many countries around the world, more and more foreigners are eager to immigrate to Australia. However, missteps in visa choices can also pose challenges. Converting an Australian Visitor Visa to a work visa, for instance, isn't an option. Such intricacies underscore the necessity of informed decisions and the role of qualified consultants in this journey," expressed a UIS Australia representative.

"Guiding aspirants through the multifaceted Department of Home Affairs process and enhancing their prospects with potential employers is central to our mission. Each client's dream of an Australian life is our priority," he added.

plifying the often-daunting process. Their educational resources further empower candidates. With informative articles such as "Boost Your Canada CRS Score With These Five Steps" UIS Canada ensures candidates have all the knowledge at their fingertips.

UIS Canada extends a special invitation to professionals, students, and individuals from regions including the UK, Ireland, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and the US, all with the aim of spreading the word about their world-class services and inspiring more to embark on the Canadian venture.

'It wrecks havoc economically, emotionally'

For small biz reliant on tourism, extreme weather new pandemic

NEW YORK, Sept 6, (AP) - For small businesses that rely on summer tourism to keep afloat, extreme weather is replacing the pandemic as the determining factor in how well a summer will go.

The pandemic had its ups and downs for tourism, with a total shutdown followed by a rush of vacations due to pent-up demand. This year, small businesses say vacation cadences are returning to normal. But now, they have extreme weather to deal with - many say it's hurting business, but more temperate spots are seeing a surge.

Tourism-related businesses have always been at the mercy of the weather. But with heat waves, fires and storms becoming more frequent and intense, small businesses increasingly see extreme weather as their next long-term challenge.

For Jared Meyers, owner of Legacy Vacation Resorts, with eight locations, including four in Florida, Hurricane Idalia's landfall Wednesday as a Category 3 storm led to a loss in revenue as he temporarily closed one resort and closed another to new guests. It also means a lengthy cleanup period to fix gutter and other damage and beach cleanup, including replanting of sea grass, sea grapes and other plants to protect against the next storm.

"Even when the hurricane doesn't hit directly, it wrecks havoc economically, emotionally - to those that have suffered previous losses - and to our way of life," he said.

A lifelong Florida resident, he's used to hurricanes, but fears their intensity is getting worse. In fact, the number of storms that intensify dramatically within 240 miles (385 kilometers) of a coastline across the globe grew to 15 a year in 2020 compared to five a year in 1980, according to a study published in Nature Communications.

Obstacle

"It does feel like and probably will continue to feel like we're just hopping from one emergency to another based on climate change," Meyers said.

For Steve Silberberg in Saco, Maine, who runs Fitpacking, a company that guides people on wilderness backpacking trips in national and state parks and forests, extreme weather is becoming a serious obstacle. National Park Service Research has shown that national parks are experiencing extreme weather conditions at a higher rate than the rest of the country because of where they're located.

Historic snowfall in March at Yosemite -- followed by a wildfire -- affected one hike Silberberg had planned. Another hike was canceled due to unusually large snowfall rendering the Narrows - part of Zion Canyon in Zion National Park in Utah - impassable due to a high volume of meltwater. He had to cancel a trip to the Los Padres National Forest in California due to wildfires and subsequent

flooding, which destroyed trails and made them impassable.

"We are quickly approaching a crossroads as to how to keep the business viable," he said. "It seems that almost half of our trips are affected in some way by increasingly extreme weather events."

Silberberg is trying to find ways to make climate change work for him, however. He is thinking about starting a company that helps people visit places that may disappear due to climate change, such as Glacier National

Owners of vehicles made by at least a dozen auto brands - Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Ford, Toyota, Stellantis, Volkswagen, Audi, BMW, Porsche, Hyundai and Kia - are left to wonder anxiously whether their vehicles contain driver or front passenger inflators made by ARC.

Though ARC is resisting a full-scale recall, automakers have conducted seven smaller recalls of inflators since 2017 that were attributed to isolated manufacturing problems. Those recalls included one that General Motors announced in May involving nearly 1 million vehicles. Ultimately, automakers are responsible for the recalls.

Initially NHTSA said that an estimated 67 million inflators should be recalled, but it revised the number to 52 million due to manufacturer responses in its investigation that overcounted the number, the agency said in documents issued Tuesday.

Contents

NHTSA contends that byproducts from welding during manufacturing can clog a vent inside the inflator canister that is designed to let gas escape to quickly fill air bags in a crash. In the defective products, pressure can build to the point where the canister is blown apart.

The inflators that NHTSA says to recall are from before 2018, when ARC finished installing scopes to monitor welding byproducts and the vents. NHTSA said in April that it was unaware of any explosions involving inflators that were manufactured after the scopes were installed.

ARC, acquired in 2016 by Chinese real estate developer Yinyi Group, has said in letters to the government that it can't state for sure whether its inflators might rupture again.

"Even with appropriate industry standards and efforts by manufactur-

ers to minimize the risks of failures, the manufacturing processes may not completely eliminate the risk of occasional or isolated failures," ARC wrote.

The company further argued that the federal motor vehicle safety act "does not require vehicles and equipment to never experience a failure in the field. Rather the Safety Act seeks to protect the public against unreasonable risks."

ARC said that during NHTSA's eight-year investigation into the inflators, air bag makers, automakers and the government have been informed of any unexplained ruptures on the roads.

But NHTSA wrote on Tuesday that it's aware of seven US ruptures of ARC inflators and at least two outside the US. A rupture happened as recently as March 22, the agency said, adding that inflators have exploded outside of groups that were previously recalled.

"An inflator that explosively ruptures, propelling metal fragments at high velocity into an occupied passenger compartment of a motor vehicle - and into the occupants themselves - cannot simply be dismissed as a normal manufacturing anomaly, with vehicle owners left uninformed yet bearing the risk of the peril they and their occupants face," the agency wrote.

One person who died after an ARC inflator explosion was Marlene Beaudoin, a 40-year-old mother of 10 from Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She was struck by metal fragments when her 2015 Chevrolet Traverse SUV was involved in a minor crash in 2021. Beaudoin and four of her sons had been on their way to get ice cream. The sons were not hurt.

Steve Polich, a Michigan attorney representing Beaudoin's family in a lawsuit against ARC, General Motors and air bag assembly maker Toyoda Gosei, welcomed NHTSA's finding and said in an email that it supports his case.

The restaurant closed for a day proactively during Tropical Storm Hilary, losing a day of sales. Heat has been more of an issue, as business slowed in late July this summer during a surge in temperatures. Mehra said she suspects the heat is behind the slowdown since typically things start to slow in late August or September.

Media focus on extreme weather can hurt business, too. Dan Dawson, owner of Horizon Divers in Key Largo, Florida, saw business boom during the pandemic.



Exactech unveils TriVerse primary knee system.

Exactech debuts 'TriVerse' primary knee system

Exactech, a developer and producer of innovative implants, instrumentation, and smart technologies for joint replacement surgery, has announced first cases with the TriVerse™ primary knee system, an evidence-based, streamlined solution that is designed to address the ever-increasing demands of today's active knee replacement patients.

Orthopaedic surgeons Chris Christensen, M.D., of Bluegrass Orthopaedics in Lexington, Ky., and David Taunton, Jr., M.D., of Texas Orthopedic Specialists in Bedford, Texas, were the first to perform TriVerse knee surgeries.

"As a high-volume surgeon in the hospital and surgery center settings, efficiency and flexibility are of paramount importance to me and my O.R. staff," said Dr. Christensen. "Exactech's TriVerse Knee system has been designed with a streamlined, simplified approach while offering a comprehensive array of primary knee implants that give me the best of both worlds."

Dr. Taunton added, "The TriVerse design leans on the successful clinical heritage of previous knee systems, providing surgeons with familiar efficiency and patients with a successful clinical design. The simplicity and intraop-

erative flexibility of Exactech's new knee system facilitates the same-day surgery that my patients desire and provides a modern implant construct that meets the needs of their active lifestyles."

The TriVerse primary knee system features anterior stabilized and posterior stabilized constructs and is exclusively available with highly crosslinked vitamin E polyethylene. TriVerse implants will launch alongside a full-featured set of mechanical instruments designed to provide the efficiency required in same-day surgical environments. (AP)

Quantum Health announces new clinical advisory boards

DigitalOptometrics to demonstrate remote exam services at Vision Expo

LAKE SUCCESS, NY, Sept 6: DigitalOptometrics, a leader in remote comprehensive eye exam services, will demonstrate its technology at Vision Expo West, Sept 28-30. Attendees can interact with a remote optometrist in real-time and experience a patient-centric comprehensive eye exam conducted via high-definition video conferencing.

DigitalOptometrics supplements the exceptional care optometrists, and ophthalmologists provide, delivering a remote exam experience in 30 minutes or less when a doctor isn't available in-office.

"Our licensed remote optometrists are available seven days a week, in all time zones across the nation, which helps eyecare practices solve scheduling and staffing challenges," said Howard S. Fried, O.D., Founder and President of DigitalOptometrics. "Patients have more convenience in scheduling their appointments. Doctors can expand their locations, business hours and increase patient volume and product revenue without increasing their workload and the fixed cost of hiring an additional doctor."

#F10045 at The Venetian Expo in Las Vegas, September 28-30. DigitalOptometrics is a software technology solution that helps doctors expand their coverage and increase patient access to eye healthcare. Working in partnership with in-office technicians, licensed optometrists use high-definition video conferencing and remotely operated ophthalmic equipment to conduct quality comprehensive eye exams in real-time, from a remote location. The subjective visual findings are followed by delivering an accurate prescription within minutes of the exam conclusion.

Quantum Health, the industry's leading healthcare navigation and care coordination company, announced today the extension of its clinical advisory strategy and leadership to include two additional advisory boards slated to launch in 2024. These advisory boards will be dedicated to clinical leadership for both musculoskeletal (MSK) and behavioral health. Each advisory board will guide expanded benefits support services and high-quality care options to employer members through clinical, emotional and financial resources that address MSK and behavioral health diagnoses.

MSK conditions affect more than 50 million people across the U.S. and are the foremost contributor to nationwide disability claims, emphasizing the need for improved treatment options. MSK is now the number-one healthcare cost driver for businesses, with one-sixth of employer-sponsored plan dollars attributed to musculoskeletal-related care at \$600 billion annually.

Conducts

The DigitalOptometrics process replicates the current traditional exam experience. When a patient arrives at the practice, an in-office technician conducts the pre-tests and diagnostics. Next, the patient moves to the eye exam room, where a DigitalOptometrics ophthalmic technician remotely controls the digital phoropter to complete a preliminary subjective refraction.

After reviewing the results, a remote optometrist, who controls the phoropter remotely as well, conducts the patient consultation via high-definition video, showing retinal images, sharing findings, and answering patient questions before issuing a prescription. The prescription prints locally, and the patient is ready to shop for frames and lenses.

At Vision Expo West, DigitalOptometrics will demonstrate its newly introduced instant voice translation capability, enabling practices to expand access to the 68 million Americans who speak English as their second language. Instant translation from and to English is available for 16 languages and dialects, including Spanish, Chinese, and French. The DigitalOptometrics system enables eye care professionals and patients to communicate instantly with each other, both visually and orally, in real time, during an eye examination. Utilizing the translation system will allow providers to comply with federal and state laws requiring eye care professionals to communicate effectively with patients with Limited English Proficiency.

Founded in 2016, DigitalOptometrics has partnered with eye care practices to perform more than 1,500,000 exams. All major vision insurance companies reimburse their remote-doctor comprehensive exams performed with DigitalOptometrics technology as much as an in-person exam.

The company will demonstrate its remote exam experience and instant translation (DOT) capabilities at Vision Expo West Exhibit Booth

Experience

Improving access to mental health services through behavioral health benefits is also a top priority for employers' benefits programs. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, more than 62 million Americans experience mental health challenges, and, of those, an astonishing 55% do not receive treatment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that this results in an estimated 200 million lost workdays each year at a cost of \$17 billion to \$44 billion. Both MSK and behavioral health are critically important areas for employers to address, and for this reason Quantum Health has expanded its Comprehensive Care Solutions™ platform to include both MSK and behavioral health in 2023.

"Quantum Health continues to diversify and expand its knowledge base with best-in-class clinical strategy and perspectives to address cancer, musculoskeletal health and behavioral health three of the most difficult health journeys a member can experience. The addition of MSK and behavioral health clinical advisory boards will drive substantial impact to our employer clients and their employees and optimize the member experience, costs and health outcomes," said Michael C. Sokol, M.D., M.S., Senior Vice President of Clinical Strategy for Quantum Health.

In late 2022, the company formed the Quantum Health Oncology Advisory Board.

Upgraded Heart Model: vMap's new model provides a highly realistic and more detailed representation of the heart. It improves visualization and understanding of spatial distribution of the target lesion sites, increasing analysis accuracy and translation.

Automated ECG Baseline Correction: The revolutionary signal conditioning removes baseline noise from input ECG signals, improving accuracy and ultimately providing higher-quality ECG signals for analysis.

"The vMap software upgrades and enhanced visualization capabilities have made a significant impact on my ability to see the arrhythmia source location and plan the EP procedure," stated Dr. Greg Feld, Director of Electrophysiology at UC San Diego Health. "The level of detail and clarity solidify vMap as a cutting-edge solution in arrhythmia care and will empower EPs to navigate the heart with more accuracy and confidence."

In addition, the upgrades include a series of workflow enhancements to simplify analysis, aid with pattern recognition and abnormality identification and reduce mapping time. These updates highlight Vektor Medical's commitment to continuous innovation to transform arrhythmia care.

vMap is the only FDA-cleared, non-invasive AI-based solution for mapping arrhythmias utilizing just a 12-lead ECG. vMap localizes arrhythmia sources for focal and fibrillation-type arrhythmias, including atrial fibrillation, unlocking actionable insights contained in a standard 12-lead ECG,

SAN DIEGO, Sept 6: Vektor Medical, developer of the only technology to accurately map arrhythmias using just 12-lead ECG data, has announced the release of a series of software enhancements to its AI-based non-invasive solution, vMap. Designed to improve ablation outcomes and procedural efficiencies, the newly updated vMap software integrates additional automation and advanced visualization features.

vMap is the only FDA-cleared, AI-based non-invasive solution that unlocks the data contained in a standard 12-lead ECG, enabling physicians to rapidly and accurately locate arrhythmia source locations. The software upgrades are designed to improve the accuracy, visualization, and efficiency of arrhythmia analysis and interpretation. The updates include:

Beat Assist: Software recommends and auto-selects arrhythmic beats of interest that may indicate the source location of an arrhythmia. This new functionality reduces uncertainty and increases confidence when identifying arrhythmic beats, speeding up procedure planning process.

Enabling physicians to rapidly and accurately locate arrhythmia source locations. Backed by extensive clinical evidence, vMap improves patient outcomes and reduces procedure time while optimizing workflow across the entire arrhythmia care pathway.

San Diego-based Vektor Medical is on a mission to revolutionize arrhythmia care for millions of individuals affected by atrial fibrillation and other arrhythmias. Through its AI-based, non-invasive arrhythmia analysis technology, vMap, the company aims to improve cardiac ablation outcomes, optimize workflows and increase procedural efficiency.

Treatment

"Our core mission at Fuji Pharma centers on helping people lead healthy lives by offering excellent pharmaceutical solutions. We believe that PH80 will provide new treatment options to improve the quality of life and further strengthen our position as one of the best Japanese specialty pharmaceutical companies in women's health," said Takayuki Iwai, President & CEO of Fuji. "We will continue to engage in dialogue with Vistagen, anticipating that successful development of PH80 will contribute to women's health in Japan."

PH80 is a rapid-onset neuroactive pherine nasal spray product candidate designed to be used in a manner analogous to a rescue inhaler for asthma, taken by patients as-needed up to multiple times daily. Several pharmacokinetic and toxicokinetic studies show that PH80 administered intranasally is below the level of detection in plasma

Vektor unveils enhanced tech

vMap empowers docs to accurately locate arrhythmia source locations

Menopausal hot flashes affect mlns worldwide

VTGN, Fuji enter deal for potential license to develop 'PH80' in Japan

TOKYO, Sept 6: Vistagen (Nasdaq: VTGN), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company aiming to transform the treatment landscape for individuals living with anxiety, depression, and other central nervous system (CNS) disorders, and Fuji Pharma Co., Ltd. ("Fuji") (TSE: 4554), a pharmaceutical company specializing in development, manufacture and marketing in the fields of women's healthcare and acute medical care, have announced they have entered into a time-limited (up to approximately eighteen months) agreement to negotiate exclusively with each other regarding a potential license to develop and commercialize Vistagen's PH80 in Japan, including for the acute treatment of moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms (hot flashes) due to menopause and potentially other indications. Vistagen's PH80 neuroactive nasal spray demonstrated statistically significant efficacy versus placebo in an exploratory double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 2A study in women diagnosed with menopausal hot flashes. Fuji will make a non-refundable payment of \$1.5 million to secure the time-limited exclusive negotiation rights for the Japanese market.

"As we have seen across our neuroactive pherine nasal spray pipeline, PH80 offers exciting potential to transform a significant segment of a major healthcare market, including the current treatment landscape for women's healthcare," said Shawn Singh, CEO

of Vistagen. "Menopausal hot flashes affect millions of women worldwide. We share Fuji Pharma's long-standing commitment to deliver innovative treatment options with potential to enable women to improve their physical, mental and social well-being. As we continue to advance our PH80 development program in the U.S., we look forward to continuing our ongoing discussions with Fuji regarding a potential development and commercialization collaboration in Japan."

"Our core mission at Fuji Pharma centers on helping people lead healthy lives by offering excellent pharmaceutical solutions. We believe that PH80 will provide new treatment options to improve the quality of life and further strengthen our position as one of the best Japanese specialty pharmaceutical companies in women's health," said Takayuki Iwai, President & CEO of Fuji. "We will continue to engage in dialogue with Vistagen, anticipating that successful development of PH80 will contribute to women's health in Japan."

PH80 is a rapid-onset neuroactive pherine nasal spray product candidate designed to be used in a manner analogous to a rescue inhaler for asthma, taken by patients as-needed up to multiple times daily. Several pharmacokinetic and toxicokinetic studies show that PH80 administered intranasally is below the level of detection in plasma

of human subjects and laboratory animals. Based on other studies conducted by Vistagen, pherine molecules have no detectable uptake in the brain and do not absorb systemically. All these data, along with the minimal adverse events reported in all clinical studies to date, demonstrate the excellent safety profile of this new class of molecules. In a placebo-controlled exploratory Phase 2A clinical trial, PH80 demonstrated an excellent safety profile and potential as a new treatment for moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms (hot flashes) associated with menopause.

Hot flashes are vasomotor symptoms (VMS) commonly experienced by women in menopause and are accompanied by hallmark symptoms such as sudden feelings of warmth, night sweats and flushed skin. Presentation of hot flashes is directly linked to changes in hormone levels due to menopause, or to menopause induced by other medical treatments or co-existing conditions, and the causal mechanism is unclear. Hot flashes are the most common symptom of the menopausal transition, affecting about 75% of menopausal women and about 40% of women in perimenopause. Current pharmacotherapies to treat hot flashes include hormonal therapy (estrogen with or without progesterone, or a synthetic progestin), gabapentins, certain antidepressants, clonidine and fezolinetant, a neurokinin 3 (NK3) receptor antagonist, all of which are associated with certain side effects.

and clinical development. With the company's expanding initiatives focused on antibody drug development, the company has officially established two business divisions, with one focusing on animal models and preclinical services, and the other focusing on the discovery and development of novel antibody-based drugs for out-licensing and partnerships.

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New book 'Last Politician' details Biden-Obama frictions

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6, (AP) — A new book about Joe Biden portrays the president as someone whose middle-class upbringing helped foster a resentment of intellectual elitism that shaped his political career and sometimes caused strain with his onetime boss, Harvard-educated Barack Obama.

Biden, who spent eight years as Obama's vice president, told a friend that Obama couldn't even curse properly, according to "The Last Politician: Inside Joe Biden's White House and the Struggle for America's Future."

Released Tuesday and written by Franklin Foer, a staff writer for The Atlantic, the book says Biden said Obama was unable to deliver a "f- you" with "the right elongation of vowels and the necessary hardness of consonants; it was how they must curse in the ivory tower."

Now, as the president runs for reelection, the early frontrunner among Republicans is former President Donald Trump, whose supporters can sometimes resent the perceived elitism of Washington's political class — suggesting some overlap with Biden.

The anecdote also may resonate with Democrats. Ardent supporters of both Biden and Obama fondly recall the then-vice president telling Obama in a private aside that was captured on a hot mic, "This is a big f- ing deal," during the signing ceremony for Obama's signature health care law in 2010.

Foer's book offers a deep examination of Biden's first two years in office, which the author describes as encompassing a lot of "flailing" before the president began to cement his legacy through signature policy achievements and "creative diplomacy" that helped rally the world behind Ukraine in the face of Russia's invasion.

The 80-year-old Biden continues to face questions about his age, and

Foer calls it "striking" that Biden attends few meetings or public events before 10 a.m. In private, Biden would "occasionally admit to friends he felt tired," the book says.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre was asked last week by a reporter citing an early excerpt from Foer's book if personal fatigue might help explain why Biden's morning schedule was often light. She responded, "That's a ridiculous assumption to make."

Jean-Pierre referred back to that exchange during her briefing with reporters at the White House on Tuesday, and provided updated comment, saying that administration officials had now "seen the context of the excerpt." She said the book was actually praising Biden for helping to push major legislation through Congress and unify global support around Ukraine.

Experience

It "seemed to be making the opposite overall point about how the value of his experience and wisdom resulted in rallying the free world against authoritarianism," she said.

Jean-Pierre also said "there's gonna be a range, always, a range of books that are about every administration" that would feature "a variety of claims."

"That's not unusual. That happens all the time," she said. "And we're not going to litigate here."

Foer's book also describes struggles by Vice President Kamala Harris to carve out a role for herself as Biden's No. 2 that have been well-documented previously. But Foer suggests Harris may have hurt her own cause in that area, initially asking to be in charge of relations with Scandinavia because it was "away from the spotlight."

The book reports that the vice president was initially excited about helping the administration tackle the root causes of immigration that have seen so many Central American migrants seeking asylum arrive at the US-Mexico border — but that she eventually began to accept conventional wisdom that it was a thankless assignment.

Foer's book says Biden tried to treat Harris more respectfully than he felt Obama often had treated him as vice president, calling her "the vice president" instead of "my vice president." But, during his early days in office, as Biden was convening his team to combat the coronavirus pandemic, Biden joked that the nation's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, should sit in the vice president's seat.

"The Last Politician" describes the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. It says that when Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, relayed to the president that Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had fled the country, leaving Kabul to fall to the Taliban, Biden declared in frustration, "Give me a break!"

It also reports that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton personally intervened to help many women whose work in Afghanistan made them potential targets for the Taliban. She directed a group of them to wear white scarves so they could be identified by US Marines guarding the Kabul airport, and unilaterally contacted world leaders to find places for their eventual evacuation flights to land.

The book says Clinton's call to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy drew a personal rebuke from Sullivan, former close advisor to Clinton, who told her "What are you doing calling the Ukrainian government?"

"I wouldn't have to call if you guys would," Clinton responded, according to Foer's book.

Books

Variety



This image released by Marvel Studios shows Teyonah Parris as Captain Monica Rambeau in a scene from 'The Marvels.' (AP)

Film

Strikes cast a pall over high movie season

Hollywood readies for fall with no stars

NEW YORK, Sept. 6, (AP) — Hollywood is at a standstill. Actors and screenwriters are months into a dual strike. Film sets are dark. But the movies are still coming — or, at least, most of them. Even if that means some potentially solitary red-carpet walks.

"I'm hoping I'm not promoting the movie by myself," says Nia DaCosta, director of the upcoming Marvel movie "The Marvels" (Nov. 10). "No one's there to see me, either. They're going to be like, 'Where's Brie Larson?'"

Though the ongoing actors and screenwriters strikes are casting a pall over the fall movie season and prompting some films to postpone, a parade of awards contenders and autumn blockbusters are on the way, nevertheless.

The fall has long been the preferred domain of filmmakers and auteurs, but this year that's doubly so. With cast members largely prevented from promotion duties, directors — whether helming an Oscar shoo-in or superhero blockbuster — are carrying the load, albeit very reluctantly.

"I think we're now in a new world," DaCosta says of the strike. "Everything that's happening is an existential search that our industry is doing. It won't be solved in one round of negotiations. But I'm hoping that the studios can end the strike soon and get us all back to work — to work for them."

Up until now, the ongoing stalemate has had a modest effect on late-summer movie releases. "Barbenheimer" carried theaters through August.

But now that the strikes have rounded Labor Day, with no end in sight, Hollywood's high season is imperiled. It has already robbed the Venice Film Festival of much of its star power and will soon do the same to the Toronto International Film Festival.

Can you launch an Oscar campaign without its potential nominee? How about a global spectacle without its cast? Everyone is hoping the strikes end soon, but it's clear that, not long after COVID-19 upended the industry, the usual rhythms of the fall movie season have again been blown to smithereens.

Much is in flux. Taylor Swift is in. "Dune" is out. Release-date jockeying continues. But for many of the

filmmakers releasing films in the coming months, even their own movies aren't the top concern.

"This fall is such an exciting time for movies. I just want to see every movie coming out," says Emerald Fennell, whose high-society satire "Saltburn" opens Nov. 24. "But for the industry to be sustainable — for it to be much more accessible to people, for it to be better paid for everyone at every single level — that's the thing. That's the priority as far as I'm concerned."

Screenwriters have been on strike for four months. The guild's representatives began meeting with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which negotiates on behalf of the studios, in August. But no breakthrough has followed. Instead, both sides have publicly sparred, dimming hopes that summer would end with a deal.

Streaming

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists began its work stoppage on July 14. The AMPTP has yet to reengage the guild's leadership in talks.

As time has dragged on and picket lines have kept up the pressure, what may have once seemed like a disagreement over a handful of issues has swelled into a generational battle over the future of an industry remade by streaming and with new anxieties over AI.

For now, the strikes are leaving festival stages unusually bare and red-carpet premieres quiet or non-existent. Such a prospect has forced some films out of 2023, including two starring Zendaya. "Dune: Part Two" and "Challengers" have both postponed, as has the "Wonder" spinoff "White Bird."

Many of the fall's top titles have stayed put or shuffled backward, hoping resolution comes in early autumn. Those include late October releases like Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" (in theaters Oct. 20) and November entries like the prequel "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes" (Nov. 17) and Ridley Scott's "Napoleon" (Nov. 22), with Joaquin Phoenix.

Meanwhile, the campaigns for some potential

Academy Awards contenders such as Colman Domingo (George C. Wolfe's "Rustin"; in theaters Nov. 3, on Netflix Nov. 17) and Paul Giamatti (Alexander Payne's "The Holdovers"; in theaters Oct. 27, expands Nov. 10) will get underway without either present to take a bow.

To Payne, whose film co-stars newcomer Dominic Sessa and Da'Vine Joy Randolph, that loss is heart-breaking.

"Unlike stage actors or musicians in concerts who get to have that feeling of completion with the audience, in film we don't have that," says Payne. "The only time you can kind of tiptoe up to that feeling of having a communication with an audience is at a festival or an early screening. It would have been really luscious for Paul, Dominic, Da'Vine and all the actors to go and have that rush, seeing it with audience and hear the laughs."

Also:

NEW YORK: Taylor Swift's Eras Tour is coming to movie theaters.

Swift announced Thursday that the concert film "Taylor Swift - The Eras Tour" will open in North American theaters Oct. 13. The theater chain AMC, anticipating high demand from Swift fans, said the film will play at least four times a day Thursday, Fridays, Saturday and Sundays at all of its US locations.

"The Eras Tour has been the most meaningful, electric experience of my life so far and I'm overjoyed to tell you that it'll be coming to the big screen soon," Swift said on social media channels.

Prices will be higher than usual movie tickets. An adult ticket will cost \$19.89 ("1989 (Taylor's Version)" is coming soon) and a child ticket is priced at \$13.13 (seemingly a nod to her favorite number). Advance sales began Thursday.

In an usual move, AMC is also acting as distributor for the film. ("The Eras Tour" will additionally play in other chains.) AMC said in anticipation of the announcement, it upgraded its website to handle more than five times the largest ticket buying rush it's experienced before.

Features

ARABO TIMES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

MIAMI: Joe Jonas filed for divorce from Sophie Turner on Tuesday after four years of marriage and two children.

The 34-year-old Jonas Brothers singer filed to end his marriage with the 27-year-old star of "Game of Thrones" and "X-Men" actor in Florida's Miami-Dade County Court.

The filing says "the marriage between the parties is irretrievably broken."

Turner and Jonas married in a secretive ceremony at a Las Vegas wedding chapel on May 1, 2019, after the Billboard Music Awards. Country duo Dan + Shay performed at the wedding.

The couple had a daughter, Willa, in 2020, and last year had another daughter whose name they have not made public.

Jonas is seeking joint custody of the girls, according to the divorce documents. The two had a prenuptial-agreement that Jonas expects will be enforced, according to the filing.

Representatives for Jonas and Turner did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The couple said in interviews that mutual friends had long wanted to introduce them when they began talking via Instagram direct messages in 2016. They met in person in October of that year and were dating each other exclusively by December. They announced their engagement in October 2017.

Turner, who is from Northampton, England, played Sansa Stark for eight seasons on HBO's "Game of Thrones" and played Jean Grey in 2016's "X-Men: Apocalypse" and 2019's "Dark Phoenix."

The Arizona-born Jonas came to fame with brothers Nick and Kevin in a band starting in 2005 and subsequent Disney Channel series. They released their sixth studio album in May and are currently on a tour of US stadiums. (AP)

VIENNA: An Austrian court on Tuesday found a famous actor guilty of possessing and producing tens of thousands of files of child pornography and sentenced him to a two-year suspended prison sentence.

Florian Teichtmeister previously pleaded guilty to collecting and, in some cases, processing,

files containing depictions of abuse, public broadcaster ORF reported.

The Vienna state court also ruled that the 43-year-old must undergo therapy and regularly submit to drug tests. If he violates these conditions, he faces placement in a center for mentally ill offenders.

"He said he will work intensively on himself, so that nothing is



Turner



Jonas

going to happen again," his lawyer Rudolf Mayer said, adding that Teichtmeister would continue to go to weekly therapy sessions.

Teichtmeister is a former member of Vienna's famous Burghtheater. He also played Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph in the 2022 movie "Corsage."

The actor accepted the verdict

and refrained from appealing, ORF reported.

Judge Stefan Apostol said the fact that Teichtmeister was ill, remorseful and willing to undergo therapy played a role in the verdict, ORF reported.

Prosecutor Julia Kalmar, meanwhile, had stressed in court that Teichtmeister had not only

collected a massive amount of images of children for many years, but had also added "pedo-sadistic texts" to these images in a way she had never seen before during her career, she said, according to ORF.

Kalmar read out several violent passages Teichtmeister had written, while he looked motionlessly at the table in front of him. (AP)

People & Places

Books

'Reading Jane' memoir

Stephen King finds terror in 'ordinary'

'Holly' by Stephen King (Scribner)
In half a century of writing horror novels, Stephen King has created some remarkable villains. Who can forget the sing-song voice of Pennywise the clown, the devil incarnate Randall Flagg, or the drooling jaws of Cujo? The big bads in King's latest novel, "Holly," aren't quite so memorable, but that's part of what makes them terrifying.

Emily and Rodney Harris are retired professors of Bell College Arts and Sciences. Em, as her husband calls her, taught English and Em's beloved "Roddy" taught life sciences and earned the nickname "Rowdy Roddy the Mad Nutritionist." Bell is a generic "college on a hill" near a lake somewhere in Ohio. King doesn't need to be more specific than that with his sense of place, because this is a story set during the COVID pandemic that uses common acts and things to create fear — abandoned bicycles, lost earrings, a twilight run through the park.



King

The novel begins with quick flashbacks to a series of abductions starting in 2012 that were perpetrated by the Harris', and immediately we as readers know more than our title character. King fans will remember Holly Gibney from the "Mr. Mercedes" trilogy and a starring role in the title story of King's collection "If It Bleeds." It's now 2021, and Holly is the only person working at her private investigation company, "Finders Keepers," as her partner Pete quarantines. He pops into the story now and again during telephone calls, offering advice between coughing fits, but this is Holly's case to solve.

When readers first met Holly in "Mr. Mercedes" she was awkward and reclusive, working behind the scenes to catch the killer. Now after getting a telephone call from Penny Dahl, whose daughter Bonnie has been missing for three weeks, she's front and center, interviewing witnesses and suspects, while also dealing with the trauma of her past. Her mother, Charlotte, is a COVID statistic when the novel begins, dead after a "brutally short illness" precipitated by not masking and a refusal to get vaccinated. King goes fairly deep into Holly's head, connecting her low self-esteem to her demeaning mother and the bullies who tortured her growing up. But it's obvious he likes her — doggedness and common sense are traits to be admired. But will she exercise enough caution when it's required?

Additional characters from King's "Mr. Mercedes" books play key roles as well. Siblings Jerome and Barbara Robinson each have their own story arcs and it's not hard to imagine that Jerome at least may pop up again in the Kingverse. The man who encouraged Holly to become a P.I., Bill Hodges, is gone from cancer, but never forgotten. His advice, in fact, serves as the novel's epigraph — "Sometimes the universe throws you a rope." The novel plays out according to that metaphor as Holly follows the rope all the way to a climactic confrontation with Emily and Rodney Harris, and sees for herself just how depraved college professors can be in the world of Stephen King.

"Reading Jane: A Daughter's Memoir," by Susannah Kennedy (Sibylline Press)

When her mother Jane, a healthy 75-year-old, shockingly decides to take her own life, Susannah Kennedy is left reeling with innumerable questions. There are also 45 years worth of diaries that contain some answers and ultimately reveal some surprising secrets.

This elegantly written memoir by Kennedy, a former newspaper reporter-turned-anthropologist, opens a window into the complicated relationships that can exist between mothers and daughters, especially when the mother is a narcissistic single parent.

Jane is a charismatic woman who had a successful post-divorce career teaching in the inner city. She is widely liked and admired but has a fraught relationship with her daughter, Susannah, especially after the girl reaches puberty and becomes a rival for male attention.

One of the constants in the pair's lives are Jane's diaries, each one marked by the year it was filled with her remarks about every day over four and a half decades.

The notebooks aroused the young daughter's curiosity, but Jane never shared their contents, in the same way she kept many of her feelings under lock and key. "Mommy, can I read your diaries?" the daughter sometimes asked.

"Someday," the mother replied. Then, "Maybe." Then, "Probably never."

Kennedy never knows for sure if her mother intended for her to read the journals, to be Jane's confessor or interpreter. But they were all there stuffed into an Asian chest of intricately carved wood in her mother's San Francisco apartment after the suicide.

So after returning to the US in the wake of her mother's death with her German husband and three children, Kennedy reads all of the volumes over a year. She learns more about her late father, a violent alcoholic who often beat her mother.

Kennedy also learns more about her mother's younger disabled sister, Helen, who died at age 4, shaping forever Jane's feelings about life and dying.

Kennedy also gets a look at her mother's intense loneliness through her entries about a longstanding affair with a married man and her refusal to let him leave his wife.

There are stunning revelations about the death of Jane's mother, who had been undergoing radiation for lymphoma.

And there was the surprising envy Jane demonstrated for her teenage daughter's blossoming beauty during their glamorous summer vacations in Italy. Later, there was harsh criticism as her daughter became a mother herself, no longer the svelte blonde who turned every head in the room.

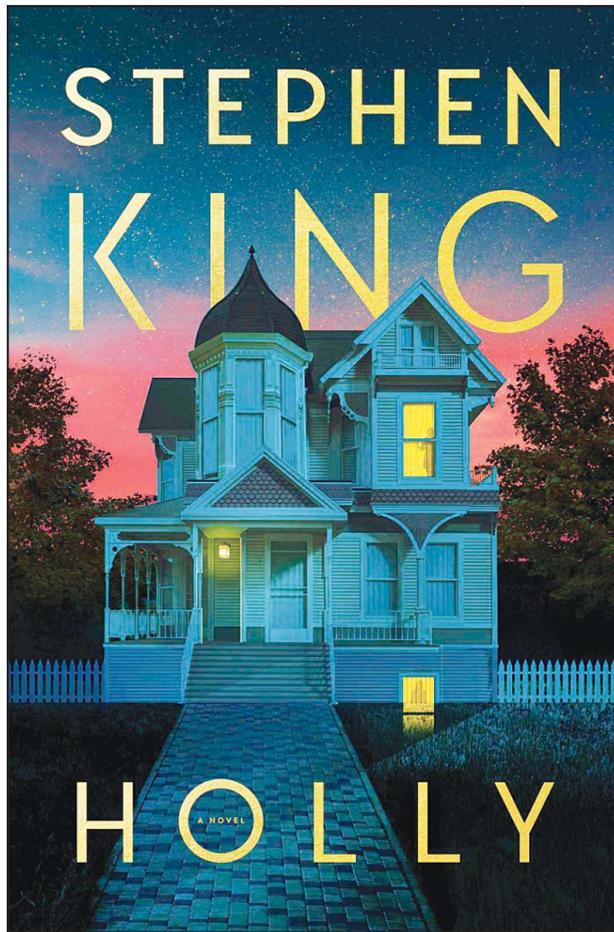
"As I read the diaries, I find entry after entry complaining about me, almost as if she were obsessed. Why was she so concerned with how I looked? So invasive in her judgements?" the daughter writes.

Jane's obsession with death was well known to those who loved her, but they nevertheless thought she would live well into her nineties.

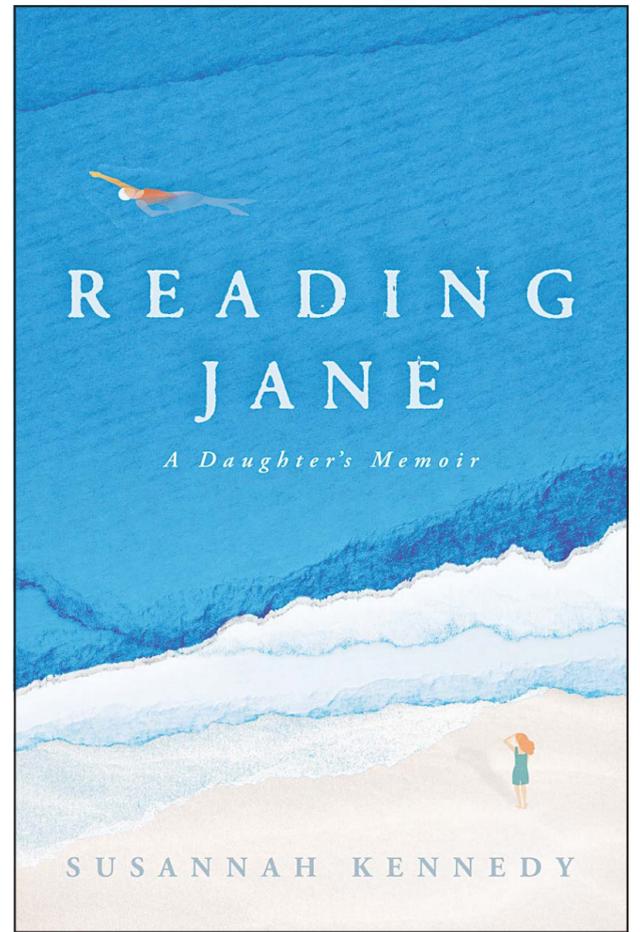
"We figured she would nag on about suicide as a safety net from illness because it made her feel better to imagine control over the ending," Kennedy writes. "We didn't think she would actually do it."

But her mother did, choosing a San Francisco motel for her last moments and leaving her papers in order, down to the self-written obituary.

Reading Jane's diaries afterward brings Kennedy closer to her mother, more sympathetic to her circumstances so many years before, and more cognizant that our parents will always be with us. (AP)



This cover image released by Scribner shows 'Holly' by Stephen King. (AP)



This cover image released by Sibylline Press shows 'Reading Jane' by Susannah Kennedy. (AP)

Music

'Crowd Control' is a nurturing space'

NFL players follow musical passion

SANTA MONICA, Calif., Sept. 6, (AP) — When Miami Dolphins tackle Terron Armstead achieved his dream of being drafted into the NFL over a decade ago, he put his musical aspirations aside.

Many other pro football players did the same thing. But now, three powerhouses — the NFL, Interscope Geffen A&M Records and Electronic Arts Sports — have partnered to empower players to pursue their music dreams.

The result, an extended play project called "Crowd Control," out Tuesday. The six songs were also inserted into Madden NFL 24, released last month. It's the first-time music made by NFL players appears in the video game franchise, now in its 35th year.

"I only knew the stigma of 'Shut up and play' and 'Do your day job,'" said Armstead, a four-time Pro Bowler. "I got away from music during the early years of my career. It was a void for me because music was a way to express myself. For them to create this opportunity, it's been great for us. This has really pushed and encouraged guys to be who they are."

Armstead is among five active players on "Crowd Control," which also features New York Giants tight end Darren Waller, San Francisco receiver Ray-Ray McCloud, free agent linebacker Melvin Ingram and Carolina Panthers receiver D.J. Chark Jr.

"People can't put us in a box," said Waller, whose great-grandfather was the legendary jazz artist Thomas "Fats" Waller. The Pro Bowler has already released four hip-hop albums — which showcased his talents as a rapper, producer and writer.

"Hopefully this opens up a lane for a lot of guys who want to pursue their passion," he continued. "This opportunity can be beneficial. It can spark a fire that hasn't been lit yet."

The players recorded the rap tracks alongside hip-hop artists including Rob49, Jay Rock, That Mexican OT

and Lebra Jolie at Interscope Records' sprawling headquarters in Santa Monica, California. The project was executive produced by Derrick Milano, a Grammy winner who has worked with superstars like Justin Bieber, Megan Thee Stallion and Nicki Minaj.

"These dudes can rap," said Bas, a Grammy-nominated rapper who shared his musical expertise during the players recording sessions. "It's very unfair to pigeonhole anybody. People see like these big NFL players and they say 'Do your one job, tackle somebody or run that route.' But creativity is part of a healthy life. I know these guys have strict schedules, OTAs and camp. For them to put the time in, they're not on vacation. They're really trying to expand their craft. It's humbling to watch."

Many of the songs featured on "Crowd Control" were conceived in a songwriting session at Interscope this summer where NFL players worked with producers and artists.

Soundtrack

"It's a nurturing space," said David Nieman, the senior vice president of sports and gaming at Interscope, which worked with EA Sports to curate the Madden NFL 22 soundtrack, which was the first-ever album release for the game. "There isn't a guard up when you hear about an athlete wanting to step into the music world. Our artists aren't stepping out onto the field. We're bringing them into our realm and showing them what we do great and trying to give them some of those tools."

The project came into fruition after an NFL Career Tour stop was hosted at Interscope's headquarters earlier this year. The day-long session featured executives from the music industry, interactive listening sessions and about 20 players who showed interest in the business of music — from marketing, producing and signing talent.

"It's really important that these guys have a chance to gain exposure to dif-

ferent industries and explore their gifts and talents that could go beyond the field while they're playing," said Ashley Smith, manager of player development for the NFL. She spearheads programs and initiatives for the league that provides resources for current and former players while helping them prepare for life after football.

Smith, whose brother Trey Smith is a lineman for the Kansas City Chiefs, is familiar with players' post-career plights.

"Often times when speaking with former players, which we call NFL legends, they talk about the difficulty of the transition," she said. "Regardless, if a guy comes out prepared for that, it's still somewhat of a loss identity. Our part is to help them. Whether you're retiring from the league or you're young in your 30s, there's still an opportunity to really develop and find out who you are as a football player, but also as a man and businessman."

Smith said there's hope to expand into different industries like technology and fashion.

"We want to guys to feel like the league cares," she said. "We want to do our best to make sure that they're educated, they're prepared and given the tools. We want them to develop the relationships that will help them take their careers as well as their lives to the next level."

McCloud called the program a "big step" in the right direction. He said the recording sessions instilled more confidence in him.

"A lot of times, athletes get a certain type of stereotype," said McCloud, who has owned his production company called Legend Tribe since he was 17. "It's a certain narrative we have to follow. When football ends one day, we need to have that second passion. We just want to follow our dreams. I'm living my first dream of playing in the NFL. But doing other things you love and fills your spirit creates a different type of feeling."

Her first interview when she returned to NY1 in March was with New York City Mayor Eric Adams, who appeared on the station Tuesday to offer a tribute.

Boone's survivors include her husband, Todd Boone, and two sons. (AP)

NEW YORK: Naomi Campbell was a



Rapper Skillz attends a recording session of an extended play at Interscope Studios in Santa Monica, Calif., Wednesday, June 21, 2023. The NFL, Interscope Geffen A&M Records and Electronic Arts Sports have partnered to empower NFL players to pursue their passion of music and create the extended play project 'Crowd Control.' Songs from the EP were inserted into the video game 'Madden NFL 24,' released last month. (AP)

vision in shiny metallic silver as she took the runway with her trademark supermodel swagger to display her collaboration with PrettyLittleThing, the fast fashion brand.

The runway show at Cipriani Broadway in lower Manhattan, kicking off New York Fashion Week, featured a cascade of models in figure-hugging designs embedded with crystals or made of sparkly metallics, many with plunging necklines. But the highlight was Campbell herself, age 53, who closed the show in a sleek, clinging silver gown, her long tresses swaying behind her.

The former supermodel worked on the collection with two emerging designers — Victor Anate, based in Nigeria, and New York-based, Jamaican-born designer Edvin Thompson, of the Theophilus label, both of whom accompanied her on the runway for a bow.

Let anyone think strutting the runway has become easy for the pioneering supermodel with decades of experience, Campbell said it was "nerve-wracking to do that walk — on every level." But she added in an interview that she was deeply proud of how the collaboration came together. "This is what I wanted," she said.

Campbell deflected criticism that she was ignoring the issue of sustainability by partnering with a fast fashion brand. But she added: "It's a journey of change. Sustainability will come. It will have to."

Guests at the show included actors Tommy Dorfman, Emily Ratajkowski and Julia Fox. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Ruschell Boone, an award-winning reporter and anchor for New York City TV station NY1, has died after battling pancreatic cancer over the past year, the station announced Tuesday.

Boone, 48, died Sunday, NY1 said in a news release.

Boone joined the all-news station as a reporter covering the borough of Queens in 2002 and moved to the anchor desk with a noon slot in 2021.

The station, now owned by Charter Communications, said Boone "had a unique ability to connect with New Yorkers — through the screen and in person — in a way that made her feel like a trusted friend."

A native of Jamaica, Boone was known for her coverage of the city's diverse immigrant communities.

She reported on big stories like Superstorm Sandy and protests following the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota, and she also was a fixture at celebrations including Brooklyn's annual West Indian American Day parade and the Times Square New Year's Eve ball drop.

Boone was the only TV reporter at Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Democratic primary election party in June 2018 when the underdog candidate learned from early returns that she was about to upset incumbent U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley. "I cannot put this into words," the soon-to-be Congress member told Boone on live TV.

Boone won several awards over the course of her career, including a New York Press Club award for best feature reporting and a New York Emmy award for her series "New York: Unfiltered."

After her cancer diagnosis, Boone took a leave from NY1 from June 2022 to March of this year for a grueling series of chemotherapy treatments.

But she announced on social media on July 27 that her cancer had taken a turn for the worse. "Unfortunately, my cancer has metastasized in my liver and I'm back in treatment," Boone said on X, formerly Twitter. "It's rough, but the chemo is working."

She added, "Prayers have carried me through the difficult moments. Thank u for rooting for me."

Climate

'Record summer heat'

EPA delays new ozone standards until '24 poll

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6, (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency is delaying plans to tighten air quality standards for ground-level ozone — better known as smog — despite a recommendation by a scientific advisory panel to lower air pollution limits to protect public health.

The decision by EPA Administrator **Michael Regan** means that one of the agency's most important air quality regulations will not be updated until well after the 2024 presidential election.

"I have decided that the best path forward is to initiate a new statutory review of the ozone (standard) and the underlying air quality criteria," Regan wrote in a letter to the EPA advisory panel last month. The letter cites "several issues" raised by the panel in a recent report that "warrant additional evaluation and review."



Regan

The review, which will last at least two years, will "ensure that air quality standards reflect the latest science in order to best protect people from pollution," Regan said.

Regan's decision avoids a potentially contentious, election-year battle with industry groups and Republicans who have complained about what they consider overly intrusive EPA rules on power plants, refineries, automobiles and other polluters.

The delay marks the second time in 12 years that a Democratic administration has put off a new ozone standard prior to an election year. Former president Barack Obama shut down plans to tighten ozone standards in 2011, leading to four-year delay before the standards were updated in 2015.

Paul Billings, senior vice president of the American Lung Association, called EPA's decision "profoundly disappointing" and a missed opportunity to protect public health and promote environmental justice. A recent report by the lung association showed that minority communities bear a disproportionate burden from ground-level ozone, which occurs when air pollution from cars, power plants and other sources mixes with sunlight. The problem is particularly acute in urban areas.

Billings called the ozone rule "the public health cornerstone of the Clean Air Act," adding that "millions of people will breathe dirty air for many more years" as a result of the delay. An increased number of asthma attacks, sick days and even premature death are likely to occur, he and other public health advocates said.

Policy

Raul Garcia, vice president of policy and legislation for Earthjustice, called the delay "shameful" and unjustified. "The science tells us we are long overdue," Garcia said.

Democratic lawmakers also were disappointed. "Inaction threatens public health and puts those with underlying conditions such as asthma or lung disease, at an elevated risk," said Rhode Island Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse. He and 51 other Democrats had urged swift action on a new rule.

"Unfortunately we've seen the process for updating the ozone standards repeatedly swept up in political games that risk lives," the lawmakers said in an Aug. 7 letter to EPA.

Conor Bernstein, a spokesman for the National Mining Association, applauded EPA's decision "not to race ahead with an unnecessary revision of the ozone standards," which have not been changed since 2015. The current standard was reaffirmed in December 2020 under then-President Donald Trump.

Bernstein, whose members produce coal and other fossil fuels, urged officials to reconsider other regulations that he said target coal-fired power plants and endanger reliability of the electric grid. "It's clear — and deeply alarming — that EPA (does not) understand the cumulative impact its rules will have on the grid and the nation's severely stressed power supply," he said.

A spokeswoman for the American Petroleum Institute, the top lobbying group for the oil and gas industry, said current ozone limits are among the most stringent in the world. "Any tightening of the standard could impact energy costs, threaten US energy security and impact businesses and American consumers," spokeswoman Andrea Woods said in an email.

The EPA's decision comes after two advisory panels — the EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee and the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council — urged the agency to lower the current ozone standard of 70 parts per billion.

"Based on the scientific evidence currently available, it is concluded that the level of the current standard is not protective with an adequate margin of safety," the EPA panel said in a June report. A limit of 55 to 60 parts per billion "is more likely to be protective and to provide an adequate margin of safety," the panel said.

Lianne Sheppard, a University of Washington biostatistics professor who chairs the scientific advisory panel, said Regan's decision was "his alone" to make.

"However, I am disappointed, given the robust scientific evidence that ozone is harmful to public health and welfare," she told E&E News last month.

The White House environmental justice council, meanwhile, cited the "horrible toll of air pollution" and its disproportionate effect on minority communities. In a letter to the White House, co-chairs Richard Moore and Peggy Shepard said the problem is "compounded by the inadequate monitoring and enforcement in many of our communities."

Moore is co-director of Los Jardines Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico, while Sheppard is co-founder and executive director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice in New York City.

Tomas Carbonell, a top official in EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, said the report by the scientific panel left EPA with little choice but to launch a comprehensive review even though all but one panel member supported a stricter ozone standard.

Also:

GENEVA: Earth has sweltered through its hottest Northern Hemisphere summer ever measured, with a record warm August capping a season of brutal and deadly temperatures, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

Last month was not only the hottest August scientists ever recorded by far with modern equipment, it was also the second hottest month measured, behind only July 2023, WMO and the European climate service Copernicus announced Wednesday.

August was about 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial averages. That is the threshold that the world is trying not to pass, though scientists are more concerned about rises in temperatures over decades, not merely a blip over a month's time.

The world's oceans — more than 70% of the Earth's surface — were the hottest ever recorded, nearly 21 degrees Celsius (69.8 degrees Fahrenheit), and have set high temperature marks for three consecutive months, the WMO and Copernicus said.

"The dog days of summer are not just barking, they are biting," United Nations Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** said in a statement. "Climate breakdown has begun."

So far, 2023 is the second hottest year on record, behind 2016, according to Copernicus.

Scientists blame ever warming human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas with an extra push from a natural El Nino, which is a temporary warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather worldwide. Usually an El Nino, which started earlier this year, adds extra heat to global temperatures but more so in its second year.

Climatologist Andrew Weaver said the numbers announced by WMO and Copernicus come as no surprise, bemoaning how governments have not appeared to take the issue of global warming seriously enough. He expressed concern that the public will just forget the issue when temperatures fall again.



President Joe Biden speaks before he awards the Medal of Honor to Vietnam veteran, Army Capt. Larry Taylor, for his actions in Ap Go Cong on June 18, 1968, during a ceremony Tuesday, Sept. 5, in the East Room of the White House in Washington. (AP)

Health

Legionnaires' disease outbreak in Poland on decline

Mask or no mask? Biden goes both ways

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6, (AP) — President Joe Biden turned up in a mask for the first time in months on Tuesday, a day after his wife tested positive for COVID-19. But the president quickly ditched it during a ceremony honoring an 81-year-old Vietnam veteran, and the two unmasked octogenarians shared a hearty handshake before they parted.

The White House had said earlier that Biden, who had tested negative for the virus earlier in the day, would wear a mask indoors, but that he might remove it when standing at a distance from others.

The reality looked somewhat different from the promised protocol, a reflection of how messy coronavirus precautions can become at a time when the national emergency has ended and so have mask mandates, but the virus keeps spreading. Hospitalizations are up, but not like they were before, and doctors are hoping to get more shots in arms next month when a new booster becomes available.

Biden and Capt. Larry Taylor, who both took off their masks after entering the East Room, stood side by side as a commendation was read aloud, and then Biden reached around the vet's body to place the medal around his neck. The two then stood face-to-face and shook hands heartily.

People who are exposed to the coronavirus should wear a mask and monitor for symptoms for 10 days, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Biden and his wife had traveled together to Florida on Saturday to inspect damage from Hurricane Idalia. The Bidens then spent part of the Labor Day weekend at their Delaware beach house before the president traveled without his wife on Monday to a union event in Philadelphia and then back to the White House.

First lady Jill Biden planned to remain at the Rehoboth Beach home for the week and was arranging substitute teachers for her classes at a community college in northern Virginia. The president is set to depart for the Group of 20 summit in India on Thursday, and the White House said he would test again before departure.

Biden was at Tuesday's Medal of Honor event for less than 15 minutes. CDC officials have used 15 minutes as a rough guideline for how long casual

contact between two people can be for COVID-19 to spread, although it is possible for the virus to spread in less time.

COVID hospitalizations have been increasing, from about 6,000 a week at the beginning of the summer to more than 15,000 the week of Aug. 19, the most recent week of federal data. But in 96% of the country, COVID hospitalizations are considered low, according to the CDC.

The percentage of US deaths attributed to COVID in late August — 2% — was up from 1.7% the week before.

The CDC recommends that people infected with COVID stay home and away from others for at least five days and to wear a high-quality mask when indoors around others. The CDC also says that people who are not infected should avoid being around the infected person until their home isolation period ends. If they must be near an infected family member, it's important to consistently wear a high-quality mask, practice good hand hygiene and take other infection-prevention measures, the CDC says.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden would be following CDC protocols and would mask indoors unless he was far enough away from someone.

Recommend

"They recommend a combination of things, which is masking, testing and monitoring for symptoms — he has no symptoms — so we're going to follow those guidelines," she said. She wouldn't say whether Biden would be tested every day until he left for India.

If the president were to come down with the virus again — he had it last summer — he'd have to skip the trip, which also includes a stop in Vietnam and at a military base in Alaska to commemorate the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

White House officials wouldn't speculate about contingency plans if Biden could not make the trip. National security adviser Jake Sullivan said the administration had "long experience from the early days of the administration in managing for situations in which COVID plays a role in summits."

"As you know, we've seen various leaders at various times participate virtually in events," Sullivan said.

The Bidens had COVID-19 last summer, which is about the last time the president wore a mask in public. He also said recently that he is planning to request more money from Congress to develop a new coronavirus vaccine.

Officials already are expecting updated COVID-19 vaccines that contain one version of the omicron strain, called XBB.1.5. It's an important change from today's combination shots, which mix the original coronavirus strain with last year's most common omicron variants. But there will always be a need for updated vaccines as the virus continues to mutate.

Also:

WARSAW, Poland: Just one new case of Legionnaires' disease was reported Tuesday in southeast Poland in an area close to the Ukraine border, an indication the spread of the disease has been curbed following chlorine disinfection of the water system.

The latest fatality was registered on Friday, bringing to 19 the death toll since the outbreak in July. A total of 166 people have been infected in the region of **Rzeszow**, some 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the border.

It's a key transit hub for international military support for Ukraine following **Russia's** full-scale invasion last year. Some 10,000 U.S. troops are stationed in the area.

Health authorities, prosecutors and internal security agency were still looking for the source of the pulmonary infections in a strategically sensitive region. Experts say it could come from warm water in rarely used plumbing amid hot weather.

Fatalities from the disease were among elderly people who also suffered from other health issues like cancer, authorities said.

Legionnaires' disease is a lung infection that comes from inhaling infected water spray. It's not spread through drinking water.

It is usually caught in places like hotels, hospitals or offices where the bacteria have got into the water supply, for example in air conditioning systems or taps and showers that are not in frequent use.

The germs multiply in temperatures of between 20 and 50 degrees Celsius (68-122 degrees Fahrenheit). The disease is treated with antibiotics.



A woman waves her fan as she walks in downtown Rome, Aug. 22, 2023. UN weather agency says Earth sweltered through the hottest summer ever as record heat in August capped a brutal, deadly three months in northern hemisphere. (AP)



Hendershot



Penuela

Discovery

Fish gets a CT scan at zoo: A fancy-looking French angelfish that was found one day with a funny float has its buoyancy back after taking some time out of its tropical trappings to get a CT scan at the Denver Zoo.

A zoo worker recently noticed the blue and yellow fish was swimming with a tilt, prompting a visit last week to the facility's on-site hospital for an ultrasound and the CT scan.

The CT scan took place in a machine large enough to fit a 700-pound grizzly bear, so some special accommodations were required, zoo spokesperson Jake Kubie said. The seven-inch fish was sedated, balanced upright on a sponge and had water poured over its gills to keep it alive as the scan took place.

The diagnosis: Too much gas. Enteritis, or inflamed intestines, had resulted in increased internal gas that was affecting the fish's buoyancy, Kubie said.

"It was treated with antibiotics," he said. "It's doing much better and swimming normally." (AP)

Farms provide refuge for birds:

Small farms with natural landscape features such as shade trees, hedgerows and tracts of intact forest provide a refuge for some tropical bird populations, according to an 18-year study in Costa Rica.

For almost two decades, ornithologist James Zook has been collecting detailed records on nearly 430 tropical bird species found on small farms, plantations and undisturbed forests in the country.

While birds thrive the most in undisturbed rainforests, Zook said some species usually found in forests can establish populations in "diversified farms" that partially mimic a natural forest environment.

"How you farm matters," said **Nicholas Hendershot**, a Stanford University ecologist and co-author of the study published Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"In these diversified farms, you see growth over the long term in bird species with specialized needs," such as safe and shady nooks to build nests and a variety of food sources, Hendershot said.

That trend was "in stark contrast to what we saw in intensive agriculture," or monocrop pineapple and banana plantations, he said.

The findings may seem intuitive, but **Natalia Ocampo-Penuela**, a University

of California, Santa Cruz conservation ecologist not involved in the study, said it's extremely rare to have detailed long-term data from tropical regions to show that varied farming landscapes can sustain some forest bird populations.

"With 18 years of data, you can show the species is persisting in that area, not simply passing by," she said.

Three-quarters of the 305 species found in diversified farms showed stable or growing populations over the time of



A view of jewellery on display during a preview of Christie's forthcoming Wallace Chan: The Wheel of Time exhibition, in London, Monday, Sept. 4. The exhibition of the Hong Kong-based jewellery creator's work runs from Sept. 4 to 10. (AP)

study. (AP)

2 workers arrested in China:

China's Great Wall has been pierced by Genghis Khan, the Manchus, and now, allegedly, a couple of construction workers named Zheng and Wang who wanted a shortcut.

Authorities in China arrested two people for smashing a path through a section of the ancient wall, a cultural icon and United Nations protected heritage site.

The area of the breach was a broken-down section far from the restored segments most Chinese and foreign tourists are familiar with.

State media showed a dirt road cut through a the wall against a rural landscape in Youyu County, hundreds of kilometers (miles) west of Beijing, and identified the suspects as a 38-year-old man surnamed Zheng and a 55-year-old woman surnamed Wang. The pair wanted a shorter route for some construction work they were doing in nearby towns, the reports said.

China places immense pride in the system of towers and connecting walls wide enough for carriages to pass that stretch approximately 8,850 kilometers (5,500 miles), built mainly during the Ming dynasty that lasted until 1644.

In that year, Manchu tribespeople from the north overcame China's defenses and took over the empire as the Qing dynasty. (AP)

Galthié urges existential approach by France against All Blacks

Moefana replaces Danty in France centers facing NZ in World Cup opener

PARIS, Sept 6, (AP) — Yoram Moefana replaced the injured Jonathan Danty in the France side facing New Zealand in the opening match of the Rugby World Cup at Stade de France on Friday.

Danty, the first-choice inside center, is recovering from a sore hamstring after a try-scoring appearance in the last warmup against Australia two Sundays ago.

The versatile Moefana, who can also play on the wing, will make his 19th test appearance, and partners veteran Gaël Fickou in midfield.

"There will be four pool games and the team will change. We're a squad of 33 and you can't just focus on 15 players," France coach Fabien Galthié said on Wednesday. "The France team needs to adapt and we have faith in our pair of centers, Yoram and Gaël. They've already played together. It's the best France team at the present moment."

Fullback Thomas Ramos said the team will rally around Moefana.

"Everyone has faith in Yo," Ramos said. "We will all support him."

Matthieu Jalibert starts at flyhalf as expected in place of star flyhalf Romain Ntamack, who sustained a serious knee injury during a warmup game.

RUGBY

"It's a choice that has become obvious," Galthié said. "There is no doubt."

Galthié picked tough-tackling Gabin Villière on the left wing to face the All Blacks.

"I've been feeling much better in the last few months," said Villière, who has struggled with injury during his international career and wins only his 15th test cap.

Ramos got the nod at fullback ahead of Melvyn Jaminet, who was on the bench and gives three-time runner-up France two excellent penalty kickers.

Galthié has favored a more attacking option with five forwards and three backs among the replacements, instead of his usual 6-2 split. Center Arthur Vincent and scrum-half Maxime Lucu offer backup.

"We needed to find a balance between having power and finishers," Galthié said. "We want to bring some energy at the right time, if things play out the right way during the game."

France has lost two of its three finals to New Zealand - heavily in 1987 and narrowly in 2011 - but Galthié is bracing to seize the moment.

"It's a magnificent first opponent to have,"

he said. "What more could you dream about than New Zealand?"

France squad: Thomas Ramos, Damian Penaud, Gaël Fickou, Yoram Moefana, Gabin Villière, Matthieu Jalibert, Antoine Dupont (captain); Grégory Alldritt, Charles Ollivon, François Cros, Thibaud Flament, Cameron Woki, Uini Atonio, Julien Marchand, Réda Wardi. Replacements: Peato Mauvaka, Jean-Baptiste Gros, Dorian Aldegheri, Romain Taofifenua, Paul Boudehent, Maxime Lucu, Arthur Vincent, Melvyn Jaminet.

Love. Light. Invisible force.

France - or Jedi? - coach Fabien Galthié got existential about his and his team's approach to facing New Zealand in their Rugby World Cup blockbuster on Friday.

The massive opening night game features a New Zealand team bidding for a record fourth world title against a spectacular France side gunning for its first after losing three finals.

When he named his team on Wednesday, Galthié cast aside talk about tactics and how to negate the attacking prowess of the All Blacks. Instead, he spoke about freeing up the love among his players while encouraging them to harness unseen energies.

"This match will be a party, a joy, an immense happiness, it's marvellous. An invisible force needs to be born in these moments," Galthié said. "The watchword is to play, to enjoy ourselves, to love each other a lot. We're feeling very light, very happy to play this game."

Feeling light is not to be confused with taking the All Blacks lightly, something Galthié would never do. With hype around France sky-high, Galthié has been trying to help the players from not feeling overwhelmed by the occasion.

"This match against the All Blacks is a challenge in every part of rugby," he said. "You need to control the emotions that surround these events. We've prepared to be the best we possibly can in this area."

Those preparations include the warmup before the match. Constraints put on the teams by the World Cup opening ceremony have shortened the usual amount of time they have on the field. "World Rugby have given us 23 minutes to prepare," Galthié said. "Against Australia we did a practice for it, we warmed up in 22 minutes."

France won that final World Cup warmup by an eye-catching 41-17. Thousands of fans remained at their seats at the Stade de France long after the final whistle to applaud a France team which did a lap of honor led by captain Antoine Dupont, widely regarded as the world's best player.

"We all have the responsibility to do something big at this World Cup. I'm the captain so maybe people talk about me more, but we all have this ferocious will to write our names (in history)," Dupont said. "We've given people hope with the results we've had. People are expecting things from us and they want to see us raising the trophy."

Galthié was the Dupont of his 1990s heyday, a brilliant scrumhalf and captain who became a highly rated club coach. He met Dupont a few years ago and was blown away by Dupont scribbling notes and drawing tactics for two hours while they chatted.

Not one to be overwrought, then, but Dupont knows that much of the nation's hopes rest with him.

"We can feel this fervor and excitement rising, but I don't feel there is any negative pressure in this team and that's a good thing," he said. He echoed Galthié's mantra. "We need to take only the positive energies away from this famous pressure. We have to stay natural while remaining serious and rigorous."

Coach and captain are in harmony and shared a laugh at the team announcement, where they were sat together.

Altuve homers in each of first 3 innings as Astros rout Rangers



Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Kyle Hendricks delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in Chicago. (AP)

ARLINGTON, Texas, Sept 6, (AP) — Jose Altuve homered in each of the first three innings, starting with a pair off All-Star right-hander Nathan Eovaldi in his return from the injured list, and the Houston Astros pummeled the Texas Rangers 14-1 on Tuesday night.

Altuve greeted Eovaldi (11-4) with a leadoff homer, then ended the pitcher's first outing since July 18 with another drive into the seats in left field on the 35th pitch with one out in the second.

The third homer - and 15th of the season for Altuve - was to center field off Dane Dunning, a starter who came out of the bullpen so the Rangers could get Eovaldi back on the mound without a rehab appearance coming off a right forearm strain.

Martín Maldonado hit two homers and slugger Yordan Alvarez connected for his 24th as the defending World Series champion Astros set a Globe Life Field record with six long balls while wrapping up a third consecutive series win over the Rangers.

Blue Jays 7, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Former Athletics ace Chris Bassitt allowed one run in eight strong innings and Toronto took sole possession of the third AL wild-card spot with a win over Oakland.

Toronto's fifth win in six games moved the Blue Jays past the Rangers in the crowded AL playoff race.

The Blue Jays did it behind plenty of offense and a superb outing from Bassitt (14-7). The 6-foot-5 right-hander allowed seven hits and didn't walk anyone while striking out seven.

Zach Neal (1-1) was the loser.

Marlins 6, Dodgers 3

In Miami, Bryan De La Cruz hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning to break a tie in Miami's victory over Los Angeles.

The Dodgers played their first game since the arrest of star pitcher Julio Urias late Sunday on a felony charge of corporal injury on a spouse or cohabitant. Urias did not travel with the Dodgers to Miami.

Jazz Chisholm Jr., Josh Bell and Jake Burger also homered to help Miami win its fifth straight.

Los Angeles reliever Ryan Yarbrough (7-6) hit Burger with a pitch before De La Cruz drove a cutter into the seats in left-field for his 18th homer and a 5-3 lead. Chisholm followed with a solo blast

Yankees 5, Tigers 1

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton smashed his 400th home run, Gerrit Cole burnished his Cy Young Award credentials and New York beat Detroit.

DJ LeMahieu hit his second leadoff homer in four games and Gleyber Torres had a two-run double for the last-place Yankees (69-69), who have won four straight and seven of eight to get back to .500 for the first time since Aug. 15.

Stanton's two-run homer off reliever José Cisnero broke a 1-all tie in the sixth inning. The slugger reached 400 homers in 1,520 career games - fourth-fastest in major league history behind Mark McGwire (1,412), Babe Ruth (1,475) and Alex Rodriguez (1,489). Albert Pujols is fifth at 1,523.

Blue Jays improve playoff positioning

Stanton's 451-foot laser to left-center was caught by a fan with a glove in the front row of the elevated bleachers above Detroit's bullpen. The large videoboard displayed the No. 400 milestone and Stanton - often the target of boos at Yankee Stadium since arriving in 2018 - came out of the dugout for a curtain call, doffing his helmet to the crowd of 31,553.

Joey Wentz (2-11) took the loss.

Cardinals 10, Braves 6

In Atlanta, Tyler O'Neill and Nolan Gorman hit two-run homers to spoil Michael Soroka's promotion to Atlanta and St. Louis held on to beat the Braves.

O'Neill's homer to left field drove in Jordan Walker in the second inning. Gorman added a 426-foot blast off Soroka in the third and a ninth-inning homer, his 26th, off Michael Tonkin.

The major league-leading Braves, coming off an 8-2 road trip that included three wins in four games against the Los Angeles Dodgers, couldn't keep pace with the Cardinals, who are last in the NL Central. St. Louis led 9-1. The Braves cut the deficit to 9-6 before Gorman's second homer.

Soroka (2-2) was recalled from Triple-A Gwinnett for his sixth start

Bo Naylor hit a two-run homer for the Guardians.

Rays 8, Red Sox 6, 11 innings

In St. Petersburg, Brandon Lowe hit a three-run homer in the 11th inning and Tampa Bay beat Boston.

Lowe won it with his 18th homer off Kenley Jansen (3-6), who had his streak of converting 20 consecutive chances end. Erasmo Ramirez (3-3) got the win.

Luis Urias hit an RBI single in the 11th inning to give Boston a 6-5 lead.

The Rays loaded the bases in the 10th with one out against John Schreiber but failed to score when Josh Lowe was thrown out by right fielder Adam Duvall trying to score from third on Christian Bethancourt's fly.

Reds 7, Mariners 6

In Cincinnati, Nick Martini came off the bench to hit a tying three-run homer run in the eighth inning, Christian Encarnación-Strand drove in Elly De La Cruz in the ninth and Cincinnati beat AL West-leading Seattle.

Julio Rodríguez hit two home runs for the Mariners, who have lost three straight for the first time since Aug. 12-14.

De La Cruz led off the ninth with an infield hit, stole second and scored with a head-first slide on Encarnación-Strand's single to right. The comeback win was the Reds' (73-68) major league-leading 44th of the season. Alexis Diaz (8-4) pitched the ninth for the win. Andres Munoz (3-7) took the loss.

Royals 7, White Sox 6

In Kansas City, Gregory Santos barked in the winning run in the ninth inning as Kansas City overcame a six-run deficit to beat Chicago.

It was the Royals' first series win since July 28-Aug. 3. They entered the ninth trailing 6-5. Nick Loftin reached on an error and went to second on a single by Michael Massey. Maikel Garcia hit into a fielder's choice before Bobby Witt Jr. singled in the tying run. With two outs, Santos intentionally walked MJ Melendez to load the bases, bringing up Edward Olivares.

Santos was called for a balk on his first pitch to Olivares.

Jackson Kowar (1-0) was the winner. Santos (2-2) took the loss.

Cubs 11, Giants 8

In Chicago, Seiya Suzuki and Christopher Morel homered during Chicago's six-run seventh inning and the Cubs beat San Francisco for their third straight victory.

Suzuki had four hits and three RBIs as Chicago remained 2 1/2 games back of NL Central-leading Milwaukee. Yan Gomes added three hits and two RBIs, and Drew Smyly



Houston Astros' Jose Altuve connects for a solo home run in the second inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

(10-9) got three outs for the win.

The Cubs moved a season-high 11 games over .500 at 75-64. They are 49-28 since they dropped to 26-36 with a 3-1 loss at the Angels on June 8.

J.D. Davis, LaMonte Wade Jr., Mike Yastrzemski and Wilmer Flores homered for San Francisco in its fifth consecutive loss. Davis and Joc Pederson each had three hits.

Luke Jackson (1-2) was the loser.

Rockies 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Kyle Freeland threw six solid innings, rookie Nolan Jones added an RBI double and Colorado beat Arizona.

The Diamondbacks - locked in a tight battle for one of three National League wild-card spots - fell behind the Miami Marlins and Cincinnati Reds for the final spot. Arizona has lost six of its past eight games.

Freeland (6-14) gave up two runs on six hits, striking out two and walking three. Tyler Kinley worked the ninth for his second save this season and third of his big-league career. It was a short night for Arizona rookie Brandon Pfadt (1-8), who gave up three runs on six hits over 3 2/3 innings.

Brewers 7, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Brandon Woodruff pitched seven shutout innings. Mark Canha had a two-run single to cap a six-run fifth inning and NL Central-leading Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

Woodruff (4-1) allowed just two hits, singles to Ji Hwan Bae in the first inning and Andy Rodriguez in the fifth. Woodruff also had six strikeouts and two walks while improving to 14-3 with a 2.36 ERA in his last 29 starts dating to last season.

Connor Joe broke up the Brewers' shutout bid by hitting a three-run home run in the ninth inning off Clayton Andrews for just his second hit in his last 29 at-bats.

Andre Jackson (1-2) was charged with six runs in 4 1/3 innings and walked five as the Pirates lost for just the second time in eight games

Mets 11, Nationals 5

In Washington, Pete Alonso hit his 42nd homer and Brandon Nimmo went deep twice to back a sharp outing by José Quintana, and New York thumped Washington.

Francisco Alvarez hit a three-run shot in the first inning, and Francisco Lindor also homered for the Mets, who finally gave Quintana some run support. The Mets had scored two or fewer runs in six of his eight starts this season.

Quintana (2-5) worked a season-high seven innings. He gave up his only run two batters into the game and didn't allow a hit after the third.

Patrick Corbin (9-13) allowed a season-worst eight runs while failing to make it through five innings for the first time since opening day as Washington lost its sixth straight, matching its worst skid of the season.

Padres 8, Phillies 0

In San Diego, Fernando Tatis Jr. hit a 431-foot home run into the second deck in left field in his bobblehead night and Pedro Avila combined with two relievers on a three-hitter to earn his first big league victory as San Diego beat Philadelphia.

Tatis' 23rd homer opened the three-run fourth and the Padres added four more in the sixth against Michael Lorenzen (8-9). That was more than enough for Avila (1-2), who has 14 appearances in parts of four big league seasons.

Xander Bogaerts had four hits and scored three times, and Luis Campusano drove in three runs.



The Webb Ellis Cup is on display during a press conference in Paris ahead of the France 2023 Rugby World Cup. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 6, (AP) — Results and standings from MLB games on Tuesday.

American League				National League				
East Division				East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	87	51	.630	—	Atlanta	90	47	.657
Tampa Bay	84	55	.604	3-1/2	Philadelphia	76	62	.551
Toronto	77	62	.554	10-1/2	Miami	71	67	.514
Boston	72	67	.518	15-1/2	New York	64	74	.464
New York	69	69	.500	18	Washington	62	77	.446
Central Division				Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	73	66	.525	—	Milwaukee	77	61	.558
Cleveland	66	73	.475	7	Chicago	75	64	.540
Detroit	63	75	.457	9-1/2	Cincinnati	73	68	.518
Chicago	53	86	.381	20	Pittsburgh	64	75	.460
Kansas City	44	96	.314	29-1/2	St. Louis	60	78	.435
West Division				West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	79	61	.564	—	Los Angeles	84	53	.613
Seattle	77	61	.558	—	Arizona	71	68	.511
Texas	76	62	.551	2	San Francisco	70	69	.504
Los Angeles	64	75	.460	14-1/2	San Diego	66	74	.471
Oakland	42	97	.302	36-1/2	Colorado	51	87	.370

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Italy start post-Mancini era

Spain resume Euro 2024 qualifiers without federation boss Rubiales

GENEVA, Sept 6, (AP): Spain returns to national-team soccer this week amid turmoil since the men's and women's teams won international titles in the last games they played.

The first two days of Spanish men's preparation for a European Championship qualifying game Friday in Georgia started with captain Alvaro Morata reading a statement of support to the Women's World Cup-winning players and denouncing "unacceptable behavior" by now-suspended federation boss Luis Rubiales.

Off-field distractions continued Tuesday: an apology to world soccer for Rubiales' conduct at and since the women's final in Australia by his interim replacement Pedro Rocha, and firing beleaguered women's team coach Jorge Vilda.

Men's team coach Luis de la Fuente - who won a UEFA Nations League title in June just months into the job - has kept that job despite also

being a longtime federation ally of Rubiales.

Unlike Vilda, De la Fuente did not face a walkout by his entire coaching staff and a player mutiny. Only Real Betis striker Borja Iglesias has said he won't play for Spain until "things change."

Still, those Nations League victories over Italy then Croatia in the final, in a penalty shootout, seem a long time ago and the Group A table in Euro 2024 qualifying leaves fourth-place Spain lots to do.

Group leader Scotland won two more games in June, after stunning Spain 2-0 in March, and is eight points clear ahead of playing last-place Cyprus on Friday. The Scots could qualify for Euro 2024 in Germany as soon as next Tuesday.

Spain is still heavily favored to qualify with a top-two finish and also hosts Cyprus next Tuesday. Back-to-back wins for the Euro 2008 and 2012 champion can at least distract

from the Rubiales saga.

European champion Italy also took an unexpected turn since beating Nations League host the Netherlands in the third-place game in June.

Coach Roberto Mancini last month abandoned his defense of the Azzurri's title won in 2021, and two weeks later was confirmed as Saudi Arabia's coach on a four-year contract worth a reported \$100 million.

SOCCER

New coach Luciano Spalletti cut short his sabbatical taken after leading Napoli to a runaway Serie A title and now starts against a Mancini nemesis.

Italy plays on Saturday at North Macedonia, which shockingly ended Mancini's path to the 2022 World Cup in the European qualifying playoffs.

Italy then hosts Ukraine at San

Siro in Milan next Tuesday, seeking to close on group leader England which has just one qualifying game in this international break.

Scotland and England are joined by France and Euro 2016 champion Portugal as leaders with four straight wins in the 10 groups. France and Portugal have yet to concede a goal.

France hosts Ireland on Thursday at Parc des Princes and could field a stellar trio of Paris Saint-Germain forwards - Kylian Mbappé, Randal Kolo Muani and Ousmane Dembélé - on their home field.

Portugal brought Cristiano Ronaldo home from Saudi Arabia for games at second-place Slovakia on Friday and home to Luxembourg.

Serbia will host Hungary in Group G with the top spot on the line.

With 53 European nations in qualifying action - all bar Euro 2024 host Germany and suspended Russia - some politics usually can be found.

Turkey hosts Armenia on Friday for the first time since their World Cup qualifier in 2009 that both state presidents attended. It signaled an easing of diplomatic tension between the neighbors since World War I.

Kosovo hosts Switzerland on Saturday with strong ties between the squads stemming from immigration to the Alpine nation since war in the Balkans in the 1990s.

Kosovo can call on Ismajl Beka and Kreshnik Hajrizi who were born in Switzerland and play for clubs there. Switzerland's Uran Bislimi played two international friendlies for Kosovo last year before settling on his national-team eligibility. The ethnic Albanian roots of Swiss veterans Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri are well established from wins against Serbia at the past two World Cups.

Ukraine will host England in Wroclaw, Poland, on Saturday as

its national and club teams continue to play international games abroad during the Russian war on their country.

The first recognized international soccer game was Scotland playing England to a 0-0 draw in Glasgow on Nov. 30, 1872.

The actual 150th anniversary passed while England was in Qatar for the World Cup, so the game honoring the historical mark was delayed to next Tuesday at Hampden Park, Glasgow.

Russia was removed by FIFA from qualifying playoffs for that World Cup but finally gets to Doha next Tuesday to play Qatar. Russia has been a pariah in European soccer during the war and this will be its sixth game against an Asian national team in the past 18 months.

Germany fills its schedule hosting friendlies against Japan on Saturday and France next Tuesday in Dortmund.



Sri Lanka's Charith Asalanka bats during the Asia Cup cricket match between Afghanistan and Sri Lanka in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

South American World Cup qualifying kicks off

Defending champions Argentina start as favorites

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 6, (AP): Lionel Messi and his Argentina lineup will be back on World Cup duty this week, when their bid to defend the title starts in South American qualifying.

Argentina will face Moisés Caicedo's Ecuador on Thursday at the Monumental de Nuñez Stadium in its first official match since winning the World Cup in December.

The last time a World Cup winner played in South American qualifying was in 2003, when Brazil had to secure its spot in a tournament with 32 teams.

The 2026 edition in the United States, Mexico and Canada is expanding to a 48-team format, which means the number of direct spots from South America increases from four to six and the seventh-place team goes into an intercontinental playoff for another place.

So teams like Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay are almost sure to advance from the round-robin qualification tournament that runs until September 2025. The new format has led many top coaches and players to see the tournament as preparation and an opportunity for renovation rather than a make-or-break competition.

SOCCER

The Argentina squad will be laden with World Cup winners, with the 36-year-old Messi joined by the likes of goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez, defender Nicolás Otamendi, midfielder Enzo Fernández and striker Julián Álvarez.

Since moving to the U.S. from Europe to join Inter Miami, Messi has scored 11 goals in MLS and is in good form.

Coach Lionel Scaloni is yet to lose a South American World Cup qualifying match, with Argentina's last defeat in the tournament - in 2017 - coming before his tenure started.

"The start is always complicated," Scaloni told Argentina's soccer association website. "The first round always has its shades. I hope our players get there in shape and are able to enjoy the match with our people. And we have to compete, that's what we like to do."

Ecuador's lineup will feature

Caicedo, who was recently signed by Chelsea for \$146 million, and also include veteran striker Enner Valencia and 16-year-old sensation Kendry Páez. Its head coach, Félix Sánchez Bas of Spain, will debut in South American qualifying.

The Ecuador lineup will have the double disadvantage of playing away, and starting the competition three points behind the other nine teams.

FIFA punished Ecuador with the deduction of three points in South American qualifying for the falsification of birth information of defender Byron Castillo, who is of Colombian origin. So even a shocking upset win in Argentina would only get Bas and his team back to zero.

In other games Thursday, Colombia will play Venezuela and Paraguay takes on Peru. On Friday, Brazil opens against Bolivia and Uruguay hosts Chile.

The home game against Bolivia will be the first in charge for coach Fernando Diniz, who has a one-year

contract while the five-time World Cup champions wait for Carlo Ancelotti to leave Real Madrid at the end of the season.

The Selecao is far from settled.

Vinicius Junior has been ruled out because of a hamstring injury; Neymar is returning after some time on the sidelines and a divisive transfer to Saudi Arabia; Lucas Paquetá is absent because of a Premier League investigation that linked the midfielder to gambling; and Antony was dropped after an ex-girlfriend made allegations of assault.

"The first thing to do is to create connections with the players as quickly as possible, establish good relationships and implement the tactical element day by day," Diniz told media upon arrival in the Amazon city of Belem, where Brazil will take on Bolivia. "It is just a little time, but it is time. We need to know how to seize it."

Bolivia is one of the six teams in the competition that will have an Argentinian coach on the bench. Gus-

tavo Costas has been tasked with returning Bolivia to the World Cup for the first time since 1994.

Veteran Marcelo Bielsa will be in charge of Uruguay after a long spell in European clubs. He started his job by leaving strikers Luis Suárez and Edinson Cavani out of the squad that will take on Chile at home. Bielsa is using members of Uruguay's Under-20 World Cup winning team to rejuvenate the squad.

That was not the case for Chile's Argentinian coach Eduardo Berizzo, who is bringing back Arturo Vidal, Gary Medel and Alexis Sánchez.

Néstor Lorenzo, a longtime assistant to José Pekerman, will be Colombia's head coach this time. The Argentinian will count on striker Luis Díaz as his main player, but is also leaving the door open for veterans like James Rodríguez.

Venezuela, the only team of the region that is yet to qualify for a World Cup, also picked an Argentinian as head coach when it hired Fernando Batista.



Argentina's Julian Alvarez strikes a ball during a training session prior to a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 against Ecuador in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)

Sri Lanka 'reach' Asia Cup Super 4

Afghans miscalculate chase

LAHORE, Pakistan, Sept 6, (AP): Sri Lanka escaped with a two-run victory and qualified for the Super 4 in the Asia Cup after Afghanistan somewhat miscalculated its chase of a tough target in the last group game.

Afghanistan was poised to knock Sri Lanka out of the tournament on net run-rate as it needed to achieve a 292-run target in 37.1 to advance from Group B with Bangladesh.

Mohammad Nabi increased Afghan hopes with a blistering 65 off 32 balls as he raised his country's fastest half-century off 24 balls before he fell in the 27th over when Dhananjaya de Silva made a brilliant running catch in the outfield.

Karim Jannat (22), Najibullah Zadran (23) and Rashid Khan (27 not out) kept pushing on Sri Lanka pace and spin with little cameos before Mujeeb Ur Rahman holed out at long on as Afghanistan slumped to 289-9 in 37.1 overs.

CRICKET

Afghanistan apparently was unaware of the calculation that it could still make it to the Super 4 had they reached 295 over the next three balls.

No. 11 batter Fazalhaq Farooqi defended the next two balls of part-time spinner de Silva before getting trapped lbw off the next ball that left Rashid stranded at the non-striker's end and Afghanistan was bowled out for 289 in 37.4 overs.

Nabi showed plenty of aggression against the pace of Matheesha Pathirana and Maheesh Theekshana by hitting five sixes and six boundaries in his knock before he finally holed out with Afghanistan still needing 91 runs for victory.

Fast bowler Kasun Rajitha picked up 4-79, that included two early wickets, but the fast bowler went for plenty against Afghan batters, who kept Sri Lanka bowlers under pressure with aggressive shots.

"Very disappointed about it," said Hashmatullah Shahidi, who also scored 59 off 66 balls. "We fought well (and) we gave our 100 percent. I am proud of the team, the way they played and fought till the last ball."

Earlier, Kusal Mendis missed out on a century but his 92 off 84 balls and a half-century stand between Dunieth Wellalage (33 not out) and Maheesh Theekshana (28) firmed Sri Lanka's total of 291-8 after captain Dasun Shanaka won the toss and elected to bat.

Pathum Nissanka (41) and Dimuth Karunaratne (32) provided a solid start of 63 before Gulbadin Naib's (4-60) triple strike during his seven-over spell in hot and humid weather of Lahore reduced Sri Lanka to 86-3.

But Mendis rebuild the innings in a 102-run stand with Charith Asalanka (36) before Rashid had the latter caught off his own bowling and de Silva was clean bowled by Mujeeb. Mendis was unfortunate to miss out on the century when he was run out after Rashid dropped Shanaka off his own bowling but the ball rolled back onto the stumps at the non-striker's end with Mendis well short of his crease.

Wellalage and Theekshana then combined in a 54-run eighth wicket stand and edged closer to the 300-run mark.

"A couple of wickets opened the door for us," Shanaka said. "Nabi took the game away from us. However, we ended up winning, that's what is important."



Sri Lanka's Matheesha Pathirana bowls during the Asia Cup cricket match between Afghanistan and Sri Lanka in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

KL Rahul named in India WCup squad

NEW DELHI, Sept 6, (AP): KL Rahul was named in India's Cricket World Cup squad despite the wicketkeeper-batter not playing in an international game since May.

Rahul is scheduled to play in the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup after he was declared fit at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore on Monday.

Ishan Kishan has filled the void of Rahul when he scored an 82 against Pakistan in a group game in Pallekele last Sunday, the left-hander's fourth consecutive half century in the ODIs. Kishan was retained in the World Cup squad, which starts Oct. 5 in India.

"We had a couple of fitness issues that we had to look at, but all three (Rahul, Jasprit Bumrah and Shreyas Iyer) who had long-term injuries have come through," India chief selector Ajit Agarkar said. "KL is looking good. We feel this gives us the best balance to try and do well. With KL, he was part of the camp in Bangalore, he looked really good there, has got over his niggle."

CRICKET

The selectors preferred Suryakumar Yadav, a T20 specialist middle-order power-hitter, while leaving out Tilak Varma and Sanju Samson from the World Cup squad. Fast bowler Prasad Krishna, who is currently in the Asia Cup squad, also missed out the World Cup squad.

Rahul had been sidelined since he tore a tendon in his right thigh during the IPL and was forced to undergo surgery. He was tapped for the Asia Cup but was ruled out of the two group games after he picked up a small injury. He was closely monitored at the NCA over the last few days before passing a fitness test.

Bumrah, who missed out on India's last group game against Nepal on Monday to be at home for the birth of his first child, will lead India's pace attack with Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami and Shardul Thakur.

Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja are the three left-arm spinners as the squad will be without any specialist offspinner.

Squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj.



Canada's Dwight Powell (7) holds the ball as Slovenia's Mike Tobey (10) defends during the second half of a Basketball World Cup quarterfinal game in Manila, Philippines. (AP)

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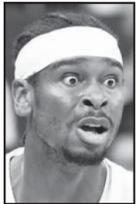
Canada clinch trip to WCup semis

Germany and Serbia make Olympics

MANILA, Philippines, Sept 6, (AP): Luka Doncic argued with the referees all night. And that's why he wasn't around in the final minutes, as Canada clinched a trip to the Basketball World Cup semifinals.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 31 points, RJ Barrett added 24 and Canada topped Slovenia 100-89 on Wednesday night. The win sends Canada into a semifinal matchup with Serbia on Friday.

"It's an honor," Gilgeous-Alexander said after Canada's first World Cup semifinal berth was clinched. "It's an honor in itself. But we're not satisfied."



Alexander

Doncic had 26 points for Slovenia, but was ejected with 6:37 left after picking up his second technical of the game - both of them coming after he argued with referees over calls or non-calls. Slovenia was down by 15 at the time and wound up getting within nine shortly after Doncic departed, but it wasn't enough.

Doncic returned to the court, in flip-flops instead of sneakers, as time expired to congratulate Canadian players.

Canada - which saw Dillon Brooks ejected shortly before Doncic departed, also after a technical - will play Serbia in Friday's semifinals, with the U.S. and Germany set to meet in the other semifinal. The winners of those games will play for the World Cup on Sunday night.

Brooks met his teammates in the hallway by the locker room after the game, wearing boxing gloves and

punching the air. Indeed, Canada has been a fighter so far at this World Cup. And Doncic - who lauded the way Brooks played - didn't have a chance to land a knockout blow.

Slovenia was bidding to make the World Cup semifinals for the first time since gaining its independence in 1991. Slovenia will play Lithuania on Thursday in the start of the consolation playoffs that will be used to determine fifth through eighth place.

The win was big for Canada, and big for Germany and Serbia. The top two finishers from Europe are guaranteed automatic berths into the Paris Olympics - and with Slovenia now assured of finishing no better than fifth, while Germany and Serbia cannot finish lower than fourth, it's those two nations who'll be heading to France next summer.

BASKETBALL

Slovenia still has a chance at the Olympics, but will have to win a qualifying tournament next July.

Canada won the silver medal at the 1936 Olympics - and in 22 trips to the Olympics or what's now called the World Cup since, it has not added to that medal collection. And no matter what happens the rest of the way in Manila, this will be Canada's best World Cup finish; it was sixth at the tournaments in 1978 and 1982.

The first half couldn't have been more even. It was 50-50 after 20 minutes - Canada won the first quarter 26-24, Slovenia won the second quarter 26-24, the biggest lead for each team in the half was exactly four points, and even the rebound total was tied 14-14 at the break. Back and forth they went, with 18 lead changes and six ties in those opening two quarters.

Canada changed everything with a 19-5 run to start the third quarter and kept the lead the rest of the way. It



Rodions Kurucs (00) of Latvia competes for a rebound against Daniel Theis of Germany in the first half of a Basketball World Cup quarterfinal game in Manila, Philippines. (AP)

wound up shooting 33 free throws to Slovenia's 19.

Germany will play the United States in the semifinals of the Basketball World Cup, a rematch of an exhibition matchup from earlier this summer where the Americans needed a big rally to win.

Franz Wagner scored 16 points and Germany - the last unbeaten team left in the World Cup - held off Latvia 81-79 in a quarterfinal game on Wednesday, pulling away in the fourth quarter of what had been a

back-and-forth matchup for the first 30 minutes.

Next up: The U.S. on Friday for a spot in Sunday's gold medal game. The U.S. beat Germany 99-91 on Aug. 20 in Abu Dhabi, rallying from a 16-point second-half deficit and needing an 18-0 run down the stretch to take control.

That game was a scrimmage, meaningless, the final tune-up before the World Cup. Friday's game will be very, very different.

Andreas Obst scored 13 for Ger-

many (6-0), which survived on a night where Dennis Schroder was 4 for 26 from the floor and scored nine points.

Arturs Zagars scored 24 and Davis Bertans scored 20 for Latvia (4-2).

"All I want to say is that I'm extremely proud of this team, battling every single game," said Bertans, who took a deep 3-pointer for the lead with about 5 seconds left - then watched it hit the rim and bounce away.

With the win, Germany is assured of no worse than its second-best fin-

ish in basketball's top two international events - the World Cup and the Olympics. The Germans were third in the 2002 world championships, an event now called the World Cup, and have never placed better than seventh at an Olympics.

Latvia - which has been without the injured Kristaps Porzingis - can still finish as high as fifth in its first World Cup appearance. It'll play Italy in Thursday's consolation playoffs, then play for either fifth- or seventh-place on Saturday.

Mohamed Salah eyed

After luring slew of stars, Saudi transfer 'window' is set to shut

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 6, (AP): A lavish spending spree that has seen Saudi Arabia lure some of soccer's biggest stars to the oil-rich kingdom will come to a halt on Thursday when its transfer window shuts.

Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar and Karim Benzema have been the most notable signings of an ambitious recruitment drive that has shaken up the sport, while there were also attempts to land Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe and Mohamed Salah.

More marquee names could still head to the Saudi League before the window closes at midnight local time (10 p.m. UK), with Salah linked with a possible move to defending champion Al-Ittihad.

Liverpool reportedly rejected a bid worth 150 million pounds (\$188 million) before last week's European transfer deadline, but Al-Ittihad could come back with an even higher offer to try to get the deal done.

Even if Salah does not move before Thursday's deadline, Saudi Arabia has established itself as a major player in global soccer in the space of less than a year.

SOCCER

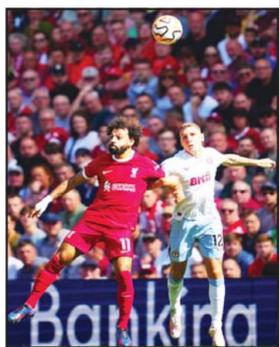
Ronaldo's decision in December to head to Al-Nassr has opened the door to a slew of the game's top players following suit by swapping Europe's biggest leagues for one that was previously little known outside of Asia.

A host of Champions League winners have since made the move, with N'Golo Kante, Sadio Mane, Riyad Mahrez, Roberto Firmino, Jordan Henderson, Fabinho and Aymeric Laporte also taking up the riches on offer.

It is not clear where the spending will end, either, after the kingdom's Public Investment Fund (PIF) took up a majority ownership stake in four of the country's top clubs, Al-Ittihad, Al-Ahli, Al-Nassr, and Al-Hilal.

The failed attempts to sign Messi and Mbappe were evidence that nothing is considered out of reach for the wealthiest Saudi teams.

Al-Hilal was behind both of those moves, with its \$332 million bid for Mbappe a world record for soccer.



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (left) jumps for a header with Aston Villa's Lucas Digne during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Aston Villa at Anfield stadium in Liverpool. (AP)

It was no surprise then that it eventually secured the signing of one of the sport's biggest names in Neymar, who joined from Paris Saint-Germain.

Should Liverpool be convinced to sell Salah, it would be yet another coup for Saudi soccer in a short space of time and likely put Europe's top clubs on even higher alert as to the league's pulling power.

As well as investing in boxing, Formula One racing and tennis, there is also speculation that the country wants to host the 2030 men's soccer World Cup.

Its transfer spree has been its most spectacular move yet.

Al-Hilal is Saudi's most successful team, having won the league championship a record 18 times and the Asian Champions League four times. It was runner up at this year's Club World Cup, even before transforming its team with a host of stars.

As well as Neymar, it has signed Yassine Bounou, Kalidou Koulibaly, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, Ruben Neves and Aleksandar Mitrovic.

Ronaldo has been joined at Al-Nassr by Mane, Marcelo Brozovic, Laporte and Alex Telles. Even before attempts to sign Salah, Al-Ittihad brought in Benzema, Kante and Fabinho. Al-Ahli have put together an impressive attack consisting of Firmino, Mahrez and Allan Saint-Maximin.

Shelton gets to his first at 20

Gauff reaches first US Open semifinal at 19

Kuwait to host Asian Cup U-23 group stage qualifiers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 6, (KUNA): The qualifiers for group six of the under-23 Asian Cup football tournament are set to kick off in Kuwait on Wednesday, ahead of the Qatar-hosted event next year.

Kuwait open their qualifying campaign in a clash against East Timor, with the national side's head coach Emilio Peixe saying he was confident in his men's "determination and abilities" to qualify for the Asian Cup.

The home side join Iraq, Macau and East Timor in one group, while some 10 other groups

SOCCER

are holding their respective qualifying matches concurrently in the run up to the event, where defending champions Saudi Arabia put their title on the line.

round. That defeat not only ended Swiatek's title defense but also meant she will relinquish her spot at No. 1 in the WTA rankings to Aryna Sabalenka next week.

"I was shocked," Gauff said.

When she is on the mark, as she was Sunday night against Swiatek, 2017 French Open champion Ostapenko, a 26-year-old from Latvia, can be as challenging an opponent as there is, because she goes for broke on nearly every stroke. If the balls land in, she is in business. When they don't, she is in trouble.

She finished with 36 unforced errors Tuesday; Gauff had 14.

"Honestly," said Ostapenko, who beat Gauff at the Australian Open in

January, "I was expecting a little bit more from her today."

Ostapenko complained that she had a short turnaround because that victory over Swiatek ended so late and then the Gauff match was so early - it began shortly after noon, with the temperature at 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 Celsius) and the humidity above 50%, prompting a rule change about the use of the roofs on the two largest arenas.

"I was pretty sure (I was) going to play at night session, because that's what they told me," Ostapenko said. "When the schedule came out, I saw I'm playing first match and was, like, 'Wow, that's a little bit strange scheduling.'"

Tournament referee Jake Garner said

Ostapenko's team did not request - and was not informed she would receive - a late start.

"She certainly wasn't told anything from me or anybody on the referee's staff. There's always conversations between coaches, players to the referee's, team tournament management, about the schedule, but I don't believe that she was promised anything about specifically when she would play," Garner said. "And that would be very unusual for anybody to be promised anything that far in advance."

In men's action, Ben Shelton, a 20-year-old American, reached his first Grand Slam semifinal, and now meets 23-time major champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia.

The unseeded Shelton beat No. 10 Frances Tiafoe 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7), 6-2 at night in the first Grand Slam quarterfinal between two African-American men in the Open era. Djokovic got past No. 9 Taylor Fritz of the U.S. 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

Gauff, naturally, had the pro-American crowd on her side. They applauded and yelled for her even before she stepped out on court, reacting when she was shown on the arena's video screens during a prematch TV interview.

The roars crescendoed when Gauff was introduced before play began.

And once it did, she got off to about as good a start as possible, grabbing 12 of the initial 15 points for a 3-0 lead after just 10 minutes.

Gauff didn't need to try to force things. To her credit, she didn't. What she did do was use her instincts, smarts and speed to get to Ostapenko's best groundstrokes and send them back over to the other side. That exemplary defense would extend points, more often than not, until Ostapenko erred.



Ben Shelton, of the United States, returns a shot to Frances Tiafoe, of the United States, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

TENNIS

No. 10 Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic on Thursday. Muchova, who made it to the French Open final in June, also used a terrific start - saving the nine break points she faced in the opening set, all in one game - to get past No. 30 Sorana Cirstea of Romania 6-0, 6-3 at night.

A year ago at this time, Muchova was ranked 235th and exited the U.S. Open in the first round. But she showed off every bit of the variety she possesses to accumulate a 32-12 advantage in winners against Cirstea, who was appearing in her first Slam quarterfinal since 2009.

For Gauff, a first-round exit at Wimbledon in July sure feels like ages ago.

She reached the final at Roland Garros last year, but lost that title match to Iga Swiatek; they could have met again in the U.S. Open quarterfinals. But Swiatek didn't make it, instead losing to Ostapenko in the fourth