



SOCCER
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KUWAIT GOALS IN PARALLEL WITH FUTURE POPULATION GROWTH

4th Master Plan '40 to boost development

Cabinet hails Crown Prince official visit to China

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): The Fourth Kuwait Master Plan 2040, approved by the Cabinet in its weekly meeting today, reflected the country's vision and development goals in urban, economic, social, and environmental policies in parallel with future population growth, said a minister on Monday.

Speaking to KUNA on the sideline of the meeting, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communication Affairs Fahad Al-Shuala revealed that the master plan would focus on the usage of land for

private housing, investments as well as commercial and industrial purposes. He indicated that the expansion in such parameters also required balanced infrastructure and public utilities that would reflect the needs in 2040. The Fourth Master Plan includes four regions, Kuwait's urban region, the northern economic region, the third southern industrial region, and the fourth western region, he pointed out. The first region would have a population of around 6,123,500 million people by 2040 with 2,968,200 employment opportunities. The northern international region would have a population of around 519,000 people with employment opportunities for 171,800 people. The southern region would have the population of 486,000 with 157,000 chances for employment.

The western resources region would have around a population of 126,000 with 180 jobs available. Earlier, the Kuwait Cabinet touched on the results of His Highness the Crown Prince Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah official visit to China to attend the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou and hold official talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. This came during the Cabinet's weekly meeting Monday, chaired by Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

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NewsWatch

DUBAI: Representatives of more than 160 media institutions from more than a dozen Arab countries will assemble for talks on Tuesday focusing on what the future has in store for the media industry in the region.

The gathering aims to provide a platform for greater cooperation among media bodies and journalists around the region, at a time of major technological advances that have altered global cultural and social landscape.

The two-day event represents one of the region's "largest gatherings" of journalists and media personnel alike, according to the head of a Dubai-based journalism center Dr. Maitha Buhamaid, underlining that participants will get the opportunity to exchange their know-how and experiences in the field. (KUNA)

TOKYO: Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and UAE's Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Sultan Al-Jaber agreed on Monday to continue utilizing the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Initiative framework.

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in a press release that this came during the initiative's first ministerial level meeting in Tokyo.

Kamikawa said Japan attaches great importance to the strategic partnership with the UAE and looks forward to advancing cooperation in various fields.

She also conveyed her appreciation for the UAE's stable supply of crude oil to Japan and the UAE's generosity towards participation of Japanese companies in the upstream development over long years. (KUNA)

ADEN: An explosives-laden ambulance blew up in Assaid district, Shabwah governorate, south Yemen, on Sunday, killing four soldiers.

The terrorist attack targeted personnel of the First Brigade of Shabwah Defense Forces this midday, the local authorities said in a press release, vowing to continue the fight against terrorists. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces imposed a curfew after clashes erupted again on Monday in eastern Syria, where their fighters had battled for weeks with rival Arab militiamen, Syrian media and activists reported.

The fighting in a region where hundreds of American troops are deployed has pointed to dangerous seams in a coalition that has kept on a lid on the defeated Islamic State group for years.

The reports say the Syrian Democratic Forces imposed the open-ended measure in several towns in Deir el-Zour province, including the town of Ziban, close to the Iraqi border where the Americans are based. Hundreds of U.S. troops have been there since 2015 to help in the fight against the militant Islamic State group. The oil-rich province is home to Syria's largest oil fields. (AP)

CAIRO: The Arab Parliament strongly condemned on Monday the incursion of Israeli force into Al-Aqsa Mosque and the provocative practices that violated its sanctity and those of Islamic cemeteries.

In a statement, the Parliament denounced the violation of occupation forces of the Holy Ibrahim Shrine and preventing worshippers from entering, saying that the operation violates the freedom of prayers.

The statement also condemned the "aggressive attack" on (Noor Shams) camp Eastern Tulkarm City, resulted in martyrdom of two young men and destruction of the camp's infrastructure, in addition to increasing brutal attacks on citizens of Gaza Strip.

The Arab Parliament considered the attacks as war crimes, and crimes against humanity, stressing that "the Israeli violations are an invitation to provoke more violence and complicating the conflict." (KUNA)

GAZA: The Palestinian Ministry of Health-Gaza said that Majdy Ghabayen, 18, was martyred due to a bullet injury he sustained on Wednesday when the Israeli forces opened fire at a protest near the eastern borders of Gaza Strip.

Spokesman of the Ministry Dr. Ashraf Al-Qedra confirmed Ghabayen's martyrdom on Sunday.

The Israeli occupation forces persist in using lethal force to disperse the Palestinian protests against the continuing crimes of the Israeli authorities including the desecration of Islamic shrines. (KUNA)

GENEVA: Independent U.N.-backed human rights experts said Monday they have turned up continued evidence of war crimes committed by Russian forces in their war against Ukraine, including torture - some of it with such "brutality" that it led to death - and rape of women aged up to 83 years old.

Members of the U.N. Independent Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine also expressed concerns about allegations of genocide by Russian forces, and said they're looking into them. The team said its evidence showed crimes committed on both sides, but vastly more - and a wider array - of abuses were committed by Russian forces than by Ukrainian troops. (AP)



Performers are seen during a celebration to mark the 93rd National Day of the Kingdom.

Photo by Mohammed Morsi

Kingdom marks 93rd National Day

Saudi, Kuwait enjoy deep-rooted ties: envoy

Eight for detention over Libya calamity

CAIRO, Sept 25, (AP): Libya's chief prosecutor said Monday he ordered the detention of eight current and former officials pending his investigation into the collapse of two dams earlier this month, a disaster that sent a wall of water several meters high through the center of a coastal city and left thousands of people dead.

The two dams outside the city of Derna broke up on Sep. 11 after they were overwhelmed by Storm Daniel, which caused heavy rain across eastern Libya. The failure of the structures inundated as much as a quarter of the city, officials have said, destroying entire neighborhoods and sweeping people out to sea.

Government officials and aid agencies have given estimated death tolls ranging from more than 4,000 to over 11,000. The bodies of many of the people killed still are under rubble or in the Mediterranean, according to search teams.

A statement by the office of General Prosecutor al-Sidiq al-Sour said prosecutors on Sunday questioned seven former and current officials with the Water Resources Authority and the Dams Management Authority over allegations that mismanagement, negligence and mistakes contributed to the disaster.

Derna Mayor Abdel-Moneim al-Ghaithi, who was sacked after the disaster, was also questioned, the statement said.

The eight former and current officials didn't provide evidence to spare them from potential charges, and prosecutors ordered them jailed pending the completion of the investigation, the statement added.

The chief prosecutor said eight other officials would be summoned for questioning.

The questioning and jailing of officials were a first crucial step by the chief prosecutor in his investigation, which is likely to face daunting challenges due to Libya's years of divided leadership. Mounting calls for an international investigation into the disaster reflects the deep public mistrust in state institutions.

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Kuwait joins conference

N-free Mideast goal: IAEA

VIENNA, Sept 25, (KUNA): The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) launched Sunday the works of the 67th General Conference, to discuss limiting the spread of the nuclear weapons, ways to make the Middle East nuclear weapon free zone and enhance the safe uses of atomic energy.

Kuwait is participating in the five-day conference with a delegation headed by its Ambassador to Austria and its Permanent Representative to the UN and international organizations in Vienna Talal Al-Fassam and Acting Director of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Dr. Manea Al-Sudairawi.

Arab countries had submitted a request to the Agency's General Secretariat to include the Israel nuclear capabilities on the agenda, which they had frequently presented during previous sessions, to stress the necessary measures that must be taken to place the nuclear facilities of the Israeli occupation under the Agency's safeguards and join the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The General Conference is scheduled to consider several draft resolutions related to strengthening international cooperation in the field of nuclear safety, radiation safety, transport safety and waste, in addition to enhancing the effectiveness of the safeguards system and implementing the Additional Protocol.



Vehicles pass under a billboard supporting Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi for the coming presidential elections, erected by Egypt's political party of Homat Watan, the Protectors of the Nation, in Cairo, Egypt, on Sept. 4, 2023. Arabic reads, 'yes for stability.' Egypt will hold a presidential election over three days in December, officials announced Monday, Sept. 25, 2023 with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi highly likely to prolong his stay in power until 2030. (AP)

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the State of Kuwait Prince Sultan bin Saad Al Saud on Sunday hailed as exemplary the joint action and close ties between the two sisterly countries.

The state-to-state and people-to-people relationship reached a new peak thanks to the wise leadership of both countries, he said during a celebration at the Saudi Embassy in Kuwait to mark the 93rd National Day of the Kingdom.

The celebration gathered Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Ahmad Al-Saadoun, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Minister of

Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as large number of officials, diplomats and public figures.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has attained a global eminence and came to the fore, leading the region to the rank of the ranks of major powers," Prince Sultan said, recalling the foundation laid by (late) King Abdulaziz Al Saud and achievements of successors.

On the Saudi-Iranian relations, he said the Kingdom was able to bring them back to normal with good will with a view to promoting stability and progress in the Arabian Gulf region.

Prince Sultan noted that all nations of the world applauded the Kingdom's efforts to facilitate the Sudanese and Yemeni peace talks.

Kuwait, Saudi and Qatar condemn Quran desecration in Netherlands

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on Monday, strongly denounced the desecration of Holy Quran copies in front of embassies in Dutch city of The Hague.

The Ministry warned in a statement against the recurrence of such disgraceful acts, and renewed its call to the international community to put an end to these provocative and hateful actions that hide under the guise of freedom of expression.

It further reaffirmed importance of cooperation to counter practices that infringe upon religious sanctities and stand in the way of tolerance.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia on Sunday strongly denounced the tearing of Quran pages by an anti-Muslim, far-right group in front of a number of embassies in The Hague, Holland.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the recurrence of such obnoxious acts is totally unacceptable, and could by no means be justifiable.

Such acts clearly instigate hate and

racism, and undermine the international efforts to combat extremism and encourage values of tolerance, moderation, and mutual respect among nations, the statement added.

Elsewhere, Qatar strongly condemned the tearing of Holy Quran copies in front of a number of state embassies in the Dutch city of the Hague, considering this vile incident a serious provocation intended to stir up public opinion and inflame the feelings of Muslims.

Qatar News Agency (QNA) said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned in a statement that allowing infringement on the Holy Quran under the pretext of freedom of expression fuels hatred and violence and threatens peaceful coexistence.

The Ministry stressed Qatar's complete rejection of all forms of hate speech based on belief, race, or religion, and also warned that hate campaigns against Islam and Islamophobic speech have dangerously escalated with the continued systematic calls to target Muslims in the world.



OPINION OTHER VOICES



In this photo provided by Kansas City National Security Campus, an employee works on a mechanical wristwatch at the National Nuclear Security Administration's Kansas City facility in Kansas City, Mo., May 23, 2023. There are thousands of tiny metal and gearing parts in each nuclear warhead, so when the facility is training new employees, each must go through a two-day test taking apart the watch and then putting

back together. It's pass/fail, either the wristwatch works or it doesn't. Inset: In this image provided by the U.S. Air Force, Staff Sgt. Brandon Mendola, left, with the 90th munitions squadron at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming demonstrates how they train new missile maintainers to look for scratches on the top of a nuclear warhead. (AP)

Peering into complexity as US enters era of global threats

Sustaining aging N-arsenal a challenge

In an ultra-sterile room at a secure factory in Kansas City, U.S. government technicians refurbish the nation's nuclear warheads. The job is exacting: Each warhead has thousands of springs, gears and copper contacts that must work in conjunction to set off a nuclear explosion.

Eight hundred miles (1,287 kilometers) away in New Mexico, workers in a steel-walled vault have an equally delicate task. Wearing radiation monitors, safety goggles and seven layers of gloves, they practice shaping new warhead plutonium cores - by hand.

And at nuclear weapons bases across the country, troops as young as 17 keep 50-year-old warheads working until replacements are ready. A hairline scratch on a warhead's polished black cone could send the bomb off course.

The Associated Press was granted rare access to key parts of the highly classified nuclear supply chain and got to watch technicians and engineers tackle the difficult job of maintaining an aging nuclear arsenal. Those workers are about to get a lot busier. The U.S. will spend more than \$750 billion over the next 10 years replacing almost every component of its nuclear defenses, including new stealth bombers, submarines and ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles in the country's most ambitious nuclear weapons effort since the Manhattan Project.

It's been almost eight decades since a nuclear weapon has been fired in war. But military leaders warn that such peace may not last. They say the U.S. has entered an uneasy era of global threats that includes a nuclear weapons buildup by China and Russia's repeat threats to use a nuclear bomb in Ukraine. They say that America's aged weapons need to be replaced to ensure they work.

"What we want to do is preserve our way of life without fighting major wars," said Marvin Adams, director of weapons programs for the Department of Energy. "Nothing in our toolbox really works to deter aggressors unless we have that foundation of the nuclear deterrent."

By treaty the U.S. maintains 1,550 active nuclear warheads, and the government plans to modernize them all. At the same time, technicians, scientists and military missile crews must ensure the older weapons keep running until the new ones are installed.

The project is so ambitious that watchdogs warn that the government may not meet its goals. The program has also drawn criticism from non-proliferation advocates and experts who say the current arsenal, though timeworn, is sufficient to meet U.S. needs. Upgrading it will also be expensive, they say.

"They are going to have extreme difficulty meeting these deadlines," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, a non-partisan group focused on nuclear and conventional weapons control. "And the costs are going to go up."

He cautioned that the sweeping upgrades could also have the undesired effect of pushing Russia and China to improve and expand their arsenals.

The core of every nuclear warhead is a hollow, globe-shaped plutonium pit made by engineers at the Energy Department's lab in Los Alamos, New Mexico, birthplace of the atom bomb. Many of the current pits in use come from the 1970s and 80s. That can be problematic, because there's a lot about plutonium's aging process that scientists still don't understand.

The key radioactive atom in the plutonium pit has a half life of 24,000 years, which is the amount of time it would take roughly half of the radioactive atoms present to decay. That would suggest the weapons should be viable for years to come. But the plutonium decay is still enough to cause concern that it could affect how a pit

explodes.

President George H.W. Bush signed an order in the 1990s banning underground nuclear tests, and the U.S. has not detonated pits to update data on their degradation since. When the last tests were performed, they provided data on pits that were at most about two decades old. That generation of pits is now pushing past 50.

Bob Webster, deputy director of weapons at Los Alamos, said scientists have relied on computer models to determine how well such old pits might work, but "everything we're doing is extrapolating," he said.

That uncertainty has pushed the department to restart pit production. The U.S. no longer produces man-made plutonium. Instead, old plutonium is essentially refurbished into new pits.

This task takes place inside PF-4, a highly classified building at Los Alamos that's surrounded by layers of armed guards, heavy steel doors and radiation monitors. Inside, workers handle the plutonium inside steel glove boxes, which allow them to clean and process the plutonium without being exposed to deadly radiation.

In the final production steps, a lone employee in the vault takes the almost-completed pit into both of her gloved hands and shapes it into its final form.

"Things have to fit a certain way, and everything is by touch, by feel," said the Los Alamos employee, who the AP has agreed not to name because she is one of only a handful of people in the U.S., and the only female, who performs this sensitive task.

For about the last 10 years technicians have been practicing on "test" pits that aren't ready for the stockpile. The U.S. is planning to fully recycle its first weapon-ready pit next year - and quickly increase annual production to as many as 80 new pits.

The painstaking and hazardous work has led a government watchdog to express doubts about whether the U.S. government can meet that goal.

"The United States has not regularly manufactured plutonium pits since 1989," the Government Accountability Office noted in a January 2023 report, adding that the Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration has provided "limited assurance that it would be able to produce sufficient numbers of pits."

Webster has been at Los Alamos since Ronald Reagan was president. He could have retired years ago, but has remained to shepherd the first new plutonium pits through to production. The lab is starting to feel a bit like it did in the 1980s, during the Cold War, he said. Los Alamos scientists are having intense discussions about weapon design - how much each can weigh, its explosive punch, how far it must travel.

"We need our nation to be back making pits," Webster said. "We just have to be able to do that."

Completed pits are protected and detonated by an outer warhead layer that is built at the Energy Department's Kansas City National Security Campus. Inside that three-story windowless factory, workers restore and test those warhead parts, work that a government watchdog said required "a great deal of precision manufacturing to exacting specifications."

There are thousands of tiny parts inside each warhead, so steady hands are key. That's why technicians go through a skills assessment that includes disassembling and assembling a mechanical wristwatch. "Everything is done under a microscope with tweezers," said Molly Hadfield, a spokeswoman for the Kansas City plant. "And its pass (or) fail. Either the watch works or it doesn't work."

This factory would be busy even if an overhaul wasn't underway. All warheads have regular maintenance requirements. Their plastics

age, and metal gears and wiring are weakened by the years and by exposure to radiation.

The factory is also working on warheads for the B-21 Raider, a futuristic stealth bomber, while also supporting the Sentinel, a new intercontinental ballistic missile and on warheads for a new class of submarines.

"There's a huge modernization effort going on," said Eric Wollerman, who manages the Kansas City complex for the Department of Energy through its federal contract with Honeywell. "If you're going to update the delivery systems, you would also then update the warheads in the missiles and the bombs that are with them."

To meet the demand for both maintenance and modernization, the facilities have gone on a hiring spree. The Kansas City plant has 6,700 employees, a 40% jump since 2018, with plans to add several hundred more. The Los Alamos lab has added more than 4,000 employees in that same time frame.

The U.S. nuclear arsenal reveals its age each time troops fix a missile. That can occur as often as twice a week, but only if the equally old tools, or the truck carrying the tools, or the truck needed to transport the missile itself isn't also broken down, which is often.

That is why Airman 1st Class Jonathan Marrs was dragging a second 225-pound (102-kilogram) aluminum tow behind him toward a concrete silo in the midst of vast Montana farmland on a recent hot afternoon.

Marrs, 21, and other airmen used a tow and wrenches the size of human femurs to dislodge silo Bravo-9's 110-ton blast door. Underneath its cement and steel cover was a 70,000-pound (31,750-kilogram) nuclear missile; the missile's warhead tip needed to be lifted out and trucked to base for work.

Except the blast door wouldn't budge. The first 225-pound (102-kilogram) tow, or mule, as the troops call it, couldn't generate the power needed to pull back the door.

After attaching a second mule, Marrs and the other airman succeeded in pulling the door free, releasing scores of mice.

The maintainers next unfastened the warhead from the missile and placed it in a specialized truck. It's then escorted by Air Force security forces back to a heavily guarded hangar at Montana's Malmstrom Air Force Base.

Marrs and the other young airmen - known as maintainers - are closely monitored as they handle nuclear weapons, U.S. Air Force officials said.

"If I under-inflate a basketball at the gym, no one will care," said Chief Master Sgt. Andrew Zahm, the maintenance group senior enlisted leader at F.E. Warren Air Force Base. "If I did something with one of these weapons, the president would know about it in 45 minutes."

The workload is already a challenge for these troops, and there aren't many easy ways to relieve it.

While the private-sector managed Los Alamos and Kansas City plants have hired personnel to meet the rising workload, the military has struggled to fill jobs and retain experienced technicians. Instead, the military must do more with fewer maintainers, and for much less money than those troops could make as government contractors.

"Once you start showing a staff sergeant the \$80,000 they could make in the private sector, they are going to take it," Zahm said.

Zahm is a rarity. While many have retired or left for private industry, he's remained to keep serving the military's nuclear mission. With the U.S. so close to its first new weapon, he's driven by a desire to see it through. "In 21 years I've never seen a new thing," Zahm said. "I want to see the new stuff." (AP)

editor's choice



Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:18	Asr	15:05
Sunrise ..	05:38	Maghrib ..	17:42
Zohr	11:40	Isha	18:58

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot and humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southerly wind to southeasterly wind with speeds of 12-40 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Weather

By Night: Rather hot to mild and humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to southerly wind with speeds of 10-28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	45	32
Kuwait Airport	44	24
Abdaly	45	25
Jahra	45	29
Salmyah	42	34
Ahmadi	43	33
Nuwaisib	43	27
Wafra	45	26

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

PAM unveils official flexible working hours system starting Oct 1

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Public Authority for Manpower has released the official working hours for the flexible working system, effective from October 1, 2023. The guidelines are outlined as follows, reports Al-Rai daily.

Official working hours at the Public Authority for Manpower are designated for the morning period, spanning from Sunday to Thursday each week, encompassing a total of (7) working hours per day, in accordance with the flexible working hours system.

The morning work hours commence from (7:00 AM) to (9:00 AM), granting employees the flexibility to record their attendance at any point during this period. Departure after completing (7) working hours is contingent upon the recorded attendance time.

Employees are permitted to record their attendance within (30) minutes of the stipulated start time for work. Beyond this grace period, late attendance minutes are calculated, starting after (9:30 am).

Employees who are tardy beyond the grace period at the start of the workday may leave 30 minutes before the specified end of the workday.

The grace period cannot be divided between attendance and departure.

Female employees have the option to leave work before the designated end time, provided they can prove their attendance via fingerprint scanning on a daily basis. This allowance comprises an additional (15) minutes, along with the (30) minutes for employees who missed the legal grace period at the beginning of the workday.

Late minutes are tabulated at the conclusion of the workday (early dismissal) if an employee departs before completing the legally prescribed daily working hours.

Call-in hours at the start of the workday are computed based on the employee's indicated time within the attendance verification period from 7:00 am to 7:30 am. Regulations pertaining to call-in hours during or at the end of work continue to apply as stipulated by law.

Official (morning) work periods for employees with reduced working hours or those granted a permit for partial unpaid absence are established at (7) hours per day, from Sunday to Thursday, with varying start and end times.

Employees with reduced working hours or approved partial unpaid absence may select a specific work period from those outlined in Article No. (8) of this directive. The choice should be communicated to the Human Resources Department in advance, and the employee must adhere to the designated departure time associated with the chosen attendance period.

The official working hours for the evening period at the Authority entail (7) working hours per day, commencing from Sunday to Thursday, beginning at (3:30 PM) and concluding at (10:30 PM). Employees can record their attendance within (30) minutes of the designated start time, after which any delay is calculated.

Employees granted a permit for partial unpaid absence can verify their attendance within (30) minutes of their scheduled shift start time, after which late minutes will be computed.

The current shift system at the Authority remains in effect, with continued adherence to the rules, regulations, and provisions outlined in Civil Service Council Resolution No. (41) of 2006 and its subsequent amendments, especially in matters not covered by this circular.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

The Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Kuwait James Holtsnider (left) at the Saudi Embassy's event to mark the 93rd National Day.

Chargé d'Affaires attends Saudi event

'US stands distinctly with Kuwait sovereignty, territorial integrity'

By Enas Awadh
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Kuwait James Holtsnider affirmed that his country stands "distinctly" with the Security Council resolution No. 833 and with Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In a press statement issued during his participation in an event held at the Saudi Embassy recently on the occasion of the 93rd National Day of Saudi Arabia, Holtsnider highlighted the meeting that brought together the Saudi Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah and the US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, on the sidelines of the recent meetings of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

He said, "It is great that they had the opportunity to have this meeting. It also gave Secretary Blinken the opportunity to participate in the Gulf-American meeting, which included the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. The two sides discussed many regional issues, including the situation in Yemen, and about Khor Abdullah. The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and the Secretary of State of the United States stressed the importance of Iraq's commitment to Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and respect for international agreements and United Nations resolutions."

Holtsnider highlighted the meetings held by Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah and his deputy Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber with a number of officials in the White House.

He indicated that his country stressed the importance of Iraq's commitment to Security Council resolution No. 833 and respect for Kuwait's sovereignty, territorial integrity and regional security.

Affirming that many meetings have been held, Holtsnider highlighted the presence of the His Highness the Prime Minister, on behalf of His Highness the Amir, at the

meetings of the United Nations General Assembly, in addition to the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Al-Abdullah prior to his travel to China with the delegation accompanying His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, as well as the participation of Deputy Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber in those meetings.

He said, "They met with a number of American officials who all upheld the same message, which is that we stand with Kuwait. We are ready to support and assist it in the talks and negotiations with Iraq, in order to help reach a solution regarding the dispute over the maritime borders. We stand very distinctly with United Nations Security Council resolution No. 833 and with the territorial sovereignty and integrity of Kuwait."

When asked about the presence of American mediation between the two sides, Holtsnider replied, "There are discussions with partners on both sides, with both Kuwait and Iraq. We want to be useful wherever possible, and we look forward to continuing private diplomatic talks with both countries."

When asked about reports concerning a Kuwaiti-American military deal to repair the Patriot, he said, "Perhaps, but at the embassy level I do not have any information about this matter."

In the context of the Saudi Embassy's celebration of the Saudi National Day, Holtsnider said, "I am honored to participate in the celebration that confirms the close partnership between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It is clear that the United States also enjoys close relations with both countries."

He congratulated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on this occasion, indicating that he was not surprised by the large turnout and the diplomatic, official and popular attendance to congratulate Saudi Arabia.

Holtsnider referred to what he described as "the wonderful work that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is doing in many different

Bill pushes parity in salary

MP calls for more schools in Umm Al-Haiman, Al-Ahmadi

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun submitted a bill concerning the Kuwaiti employees of the public sector with the aim of enhancing justice among the national workers at different ministries, public institutions and subsidiaries.

According to Article 1 of the bill, the Kuwaiti public sector workers covered by the regulations of the Civil Service Council will obtain salaries based on the average salary of their colleagues who are appointed according to special job regulations.

Al-Sa'adoun said it was discovered that some workers who are appointed according to special job regulations obtain much higher salaries than their counterparts who are appointed according to the Civil Services Council's regulations.

He affirmed that the Council of Ministers will issue the executive regulations of the bill after consulting with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) within three months of ratifying the bill, adding that the budget needed for this bill will be covered by the National Reserve Fund.

Al-Sa'adoun said the recent verdict of the Federal Supreme Court of Iraq, rescinding the agreement on maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah with Kuwait, runs counter to the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

"The verdict is also inconsistent with the previously signed agreements," Al-Sa'adoun told reporters while attending a celebration hosted by the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Kuwait on Sunday to mark the 93th national day of the Kingdom.

"Nevertheless, the subsequent remarks made by several Iraqi senior officials sent upbeat message about the clear relationship between both countries," he added.

The agreement on maritime navigation, signed in 2012, was endorsed by the legislatures of Kuwait and Iraq in the following year.

It was based on the UNSC resolutions 687/1991 and 833/1993 regarding the delineation of the land and maritime boundaries of both neighbors.

Meanwhile, MP Muhammad Al-Mahan submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Manee about the number of schools and teachers for every subject as well as their nationalities.

The lawmaker said he wanted to know the subjects for which there are less number of Kuwaiti teachers, the reasons behind such a low turnout, and the strategy of the ministry to address this issue.

He also wanted to know the rate of Kuwaitization of administrative jobs.

The lawmaker asked if the Ministry of Education coordinates with the Ministry of Higher Education, Kuwait University, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, and CSC to encourage students to enroll for rare specialisations.

MP Al-Mahan also sent parliamentary questions to Al-Manee about the number of schools in Sabah Al-Salem Educational Zone.

He said he wanted to know the procedures taken by the Ministry of Education following the suspension of the construction of a secondary school for girls in Umm Al-Haiman due to construction errors.

MP Al-Mahan explained that the school has been suspended for years and it was supposed to contain 20 classrooms for grade 10 students who do not find places in other schools located in Umm Al Haiman.

He wanted to know the plan of the ministry to establish more schools at Umm Al-Haiman in order to reduce the suffering of students and their families.

The lawmaker said he received information about a number of schools in Ahmadi that have been closed for years in order to be demolished and then reconstructed.

He wanted to know the number of such schools and the reasons behind the delay in demolishing and reconstructing them.

Al-Mahan asked Al-Manee about the reasons behind the Ministry of Education's delay in settling the cleaning contracts.

Furthermore, MP Dawood Marafie said Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Sulaiman Buqamaz is conducting negotiations to fill positions in the ministry that have been vacant for a long time.

He warned against any attempt by Dr. Buqamaz to take advantage of filling the vacancies of senior positions to make quid pro quo with any of the lawmakers with the aim of gaining their support in the grilling motion he intended to file against her.

MP Marafie affirmed that he will expose any MP who may be involved in this matter, and he called upon His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to take adequate action towards the attempts of Dr. Buqamaz; otherwise, she will be subject to another grilling motion.

In another development, MP Abdulkareem Al-Kandari called upon his colleagues in the relevant parliamentary committee to carefully study the bill to be submitted by the government, represented by the Ministry of Information, on media law.

He asked them to consult specialists, activists and the relevant civil society organisations for this matter.

In this regard, MP Jenan Boushahri said it is too difficult to judge the bill on media law before reading it carefully in order to figure out the fine details included in it.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee MP Shuaib Al-Muwaziri called for holding a series of meetings to hasten the completion of urgent bills.



KUNA photo

The National Security Advisor, Commander of the Bahraini Royal Guard, receives the Kuwaiti Military Attaché on the occasion of his new position.

'Bahrain, Kuwait share history, destiny'

Bahrain's National Security Advisor and Commander of the Royal Guard, Lieutenant General Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, expressed admiration today (Monday) for the deep-rooted Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations founded on shared history and destiny.

The Bahraini News Agency reported that this sentiment was conveyed during a meeting between Sheikh Nasser Al Khalifa and Kuwait's military attaché,

Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Mutairi, who recently assumed his new role.

During the meeting, Sheikh Nasser commended the ongoing efforts to strengthen Bahraini-Kuwaiti ties, highlighting their significance in advancing bilateral cooperation. He emphasized that these collaborative endeavors have yielded significant results, fostering a sense of pride among the leadership and citizens of both nations. (KUNA)

Draft law on media regulation unveiled

'One year jail, fine for violator'

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, the Minister of Information and Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, outlined the comprehensive process behind the development of the media regulation law during a discussion session titled "The Media Regulation Law... Everyone's Responsibility." This session brought together media professionals, newspaper editors-in-chief, and individuals involved in various media sectors.

Al-Mutairi detailed the law's three-stage evolution, which began with the collection of opinions, experiences, and challenges in its initial draft. These were subsequently addressed with relevant state authorities, leading to the law's second stage focusing on implementation to cater to the media sector's needs. The session marked the third stage in this law's evolution.

He emphasized that this discussion session was in line with the directives emphasizing that the media apparatus belongs to the public, highlighting the collaborative nature of media strategy between specialists and the public. Al-Mutairi stressed that the media field's key actors are those actively involved in media activities.

The Minister highlighted that Kuwait

currently has three laws in effect, and the media regulation law aims to streamline and improve media regulation while upholding freedom of expression. He welcomed feedback on the draft law, which consists of 9 chapters and 104 articles, inviting comments on the ministry's website for a two-week period.

Regarding prohibitions and penalties, Al-Mutairi noted a key amendment. While the current laws impose imprisonment on editors-in-chief and writers, the proposed change shifts the punishment to the violator, with a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a fine of no less than 10,000 dinars. The license would be suspended, but there would be no cancellation.

He also detailed changes to prohibitions related to criticism of HH the Amir of the country and incitement to overthrow the ruling system. These would result in a prison term of no more than one year and a fine ranging from 5,000 to 20,000 dinars for the violator, rather than the editor-in-chief.

Furthermore, the law addresses incitement to outrage public modesty or commit acts of debauchery and harm to people's dignity, beliefs, or reputation, with fines of no less than 3,000 dinars directly imposed on the violator. Prohibitions that harm Kuwait's relations with friendly countries would also result in fines.

'More students, less schools'

MoE to meet needs of all schools

By Abdul Rahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Director of the Farwaniya Educational Zone Muhammad Al-Ajmi affirmed that the Ministry of Education is striving to fulfill the requirements for the new academic year in all schools of the area, especially the new ones, which were commissioned in the current academic year of 2023/2024.

In a press statement issued yesterday during his inspection of West Abdullah Al-Mubarak schools and supervision of the delivery of furniture to Al-Dougha Secondary School, Al-Ajmi said the student density in other schools called for the opening of a number of new schools in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak area to tackle population growth and student density in neighboring residential areas which received students from West Abdullah Al-Mubarak area.

He explained that the educational zone yesterday morning provided more than 270 tables and chairs for students of Al-Dougha Secondary School, along with the chairs and

tables that were previously available with the opening of the school.

The school's budget was set at a capacity of 450 students, but 660 students were accepted after a large turnout, depending on the address on the students' civil ID, and the school's need for furniture was met.

The educational zone is working hard to overcome all obstacles that the students may face and their requirements in schools.

The ministry has opened six new schools of various educational levels in West Abdullah Mubarak area.

All residents of the area took the initiative to register their children in these schools, with recommendations to be flexible in dealing with parents in registering their children according to the available densities.

The educational zone continued to provide all basic services, including air conditioning and water coolers, as well as human resources, including teachers, administrators, and supervisors, in addition to cleaning workers, nutritional meals for kindergarten students, and guards.

The educational zone provided 1,892 chairs and tables. The Supply and Warehouse Department provided 1,900 tables and chairs for the new schools.

They are constantly following up with school administrations to meet any needs through continuous communication with the Supply and Warehouse Department.



Al-Ajmi

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Kuwait health officials stress vital role of pharmacists in healthcare

World Pharmacist Day celebration at Mubarak Hospital

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): Dr. Mona Abdel Samad, Director of the Hawalli Health District, emphasized the integral role of healthcare services, particularly pharmaceutical services, in driving social and economic progress. Speaking during the World Pharmacist Day celebration at Mubarak Hospital, she highlighted the need for continuous development efforts in collaboration with various sectors to enhance healthcare for patients and visitors.

Dr. Abdel Samad underscored the significance of pharmaceutical services in safeguarding society's health and treating illnesses. She mentioned that the Hawalli Health District joins pharmacists in commemorating their international day, with a focus on patient education about medications and their proper usage, as well as raising awareness about the risks associated with drug misuse.

Misuse of medications, she explained, occurs when patients deviate from their prescribed usage, often unaware of potential side effects. She praised the crucial role pharmacists play across different ministry sectors, ensuring

top-notch care for patients.

Dr. Awatif Al-Mutairi, Head of the Pharmaceutical Services Office in the Hawalli Health District, emphasized the pharmacist's vital role in medication dispensing and consultations. She noted that the Ministry of Health has elevated the pharmacist's standing, particularly within hospital settings, where clinical pharmacists collaborate closely with treating physicians.

Dr. Youssa Youssef, Head Specialist in the pharmacy department at Mubarak Hospital, described World Pharmacist Day as a significant occasion for pharmacists to showcase their role in the medical sector and promote activities that highlight their essential contributions to healthcare. She stressed the pharmacist's positive impact as an integral member of the medical team, striving to enhance the quality of care through safe and effective medical and therapeutic products.

Dr. Youssef also noted the establishment of numerous pharmaceutical departments under the Ministry of Health's purview to keep pace with global advancements in the pharmacy sector. The celebration aims to enhance public awareness of pharmacists' reliability and their role in society, emphasizing their responsibility in delivering healthcare services and treatments to all citizens.



Dr. Rawda Awwad.



Ms. Amal Al-Binali



A photo from the celebration of World Pharmacist Day. (Inset): Dr Awatif Al-Mutairi.

KUNA photo



College deans during the orientation.

Kuwait participates in 12th Confab of Culture Ministers

DOHA, Sept 25, (KUNA): The 12th Conference of Ministers of Culture in the Islamic World was launched in the Qatari capital, Doha, on Monday, under the slogan (Towards Renewing Cultural Work in the Islamic World), with Kuwaiti participation.

The Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Dr. Salem Al-Malik, said that the organization is fulfilling its duty, considering that culture is not just an identity or a label of social distinction, as much as it is a life.

He pointed out the launch of an initiative in restoration of heritage sites in the Islamic countries, pointing out that more than 400 heritage sites have been registered in the organization.

In turn, former Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Irina Bokova, said that this conference was organized following Qatar's success in organizing the most prominent sporting event, the FIFA World Cup, stressing that sport brings together different cultures.

Distinguished AUK Faculty & Staff set to begin New Academic Year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) conducted a comprehensive orientation program for its new staff and faculty members. The event was meticulously designed to provide a holistic understanding of AUK's organizational structure, key departments, and logistical processes. Additionally, the University's Office of Human Resources curated activities that aimed to foster professional connections and integrate new staff and faculty with the campus community.

AUK President, Dr. Rawda Awwad, extended a warm welcome to staff and faculty and highlighted the unique attributes that sets AUK apart on the academic landscape, "AUK has proven to be a leader not only in words, but in actions. We have not only engaged with our immediate constituents, but we have also elevated our voice and expertise on a global stage, positioning ourselves as true global players. Together, we have hosted and sponsored numerous local, regional, and international conferences addressing pressing global issues from technology advancements and explosive innovation to cultural shifts, diversity, inclusive education, and accessibility."

Ms. Amal Al-Binali, AUK executive vice president, reflected upon the remarkable success of this year's orientation, "Our orientations always showcase how AUK's work environment is characterized by a dynamic blend of academic excellence, collaborative spirit, and a commitment to nurturing innovation. It's a place where exceptional professionals come together to inspire and be inspired, and where cre-



HR director, Paul Bassil.

ativity, dedication, and diversity flourish, propelling us all towards new horizons of achievement."

AUK's excellence transcends the boundaries of the workplace; it also extends to its exceptional engagement with students. This is exemplified by the recent addition of two accomplished alumni to AUK's faculty, underscoring the University's impressive tradition of producing graduates of exceptional caliber.

Critical international and local accreditation initiatives, program re-accreditations, strategic planning, increased professional development, and internal research opportunities are on the horizon. AUK continues to adapt to the evolving educational landscape, fortifying faculty and student support for the upcoming academic year.

'Alternative to Entertainment City'

Govt discusses establishment of huge indoor games city managed by int'l co

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The government recently discussed the establishment of a huge indoor games city that will operate throughout the year and managed by an international company specializing in entertainment affairs, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting a reliable source.

Affirming this project is an alternative to

the Entertainment City, the source revealed the government will soon hold a series of meetings to approve the launching of the project and choose the best companies that will implement it.

In addition, the source announced a government move to cooperate with international companies to build entertainment facilities for next winter.

4th Master

Continued from Page 1

After the meeting, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Acting Minister of National Assembly Affairs and Acting Minister of Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah stated the following:

The Cabinet was briefed on the memorandums of understanding signed between Kuwait and China during His Highness the Crown Prince visit, which are:

Green, low-carbon waste recycling system. Environmental infrastructure for wastewater treatment plants. Electrical energy system and renewable energy development.

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port Project. Free zones and economic zones. Housing development.

Moreover, the Cabinet expressed satisfaction with the results of the successful and fruitful visit, which will contribute to advancing development, achieving aspirations, and completing development projects in the State of Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Cabinet mourned the late Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, former Communications Minister who passed away earlier this week.

Further, the Cabinet discussed the presentation submitted by the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and the Minister of State for Communications Fahad Al-Shu'la and some leaders of the Kuwait Municipality regarding the Fourth Master Plan for the State of Kuwait 2040, in which it specified future urban goals and policies.

The Fourth Master Plan includes four regions, Kuwait's urban region, the northern economic region, the third southern industrial region, and the fourth western region, the minister pointed out.

Eight for

Continued from Page 1

The oil-rich North African nation has been in chaos since 2011, when an Arab Spring uprising, backed by NATO, ousted longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi, who was later killed.

For most of the past decade, rival administrations have claimed authority to lead Libya. Dach is backed by armed groups and foreign governments.

The country's east has been under the control of Gen. Khalifa Hifter and his self-styled Libyan National Army, which is allied with a parliament-confirmed government.

A rival administration is based in the capital, Tripoli, and enjoys the support of most of the international community.

The dams were built by a Yugoslav construction company in the 1970s above Wadi Derna, a river valley which divides the city. They were meant to protect the city from flash floods, which are not uncommon in the area. The dams were not maintained for decades, despite warnings by scientists that they may burst.

A report by a state-run audit agency in 2021 said the two dams hadn't been maintained despite the allocation of more than \$2 million for that purpose in 2012 and 2013.

A Turkish firm was contracted in 2007 to carry out maintenance on the two dams and to build a third one in between them. The firm, Arsel Construction Company Ltd., said on its website that it completed its work in November 2012. It didn't respond to an email seeking further comment.

Two weeks after the dams collapsed, local and international teams were still digging through mud and hollowed-out buildings to look for victims.



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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Crown Prince's China visit promises to be successful and fruitful'

"WITH His Highness the Crown Prince's departure from China, accompanied by a diverse delegation, we find ourselves at a juncture where China's accomplishments in oceanic navigation and its burgeoning success in establishing key ports across Africa and the Americas have come to the fore. This development signifies a monumental leap for this formidable nation in the Gulf region, extending its influence to the north through Kuwaiti, Iraqi, and Iranian territories as essential export conduits to Europe," columnist **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.



Bishara

"The discussions held by His Highness in Beijing undoubtedly encompassed this strategic Chinese orientation, which aligns with their broader ambition of establishing a global presence, disseminating their industries, diplomacy, and cultural heritage while harnessing the enigmatic allure that accompanies their methods.

"Reflecting back on my early interactions with 'National China' in 1964, when a delegation from the Republic of Formosa visited Kuwait, led by the son of the Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek. At that time, Formosa represented the regions controlled by the Nationalist Party in contrast to the Communist Party led by Mao Zedong. During their meeting with Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, he emphasized the importance of Formosa's self-reliance to safeguard its regime, reducing dependence on allies like the United States. However, this advice was met with resistance, highlighting the delegation's commitment to their U.S. ties.

"Kuwait's engagements with Beijing continued to deepen, culminating in a significant visit by a Kuwaiti delegation, headed by Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber, Minister of Finance. This visit marked a turning point in recognizing the authority of the Marxist regime as the legitimate representative of China, strengthening bilateral ties, especially in politics and economics.

"His Highness' current visit epitomizes the culmination of these mutual understandings across various domains. It's essential to note that deciphering Chinese diplomacy demands ongoing interaction since Chinese diplomats often employ short, ambiguous responses.

"I recall my experience with the Chinese delegation at the United Nations, where they skillfully used vague language in official discourse. During a session in 1979, I presided over the Security Council as Vietnam lodged a complaint against China's invasion. The Council hesitated to address this issue due to the ongoing tension between the then Soviet Union and China.

"Notably, China refrained from confrontation when placed in the position of an aggressor against a UN member.

"In another incident, the Chinese ambassador declined to attend a meeting due to a lack of transportation, citing snowy New York streets. This incident reflects China's aversion to significant accusations that could tarnish its reputation.

"However, China's diplomacy has evolved since then. Today, His Highness and his delegation will encounter a China that prioritizes economic cooperation with developing countries as a diplomatic and political cornerstone. The visit aims to intensify trade, investment, and infrastructure development, focusing on modernizing sea ports, constructing dams, airports, and cultural centers.

"Kuwait holds a unique position in Chinese-Kuwaiti relations, being the first Gulf nation to establish diplomatic ties with China and the first to sign the Belt and Road Agreement. Furthermore, China has established its Cultural Center in Kuwait, covering the entire Gulf region. In this positive context, His Highness's visit to China promises to be both successful and fruitful.

"Chinese diplomacy relies on patience, secrecy, and brevity in language. These

mechanisms have propelled China from obscurity to becoming the world's second-largest economy. Despite its remarkable progress, China maintains close ties with the developing world, positioning itself as a competitor to the United States.

"As His Highness the Crown Prince embarked on this pivotal journey, we anticipate a future characterized by robust economic collaborations and infrastructure development, forged in the spirit of mutual cooperation and shared progress between Kuwait and China."

Also:

"The Saudi National Day is celebrated every year on September 23. On this day, the Saudis celebrate the unification of the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the renewal of the covenant with its leadership. The manifestations of the Saudi National Day celebration include raising chants and singing songs, decorating the streets and buildings with Saudi flags, organizing air shows, and holding various events throughout the kingdom," columnist **Dr. Hind Al-Shomar** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Traditional, cultural and artistic performances and parades, fireworks, and folk music and dance concerts are held on this day, along with the celebration of the achievements of Saudi Arabia over the years.

"The slogan for celebrating the Saudi National Day this year was "We dream and we achieve". This slogan was inspired by the dreams that have become close to being achieved in various aspects of the lives of Saudis.

"This was clearly demonstrated through the huge projects launched within the framework of Vision 2030, which contributed to enhancing Saudi Arabia's strength and position, thus enabling it to continue to perform its important and pioneering role at all levels. The celebration of the Saudi National Day takes place by realizing achievements for the nation, achieving sustainable development and the Vision 2030, enhancing loyalty and allegiance to the nation's leadership, standing behind the leadership against all attempts to question it, and supporting development plans, development programs and initiatives of progress.

"The celebrations of national days represent an opportunity to restore the history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as citizens remember the efforts exerted by their founding fathers and their sacrifices to build a strong and sustainable state. The founding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the roots of a national identity that brings together generations across the ages.

"Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is headed by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman. It leads the transformation process in Saudi Arabia by diversifying its economy and improving the quality and lives of its citizens. This vision includes major goals, including the global goals for sustainable development, developing non-oil sectors, increasing investments, revitalizing the private sector, and developing education and training. It also highlights the need for professionalism, enhancing technology and innovation, and achieving community well-being and quality of life for citizens."

□ □ □

"Both the citizens and expatriates are consumers that are harmed by exploitation, which violates the values of the nation — values that provide security to everyone who lives in the shadows of Kuwait," columnist **Dr. Khalid Al-Saleh** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Hence, Consumer Protection Law number 39 of 2014 was ratified. It led to the establishment of the National Committee for Consumer Protection, whose 12 members are from various sectors. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has its own Consumer Protection Department tasked to monitor the relevant activities and even the social media to know what people are talking about in terms of consumer protection. Consumer exploitation in Kuwait has

gone beyond the limits of commercial fraud and overpricing. Yes, consumer exploitation has gone beyond the traditional pattern, so we now need to expand the concept of consumer protection.

"Those who follow the complaints of citizens and expatriates — I have received many of them — discovered that exploitation of craftsmen has become more harmful than commercial fraud or exaggerated prices. The consumer is groaning at the labor market and protecting him has become an utmost necessity. Action must be taken.

"Today, the consumer is being exploited horribly by employees skilled at cheating even if they do not have the required knowledge and experience to work. In short, the labor market is the work of the unemployed and various worker communities have formed groups like the mafia that communicate with each other to exploit the consumer.

"The solution is not punishing the plaintiffs, as they are many and have a thousand ways to return to the market. The best solution is to take charge of consumer protection, whose tasks include the establishment of small centers in each area, consisting of a lecture hall and a shop for industrial tools. The lecture hall is for conducting simple courses for citizens to know how to repair electrical faults, replace tools, sanitary products, basic welding principles, dyeing, carpentry, etc. The industrial tools shop will rent out tools that the citizen needs in his household work at nominal prices.

"Awareness, training and facilitating access to industrial tools are the ideal solutions to combat craft exploitation. It is just a suggestion, and the committee or administration may find more positive ideas. In every positive move, there is benefit for the people. It is a service for the nation, and before that, comes the satisfaction of God."

□ □ □

"Divorce statistics constitute a truly frightening figure, sounding an alarm that all concerned parties must take seriously. The core topic of our article today is on measures that must be taken regarding this negative phenomenon, which affects our society in general," columnist **Dr. Essa Al-Omairi** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"Given the small size of this society compared to many other societies, it is not proportionate to the recently announced divorce figures. There is an imbalance between the number of recorded marriages compared to divorce cases. Undoubtedly, the figures are terrifying.

"Measures must be taken to determine deficiencies or defects leading to divorce. Some are calling for obligating couples contemplating marriage to complete cultural, psychological and physical training courses to fully prepare for a new life that is completely different from their previous life. This seems to be a good proposal to address the rising divorce rate issue.

"Based on data and news published recently, we can say that the divorce rate continues to rise. Divorce statistics indicates that the highest percentage of divorce among women are those with university degrees, followed by those with high school certificates, and then those with post-secondary diploma.

"Some published statistics show that the percentage reflects a major imbalance and negatives exceeding the reasonable limit, which requires countries to exert tremendous efforts to address the problem, as it negatively affects the rest of the pillars and foundations.

"The problem affects the entire society in a way that disrupts much of its natural growth... It also creates problems that our society never experienced before. This is due to the complexity of our modern life."

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**



Top and above: Some photos from the opening of the exhibition.

Kuwaiti Syndicate of Artists and Media Professionals launches 1st exhibition in visual & applied arts

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Syndicate of Artists and Media Professionals launched its inaugural exhibition in the fields of visual arts and applied arts on Sunday. The event saw the participation of a select group of talented painters and photographers and was held under the auspices of Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, the Minister of Information and Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs.

During the exhibition's opening ceremony, MUSAED AL-ZAMIL, the Assistant Secretary-General for the Arts Sector at the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters, lauded the event. He emphasized that the exhibition, hosted at the Ahmed Al-Adwani Hall in the Abdullah Al-Salem suburb and spanning four days, provided a platform for both amateur and professional artists. Al-Zamil highlighted the significance of fostering intergenerational connections within such artistic gatherings.

Al-Zamil expressed his admiration for the significant participation of artists in the syndicate's debut exhibition, led by Dr. Nabil Al-Failakawi. He underscored the syndicate's crucial role in promoting and supporting art, artists, and the organization of exhibitions and workshops.

He also noted Kuwait's enduring pride in its cultural, artistic, theatrical, and dramatic heritage, particularly with the strong backing of the National Council for Culture.

Dr. Nabil Al-Failakawi, the head of the Artists and Media Syndicate, spoke to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), stating that

this exhibition marked its first edition and would become an annual event. He emphasized the exhibition's importance in offering support to artists and showcasing their creative talents. Al-Failakawi described the exhibition as a platform where artists could display their art without any specific theme or title.

He further detailed that the syndicate, which boasts around 1,500 members, including over 300 working in the fine arts sector, organizes seasonal exhibitions in various domains. These exhibitions cover themes such as the Kuwaiti liberation from the Iraqi invasion, Jerusalem, and other pertinent topics.

In a similar statement to KUNA, artist Thuraya Al-Baqsmi commended the substantial participation of female artists in the exhibition, emphasizing women's capacity for innovation and creativity. She noted that the syndicate's membership initially started small but rapidly expanded, highlighting the syndicate's role in providing opportunities for artists, talented individuals, and young talents to showcase their works in specialized exhibitions and workshops.

Photographer Nawaf Al-Hamoud, participating with two photographs taken in Istanbul and Thailand, praised the role of the Artists and Media Professionals Syndicate and the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Literature. He highlighted their efforts in organizing courses, exhibitions, workshops, and supporting emerging talents.

Six women's parlors shut down for selling products harmful to health

Police arrest ministry employees forging fingerprint attendance

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: In a coordinated regulatory action inspectors from the Commercial Control Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry moved swiftly to close a showroom belonging to a reputable eye-wear company for selling counterfeit eyeglasses from prominent international brands, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

According to the sources, comprehensive field inspections led to the closure of the company after a thorough raid on one of its premises uncovered approximately 2,000 counterfeit eyeglasses bearing international brand names. This blatant violation of regulatory instructions prohibiting the sale of counterfeit products will result in the company being referred to the Commercial Prosecution.

The sources also highlighted violations at two food stores where expired goods were found, and duplicate price tags with revised expiry dates were confiscated.

Regulations

This action goes against regulations that dictate expiration dates must be determined by the factory, not the distributing company. Consequently, the MoCI inspectors closed both warehouses, preparing to refer them to the Commercial Prosecution following established protocol.

Furthermore, inspectors seized 460 cartons of counterfeit filters branded with names of renowned car manufacturers in one of the companies. The confiscated materials were seized, and the company's officials will be referred to the Commercial Prosecution to complete necessary legal procedures.

During their field tours, the sources uncovered the presence of six women's salons and institutes across different areas. These establishments were found to provide customers with products and materials harmful to health and safety. Subsequently, these businesses were closed and referred to the Commercial Prosecution for appropriate legal action.

□ □ □

Forgers arrested: In an operation conducted by the Investigations Division of the Criminal Security Sector under the Ministry of Interior - General Administration of Criminal Investigation, a significant number of Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy employees working outdoors associated with the ministry were arrested and charged with tampering with attendance fingerprints, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

According to a security source these employees were found utilizing silicone fingerprints to falsify their attendance and departure records, facilitated by collaboration with a foreign security staff member and a local employee, for a monetary consideration.

The source elaborated that the investigating officers discovered the silicone fingerprints, employed to forge the attendance system, in possession of the aforementioned security and citizen employees.

The seized evidence was subsequently forwarded to the General Department of Criminal Evidence for comparison with the genuine fingerprints of employees stationed at those sites. The source added that several employees were successfully apprehended and detained as per the Public Prosecution's order, while others remain at large. Efforts are underway to identify additional individuals, in coordination with forensic experts.

In a related development, Ministry of Electricity sources disclosed that the exposure of the fingerprint forgery scheme originated from a report filed by an employee at one of the external sites.

The Ministry of Interior was promptly alerted, taking swift action to apprehend the culprits. The Ministry affirmed that no further actions have been taken at this time, deferring to the ongoing investigation under the purview of the Public Prosecution.

225 death & 4,500 injured in traffic accidents in 8 months

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Security sources said that 225 Kuwaitis and residents died, while more than 4,500 others were injured in about 40,000 traffic accidents that occurred from the beginning of this year until mid-September, reports **Al-Qabas** daily.

The sources added the GTD recorded about 3.5 million traffic violations during that period and led to the deportation of 120 expatriates, the majority of whom were caught driving vehicles without licenses, and some of them committed several seri-

ous violations that endangered their lives and the lives of road users.

The same sources pointed out that there were more than 35,000 collision accidents, about 230 overturning accidents, 450 run-over accidents, and 140 hit-and-run accidents.

The sources pointed out that rescue and traffic personnel were able to arrest dozens of reckless people, during their dealings with thousands of reports received about reckless acts in the open areas, internal and secondary roads and some main roads.

وزارة التجارة والصناعة



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This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43, 44, 46 and 47) of no.39/2015 issuing the executive by laws of law no.39/2014 on Consumer Protection

Kuwait exports largest shipment of advanced diesel to Europe

The Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC) has successfully exported the advanced diesel, over 100,000 tons, equivalent to 780,000 barrels, of low-sulfur diesel developed to meet the latest international environmental standards and specifications to European markets, reports Al-Qabas daily. The transportation was fa-

cilitated by the tanker named "Stay Sunset," in collaboration between the Al-Zour Refinery Directorate and the Global Marketing Sector at the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

According to Abdullah Al-Ajmi, the official spokesperson of the company, this shipment marks a historic milestone for Kuwait, being the largest export to Europe.

This accomplishment signifies significant progress in providing global markets with superior petroleum products, solidifying its position as a prominent and reliable energy supplier on a global scale.

This achievement propels the company towards exploring new opportunities in its journey as a major player in global energy markets, further

enhancing its future standing and leadership among its industry peers.

Al-Ajmi highlighted the shipment left Kuwait on September 22, 2023. He elaborated that this significant accomplishment was realized after overcoming numerous obstacles and operational challenges. Al-Ajmi commended the dedication and hard work of the teams at Al-Zour Re-

finery in ensuring the safe and efficient operation of the project units.

In addition, he stated, "The export of this high-quality diesel shipment, adhering to the latest international specifications and standards, represents a remarkable leap in the history of Al-Zour Refinery."

It is an unparalleled achievement attained amidst challeng-

ing operational circumstances and within a remarkably short period, underscoring the tremendous efforts invested by all Al-Zour Refinery employees.

These efforts are in alignment with the strategic plans of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, aiming to sustain its eminent leadership position in the global energy markets."

Market Movements

25-09-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+13.51	4,182.06	PAKISTAN - KSE 100	-42.09	46,394.32
JAPAN - Nikkei	+276.21	32,678.62			
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+30.05	6,172.84			
EGYPT - EGX 30	+106.86	20,320.56			

Business

Unveiling the power of CBK's innovative PMI questionnaire

Central Bank of Kuwait revolutionizes economic insight

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said on Monday that it had developed a questionnaire for the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

The index enables prompt data collection, processing and analyses to be produced in the form of timely and accurate periodic reports reflecting the real developments of the economic activity in the State of Kuwait.

Success

This came in a press statement by the Governor of the CBK Basel A. Al-Haroon, announcing that the success of this initiative shall be the outcome of the collaboration between CBK and the respondents from the various Kuwaiti economic sectors.

The prominence of the PMI resides in its ability to assess the progress of the economic performance with precision due to its periodicity (on monthly basis).

PMI is usually issued before

Launch of CBK Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

Definition
The PMI is a key economic index assessing the progress of economic performance due to its frequency (monthly).

Targets
The PMI enables data collection, processing and analyses on a prompt manner and producing the same in the form of timely and accurate periodic reports that present fairly the real developments of the economic activity in the State of Kuwait.

Methodology
The PMI results are derived from a questionnaire addressed to the purchasing managers of Kuwait-based companies engaged in production and service activities.
The PMI shall be applied to a limited sample of prudently elected companies, representing the numerous economic sectors in the State of Kuwait.

Launch of CBK Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

Frequency
Monthly.

Launch
As of October 2023 to exhibit the trends or changes in the given activity for the month of September 2023. The PMI trends and results shall not be published and shall be for internal use only during the pilot phase, to be re-assessed thereafter before made available to the public.

Success Factor
The collaboration between CBK and the respondents from the various Kuwaiti economic sectors.

Announcement

CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK Bonds

and related Tawarruq at a total value of KWD (240) millions for (6) months with Rate of Return (4.50%).

the release of official data on macroeconomic variables to help

economists and stakeholders in predicting economic trends in the

State of Kuwait.

In addition, PMI is consid-

ered as one of the most significant economic data in the global markets for better understanding of the different economies' and markets' trends.

Consequently, many central banks employ the index to make monetary policy decisions.

The CBK PMI's results are drawn up in a questionnaire that includes (nine index-related close ended questions, one close ended question on expectations of business prospects at the local and global levels, and four open ended questions).

All these questions are addressed to the purchasing man-

agers of a different group of Kuwait-based companies engaged in production and service activities.

In addition, PMI, which is scheduled to inaugurate in October 2023, exhibits the trends or changes in the given activity in September 2023.

The index's trends and results shall not be published and shall be for internal use only during the pilot phase (six months), to be re-assessed before made available to the public.

The pilot index will be applied to a small sample of carefully selected companies.

Kuwaiti imports soar with record-breaking 63.1 percent boost in local bank financing

KD 7.38 bln rise in first eight months of 2023

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: During the first eight months of this year, Kuwaiti imports received a substantial boost in financial support from local banks, marking a remarkable 63.1 percent increase, equivalent to 2,859 billion dinars. This surge in financing saw the total amount rise from 4.52 billion dinars in the same period of the previous year to 7.38 billion dinars in the current year.

Monthly statistics also reveal a positive trend, with import financing climbing by 2.5 percent, or approximately 15.3 million dinars. The figures ascended from 597.9 million dinars at the end of July to 613.2 million dinars at the close of August. However, on an annual basis, there was a 15.7 percent decrease, amounting to 114.7 million dinars, compared to the August 2022 figure of 727.9 million dinars.

Impressive growth

Breaking down the types of financing, it becomes evident that other payment orders dominated the landscape, constituting a significant 72.7 percent of the total financing. This category exhibited impressive growth, surging by 81 percent and reaching 5.36 billion dinars from 2.965 billion dinars in the eight months of 2022. Nevertheless, it experienced a slight dip of 1.9 percent, or 7.8 million dinars, between July and August, sliding from 403 million dinars to 395.3 million dinars.

Documentary credits secured the second spot, accounting for 24.2 percent of total import financing. This segment demonstrated a growth rate of 46 percent, translating to 563.8 million dinars, as it expanded from 1.22 billion dinars in the first eight months of the previous year to 1.785 billion dinars in the same period of the current year. The monthly data showed a notable 21.4 percent increase, with a value of 33.6 million dinars, rising from 156 million dinars in July to 190.4 million dinars in August.

Financing through collection policies represented 3.1 percent of total import financing but saw a decline of 31.6 percent, falling to 231.7 million dinars from 338.8 million dinars in the eight months of 2022. The month-on-month decrease amounted to 27.5 percent, or 10.5 million dinars, with a drop from 38.1 million dinars in July to 27.6 million dinars

Fed jacked up its benchmark rate ever higher

Why US job market has defied rising interest rates & expectations of high unemployment

WASHINGTON, Sept 25, (AP): Last year's spike in inflation, to the highest level in four decades, was painful enough for American households. Yet the cure - much higher interest rates, to cool spending and hiring - was expected to bring even more pain.

Grim forecasts from economists had predicted that as the Federal Reserve jacked up its benchmark rate ever higher, consumers and businesses would curb spending, companies would slash jobs and unemployment would spike as high as 7% or more - twice its level when the Fed began tightening credit.

Yet so far, to widespread relief, the reality has been anything but: As interest rates have surged, inflation has tumbled from its peak of 9.1% in June 2022 to 3.7%. Yet the unemployment rate, at a still-low 3.8%, has scarcely budged since March 2022, when the Fed began imposing a series of 11 rate hikes at the fastest pace in decades.

If such trends continue, the central bank may achieve a rare and difficult "soft landing" - the taming of inflation without triggering a deep recession. Such an outcome would be far different from the last time inflation spiked, in the 1970s and early 1980s. The Fed chair at the time, Paul Volcker, attacked inflation by escalating the central bank's key short-term rate above 19%. The result? Unemployment shot to 10.8%, which at the time marked its highest level since World War II.

A year ago, in a high-profile speech, Chair Jerome Powell warned that the Fed

by the end of August.

An overwhelming majority, 85.6 percent, of the import financing was conducted in US dollars. This category experienced a significant uptick of 72.6 percent, equivalent to 2.662 billion dinars, rising from 3.664 billion dinars in the first eight months of 2022 to 6.326 billion dinars in the same period of the current year. However, there was a marginal 0.26 percent decline in August, with the value decreasing from 487.2 million dinars to 485.9 million dinars. Year-on-year, these financings dropped by 19.3 percent, settling at approximately 116.2 million dinars, down from 602.1 million dinars in August 2022.

Other currencies accounted for 6.2 percent of the total import financing, experiencing a 9.8 percent boost in August, increasing from 43.6 million dinars to 47.9 million dinars. However, over the span of eight months, they witnessed a 22 percent decrease, dropping from 308 million



A hiring sign is displayed at a retail store in Vernon Hills, Ill., Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. (AP)

was prepared to be similarly aggressive, saying its rate hikes would cause "some pain" in the form of higher unemployment. The Fed, Powell said pointedly, would "keep at it," a play on the title of Volcker's autobiography, "Keeping At It."

Over time, as the job market has displayed surprising resilience, Powell has adopted a more benign tone. At a news conference last week, he suggested that a soft landing remains a "possible," if not guaranteed, outcome.

"That's really what we've been seeing," he said. "Progress without higher unemployment, for now."

How have the Fed's rate hikes man-

aged to help substantially slow inflation without also causing dire consequences? And can the job market and the economy maintain their durability even with the Fed intending to keep borrowing rates at a peak well into 2024?

Here are some reasons for the economy's unexpected resilience and a look at whether it might endure:

The idea that defeating high inflation would require sharply higher unemployment is based on a long-time economic model that may prove ill-suited for the post-pandemic episode.

Europe, Asia markets slumped sharply

US stocks drift as pressure keeps mounting from the bond market

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP): A sluggish day for stocks on Monday is keeping September on track to be the worst month of the year for Wall Street.

The S&P 500 was virtually unchanged in midday trading, coming off its worst week in six months. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 99 points, or 0.3%, at 33,864, as of 11:11 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.1% higher.

Stocks have struggled recently as the realization sinks in that the Federal Reserve will likely keep interest rates high well into next year. The Fed wants to ensure high inflation gets back down to its target, and it said last week it will likely cut interest rates in 2024 by less than traders expected. Its main interest rate is already at its highest level since 2001.

Growth driven

"Stocks digest gradual, growth driven increases in interest rates far better than rapid increases driven by other factors such as inflation or Fed policy," Goldman Sachs strategists led by David Kostin wrote in a report.

Higher yields are at the head of a long line of concerns weighing on Wall Street. Economies around the world are looking shaky, oil prices have jumped by \$20 per barrel since June and the resumption of U.S. student-loan repayments may weaken what's been the economy's greatest strength, spending by households.

In the near term, the U.S. government may be set for another shutdown amid more political squabbles on Capitol Hill. But Wall Street has managed its way through previous shutdowns, and "history shows that past ones haven't had much of an impact on the market," according to Chris Larkin, managing director of trading and investing at E-Trade from Morgan Stanley.

On Wall Street, stocks of energy companies rose to some of the market's biggest gains. Crude oil prices regressed a bit Monday, but only after earlier rallying to roughly \$90 per barrel. Exxon Mobil gained 0.7%, and

ConocoPhillips rose 1.3%.

Higher oil prices mean more pressure on travel-related companies that count fuel among their biggest costs. Southwest Airlines sank 1.8%, and Norwegian Cruise Line fell 1.2%.

Stocks of media and entertainment companies were mixed after unionized screenwriters reached a tentative deal on Sunday to end their historic strike. No deal yet exists for striking actors.

Netflix rose 0.9%, while The Walt Disney Co. slipped 0.6%. Warner Brothers Discover dropped 3.2% for one of the biggest losses in the S&P 500.

Amazon rose 1.5% after it announced an investment of up to \$4 billion in Anthropic, as it takes a minority stake in the artificial intelligence startup. It's the latest Big Tech company to pour money into AI in the race to profit from opportunities that the latest generation of the technology is set to fuel.

In stock markets abroad, indexes slumped sharply across Europe and much of Asia.

Europe

France's CAC 40 fell 1.3%, and Germany's DAX lost 1.4% and Britain's FTSE 100 all declined about 0.7%.

Asia

Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 1.8%, while stocks in Shanghai fell 0.5%. Japan's Nikkei 225 was up 0.9% at 32,678.62. Seoul, the Kospi lost 0.5% to 2,495.76, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 reversed its losses to pick up 0.1%, to 7,076.50.

Oil

U.S. benchmark crude oil lost 15 cents to \$89.88 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It added 40 cents on Friday. Brent crude, the pricing basis for international trading, slipped 10 cents to \$91.86 per barrel.

Currencies

The U.S. dollar rose to 148.68 Japanese yen from 148.28 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0632 from \$1.0654.

Increase complicates global fight against inflation

Oil prices have risen, making gas more expensive

FRANKFURT, Germany, Sept 25, (AP): Oil prices have risen, meaning drivers are paying more for gasoline and truckers and farmers more for diesel.

The increase also complicates the global fight against inflation and feeds Russia's war chest. That poses problems for politicians as well as the people having to spend more to get to work, transport the world's goods or harvest fields.

Here are things to know about the recent increase - and where prices might be going:

Above all, Saudi Arabia's decision to cut back how much oil it sends to global markets has pushed prices higher.

The world's second-largest oil supplier has slashed production by 1 million barrels a day since July and decided this month to extend the cut through the end of the year.

Russia, Saudi Arabia's ally in the

OPEC+ oil producers' coalition, also extended its own cut of 300,000 barrels a month through 2023. Simply, tighter supply means higher prices.

International benchmark Brent oil traded at just under \$94 per barrel Monday, up from \$90 before the extension on Sept. 5 and from \$74 before the Saudi cut was first announced. U.S. oil traded at around \$90.50, up from \$68 before the Saudi cut.

Some analysts think oil could hit \$100 a barrel based on robust demand and limited supply. But that's far from the only view.

Oil prices can be volatile, and while they might briefly top \$100 in the coming months, they're unlikely to stay there, said Jorge Leon, senior vice president for oil markets at Rystad Energy. He foresees prices in the low \$90s on average in the last three months of the year. That's still high historically, he said, supported

by "resilient" demand for fuel to drive and fly.

The Saudi cuts were a unilateral move outside the framework of the OPEC+ alliance, meaning the kingdom can make changes as needed to quickly respond to shifting market conditions.

Leon said the Saudis will review the cuts each month - and could add barrels back if prices spike to levels that could seriously worsen inflation in countries buying oil. Excessive price increases could mean central banks worldwide hike interest rates further or keep them higher for longer.

"I don't think it will be clever for the Saudis to push that hard," Leon said. "The last thing you want to do is fuel inflation again with much higher oil prices. That's going to kill economic growth, and lower growth is going to mean lower oil demand at the end of the day."

Mitek teams up with Equifax to take on emerging digital fraud threats

Mitek Systems, Inc. (MITK), a global leader in making digital access faster and more secure, announced that it is partnering with Equifax Inc. (EFX), a global data, analytics, and technology company, to further advance biometric identity verification and liveness detection offerings that better protect consumers and businesses from emerging fraud threats.

In February 2023, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) released data showing that in 2022, there were more than 1.1 million reports of identity theft received

through the FTC's IdentityTheft.gov website. The same year, losses due to fraud cost Americans \$8.8 billion, an increase of more than 30 percent over the previous year. Additionally, credit card fraud is proven to be the top form of identity fraud with more than 400,000 reports in the past year. The National Council on Identity Theft Protection shows these statistics are continuing to rise as criminals adopt ever-more sophisticated methods.

Equifax will leverage Mitek's artificial intelligence-powered biometric veri-

fication and liveness detection capabilities to continue enhancements within its robust solution offering. This approach is designed to detect complex identity risks throughout the entire customer lifecycle, from onboarding to portfolio servicing, all without impacting customers' experiences.

"Our objective is to help businesses protect their customers and themselves from risks associated with digital interactions," said Adam Gunther, Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Digital Solutions team at Equifax. "Pro-

viding a safe and secure online environment is critical. We are working closely with partners like Mitek to provide a suite of identity verification and authentication solutions to help address the significant fraud challenges companies face today."

"We exist to keep people safe in the digital world," said Gavin Sollinger, Vice President of Strategic Global Alliances at Mitek. "Bad actors will always find new ways to take advantage of people. It is our job to stay ahead of them through the latest advances in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and

biometrics. It is an honor to join forces with Equifax, to deploy our pioneering technology to help strengthen consumer identity protection across the world."

Mitek (NASDAQ: MITK) is a global leader in digital access, founded to bridge the physical and digital worlds. Mitek's advanced identity verification technologies and global platform make digital access faster and more secure than ever, providing companies new levels of control, deployment ease and operation, while protecting the entire customer journey. (Business Wire)

New rating reflects the growing local brand in terms of corporate and individual services

Moody's raises Warba Bank's outlook from stable to positive

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The credit rating agency Moody's raised its future outlook for Warba Bank from stable to positive by affirming the Bank's ratings during the agency's latest evaluation.

Shaheen Hamad Al-Ghanem, CEO of Warba Bank, said, "The agency fixed the long-term deposit rating at baa2/P-2, raising the future outlook from stable to positive. The agency also fixed the counterparty risk rating at baa1/P-2." Al-Ghanem explained that Moody's fixed the Bank's basic rating and revised basic rating at ba3, while changing the Bank's future outlook from stable to positive. Pointing out that this fixation reflects the Bank's growing local brand in terms of both corporate and individual services. This supports Warba's recurring profitability and the strong quality of its assets and capital resources, in addition to its stable sources of financing.

Al-Ghanem stated that Moody's raised its future outlook for the Bank from stable to positive based on a number of positive aspects, including: the strong and diversified Islamic financial activity that the Bank offers in a way that enhances profitability, improving asset risks, strong capi-

tal, improved strong profitability, and continuous exit from previous obligations and the accompanying exposure to risks. He continued: "These advantages are offset by challenges, including: large focus on specific sectors and large international operations."

The Bank operates strong Islamic activity that supports its profitability, in addition to a strong commercial activity due to its major role as a provider of Islamic products in Kuwait. Despite its stability, it faces strong competition in the market, as this strong local stability continues to



Mr. Shaheen Al Ghanem, CEO

support core financing revenues, and it also represents a strong basis for the quality of the Bank's profits.

It is worth noting that Moody's is one of the largest accredited credit rating agencies in the world, as it is concerned with the basic banking and credit standards that represent the core of banking work without any external interference, and therefore it is the most reliable, credible and true standard for the efficiency and trustworthiness of banks at the regional and global levels.

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

Aimed at breaking down data silos

Dawex launches a Corporate Data Hub solution

PARIS, Sept 25, (Business Wire):

Dawex, the leader in Data Exchange solutions, today announced the launch of a Corporate Data Hub solution enabling each multinational corporation and large organization to accelerate internal data circulation within its multiple business units, departments & subsidiaries. Relying on Dawex Data Exchange technology, a Corporate Data Hub fosters true data collaboration within entities and gathers a powerful internal data ecosystem, in compliance with data regulations and the organization's data governance policies. Implementing a Corporate Data Hub within an organization accelerates information sharing, rationalizes data sourcing, improves operational efficiency, facilitates data exchange governance, and triggers more informed decisions to meet business, strategic & CSR objectives.

Acting as a federated Data Exchange solution, a Corporate Data Hub brings significant value on top of existing data fabrics or data catalogs. It enables data providers within an organization to publish, distribute and market their data products internally in a trusted, secure and compliant environment. Data providers decide who accesses the data, grant specific license use, trace data transactions and can also set internal transfer prices. Simultaneously, data acquirers within the same organization, either coming from the same team or from a different department, business unit or subsidiary, within the same country or from another regional location, can easily search, discover and access these data products, breaking down silos and nurturing cross-border, cross-entity knowledge sharing while controlling accesses.

Dawex Corporate Data Hub solution is built on state-of-the-art technologies such as distributed and open architectures, open standard, sovereign identities, and the Gaia-X Trust framework, to complement and seamlessly interoperate with existing data systems in large corporations. For example, it integrates easily with internal identity managers, API managers, data fabrics or storage infrastructures to create immediate value without requiring a long and costly IT transformation.

Dawex Data Exchange technology brings security, compliance, trust, flexibility and open architecture to organizations seeking to build a strong data ecosystem and operate data exchanges at drastically reduced time and effort. Additionally, Dawex Data Exchange Platform solutions comply with local data regulations such as GDPR, DGA in Europe, APPI in Japan, CCPA in the US, or LGPD in Brazil.

"In the age of data-driven decision-making, Corporate Data Hubs are an impactful solution for organizations seeking to internally unlock the full potential of their data", says Laurent Lafaye, Dawex co-CEO. "By fostering data collaboration, breaking down silos, and facilitating data circulation, a Corporate Data Hub empowers an organization to drive innovation, meet decarbonation objectives and achieve operational excellence."

A Corporate Data Hub can easily be combined with other Data Exchange models, such as a Data Marketplace or Industry Data Hub, as organizations explore hybrid models to adapt to their evolving Data Exchange needs and requirements, providing flexibility in data collaboration strategies.

Dawex is the leader in Data Exchange solutions to distribute or share data products, with trust, for any business case, in compliance with data regulations. With Dawex Data Exchange technology, organizations create data ecosystems and data spaces such as Data Marketplaces, Corporate Data Hubs and Industry Data Hubs to address economic, environmental and decarbonation challenges. Awarded Technology Pioneer by the World Economic Forum, Dawex is the initiator of an international standardization program on Trusted Data Transaction. Created in 2015, Dawex is headquartered in France, expanding business operations to Europe, Asia, North America and the Middle East.

NerdWallet

Palmer: 7 saving strategies you may not have tried yet

With the holiday shopping season just starting and prices of many consumer goods continuing to rise, saving money can seem impossible. But those financial pressures also make doing so even more important.

"Saving is your margin," says Eric Maldonado, a certified financial planner and owner of Aquila Wealth Advisors. "When things happen - your car breaks down or there's a layoff, or smaller stuff like gifts for the holidays - you have something to fall back on." Maldonado notes that saving can also allow you to have money for fun things.

The personal savings rate for Americans has been dropping in the last few months, and as of July was 3.5%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Maldonado recommends aiming for a savings rate closer to 20% of your take-home income. "You can live off of 80% and put 20% toward deferred gratification," he suggests.

That guidance matches the popular 50/30/20 budget, which suggests putting 50% of your take-home income toward needs, 30% toward wants, and 20% toward savings and any debt payments. "If you're just starting out, then it can be too daunting, but you can work toward it," Maldonado adds.

If you're looking for ways to power up your savings, consider these strategies:

Pause before buying

"One of the biggest mistakes people make is buying things you don't need," says Vivian Tu, author of the forthcoming book "Rich AF: The Winning Money Mindset That Will Change Your Life" and a TikTok influencer who posts as @YourRichBFF. To counter that tendency, she recommends "taking a beat" before making any purchase. "Really ask yourself, 'Why do I want that thing?' What makes it special?" she suggests.

Tu says asking herself that question helped her scale back on material purchases so she had more money for experiences, like vacations and brunches with friends.

Spread out the impact of big expenses

For big expenses that are on the horizon, Cary Carbonaro, a CFP and senior vice president at financial advisory firm ACM Wealth, recommends setting aside a small amount of money each month so the final cost doesn't overwhelm your budget.

"If you know you're going to spend \$1,200 at Christmas, then put aside \$100 a month for the whole year," Carbonaro suggests. "Everybody overspends in December unless you budgeted for it."

Try curbside pickup

When Ryan Greiser, a CFP

and founder of the financial firm Opulus, and his wife noticed their credit card bill going up with inflation, they brainstormed ways to cut back. One of their most successful ideas was relying on online grocery ordering with curbside pickup.

"We noticed that if we did curbside pickup, our bill was \$50 to \$100 less than if we went into the store because we only bought the things on our list. It reduced impulse buys and allowed us to easily compare prices and coupons that popped up on the screen," Greiser says. Given their weekly shopping needs for a family with three young children, that shift allowed them to save \$200 to \$400 a month.

Rotate subscriptions

Greiser and his family also started saving \$10 to \$30 a month by rotating their streaming subscriptions based on what shows they were currently watching. "We keep one or two active subscriptions and cancel the rest or pause it when a show wraps up so we can rotate to the next one," he says, adding that he sets a reminder on his calendar so he doesn't forget to cancel.

Similarly, he pauses his fitness subscriptions when the weather is good enough to exercise outside. "They are month to month, so easy to pause and restart," he says.

Ask for discounts

Speaking up for yourself is another saving strategy. "You have power as a consumer," Tu says.

That means you can ask your bank to waive late fees or overcharge fees, or ask for a discount on shoes that have a scuff on them. "Be polite, be kind, but you can be entitled and understand that your business has value," she adds. The answer might be "no," but there's no reason not to ask, and it might just save you some money.

Shop around for insurance

Find discounts on the bills you don't look at very often, too. Instead of letting your home and auto insurance auto-renew each month, consider taking time to shop around through an online comparison tool. When Greiser did that, he ended up saving a total of \$1,000 on his bundled auto and home insurance plan.

Sign up for cash-back apps

Popular cash-back apps like Rakuten, Ibotta and RetailMeNot allow you to earn cash back for online shopping after you set up an account. "I highly recommend using cash-back apps," Tu says. "I know it seems like kind of a pain to sign up, but you can save hundreds of dollars a year because it lets you get cash back on purchases you were already making."

Sometimes making the extra effort pays off, right into your savings account. (AP)

Rockwell Automation partners with BIC to drive 'digital transformation'

Bid to shift towards standardized and paperless ops

BRUSSELS, Sept 25, (PR Newswire): Rockwell Automation, Inc. (NYSE: ROK), the world's largest company dedicated to industrial automation and digital transformation, today announced the successful one-year implementation of the Plex Manufacturing Execution System (MES) at BIC, a world leader in stationery, lighters, and shavers, at its plant in Bizerte, Tunisia.

BIC's primary business drivers for digitalization and transformation are the standardization of production processes and integration across machines, people, and business layers. Plex MES was selected for its broad functional scope and technical capabilities, with cloud-based Software as a Service solution offering comprehensive support to BIC's standardization process.

Malte Dieckelmann, Vice President of Enterprise Software Sales, EMEA, explains, "Our collaboration with BIC marks a major milestone in digitally transforming its manufacturing operations. By leveraging Plex MES, BIC can transition to a more efficient, standardized, and paperless system. This development not only improves operations but also aligns with our shared focus on innovation and efficiency."

The deployment of Plex MES began in 2020 with a pilot project at BIC's production facility in Bizerte, Tunisia. The Plex MES system offers live reporting, enabling real-time visibility, automation of data collection, and tracking of production KPIs. The benefits of this project include improved inventory control, waste reduction, reduced error from manual processing, and overall equipment efficiency (OEE). It has also allowed for the automation of production integration, a significant change for people on the shop floor.

Rogelio Demay, Senior Manager Information Technology Manufacturing, at BIC, states: "Our journey towards digital transformation is fundamentally about integrating people and technology to improve operations. The shift from a paper-based system to Plex MES has been a tremendous step towards self-sufficiency, enabling us to react swiftly to issues, drive continuous improvement, and ultimately enhance efficiency."



Rogelio Demay (right), senior manager information technology manufacturing at BIC, and Sami Souidi (left), plant director at BIC's manufacturing plant in Bizerte, Tunisia, review Plex Manufacturing Execution System (MES) dashboards with a team member at the facility.

Plex MES also serves as a foundation for BIC's broader Smart Manufacturing Initiative, including the integration of additional elements within the factory to help shift from a paper-based system to Plex MES and support self-sufficiency with a 360-degree view of the factory floor.

Rockwell Automation has been a key partner in this initiative, supporting BIC's vision of connecting operational technologies and the IoT world, bridging the gap between these two spheres and seamlessly integrating them into the company's operations to provide one single source of truth for manufacturing data.

Demay adds, "We value our past while embracing innovation, with a focus on breaking down silos to integrate technology and people. We believe our people are the first factor for success and integrating MES with daily routines is our way forward to improve operational efficiency."

BIC is poised to continue this digital transformation beyond the Bizerte plant and Dafni Vakasi, Smart Manufacturing Manager at BIC described how this approach will be applied across the other BIC factories in Athens, Manaus, and Mexico with the Plex MES solution playing a major role in the journey. The expansion will also deliver benefits beyond BIC's factory walls, helping to integrate suppliers on one side and delivery on the other to fully realize the goals of Industry 4.0, including driving actionable insights from data to empower decisions. With Rockwell Automation's support, BIC's journey is set to revolutionize its operations and establish a new standard in the manufacturing industry.

Visit Rockwell's web site for more information on Plex MES and

other offerings. To learn more about BIC, visit the company website here.

About Rockwell Automation Rockwell Automation, Inc. (NYSE: ROK), is a global leader in industrial automation and digital transformation. We connect the imaginations of people with the potential of technology to expand what is humanly possible, making the world more productive and more sustainable. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Rockwell Automation employs approximately 28,000 problem solvers dedicated to our customers in more than 100 countries. To learn more about how we are bringing the Connected Enterprise to life across industrial enterprises, visit www.rockwellautomation.com.

About BIC A world leader in stationery, lighters and shavers, BIC brings simplicity and joy to everyday life. For more than 75 years, the Company has honored the tradition of providing high-quality, affordable, essential products to consumers everywhere. Through this unwavering dedication, BIC has become one of the most recognized brands and is a trademark registered worldwide. Today, BIC products are sold in more than 160 countries around the world and feature iconic brands such as BIC Kids™, BIC Flex™, BodyMark by BICTM, Cello®, Djeep, Lucky Stationery, Rocketbook®, Soleil®, Tipp-Ex®, Us. TM, Write-Out®, Inkbox and more. In 2022, BIC Net Sales were 2,233.9 million euros. The Company is listed on "Euronext Paris", is part of the SBF120 and CAC Mid 60 indexes and is recognized for its commitment to sustainable development and education. It received an A- Leadership score from CDP. For more, visit www.bic.com or follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube.

EU Commission blocks Booking's planned acquisition of Etraveli

BRUSSELS, Sept 25, (AP): The European Union's executive arm said Monday it is blocking leading U.S. online travel agency Booking from acquiring Sweden's flight booking provider Etraveli Group because it would have allowed it to increase its dominant position on the market on the continent.

The European Commission said it had warned Booking Holdings about its concerns but that the remedies offered by the company were not sufficient. Booking's brands include Booking.com, Rentalcars, Priceline and Agoda.

Booking Holdings said it plans to appeal, adding that the fusion would have "delivered tremendous benefits for consumers and partners by bringing more options and competitive

pricing."

"The Company strongly believes the Commission is wrong on both the facts of the case and the law applicable to this transaction, which was cleared unconditionally by multiple competition authorities," it said. "Booking Holdings regrets very much the lack of convergence of the European Commission with other major international enforcers on this pro-competitive transaction."

Following its investigation, the Commission had opposite views. It believes the proposed 1.63-billion-euro (\$1.8 billion) deal would have led to higher costs for hotels, and possibly, a negative impact on the price paid by consumers.

"Bans are rare, and today's decision is in fact the first merger to be

blocked this year," EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders said.

According to the European Commission, online travel agencies (OTA) handle transactions worth more than 100 billion euros (\$106 billion) per year.

Mathias Hedlund, the chief executive officer of Etraveli Group, was disappointed by the Commission's move.

"For Etraveli Group to come together with Booking.com beyond the existing commercial partnership would have further benefited European consumers by reducing prices and enhancing competition in the flight sector while undoubtedly having negligible effects in the hotel OTA sector," he said.

SmartStream appoints Akber Jaffer as Chief Executive Officer

SmartStream, the financial Transaction Lifecycle Management (TLM®) solutions provider, announced today the appointment of Akber Jaffer as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective September 19, 2023.

Having spent several years immersed in both start-up and scaled software and technology businesses, Akber Jaffer is an accomplished leader with a passion for technology and a dedication to execution and client focus. Akber recently worked in senior leadership roles at Finastra and

Colt Technology Services, making him the ideal candidate to guide SmartStream into its next phase of growth and innovation.

Commenting on the appointment, Khalifa AlDaboos, Chairman of the Board, said, "We warmly welcome Akber Jaffer as our new SmartStream CEO. He brings a distinguished career in financial services and software to our organisation. His wide-ranging experience and track record of success make him ideally suited to lead SmartStream. I am confident that under

his leadership, our company will continue to flourish."

Akber Jaffer, CEO, SmartStream said, "I am honored and thrilled to join SmartStream as CEO. I believe in the company's mission, and I am committed to build upon its broad and excellent capabilities. Together with the talented team of colleagues who have been instrumental in the company's success, we will continue to deliver market leading solutions and drive value for our customers and partners"

Haytham Kaddoura, former CEO, SmartStream, said, "We are confident that Akber is the right leader to take SmartStream to new heights. His extensive experience and vision align perfectly with the company's mission and he will drive the development of new technologies to meet the demands of the industry."

SmartStream expresses its gratitude to Haytham Kaddoura for his contributions during his tenure and wishes him success in his future endeavors while welcoming him to the Board of the company.

SmartStream is a recognised leader in financial transaction management solutions that enable firms to improve operational control, reduce costs, build new revenue streams, mitigate risk and comply with the regulators.

By helping its customers through their transformative digital strategies, SmartStream provides a range of solutions for the transaction lifecycle with AI and machine learning technologies embedded - which can be deployed in the cloud or as managed services.



Some photos taken during the welcome ceremony.

AIU welcomes new students for Fall 2023

American International University (AIU) Kuwait, is thrilled to announce a dynamic lineup of events and activities to usher in the Fall 2023 academic semester, aiming to create a vibrant and engaging environment for both new and returning students.

The New Student Orientation (NSO) kicked off the festivities, providing an essential introduction to AIU's campus life and immersing students in its unique culture. Parent Orientation followed suit, offering parents valuable insights into their children's journey.

The Informational Resource Fair (IRF) was an enriching event that

served as a warm welcome, providing a comprehensive overview of AIU's diverse resources. It featured dedicated booths for each school and department, including Academic Advising, Tutoring Center, Career Services as well as the Athletic Center and many more. These booths were strategically positioned to facilitate and enhance every aspect of the students' experience.

AIU believes in fostering a sense of community, and this year's student mixers for each school was the perfect opportunity to exemplify the commitment to facilitate meaningful connections among students and faculty

members. These mixers not only provided students with a platform to bonds with their peers but also presented a unique opportunity to connect with their esteemed faculty team, through a thoughtfully curated range of engaging activities, specifically designed to help break the ice and give students an exciting boost to start their academic year.

AIU is committed to ensuring that students begin their academic journey with the tools for success and a multitude of avenues of both personal and academic development. We look forward to the Fall 2023 semester and the enriching experiences it promises to bring.

KIB wins award for launching the 1st Biometric Visa Card in Kuwait



KIB receiving the award from Visa.

Leadership role affirmed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) won an award for launching the first Biometric Visa Card in Kuwait, which uses the customer's fingerprint to authorize POS transactions. The Bank's management received this award at KIB's headquarters from Artii Thancki, Visa's Head of Fintech and Partnerships for Kuwait and Qatar.

Attending the ceremony were Othman Tafweq, General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, Fahad Othman AlBader, General Manager of the Operations Department at KIB, Faisal Al-Shuwairid, Assistant General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, and Deema Al Mulaifi, Assistant General Manager of Operations at KIB.



KIB's Deema Al Mulaifi

Commenting on KIB's latest achievement, Al Mulaifi said: "We are full of pride for receiving this distinctive award. We consider it a reaffirmation of KIB's leadership in offering innovative Islamic products and services that aim to provide a fine banking experience for our customers, whose financial comfort and safety are among our priorities. We also consider



Visa's Artii Thancki

this award as the fruit of our continuous efforts in line with our digitization strategy."

She added that the KIB Biometric Visa Card provides customers of the Black segment with additional security features that guarantee they enjoy the Bank's services without worry. The Card allows them to easily pay for their purchases with their finger-

prints instead of entering a passcode, facilitated by the technology offered by Zwipe.

On her part, Visa's Thancki said: "We are delighted to present this award to KIB, a longstanding partner of Visa in our journey to introduce the latest innovative digital payment products to Kuwait. Visa remains committed to working with partners like KIB in designing secure, seamless and rewarding payment experiences for Visa cardholders and supporting the Kuwait government's digital commerce ambitions."

It is worth noting that KIB spares no effort to achieve its strategic digitization goals through numerous initiatives and plans. This strategy includes restructuring its business model, enhancing its technological structure, and introducing new electronic banking solutions that attract the largest possible segment of customers while keeping pace with their modern lifestyle. It also encompasses developing the Bank's branch network and functionality, as well as enhancing the competencies and skills of employees to develop its growth opportunities and solidify its position in the market.

Support for 'Diraya' campaign rolls on

KFH sheds light on customers rights & regulations of dealing with banks

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Kuwait Finance House "KFH" continues efforts to support "Diraya" financial and banking awareness campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association for the second year in a row.

The campaign aims to shed light on customers rights, rules and regulations of dealing with banks, information safety and security against intrusion, combating fraud transactions in addition to other warnings and regulations.

This campaign comes as part of the bank obligation to keep the customers informed about their rights and duties towards banking and financial transactions and their cyber security.

The campaign discusses finance types, banking cards, awareness of customers with special needs, tips on cyber security and protection of bank accounts.

Also, it provides the mechanism to lodge complaints, protect customers rights and identify the banking sector duties and its role in enhancing and developing national economy.

KFH contribution in the campaign comprises the dispatch of various messages on different topics related to the main components of the campaign.

These messages are sent to all types of customers to suite the culture and nature of each tier.

Also, messages are sent on continuous basis to employees who are considered as the second main component in the awareness triangle (customers - employees - public) who are either potential or targeted customers, thus aiming to achieve the targets of the campaign.

The main targets of the campaign comprise awareness, identification of and warning against any possible risks of failing to follow safety and security instructions upon using modern technology means.

Regulations include refraining from extending any information about accounts and personal transactions to any unknown parties or reply to messages from unknown sources as this would be a violation to data privacy and banking protection regulations.

KFH is keen on spreading financial education, saving and investment knowledge and customer's awareness of the bank's products and services.

KFH appreciates the efforts extended by the Central Bank



Diraya logo

of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association in organizing the Be Aware "Diraya" campaign to spread awareness in society regarding banking and financial transactions and e-banking services.

Technology has opened vast business opportunities. However, several risks and challenges were also detected considering the several attempts, most of which failed, to hack customers accounts and cause system damage.

Accordingly, this situation has called for a comprehensive awareness plan and enhancement of the cyber security systems, anti-money laundering systems and prevention of other legally incriminated and suspicious activities.

KFH messages highlight the clear and defined policies placed by the Central Bank of Kuwait to supervise the lending and finance operations at banks.

These policies provide that the customer shall be provided with the loan details, value and No. of instalments, settlement dates, instalment/ net salary ratio and default penalties.

The customer is given at least 2 days grace period to review the contract fully before signing.

Once signed, a draft copy of the contract shall be given to the customer including type of loan, payment term, instalment value and profit.

There are two types of loans offered to customers, consumer loan and residential loan.

According to CBK instructions, the bank is required to provide financial advice and all information concerning the finance contract and explain all details related to the finance transaction including rate of return/ finance amount, No. of installments to be paid by customer and components of each instalment before signing the contract with the customer.

Customer shall be given two days period to review the contract and read the terms and conditions carefully and be aware of his rights and obligations before signing the contract.

EU commissioner calls for more balanced trade with China

BEIJING, Sept 25, (AP): The European Union's trade commissioner called for a more balanced economic relationship with China on Monday, noting an EU trade deficit of nearly 400 billion euros (\$425 billion), while also warning that China's position on the war in Ukraine could endanger its relationship with Europe.

Valdis Dombrovskis, in a speech at China's prestigious Tsinghua University, said that the EU and China face significant political and economic headwinds that could cause them to drift apart.

"The strongest, yet not the only, headwind is Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and how China positions itself on this issue," he said. Dombrovskis spoke before high-level economic and trade talks with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng. EU

leaders have expressed concern about the bloc's growing trade deficit with China, which reached 396 billion euros last year. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen recently announced an investigation into Chinese subsidies to electric vehicle makers, saying a flood of cheaper Chinese cars is distorting the European market.

The Chinese government has called the investigation a protectionist act aimed at distorting the supply chain. Dombrovskis, in his Tsinghua address, said the probe would follow well-established rules and be done in consultation with Chinese authorities and stakeholders.

The EU trade commissioner urged China to address the lack of reciprocity in the economic relationship, saying "the figures speak for themselves." He said that China has created a

more politicized business environment to protect its national security and development interests, resulting in less transparency, unequal access to procurement, and discriminatory standards and security requirements.

Dombrovskis cited as examples a new foreign relations law and an updated anti-espionage law that has European companies struggling to understand their compliance obligations.

"Their ambiguity allows too much room for interpretation," he said about the laws, adding they deter new investment in China.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that China provides a market-oriented, law-based business environment for foreign companies.

"As long as the companies are operating in accordance with the law, they

don't have to worry," he said.

Chinese officials have been trying to lure back foreign investment to help the economy emerge from a sluggishness that has persisted despite the lifting of pandemic restrictions last December.

The Chinese government has tried to remain neutral in the war in Ukraine rather than joining the United States and much of Europe in condemning the Russian invasion. Dombrovskis, who is Latvian, noted that territorial integrity has always been a key principle for China in international diplomacy.

"Russia's war is a blatant breach of this principle," he said. "So it's very difficult for us to understand China's stance on Russia's war against Ukraine, as it breaches China's own fundamental principles."

BUSINESS

Lego remains committed to sustainable materials

Denmark's Lego said on Monday that it remains committed to its quest to find sustainable materials to reduce carbon emissions, even after an experiment by the world's largest toymaker to use recycled bottles did not work.

Lego said it has "decided not to progress" with making its trademark colorful bricks from recycled plastic bottles made of polyethylene terephthalate, known as PET, and after more than two years of testing

"found the material didn't reduce carbon emissions."

Still, the toymaker remains "fully committed to making Lego bricks from sustainable materials by 2032," it added.

Two years ago, the privately-held group which makes its bricks out of oil-based plastic, started researching a potential transition to recycled plastic bottles made of PET plastic, which doesn't degrade in quality when recycled.

It had invested "more than \$1.2 billion in sustainability initiatives" as part of efforts to transition to more sustainable materials and reduce our carbon emissions by 37% by 2032, Lego said.

The company said it was "currently testing and developing Lego bricks made from a range of alternative sustainable materials, including other recycled plastics and plastics made from alternative sources such as e-methanol." (AP)

EU blocks Booking's acquisition of Etraveli

The European Union's executive arm said Monday it is blocking leading US online travel agency Booking from acquiring Sweden's flight booking provider Etraveli Group because it would have allowed it to increase its dominant position on the market on the continent.

The European Commission said it had warned Booking Holdings about its concerns but that the remedies offered by the company were not sufficient. Booking's brands include Booking.com, Rentalcars, Priceline and Agoda.

Following its investigation, the Commission said it found out the proposed 1.63-billion-euro (\$1.8 billion) deal would have led to higher costs for hotels, and possibly, a negative impact on the price paid by consumers.

"Bans are rare, and today's decision is in fact the first merger to be blocked this year," EU Justice Commissioner Didier Reynders said.

According to the European Commission, online travel agencies handle transactions worth more than 100 billion euros (\$106 billion) per year. (AP)

The Conversation

Fossil fuel industry seems to be an example of 'green paradox'

EV sales surge raises questions about oil industry's expansion

By Robert Brecha
University of Dayton

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



Electric vehicle sales are growing faster than expected around the world, and sales of gas- and diesel-powered vehicles have been falling. Yet, the US government still forecasts an increasing demand for oil, and the oil industry is doubling down on production plans.

Why is that, and what happens if the US projections for growing oil demand are wrong?

I study sustainability and global energy system transformations. Let's take a closer look at the changes underway.

On Sept. 12, 2023, Fatih Birol, director of the International Energy Agency, an intergovernmental organization that advises the world's major economies, drew global attention when he wrote in the Financial Times that the IEA is now projecting a global peak in demand for oil, gas and coal by 2030.

The new date was a significant leap forward in time compared with previous estimates that the peak would not be until the 2030s for oil and even later for gas. It also stood out because the IEA has typically been quite conservative in modeling changes to the global energy system.

Birol pointed to changes in energy policies and a faster-than-expected rise in clean technologies - including electric vehicles - along with Europe's shift away from fossil fuels amid Russia's war in Ukraine as the primary reasons. He wrote that the IEA's upcoming World Energy Outlook "shows the world is on the cusp of a historic turning point."

The United Nations also released its "global stocktake" report in early September, assessing the world's progress toward meeting the Paris climate agreement goals of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared with preindustrial temperatures. The report found serious gaps in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by soon after mid-century. However, it noted two bright spots: The world is more or less on track in the growth in solar photovoltaics for renewable energy - and in the growth of electric vehicles.

The dynamics of EV expansion are important because each vehicle that uses

electricity instead of gasoline or diesel fuel will depress demand for oil. Even though demand for petroleum products in other sectors, like aviation and petrochemicals, is still increasing, the IEA expects a decline in road transportation's 50% share of oil consumption to drive an overall peak in demand within a few years.

EVs are now on pace to dominate global car sales by 2030, with fast growth in China in particular, according to analysts at the Rocky Mountain Institute. If countries continue to upgrade their electricity and charging infrastructure, "the endgame for one quarter of global oil demand will be in sight," they wrote in a new report. As electric trucks become more common, oil demand will likely drop even faster, the analysts wrote.

Global sales of light-duty vehicles already show a decrease in internal combustion - gasoline and diesel - vehicle sales, mainly due to increasing EV sales, but also due to an overall decline in vehicle sales that started even before the pandemic.

Based on the data, it appears that global oil demand will peak relatively soon. Yet, major oil companies say they plan to increase their production, and the US Energy Information Administration still projects that global demand for oil and fossil fuels will continue to grow.

Exploration

Vehicles do last longer today than they did a couple of decades ago, and they are also larger, slowing down efficiency gains. But the Energy Information Administration appears to be lowballing projections for EV growth.

The Biden administration, which pushed through large US tax incentives for EV purchases, has taken steps to clear the way for increasing some oil and natural gas exploration. And large government subsidies continue flowing to fossil fuel industries in many countries. These contradictions undermine the goals of the Paris Agreement and could lead to costly stranded assets.

It's fair to assume that large industries should have a good handle on future developments expected to affect their fields. But they often have a competing priority to ensure that short-term gains are preserved.

Electric utilities are an example. Most didn't feel threatened by renewable elec-

tricity until penetration expanded quickly in their territories. In response, some have lobbied to hold off further progress and invented spurious reasons to favor fossil fuels over renewables.

Of course, some companies have changed their business models to embrace the renewable energy transition, but these seem to still be in a minority.

Large corporations such as BP and TotalEnergies invest in renewables, but these investments are often offset by equally large investments in new fossil fuel exploration.

Both Shell and BP recently backpedaled on their previous climate commitments in spite of tacit admissions that increasing oil production is inconsistent with climate change mitigation. Exxon's CEO said in June 2023 that his company aimed to double its US shale oil production over the next five years.

What is happening in the fossil fuel industry seems to be an example of the so-called "green paradox," in which it is rational, from a profit-maximization point of view, to extract these resources as quickly as possible when faced with the threat of future decreased market value.

That is, if a company can see that in the future its product will make less money or be threatened by environmental policies, it would be likely to sell as much as possible now. As part of that process, it may be very willing to encourage the building of fossil fuel infrastructure that clearly won't be viable a decade or two in the future, creating what are known as stranded assets.

In the long run, countries encouraged to borrow to make these investments may be stuck with the bill, in addition to the global climate change impacts that will result.

Extractive industries have known about climate change for decades. But rather than transform themselves into broad-based energy companies, most have doubled down on oil, coal and natural gas. More than two dozen US cities, counties and states are now suing fossil fuel companies over the harms caused by climate change and accusing them of misleading the public, with California filing the latest lawsuit on Sept. 15, 2023.

The question is whether these companies will be able to successfully adapt to a renewable energy world, or whether they will follow the path of US coal companies and not recognize their own decline until it is too late. (AP)

Fukushima: renewable energy frontier

Renewable energy takes center stage at AIST RD20 International Conference

TOKYO, Sept. 25: The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as "AIST") based in Tokyo will hold an international conference, "The 5th RD20," from Wednesday, October 4, to Friday, October 6, 2023 in Fukushima, a frontier for renewable energy development. The conference is part of Tokyo GX Week organized by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Online participation in the conference including on-demand viewing is available.

The Technical Session includes a plenary part and the following part of three parallel themes with 21 speakers from 17 organizations: Theme 1: Applications and impacts of H2 for decarbonization of energy sectors and for power to X Theme 2: LCA and environmental impacts on large-scale deployment of PV Theme 3: CCU -- with a focus on CCU value proposition and integration themes

The Leaders Session consists of keynote addresses and round-table discussions. Directors and representatives from member research institutes will discuss international collaboration in the field of clean energy and declare the results at the end of the session.

RD20 Overview: The RD20 is a framework for international research and development aiming to strengthen international collaboration and promote innovation, including international joint projects such as solar power generation and hydrogen, as well as creation of human resource development plans. Its members are the following leading research institutes in G20 countries and regions that develop the world's most advanced technologies for achieving carbon neutrality.

Member Organizations: INTI(AR), CSIRO(AU), UFSCar(BR), NRC(CA), DICP(CN), JRC(EU), CEAC(FR), CNRS(FR), Fh-G(DE), Fh-ISE(DE), TERI(IN), BRIN(ID), ENEA(IT), CINVESTAV(MX), KIER(KR), KACARE(SA), CSIR(ZA), MAM(TR), UKERC(UK), NREL(US), NIMS(JP), RIKEN(JP), AIST(JP)

Co-hosts: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI); Ministry of the Environment; New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)

Also:

RESTON: Intact Technology, Inc., a leading Enterprise Service Management (ESM) provider, announces the appointment of **Randall Fulk** as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective immediately.

Fulk brings 20 years of finance, accounting, and operations leadership experience in the Information Technology (IT) consulting industry. In this role, Fulk will lead Intact's financial strategy to support continued innovation. He joins Intact from the consulting firm CrossVue where he served as CFO and Chief Operating Officer. Prior, Fulk was CFO at Acumen Solutions for nearly 15 years where he oversaw the firm's significant revenue growth before being acquired by Salesforce in 2021.

"We are pleased to welcome Randy to Intact. Randy has a strong track record of leading teams to scale rapidly, something Intact continues to do thanks to our category defining outcome-based managed service model," said **Jesse White**, CEO, Intact. "Randy's financial leadership expertise and extensive background in high growth services firms is exciting to add to the team as we continue on our journey."

KuCoin celebrates 6 years with 30m users

VICTORIA, Seychelles, Sept 25: KuCoin, a top five cryptocurrency exchange in the world, is celebrating its 6th Anniversary with a breakthrough achievement of surpassing 30 million users, two momentous milestones of its journey at the same time. This remarkable achievement is a testament to KuCoin's commitment to excellence and its unwavering dedication to the global crypto community.

Since its inception, KuCoin has been committed to providing a secure and reliable platform for users to trade cryptocurrencies. With its user-friendly interface, advanced trading features, and top-notch security measures, KuCoin has gained immense popularity among cryptocurrency enthusiasts and investors worldwide.

CEO Johnny Lyu, in a heartfelt address encapsulated in his CEO Letter, expressed profound gratitude to users for

their continuous support throughout this incredible development. He reaffirmed KuCoin's unwavering core-value to be the 'People's Exchange', continuing to prioritize user asset safety and security, fostering innovation, and providing unparalleled customer service. Furthermore, KuCoin remains devoted to its mission of facilitating the global free flow of digital value.

He also expressed his excitement about reaching this significant milestone, stating, "We are thrilled to have reached 30 million users on KuCoin. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, as well as the trust and support of our valued users. Since the release of the first POR in December 2022, KuCoin has been publishing POR for 10 consecutive months, fulfilling our commitment to users and allowing them to trade at the peace.

Ultimate gaming accessory

Casio to release League of Legends G-SHOCK watches

TOKYO, Sept 25: Casio Computer Co., Ltd. has announced the release of the newest additions to its family of G-SHOCK shock-resistant watches. The two new watches - the GM-B2100LL and GA-110LL - are collaborations with Riot Games, a world leader in e-sports and developer and publisher of the hit global online game, League of Legends.

League of Legends is a five-on-five competitive multiplayer game from the US Players control characters called "champions" as they fight to push through to their opponent's base. The appeal of a diverse range of characters, images, music, and other content has made the game a worldwide smash hit.

The new shock-resistant GM-B2100LL and GA-110LL, which are based, respectively, on the full-metal GM-B2100 with octagonal bezel and the GA-110 with its distinctive three-dimensional dial, evoke the realistic game world with League of Legends details throughout, including the dial, case, and band.

GM-B2100LL Inspired by Game World Technology
The design features the Hextech fusion of magic and technology from the League of Legends world. The bezel and parts of the band are treated with an aged finish for a time-worn look and feel. Blue touches on the LCD and minute hand represent the color of the Hextech technology.

GA-110LL Features Popular Jinx Character
The popular and charismatic champion, Jinx, is represented on the bezel and band with a vivid color scheme. The band and the indicator hand on the inset dial at the 9 o'clock position recall the rocket that is Jinx's signature "weapon".



Casio's League of Legends G-SHOCK watch.



An array of cutting-edge global manufacturing innovations took the spotlight at the World Manufacturing Convention in Hefei, Anhui province of China.

Innovations galore

World Manufacturing Convention spurs over 350b yuan investments

HEFEI, China, Sept 25: An array of cutting-edge global manufacturing innovations took the spotlight, including a maglev train with a top speed of 600 km/h, the world's heaviest 80,000-ton die forging press, a signature Chinese eVTOL tiltrotor aircraft, and a state-of-the-art superconducting cyclotron proton therapy system - all showcased at the World Manufacturing Convention (the "Convention") in Hefei, Anhui province on September 20, 2023.

On the opening day, the event brought together more than 1,200 business leaders and industry experts from the global manufacturing sector.

In a promising uptick this year, China's manufacturing sector is rebounding, bolstering the nation's overall economic stability, and playing a pivotal role in the global economic revival.

In his keynote address, Christian Wulff, former President of Germany and now Global Chairman of the Global Alliance of SMEs (GASME), underscored the enduring ties between China and Germany, the world's twin powerhouses of manufacturing. Their shared journey, characterized by ever-deepening collaboration in the sector, has flourished particularly in Anhui, where over 150 ventures boast German investment from industry giants, among them, Volkswagen, Continental, Bosch and Siemens. Notably, the alliance between JAC Motors and Volkswagen stands out as a paragon of bilateral corporate synergy.

Wang Chuanfu, BYD Chairman and President, highlighted the manufacturing sector's shift towards a more sophisticated, intelligent and eco-friendly future, providing new impetus and opportunities for global economic recovery. He emphasized that achieving top-tier manufacturing hinges on the seamless integration of global industrial chains and the expansive reach of the global consumer market.

At the Convention, organizers released the list of China's top 500 manu-

Revolutionizing learning

Global education showcase of Huawei driving 'digitalization'

SHANGHAI, Sept. 25: During HUAWEI CONNECT 2023, Huawei launched the global intelligent education showcase at the session titled "Smart Teaching and Learning Accelerate Intelligence in Education", and introduced its digital education ecosystem solution reference architecture, aiming to build a fully connected, sensed, and intelligent education ecosystem and accelerate intelligent upgrade in education.

Xia Zun, President of the Global Public Sector, Huawei Enterprise BG, said in the opening speech that in today's digital society, education tends to center on learners. He added that intelligence has ushered the education sector into a new era, and intelligent technologies have nurtured more forms of education, which keeps raising the bar for transformation. Xia also remarked that Huawei, together with its partners, will keep leveraging next-generation technologies like AI, big data, and VR, to help the education sector go digital and intelligent and share achievements in this sector.

Huang Yu, Education Solution Expert of Huawei Enterprise BG, proposed the digital education ecosystem

solution reference architecture at the session. Huang said that Huawei has leveraged its advantages in cloud-network-edge-device to build such an ecosystem through "one screen, network, cloud, platform, and entry". By integrating education resources across scenarios, Huawei has gone from intelligent connection to multi-level all-round collaboration across intelligent platforms and apps. This empowers the sector by bridging the digital divide and providing quality education for all.

The Education Bureau of Dongguan has worked with Huawei to carry out intelligent education construction and created a showcase deployed with Huawei's smart campus solution and the regional education cloud platform, providing an example to other cities. This showcase has integrated ICTs to demonstrate Dongguan's achievements in intelligent education, including "one center and two platforms", new education infrastructure, network security, and smart campus. These achievements cover an array of scenarios like data and service management, online learning, and digital teaching, and culminate to be a milestone in Dongguan's education development.

facturers for 2023, alongside a slew of cutting-edge technologies and products emerging from Anhui's robust manufacturing landscape. Notably, a high-stakes signing ceremony saw 20 marquee projects inked on the Convention floor. Throughout the gathering, a whirlwind of deals led to 587 manufacturing part-

nerships, pouring investments to the tune of 342.5 billion yuan into the sector.

Covering a vast 80,000 square meters, the Convention showcased innovations ranging from quantum technology and AI breakthroughs to state-of-the-art equipment and next-gen smart home appliances.



Aster Guardians logo

Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024 now open for entry worldwide

In its continued efforts to recognize the contribution of nurses to humanity and the healthcare community, Aster DM Healthcare has announced the third edition of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award. The award invites registered nurses from across the world to apply by submitting nomination of their work on www.asterguardians.com.
Nurses can apply in one Primary and up to two Secondary areas of contribution, namely – Patient Care, Nursing Leadership, Nursing Education, Social or Community service and Research/ Innovation/ Entrepreneurship in Healthcare. The secondary areas of contribution can be optional.

All applications received will follow a stringent review process led by an independent jury and an external advisory firm – Ernst & Young LLP (EY). The Grand Jury, consisting of an independent panel of renowned experts will review the shortlisted applications to select the final top 10 nurses, who will undergo further assessments for the final winner to be determined and announced in the month of May 2024, around International Nurses Day.
"Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award has emerged as one of the leading awards in the global nursing community with the highest prize money

and provides a platform for nurses to share their life's work. After the success of the first and second editions, which brought forward the spirit of leadership, innovation, community service, care and education we are encouraged to continue championing the voice of nursing and help them get their due recognition," said Dr. Azad Moopen, Founder Chairman and Managing Director of Aster DM Healthcare.
In the first edition of the award held in Dubai in May 2022, Nurse Anna Qabale Duba from Kenya bagged the award. The second edition received over 52,000 registrations from 202 countries. (AP)

The Conversation

Your bladder can signal the brain when it's full, even while you're asleep

Improving sleep quality: How to minimize impact of bathroom break

By Jennifer Ahn
University of Washington

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

As you drink water during the day, your body turns extra liquid it doesn't need into pee. Your bladder stores the urine and eventually alerts you when it's time to take a trip to the toilet.

But what about at night? How does your body know not to pee while you're asleep?

Just because you're snoozing doesn't mean your body is totally offline - continuous processes like breathing, digestion and, yes, making pee, still happen while you're asleep. Your bladder and your brain work together to know what to do with that big glass of water you drank before bed.

Using the bathroom every day is routine for many people, so it's something you might not pay much attention to. But as a pediatric urologist, understanding how the brain and bladder work together - and sometimes miscommunicate - is an important part of my job.

Coordination

The bladder has two main jobs: to safely store urine and to empty it out. While it seems simple, these two tasks take a lot of complex coordination of muscles and nerves - that's the brain's job.

For babies and young kids, the bladder has reflexes, meaning it automatically knows when to squeeze the muscles to empty the urine. Since babies can't control this consciously, they typically wear diapers. But as kids grow, the bladder muscles and nerves also grow, which gives a youngster more control over their bladder.

During toilet training, which usually happens by the age of 3 or 4 in the US, kids learn how to use the toilet voluntarily. This means that they can feel when the bladder is getting full and their brain can receive and understand that signal. The brain can then tell the bladder to "hold it" until they've made it to the toilet and it's safe to pee.

Most children first learn how to use the toilet during the day. Using the bathroom overnight can be more difficult because the sleeping brain doesn't receive signals in the same way as when awake.

While awake, if there's a loud noise or a bright light, the body senses it and reacts. But during sleep, the body may not hear that noise or see that light because the brain is in sleep mode. Imagine sleeping through an overnight thunderstorm that you didn't realize happened until you hear people talking about it in the morning. Your brain didn't process the loud noises because it was focusing on sleep.

The same thing can happen with bladder signals. The bladder fills with urine 24 hours a day, even while you're snoozing, and it sends signals

to the brain when it's full. In order to help you get enough sleep, your brain will tell your bladder to hold it until morning.

Sometimes, if you really need to go, your brain will tell your body to wake up so you can go empty your full bladder. While it's normal to wake up to pee sometimes - especially if you drank a big cup of hot chocolate right before bed - most older kids can usually sleep through the night without needing to use the toilet.

Stumble

When the brain and bladder are working together well, your bladder gradually fills up overnight and hangs on til morning when you stumble into the bathroom to empty it.

But there are many ways the communication between the brain and the bladder can break down. For one, the brain may not get the bladder's message that it's time to go. Even if the brain gets the message, it may not be able to tell the bladder to hold on. Or, when the bladder can't wait, the brain might not tell your body to wake up. If the signals and messages aren't sent, or are received incorrectly, the bladder will go into reflex mode - it squeezes to empty itself of pee, even though you're fast asleep in bed.

Wetting the bed at night, which doctors call nocturnal enuresis, is more common than you might think. About 15% of kids between ages 5 and 7 wet the bed sometimes. Even some teenagers experience it. It's more common in boys, and often there's a family history, meaning parents or relatives may have dealt with nighttime accidents too.

There are a few reasons why nighttime wetting happens. Since kids' brains are growing and developing, nighttime communication between the brain and bladder can take longer.

Some bodies make more pee at night, making it more likely the bladder will get full during sleep. Some people have smaller bladders that fill up fast. Sometimes having difficulties with sleep or being a deep sleeper can make it harder to wake up at night if you really need to pee.

Most kids who wet the bed at night outgrow it as their brains and bodies continue to develop. At that point, they can sleep through the night without needing to pee, or their bodies are able to wake up at night to use the bathroom when they need to.

If wetting the bed is an issue, there are some things that can help, like drinking less liquid in the evening or using the bathroom right before you go to bed. These precautions make it less likely that the bladder will be too full during sleep. There are also bedwetting alarms that can help train the body to wake up when the bladder needs to be emptied. If there are concerns about nighttime accidents, or if accidents start happening in older children, I recommend consulting a doctor. (AP)

CD40HVac targets dendritic cells

Pierre Fabre, Vernalis announce drug discovery collaboration in 'oncology'

CASTRES, France, Sept 25: Pierre Fabre Laboratories and Vernalis (R&D) Ltd ("Vernalis"), a fully owned subsidiary of HitGen Inc, announced a long-term partnership to identify pre-clinical candidates against multiple oncology targets.

Under the terms of the agreement, Vernalis will use its expertise to enable drug discovery against an undisclosed portfolio of targets and use fragment and structure-based methods to identify small molecules that modulate their activity. This research will be combined with the oncology experience of Pierre Fabre Laboratories to identify drug candidates for treatment of a range of cancers for further development and commercialisation by Pierre Fabre Laboratories. The research at Vernalis will be funded by Pierre Fabre Laboratories who will also pay research and clinical milestones and royalties on marketed products. The detailed terms of the agreement are not disclosed.

Innovation

James Murray, Research Director of Vernalis said: "This strategic partnership is built on the Vernalis track record for innovation and success in enabling drug discovery and identifying clinical candidates for a wide variety of therapeutic targets. We look forward to building this long-term partnership with Pierre Fabre Laboratories, leveraging their deep expertise in cancer biology and clinical development."

Francesco Hofmann, Head of Research and Development for Medical Care at Pierre Fabre Laboratories said: "Partnering with Vernalis represents an important milestone for us. Leveraging the expertise of Vernalis in key areas of Structure Based Drug Design to deliver high quality clinical candidates on multiple Oncology targets is a real asset to develop our Small Molecule Drug Discovery pipeline".

Pierre Fabre Laboratories is a leading French medical and beauty care company with over 4 decades of experience in innovation, development, manufacturing, and commercialization in oncology. The company dedicated about 80% of its R&D spendings to oncology in 2022 and has declared targeted therapies as its main R&D priority. Its current commercial portfolio in oncology covers colorectal, breast and lung cancers, melanoma, hematology, and pre-cancerous skin conditions like actinic keratosis.



LinKinVax, a clinical-stage biotech-

Bid to help industry go smart

Huawei's Digital Medical Technology Solution 'revolutionizing' healthcare

SHANGHAI, Sept 25: During HUAWEI CONNECT 2023, Huawei held the first intelligent healthcare summit themed "Build a Digital Health Community to Accelerate Intelligent Healthcare". Huawei released the Digital Medical Technology Solution to help the healthcare industry go smart.

Zhao Yixin, General Manager of the Education and Healthcare Industries of Global Public Sector of Huawei, delivered a speech named "Intelligence Reconstructs Future Healthcare, Innovation Strengthens Digital Health". Focusing on healthcare intelligence, Huawei is committed to breaking digital boundaries and developing innovative all-scenario healthcare solutions to facilitate high-quality development of the healthcare industry.

The Huawei Digital Medical Technology Solution builds a unified architecture based on cloud computing, big data, and AI that benefits medical imaging services in hospitals around the world. It has five major features, namely hospital-wide data convergence, multi-protocol and copy-free, lossless compression, SmartCache 2.0 AI prefetch, and video-network collaboration. Over 1000 images and pathology slices can be viewed in seconds, saving 30% of storage space and 70% of equipment room space. It also helps deliver accurate, efficient, and



The launch of the Huawei Digital Medical Technology Solution.

consistent image reading and diagnosis services.

This solution has been successfully implemented in the regional medical imaging platform project of the Longgang District Health Bureau, Shenzhen. Thanks to this platform, 12 hospitals in Longgang District have access to interconnection and can share medical image data. They have one-click access to imaging reports, and benefit from mutual recognition of examination results across hospitals. Data is fully utilized to serve patients more efficiently, and regional imaging resources are distributed in a more reasonable way.

Huawei continues to step up its innovation and investment in the field of intelligent healthcare. Up to now, Huawei has served upwards of 5000 hospitals and research institutions in over 90 countries and regions, and has more than 3300 ecosystem partners.

randomised and placebo-controlled study.

Valérie Bouchara, Head of Clinical Operations at LinKinVax, commented: "This first administration is a major milestone in the development of our therapeutic cancer vaccine CD-40HVac.

LinKinVax develops CD40HVac, a therapeutic vaccine for HPV-associated malignancies, based on an innovative technology directly targeting dendritic cells (DC), which play a crucial role in the immune system by stimulating and regulating immune responses.

To determine the recommended dose for the Phase II study, based on the vaccine candidate's safety profile and ability to induce immune responses.

Several exploratory objectives are also planned to estimate progression-free survival and overall survival.

This multicentre study will test 2 doses of CD40HVac using a dose escalation regimen. Up to 24 patients will be recruited in this double-blind,

■ To assess the immunogenicity and

■ To assess the immunogenicity and

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Film

No deal yet for actors

Writers Guild and studios reach tentative deal to end strike

LOS ANGELES, Sept 25, (AP): Union leaders and Hollywood studios reached a tentative agreement Sunday to end a historic screenwriters strike after nearly five months, though no deal is yet in the works for striking actors.

The Writers Guild of America announced the deal in a joint statement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, the group that represents studios, streaming services and production companies in negotiations.

"WGA has reached a tentative agreement with the AMPTP," the guild said in an email to members. "This was made possible by the enduring solidarity of WGA members and extraordinary support of our union siblings who joined us on the picket lines for over 146 days."

The three-year contract agreement - settled on after five marathon days of renewed talks by WGA and AMPTP negotiators that was joined at times by studio executives - must be approved by the guild's board and members before the strike officially ends.

In a longer message from the guild shared by members on social media, the writers were told the strike is not over and no one was to return to work until hearing otherwise, but picketing is to be suspended immediately.

The terms of the deal were not immediately announced. The tentative deal to end the last writers strike, in 2008, was approved by more than 90% of members.

The agreement comes just five days before the strike would've become the longest in the guild's history, and the longest Hollywood strike more than 70 years.

As a result of the agreement, nightly network shows including NBC's "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" and ABC's "Jim-

my Kimmel Live!" could return to the air within days.

But as writers prepare to potentially crack open their laptops again, it's far from back to business as usual in Hollywood, as talks have not yet resumed between studios and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Crew members left with no work by the stoppage will remain unemployed for now.

"SAG-AFTRA congratulates the WGA on reaching a tentative agreement with the AMPTP after 146 days of incredible strength, resiliency and solidarity on the picket lines," the actors union said in a statement. "While we look forward to reviewing the WGA and AMPTP's tentative agreement, we remain committed to achieving the necessary terms for our members."

Concerns

The statement said the guild continues "to urge the studio and streamer CEOs and the AMPTP to return to the table and make the fair deal that our members deserve and demand."

The proposed solution to the writers strike came after talks resumed on Wednesday for the first time in a month. Chief executives including Bob Iger of Disney, Ted Sarandos of Netflix, David Zaslav of Warner Bros. Discovery and Donna Langley of NBCUniversal reportedly took part in the negotiations directly.

It was reached without the intervention of federal mediators or other government officials, which had been necessary in previous strikes.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass issued a statement congratulating the two sides on the deal and said she is hopeful the same can happen soon with actors.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom did the same, saying writers "went

on strike over existential threats to their careers and livelihoods - expressing real concerns over the stress and anxiety workers are feeling. I am grateful that the two sides have come together."

About 11,500 members of the Writers Guild of America walked off the job May 2 over issues of pay, the size of writing staffs on shows and the use of artificial intelligence in the creation of scripts. Actors, who joined the writers on strike in July, have their own issues but there have been no discussions about resuming negotiations with their union yet.

The writers strike immediately sent late-night talk shows and "Saturday Night Live" into hiatus, and has since sent dozens of scripted shows and other productions into limbo, including forthcoming seasons of Netflix's "Stranger Things," HBO's "The Last of Us," and ABC's "Abbot Elementary," and films including "Deadpool 3" and "Superman: Legacy." The Emmy Awards were also pushed from September to January.

More recently, writers had been targeting talk shows that were working around strike rules to return to air, including "The Drew Barrymore Show," "Real Time With Bill Maher" and "The Talk." All reversed course in the face of picketing and pressure, and are likely to quickly return now.

The combined strikes made for a pivotal moment in Hollywood as creative labor faced off against executives in a business transformed and torn by technology, from the seismic shift to streaming in recent years to the potentially paradigm-shifting emergence of AI in the years to come.

Screenwriters had traditionally gone on strike more than any other segment of the industry, but had enjoyed a relatively long stretch of labor peace until spring negotiations for a new contract fell apart. The walkout was their first since 2007 and their longest since 1988.

Variety



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Eve Hewson, (left), and Joseph Gordon-Levitt in a scene from 'Flora and Son.' (AP)

Film

A heartfelt ode to music and redemption

Eve Hewson shines in 'Flora and Son'

LOS ANGELES, Sept 25, (AP): John Carney, the Irish filmmaker of "Once," "Sing Street" and "Begin Again," makes the movie version of "three chords and the truth."

His films, unabashedly earnest, feel-good movies for cynical times, are lo-fi musicals that tell simple stories, charmingly. There are love interests, usually. But the abiding romance is for music. His films are the sort that would be easier to dismiss as "sentimental" if his central belief — in the redemptive power of music — didn't happen to be kinda true.

The song remains much the same in Carney's latest charmer, "Flora and Son," starring Eve Hewson as a working-class single mother in Dublin who takes up guitar lessons. Flora's initial instinct when she snags a beat-up acoustic guitar out of a dumpster, is to give it to her troubled 14-year-old son, Max (Orén Kinnlan) as a day-late birthday present. Max, though, is unimpressed.

"You expect me to turn into Ed (expletive) Sheeran?" he says.

Their life together in a small apartment is far from harmonious. Their interactions are caustic and cruel. Flora, who we first meet dancing at a nightclub and going home with a man she immediately regrets, isn't shy about her disinterest in parenting. Max, meanwhile, is close to getting kicked out of school.

These are problems that, perhaps, take more than a six string to solve. But Carney, who wrote and directed the film, has a way of not hitting the cornball notes too hard and mixing in enough humor to keep the saccharine tones from overpowering.

Pondering her sad state of affairs, Flora finds new resolve. "This can't be my story," she says, like a good protagonist. "This can't be my narrative." She flips around on YouTube looking for guitar lessons before settling on Jeff (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), a laid-back instructor in Southern California who she's immediately attracted to.

Their lessons over Zoom are intimate; Carney sometimes enhances the effect by transporting Jeff into Flora's kitchen. They talk James Blunt and Joni Mitchell. Jeff shares one of his own songs, which Flora bluntly

critiques and then helps shape into a lovely duet. (Carney and Gary Clark penned the film's songs.) Outside of the frame, their interactions have some irony. Hewson, the daughter of Bono, was probably born with chops.

The movie proceeds with the satisfying structure of a song: verse, chorus, bridge. Flora's ex-husband, Ian (Jack Reynor), doubts her commitment. But Flora proves adept at her new hobby, which fosters a newfound connection with her son.

Hewson has been a standout in the TV series "The Knick" and "Bad Sisters," but she can be verifiably called a movie star after "Flora and Son." Her character isn't miles off ones we've seen many times, but Hewson's confident, charismatic leading performance has enough grit and spunk to light up the screen. Nepo baby or not, she's a total star.

"Flora and Son," like a B-side to Carney's earlier hits, may sound a little like a tune you've heard before. But it's sung with enough heart to have even the coldest cynic humming.

"Flora and Son," an Apple TV+ release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language throughout, sexual references and brief drug use. Running time: 97 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Also:

TORONTO: Louis C.K. came to the Toronto International Film Festival six years ago with the hotly anticipated "I Love You, Daddy," just as allegations of sexual misconduct against the comedian were gaining new prominence.

The movie sold at TIFF for \$5 million, but before it could reach theaters, its premiere was canceled and its release scuttled. After years of rumors, a New York Times article in November that year detailed the allegations of several women who described incidents in which C.K. masturbated in front of female stand-up colleagues.

Now, a new documentary premiering in Toronto, where C.K.'s downfall began, is delving into one of most debated #MeToo cases. "Sorry/Not Sorry," directed by **Caroline Suh** and **Cara Mones** and pro-

duced by the Times, examines the allegations, the fallout for those who came forward and C.K.'s comeback in comedy.

"In the early years, the advice I was given was: Don't make this movie," says Suh, who directed the **Barack Obama**-narrated docuseries "Working: What We Do All Day."

Suh, herself, was a big fan of Louis C.K. and she didn't immediately register the allegations against the comedian as damning — especially in comparison to other #MeToo cases like **Harvey Weinstein** and **Bill Cosby**.

"Honestly, my first reaction was: Is it that bad?" Suh recalls.

"Sorry/Not Sorry," which was acquired by Greenwich Entertainment for distribution after its TIFF premiere, reexamines the scandal and its aftermath, particularly in light of C.K.'s thriving comeback. The comic, who acknowledged "these stories are true" in his 2017 apology, won a Grammy for best comedy album last year and in January sold out **Madison Square Garden**.

To Mones, it appeared that many people seemed hesitant to talk about the thorny issues of consent and power when it came to C.K. — and that was a good reason to make the film.

"This lived in a gray area for so many people. That felt unusual among all the stories that were starting to come out," says Mones. "There are a lot of questions to explore."

The filmmakers especially wanted to detail the experience of the women who went public with their encounters with C.K. Some struggled to find success in comedy afterward or were heckled online by his supporters. Comedian **Abby Schachner**, who notes C.K. didn't ask permission before masturbating while talking to her on the phone in 2003, speaks about her fears of being publicly defined by the scandal.

"There were questions to be asked and perspectives to be brought forth. And those perspectives are really of the women who came forth," says producer **Kathleen Lingo**. "What happens when a woman says the truth? What happens to her?"

LOS ANGELES: Sylvester Stallone and Jason Statham weren't enough to save "Expendables 4" from a debut box office flop. The fourth installment suffered the action-packed franchise's worst opening weekend while "The Nun 2" took home the top spot for a third straight week, data firm Comscore reported on Sunday.

The Lionsgate and Millennium's film, also known as "Expendables 4," pulled in a mediocre \$8.3 million for the big-budget project. It starred several popular names, including Stallone, Statham, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, Megan Fox and Dolph Lundgren. It's been nearly a decade since the franchise released a film, which opened with \$15.8 million and eventually grossed \$214 million globally.

But times have certainly changed, as the film barely placed second behind "The Nun 2," a horror movie that earned \$8.4 million in its first week. It's been a solid start for that Warner Bros. project — a spinoff from the lucrative "Conjuring" franchise. So far, the Michael Chaves-directed sequel has grossed more than \$69 million.

"It's a star-studded franchise, but horror is a different situation," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "It just seems no matter what if you're scared in the movie theater a couple times in an hour and a half or two, that's worth the price of admission."

In third, "A Haunting in Venice" earned \$6.3 million. **Kenneth Branagh's** third **Agatha Christie** adaptation, following 2017's "Murder on the Orient Express" and 2022's "Death on the Nile," has drawn in over \$25.3 million after two weeks.

"The Equalizer 3," starring **Denzel Washington**, only dropped to fourth place with \$4.725 million. In four weeks, it has grossed \$81.1 million domestically.

"Barbie," the biggest movie of 2023, is still carrying some momentum from the summer into the fall season. The **Greta Gerwig** box-office smash ranked in the top five, earning \$3.2 million this week and a domestic total of more than \$630 million after a 10-week period.

Sixth place went to "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3," with \$3 million, while "It Lives Inside" opened its first week with \$2.6

million. The Sony film "Dumb Money," a dramatization of the GameStop stock frenzy, stayed put in the eighth position for a second week in a row with \$2.5 million. "Blue Beetle" fell to ninth, with \$1.8 million, and "Oppenheimer" rounded out the top 10 with \$1.6 million. The **Christopher Nolan** film has garnered \$321 million do-



Nolan

Murphy

mestically. **Oppenheimer** is a 2023 epic biographical thriller film written and directed by Christopher Nolan and starring **Cillian Murphy** as **J. Robert Oppenheimer**, the American theoretical physicist credited with being the "father of the atomic bomb" for his role in the Manhattan Project—the World War II undertaking that developed

the first nuclear weapons. In all, it was another slow output for box office figures as many Hollywood projects are still on hold due to the ongoing Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and Writers Guild of America strikes. This weekend grossed the lowest since Dec. 9, 2022, Dergar-

abedian said. It was also the first time since the weekend of Feb. 10, 2023 to not have a movie earn over \$10 million. "Spectacular October" could be on the way with the much-anticipated **Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour** concert film. "The Exorcist: Believer" and "Saw X." (AP)

People & Places

Film

A powerful story

Supermodel honors a Vogue 'trailblazer'

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP): As the first Black model to grace the cover of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar, a muse to Andy Warhol and Salvador Dali and a film star, **Donyale Luna**'s life story was ready made for Hollywood. So how did the statuesque beauty who broke down barriers go unknown for years?

A new documentary on her life sheds light on that, unearthing the racism she faced in the fashion industry and the high-profile gatekeepers who tried to stop her career. "Donyale Luna: Supermodel," streaming now on Max, is a powerful retelling of the life and death of the otherworldly supermodel who captivated the fashion world when white beauty standards were the only standards and 1960s America was rife with racial inequality.



Luna

Luna's daughter, Dream Cazzaniga, narrates her mother's diaries, allowing the model's complexities to be revealed.

While many reached out in the past to tell her mother's story, Cazzaniga said director Nailah Jefferson and the producers were able to help her tell her mother's story in a way that was in tune with her personality and creativity, allowing her true voice to finally be heard.

Luna died in 1979 when Cazzaniga was only 18 months old of heart failure due to drug-related complications. For Cazzaniga, the documentary was a cathartic process for her to gain a greater understanding of her mother.

"I really felt it was about time and that her story needed to be known," she said.

Born Peggy Ann Freeman in Detroit, Luna was scouted at 14 in her hometown by British photographer David McCabe. At age 19, she would leave behind her tough childhood and move to New York. Three months later, she was on the cover of Harper's Bazaar. Rather than present her as the beautiful brown skinned woman she was, the magazine portrayed her as a drawing with peachy light skin.

Legendary

Mesmerized by Luna, legendary fashion photographer Richard Avedon signed her for a contract. The two would go on to create images unlike anything being done at the time. The documentary features archival video footage of the two working together. Avedon died in 2004 at 81.

In 1965, Avedon would then feature Luna in a Harper's Bazaar spread for an issue he was guest editing. The shoot would unleash a storm of backlash that cost Harper's subscribers and advertisers. Gideon Lewin, a photographer and Avedon's former assistant, says in the documentary they were told not to "do it again."

While premier photographers wanted to work with Luna, Jefferson said they were not given the platform to feature her.

"She was there and willing, hardworking, striking and innovative in everything that she was doing," Jefferson said. "We just couldn't understand why she could only make it so far."

The Harper's Bazaar incident did not stop Avedon from pushing for Luna even though others pushed back. Perhaps, the most painfully shocking moment in the documentary is the revelation about how former Vogue Editor-in-chief Diana Vreeland put an end to what could've further skyrocketed Luna's career. Avedon had cast Luna to model for an infamous American Vogue shoot in 1966 known as "The Great Fur Caravan" where she was set to model furs in snowy Japan.

Before they flew out, Vreeland told Avedon that he could not take Luna because she was "nobody's idea of what anybody wants to look like."

According to Avedon's writings used in the documentary, the photographer responded: "She is extraordinary."

"So was King Kong," was Vreeland's response, according to Avedon.

Hearing about that moment on camera supermodel Beverly Johnson burst into tears.

"It's a culmination of all the pain," Johnson says in the film. "That's why it hurts so bad."

Even with the barriers and resistance she faced for the color of her skin, the documentary reveals how Luna was propelled by her own drive and pursuit of creative freedom even when others tried to get in the way.

Where the US industry placed limits on who she could be and her career, Luna found more success overseas. A move to London surged her career forward and in a momentous feat landed the cover of Vogue as the magazine's first Black cover model, shot by renowned photographer David Bailey.

She would then make a cameo in two fashion films "Blow-up" based on Bailey and "Qui êtes-vous, Polly Maggoo?" As she began to move on from modeling, she explored her boundless creativity with more avant-garde films.

While in Rome, Luna met her husband, photographer Luigi Cazzaniga, in 1969. Her daughter Dream was later born a decade later in the Italian countryside.

Despite all the fashion world's characterizations of Luna as a goddess, a fairy, a celestial being and a supermodel, Luna's writings reveal the intense loneliness and depression she grappled with in the final days of her life.

Through "Donyale Luna: Supermodel," Dream Cazzaniga said at last her mother's legacy and contribution to fashion history can at last be seen and understood.

"I know in my heart that she was finally recognized for what she accomplished," she said.

Also:

LONDON: A new exhibition is opening in London to chart for the first time the contributions that Black British culture made to UK fashion and design history and to celebrate Black designers who haven't received public recognition.

"The Missing Thread: Untold Stories of Black British Fashion" at central London's Somerset House, which opens Thursday, pays tribute to the influence of Black designers in fashion from the 1970s. But it also spotlights the racism and other barriers they faced in an industry that remains difficult to break into for people of color.

Curators said that the idea of a display celebrating Black fashion and culture has germinated for some time. But it was only after the 2020 death of **George Floyd** at the hands of U.S. police - and the global eruption of protests against racial injustice that was triggered - that momentum gathered for a show that also features broader social and political context, such as the rise of anti-immigration sentiment and overt racism in Britain in the 1970s and '80s.



A model wears a creation as part of the Giorgio Armani women's Spring Summer 2024 collection presented in Milan, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 24. (AP)

Fashion

Good vibes and familiar guests

Armani closes Milan week

MILAN, Italy, Sept 25, (AP): Giorgio Armani closed Milan Fashion Week on Sunday with good vibes and a front row that included frequent guests such as Cate Blanchette and Juliette Binoche.

Armani's Spring-Summer 2024 collection mirrored a sky's shifting colors and light at dusk, an idea conveyed with changing colors on the back wall of the showroom in his historic, central Milan headquarters.

The 89-year-old designer employed translucent, diaphanous fabrics alongside silks and satin to create lightness and movement. The palette captured the mood, moving from bronze on silvery gray to jewel blue, green and purples that bled together, and back to dusky shades of gray and silver that faded to white.

"No beige," Armani joked after the show.

The collection conveyed elegance but also practicality: clothes that put the wearer at ease in any context and without prodding toward overt, revealing sexiness. Satiny trousers anchored many

of the looks - jackets, transparent blouson layers, shimmering tops and off-shoulder chiffon dresses.

"Vibrations, that means colors, that means movement, that means a structure that moves on the body," Armani said. To demonstrate his vision, a model in a shimmering long dress and a diaphanous cape danced down the runway.

Flat shoes finished all of the looks.

"Women should not be enslaved to height or to a feline nature, being sexy at all costs," the designer said. "There can be also a normal woman, but who hopefully has a twinkle in the eye."

Armani for years has lamented a Milan fashion scene that tries too hard, focusing on novelty instead of what he sees as the essence of fashion: dressing women to express themselves. The designer said he sensed a change in this season's Fashion Week, with less frivolity.

"Finally, I saw collections, from the photos, with a lot of normality. There is also a little research, which has to be part of this craft," Armani said.

NBC's "The Voice" and appeared in several films including "Hustlers" and "Light It Up."

Roc Nation founder Jay-Z called Usher the ultimate "artist and showman."

"Ever since his debut at the age of 15, he's been charting his own unique course," he said of Usher, who released his debut self-titled album in 1994. In total, he's released eight studio projects that were filled with hits including "U Got It Bad," "U Remind Me," "You Make Me Wanna," "Nice & Slow" and "Love In This Club" with Jeezy.

Usher will join a list of celebrated



Madonna



Ludacris

musicians who have played during Super Bowl halftime shows including **Beyoncé, Madonna, Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Coldplay, Kendrick Lamar, Eminem, U2, Lady Gaga, Michael Jackson** and **Katy Perry**. (AP)

FAITHORN, Mich: A 2-year-old girl who walked away from her home in **Michigan's Upper Peninsula** alongside two family dogs was found in the woods hours later sleeping on the smaller dog like a furry pillow, state police said.

"She laid down and used one of the dogs as a pillow, and the other dog laid right next to her and kept her safe," Lt. **Mark Giannunzio** said. "It's a really remarkable story."

Troopers used drones and police dogs in the search while local police and citizens from both Michigan and adjacent Wisconsin helped look for the girl in the remote wooded area.

Troopers from Michigan State Police's Iron Mountain post had been called to a home in the Faithorn area of **Menominee County** about 8 p.m. Wednesday after the girl wandered away. (AP)

Music

'Collegrove 2'

'Joint-Lil Wayne album is done'

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP): It's no secret that rap superstar **2 Chainz** considers Lil Wayne an inspiration, and now that admiration for the "Tha Carter" series icon has translated into another official joint album that he says will be out before 2023 ends.

"We have two videos shot, photo-shoot shot, (the album's) mixed and getting mastered, so it'll be coming sooner than later, and I'm really excited about it," said 2 Chainz, while promoting the new season of Amazon Music Live. "It's rapping at a high level — steel sharpens steel. And he's one of the people that I enjoy working with the most."

The long-awaited album, expectedly titled "COLLEGROVE 2," has been teased since 2020 as the sequel to their 2016 collaboration. 2 Chainz is credited as the main artist on that project although Wayne appeared on eight of the 12 songs, due to Weezy's contractual issues at the time.

While much of the album is shrouded in secrecy, various reports say features will include Benny the Butcher and Usher, who recently popped up in social media videos with the pair in what looked like the filming of a music video.

2 Chainz, whose most recent studio project was 2022's "Dope Don't Sell Itself," said Wayne left most of the direction of their upcoming album to his leadership.

"We worked together on every song and we over-recorded. But he kind of laid that responsibility in my lap. He's creative. He's coming up with concepts and ideas. And then, I'm someone that does the same thing on the marketing side, putting together the right set of songs that fit the particular concept I'm trying to convey," said the Grammy winner. "I think we work well in that extent to where he trusts my opinion and how I'm handling everything. And he's going to bring the A-game to work every day."

Contribute

Known for hits such as "It's a Vibe" feat. Ty Dolla \$ign, Trey Songz and Jhene Aiko, "No Lie" with Drake and "I'm Different," mainstream rap fans were first introduced to Chainz, then going by Tity Boy, when he was in the group Playaz Circle with Dolla Boy. Lil Wayne was featured on their 2007 hit "Duffle Bag Boy," which reached No. 15 on Billboard's Hot 100.

In addition to the mixtape, Chainz and Wayne have contributed to a number of songs on each other's albums, as well as Juicy J's smash record "Bandz A Make Her Dance," Chance the Rapper's "No Problem" and a version of Young Dolph's "Preach."

The Georgia native also said he's bringing his best when hosting this new season of "Amazon Music Live," the concert series livestreamed from Los Angeles by Amazon Music. The "Good Drank" rapper says the second season will feature performances from Ed Sheeran, Latin superstar Feid and rap heavyweight Lil Durk, with more to be announced later.

"We're taking it up a notch with some more exciting acts from different genres," said Chainz, who also served as the inaugural host. "Connecting sports and music, fusing that together which we already know has a strong correlation, it just feels good to be in the middle of all this. To be the host... it comes kind of natural to me."

Attention

Premiered after the New York Giants visit the San Francisco 49ers, Amazon Music Live was to follow Thursday Night Football weekly on Prime Video and on the Amazon Music channel on the streaming platform Twitch. Last season's guests included Lil Baby, Megan Thee Stallion, Kane Brown, Lil Wayne, ASAP Rocky, Anitta and 21 Savage.

Recently assisting DJ Khaled in opening up for Beyoncé's Los Angeles tour earlier this month, 2 Chainz says although he considers himself to be a master performer, he's always paying close attention to the artists who grace the Amazon Music Live stage.

"A lot of preparation goes into it," said 2 Chainz of the performances. "Just seeing how people approach this platform is always interesting for me. I'm still a student."

The "Birthday Song" artist, who also hosts Vice TV's "Most Expensivest" series which follows him as he checks out uber-priced items, says his album with Wayne is "right on time" as the music world has been celebrating the 50th anniversary of hip-hop.



2 Chainz

Science

'Mixing and mating'

Science 'sheds' new light on distant past

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP) - What does it mean to be human?

For a long time, the answer seemed clear. Our species, Homo sapiens - with our complex thoughts and deep emotions - were the only true humans to ever walk the Earth. Earlier forms, like the Neanderthals, were thought to be just steps along the path of evolution, who died out because we were better versions.

That picture is now changing. In recent years, researchers have gained the power to pull DNA from ancient hominins, including our early ancestors and other relatives who walked on two legs. Ancient DNA technology has revolutionized the way we study human history and has quickly taken off, with a constant stream of studies exploring the genes of long-ago people.

Along with more fossils and artifacts, the DNA findings are pointing us to a challenging idea: We're not so special. For most of human history we shared the planet with other kinds of early humans, and those now-extinct groups were a lot like us.

"We can see them as being fully human. But, interestingly, a different kind of human," said **Chris Stringer**, a human evolution expert at London's Natural History Museum. "A different way to be human."

What's more, humans had close - even intimate - interactions with some of these other groups, including Neanderthals, Denisovans and "ghost populations" we only know from DNA.

"It's a unique time in human history when there are only one of us," Stringer said.

Scientists now know that after H. sapiens first showed up in Africa around 300,000 years ago, they overlapped with the whole cast of other hominins, explained Rick Potts, director of the Smithsonian's Human Origins Program.

Neanderthals were hanging out in Europe. Homo heidelbergensis and Homo naledi were living in Africa. The short-statured Homo floresiensis, sometimes known as the "Hobbit," was living in Indonesia, while the long-legged Homo erectus was loping around Asia.

Ancestors

Scientists started to realize all these hominins weren't our direct ancestors. Instead, they were more like our cousins: lineages that split off from a common source and headed in different directions.

Archaeological finds have shown some of them had complex behaviors. Neanderthals painted cave walls, Homo heidelbergensis hunted large animals like rhinos and hippos, and some scientists think even the small-brained Homo naledi was burying its dead in South African cave systems. A study last week found early humans were building structures with wood before H. sapiens evolved.

Researcher also wondered: If these other kinds of humans were not so different, did our ancestors have sex with them?

For some, the mixing was hard to imagine. Many argued that as H. sapiens ventured out of Africa, they replaced other groups without mating. Archaeologist John Shea of New York's Stony Brook University said he used to think of Neanderthals and H. sapiens as rivals, believing "if they bumped into each other, they'd probably kill each other."

But DNA has revealed there were other interactions, ones that changed who we are today.

In 2010, the Swedish geneticist Svante Paabo and his team pieced a tricky puzzle together. They were able to assemble fragments of ancient DNA into a full Neanderthal genome, a feat that was long thought to be impossible and won Paabo a Nobel Prize last year.

This ability to read ancient DNA revolutionized the field, and it is constantly improving.

For example, when scientists applied these techniques to a pinky bone and some huge molars found in a Siberian cave, they found genes that didn't match anything seen before, said Bence Viola, an anthropologist at the University of Toronto who was part of the research team that made the discovery. It was a new species of hominin, now known as Denisovans, who were the first human cousins identified only by their DNA.

Armed with these Neanderthal and Denisovan genomes, scientists could compare them to people today and look for chunks of DNA that match. When they did, they found clear signs of crossover.

The DNA evidence showed that H. sapiens mated with groups including Neanderthals and Denisovans. It even revealed evidence of other "ghost populations" - groups who are part of our genetic code, but whose fossils we haven't found yet.

It's hard to pin down exactly when and where these interactions happened. Our ancestors seem to have mixed with the Neanderthals soon after leaving Africa and heading into Europe. They probably bumped into the Denisovans in parts of East and Southeast Asia.

"They didn't have a map, they didn't know where they were going," the Smithsonian's Potts said. "But looking over the next hillside into the next valley, (they) ran into populations of people that looked a bit different from themselves, but mated, exchanged genes."

So even though Neanderthals did look distinct from H. sapiens - from their bigger noses to their shorter limbs - it wasn't enough to create a "wall" between the groups, Shea said.

"They probably thought, 'Oh, these guys look a little bit different,'" Shea said. "Their skin color's a little different. Their faces look a little different. But they're cool guys, let's go try to talk to them."

The idea that modern humans, and particularly white humans, were the pinnacle of evolution came from a time of "colonialism and elitism," said Janet Young, curator of physical anthropology at the Canadian Museum of History.

One Neanderthal painting, created to reflect the vision of a eugenics advocate, made its way through decades of textbooks and museum displays.

The new findings have completely upended the idea that earlier, more ape-like creatures started standing up straighter and getting more complex until they reached their peak form in H. sapiens, Young said. Along with the genetic evidence, other archaeological finds have shown Neanderthals had complex behaviors around hunting, cooking, using tools and even making art.

Museums

Still, even though we now know our ancient human cousins were like us - and make up part of who we are now - the idea of ape-like cave men has been hard to dislodge.

Artist John Gurche is trying. He specializes in creating life-like models of ancient humans for museums, including the Smithsonian and the American Museum of Natural History, in hopes of helping public perception catch up to the science.

Skulls and sculptures gazed out from the shelves of his studio earlier this year as he worked on a Neanderthal head, punching pieces of hair into the silicone skin.

Bringing the new view to the public hasn't been easy, Gurche said: "This caveman image is very persistent."

For Gurche, getting the science right is crucial. He has worked on dissections of humans and apes to understand their anatomy, but also hopes to bring out emotion in his portrayals. "These were once living, breathing individuals. And they felt grief and joy and pain," Gurche said. "They're not in some fairyland; they're not some fantasy creatures. They were alive."

Scientists can't get useful genetic information out of every fossil they find, especially if it's really old or in the wrong climate. They haven't been able to gather much ancient DNA from Africa, where H. sapiens first evolved, because it has been degraded by heat and moisture.

Still, many are hopeful that as DNA technology keeps advancing, we'll be able to push further into the past and get ancient genomes from more parts of the world, adding more brushstrokes to our picture of human history.



Stringer



In this photo provided by NASA, (from left), Lockheed Martin Mission Operations Assurance Lead Graham Miller, Lockheed Martin Recovery Specialist Michael Kaye, and Lockheed Martin Recovery Specialist Levi Hanish, prepare the sample return capsule from NASA's Osiris-Rex mission for transport after it landed at the Department of Defense's Utah Test and Training Range on Sunday, Sept. 24. The sample was collected from the asteroid Benu in October 2020. (AP)

Space

NASA mission delivers precious asteroid samples to Earth

'Rubble' to unveil clues to life's origins

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP) - NASA's first asteroid samples fetched from deep space parachuted into the Utah desert Sunday to cap a seven-year journey.

In a flyby of Earth, the Osiris-Rex spacecraft released the sample capsule from 63,000 miles (100,000 kilometers) out. The small capsule landed four hours later on a remote expanse of military land, as the mothership set off after another asteroid.

"We have touchdown!" Mission Recovery Operations announced, immediately repeating the news since the landing occurred three minutes early. Officials later said the orange striped parachute opened four times higher than anticipated - around 20,000 feet (6,100 meters) - correctly basing it on the deceleration rate.

Forty minutes later, the recovery team confirmed the capsule was intact and had not been breached.

"It's like 'Wow!'" said NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, who was in Utah training for her own space capsule mission. "This is just amazing. It can go from the movies, but this is reality."

Scientists estimate the capsule holds at least a cup of rubble from the carbon-rich asteroid known as Benu, but won't know for sure until the container is opened. Some spilled and floated away when the spacecraft scooped up too much and rocks jammed the container's lid during collection three years ago.

Japan, the only other country to bring back asteroid samples, gathered about a teaspoon in a pair of asteroid missions.

The pebbles and dust delivered Sunday represent the biggest haul from beyond the moon. Preserved building blocks from the dawn of our solar system 4.5 billion years ago, the samples will help scientists better understand how Earth and life formed.

Osiris-Rex, the mothership, rocketed away on the \$1 billion mission in 2016. It reached Benu two years later and, using a long stick vacuum,

grabbed rubble from the small roundish space rock in 2020. By the time it returned, the spacecraft had logged 4 billion miles (6.2 billion kilometers).

Flight controllers for spacecraft builder Lockheed Martin stood and applauded at touchdown from their base in Colorado, ecstatic to have the precious samples on Earth. NASA camera views showed the charred capsule upside down on the sand with its parachute disconnected and strewn nearby, as the recovery team moved in.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said the samples will provide "an extraordinary glimpse into the beginnings of our solar system."

With these samples, "we are edging closer to understanding its early chemical composition, the formation of water, and the molecules life is based on," astronomer Daniel Brown of Nottingham Trent University in England said.

Recovery

One Osiris-Rex team member was stuck in England, rehearsing for a concert tour. "My heart's there with you as this precious sample is recovered," Queen's lead guitarist Brian May, who's also an astrophysicist, said in a prerecorded message. "Happy Sample Return Day."

NASA's recovery effort in Utah included helicopters as well as a temporary clean room set up at the Defense Department's Utah Test and Training Range. The samples will be flown Monday morning to a new lab at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. The building already houses the hundreds of pounds (kilograms) of moon rocks gathered by the Apollo astronauts more than a half-century ago.

The mission's lead scientist, Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona, will accompany the samples to Texas. The opening of the container in Houston in the next day or two will be "the real moment of truth," given the uncertainty over the amount inside, he said ahead of the landing.

Engineers estimate the canister

holds 250 grams (8.82 ounces) of material from Benu, plus or minus 100 grams (plus or minus 3.53 ounces). Even at the low end, it will easily surpass the minimum requirement of the mission, Lauretta said.

It will take a few weeks to get a precise measurement, said NASA's lead curator Nicole Lunning.

NASA plans a public show-and-tell in October.

Currently orbiting the sun 50 million miles (81 million kilometers) from Earth, Benu is about one-third of a mile (one-half of a kilometer) across, roughly the size of the Empire State Building but shaped like a spinning top. It's believed to be the broken fragment of a much larger asteroid.

During a two-year survey, Osiris-Rex found Benu to be a chunky rubble pile full of boulders and craters. The surface was so loose that the spacecraft's vacuum arm sank a foot or two (0.5 meters) into the asteroid, sucking up more material than anticipated and jamming the lid.

These close-up observations may come in handy late in the next century. Benu is expected to come dangerously close to Earth in 2182 - possibly close enough to hit. The data gleaned by Osiris-Rex will help with any asteroid-deflection effort, according to Lauretta.

Osiris-Rex is already chasing after the asteroid Apophis, and will reach it in 2029.

This was NASA's third sample return from a deep-space robotic mission. The Genesis spacecraft dropped off bits of solar wind in 2004, but the samples were compromised when the parachute failed and the capsule slammed into the ground. The Stardust spacecraft successfully delivered comet dust in 2006.

NASA's plans to return samples from Mars are on hold after an independent review board criticized the cost and complexity. The Martian rover Perseverance has spent the past two years collecting core samples for eventual transport to Earth.

I owe them my life."

On Sept. 8, Stevens says he was transferred to an acute rehab to undergo intensive physical and occupational therapy, and to learn how to walk again.

"Most people who have GBS learn to walk again on their own within a year, so I am hopeful," he wrote, thanking his caregivers. He signed the message, "yours truly from a wheelchair XOXOXO Sufjan Stevens."

Stevens, 48, is perhaps best known for his 2005 album "Illinois," which brought both indie and mainstream acclaim, led by the single "Chicago." His song "Mystery of Love," written for the 2017 film "Call Me by Your Name," was nominated for both a Grammy and an Oscar. (AP)

Wandering bull moose captured: A wandering bull moose was captured in downtown Santa Fe and relocated to a suitable habitat in northern New Mexico, authorities said.

State Game and Fish officials and Animal Service Officers for the city said the moose was spotted near Fort Marcy Park. Officers set up a perimeter to protect residents and pedestrians in the park, which is a popular walking area.

Authorities said a bull moose can be aggressive toward humans and pets, especially during the breeding season, which begins in late September.

The moose was sedated with a tranquilizer dart and loaded onto a trailer before being evaluated by a Game and Fish Department veterinarian and determined to be in good health.

Department biologists estimate the moose weighed more than 900 pounds (400 kilograms) and was 4 to 5 years old.

Game and Fish officials said moose are a protected game animal in New Mexico and there is not an open hunting season for them. (AP)



A helicopter delivers a space capsule carrying NASA's first asteroid samples on Sunday, Sept. 24, to a temporary clean room at Dugway Proving Ground, in Utah. (AP)



Tinubu

Stevens

Discovery

Logging growing in forest: Roaring chainsaws sent trees crashing to the ground, and bare-chested men hacked away at the branches beside a muddy road. Others heaved logs onto a truck, where they were tied in place with wire.

The work was similar on the other side of the road, with a timber-laden truck coughing dark plumes of smoke as it pulled away. This was miles into the conservation zone of Omo Forest Reserve in southern Nigeria, a protected area where logging is prohibited because it's home to threatened species like African elephants, pangolins and white-throated monkeys. But forest rangers, seeing the impunity, were hesitant to act.

"We see people we arrested and turned over to the government back in the forest, and they get emboldened," ranger Sunday Abiodun told The Associated Press during a recent trip to the reserve.

Conservationists say the outer region of Omo Forest Reserve, where logging is allowed, is already heavily deforested. As trees become scarce, loggers are heading deep into the 550-square-kilometer conservation area, which is also under threat from uncontrolled cocoa farming and poaching.

Conservationists and rangers blame the government for not enforcing environmental regulations or adequately replanting trees, impeding Nigeria's pledge under the Paris climate agreement to maintain places like forests that absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

The government of Nigeria's southwestern Ogun state, which owns the reserve, denied failing to enforce regulations. In a statement, it said it's replanting more trees than are being cut down.

The forest's gatekeepers and those processing the wood both dispute that assertion, insisting trees are disappearing.

Sawmillers get annual permits from the government to cut down trees until their designated area is completely deforested. Then they can apply for a new section. They say the permit fee of 2 million naira (\$2,645) is intended to cover the government's costs to replace trees but that this rarely occurs. President of Nigeria is **Bola Ahmed Tinubu**.

"The government is not replanting," said Owolabi Oguntimehin, a sawmiller in Ijebu, a nearby town that has over 50 sawmilling companies relying on the reserve. "It is not our responsibility to replant because the government collects the fee from us."

Besides problems with replanting, authorities don't enforce tree removal standards, even when loggers get permits, according to forest guards, who are em-

ployed by the state government. (AP)

Stevens relearning to walk: Grammy- and Oscar-nominated indie musician **Sufjan Stevens** is relearning how to walk after the autoimmune disease Guillain-Barre Syndrome left him immobile, representatives confirmed to The Associated Press.

Steven shared the news on his Tumblr page. In the post, he explained that he has been hospitalized, which is why he has been unable to participate in the promotion for his forthcoming album, "Javelin," his first since 2020's "The Ascension." "Javelin" will be released on Oct. 6.

"Last month I woke up one morning

and couldn't walk. My hands, arms and legs were numb and tingling and I had no strength, no feeling, no mobility. My brother drove me to the ER and after a series of tests - MRIs, EMGs, cat scans, X-rays, spinal taps (!), echo-cardiograms, etc.," he wrote. Neurologists finally diagnosed with him Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

"Luckily there's treatment for this - they administer immuno-hemoglobin infusions for five days and pray that the disease doesn't spread to the lungs, heart and brain. Very scary, but it worked," he continued, adding that he spent about two weeks "stuck in a bed, while my doctors did all the things to keep me alive and stabilize my condi-



Busts of Neanderthal and hominins line a table at the studio of paleoartist John Gurche in Trumansburg, N.Y., May 31, 2023. Along with more fossils and artifacts, DNA findings are pointing us to a challenging idea: We're not so special. For most of human history we shared the planet with other kinds of early humans - and those now-extinct groups were a lot like us. (AP)

Scotland overrun Tonga

Wales into quarters, put Australia closer to inglorious exit

LYON, France, Sept 25, (AP): Wales became the first to qualify for the Rugby World Cup quarterfinals on Sunday while virtually shutting the door on Australia's hopes and putting the Wallabies in danger of their worst-ever showing.

The Welsh won by a record 40-6, executing a low-risk, disciplined gameplan and crucifying the many Australian mistakes in Lyon.

RUGBY

The Wallabies, winners in 1991 and 1999, have never missed the quarterfinals but losing consecutive pool games for the first time in 36 years left their fate in the hands of their Pacific neighbor Fiji, which upended them last week.

Australia should win its last Pool C game against Portugal next weekend but it won't matter if Fiji accounts for its remaining pool fixtures against Georgia and Portugal. If so, the Fijians will follow Wales into



Wales' Josh Adams is tackled by Australia's Mark Nawaqanitawase during the Rugby World Cup Pool C match between Wales and Australia at the OL Stadium in Lyon, France. (AP)

the quarters and confirm Australia's worst fears.

Penalties by the error-prone Wallabies gave replacement flyhalf Gareth Anscombe goal-shooting practice

for Wales. He slotted six of seven penalty attempts - the one miss hit the post - and converted a try he set up for center Nick Tompkins.

With high stakes on the line, Wales rose to the occasion with its biggest win against Australia in their 115-year history. It was the Wallabies' heaviest World Cup defeat and Eddie Jones' return as coach is working out to be an unmitigated disaster with seven losses from eight games.

"I don't have much to say. I'm embarrassed for the Aussie people," Wallabies captain David Porecki said. "We were hoping to put a show on. It just wasn't good enough."

Scotland 45, Tonga 17

Scotland reminded it is still in contention for a quarterfinal place with a bonus-point 45-17 win over Tonga to advance its hopes in a pool shaded by the seismic Ireland-South Africa showdown, and presumptions that those two will be the ones going through.

Scotland ticked off the first of three big tasks on its to-do list if it is to make a late surge into the knockouts with its seven tries against the Tongans in Nice.

The Scots need another bonus-point win over Romania next - a likely result against the minnow - to set up a do-or-die against Six Nations rival and top-ranked Ireland in the last round of Pool B games.

"It's a six-day turnaround to Romania now and we know we've got to improve on this performance to get a bonus-point win." Scotland coach Gregor Townsend said. "Then, we've got a shootout against Ireland if that's the case."

Scotland hadn't been seen since its opening-weekend loss to South Africa, but seemed to have put its two weeks off to good use as its backs came out running against Tonga, with playmaker Finn Russell pulling the strings in a masterly display at No. 10.

Five of Scotland's tries came from its sharp-looking backline, with wing Duhan van der Merwe scoring one in the first half and set up another in the second.

Tonga No. 8 Vaea Fifita got a red card for charging into Russell's head at a late breakdown, a hit that was put on review and upgraded from yellow after the final whistle.

Yankees miss playoffs

Nationals split doubleheader with Braves

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP): The New York Yankees missed the playoffs for the first time since 2016, getting mathematically eliminated with a rainy 7-1 loss Sunday to the Arizona Diamondbacks as Zac Gallen got his 17th win.

Arizona won for the sixth time in seven games and remained in position for the NL's second wild card, a half-game ahead of the Chicago Cubs. The Diamondbacks also clinched their first winning season since 2019.

On a windy, raining afternoon when fly balls became unpredictable, Gallen (17-8) allowed three hits in six innings, struck out eight and walked two. He won for the third time in four starts and had his eighth scoreless outing this season.

Tommy Pham and Christian Walker produced

sacrifice flies on consecutive pitches in the first inning off Carlos Rodón (3-7). Rodón allowed five runs - three earned - and five hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Nationals 3, Braves 2, game 1
Braves 8, Nationals 5, game 2

In Washington, Spencer Strider earned his major league-leading 19th win and Atlanta got its 100th victory of the season, splitting a doubleheader with Washington.

In the opener, rookie Jackson Rutledge earned his first major league victory.

Strider (19-5) pitched 5 2/3 innings and yielded four runs on seven hits, including Luis Garcia's solo shot in the sixth. The right-hander struck out four to give him 274 for the year, two shy of John Smoltz's 1996 single-season modern franchise record.

Nationals starter Joan Adon (2-4) gave up four runs and struck out five in 4 2/3 innings.

In the first game, Rutledge (1-1) allowed three hits and struck out four over five innings in his third career start. Kyle



Philadelphia Phillies' J.T. Realmuto hits a two-run single against New York Mets pitcher Jose Butto during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Philadelphia. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 25, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Sunday.

Chicago W. Sox	3	Boston 6 Inns	2	Cincinnati	4	Pittsburgh	2
Toronto	9	Tampa Bay	5	Miami	6	Milwaukee	1
Baltimore	5	Cleveland	1	Arizona	7	NY Yankees	1
Arizona	7	NY Yankees	1	Chicago Cubs	4	Colorado	3
Minnesota	9	LA Angels	3	San Diego	12	St Louis	2
Kansas City	6	Houston	5	Philadelphia	5	NY Mets	2
Texas	9	Seattle	8	Atlanta	8	Washington G 2	5
Detroit	2	Oakland	0	LA Dodgers	3	S. Francisco 10 Inns	2
Washington	3	Atlanta G 1	2				

American League				National League				
East Division				East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
z-Baltimore	97	59	.622	—	x-Atlanta	100	56	.641
z-Tampa Bay	95	62	.605	2-1/2	Philadelphia	87	69	.558
Toronto	87	69	.558	10	Miami	81	75	.519
New York	78	77	.503	18-1/2	New York	71	85	.455
Boston	76	80	.487	21	Washington	69	88	.439
Central Division				Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
x-Minnesota	83	73	.532	—	z-Milwaukee	88	68	.564
Cleveland	74	83	.471	9-1/2	Chicago	82	74	.526
Detroit	73	83	.468	10	Cincinnati	80	77	.510
Chicago	60	96	.385	23	Pittsburgh	74	82	.474
Kansas City	54	102	.346	29	St Louis	68	88	.436
West Division				West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	87	68	.561	—	x-Los Angeles	96	59	.619
Houston	85	71	.545	2-1/2	Arizona	82	73	.529
Seattle	84	71	.542	3	San Diego	77	79	.494
Los Angeles	70	86	.449	17-1/2	San Francisco	77	79	.494
Oakland	48	108	.308	39-1/2	Colorado	56	99	.361

BASEBALL

Finnegan allowed a homer in the ninth, but earned his 27th save.

Atlanta starter Allan Winans (1-2), who was recalled Sunday from Triple-A Gwinnett, surrendered two runs and seven hits in five innings. He struck out six in his fifth start for the Braves.

Orioles 5, Guardians 1
In Cleveland, Kyle Gibson pitched seven strong innings, Adley Rutschman reached base four times and Baltimore moved closer to clinching the AL East title.

Dodgers 3, Giants 2, 10 innings

In Los Angeles, Chris Taylor's line-drive single to center field in the 10th inning lifted NL West champion Los Angeles past San Francisco.

Amed Rosario began the inning at second base and took third on pinch-hitter Kolten Wong's groundout to short. Taylor singled off Camilo Dorval (6-6) to drive in Rosario and give the Dodgers a 6-6 record in extra-inning games this season.

Blue Jays 9, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, George Springer hit an inside-the-park, three-run homer, made a diving catch and threw out a runner, helping Toronto beat Tampa to take two of three in a series of potential playoff opponents.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered twice, making an impressive bat flip after the second, and Bo Bichette also went deep for the Blue Jays. Toronto extended its lead for the second AL wild card to two games over Houston and 2 1/2 games ahead of Seattle.

Marlins 6, Brewers 1

In Miami, Jon Berti had his second career multi-homer game, and Miami beat Milwaukee, the second straight day they prevented the Brewers from clinching the NL Central.

Josh Bell also went deep, Jorge Soler had three hits and Jazz Chisholm Jr. doubled twice for the Marlins, who remained one game behind the Chicago Cubs for the third NL wild card spot. Milwaukee's division lead over the second-place Cubs was cut to six games.

Rangers 6, Mariners 8

In Arlington, Marcus

Semien homered twice, Corey Seager had a go-ahead, two-run shot and Texas held on to finish a three-game sweep in a crucial AL West series.

Adolis Garcia, Leody Taveras and rookie Evan Carter also went deep as the Rangers hit a season-high six homers, their most at four-season-old Globe Life Field.

AL West-leading Texas (85-70) won its fifth consecutive game and moved 2 1/2 games ahead of defending World Series champion Houston, which was swept at home by Kansas City. Seattle (84-71) trails Houston by a half-game for the third and final wild card.

Phillies 5, Mets 2

In Philadelphia, Nick Castellanos hit his 29th homer to move Philadelphia within one win of a National League playoff berth, completing a four-game sweep over New York.

The win was a bright spot in what the Phillies hoped would be a much more joyous day.

Wins earlier in the day by the Chicago Cubs and Miami Marlins meant a potential NL wild-card clinch had to wait at least one more game.

Royals 6, Astros 5

In Houston, Nelson Velazquez hit two home runs and Salvador Perez and Matt Duffy also homered as Kansas City built a big lead early and held on for a win over slumping Houston.

Kansas City has won six straight games and 10 of 11. The Royals raced to a 6-2 lead after tagging rookie Hunter Brown (11-13) for all four homers in just three innings.

Yordan Alvarez hit a solo

homer to cut the lead to one run in the fifth. But the defending World Series champions couldn't do anything after that on a day they went 1 for 10 with runners in scoring position and lost for the fifth time in six games.

Twins 9, Angels 3

In Minneapolis, Ryan Jeffers homered, tripled and drove in three runs to back a strong outing by Joe Ryan as Minnesota pulled away late to beat Los Angeles.

After a 50-minute rain delay, Jeffers and Max Kepler each hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning to help the Twins expand a one-run lead.

Cubs 4, Rockies 3

In Chicago, Patrick Wisdom put Chicago ahead with a two-run homer in the sixth inning, Seiya Suzuki had two hits and scored twice, and the Cubs helped their playoff chances by beating Colorado.

Yan Gomes also drove in two runs for the Cubs, who remained a game in front of Miami for the National League's final postseason



Atlanta Braves starting pitcher Spencer Strider delivers during the first inning of the second game of a baseball doubleheader against the Washington Nationals in Washington. (AP)

berth. Chicago is a half-game behind Arizona for the second of three wild cards.

Reds 4, Pirates 2

In Cincinnati, TJ Friedl hit a two-run homer and drove in the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning as Cincinnati bounced back from a historic collapse the night before to beat Pittsburgh.

Joey Votto received ovations from the crowd all day and singled in what could be his final home at-bat for the Reds.

Padres 12, Cardinals 2

In San Diego, Juan Soto hit a 461-foot homer and had four RBIs for San Diego, which was pushed closer to elimination from the playoff picture even as it beat St. Louis in its home finale.

Right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. made a spectacular leaping catch to rob pinch-hitter Michael Siani of the hit. Tatis did a little dance and acknowledged the crowd's ovation.

White Sox 3, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Mike Clevering pitched six solid innings, Elvis Andrus had a two-run double and Chicago beat Boston in a rain-shortened game, ending a string of 12 straight series losses.

Adam Duvall and Wilner Abreu each hit a solo homer for the Red Sox, who are on pace to finish in the AL East basement for the third time in four years.

Tigers 2, Athletics 0

In Oakland, Eduardo Rodriguez threw seven scoreless innings and Detroit beat the last-placed Oakland in its last home game.

Spencer Torkelson had two hits and drove in the only runs in the game with a two-run single in the third.

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Remarkable accomplishment spearheaded by Al-Mutairi

Historic triumph for Al-Nassr in Union Cup Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Taekwondo squad representing Al-Nassr Club has etched their names in history, securing the top spot in the men's Union Cup Championship. They achieved this remarkable feat by capturing titles in every weight category at the tournament, which concluded just two days ago, marking an unprecedented achievement.

This remarkable accomplishment by the 'Al-Anabi' Taekwondo team was spearheaded by Khaled Al-Mutairi, who claimed the gold medal in the under 54 kg weight class. Ali Bourhama locked in the gold medal in the under 58 kg category, Badr Al-Mutairi earned gold in the under 87 kg division, Osama Al-Mutairi seized gold in the under 63 kg category, Salman Abdulaziz secured gold in the under 68 kg category, Musfir Al-Ajmi triumphed with gold in the under 74 kg category, Meshal Al-Mutairi emerged victorious with gold in the under 80 kg category, and Jaber Al-Fadhli clinched gold in the over 87 kg division. Additionally, Yahya Al-Anzi claimed the silver medal in the under 54 kg category, Barak Al-Rashidi earned silver in the under 68 kg category, Ali Khalif secured silver in the under 63 kg category, Abdulaziz Al-Ajmi attained the bronze in the under 68 kg category, and Mohammed Al-Zafiri received the bronze in the under 58 kg category.

Sultan Al-Mutairi, a member of the board of directors at Al-Nassr Club and the director of team sports, showered praise on the historic achievements of the Taekwondo champions from Al-Nassr Club in the Union Championship, where they left an indelible mark by winning gold across the board.

He remarked, "This unparalleled

PSG rout rivals OM, Mbappé 'limps' off

PARIS, Sept 25, (AP): Forwards Randal Kolo Muani and Gonçalo Ramos scored their first goals for Paris Saint-Germain in a 4-0 home rout of Marseille in the French league but the victory was marred by an injury scare for star striker Kylian Mbappé.

Mbappé limped off in the 32nd minute after taking a blow to the left ankle earlier in the game and trying to play on. He was able to walk off the field at Parc des Princes and PSG coach Luis Enrique indicated Mbappé's injury was not serious.

"He was in a bit of pain and it was difficult for him to play," he told broadcaster Amazon. "It was wiser to take him off, but it's just a blow."

Mbappé is the league's top scorer with seven goals so far. Kolo Muani became the third-most expensive signing in PSG's history when he joined in the final hours of the transfer window from German club Eintracht Frankfurt for 95 million euros (\$103 million). Ramos is on a season-long loan from Benfica with an option to buy next June.

Marseille has been in crisis after yet another managerial upheaval rocked the club this week, with Spanish coach Marcelino stepping down. The team still managed to salvage a 3-3 draw away to Ajax in the Europa League on Thursday.

Right back Achraf Hakimi put PSG ahead in the eighth minute with a powerful free kick from the right side of the penalty area. Portugal forward Vitinha hit the crossbar with a header for Marseille midway through the first half.

After that chance, PSG dominated. Kolo Muani struck in the 37th when Hakimi's shot came back off the post and was deflected somewhat fortuitously into his path by Marseille goalkeeper Pau Lopez.

Ramos, who came on for Mbappé, made it 3-0 two minutes into the second half when he headed in Ousmane Dembélé's cross. His second came in the 89th from Kolo Muani's assist.

Earlier Sunday, Lens rallied to beat Toulouse 2-1 at home for its first win of the season and moved off the bottom.

The northern side finished second and only one point behind Paris Saint-Germain in a remarkable campaign last season, but sold its two best players and struggled to adapt.

After midfielder César Gelabert put Toulouse in front in the 33rd minute, forward Wesley Saïd equalized with a neat half-volley in first-half stoppage time. Striker Morgan Guilavogui grabbed the winner in the 84th as Lens moved up to 16th spot through six rounds of games.

Eighth-place Rennes remains unbeaten but was held for the fifth time this season in a 0-0 draw at Montpellier.

In other matches, midfielder Habib Diarra's late goal gave Strasbourg a 1-0 win at Metz, and Le Havre scored twice inside the first seven minutes in a 2-1 win against Clermont, which

triumph serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment and support of the club's management towards combat sports. It has paved the way for us to secure all titles in the Union Championship."

TAEKWONDO

Continuing, he expressed his gratitude to the management of Al-Nassr Club, as well as the administrative and coaching staff, and extended a heartfelt thank you to the champion athletes who demonstrated their mettle as the fiercest competitors in the Taekwondo championship. He emphasized that 'Al-Anabi' remains a perennial champion factory, and the combat sports teams will persist in their journey to conquer more championships and titles in forthcoming events.



Ahmed Al-Shehab celebrates his victory.

Another 'win' for Al-Shehab

GERMANY, Sept 25: Ahmed Al-Shehab, the racer, clinched the top spot in the 14th race of the seventh round of the Porsche Carrera Cup Deutschland Championship held in Germany. With one final round left in the competition scheduled for the end of October, Al-Shehab continues to vie for the first-place position, with only a 12-point gap separating him from the leader.

Al-Shehab expressed his joy at securing the first-place title in the 14th race, where he was the sole Arab racer, stating, "I am thrilled about this victory and remain hopeful about capturing the title in the upcoming final round, despite the fierce competition in the Porsche Carrera Cup



Winners of the tournament.

Yarmouk dominate Kuwaiti Tennis Federation Championship

Yarmouk Tennis Club showcased its brilliance at the conclusion of the Kuwaiti Tennis Federation's under-18 championship. The tournament wrapped up two days ago, with the Vice President of the Kuwaiti Tennis Federation,

TENNIS

Abdulredha Al-Ghareeb, in attendance at the final match and the awards ceremony. In the singles final, Yarmouk Club's player, Yaacoub Youssef, secured victory by defeating his fellow club

member, Hussein Al-Shatti, with a score of 7-6, 6/4. Meanwhile, in the doubles final, the Yarmouk Club duo, comprised of Yaqoub Youssef and Hussein Al-Shatti, emerged victorious over the Khaitan Club duo, consisting of Abdullah Dahrab and Omar Mahjoub, with a score of 6-0, 6-1.

In the final rankings of the participating clubs in the championship, Yarmouk Club claimed the top spot with 346 points, followed by Khaitan Club in second place with 187 points, Yarmouk Club securing third place with 96 points, Salmiya Club in fourth place with 76 points, and Sulabikhat Club rounding out the top five with 16 points."



The champions display their cups and medals.

Dolphins score most pts by NFL team since 1966 in 70-20 win over Broncos

Chiefs keep Bears winless

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla., Sept 25, (AP): The Miami Dolphins scored the most points in a game by an NFL team since 1966, overwhelming the Denver Broncos 70-20 on Sunday behind rookie De'Von Achane's 203 yards rushing and Tua Tagovailoa's four touchdown passes, including a no-look shovel-pass.

The Dolphins set a franchise record for scoring and finished two points shy of the NFL's regular-season record - set in 1966 by Washington against the Giants. They are the fourth team in NFL history to score at least 70 points in a regular-season or playoff game.

Packers 18, Saints 17

In Green Bay, Jordan Love rallied Green Bay from a 17-point fourth-quarter deficit in his first career home start, a comeback that began after New Orleans lost quarterback Derek Carr to a shoulder injury.

The Packers (2-1) scored 18 points in the final 11 minutes to win their 11th consecutive home opener, the NFL's longest active streak. They took the lead on Love's 8-yard pass to Romeo Doubs in the right corner of the end zone with 2:56 left.

Chiefs 41, Bears 10

In Kansas City, Patrick Mahomes threw for 272 yards and three touchdowns, Travis Kelce hauled in one of them to the delight of Taylor Swift, and Kansas City beat Chicago. Jerick McKinnon had a pair of

touchdown catches and Isiah Pacheco and Clyde Edwards-Helaire added touchdown runs, helping the Super Bowl champion Chiefs (2-1) deal the Bears (0-3) their 13th consecutive loss dating to last season.

Colts 22, Ravens 19, OT

In Baltimore, Matt Gay capped a terrific day of kicking with a 53-yard field goal in overtime and Indianapolis beat Baltimore.

Gay made a record four kicks from beyond 50 yards, including a 53-yarder that tied it in the final minute of regulation. His chance in overtime didn't come until after both teams had been stopped on fourth down near midfield.

Chargers 28, Vikings 24

In Minneapolis, Justin Herbert passed for 405 yards and three touchdowns, and Los Angeles kept Kirk Cousins and Minnesota out of the end zone twice in the last three minutes.

Kenneth Murray Jr. made the game-sealing interception in the end zone with 7 seconds left, snagging a ball that deflected off the chest of diving tight end T.J. Hockenson. On Minnesota's previous possession, Michael Davis knocked down Cousins' fourth-down throw to Justin Jefferson at the goal line.

Cardinals 28, Cowboys 16

In Glendale, Joshua Dobbs threw for a touchdown, James Conner and Ronald Moore ran for scores and Arizona stunned mistake-prone Dallas.

FOOTBALL

The Cardinals (1-2) never trailed and went ahead 21-10 on the final play of the first half when Matt Prater made a 62-yard field goal. Arizona scored on all five of its possessions before the break.

Browns 27, Titans 3

In Cleveland, Myles Garrett sacked Ryan Tannehill 3 1/2 times and fronted a Cleveland defense that limited Tennessee to 94 yards.

Six days after the Browns (2-1) lost star running back Nick Chubb to a season-ending knee injury in Pittsburgh, Garrett and Cleveland's defense stepped up with a dominant performance that overwhelmed the Titans (1-2).

Texans 37, Jaguars 17

In Jacksonville, Fullback Andrew Beck muffed a kickoff, picked up the ball and then broke five tackles during an 85-yard return for a touchdown - one of several special teams gaffes by Jacksonville - and Houston gave coach DeMeco Ryans his first victory.

Rookie C.J. Stroud threw for 280 yards and two touchdowns, including a 68-yarder to Tank Dell that sealed it, and the Texans won their fifth in a row at Jacksonville.

Seahawks 37, Panthers 27

In Seattle, Kenneth Walker III rushed for 97 yards and two second-half touchdowns, Jason Myers kicked four field goals, and Seattle beat Carolina.

Walker's 36-yard reception midway through the third quarter set up his 1-yard touchdown run after Seattle had settled for field goals every other time it reached Carolina's side of the field.

Bills 37, Commanders 3

In Landover, Josh Allen threw for a touchdown and ran for another, and Buffalo's defense forced five turnovers by overmatched Washington.

The Bills (2-1) won their second in a row after a rough season opener and handed the Commanders (2-1) their



Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback Levi Wallace (29) breaks up a pass intended for Las Vegas Raiders wide receiver Davante Adams during the first half of an NFL football game in Las Vegas. (AP)

first loss.

Patriots 15, Jets 10

In East Rutherford, Mac Jones threw a touchdown pass, Matt Judon had a late safety and New England extended its winning streak over New York to 15 games.

Bill Belichick's bunch avoided its first 0-3 start since the coach's first season in New England in 2000 while continuing the team's mastery over its AFC East rival.

Lions 20, Falcons 6

In Detroit, Jared Goff threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to tight end Sam LaPorta early in the second quarter and Detroit beat Atlanta.

The Lions (2-1) earned a much-needed win after following a hyped-up victory at Kansas City with a deflating loss at home to Seattle.

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In Minneapolis, Justin Herbert

NFL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 25, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games on Sunday.

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago W. Sox	3	Boston 6	—	2
Toronto	9	Tampa Bay	5	5
Baltimore	5	Cleveland	1	1
Arizona	7	NY Yankees	1	1
Minnesota	9	LA Angels	3	3
Kansas City	6	Houston	5	5
Texas	9	Seattle	8	8
Detroit	2	Oakland	0	0
Washington	3	Atlanta 1st game	2	2
Cincinnati	4	Pittsburgh	2	2
Miami	6	Milwaukee	1	1
Arizona	7	NY Yankees	1	1
Chicago Cubs	4	Colorado	3	3
San Diego	12	St Louis	2	2
Philadelphia	5	NY Mets	2	2
Atlanta	8	Washington 2nd game	5	5
LA Dodgers	3	San Francisco 10 inn	2	2

American League				
East Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Baltimore	5	5	.500	—
z-Tampa Bay	95	62	.605	2-1/2
Toronto	87	69	.558	10
New York	78	77	.503	18-1/2
Boston	76	80	.487	21
Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	83	73	.532	—
Cleveland	74	83	.471	9-1/2
Detroit	73	83	.468	10
Chicago	60	96	.385	23
Kansas City	54	102	.346	29
West Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	87	68	.561	—
Houston	85	71	.545	2-1/2
Seattle	84	71	.542	3
Los Angeles	70	86	.449	17-1/2
Oakland	48	108	.308	39-1/2

National League				
East Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	100	56	.641	—
Philadelphia	87	69	.558	13
Miami	81	75	.519	19
New York	71	85	.455	29
Washington	69	88	.439	31-1/2
Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Milwaukee	88	68	.564	—
Chicago	82	74	.526	6
Cincinnati	80	77	.510	8-1/2
Pittsburgh	74	82	.474	14
St Louis	68	88	.436	20
West Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Los Angeles	96	59	.619	—
Arizona	82	73	.529	14
San Diego	77	79	.494	19-1/2
San Francisco	77	79	.494	19-1/2
Colorado	56	99	.361	40

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India's players celebrate with their gold medals during the awards ceremony of the women's final cricket match between Sri Lanka and India at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. (AP)

Sports

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Kuwait open medal account at Asian Games

Kuwait handball team rout Thailand

HANGZHOU, China, Sept 25, (Agencies): Yousef Al-Shamlan, a prominent fencing champion, has proudly secured Kuwait's inaugural medal at the 19th Asian Games, held in a Chinese city and scheduled to continue until October 8th.

Al-Shamlan clinched the coveted "bronze" medal in the sabre competition, having successfully reached the semi-finals. Regrettably, he faced defeat at the hands of his South Korean adversary, with a score of 10-15, thereby missing out on the opportunity to compete for the gold in the final.

Al-Shamlan's triumphant journey began with an impressive performance in the preliminary qualifiers, propelling him to the round of 32, where he outscored his Uzbekistani opponent, Matov, with a 15-10 victory. In the round of 16, he continued his winning streak by defeating his teammate, Mohammed AbdulKarim, with a score of 15-11. The quarter-finals posed a formidable challenge against a player from Kazakhstan, but Al-Shamlan emerged victorious with a score of 15-10, ultimately securing his well-deserved bronze medal.

On a separate note, Hamad Al-Awadhi, the Secretary-General of the Kuwait Fencing Federation, expressed profound joy at Kuwait's historic achievement of its inaugural medal at the 19th Asian Games, all thanks to the remarkable fencing skills of Yousef Al-Shamlan. Al-Awadhi dedicated this momentous accomplishment to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,



Dashti shoots against Thailand.

as well as to the President of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Sheikh Fahd Nasser Al-Sabah, and the Director-General of the Public Authority for Sports, Yousef Al-Bidan.

He emphasized that this Asian triumph marks a historic milestone for the Kuwait Fencing Federation, underscoring the sport's development in Kuwait, attributable to the unwavering dedication of the technical and administrative staff, led by the President of the Fencing Federation, AbdulKarim Al-Shamlan. Notably, this accomplishment signifies the first-ever medal secured by the Kuwaiti fencing team in the annals of the Asian Games and Kuwait's initial medal at the 19th Asian Games.

The Kuwaiti national handball team achieved a momentous victory, defeating the Thai team with an impressive score of 49-19 in their inaugural match at the Asian Games. This resounding triumph earned the team their first two points in the group stage, alongside Thailand and China. Consequently, the Kuwaiti handball team has solidified its presence in the second round, where the top two teams from each group will progress to the semifinals.

ASIAN GAMES

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Mohamed Al-Ayoub, and the Director-General of the Public Authority for Sports, Yousef Al-Bidan, joined in celebrating the national handball team's jubilation following their remarkable victory against Thailand.

On a different note, Qaid Al-Adwani, the Secretary-General of the Kuwait Handball Federation, commended the team's performance in their inaugural match and acknowledged the intensified challenges awaiting them in subsequent stages. He also highlighted the inclusion of promising young talents within the team, diligently preparing for the forthcoming Asian Championship, which serves as a qualifier for the World Cup in Bahrain.

He extended his gratitude to the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, under the leadership of Sheikh Fahd Al-Nasser, and the head of the delegation, Fatima Hayat, for their unwavering support, meticulous oversight, and provision of comfort for the Kuwaiti delegation in China. He extended his best wishes for success to all and expressed hopes for Kuwait to return with an extensive medal tally.

Abdulrahman Al-Fadhil, a member of our national rowing team, concluded his participation in the tournament, securing sixth place in the men's singles event and establishing a new Kuwaiti record. In a separate discipline, athlete Fatima Al-Fuqan



Al-Shamlan celebrates after winning Kuwait's first medal in the Asian Games.

achieved fourth place in the consolation rounds of the women's singles event. Notably, she became the first Kuwaiti female athlete to advance to the semifinals in the Asian Games, securing a place among the top 10 players in the overall Asian rankings (Top 10) and setting new personal Kuwaiti records.

Additionally, our national taekwondo athlete Ali Al-Murshad concluded his participation in the competition after facing a 0-2 defeat against a member of the Chinese team in the preliminary rounds of the under 58 kg category.

The participation of our national shooting team in the 10m air rifle event has concluded, with Ali Al-Mutairi finishing in 41st place, Abdullah Al-Harbi in 48th place, and Saud Al-Subei in 51st place. Today, our national shooting team's champions and heroines are set to make their debut in the Asian Games. The team consists of Abdullah Al-Rashidi, Mansour Al-Rashidi, and Abdulaziz Al-Saad, who will compete in the skeet competition. There are high expectations for the Kuwaiti

shooting sports to secure medals during this stage.

Meanwhile, India set the first world record of the Asian Games in the 10-meter team rifle event. The new mark is 1,893.7 points. The old mark was set last month by a Chinese team.

The record gave India its first gold medal at this year's Asian Games. The Indian team members were Rudranksh Patil, Divyansh Panwar and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar.

North Korea, appearing in its first international multi-sport event since the 2018 Asian Games, took bronze on Sunday in judo. Chae Kwanglin won the medal in the 60-kilogram class.

The Asian Games involves about 12,400 competitors from 45 nations and territories with 481 gold medals on the line.

China won 11 of the 14 gold medals in rowing, a sport it has dominated in the Asian Games since it was introduced in 1982. The two days of rowing wrapped up on Monday. The first gold medal in the Asian Games was awarded on Sunday in rowing. China won that one.

The race to the top of the medal table is no race at all. Through the first 50 gold medals awarded, China has won 32. It also has won 50 medals overall, far ahead of Japan and South Korea, the main competition.

China won almost 300 medals in Indonesia at the 2018 Asian Games and seems certain to surpass that total at home.

The Asian Games offer a preview of what could soon be coming to the Olympics. That's surely the case with cricket, which seems headed to the Olympic program as soon as the 2028 Los Angeles Games or the 2032 Brisbane Games.

India's women won the gold medal on Monday at the Asian Games, defeating Sri Lanka in the 20-overs format. India scored 116-7 to beat Sri Lanka by 19 runs. The Sri Lankans scored 97-8.

"On this kind of wicket, we thought even if we scored something near the 120-run mark, we could defend it because we have a strong bowling unit," India cricketer Minnu Mani said.

In the bronze medal game, Bangladesh scored 65-5 to defeat

Pakistan, which scored 64-9. Bangladesh won by five wickets with 10 balls remaining.

"Our players had to hold on to their nerves and make it possible," Bangladesh coach Hashan Tillakaratne said.

The men's cricket final at the Asian Games is Oct. 7, which could generate a massive television audience if archrivals India and Pakistan face off. That final, however, could be overshadowed by the start of the Cricket World Cup in India, which runs Oct. 5-Nov. 19.

The International Olympic Committee earlier this month delayed a decision about adding cricket and several other sports to the Los Angeles Games. The IOC has given no clear timetable about when a decision about cricket will be made.

Cricket appeared in the Olympics for the only time in 1900 at the Paris Games.

Cricket's return would be a big source of television revenue for the IOC, which generates more than half of its billions in income from selling television rights.

Team World claim 'historic' a back-to-back Laver Cup titles

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Sept 25, (AP): For the very first time, Team World successfully defended its Laver Cup title.

Americans Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe beat Hubert Hurkacz and Andrey Rublev 7-6 (7), 7-6 (7) to help Team World hit the 13-point mark needed to defeat Team Europe.

"It felt unbelievable," said Team World captain John McEnroe, who added how Team Europe had beaten Team World numerous times.

Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime, who was also a member of Team World last year, said the repeat victory was even more special with it taking place on Canadian soil.

"To win is the best feeling and it's nice to come back after London and to do it in Vancouver," he said.

Auger-Aliassime said he looks forward to having an opportunity to play as part of a team.

TENNIS

"Every time I play for a team, I feel really good," he said. "The tour can, playing singles all the time, get lonely I guess. To have teammates and win as a team, for me it's really special."

Team World's 2022 victory marked Swiss star Roger Federer's last professional appearance before retiring.

Canadian Milos Raonic was attending the tournament as an alternate for Team World in case of injury, and took part in a doubles match after the cup presentation.

He was paired with Chris Eubanks as the pair took on Arthur Fils and Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

"Milos is a guy who changed the way Canadians looked at our game of tennis," McEnroe said of Raonic's legacy.

Team World took a 10-2 lead in the

tournament Saturday to put itself in the driver's seat.

The opening doubles match Sunday featured several sustained rallies, with Shelton hitting a behind-the-back shot during the second game.

Both sets went to tiebreakers, with Team Europe pushing to stay in the hunt for its second win of the three-day tournament.

But it wasn't meant to be as Hurkacz missed a drop shot, allowing Team World to clinch the win.

The match was a tight affair, with Team World just edging out their European counterparts 80 to 76 on points.

"We gave 100%. Team World played unbelievable tennis every single match," said Team Europe captain Bjorn Borg. "Of course we're very disappointed."



Team World's Taylor Fritz, (fourth from left), and Ben Shelton, (fifth from left), hoist the Laver Cup in front of teammates, John McEnroe, (left), and Rod Laver, (second from left), after Team World defeated Team Europe at the Laver Cup tennis tournament in Vancouver, British Columbia. (AP)

Atletico end Real unbeaten start to season

MADRID, Sept 25, (AP): Atletico Madrid happily made sure Real Madrid wasn't perfect anymore.

Atletico ended its rival's perfect start with a 3-1 win in their first Spanish league derby of the season.

Alvaro Morata scored twice and Antoine Griezmann once to hand Madrid its first loss after six straight victories in all competitions this season. Toni Kroos scored the lone goal for the visitors.

The result left Catalan clubs Barcelona and Girona at the top of the standings with 16 points each from six matches. Defending champion Barcelona rallied late to defeat Celta Vigo 3-2 on Saturday, while Girona

beat Mallorca 5-3.

Madrid stayed one point behind in third place. It had won five consecutive league games, and on Wednesday beat Union Berlin in the group stage of the Champions League. Madrid was the only team with a perfect league record so far.

Atletico, sitting fifth with 10 points, was coming off a 3-0 loss at Valencia for its first defeat of the season. Diego Simeone's team had two

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wins and a draw in its other previous matches. Its league game against Sevilla earlier this month was postponed because of bad weather.

"We played a great match," Simeone said. "The team recovered its spirit and, when that happens, it doesn't matter the rival."

All three goals by Atletico on Sunday at Metropolitan stadium came from headers. Morata scored in the fourth and 46th minutes, while



Atletico Madrid's Marcos Llorente, (left), vies for the ball with Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid at Metropolitan stadium in Madrid. Atletico Madrid won 3-1. (AP)

Griezmann got on the board in the 18th. Madrid's goal came in the 35th after Kroos cleared a defender before

finding the net from outside the area. Madrid had a goal disallowed for offside in the 44th.

"We didn't get off to a good start, didn't defend well," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "And with 2-0 they took control, defending well and taking advantage of quick transitions. They were better than us in that aspect."

Ancelotti couldn't count on Vinicius Junior, who was set to return from injury but was dropped from the squad at the last minute because of a stomach illness.

Real Sociedad beat Getafe 4-3 at home with Japanese forward Takefusa Kubo scoring the opening goal for the hosts two minutes into the match, and Villarreal drew 1-1 at Rayo Vallecano with the teams scoring the goals a minute apart early in the first half.

Also Sunday, 10-man Las Palmas picked up its first win by defeating visiting Granada 1-0 with a stoppage-time goal by Kirian Rodriguez, and Real Betis drew 1-1 with Cadiz at home.

Byron gets milestone win for Hendrick

FORT WORTH, Texas, Sept 25, (AP): William Byron grew up a huge fan of Hendrick Motorsports, watching Jimmie Johnson win championships and knowing how much he wanted to one day drive for that organization.

The 25-year-old Byron is now a step closer in his sixth Cup season to having an opportunity to race for Rick Hendrick's next title after getting the team owner a milestone victory in the second-

round opener of the NASCAR playoffs.

Byron led only the last six laps Sunday at Texas, going in front by passing Bubba Wallace and Chase Briscoe right after the final restart, and advanced to the round of eight with his series-best sixth win of the season. It was the 300th for Hendrick, coming just more than two years after passing Petty Enterprises' longtime record of 268 wins for the most in Cup history.

"The 300 wasn't a goal, 269 was a goal to beat Petty's record," Hendrick said. "I never thought we'd get there, so we started counting down until we got to break that record. Once we got to 269, then everybody started talking about 300."

"I'm not thinking about 350, I'll tell you that. I'm going to enjoy 300 and see what happens," he said. "I'd like to win another championship."