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AFTER 75 DAYS ... GOVERNMENT REVIEWING PERFORMANCE, STANCES 'Adjusting course' fixes neglected issues

- Government's program includes giant projects, but left the impression that it only cares about the structure, not the human being
Government rejected 'retirees' benefits' without batting an eye despite its promise to improve their conditions
Last salary increase was more than 15 years ago in spite of the terrible inflation and steady price hikes

Many successes achieved, of which citizen has no share

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: With today's sunrise, the fifth government of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah completes 75 days since its inception according to Decree 116 of 2023 issued on June 18, 2023.

If it is a political tradition for the government to submit a list of its achievement 100 days after its formation, then 75 days should be sufficient to evaluate its performance to a certain extent.

The fifth government came after the pivotal and historic parliamentary election, when everyone witnessed transparency and integrity. The election results were protected by the rulings of the Constitutional Court regarding the appeals it received.

Although the previous (fourth) government organized the election, it can be said with satisfaction that the success of the election and the strength of its results in the midst of attempts to challenge them can also be credited to the current government, given that the latter is a relatively modified version of its predecessor and there is no significant difference between them.

The government presented its program to the 17th legislative term of the National Assembly entitled, "Adjusting the Course: A Productive Economy and Sustainable Welfare". It includes 133 projects -- capital projects and others.

These projects are aimed at improving the quality of life of the people, enhancing

their well-being, raising Kuwait's educational and health rating, increasing the productivity of the government sector, and improving the participation of the private sector.



Al-Jarallah

The program is clear and practical, and most importantly, it reflects the existence of a clear vision, even if it has been the subject of disagreement or controversy over some details, and although it did not contain any reference to fundamental issues such as political reform, Bedouins, and priority of the people who deserve subsidy and care.

Although the program includes a huge number of giant projects in infrastructure and vital industries; it left an impression for many that it is concerned with the structure only, not the human being, even though the latter is the focal point of development -- the engine of development and the locomotive of change.

This impression was strengthened among many during the meetings of government officials with members of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee to discuss "the fair demands and entitlements of retirees; including pension increment, increasing minimum pension to KD 1,000 and increasing the soft loan ceiling to 21 times the salary."

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah headed on Saturday to Italy on a private visit.

His Highness the Amir was seen off at the international airport by His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Also present were First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and senior officials of the state. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani attended a ceremony on Saturday near the Shalamchek border crossing with Iran, setting the cornerstone for a railway projects linking the two countries.

A statement by the Prime Minister's office said that Al-Sudani stressed the importance of the project, which would enable people to travel from Iran and central Asian country to Iraq and vice versa. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: A bus carrying pilgrims to the Iraqi city of Karbala overturned north of Baghdad on Saturday, killing 18 people, medical officials said.

Millions of believers converge on the city each year for the Shiite pilgrimage of Arbaeen, regarded as the largest annual public gathering in the world. Pilgrims come from various parts of Iraq as well as from Iran and the Gulf countries, with many making their way to Karbala on foot.

Two Iraqi medical officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media said that the bus overturned near the town of Balad, about 55 miles (90 kilometers) north of Baghdad. (AP)

RAMALLAH: A Palestinian man was killed by Israeli occupation forces bullets in Aqaba town near the West Bank, said Palestine health ministry Friday.

In a statement, the ministry noted that Abdulrahim Ghannam, 36, passed away due to a bullet in the head. Local sources reported that the occupation forces stormed the town, surrounded a house, and fired live and rubber bullets at young men. (KUNA)



Mourners take a last look at the body of Abdulrahim Ghannam, 36, at a mosque, during his funeral in the West Bank town of Aqaba, near Tubas, Friday, Sept. 1, 2023. (AP)



Eritrean protesters clash with Israeli riot police in Tel Aviv, Israel, Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023. Hundreds of Eritrean asylum seekers smashed shop windows and police cars in Tel Aviv on Saturday and clashed with police during a protest against an event organized by the Eritrea Embassy. (AP)

Alternative to health travel sought

Bill bids to establish healthcare complex

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: MPs Khalid Muhammad Al-Mahan, Soud Al-Asfour, Fahd Al-Masoud, Muhannad Al-Sayer and Badr Nashmi Al-Anzi have submitted a bill on the establishment of a healthcare complex for the treatment of patients who need special care and provide services that are not available in public hospitals as an alternative to overseas treatment.

The bill states that the complex shall be under the Health Ministry. Kuwait Municipality shall allocate land for the healthcare complex and the government must complete the project within one year after the allocation of the land. The ministry will provide the equipment; medical staff including doctors, nurses and technicians; invite specialists and organize regular visits of efficient and experienced doctors for check ups, surgeries and monitoring of serious cases. The complex will cater to patients with approved overseas treatment applications. The executive regulations should be issued within one year of enforcing the bill.

Within three years after the ratification of the bill, the ministry should form a higher specialized committee that will be tasked to determine the patients who need to undergo treatment in the complex as an alternative to overseas treatment.

The funds needed for establishing the complex will be taken from the public reserve fund, while the budget of the complex will be included in the budget of the ministry. The complex will be totally independent from public health centers and hospitals.

A special decree will be issued to organize the administrative and technical management of the complex. Once the complex is established, all committees tasked to determine patients who require overseas treatment will be cancelled.

Meanwhile, MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf has forwarded queries to Minister of Information, Endowments and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi about the strategy for developing the Information Ministry that Al-Mutairi announced

Pay before you go

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Based on the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, on the necessity of coordination between government agencies and the Ministry of Interior to collect debts owed by foreigners before leaving the country, the Ministry of Interior announced the start of activating the decision to collect debts owed by foreigners to the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy before leaving the country, reports Al-Jarida daily.

From Friday, Sept 1, 2023 every foreigner who wishes to leave the country, whatever the reason must pay the electricity and water bills through the electronic payments on the Ministry of Electricity and Water application or the "Sahel" application, or at the land and sea ports and the Kuwait International Airport.

The Ministry of Interior has called on everyone to adhere and not to violate the established legal provisions as it will not hesitate to carry out its duty to maintain security and public order in the country.

three years ago.

He wants to know the achievement rate of the minister's plan to establish an advanced, sustainable and good quality media institution; number of partnership contracts with the private sector for the implementation of the strategy that the minister announced three years ago, progress of the media production zone which is included in the strategy, and achievements related to the development of media marketing and supporting drama and theater productions.

Moreover, National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun sent a cable to his Vietnamese counterpart Hung Vuong Hanoi to greet him on the National Day of his country.

America remembers Afghanistan sacrifice

WASHINGTON, Sept 2, (KUNA): US President Joe Biden on Thursday marked second anniversary of withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan heaping praise upon those who had fallen in service and those who had to be pulled out of the trouble-scarred nation.

In a statement, the president said, "Two years ago, the United States ended nearly two decades of war in Afghanistan" the longest war in American history.

"Today, we pause to remember the selfless service of generations of brave women and men over the course of the conflict who, time and time again, sacrificed their own safety and security for that of their fellow Americans. That includes the 2,461 U.S. service members who made the ultimate sacrifice, and 20,744 of their brother-and-sisters-in-arms who were wounded in action. These service members dared all, risked all, and gave all to our nation. We owe them and their families a debt we can never fully repay.

"I remain forever grateful to the military members, diplomats, intelligence professionals, and development specialists who not only worked together to advance the United States' Afghan mission for two decades but who also conducted our withdrawal with the same resolve and bravery that defined U.S. service in Afghanistan."

Continuing, Biden said, "Together, they helped evacuate approximately 120,000 people in one of the largest airlifts in history. And every day since, they have skillfully used every military, diplomatic, and intelligence resource available to continue to protect our homeland from terrorist threats in Afghanistan and around the world. We have demonstrated that we do not need a permanent troop presence on the ground in harm's way to take action against terrorists and those who wish to do us harm.

Finally, "I am proud that our nation has welcomed more than 117,000 Afghan newcomers. I am thankful for the work of our veterans and fellow Americans who remained relentless advocates for our Afghan allies and I am grateful for the generosity of state and local governments and our resettlement partners who continue to welcome them into their communities. We will also continue to support the Afghan people, and we are proud to be the largest single donor of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.

"Just as they contributed to our mission in Afghanistan for 20 years, "our Afghan allies are now making vast contributions across our nation. And, just as they stood with us, I remain committed to standing with them including urging Congress to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act so we can provide a pathway to permanent legal status for our Afghan friends and neighbors.

"Let us continue to meet our sacred obligation to our service members, veterans, and their families, caregivers, and survivors who gave so much over so many years in Afghanistan."



Fulham chairman Mohamed Al Fayed on Aug. 13, 2011, in London. Al Fayed, the former Harrods owner has died at age 94. His death was announced Friday, Sept. 1, 2023, by Fulham Football Club, which Al Fayed once owned. (AP)

Made claims in Diana death

Egyptian businessman Al Fayed dies aged 94

LONDON, Sept 2, (AP): Mohamed Al Fayed, the flamboyant Egyptian-born businessman whose son was killed in a car crash with Princess Diana, died this week, his family said Friday. He was 94.

Al Fayed, the longtime owner of Harrods department store and the Fulham Football Club, was devastated by the death of son Dodi Fayed in the car crash in Paris with Diana 26 years ago. He spent years mourning the loss and fighting the British establishment he blamed for their deaths.

"Mrs Mohamed Al Fayed, her children and grandchildren wish to confirm that her beloved husband, their father and their grandfather, Mohamed, has passed away peacefully of old age on Wednesday August 30, 2023," his family said in a statement released by the Fulham club. "He enjoyed a long and fulfilled retirement surrounded by his loved ones."

Al Fayed was convicted Dodi and Diana were killed in a conspiracy masterminded by Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II. He maintained the royal family arranged the accident because they did not like Diana dating an Egyptian. Al Fayed claimed that Diana was pregnant and planning to marry Dodi and that the royal family could not countenance the princess marrying a Muslim.

In 2008, Al Fayed told an inquest the list of alleged conspirators included Philip, two former London police chiefs and the CIA.

The inquest concluded that Diana and Dodi died because of the reckless actions of their driver - an employee of the Ritz Hotel owned by Al Fayed - and paparazzi chasing the couple. Separate inquiries in the U.K. and France also concluded there was no conspiracy.

Al Fayed's relationship with the royal family was recently depicted in season five of "The Crown," in which the billionaire, played by Salim Daw, gets to know Diana.

The son of a school inspector, Al Fayed was born on Jan. 27, 1929, in Alexandria, Egypt. After early investments in shipping in Italy and the Middle East, he moved to Britain in the 1960s and started building an empire.

At the height of his wealth, Al Fayed owned the Ritz hotel in Paris and Fulham soccer team in London as well as Harrods, the luxury department store in the capital's tony Knightsbridge neighborhood.

The Sunday Times Rich List, which documents the fortunes of Britain's wealthiest people, put the family's fortune at 1.7 billion pounds (\$2.1 billion) this year, ranking Al Fayed as the 104th richest person in the country.

Al Fayed first hit the headlines in the 1980s when he battled with rival tycoon "Tiny" Rowland for control of the House of Fraser group, which included Harrods.

Al Fayed and his brother bought a 30% stake in House of Fraser for 130 million pounds in 1985. They paid an additional 615 million pounds to take full control the following year.

That transaction sparked an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry, which concluded Al Fayed and his brother had "dishonestly misrepresented their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources." Despite those findings, the deal was allowed to go through. Al Fayed was also a key player in the "cash for questions" scandal that roiled British politics in the 1990s.

Al Fayed was sued for libel by a British lawmaker, Neil Hamilton, after the businessman claimed he had given Hamilton envelopes of cash and a lavish stay at the Ritz in Paris, in return for asking questions in the House of Commons.



## OPINION OTHER VOICES

People living longer across the world

# No age limit for politicians, should that change?

By Nancy S. Jecker,  
University of Washington

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

President Joe Biden was "fine," according to White House Communications Director Ben LaBolt, after tripping over a sandbag at a U.S. Air Force graduation ceremony on June 1, 2023.

But his fall was caught on live camera - and people on social media speculated about what was behind it.

Biden, approaching his 81st birthday in November 2023, is the oldest serving U.S. president. He shares the distinction of old age with a growing number of politicians, including U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who, at age 90, is the oldest person in the Senate and has served as senator since 1992.

Some people - from fellow Democrats to The New York Times editorial board - have questioned whether Feinstein can fulfill the duties of her job, citing incidents in which she stumbled over words. Feinstein began reading prepared remarks during a Senate appropriations hearing vote on July 27, 2023, until her democratic colleague, Sen. Patty Murray, whispered to her, "Just say aye."

Feinstein was also absent for prolonged periods with various illnesses, including shingles and encephalitis from February through May 2023. She later told journalists that she "hasn't been gone" and simply worked from home during her illness.

In July 2023, 81-year-old Sen. Mitch McConnell trailed off and froze mid-sentence while speaking at a lectern to the press. Aides ushered him off camera. McConnell later said, "I'm fine," when journalists questioned him about the incident.

Such incidents prompt the question: Can politicians be too old to serve in office? Should society make retiring at a certain age mandatory for elected officials who run the country - like presidents and senators?

I am a philosopher and bioethicist who studies ethics related to individual and societal aging, and these questions are at the forefront of what I think about. Whatever view one takes on the ethics of age limits for politicians, voting remains the primary way to put one's views into practice.

Requirements for U.S. presidential candidates haven't changed since 1789, when the Constitution was written. In that era, the average life expectancy was about 34 years - but varied greatly for people who were slaves or free.

Today, the life span for the average American is 79 years. But it tends to be much higher for people like politicians, who are relatively wealthy and receive good health care.

In the U.S., a person needs to be 35 years old or older in order to be president. A person must be at least 25 years old in order to serve in the House of Representatives, while the minimum age rises slightly to 30 years old for serving in the Senate.

The U.S. banned age discrimination in workplaces in 1967. Should politicians who lead the country be an exception to this law?

A 2022 YouGov poll reported that 58% of Americans want a maximum age for politicians. Those who support age limits usually say that politicians holding office should be no more than 70 years old. That would make 71% of current U.S. senators ineligible to hold office. It is unclear how age limits like that could be implemented.

Increasingly, people everywhere will be forced to confront questions about whether a person can be too old to hold public office. People are living longer lives in the U.S., but the same is true across the world.

Considering age limits for high-ranking politicians poses certain ethical questions that do not have a clear answer.

Staying in office despite health problems can threaten public safety. An American president holds immense power - including the ability to launch nuclear weapons. Members of Congress are responsible for making laws, declaring war and controlling taxes and spending.

Defenders of mandatory retirement say older people have had their turn.

Yet, if giving everyone a fair turn is the goal, why not cap the number of years worked? Like age limits, however, capping years would disproportionately affect older workers - and some say that's unjustly discriminatory.

Even without age cutoffs, age could still be a way to flag other relevant factors, like health.

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President Donald Trump, left, and Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden during the second and final presidential debate Oct. 22, 2020, at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. Unflattering portraits of both President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump emerge clearly in a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, which asked an open-ended question about what comes to mind when people think of them. (AP)

Trump has got other problems

# Biden widely seen as too old for office: poll

Americans actually agree on something in this time of raw discord: Joe Biden is too old to be an effective president in a second term. Only a few years his junior, Donald Trump raises strikingly less concern about his age.

But they have plenty of other problems with Trump, who at least for now far outdistances his rivals for the Republican nomination despite his multiple criminal indictments. Never mind his advanced years - if anything, some say, the 77-year-old ought to grow up.

A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds much of the public oddly united in sizing up the one trait Biden cannot change.

The president has taken to raising the age issue himself, with wisecracks, as if trying to relax his audiences about his 80 trips around the sun.

Age discrimination may be banned in the workplace but the president's employers - the people - aren't shy about their bias.

In the poll, fully 77% said Biden is too old to be effective for four more years. Not only do 89% of Republicans say that, so do 69% of Democrats. That view is held across age groups, not just by young people, though older Democrats specifically are more supportive of his 2024 bid.

In contrast, about half of U.S. adults say Trump is too old for the office, and here the familiar partisan divide emerges - Democrats are far more likely to disqualify Trump by age than are Republicans.

What's clear from the poll is that Americans are saying out with the old and in with the young, or at least younger.

Democrats, Republicans and independents want to sweep a broad broom through the halls of power, imposing age limits on the presidency, Congress and the Supreme Court. In all about two-thirds of U.S. adults back an age ceiling on candidates for president and Congress and a mandatory retirement age for justices.

Specifically, 67% favor requiring Supreme Court justices to retire by a certain age, 68% support age ceilings for candidates for House and Sen-

ate, and 66% support age ceilings for candidates for president.

With elders mostly running the show and the Constitution to contend with, don't expect that to happen any time soon.

Even so, the survey suggests lots of people across political lines are open to seeing a younger face, a fresher one, or both, capture the public imagination.

Among them is Noah Burden, a 28-year-old communications consultant in Alexandria, Virginia. Despite a clear preference for Biden over Trump, he wishes the top contenders for the presidency were closer to his generation.

"They're too old overall," Burden said. That older generation represents "a sense of values and sense of the country and the world that just isn't accurate anymore. It can be dangerous to have that view."

Similarly, Greg Pack, 62, a past and possibly future Trump voter in Ardmore, Oklahoma, wishes Biden and Trump would both move along.

"Just watching and listening to Biden it's pretty self-evident he is not what he was," said Pack, a registered nurse.

Trump? "He is a lot sharper but at the end of his term, who knows?" Pack said, contemplating January 2029. "I'm just ready for someone younger." He's had about enough of a man who is "all about himself" and is "wearing his indictments like a badge of honor," but if that's who it takes to defeat Biden, so be it.

The AP-NORC survey went beyond posing questions and presenting choices. It also had a word association exercise, asking people to offer the first word or phrase that comes to mind at the mention of each man.

The answers underscored how age is a particular drag for Biden across party lines, even when people aren't prompted to think about that, and how Trump largely escapes that only to draw disdain if not disgust on other fronts.

In those visceral responses, 26% mentioned Biden's age and an additional 15% used words such as "slow" or "confused." One Republican thought of "potato." Among Democrats, Biden's age was mentioned upfront by 28%. They preferred such terms over "president," "leader,"

"strong" or "capable." One who approves of his performance nevertheless called him "senile."

Only 3% in the survey came up with "confused" as the first descriptor for Trump, and a mere 1% used "old" or the like. Instead, the top words were those like "corrupt" or "crooked" (15%), "bad" and other generally negative terms (11%), words such as "liar" and "dishonest" (8%), along with "good" and other generally positive comments (8%).

Why the divergence between the two on public perceptions of their age?

"Biden just seems to be very compromised by age-related conditions," said Eric Dezenhall, 60, a corporate scandal-management consultant who has followed Trump's career and worked in Ronald Reagan's White House. "Even people who like him see him as being frail and not altogether 'there.'"

"Whatever Trump's negatives are, I don't think most people see them as being related to being disabled in an age-related way," he said. "In fact, the more you throw at him, the more he seems like a ranting toddler. Disturbing, sure, but elderly? Not necessarily. Trump has been ranting this way for almost eight decades, and it always drives him forward."

For Diego Saldana, 31, it hits close to home when he see Biden fumbling some words or taking halting steps.

"I see all the symptoms my grandpa had," he said. "You can't be ruling a country" that way. His granddad now is 94. Saldana supports Trump despite hesitancy over the criminal charges against him.

Eric Colwell, 34, an audit manager in Sacramento, California, came up with "old" for Biden and "incompetent" for Trump as his first-impression words. An independent who leans Democratic, he sounded a little embarrassed on the phone that the U.S. can't do better than these two.

"Sheer optics," he said. "Older gentlemen. You want your leaders, from a visual standpoint, to be spry and energetic. And we tend to fall short."

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editor's choice







Limited income families choose schoolbags for their children.



Female volunteers partake in giving schoolbags to low income families.

## Schoolbags to needy 'students' distributed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): Kuwaiti volunteers have distributed schoolbags and stationery to hundreds of students from limited income families ahead of the forthcoming scholastic year.

The benefiting students belonged to 244 families. The charitable work was coordinated by the voluntary teams "manarat ghadeer" and "batsa," along with the societies "namaa al-khairiah" and "tanmia al-khairiah."

# Call for 'unified mechanism' for exempting parcels and personal postal consignments

Kuwait proceeds with completion of ratification procedures of Arab Customs Coop Agreement

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (Agencies): Abdullah Adel Al-Sharhan, the Acting Director General of the General Administration of Customs, led the delegation that participated in the fifth meeting of the Board of Directors of the Customs Union Authority of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries on August 31, 2023, in Salalah, Sultanate of Oman, reports Al-Rai daily.

During this meeting, the comprehensive and updated timetable for completing arrivals was approved. They also discussed the final status of the Customs Union in light of the outcomes of a study on the development of customs ports and adopted an executive plan for proposed solutions to address existing obstacles.

### Decisions

Furthermore, the meeting delved into the decisions made by the Board of Directors, the requirements during the founding phase, and recommended transferring the tasks and jurisdiction of the Customs Union Administration and the Customs Information Center from the General Secretariat to the Council of the Customs Union Authority. This transfer was to enable the Council to exercise its duties as per the bylaws and the powers granted to it in line with the Supreme Council's decision - 42/2021. Amendments to the list of materials and tools for individuals with special needs were agreed upon, and these changes would be implemented from March 1, 2024, pending approval by the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee.

Al-Sharhan emphasized the importance of developing a unified mechanism for exempting parcels and personal postal consignments, sharing experiences to implement best practices. He also highlighted the agreement to promptly address the chal-



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas receives a teacher-contracting delegation from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education.

## Abbas receives delegation from Kuwaiti Ministry of Education

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas underlined on Thursday deep-rooted relations with the Kuwaiti leadership and people. The Palestinian News Agency (WAFA) noted that Abbas's praise came during his reception in the city of Ramallah to a teacher-contracting delegation from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education.

The Palestinian leader welcomed the visiting delegation, as

well as extending greeting to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, valuing Kuwait's "enduring and firm" stances towards the Palestinian cause.

The delegation have contracted with 531 teachers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including 211 females. (KUNA)

lenges faced by consignments subject to the mechanism of direct automatic transfer of customs duties. Additionally, there was consensus on compiling lists of common restricted and prohibited goods, as well as lists of goods with similar characteristics, including private and individual prohibitions.

In his remarks, Al-Sharhan underscored the necessity of cooperation between relevant authorities and the General Administration of Customs to implement advanced release requirements. This would streamline all procedures at the first port in

GCC countries, eliminate redundant processes at inter-borders, facilitate the electronic exchange of information with GCC nations, and develop unified customs clearance procedures. Ultimately, these efforts aimed to reduce clearance times and facilitate the flow of trade.

### Also:

**CAIRO:** Kuwait confirmed on Thursday that it is continuing to complete the procedures for ratifying the Arab Customs Cooperation Agreement, which entered into force last year after the agreement of 7 member states to the League of Arab States (LAS).

This came in a statement by the Acting Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance for Economic Affairs **Talal Al-Nameh** to KUNA, at the conclusion of his leadership of the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the 112th session of the ministerial Arab Economic and Social Council.

At the session's conclusion, Al-Nameh said that the Kuwaiti delegation stressed during the discussions the importance of economic agreements within the framework of completing the requirements for establishing the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) in order to achieve Arab economic integration.

In this context, Kuwait has confirmed its interest in completing the procedures for ratifying the Agreement on Liberalization of Trade in Services between Arab countries, as well as the Arab Customs Cooperation

Agreement, he added.

The Kuwaiti proposals that were put forward during the preparatory meetings for the 112th session in the past two days received approval and were adopted at today's meeting and submitted among a number of items to the Council of the Arab League, he explained.

He pointed to the Kuwaiti proposals adopted by the ministerial meeting, which are amending the standards for establishing specialized Arab organizations and entities emanating from LAS, as well as a proposal to update the criteria for presenting economic and social topics to the Council.

He revealed that Kuwait supported Saudi Arabia's proposal that it submitted to the Economic and Social Council regarding the establishment of a Council of Arab Cybersecurity Ministers, underlining the importance of the proposal in view of the increasing risks resulting from cyber attacks on electronic networks in today's world.

He referred to the discussions that took place in today's meeting and said that they centered on preparing the economic and social file for the League Council at the level of the Arab Summit in its regular 33rd session, which is scheduled to be held in Bahrain next March, as well as preparing for the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in Mauritania next November, in addition to topics of ways to enhance economic and social cooperation between Arab countries.

## 'Adjusting course'

Continued from Page 1

The government rejected these proposals without batting an eye despite its repeated promises to improve the standard of living of retirees whose conditions have become unacceptable. This position resulted in the indefinite postponement of talks on the entire issue!

The government took same the path regarding the proposal to increase salaries in spite of the fact that the last increment was in 2008, that is, about 15 years ago. Despite the terrible inflation and steady rise in prices, the government is contented with referring to the strategic alternative to the salary scale project, which was described as like "a rare gem" that we hear about, but have never seen.

Then, the resigned Minister of Finance came out to confirm that any treatment of the strategic alternative to the salary scale must "not affect the sustainability of the State's finances or the government's ability to launch concrete projects," through which everyone understood that the goal is not to improve the standard of living of citizens.

In the same context, the government cooperated, to a large extent, with the Assembly in issuing four laws as follows: adding more segments to the beneficiaries of the health insurance (Afa), establishing housing city construction companies, and amending the Election and Constitutional Court laws.

Despite the optimism that prevailed following the ratification of these four laws, and that the last two laws in particular will contribute to correcting the course of political action; the political laws gave majority of citizens the impression of bias between the two authorities and a defect in their priorities, as members of both sides focused on their own demands, not the demands and needs of the ordinary people. These conditions have contributed to the continuation of the state of popular stalling and distress. Everywhere I go in Kuwait, everyone is frustrated and restless.

This situation is especially fostered by corruption scandals, to the point that everyone feels the country is threatened by waves of the damned corruption, attacks on rights and curtailment of freedoms without limit. None of the executive officials whom people describe as good is moving a finger, as they remain stagnant and effort has been zero -- nothing has been done.

In this regard, sources close to senior decision-making circles affirmed their understanding of the dissatisfaction of some groups, saying: "Those who complain about the situation have every right to do so; because they see neighboring countries recording new achievements every day, issuing decisions to improve the conditions of their people and transforming into manufacturing, producing

and exporting countries, while Kuwait still imports almost everything."

Sources believe that "the laws in Kuwait constitute a major obstacle to the development of the country. Thus, the legislative authority must live up to the good faith of the leadership, which has given full support for the development of Kuwait. This is why the ball is now in the legislature's court."

Sources pointed out that neighboring countries resolved the Bedouin issue long ago and it no longer exists in their dictionary, while Kuwait is still suffering from it. The issue has turned into a snowball that grows daily even though the solution is easy. This necessitates a legal framework that the legislative authority should work on." They added: "The decision-making circles are closely monitoring this matter, as they want to end it without harming the supreme interests of the State."

Sources tackled another issue concerning citizens. They stated: "The Court of Cassation's decision on the unconstitutionality of the travel ban was greatly welcomed by citizens. This was a sufficient signal for the higher decision-making circles on what should be done about ending the injustice suffered by many citizens, especially those who obtained personal loans, taking into consideration the loan amounts that could prevent a citizen from traveling."

Sources pointed out: "Some of the country's laws have not been amended for 50 years and a big number of them are outdated. Therefore, laws must be developed, not only in the field of freedoms, but also with regard to diversifying sources of income and ending total dependence on oil as a source of national income. Decision-makers are focusing on diversifying sources of income and weaning off oil."

On the success of neighboring countries in transforming into tourist destinations that attract millions of people annually, sources said: "The decision-makers are closely paying attention to the country's transformation into a tourist destination and opening the country to those wishing to visit to learn about its heritage, history and landmarks."

Regarding the proposals of some parliamentarians that could hinder the country's openness, sources asserted: "No one can change the identity of Kuwait and this must be in everyone's mind. There is no turning back, as the higher decision-making circles can no longer accept anything that affects the future strength of Kuwait."

Source added the "adjustment of the course" under which the government's program falls, will address the forgotten and neglected issues during the new session of the National Assembly and will include all marginalized groups. Sources revealed the recorded comments of parliamentarians regarding the program were -- and are still -- subject to review and scrutiny, and will be of great interest for the government and the political leadership based on the rhetoric of adjusting the course itself.



# September

## Room Promotion





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

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

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## The Conversation

## Low back pain leading cause of disability in the world

## Tackling obesity, smoking can cut back pain burden by 39%

By Jaimie Steinmetz, University of Washington and Manuela Ferreira, University of Sydney

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

The Research Brief is a short take about interesting academic work. Low back pain is the leading cause of disability in the world, with over 600 million people living with the condition. This is one of the key takeaways of our June 2023 study published in the journal *The Lancet Rheumatology*.

Our systematic analysis synthesizes data from approximately 500 studies throughout the world over 30 years to estimate the global burden of low back pain, broken down by country, year, age, sex and severity. "Burden" refers to a combination of how common low back pain is and how much health loss it leads to. We measured low back pain from people age 5 onward.

Low back pain has ranked first among causes of disability for the last three decades. Back pain, however, is not inevitable, even if that sometimes feels like the case.

These findings are part of a larger project called the Global Burden of Disease Study, which aims to quantify all health loss globally.

Our study found that if society could directly address three major risk factors – obesity, smoking and workplace ergonomic factors – it could cut the burden of low back pain by 39%.

Smoking has been previously associated with damaged microcirculation of the spinal structures, for example, the discs and joints as well as to weakening

of the bones. But researchers also know that smoking is often associated with other lifestyle factors, including physical inactivity, obesity and poor sleep, all of which have been linked to an increased risk of low back pain.

Similarly, obesity is associated with other unhealthy lifestyle factors, all of which can increase the risk of low back pain. Obesity is also linked to an increased load on the spinal structures, predisposing them to injury, and a systemic inflammatory response.

Low back pain is influenced by many factors, including biological, social and psychological. The anatomical complexity of the human spine means that in most cases, a simple structural cause such as a single joint or muscle cannot be identified, even with sophisticated diagnostic imaging.

## Symptoms

This means that diagnoses are made largely on the basis of reported symptoms. And whereas most cases of low back pain are short-lived, with recovery experienced within the first six weeks of pain onset, one-third of cases will become persistent and may last for years. This persistence contributes to the significant burden of this condition.

As part of this work, we estimated how many people are likely to experience low back pain over the next 30 years if little changes. We predict that a whopping 843 million people around the world will be living with the condition. The problem of low back pain isn't going away unless policymakers intervene.

Although a person's sex does not directly determine the risk of low back pain, the condition is much more common among females. Our study found a global total of 395 million females reporting back pain, compared with 225 million males.

This discrepancy could be explained by differences in care-seeking behavior, as well as in access to health care, between men and women.

The rates of occurrence of low back pain also differ depending on how old you are. It is a common myth that low back pain is most common in working-age adults, but in fact rates are highest for people in their 80s. Older adults often are overlooked when it comes to care.

Older adults with low back pain have limited access to evidence-based treatments that encourage a healthy lifestyle and recovery, such as those that support patients to manage their own symptoms. They are also less likely to recover from severe pain and disability than their younger counterparts, are more prone to develop long-term, persistent symptoms and are at an increased risk of falls.

For those with low back pain, better and more effective ways are needed to manage it. Studies show that many current treatments either don't work or do very little. These treatments include pain relievers and some surgical procedures.

Given our finding that hundreds of millions of people live with low back pain, it's clear that more research is needed to identify effective preventive strategies. (AP)

## The Conversation

## Rhyme and reason

## Poetry helps people 'connect' with math

By Ricardo Martinez  
Penn State

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

Uncommon Courses is an occasional series from The Conversation US highlighting unconventional approaches to teaching.

## The Ways Math and Poetry Can Open Your Eyes to the World

I have always enjoyed writing poetry. As a high school mathematics teacher, I recall telling my students that everything is and can be connected to math, even creative writing. Then, as a graduate student, I read about people using "I am" poem templates for young people to express who they are through a series of "I am" statements, and I thought to myself, where is the "I am" math poem template? So I created one.

I then started working on what I call problem-posing poetry, which are poems connected to a social issue and that can be used as alternatives to traditional math word problems. Working with Yousef Kara, who is a poet studying to become a teacher, we learned to see poetry as a way to understand the real world before connecting to math learning. We also began to use poetry to reflect on prior math learning. After using math poetry with high schoolers and teachers, it became apparent it should be a part of my math methods courses for future teachers.

The course explores the idea of poetry as a rich experience before, during and after math learning connected to real-world issues.

The "I am" math poem template is an example of poetry before math. The prompts used in the template allow the teacher to incorporate students' interests when learning math in the future. For example, the last prompt shows what students are passionate about, and teachers should use that interest in their teaching of math.

## Problem

Problem-posing poems like "Number Sense," written by Ricardo Martinez, show how a poem can use actual data to become a math problem for students to solve. Poetry after math learning can best be captured by Yousef's poem "The Wrong Bathroom, Continuously," a reflection on trans identity related to functions that model relationships between two quantities.

This poem demonstrates concepts of math through exploring different types of continuous functions in calculus. Functions that oscillate, approach opposite infinities and disjointed functions, all of which make it impossible to find the exact value of a limit. Hence the line, "You cannot pin me down to a single point."

Here is an excerpt from the poem:

I am a continuous function.  
I oscillate My gender, in constant motion, And I don't care if I am unrecognizable to you  
I approach both infinities From the left and the right Expanding with each self discovery. Expanding far beyond your comprehension

I am disjointed Deconstructed and decolonized. I teleport between and beyond genders You cannot pin me down to a single point

It shows how learning more about math expands our vocabulary and understanding of what we experience.

The beauty of using poetry is that it makes math more exciting and allows it to connect to any topic or idea. Math poetry becomes even more critical today as people need an outlet to communicate their truths about societal injustices like trans people's rights, bans on Black history or Islamophobia. Math and poetry create new metaphors that allow people to better understand societal issues along with themselves and others.

A key takeaway from the course is that math is a vital part of each person, and poetry can help people see that math is all around us.

By exploring math and poetry, I believe they, as aspiring teachers, will begin to question how they were taught – for example, the use of timed tests and learning with no real-world connections. A lot of people say they don't like math, when, in truth, they have never knowingly experienced math connected to their culture, values, desires and dreams. Math and poetry work to reclaim how we all see, experience and live with math every day.



A group photo from the FFC's new jersey launch ceremony.

## Flyters FC Kuwait launches new jersey ahead of Kefak 2023-24 Football League

Flyters FC Kuwait (FFC) on Thursday launched their new Purple and Red-colored jersey ahead of the 10th season of the Kefak Soccer League. The event powered by the co-operation of Al Muzaini Exchange who is the official partner of Flyters FC Club. Al-Muzaini exchange operation manager Guruprasad Kadri launched the new kit by handing over to icon Player Abhiram at Medx Medical Care Fahaheel Convention Hall.

Kuwait Style Co CEO Chidambareesh unveiled the away kit for the club and received by Joseph Stanley. Club Patron Shuaib Shaik, President Saleem Vakeel, Treasurer Shakib, Secretary Afsar Thalagara, Technical Director Thomas Avarachan conveyed their 'thank you' for the club supporters and players. A musical event by Arabian Ishal Group also happened to add the vibe for jersey launch event.

## Mathew Varkey elected as president

## YMCA Kuwait elects new officebearers for 2023-24

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2; YMCA Kuwait elected new office bearers for the year 2023-24. The meeting was chaired by the former president Mathew Varkey who served as the presiding officer. The Meeting unanimously elected the following office bearers and Board members for the year 2023-24.

A.I. Kurien (Patron), Mathew Varkey (President), Manoj Parimanam (General Secretary), Mathew Koshy (Trustee Accounts), John Abraham (Trustee Finance), Mathews Mammen (Vice President), Aghesh Thomas (Jt. Secretary), Philip Thomas Kattanam (Auditor).

Board Members elected are Bento Cherian (Convener - Extravaganza), Joel Mathew (Jt. Convener - Extravaganza), Ajith Thomas Kannanpara (General Convener - Christmas Carol), Anil Abraham, Manoj Thomas, Sherin Baby Thomas (Conveners - Christmas Carol), Mathews Mammen (General Convener - Christmas Carol Singing Competition), Santhosh M. Philip (Jt. Convener - Christmas Carol Singing Competition), Dr. Sunny Andrews (Convener - Quiz Competition), Sunu Eapen, Joel Mathew (Choir Leaders), Dr. John Thomas, Sunu Eapen (Prayer Coordinators), Dr. Naveen George Thomas (Convener - Medical Camp), Alex Cherian (Convener - Souvenir), Reni Varghese (Jt. Convener - Souvenir), Manoj Mathew (Website), Raju Kurukavelil (Chairman - National Affairs), Mathew Eapen, James Varghese (Invitees to the Board).

The YMCA Chapter in Kuwait is one of the largest youth organization which was formed in 24th April 2020.

YMCA Kuwait held inauguration of YMCA activities (2019-20), family get-



Koshy



Parimanam



Abraham



Varkey



Kurien



Mammen

together at YMCA Hall, Salmiya under theb presidency of Mathew Eapen. The program started by the opening prayer of Mathew Varkey.

Parimanam Manoj welcomed all and announced the yearly activities

programs. Rev. Shibu K. (Vicar - St. James MarThoma Church) inaugurates the function. A inspirational message to all the members was given by Dr. Sunny Andrews.

Different games and Ganamela was

also arranged. Solos was sung by Kumari Giya Mariam Jacob and Eva Mariam Jacob. Games was arranged by Aghesh Thomas & James Thalachira. Joseph M.A. (Treasurer) gave vote of thanks.

## India shows impressive 7.8% economic growth

India's economy registered impressive growth of 7.8% in the first quarter of the current financial year (April-June), attributed to good performance by the agriculture and financial sectors, according to official data released on Thursday.

The World Bank says India is one of the fastest-growing economies of the world and is poised to continue on this path. India's agriculture sector recorded

growth of 3.5% in three months, up from 2.4% in the April-June quarter last year, according to the data released by the government-run National Statistical Office.

The rise in financial, real estate and professional services was 12.2%, up from 8.5% in April-June last year.

However, the manufacturing sector growth decelerated to 4.7% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, compared to

6.1% a year ago, the data suggests. India's financial year runs from April to March. The output in mining, electricity, gas, water supply and construction also slowed in the April-June quarter.

However, the World Bank said the persisting headwinds - rising borrowing costs, tightening financial conditions and ongoing inflationary pressures - are expected to weigh on India's growth this year. (AP)

## average long-term US mortgage rate fell to 7.18%

The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate slipped after climbing for five consecutive weeks to a more than 20-year high, a modest relief for would-be homebuyers challenged by rising home prices and a thin inventory of homes on the market.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average rate on the benchmark 30-year home loan fell to 7.18% from

7.23% last week. A year ago, the rate averaged 5.66%.

The average rate is now the lowest it's been in two weeks, but remains above 7%. High rates can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, limiting how much they can afford in a market already unaffordable to many Americans. They also discourage homeowners who locked in low rates two years ago from selling.

The average rate on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, popular with those refinancing their homes, was 6.55%, unchanged from last week. A year ago, it averaged 4.98%, Freddie Mac said.

Mortgage rates climbed for much of August along with the 10-year Treasury yield, which is used by lenders to price rates on mortgages and other loans. (AP)

## Market Movements

01-09-2023

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
UAE	- DFM	+0.18	4,090.04	SAUDI	- Tadawul	-0.72	11,491.20
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+0.28	32,710.62				
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+0.54	45,324.50				
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+0.09	6,181.06				
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+0.30	18,873.82				

# Business

## Data shows signs of a still-resilient labor market

# US employers added a solid 187,000 jobs in August

## Wall Street edges higher in wake of 'jobs data' release



Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp claps after remotely ringing the New York Stock Exchange opening bell from Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta on Friday, Sept. 1, 2023, ahead of the inaugural Aflac Kickoff Game. It's the first time the NYSE opening bell has been rung from the state of Georgia. (AP)



President Joe Biden speaks about the August jobs report in the Rose Garden of the White House, Friday, Sept. 1, 2023, in Washington. (AP)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2, (AP) - America's employers added 187,000 jobs in August, evidence of a slowing but still-resilient labor market despite the high interest rates the Federal Reserve has imposed.

Last month's job growth marked an increase from July's revised gain of 157,000 but still pointed to a moderating pace of hiring compared with the sizzling gains of last year and earlier this year. From June through August, the economy added 449,000 jobs, the lowest three-month total in three years. In addition, the government revised down the gains for June and July by a combined 110,000.

Friday's report from the Labor Department also showed that the unemployment rate rose from 3.5% to 3.8%, the highest level since February 2022 though still low by historical standards. But the rate rose for an encouraging reason: A sizable number of people - 736,000 - began looking for work last month, the most since January, and not all of them found jobs right away. Only people who are actively looking for a job are counted as unemployed.

Indeed, the proportion of Americans who either have a job or are looking for one rose in August to 62.8%, the highest level since February 2020, before COVID-19 slammed into the U.S. economy.

The Fed's streak of 11 interest rate hikes has helped slow inflation from a peak of 9.1% last year to 3.2% now. A decelerating job market could help shift the economy into a slower gear and reassure the Fed that inflation will continue to ease. For that reason, many economists think the central bank may decide that no further rate hikes are necessary.

Friday's jobs report also showed

that wage gains are easing, a trend that may help provide reassurance that inflation pressures are cooling: Average hourly pay rose 0.2% from July to August, the smallest such gain in a year and a half. Measured year over year, wages last month were up 4.3% from August 2022, slightly below the 4.4% increase in both July and June.

The Fed wants hiring to slow because intense demand for labor tends to inflate wages and feed inflation. The central bank hopes to achieve a rare "soft landing," in which its rate hikes would manage to slow hiring, borrowing and spending enough to curb inflation without causing a deep recession.

"This is close to what the Fed wants to see," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group. The August jobs report "could

be a way to a soft landing."

Still, Faucher cautioned that the economy may not have yet absorbed the full impact of the Fed's rate hikes, which is why he still expects a recession in early 2024.

So far, the job market has been cooling in the least painful way possible - with few layoffs. The Labor Department reported Thursday that the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits - a proxy for job cuts - fell for a third straight week.

Among sectors of the economy, by far the biggest hiring gain last month - 97,000 - came in the health care industry, which does not depend on the rise and fall of the economy. Construction companies added 22,000, factories 16,000, bars and restaurants nearly 15,000.

## Asian shares traded mixed

### NEW YORK, Sept 2, (AP): A choppy day of trading on Wall Street ended Friday with slight gains for stocks, as the market notched its second straight winning week.

The market got a boost early on from a closely watched government report that showed U.S. job growth increased at a healthy, but more moderate pace last month. The report supports investors' hopes that the Federal Reserve will hold off on raising interest rates again in its bid to lower inflation.

After initially rising as much as 0.8% following the release of the jobs report, the major indexes shed most of their gains and spent the day wavering between small gains and losses.

The S&P 500 finished 0.2% higher. The benchmark index was coming off its first monthly loss since February. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.3% and the Nasdaq composite closed less than 0.1% lower. Still, that slight dip broke its five-day winning streak.

The Labor Department reported Friday that employers added a solid 187,000 jobs in August. The job growth marked an increase from July's revised gain of 157,000, but still pointed to a moderating pace of hiring compared with earlier this year. From June through August, the economy added 449,000 jobs, the lowest three-month total in three years.

The report also showed that the unemployment rate rose from 3.5% to 3.8%, the highest level since February 2022, though still low by historical standards.

Wall Street welcomed the latest monthly labor market snapshot, as it roots for the economy to show signs of lower inflation and cooling job growth so that the Fed will be able to ease up on its rate hike campaign.



Currency traders watch monitors at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, on Aug 30, 2023. Asian shares were trading mixed Friday, Sept. 1 as investors looked toward a United States jobs report which was released later in the day. (AP)

"Today's employment report will add to recent data which indicates the Fed can pause on raising interest rates," said Steve Wyett, chief investment strategist of BOK Financial.

The strong job market, along with consumer spending, has so far helped thwart a recession that analysts expected at some point in 2023. But they also made the central bank's task of taming inflation more difficult by fueling wage and price increases.

Market jitters over the possibility that the Fed might have to keep interest rates higher for longer - following reports showing the U.S. economy remains remarkably resilient - led to the market's pullback in August.

But this week, stocks mostly rallied following reports showing job openings fell to the lowest level since March 2021, consumer confidence tumbled in August and a measure of inflation closely tracked by the Fed remained low in July. The recent economic snapshots have bolstered the view on Wall Street that the Fed may hold rates steady at its next policy meeting in September.

"From a data-dependent Fed perspective, the economic data we have seen in August in conjunction with today's jobs report certainly reinforces the idea that we have seen the last rate hike during this cycle," said Charlie Ripley, senior investment strategist for Allianz Investment Management.

The central bank has raised its main interest rate aggressively since 2022 to the highest level since 2001. The goal has been to rein inflation back to the Fed's target of 2%. The Fed has maintained that it is ready to keep raising interest rates if it has to, but will base its next moves on the latest economic data.

Bond yields were mostly rose Friday. The yield on the 2-year Treasury, which tracks expectations for the Fed, got as high as 4.91% at one point, but fell to 4.88% by late afternoon. It was at 4.87% late Thursday. The yield on the 10-year Treasury, which influences interest rates on mortgages and other consumer loans, rose to 4.17% from 4.11%.

Banks and financial services stocks accounted for a big share of the gains among S&P 500 companies. Charles Schwab rose 2.3% and U.S. Bancorp added 1.5%.

Rising oil prices helped push energy stocks higher. Exxon Mobil rose 2.1% and Chevron was up 2%.

The price of U.S. crude oil climbed 2.3%, extending its weekly gain to 7.3%. The increase comes as production cuts by major producers continue to prop up the market. Many industry analysts are expecting to Saudi Arabia to extend those cuts through October.

Communications stocks were among the laggards. Disney dropped 2.4% after the entertainment giant pulled its programming, including ESPN, from Charter Communication's Spectrum TV after the companies failed to come to terms on a new distribution deal. Charter was down 3.6%.

Walgreens Boots Alliance fell 7.4% after the company announced that CEO Rosalind Brewer was stepping down at the end of the month and that Ginger Graham would take over as interim CEO.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 8.11 points to 4,515.77 Friday. The Dow gained 115.80 points to 34,837.71, and the Nasdaq slipped 3.15 points to 14,031.81.

U.S. markets will be closed Monday for Labor Day.

### Europe

France's CAC 40 edged up nearly 0.1% in early trading to 7,321.92, while Germany's DAX was little changed at 15,948.02. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.5% to 7,477.41. ent decline in the savings rate," he said.

Market jitters over the possibility that the Federal Reserve might have to keep interest rates higher for longer - following reports showing the U.S. economy remains remarkably resilient - led to the market's pullback in August after what had been a banner year.

### Asia

Asian shares were trading mixed Friday as investors looked toward a U.S. jobs report being released later in the day.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.3% to finish at 32,710.62. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.4% to 7,278.30. South Korea's Kospi added 0.3% to 2,563.71. The Shanghai Composite added 0.4% to 3,133.25.

Trading was halted in Hong Kong because of an approaching typhoon. Schools and businesses were shut as an official warning was issued about Super Typhoon Saola.

### Oil

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude rose 42 cents to \$84.05 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, added 40 cents to \$87.23 a barrel.

### Currencies

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar edged down to 145.42 Japanese yen from 145.52 yen. The euro cost \$1.0856, up from \$1.0846.

## Korea Power Equipment and Supplies Trade Delegation 2023

*KOTRA Kuwait, The Commercial Section of The Embassy of The Republic of Korea cordially invites all businesspersons/entrepreneurs in Kuwait to participate in Korea Power Equipment and Supplies Trade Delegation 2023 and have (1:1) Business Meetings with the Korean companies in the field of Power Equipment and Supplies.*

- Date: September 11 (Monday), 2023.
- Time: 9:30 AM ~ 4:00 PM (1 day).
- Venue: Crowne Plaza, Farwaniya, Kuwait.
- There will be six Korean companies in the field of water surge management, scaffolding, Electric Actuators for Valves, Conductor materials, Environment Equipment and Electrical Equipment.

No.	Company Name / Website	Products
01	SM Tech Co., Ltd./ www.waterhammer.co.kr	Water Hammer Control System
02	HAERAM SOLUTION www.hl-solution.com	Safe scaffold for slope tube of boiler, Sealing deck, System scaffold
03	ENERTORK LTD./ www.enertork.com	Electric Actuators (TX, TM, TQ series) for all valves and dampers
04	EPIT CO.,LTD. www.epit.co.kr	Electrostatic Precipitator, Filtered dust collector
05	METAL LINK INC./ www.metallink.co.kr	Conductor Materials, Machinery (Rigid & Tubular Strander, CCV Line, Dry Drawing Machine)
06	Vitzro EM Co., Ltd. www.vitzroem.com	Power Equipment; MV Equipment, LV Equipment, Protective Device, IED & Relay

For more information, kindly contact to KOTRA Kuwait  
Email : obeid@kotra.or.kr | Official WhatsApp : 6036-7977





### Toyota cultivates cherry tomatoes to combat climate change

Toyota continues to go beyond mobility in pursuit of a carbon-neutral future by addressing weather-related uncertainties and market fluctuations within the agriculture sector. At Toyota's Kamigo Plant, which produces Crown and Lexus model engines, four strawberry varieties are being cultivated in experimental greenhouses. Similarly, the Myochi Plant is doing its part by raising cherry tomatoes.

Established in April 2022 with the

help of farmers, these greenhouses are now thriving. Vehicle production and agriculture, two seemingly disparate practices, now go hand in hand thanks to the Toyota Production System (TPS). This economical approach, which produces up to 1.5 times the yield of a similarly sized operation, employs systematic cultivation methods to achieve high added value while reducing production costs.

This initiative's success may also

contribute to enhancing the future profitability of farmers, through their adoption of efficient agricultural systems and other forms of technical support provided by Toyota.

The strawberries and cherry tomatoes are now being served up to Toyota employees free of charge, a testament to the company's interest in employing novel methods to achieve carbon neutrality across all its factories by 2035.



Toyota cultivates strawberries

### Offer open until end of September

# KFH launches back-to-school financing campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched a new back-to-school financing campaign in all KFH showrooms titled (We Meet Your Financing Needs) until the end of September.

KFH Executive Manager – Auto Finance and Leasing Wael AlKharraz said that the campaign grants customers the opportunity to avail several services and advantages presented for customers on the new school year, stating that it includes investment and financing products and services for customers interested in purchasing, or leasing new or used cars, or financing a car abroad in the following countries: USA, Egypt, Jordan, and Türkiye. The campaign



AlKharraz

also offers services for customers wishing to obtain educational finance, or finance against collaterals.

He added that KFH provides several advantages as part of the campaign to meet the needs of customers on a selected and diversified group of luxurious and economic cars offered by the agents, in addition to competitive prices under the Leasing with Maintenance service and on used cars.

## Ooredoo Kuwait empowering students by upgrading learning experience

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: As the school year is right around the corner, all the students are gearing up for an exciting transition. In sync with this sentiment, Ooredoo Kuwait is thrilled to announce their "Back to School" offers, designed exclusively to meet the diverse needs of students and their valued parents.

Ooredoo has carefully crafted an assortment of attractive deals to ensure that this academic year is marked by seamless connectivity, enhanced learning experiences, and productivity. Their range of offerings has been thoughtfully curated to cater to the varied demands of students and learners,

allowing them to step into the new academic year with confidence.

Staying Connected with Cutting-Edge Technology

Ooredoo Kuwait's Back to School offers provide high-speed 5G routers, ensuring uninterrupted connectivity that matches the pace of modern learning. Whether it's research, collab-



Al-Shammeri

oration, or staying updated, our routers have you covered. In addition to the above benefits, the promotion offers five times the data, providing customers with the bandwidth they need to access online resources and communicate effortlessly.

#### Diversity of Options

Ooredoo Kuwait is gearing up to make the upcoming school year a seamless and an exciting experience with its thoughtfully designed "Back To School" offers. These offers embrace the future of connectivity, enabling customers who thrive on multitasking to manage academic responsibilities efficiently.

Ooredoo back to school offers give students the chance to unlock interactive learning with super-fast internet and a wide range of tablets to upgrade their academic pursuits with or indulge in the power and elegance of MacBook's & HP, catering to different needs and budgets. This new school year marks a journey of growth and accomplishment, and Ooredoo is here to support students every step of the way with their diverse "Back to School" offerings.

In a statement by Zainab Al-Shammeri, Brand Senior Manager at Ooredoo Kuwait: "As Ooredoo's mission is to make sure that, everyone, from

the smallest learners to the university-bound scholars, is equipped with the best tools to succeed in the academic journey ahead. Ooredoo's "Back to School" offer is carefully curated to provide attractive deals that not only fulfill our customers' requirements but also ensure they have a seamless and productive year ahead."

Ooredoo Kuwait is committed to ensuring that students' challenges are met with confidence and enthusiasm. Their "Back to School" offer is a testament to this commitment, providing our students with a wide array of options that cater to their unique needs and preferences.

AlKharraz noted that for finance against collaterals, the campaign offers a competitive profit with a finance period approximating 10 years and flexible settlement methods, saying that this service is a commercial financing offered to individuals against a full collateral on the total indebtedness, by booking the customer's fixed deposits or cash from his personal saving account. The open finance limit shall be determined based on the value of the

deposit, or the booked cash from the saving account. The service provides other advantages including continuous deposit profits throughout the credit period, easy procedure and expedited transaction processing and delivery.

While the campaign contributes to the enhancement of the local market and the businesses of agents and suppliers, it grants customers remarkable advantages to achieve their aspirations and needs as part of KFH endeavor

to provide the best services, preserve customers base, attract new customers, increase KFH market share, highlight KFH role as a pioneer in driving economy.

He added that KFH has made outstanding contributions to the retail market at the local level and contributed to the activation of the internal trade movement by diversifying its finance products and activities, financing education and treatment abroad and other

services to fulfil customers' needs and aspirations. These were the basic objectives of KFH in its various finance activities and its endeavor to achieve a pioneering position in all fields that would achieve the best interest of the merchant and the consumer as well.

It is worth noting that the best investment for children is their education. Accordingly, KFH offers Jameati, an investment plan for a long-term higher education to grant students a bright fu-

ture by saving monthly amounts, with the advantage of modifying the invested amount or monthly payments at any time. The customer may withdraw 60% of the balance in the first year and 60% every year after the first withdrawal. The profits accumulated during the investment years are due at the end of the investment plan. Also, the plan can be canceled at any time, and the amount invested will be refunded with the profits realized until the closing date.



Johair Marafi hands over cheque to first monthly winner.

### Amazing prizes

## ABK names Bosalha as winner of new KD 20,000 monthly draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced Hasan Ahmad Bosalha as the first winner of the new Alfouz KD 20,000 monthly draw, held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the month of August.

To show appreciation for their loyalty, ABK recently increased the number of draws and prizes, making it even more enticing for customers to join. Introducing a new KD 20,000 monthly draw and an exceptional KD 100,000 quarterly draw, it has become even more attractive for customers to join the Alfouz family.

ABK has also made it easier for customers to enter the draws and increase

their chances of winning by granting an entry for every KD 10 deposited as opposed to KD 100 previously. This means that the more customers save, the higher their chances become to win these amazing prizes.

ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account or increase their balance to participate in the upcoming monthly draw to turn their dreams into reality.

To learn more about the Alfouz account and its range of exciting draws and prizes, please follow the ABK's Instagram account @abk\_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.

### 'Difficult to control'

## Gulf Bank raises awareness on virtual assets treatment

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: As part of its efforts to promote financial literacy across various segments of society, Gulf Bank has been educating customers about the underlying risks that may result from dealing with virtual assets activities, which are carried through transactions made outside Kuwait, especially cryptocurrency – as it does not hold any legal standing, and it is not issued or supported by any government, nor is it linked to any asset or issuer.

This is part of Gulf Bank's continuous support towards the Let's Be Aware "Diraya" campaign, for the third consecutive year – which is initiated by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association – that aims to spread financial literacy in society, raise awareness of the role of the banking sector, and promote the various services that banks offer to their customers.

Gulf Bank's Corporate Communications Officer, Mr. AbdulMohsen Al-Nassar, mentioned that the prices of these assets are always driven by

speculation that exposes them to a sharp decline – indicating that virtual assets do not include digital representation of banknotes, securities etc. and are not subject to the supervision of the Central Bank of Kuwait, or any other supervisory institution in Kuwait. Additionally, virtual assets are decentralized and difficult to control; hence, it is not possible to monitor and follow up with operations made through them.

Furthermore, Al-Nassar indicated that the Central Bank of Kuwait absolutely prohibits the usage of virtual assets as a payment instrument or treating it as a de-centralized currency in the State of Kuwait; therefore, it is required to refrain from conducting any transactions where virtual currency is used as a payment instrument within the scope of this prohibition.

The Central Bank of Kuwait also prohibits all minting activities of virtual asset/currency, as well as using virtual assets as a means of investment instruments, hence, it is required to refrain from providing such type of services to any customer. Additionally, the Central Bank of Kuwait stressed that no natural person or corporate, shall be granted or issued any license inside Kuwait, to provide virtual asset activity for their own business or on behalf of third parties, as and no such license has been previously issued.



Al-Nassar

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its diamond sponsorship of the 2023 Arab Banking Conference, organized by the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) and set to be hosted by the Saudi capital Riyadh on the 4th and 5th of September. Taking place in Hilton Hotel, and under the slogan "Arab Economic Outlook in Light of International Changes," the conference will be attended by an elite group of leaders and specialists in the banking sector.

Commenting on the occasion, Othman Tawfeq, General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, said: "This conference is a golden chance for banks and participating entities to share ideas and information about the challenges and opportunities within the Arab banking sector in light of the continuously changing international economic environment."

He added that the Bank's diamond sponsorship of this vital conference reflects KIB's commitment to supporting events and initiatives that foster the sustainable growth of the Arab banking sector and contribute to the cooperation between financial and banking bodies in all participating Arab countries. Tawfeq also voiced his confidence in the conference, saying it would play an essential role in the strategy aimed at achieving the objectives of the sector and supporting the stability of the Arab economy.

#### Acceleration

Moreover, Tawfeq pointed out that the slogan of the conference this year gains its importance due to the unprecedented acceleration in digital transformation in the world of finance and business with its various sectors, as well as the remarkable changes in international financial legislation. These changes pave the way toward creating unique opportunities for diversity and flexibility, leading to an integrated and healthy digital Arab economy that plays an effective role in enhancing the well-being of Arab citizens.

The conference, held under the patronage and presence of the Governor of the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) Ayman Mohammed Al-Sayari, is scheduled to discuss multiple pivotal topics. These include Arab economic



Othman Tawfeq

### Meet to support stability of the Arab economy

# KIB sponsors 2023 Arab Banking Conference to be held in Riyadh



A photo from Zain's summer event 2023

### Zain celebrates summer vibes with customers at 'Al Khiran'

Zain recently held a special event at Al Khairan mall to celebrate the summer season, sharing vacation vibes with customers and mall visitors by organizing many exciting activities and interactive games. The event, through which Zain sought to connect with Kuwait's biggest family of subscribers, attracted large crowds of families and youth.

Zain always stays active in the community by organizing unique events and entertainment programs that coincide with the most celebrated seasons and vacations in Kuwait. Through these events, the company adds its own touch and reflects its brand values (Zain, A Wonderful World) to keep close to its customers and the wider community, bringing them the best opportunities to create beautiful memories.

This particular event came in collaboration with Wainkoun, the local creative house known for organizing out-of-the-box events and engaging activities that always gain popularity with the crowds. Zain has selected the newly opened Al Khiran mall for this event due to its unique location at the heart of Al Khiran area, where Kuwaitis usually spend their summer vacation near the waterfront, something that was well-aligned with the event's theme.

The event featured many exciting activities, fun games, and memorable experiences that appealed to visitors of all ages, opening up the space for them to compete for the chance to win prizes from Zain. The company also distributed summer-themed giveaways, set up a photo booth, and held other fun activities that left a wonderful impression on everyone.

### 'Empowering business owners'

## AUB launches 'SoftPOS' app service

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: As part of its ongoing efforts to drive innovation in payment solutions, Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the launch of the new digital point of sale service (SoftPOS) for merchants and owners of small and medium-sized enterprises. This innovative service is provided through the App developed by the Shared Electronic Banking Services Company (KNET), the leading company in the field of electronic payment services in Kuwait.

Commenting on this service, Mrs. Mai Al-Sharida; Head of Merchant Acquiring Ops Unit at Ahli United Bank, said: "We persist in introducing advanced payment solutions to enhance innovation and state-of-the-art technologies within

our banking services. This endeavor is tailored to satisfy the requirements and needs of business owners, and to empower them to efficiently manage and expand their businesses with greater ease."

Al-Sharida pointed out that the SoftPOS application functions as a point of sale device by turning Android smartphones into a point of sale terminal utilizing embedded Near-Field Communication (NFC) functionality. This innovation serves as an effective solution, particularly for business owners without point-of-sale devices, enabling them to seamlessly and swiftly collect sales revenues 24/7 through a secure mobile application.

Furthermore, Al-Sharida highlighted that one of the standout features of this

new service is that it will lead to a cashless society, which comes in line with using the digital payment channels that provides the highest security standard and criteria.

Al-Sharida underlined that this new service, aimed at launching the digital point of sale solution (SoftPOS) to merchants and small & medium-sized enterprises, is a testament to the bank's successful strides in digital evolution and its adept utilization of innovative technologies to introduce new payment solutions. This aligns seamlessly with the vision of the Central Bank of Kuwait seeking to foster innovation within the financial services sector in the State of Kuwait.

transformations and policies adopted for economic diversification; risks of slowing global growth and rising financial threats; Saudi Vision 2030 and the Kingdom's experience in economic development and transformation; digi-

tal transformation in financial sectors and the role of financial technology in economic diversification; sustainable financing and the banking sector's contribution to financing growth and development; and financial legislation

and its role in promoting financial stability.

It is worth noting that KIB is keen to maintain its leading position among banking institutions and to establish sustainable relationships.



7-time Paralympic Champion Hannah Cockroft.

### Panasonic teams up with Cockroft for Paris Paralympic Games

Celebrating the countdown to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, Worldwide Olympic and Paralympic Partner Panasonic joins forces with the Team England wheelchair racing 7-time Paralympic Champion and 12-time World Champion, Hannah Cockroft to promote environmental sustainability on a global scale. Since its founding, Panasonic has been committed to making positive contributions to the world and society. It has set ambitious targets to create a positive impact on environmental sustainability under its Panasonic GREEN IMPACT initiative. Hannah will join Team Panasonic as an

ambassador focused on sustainability and inclusivity while receiving support from the company on her journey to her fourth Paralympic Games.

After picking up wheelchair racing at a talent day at Loughborough University in October 2007, Hannah has blazed a trail straight to legend status. As one of the most successful para-athletes in recent times, Hannah is looking forward to continuing to inspire people all over the world to embrace the Paralympic movement and celebrate inclusion.

Besides her tremendous athletic achievements, Hannah was one of 50+ Tokyo Olympians

and Paralympians from 35 different countries, who took part in the Athletes of the World campaign which challenged World Leaders about the urgent need for ambitious climate action.

She is additionally using her platform to make a difference in issues beyond the sports arena, such as working with federations to reduce the use of single-use plastics. Panasonic is looking forward to working together with her on similar projects and initiatives that epitomise Panasonic's core values of Contribution to Society, Cooperation & Team Spirit, and Untiring Effort & Improvement. (AP)

### Amgen and Horizon Therapeutics plc resolve FTC lawsuit

## Ossium, NMDP to increase bone marrow transplant accessibility

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 2: Ossium Health, a bioengineering company developing the world's first bank of organ donor bone marrow, and the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP)/Be The Match®, a global leader working to save lives through cellular therapy, have announced their partnership to expand access to vital bone marrow and accelerate the industry's ability to make bone marrow transplants accessible at scale.

Ossium and NMDP/Be The Match are kicking off a clinical trial to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of Ossium's bone marrow product. PRE-SERVE I "A First-in-Human Study of HLA-Partially to Fully Matched Allogeneic Cryopreserved Deceased Donor Bone Marrow Transplantation for Patients with Hematologic Malignancies" (NCT05589896) is anticipated to open in Q4 2023. Once the trial is completed, a subsequent multi-center, phase II clinical trial will open. With favorable trial results, the two organizations will then work to integrate the bone marrow donations in Ossium Health's proprietary bank into NMDP/Be The Match's national donor registry. Once on the national registry, Ossium Health's donated bone marrow will become a resource for doctors from nearly 160 U.S. transplant centers who utilize the Be The Match Registry® to offer patients additional options when searching for matches. This partnership will dramatically increase Ossium's ability to serve patients at scale, and allow NMDP/Be The Match to offer a new source of life-saving bone marrow to a wider group of patients in need.

#### Access

"With 18,000 patients in need of a bone marrow transplant each year, we need to ensure that people have access to the broadest set of donors possible to make life-saving matches a reality for all," said Kevin Caldwell, CEO & Co-Founder at Ossium Health. "We're thrilled to work with NMDP/Be The Match to supplement their registry with viable donors that enable more people to receive on-demand treatment."

Ossium isolates bone marrow from authorized deceased donors, which is phenotypically and functionally equivalent to cells from living donors, and then cryopreserves and stores the marrow until it is requested by a physician. Ossium's approach can drastically reduce the wait period for bone marrow transplants. Once the clinical trials and registry integration are complete, Ossium will provide off-the-shelf bone marrow solutions, complementing NMDP/Be The Match's existing U.S. registry of more than 9 million potential living donors.

"At Be The Match, we're devoted to maximizing the opportunity for patients to find the best possible match, so Ossium is a great partner for us," said Amy Ronneberg, CEO of NMDP/Be The Match. "We're energized by their industry-shifting donation source that could open the door for so many more people to receive the bone marrow transplants they need, and look forward to all that we can accomplish together to improve the lives of people battling blood cancer and blood disorders."

Ossium Health is a bioengineering company that leverages its unique deceased donor bone marrow banking platform to develop stem cell therapies for patients with life-threatening blood and immune diseases. Founded in 2016, the company is led by Kevin Caldwell, its CEO, Co-Founder & President, and Erik Woods, its Chief Science Officer, Co-Founder & EVP. Ossium Health is an FDA-Registered Tissue Bank, is accredited by the Commission on Office Laboratory Accreditation (COLA), and its laboratory is certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA).

#### Managing

The National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP)/Be The Match® is the leading global partner working to save lives through cellular therapy. With 35 years of experience managing the most diverse registry of potential unrelated blood stem cell donors and cord blood units in the world, NMDP/Be The Match is a proven partner in providing cures to patients with life-threatening blood and marrow cancers and diseases. Through their global network, they connect centers and patients to their best cell therapy option—from blood stem cell transplant to a next-generation therapy—and collaborate with cell and gene therapy companies to support therapy development and delivery through Be The Match BioTherapies®, NMDP/Be The Match is a tireless advocate for the cell therapy community, working with hematologists/oncologists to remove barriers to consultation and treatment, and supporting patients through no-cost programs to eliminate non-medical obstacles to cell therapy. In addition, they are a global leader in research through the CIBMTR® (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research®)—a collaboration with Medical College of Wisconsin, investing in and managing research studies that improve patient outcomes and advance the future of care.

Amgen (NASDAQ:AMGN) and Horizon Therapeutics plc (NASDAQ:HZN) have announced the entry into a consent order agreement with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) that resolves the pending FTC administrative lawsuit. This clears the path to take the final steps to close Amgen's acquisition of Horizon.

As a result of the consent order agreement, Amgen and Horizon expect that the parties will jointly file stipulated proposed orders to dismiss the preliminary injunction motion and dissolve the temporary restraining order (TRO) in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and that Amgen and Horizon will quickly seek the final approvals required under Irish law to close the acquisition.

Amgen has consistently stated to the FTC, the courts and the public that it has no reason, ability or intention to bundle Horizon's TEPEZZA® (tepotumab-trbw) or KRYSTEXXA® (pegloticase injection) with any of its products. This narrow assurance, formalized in the consent order with the FTC, will have no impact on Amgen's business.

### Pixee revolutionizes Total Shoulder Arthroplasty with MR guidance

## Docs successfully perform world's 1st shoulder surgery using mixed reality

### 'Potential positive impact on patients'

## 'Tagraxofusp' gets Orphan Drug Designation in Japan for BPDCN

BESANÇON, France, Sept 2: Pixee Medical, a pioneer in augmented surgical guidance technology for joint procedures, has announced the groundbreaking achievement of Dr. Antoni, assisted by Dr. Dordain, at the Clinique de l'Orangerie in Strasbourg, France. On Thursday 31st of August, he successfully performed the world's first shoulder implant surgery using cutting-edge MR guidance through the innovative Shoulder+ product.

Shoulder+ introduces a pioneering navigation tool tailored for primary Total Shoulder Arthroplasty. This remarkable software, integrated into MS HoloLens 2 Mixed Reality Glasses, empowers surgeons by delivering precise real-time information regarding the 3D positioning of the implant directly within their field of view. This accurate guidance is made possible through sophisticated 3D tracking of surgical instruments, driven by Pixee's proprietary algorithms.

#### Invasive

Notably, this solution offers an unparalleled see-through capability, enabling surgeons to see the bones through the skin during minimally invasive surgeries and to enhance operational precision. The benefit expected for patients following surgery with Shoulder+ is the accuracy of implant positioning. Improving the accuracy contributes to a reduced risk of prosthesis revision, an improved joint function and a decreased post-operative pain.

Dr. Antoni: "Having been involved in the product validation steps, I was looking forward to being able to offer my patients this new solution aimed at improving the accuracy of implant positioning, in comparison to standard surgical instrumentation. The entire scapula area, usually not visible during shoulder prosthesis

placement, can now be visualized through the glasses and overlaid in real-time onto the patient, providing

with additional control that reinforces safety for both the surgeon and the patient. User-friendly and without cumbersome hardware, this product will fit seamlessly into our daily practice."

Shoulder+ has achieved the coveted CE marking and has a pending FDA 510(k) clearance, marking a significant accomplishment for Pixee Medical. This product not only expands Pixee's portfolio to encompass a new joint, but also introduces a new visualization platform. As a next step, we are embarking on a limited release phase, primed for a worldwide launch with a strong emphasis on Europe, the United States, and Asia. The product will be unveiled at the upcoming ICSES congress in Rome, and we are actively engaging in discussions with distributors and implant manufacturers who share

our vision of enhancing access to superior shoulder implant solutions in the burgeoning market.

Pixee Medical's vision is to solidify its global leadership in AR and MR guidance for joint replacements, empowering orthopedic surgeons with cutting-edge technological advancements. The company's surgeon-centric platform caters to knee, hip, and shoulder prosthesis replacements, mitigating challenges related to capital equipment, disposables, evolving techniques, training, and procedure durations. The company's inaugural product, Knee+, has already witnessed over 4500 procedures across 15 countries, including Europe, the USA, Australia, and the emerging Indian market. Pixee Medical anticipates concluding a Series B financing round in September to fuel its expansion and innovation journey.

precursor. The diagnosis of BPDCN is based on the immunophenotypic diagnostic triad of CD123, CD4, and CD56, as well as other markers. The World Health Organization (WHO) termed this disease "BPDCN" in 2008; previous names included blastic NK cell lymphoma and agranular CD4+/CD56+ hematodermic neoplasm. For more information, please visit the BPDCN disease awareness website at [www.bpdcninfo.com](http://www.bpdcninfo.com).

The Menarini Group is a leading international pharmaceutical and diagnostics company, with a turnover of over \$4.4 billion and over 17,000 employees. Menarini is focused on therapeutic areas with high unmet needs with products for cardiology, oncology, pneumology, gastroenterology, infectious diseases, diabetology, inflammation, and analgesia. With 18 production sites and 9 Research and Development centers, Menarini's products are available in 140 countries worldwide. For further information, please visit [www.menarini.com](http://www.menarini.com).

Stemline Therapeutics, Inc. ("Stemline") a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Menarini Group, is a commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development and commercialization of novel oncology therapeutics.



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# Backstreet Boys' Carter facing lawsuits for alleged 2003 assault

LAS VEGAS, Sept. 2, (AP) — Backstreet Boys singer Nick Carter has won a favorable ruling in one of two civil lawsuits filed against him in Nevada, one by a woman who alleges he raped her on his tour bus in Washington state in 2001 and another by a woman who alleges he sexually assaulted her on his boat off Florida in 2003.

A state court judge on Wednesday declined to dismiss a counter-suit that Carter and his attorneys brought alleging defamation by three people in the first case, which was filed last December by a Nevada woman, now 40, who alleges that Carter attacked her on his tour bus after a concert in Tacoma, Washington, when she was 17 years old.

"He told plaintiff she would go to jail if she told anyone what happened between them," the woman's lawsuit said. "He said that he was Nick Carter and that he had the power to do that."

The other case involving the Florida allegations was filed Monday in Clark County District Court.

Carter, now 43, lives in Las Vegas. He has denied the allegations of sexual battery and infliction of emotional distress the two women make against him. Each woman seeks unspecified monetary damages greater than \$30,000.

Carter appeared with his attorney in court Wednesday when Clark County District Court Judge Nancy Alf declined to dismiss his counterclaim accusing three people — including a third woman who alleged he raped her in 2003 — of defamation, conspiracy and abuse of process.

The judge's decision means that woman, Melissa Schuman, and her father, Jerome Schuman, will have to answer Carter's allegations that they have waged a campaign to profit from his fame. Carter is seeking more than \$2.3 million in damages.

"For years, Melissa and Jerome Schuman have been conspiring with anyone they could manipulate to drum up false claims against Nick Carter in a brazen attempt to get rich off of him," Carter's attorney, Liane Wakayama said in a statement Thursday to The Associated Press.

Schuman lost her bid in California in 2018 to have prosecutors bring a criminal complaint against Carter based on her allegation that he forced her into sex in his Los Angeles-area apartment.

Carter has denied Schuman's accusations that he raped her. He did not speak during Wednesday's court hearing.

Carter's attorneys maintain that the Schumans did not make their allegations public until late 2017, after a broad social movement galvanized by the hashtag #MeToo began exposing previously untold cases of sexual violence.

They also allege the Schumans "recruited" the woman who accused Carter of sexual assault in Florida.

That plaintiff, who lives in York County, Pennsylvania, asks in court documents to be identified only by her initials. She alleges that Carter raped her on his yacht in 2003 when she was 15 years old and they met in Marathon, Florida.

**Also:**

**LONDON:** Prominent classical music conductor John Eliot Gardiner is pulling out of all engagements until next year after allegedly hitting a singer backstage following a concert.

The British conductor said in a statement Thursday that he was stepping back to get "the specialist help I recognize that I have needed for some time." His agency, Intermusica, said he "deeply regrets his behavior" and intends to get counseling.

"I want to apologize to colleagues who have felt badly treated and anyone who may feel let down by my decision to take time out to address my issues. I am heartbroken to have caused so much distress, and I am determined to learn from my mistakes," he said.

People

Variety



A figure of Hatsune Miku is displayed at an event at a Tokyo suburban hall, Makuhari Messe, in Chiba, Japan, Friday, Sept. 1, in celebration of her 16th birthday. Hatsune Miku has always been 16 years old and worn long aqua ponytails. She is Japan's most famous Vocaloid, a computer-synthesized singing voice software that, in her case, comes with a virtual avatar. (AP)

Music

Fans celebrate synthesized singing sensation

## Japan's virtual idol Miku turns 16

CHIBA, Japan, Sept. 2, (AP) — Hatsune Miku has always been 16 years old and worn long aqua ponytails.

She is Japan's most famous Vocaloid — a computer-synthesized singing voice software that, in her case, comes with a virtual avatar.

Legions of fans are celebrating the 16th anniversary of Miku's Aug. 31, 2007, release with events including a virtual exhibition and songwriting to showcase her standard high-pitched, cutesy voice. For sale are a special Seiko watch and a series of dolls in the character's likeness.

The Vocaloid's hits have been widely shared online, including on Miku's own official YouTube channel, which has drawn 2.5 million subscribers. She has CDs and DVDs out and video games focused on fun rhythms co-produced with Sega, as well as cosmetic products plastered with her name and famous manga artists drawing portraits of her for T-shirts.

On Friday, thousands of people packed a concert hall in a Tokyo suburb to watch their virtual idol dance and sing while accompanied by human musicians.

The audience bobbed colorful light sticks in time to the music, with some people dressed like the doe-eyed Miku. As laser beams flashed about, the cheering crowd, who knew the songs and the choreographed moves by heart, performed them in unison. A human-size hologram of Miku was projected at the center of a dark stage as though she was really there.

"I love the way her voice doesn't sound human," Koyo Mikami, 16, said while attending the event at Makuhari Messe Convention Center with a friend. Both boys wore kimonos featuring large images of Miku.

Miku's voice was synthesized based on the voice of Saki Fujita, a human singer, actor and voice actor.

The Vocaloid software application works on both Windows and Mac computers by taking inputs of melody and Japanese language lyrics and outputting the music with Miku as the vocalist. Edits like adding vibrato are as easy as double-clicking. Although vari-

ous versions are available, the latest official Crypton package sells for 16,500 yen (\$110).

Miku is 158 centimeters tall (5-foot-2) and weighs 42 kilograms (93 pounds), is perpetually 16 years old, and favors songs with tempos between 70 and 150 beats per minute, according to Crypton.

**Technology**

Whether being 16 makes a technology outdated or a classic is up to the beholder. While Hatsune Miku, whose name translates to "first note from the future," pioneered a genre, many other Vocaloids are now on the market. The technology has advanced since Miku's early days, with all kinds of voices and features available.

The voice synthesizer software has been featured in more than 100,000 songs, performed in 3D concerts in Los Angeles and Hong Kong, and inspired countless works of art.

Hatsune Miku owes her reign as the "It Girl" of the digital era to the participatory nature of Japan's manga, animation and pop music culture, according to Benjamin Boas, author of "From Cool Japan to Your Japan." Instead of strictly guarding their intellectual property, publishers and other copyright holders encourage fan participation, he said.

Unlike Mickey Mouse, Super Mario and other copyright-protected characters, Hatsune Miku was offered as open-source software, with a Creative Commons license in the West that allows people to more freely use and distribute the content they make with the software.

"Miku's success was always about the fan community and the ability for fans to become all Miku's producers at once," said Boas, whom the Japanese government named as the country's Cool Japan Ambassador, a symbolic honor.

"As long as that community is alive, I see a future for Miku."

Creators who make music with Vocaloids are

called "Vocalo-P" in Japan, with the "p" standing for "producer." Some have gone on to become superstars in Japan, including the duo Yoasobi and singer Kenshi Yonezu.

People are also having fun with various voices for Vocaloids. Among the recent performances shared with a frenzy online is an AI version of Frank Sinatra doing a rendition of "YMCA," a 1978 hit by the Village People, never performed on record by the legendary crooner.

Hiroyuki Itoh, chief executive of Crypton Future Media, which developed Hatsune Miku and is based in the northern Japanese city of Sapporo, said creating a character to go with the voice software was part of making the program user-friendly.

"We wanted to make it easy to use for amateurs who want to make music as a hobby," he said. "Some people can't sing very well, and here you have a 16-year-old girl singing your song."

There are no plans to end Miku's perpetual adolescence or to age her beyond 16.

"We will do our best as a company to make sure Hatsune Miku will continue to be loved by the people," Itoh said.

**Also:**

**NEW YORK:** In their lead single and title track from their fourth full-length album, the 20-member K-pop super group NCT announce they've entered their "Golden Age." Who could argue otherwise? The track, which serves as the LP's closer and its thematic anchor, is an eclecticist's dream: absurdist trap, glossy vocal harmonies, and an interpolation of some Beethoven — Piano Sonata No. 8 in C minor, Op. 13, "Sonata Pathétique" II. Adagio cantabile — in one. And that's not even the best part: all 20 members are heard on it, a rarity and feat in itself, which of course includes NCT's famed subunits, NCT 127, NCT DREAM and WayV. No matter your bias, there's a lot to love.

# Features

ARABIC TIMES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

**NEW YORK:** The editor of such best-selling novels as Liane Moriarty's "Big Little Lies" and Kathryn Stockett's "The Help" is joining a division of Penguin Random House. Amy Einhorn, who departs next week as president and publisher of Henry Holt and Company, will begin as senior vice president and publisher of fiction at Crown Publishing Group on Oct. 2.

"Over the course of her career, Amy's exceptional editorial taste and astute commercial instincts have helped shape the modern fiction market," Crown President David Drake wrote in a company memo shared Wednesday with The Associated Press.

Crown has been known in recent years for such nonfiction bestsellers as former President Barack Obama's "Promised Land" and former first lady Michelle Obama's "Becoming" and the hiring of Einhorn is part of an effort to boost its fiction. Einhorn's mandate will be "to build an impactful fiction program comprised of approximately 20 titles published each year," according to Drake.

"I am confident that with her superlative energy, creativity, and drive, Amy will re-establish a vibrant fiction program at Crown, one that will serve as a cornerstone of our division's long-term growth strategy," Drake wrote.

Einhorn previously ran her own imprint at Penguin, Amy Einhorn Books, and also served as publisher of Flatiron Books, where her notable releases included Jeanine Cummins' controversial "American Dirt," a million-selling novel despite criticisms that it included Hispanic stereotypes and misrepresentations of Hispanic culture. Einhorn's other projects have included Moriarty's "Nine Perfect Strangers," Laurie Frankel's "This Is How It Always Is" and Yangsze Choo's "The Night Tiger."

Earlier this year, Crown Publishing Group became a separate division of Penguin Random House, part of a broader corporate reorganization. (AP)

story collections by Jamal Brinkley and Kelly Link are among the finalists for the 10th annual Kirkus Prizes, for which winners in fiction, nonfiction and young reader's literature each receive \$50,000.

Kirkus judges selected six books for each of the three categories, with winners to be announced Oct. 11. The awards are presented



Moriarty

Einhorn

by the trade publication Kirkus Reviews.

Ward's slave narrative "Let Us Descend" and McBride's 20th century tale "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" were nominated in fiction, along with Brinkley's "Witness," Link's "White Cat, Black Dog," the acclaimed Irish novelist Paul Murray's "The Bee

Sting" and New Zealander Eleanor Catton's "Barnam Wood."

In nonfiction, finalists include Jennifer Homan's George Balanchine biography "Mr. B.," Safiya Sinclair's memoir "How To Say Babylon" and Tania Branigan's "Red Memory: The Afterlives of China's Cultural Revolution." The other nonfiction

nominees are Clancy Martin's "How Not To Kill Yourself: A Portrait of the Suicidal Mind," Héctor Tobar's "Our Migrant Souls: A Meditation on Race and the Meanings and Myths of 'Latino'" and Ilyon Woo's "Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey From Slavery to Freedom." (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## Television

## Networks go dark

## ESPN 'Game Day' faces changes &amp; competition

NEW YORK, Sept. 2, (AP) — Dynasties have come and gone at Miami, Florida State, Florida and Oklahoma while "College GameDay" has reigned as the preeminent Saturday morning pregame show.

But the ESPN franchise heads into its 37th year having undergone the most change ever going into a new season while also facing competition from Fox and its upstart "Big Noon Kickoff."

While the core of the "GameDay" lineup is back with host Reece Davis and analysts Kirk Herbstreit, Pat McAfee, Desmond Howard and Lee Corso, it will have a different look.

Analyst David Pollack, reporter Gene Wojciechowski, and Senior VP of Production Lee Fitting were let go while research producer Chris "The Bear" Fallica left for Fox.

Fallica had the longest tenure with "GameDay" at 29 years. Fitting had been a producer since 2004, while Pollack (11 years) and Wojciechowski (12) were longtime veterans.

"We'll see how it unfolds. I think 'GameDay' will always be 'GameDay,' but I think it will come across different this year," Fallica said.

Corso has been with the program since it started in 1987, while Herbstreit goes into his 27th season. Howard is in his 18th year.

Davis, entering his ninth season as host, knows change is a constant, but he also thinks the show has evolved over the years, as evidenced by McAfee coming aboard last year.

McAfee will do "GameDay" with his popular talk show moving to ESPN in September.

"I think we have maybe the most dynamic force in sports media right now," Davis said. "He's been unbelievable to me. He's got a great connection with people and the audience. His addition last year sort of exemplified what this show has done in sort of always trying to stay ahead and making sure that you maintain your roots and don't let it get complacent."



McAfee

## Debates

Even though fans primarily tune in for the on-set debates and the signs in the crowd, whoever picks up feature reporting, which has always been one of the staples, remains a crucial question. Going into her eighth season, Jen Lada will have some segments, while Marty Smith and other veteran reporters will contribute.

Davis noted there will also be times when he, Herbstreit or Howard might do a segment.

"Stanford Steve" Coughlin moves into Fallica's spot for analysis and picks against the point spread.

"I don't think we look at it as a transition at all. It is an evolution of the show, which has been on top for 30 years," said ESPN Vice President/Executive Producer Seth Markman, who oversees all college football and NFL studio programming.

"GameDay" averaged 2.1 million viewers across its three hours last season, the second-most watched year in program history. This year marks the 30th season that "GameDay" has originated from game sites. The show will be in Charlotte on Saturday as No. 21 North Carolina takes on South Carolina.

The Sept. 9 location has not been announced, but it would be a surprise if it isn't Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for No. 11 Texas at the fourth-ranked Crimson Tide.

Fox's "Big Noon Kickoff" has added Fallica and Mark Ingram II to a crew that includes host Rob Stone and analysts Matt Leinart, Urban Meyer and Brady Quinn. The pregame show has become a solid lead-in to the 12 p.m. Eastern game and will be on site for the second straight year.

Stone, who worked at ESPN before joining Fox in 2011, has appreciated some of the gains Fox's pregame show has made in a short time.

"Gap isn't even a fair word. The head start our competition had was mammoth. They have built a legendary product, and we were just jumping in literally five years ago," he said. "I admire everything that they have done and the people in front and behind the camera that have created that institution. But boy, it is fun to be that competition lurking out there and continually eating away at their crowd and pulling more and more people into what we like to do."

Fox also has an advantage because its pregame show leads into its marquee game at noon, while at "College GameDay," the game isn't until late afternoon or at night.

When matched up for the final hour (11 a.m. to 12 p.m.), "GameDay" still has a significant lead. According to Nielsen, "GameDay" averaged 2.69 million viewers to "Big Noon Kickoff's" 1.58 million. But Fox has seen gains of 30% in that hour since 2019.

"Big Noon Kickoff" will be on site for coach Deion Sanders' first two Colorado games. The Buffaloes are at No. 17 TCU on Saturday before hosting Nebraska next week.

Brad Zager, Fox Sports executive producer and president of production & operations, has also been pleased with what has been accomplished in a short time.

"Last year, we committed to be on the road every single week, which adds that whole band and tailgate aspect that those shows thrive on. And over time, we've added pieces that make the show more complete for the viewer," he said. "We're excited about the schedule and what's to come this year."

## Also:

**NEW YORK:** ESPN is among a number of Disney Entertainment channels that have gone dark on Charter Spectrum cable systems.

The channels went off the air Thursday night due to a carriage dispute between the nation's second-largest cable TV provider - which is the major carrier in New York and Los Angeles, among numerous other markets - and Disney.

ESPN was carrying a college football game between Florida and No. 14 Utah while ESPN2 was showing the U.S. Open tennis tournament, including the second-round match between top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz and Lloyd Harris, when the channels went dark for Charter Spectrum's 14.7 million subscribers.

There were also college football games on SEC Network, ACC Network and ESPNU.

The move angered sports fans, and the US Tennis Association wasn't pleased with the timing.

"We're very disappointed for our fans and viewers around the country that Spectrum and Charter could not resolve their dispute with Disney, resulting in a loss of ESPN coverage of Thursday night's matches. We're very hopeful that this dispute can be resolved as quickly as possible," USTA spokesman Chris Widmaier said in a statement.



Jimmy Buffett performs at the after party for the premiere of 'Jurassic World' in Los Angeles, on June 9, 2015. 'Margaritaville' singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett has died at age 76. A statement on Buffett's official website and social media pages says the singer died Friday, Sept. 1, 2023 'surrounded by his family, friends, music and dogs'. (AP)



Director Wes Anderson arrives to the photo call for the film 'The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar' during the 80th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Friday, Sept. 1. (AP)



Mesek



Reiman

## Variety

**NEW YORK:** A headless Roman statue believed to depict the Roman emperor and philosopher Marcus Aurelius was ordered seized from the Cleveland Museum of Art by New York authorities investigating antiquities looted from Turkey.

A warrant signed by a judge in Manhattan on Aug. 14 ordered the seizure of the statue, which the museum acquired in 1986 and had been a highlight of its collection of ancient Roman art.

The warrant was secured as part of an ongoing investigation into a smuggling network involving antiquities looted from Bubon in southwestern Turkey and trafficked through Manhattan, a spokesperson for Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said. No details of the investigation were provided.

The 76-inch (1.9-meter) statue dates from A.D. 180 to 200 and is worth \$20 million, according to the district attorney's office.

The Plain Dealer of Cleveland reported that the statue was removed from view more than two months ago and that the museum changed the description of the piece on its website, where it now calls the statue a "Draped Male Figure" instead of indicating a connection to Marcus Aurelius.

Turkey first made claims about the statue in 2012 when it released a list of nearly two dozen objects in the Cleveland museum's collection that it said had been looted from Bubon and other locations. Museum officials said at the time that Turkey had provided no hard evidence of looting.

"The enduring dispute surrounding this matter has kept him separated from his hometown," Zeynep Boz of Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism said of the statue.

In an emailed statement, Boz said the seizure "provides a strong sense of hope, long-awaited, for the rectification of a willing wrongdoing."

Todd Mesek, a spokesperson for the museum, said in a statement Thursday that the museum could not comment on the Marcus Aurelius statue while it is the subject of litigation.

Mesek said the museum "takes provenance issues very seriously and reviews

## Obituary

## 'He lived his life like a song ...'

## 'Margaritaville' singer Buffett dies

NEW YORK, Sept. 2, (AP) — Singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett, who popularized beach bum soft rock with the escapist Caribbean-flavored song "Margaritaville" and turned that celebration of loafing into an empire of restaurants, resorts and frozen concoctions, has died. He was 76.

"Jimmy passed away peacefully on the night of September 1st surrounded by his family, friends, music and dogs," a statement posted to Buffett's official website and social media pages said late Friday. "He lived his life like a song till the very last breath and will be missed beyond measure by so many."

The statement did not say where Buffett died or give a cause of death. Illness had forced him to reschedule concerts in May and Buffett acknowledged in social media posts that he had been hospitalized, but provided no specifics.

"Margaritaville," released on Feb. 14, 1977, quickly took on a life of its own, becoming a state of mind for those "wastin' away," an excuse for a life of low-key fun and escapism for those "growing older, but not up."

The song is the unhurried portrait of a loafer on his front porch, watching tourists sunbathe while a pot of shrimp is beginning to boil. The signer has a new tattoo, a likely hangover and regrets over a lost love. Somewhere there is a misplaced salt shaker.

"What seems like a simple ditty about getting blotto and mending a broken heart turns out to be a profound meditation on the often painful inertia of beach dwelling." Spin magazine wrote in 2021. "The tourists come and go, one group indistinguishable from the other. Waves crest and break whether somebody is there to witness it or not. Everything that means anything has already happened and you're not even sure when."

The song - from the album "Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes" - spent 22 weeks on the Billboard Hot

100 chart and peaked at No. 8. The song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2016 for its cultural and historic significance, became a karaoke standard and helped brand Key West, Florida, as a distinct sound of music and a destination known the world over.

"There was no such place as Margaritaville," Buffett told the Arizona Republic in 2021. "It was a made-up place in my mind, basically made up about my experiences in Key West and having to leave Key West and go on the road to work and then come back and spend time by the beach."

The song soon inspired restaurants and resorts, turning Buffett's alleged desire for the simplicity of island life into a multimillion brand. He landed at No. 13 in Forbes' America's Richest Celebrities in 2016 with a net worth of \$550 million.

Music critics were never very kind to Buffett or his catalogue, including the sandy beach-side snack bar songs like "Fins," "Come Monday" and "Cheeseburgers in Paradise." But his legions of fans, called "Parrotheads," regularly turned up for his concerts wearing toy parrots, cheeseburgers, sharks and flamingos on their heads, leis around their necks and loud Hawaiian shirts.

## Instruments

"It's pure escapism is all it is," he told the Republic. "I'm not the first one to do it, nor shall I probably be the last. But I think it's really a part of the human condition that you've got to have some fun. You've got to get away from whatever you do to make a living or other parts of life that stress you out. I try to make it at least 50/50 fun to work and so far it's worked out."

His special Gulf Coast mix of country, pop, folk and rock added instruments and tonalities more commonly found in the Caribbean, like steel drums. It was a stew of steel pans, trombones and pedal steel guitar. Buffett's incredible ear for hooks and light

grooves were often overshadowed by his lyrics about fish tacos and sunsets.

Rolling Stone, in a review of Buffett's 2020 album "Life on the Flip Side," gave grudging props. "He continues mapping out his surfy, sandy corner of pop music utopia with the chill, friendly warmth of a multi-millionaire you wouldn't mind sharing a tropically-themed 3 p.m. IPA with, especially if his gold card was on the bar when the last round came."

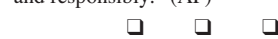
Buffett's evolving brand began in 1985 with the opening of a string of Margaritaville-themed stores and restaurants in Key West, followed in 1987 with the first Margaritaville Café nearby. Over the course of the next two decades, several more of each opened throughout Florida, New Orleans and California.

The brand has since expanded to dozens of categories, including resorts, apparel and footwear for men and women, a radio station, a beer brand, ice tea, tequila and rum, home décor, food items like salad dressing, Margaritaville Crunchy Pimento Cheese & Shrimp Bites and Margaritaville Cantina Style Medium Chunky Salsa, the Margaritaville at Sea cruise line and restaurants, including Margaritaville Restaurant, JW Prime Steak and Seafood, 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar & Grill and LandShark Bar & Grill.

There also was a Broadway-bound jukebox musical, "Escape to Margaritaville," a romantic comedy in which a singer-bartender called Sully falls for the far more career-minded Rachel, who is vacationing with friends and hanging out at Margaritaville, the hotel bar where Sully works.

James William Buffett was born on Christmas day 1946 in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and raised in the port town of Mobile, Alabama. He graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and went from busking the streets of New Orleans to playing six nights a week at Bourbon Street clubs.

claims to objects in the collection carefully and responsibly." (AP)



**LOS ANGELES:** A car driving with a bull

in it was pulled over by police in northeast Nebraska's biggest city.

Don't worry, he didn't steer. Norfolk Police Capt Chad Reiman said it didn't take long for officers to track down



Nick Carter of Backstreet Boys performs 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart' at the CMT Music Awards at the Bridgestone Arena, June 6, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn. Carter is facing two civil lawsuits in Las Vegas brought separately by women who allege he sexually assaulted them in 2003 and 2001. (AP) — Details Page 11

the modified Ford Crown Victoria sedan with a bull riding shotgun after a 911 call about it driving on the main highway entering the city of roughly 24,000.

We didn't have a full understanding of it until we saw it," Reiman said.

The car that Lee Meyer has driven in parades across the area for years has half the windshield and roof removed to make room for his bull, named Howdy Doody, to ride along. A yellow metal cattle gate serves as the passenger side door - allowing for the Watasi bull to be tied up - and a set of longhorns serves as a hood ornament.

"It wouldn't go far without being noticed for sure," Reiman said.

A video of the traffic stop shot by News Channel Nebraska spread quickly online.

A sign on the side of Meyer's car from a parade in Burwell late last month declared that Howdy Doody's eye-catching ride was judged the Best Car Entry in Nebraska's Big Rodeo Parade.

Reiman said Meyer told him that when he went to that parade, he drove Howdy Doody in a proper trailer, so it wasn't clear why he decided to load the bull into his car Wednesday and drive the 36 miles from his home in Neligh to Norfolk.

Reiman said Meyer wasn't headed to a parade. Meyer didn't answer his home phone Thursday morning so he couldn't be reached immediately for an explanation. (AP)









Japan's team has their group photo taken after they defeated Cape Verde in their Basketball World Cup classification match in Okinawa, southern Japan. (AP)

# Sports

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## South Sudan, Japan qualify for Paris Oly

### Philippines roll past China

**MANILA, Philippines, Sept 2, (AP):** It was a chant that Luol Deng waited years to lead. He stood along the side of the South Sudan locker room after their run in the World Cup was over, cupped his hands around his mouth and yelled the same thing, over and over.

"Where we goin'?" he shouted. "Paris," the players all responded. Deng's vision when he founded the national team about a decade ago was to use basketball as a beacon of hope for his homeland. And his vision never seemed more real than on Saturday.

A struggling country just 12 years removed from gaining its independence - making it the youngest nation in the world - is headed to the Paris Olympics as the automatic qualifier from Africa. Carlík Jones finished with 26 points, 15 assists and seven rebounds, and South Sudan rolled past Angola 101-78 on Saturday in the final game of the World Cup for both teams.



Philippines guard Rhenz Abando (23) dunks the ball during their Basketball World Cup classification match against China at the Araneta Coliseum, Manila, Philippines. (AP)

The win, combined with Egypt's 88-86 loss to New Zealand in a game that went final about a half hour later, clinched the Olympic berth for South Sudan as the highest-ranked African team in the tournament. And later Saturday, Japan joined the Olympic field as the highest-ranked World Cup team from Asia - clinching that spot by holding on for an 80-71 win over Cape Verde.

"This team is a beam of light, like I keep on saying," South Sudan coach Royal Ivey said. "We're bringing unity, camaraderie, love and friendship to this country. This country's only been independent for 12 years. To do this, for Luol Deng to put this together, this

### BASKETBALL

is incredible. This is incredible." Marial Shayok scored 18, Nuni Omot - the reigning MVP of the NBA-backed Basketball Africa League - scored 17 and Wenyen Gabriel added 15 for South Sudan (3-2).

Childe Dundao led Angola (1-4) with 21 points. South Sudan and Japan joined Australia (the Oceania automatic qualifier) and France (the host nation) as teams to have clinched spots in the 12-team Olympic men's basketball field.

The World Cup serves as a qualifier for seven teams - the two highest-ranked teams from the Americas, the top two from Europe, and the top finisher from Asia, Oceania and Africa - into the Olympic field. Those seven join France, and the other four spots will be decided in last-chance qualifying spots next summer.

"I love this team," Ivey said. "Man, this is a great feeling. This is a great feeling. I wish I could bottle this up right now." Japan played host to the Olympics two summers ago and now has secured another trip to the games, though it was far from easy at the end.

Keisei Tomimaga put the hosts - Japan got to play its World Cup games in Okinawa - up 73-53 on a 3-pointer with 2:00 remaining in the third quar-



South Sudan forward Wenyen Gabriel (32) against Angola forward Eduardo Francisco (0) during their Basketball World Cup classification match at the Araneta Coliseum in Manila, Philippines. (AP)

ter. Cape Verde roared back. It held Japan scoreless for the next nine minutes, going on a 15-0 run to get within 73-68 on a 3-pointer by Betinho Gomes. Japan went 11 minutes without a field goal, but Joshua Hawkinson had the team's only baskets of the final quarter. They both came in the last minute, one setting up a three-point play, the other a 3-pointer to help the hosts advance.

Hawkinson had 29 points and Tomimaga had 22 for Japan (3-2). Edy Tavares and Shane De Rosa each had 11 for Cape Verde (1-4).

Jordan Clarkson wouldn't let the host nation finish the World Cup winless.

Clarkson scored 24 of his 34 points in a third-quarter outburst that turned the entire game around and the Philippines (1-4) rolled past China (1-4) in the finale for both teams. The win also ensured that the Philippines will have a chance to play in an Olympic qualifying tournament next summer.

"We didn't want our hosting to end without gifting the Filipino people with a victory," Philippines coach Chot Reyes said in a televised interview after the national team ended a

nine-game World Cup losing streak. "It's storming outside, we're basically playing for nothing, but they still came out."

Kaier Li, who goes by the name Kyle Anderson when he plays for the Minnesota Timberwolves, led China with 17 points. China was outscored 34-11 in the third quarter.

Izayah Le'Afa and Finn Delany each scored 27 points for New Zealand (2-3) in a back-and-forth game with 10 lead changes and nine ties. Ehab Amin and Amr El Gendy each scored 19 for Egypt (2-3).

At Jakarta, Isaia Cordinier scored

19 points and Rudy Gobert added 17 in his 100th national-team appearance for France (3-2).

The Olympic silver medalists were eliminated from medal contention after losing their first two games of group-stage play, then won their final three games in Indonesia and leave the World Cup with a winning record.

Nisre Zouzoua scored 18 points for Ivory Coast (1-4). Lauri Markkanen needed just under 25 minutes to score 32 points and grab nine rebounds while leading Finland (2-3) in its tournament finale. Pedro Chourio led Venezuela (0-5) with 17 points.

## Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah elected as President of ASC



Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah delivers speech after his re-election as the President of Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC). KUNA photo.

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA):** The Asian Shooting Confederation (ASC) re-elected Kuwait's candidate Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah as President for

the upcoming four years. The confederation is committed to encourage talents and provide opportunities for Asian athletes, for regional and international achievements

in shooting, said Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah in a speech at the ASC meeting held in Kuwait on Saturday, with the presence of representatives of 41 Asian federations.

ASC organizes training courses and camps for coaches, staff and referees to boost their skills in the sport, while providing technical and logistic support to national federations when organizing Asian or international tournaments, he said.

Shooting had a rising popularity in the past few years in Asia, as Asian teams increased their qualification

### SHOOTING

cards in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 from 38 to 48, winning 14 medals, said the ASC President. On his part, head of Kuwait Shooting Federation Duajj Al-Otaibi noted that during the meeting, ASC agreed on the upcoming tournaments schedule.

The start will be by the premier continental tournament in South Korea, next October, followed by the Asian Shotgun and Rifle / Pistol Championships 2024, to be held in Kuwait next January, followed by another in Indonesia in February, said Al-Otaibi, who was also chosen as ASC Secretary General.

## Haaland and Son score hat tricks

### Chelsea humbled in home loss to Forest

**LONDON, Sept 2, (AP):** Half a billion dollars spent on new signings and Chelsea still looks like a team badly in need of reinforcements.

Chelsea lost at home to Nottingham Forest 1-0 in the English Premier League on Saturday, a day after closing the summer transfer window by taking its spending past the \$500 million mark with the addition of Cole Palmer.

Record signing Moises Caicedo was partly at fault for the goal, giving the ball away cheaply before Anthony Elanga tapped in a cross from Taiwo Awoniyi in the 48th minute.

Fellow newcomer Nicolas Jackson was held scoreless for the third time in four matches and Chelsea's attack looked toothless again. Mauricio Pochettino has overseen two losses, one draw and just one win against promoted Luton for an underwhelming start to the season.

Son Heung-min scored a hat trick as Tottenham came from behind to beat Burnley 5-2 and leave Vincent Kompany's team still without a point.

Son canceled out Lyle Foster's early opener in the 16th minute and goals from Cristian Romero and James Maddison put Tottenham in control. Son netted two more in the space of four minutes just after the hour as Spurs made it 10 points from Ange Postecoglou's first four league games in charge.

Tottenham boosted its attacking options with Friday's signing of Brennan Johnson, but Son will carry much of the scoring burden after Harry Kane's exit. Son's first goals since April will add to the sense of optimism at the club

after a strong start to the season.

Josh Brownhill scored a consolation goal but this was another chastening afternoon for Burnley, despite opening the scoring just four minutes into the game.

Son equalized after exchanging passes with Manor Solomon before clipping the ball over the advancing James Trafford, and Spurs took the lead in first-half stoppage time when Burnley failed to clear a corner and the ball came for Romero to fire in from the edge of the area via the inside of the left post.

Maddison capped another impressive performance with his second goal in two league games, a curling finish

### SOCCER

that left Trafford with no chance.

Son put the game beyond Burnley when Solomon squared an inviting ball for him to fire in his second in the 63rd. Moments later, he had the pace to get in behind the Burnley defense and collect Porro's ball forward, beating Trafford to seal his hat trick.

Brownhill slid in to get one back for Burnley in stoppage time but by then there was only half the Turf Moor crowd still on hand to see it.

City maintained its perfect record with a 5-1 home win over Fulham thanks to three second-half goals from Haaland, although it was a disputed VAR decision that turned the game in

### Jude scores again, Real 'edge' Getafe

**BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 2, (AP):** Jude Bellingham scored in injury time to complete Real Madrid's 2-1 comeback over Getafe on Saturday, extending his scoring run to a Spanish league-leading five in four matches since joining his new club.

The 20-year-old England midfielder is having a dream start since arriving at Madrid from Borussia Dortmund for 130 million euros (\$142 million). His goals have done more than any of his teammates to give Madrid four victories in as many games.

Getafe struck first through former Madrid youth player Borja Mayoral in the 11th minute.

New Madrid striker Joselu Mato equalized in the 47th. Getafe held firm until the final minutes when Bellingham took advantage of a fumbled save by goalkeeper David Soria to tap in the winner.

This was Madrid's first home game of the season at its renovated Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, which has a retractable roof.

the hosts' favor just before halftime. Nathan Ake's headed goal to make it 2-1 for City was allowed to stand after the video assistant referee ruled that Manuel Akanji did not interfere with play from an offside position even though he was in goalkeeper Bernd Leno's line of sight when he jumped over the ball.

That incensed Fulham manager Marco Silva and his players, and Haaland's first goal in the 58th ended their resistance. The Norway striker added a penalty and an injury-time goal.

Brentford maintained its unbeaten start after Bryan Mbeumo equalized in injury time to secure a 2-2 home draw against Bournemouth.

Everton finally ended its Premier League goal drought in a 2-2 draw at Sheffield United on Saturday, with both teams earning their first point of the season.

West Ham claimed its third straight win and ensured at least one night atop the English Premier League by beating Luton 2-1 thanks to headers by Jarrod Bowen and Kurt Zouma.



Nottingham Forest's Cheikhou Kouyate (right), and Chelsea's Enzo Fernandez (left), jump for a header during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Nottingham Forest at Stamford Bridge Stadium in London. (AP)