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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
- Strategic alternative to the salary scale is like a rare gem whose goal is financial sustainability, not improving the citizen's livelihood
- The two authorities prioritized political laws at the expense of the demands and needs of citizens
- Executive authority is stagnant in terms of dealing with urgent files,
- Neighboring countries have turned into manufacturing and exporting nations, while Kuwait still imports almost everything
- Some laws are obstacles to development, the legislative authority must meet the good expectations of the leadership
- Decision-making circles are closely monitoring the Bedoun issue and want to end it without harming higher interests
- The 'Cassation' ruling regarding the unconstitutionality of the travel ban is a signal for decision-making circles to act accordingly.
- Some laws are outdated and have not been amended for 50 years,
- they must be developed to keep pace with the present needs
- Diversification of sources of income and ending dependence on oil

files receive great attention from decision-making circles.

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.

The program is clear and practical, and most importantly, it is implementable, as it includes timetables for each project. 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, Bedouns, 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

Al-Jarallah 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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don. 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 Egyptborn businessman whose son was killed in a car crash with Princess Diana, died this week, his family said Friday. He was 94.

Al Faved, 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 convinced 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 Fayad 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.



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

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 **Shalamcheh** border crossing with **Iran**, setting the cornerstone for a railway projects linking the two A statement by the Prime Min-

ister'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. (KUNÁ)

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 Aqaaba town near the West Bank, said Pales-

tine 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-inarms 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.



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

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

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

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

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

A mericans 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

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

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 Senate, 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

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

"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 alto-

"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

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Expected weather for the next

By Day: Hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind changing to southeast-erly wind with speeds of 08-28

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-28 km/h. Station Max Exp Min Rec

Kuwait City

Weather

Kuwait Airport 29 Abdaly 48 31 Jahra Salmiyah 42 Ahmadi Nuwaisib 46 Wafra

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

No age

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As people age, they face heightened risk of chronic disease and of having multiple chronic conditions. Chronic health problems can interfere with daily functioning and put older politicians at higher risk of performing poorly on the iob -- for example, falling.

Testing health - or, even better, job performance - is another option. Testing workers of all ages at regular intervals avoids ageist stereotypes.

Biden undergoes an annual health screening and has been deemed "fit for duty." Should Feinstein and McConnell be held to the same standard? That raises the thorny question, what if physicians disagree about a politician's health and ability to remain in office?

Health checks differ from compulsory retire-

In rich Western countries, people do not retire because they can no longer work -retirement is not correlated with an actual reduction in physical or intellectual capabilities

Instead, people's health tends to decline after retiring.

Those who oppose compulsory retirement, myself included, say that mandating retirement generates ageism, or negative stereotypes

Experts have shown that older people are diverse, and they separate biological aging - like physical wear and tear on the body - from chronological aging.

In addition to stereotyping older people, forced retirement violates principles of equality. People equally able to perform a job deserve equal chances to continue to work, independent of factors unrelated to job performance, such as age, race or gender identity.

Supporters of age-based retirement, meanwhile, say that this policy treats people equally over time, since all young people eventually become old. Yet others disagree, insisting that the point of equality is creating a community of equals, and discriminating against older adults falls short.

People supporting a maximum age limit for the president and members of Congress have launched online signature campaigns on Change. org. But these efforts would require a constitutional amendment and have not gained major traction.

Two Republican senators also introduced an amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 2023 that would allow senators to serve only two six-year terms and Congress members to serve three two-year terms. Congress has voted down previous proposals to set term limits.

At the state level, 16 states limit terms for legislators - but not necessarily because of age concerns. Direct age limits are under consideration in South Dakota, which will vote in 2024 on a ballot measure to amend the state's constitution and establish an upper age limit of 80 years for congressional candidates.

Since the government sets age minimums for Congress and the presidency, should there be maximum limits, too? This question remains open. In a democracy, we the people decide by voting. (AP)

Biden widely

Continued from Page 2

He views Trump, with all his hand gestures and animation, as "a larger figure, a little more lively, just his personality. That gives him that energetic appearance." But Colwell is certainly not going there.

"Biden was a good step to steady the water," he said. "Biden is more representative of the status quo and normalcy and that's probably what drew everyone initially to him" after the tumult of the Trump presidency.

"Now you have a return to stability. But in terms of moving forward and having any measurable change on my generation, we're probably going to need younger leadership.'

Alyssa Baggio, 32, is a Democratic-leaning independent in Vancouver, Washington, who works as a recruitment specialist for a homebuilder. She thought Biden was too old for the presidency before he started it. She's convinced of it now and open to voting next year for someone else, just not Trump.

"I don't think he's done a terrible job in office," she said of Biden, "but I think that's more because, as opposed to Trump, he surrounds himself with more experienced and logical

Not that she places great value in experience, except in foreign affairs. "D.C. is a swamp," she said, "and the more experience you have,

the more you sink into the swamp. Said Jose Tapia, 33, a tech-company videographer in Raleigh, North Carolina, "There's got to be a multitude of younger people who are also

super qualified. There's no fresh faces at all." Older Democrats are less negative than younger ones on Biden's decision to run again. In the poll, only 34% of Democrats under 45 want him running for reelection, compared with 54% of those older. Still, about three-

quarters of younger Democrats say they'll at least probably support him if he's the nominee; others did not commit to that. All of this is dispiriting to S. Jay Olshansky,

a public-health professor and aging expert at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He thinks age, when sizing up a presidential candidate, is no more relevant than eye color and the public's focus on it shortchanges the gift of wisdom and experience.

"It's sort of the classic ageism that we've been battling for the last 50 years," he said. "The age of the individual is irrelevant. It's the policies that they bring to the table that are important. And the number of times around the sun just doesn't cut it as an important variable at all.'

From observing both men from afar and examining their medical records, Olshansky regards Biden and Trump as likely "super agers" despite signs of frailty from Biden and Trump's excess weight.

"Biden is likely to outlive Trump because he has fewer harmful risk factors and he does exercise quite notably, whereas Trump does not," he said. But overall, "they're both functioning at a very high level."

"If you don't like what they say," he added, "it's not because of how old they are. It's because you don't like what they say." (AP)

Tourist visas in 3 days for Kuwaiti tourists: Yasunari

Ties with Kuwait exceptional, deeply-rooted: Japan envoy

By Nasser Al-Khamri

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): Japan relation with the State of Kuwait is exceptional and deeply-rooted with the two countries utilizing such a historical bond to boost cooperation in numerous fields, said Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari.

In an interview with KUNA, Ambassador Yasunari indicated that relations between the two countries dated back prior to the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1961, revealing that Japan had been importing oil from Kuwait since 1958 due to a signed agreement.

Kuwait is the third largest exporter of oil to Japan with a volume of 6.89 million barrels in 2023 for instance, said the Ambassador who noted that commercial exchange was on the increase surpassing levels prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the level of financial coordination, Ambassador Yasunari affirmed that Kuwait and Japan were abiding by a 2010 agreement to avoid double taxation, which had an impact on boosting commercial ties.

He noted that in 2013, an agreement on protecting investments was also signed as part of the two nations pursuing of



Morino Yasunari

Japanese Prime Minister's recent tour of the Middle East

led Japan to sign an agreement with the GCC to resume negotiations over the free-trade zone in light of both Japan and the Gulf countries' interest in pursuing ventures within energy transformation ensuring a steady supply of oil and gas to the international market. The cooperation will also boost new technologies using ammonium and nitrogen.

Symposium

Ambassador Yasunari also commented on the importance of the Kuwaiti-Japanese joint symposium held some years ago, which had topics regarding increasing cooperation between the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) on one hand and the Japan Petroleum Institute (JPI) and Japan Cooperation Center, Petroleum (JCCP) on the other.

The Japanese diplomat also revealed that the two countries had signed between 2014 and 2017 several agreements on developing urban infrastructure, transportation, and recy-

On the health sector, the Japanese Ambassador said that Japan and Kuwait were eager to bolster cooperation within this field, seeking all venues to develop ties within this do-

Both countries were seeking to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 for Japan and 2060 for Kuwait, revealed Ambassador Yasunari, affirming that cooperation was key to achieving such goals. In line with this commitment, Japan's JCCP and Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) held the third Ku-

wait symposium on hydrogen last June to explore green hydrogen and ammonia technologies to reach carbon neutrality, stated Yasunari.

When asked about tourism cooperation, Ambassador Yasunari replied that the Japanese National Tourism Organization (JNTO) was eager to receive tourists from all around the world including Kuwait.

Japanese traditional and popular cultures were main attractions to tourists from all around the world in addition to the

spectacular natural landscape that Japan offers to its visitors. Ambassador Yasunari also noted that Muslim tourists were welcomed to visit Japan in light of the increasing number of halal restaurants and prayer facilities geared towards

Back to Kuwaiti tourists, Ambassador Yasunari affirmed that visas to visit Japan could be issued to applicants within Kuwait in a period of three working days.

On future events, Ambassador Yasunari indicated that Japan would be hosting the EXPO 2025 in Osaka, saying that such an event provided an opportunity for all governments to participate in this international event.

In regards to bolstering culture and education, Ambassador Yasunari said that Kuwaiti students were eager to study in Japan, revealing that the J-MENA platform -- visited by representatives from Kuwait partaking in the (CHEDEX 2023) - was launched last May to introduce Kuwaiti students to around 800 Japanese universities including 50 offering programs in the English language.



President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed with Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

UAE head meets Kuwait MoD

UAE President Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan received on Friday Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to discuss the deep-rooted sisterly ties between

During the meeting at Qasr Al-Shati, Sheikh Ahmad conveyed to the UAE leader the greetings and best wishes of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, WAM news agency reported.

The President and Sheikh Ahmad discussed the deep-rooted relations between the two countries and ways to enhance them in various fields, with a focus on fulfilling the aspirations of both countries and their peoples for progress and prosperity.

Both sides exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of mutual

day, on his country's national day.

country's national day.

tional day.

national day.

national day.

more development and prosperity for Vietnam.

more development and prosperity for Vietnam.

more development and prosperity for Uzbekistan.

more development and prosperity for Uzbekistan.

Amir congrats Vietnam,

Uzbekistan & Slovakia

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratula-

tory cable to President of Vietnam Vo Van Thuong on Satur-

His Highness wished the president a long healthy life and

His Highness Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to

President of Vietnam Vo Van Thuong on Saturday, on his

His Highness wished the president a long healthy life and

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-

Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President of

Vietnam Vo Van Thuong on Saturday, on his country's na-

Uzbekistan

Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President of Uzbeki-

stan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Friday, on his country's national

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

His Highness wished Mirziyoyev a long healthy life and

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President of

Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Friday, on his country's

His Highness wished Mirziyoyev a long healthy life and

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Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President of

Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Friday, on his country's

Slovakia

Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President of Slovakia

His Highness wished the president a long healthy life and

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President of

Slovakia Zuzana Caputova on Friday, on her country's national

His Highness wished the president a long healthy life and

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-

Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President of

Slovakia Zuzana Caputova on Friday, on her country's national

Zuzana Caputova on Friday, on her country's national day.

more development and prosperity for Slovakia.

more development and prosperity for Slovakia.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

interest, according to WAM report. upon his arrival at the Presidential Airport of Abu Dhabi earlier today, Sheikh Ahmad was warmly welcomed by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khaled bin Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan and they held cordial talks on the sisterly ties between their two countries.

Meanwhile, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khaled bin Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan welcomed Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah upon his arrival at the Presidential Airport of Abu Dhabi on Friday.
They held "cordial talks" where both sides

expressed satisfaction with the depth of the brotherly relationship between the peoples and leaders of the United Arab Emirates and the State of Kuwait, according to WAM news agency. (KUNA)

going live while driving' Rise in accidents witnessed **By Munaif Naif** case of violating Article 33bis:

'Crackdown on vloggers

Al-Seyassah Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: In view of the rising number of traffic accidents, the General Traffic Department in the Interior Ministry has intensified its efforts to track down people who go live on social media platforms while driving like celebrities, 'fashionistas' and others; and then take legal measures against them.

Reliable sources revealed the department intends to issue traffic violation citations to those who go live on various social media platforms like TikTok, Snapchat, Kwai and others while driving; stressing that "these people put their lives and that of others in danger."

Sources disclosed that GTD had earlier summoned a celebrity for documenting the speed of his vehicle -- more than 180 kilometers. Sources said the celebrity's vehicle was impounded and legal measures were taken against him, stressing these measures apply to all drivers who take videos while driving.

Explained

Sources explained that the 'taking photos and live broadcast on roads' violation includes not focusing on the road while driving, endangering one's life and that of others, negligent driving, recklessness, driving although the license is suspended, driving although the license is withdrawn, driving a vehicle while holding a license for another vehicle, and driving a motorcycle without a license'

Sources added the list of violations includes driving a vehicle with a forged plate number and providing false data to obtain a driving license; indicating that in the event of reconciliation at GTD, the violator will be required to pay KD 30. If the reconciliation is rejected and the violator is referred to court, the violator will be imprisoned for a period not exceeding three months and fined not exceeding KD100. or one of these two penalties in accordance with Article 33 of the Traffic Law.

A settlement may be accepted from someone who commits any of the acts stipulated in Articles 33, 33bis, 34, 35, 36, 37 of the law or its executive regulations and the relevant decisions as follows:

■ KD30 for violating Article 33

- KD20 for violating Article 34 ■ KD15 for violating Article 35
- KD10 for violating Article 36
- KD5 for violating Article 37

The following measures will be taken in

A. KD50 fine for crossing the red light,

car racing on roads without a permit or violation of the permit, and driving in the opposite direction on highways and roads. B. Fine of not less than KD20 and not

more than KD50 for speeding. The executive regulations specify the settlement amount based on the violated speed limit.

Payment shall be made to the entity specified by GTD within two months of the date

of committing the vio-

lation or notifying the

concerned individual

in case the citation was

issued in his absence;

while reconciliation

entails cancellation of

the criminal case and



all its consequences, reconciliation

could be rejected if an individual commits more than one serious violation or has mul-

'Prioritize SMEs': First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled has asked the Central Agency for Public Tender (CAPT) to coordinate with the Legal Advice and Legislation Department regarding the amendment of model contracts for the implementation of public sector projects to ensure compliance with the regulations on giving priority to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in bidding for these projects, reports Al-Rai daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed that the minister had earlier communicated with his Justice counterpart Faleh Abdullah Al-Raqaba about the need to amend the model contracts, such that contractors are required to present evidence of compliance with Article 87 of the relevant law.

104 illegals nabbed: Officers from the Residency Affairs Investigation General Department at the Interior Ministry have arrested 104 individuals in the Capital, Farwaniya and Ahmadi governorates for violating the Residency and Labor laws, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The Public Relations and Security Me-

dia General Department announced in a press statement that the ongoing inspection campaigns in hotels resulted in the arrest of two people who violated the Residency Law, adding that officers from the Search and Investigation Department arrested an expatriate in Abu Halifa for selling locally manufactured liquor, with 70 bottles of such liquor in his possession.



info@mughalmahal.com

Received

the country amounted to zero.

Hong Kong, and the United States topped the three places respectively in the classification of the most powerful passports for investment opportunities for the current year, followed by Macau and Monaco in fourth and fifth places, while the Emirates and Qatar came in sixth and seventh places, followed by Switzerland and Canada in eighth and ninth places, and Saudi Arabia came in tenth place.

wait ranked 20th in the world out of 197 countries, and fourth in the Gulf on the index of the most powerful passports for investment opportunities and ease of doing business in 2023, according to Global Citizen for Foreign and Immigrant Investment Consulting, reports

Al-Qabas daily. The Global Citizen's Most Powerful Passports for Investment Opportunities Index classifies countries according to business destinations, by assessing the country's economy and business environment, and provides an overview of its economic strength, investment opportunities, and ease of doing business.

Kuwait received a total of 68.7 points in the general classification, and a "less favorable" classification in the markets and innovations pillar. The total national income per capita Kuwaiti amounted to about 59 thousand dollars, while personal taxes in

In the Gulf, the UAE topped the rankings at sixth place globally, followed by Qatar in seventh place, and Saudi Arabia in tenth place. Bahrain came after Kuwait in 21st place and Oman last in the

Kuwait 20th in business ease KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Ku-

Gulf, in 32nd place. At the world level, Singapore,

LOCAL

Limited income families choose schoolbags for their children.



Female volunteers partake in giving schoolbags to low

Schoolbags to needy 'students' distributed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (KUNA): Kuwaiti volunteers have distributed scholbags 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 "tanmiah 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-



KUNA photo

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

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 prohibi-

In his remarks, Al-Sharhan underscored the necessity of cooperation between releauthorities 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-Namesh 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-Namesh 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 ex-

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 (Afia), 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 Bedoun 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 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



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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Statement tied to investment panel not meeting since June '22 shocking'

"WITH all this momentum of governmental and parliamentary statements about interest in the category of retirees and the importance of supporting the financial position of the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), comes this shocking statement from the corporation's management that "the Corporation's Investment Committee has not met since June 2022," that is, for more than a year," Udai Al-Ibrahim wrote for Al-

"Knowing that no investment decision could be approved without the consent of the investment committee, it becomes evident that the institution's investment funds remained frozen during that

entire period. "It raises a fundamental question: How can an institution responsible for managing multibillion-dollar investments across global financial markets stand idly by for over a year, unable to make critical investment decisions due to the non-convening of the approval committee?

"The PIFSS actively invests its funds across dynamic global financial markets, characterized

by considerable fluctuations. This past year witnessed soaring inflation rates and concurrent interest rate hikes within these markets. Given this backdrop, the lack of investment decisions concerning the institution's assets and portfolios managed by external portfolio managers is simply unjustifiable.

"This baffling situation necessitates a series of pressing questions, such as:
"Have the institution's relevant investment depart-

ments submitted recommendations for their portfolios? What is the cost incurred by not implementing these recommendations due to the prolonged absence of the Investment Committee? In the realm of investments, the opportunity cost of delaying investment decisions grows from the moment the decision is made until it's executed.

"What investment returns were forfeited due to the failure to adopt these recommendations? Did the changing trends in financial markets and global economic shifts during this period demand a re-balancing of the institution's managed assets to maintain approved risk levels and achieve targeted returns?

"How was it possible to assess the performance of the individuals responsible for the institution's investment affairs during this period when no investment decisions were made? What negative impact has this investment stagnation had on the morale of employees involved in investment affairs?

"How will the organization effectively manage largescale projects? The recent announcement regarding land investments, which hinge on the decision-making capability of one committee, underscores the repercussions of such a committee's failure to convene.

"Ultimately, the most crucial question remains: Why did the Investment Committee fail to meet in a vital institution like the General Insurance Corporation? Who bears the financial burden of this investment standstill for retirees during this period? What measures should be taken to prevent such egregious practices in the future?"

Also:

"Certain transactions often require the intervention of a minister or a representative to be successfully completed. To secure an audience or favorable treatment, one must belong to the elite or the privileged class," columnist Hamad Al-Hazza wrore for Al-Jarida daily.

"In such cases, what can an ordinary citizen, like Abu Al-Shabab, do? They may turn to their elected district representative, a story in itself, as some representatives exhibit two distinct faces: one when they were candi-

dates and another after assuming office. "The first face, during their candidacy, is the most accessible and responsive; they answer calls promptly and are eager to assist, even without an immediate transaction at hand. For example, if your gas cylinder runs out at home, they might promptly deliver ten gas cylinders along with a bouquet of flowers and a thank-you card quite the remarkable service.

"However, once they become representatives, attempting to reach them through a phone call or WhatsApp message becomes a different challenge. If they do respond, it's a rare occurrence, and you might feel as if your mother is summoning you, or you've become one of their inner circle. If communication efforts fail, you might find yourself making a visit to their office, where your fate depends on your circumstances, which should be well understood by all.

"This predicament is the result of successive governments that have established this unfortunate norm. It's become a routine for the average citizen to turn to a representative for assistance with their affairs. As for the so-called "open-door policy" we often hear about, it seems to apply only to those who possess influential

Questions naturally arise concerning the Petitions and Complaints Committee in the National Assembly, with its lengthy processing times and non-binding decisions. What purpose does it serve? Why subject the complainant to false hope that their rights will be swiftly restored once the committee's decision favors

"The decisions of the Petitions and Complaints Committee should carry legal weight, providing a basis for plaintiffs to pursue their claims in court if the defendant refuses to comply. This is the responsibility of the National Assembly representatives. Otherwise, their presence or absence becomes inconsequential.

"Moving forward, we implore the diligent and approachable minister of interior, who has won the people's affection, to consider opening up controlled and regulated tourist "visas." This can be done through tourist agencies approved by the Ministry of Interior or with the sponsorship of a Kuwaiti citizen. Such a move would set the wheels of economic tourism in motion, benefiting the country's economy.'

"I neither follow nor care about the world of 'fashionistas'. I do not like it and I am completely convinced that they are like soap bubbles - no matter how old they are, their life is very short and they will explode soon. They could stop on their own or people could stop following them and this leads to their 'end'," columnist Talal Al-Saeid wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"However, the recent 'fashionista' incident, which claimed the lives of young men - may God have mercy on them and give their families patience and solace, shook the entire Kuwait, making everyone reconsider their convictions. In a clearer sense, has our country become fascist?

"This incident revealed to us things that we thought could not happen in the State of institutions — Kuwait. The most important of which was the attempt to erase the case at the beginning, followed by the evacuation of the police station to rearrange the case papers, until the matter was revealed. After that, there was an attempt to deal with the case in another way until the accident video was leaked. So, what is the secret behind the interference of senior officials in the case, and the attempt to classify the case as a traffic accident?

"The most important aspect that the rulers must pay attention to is the strong public rejection of the 'fascist State and what happened to it in the absence of national prestige. Rejection and resentment over such interventions are due to concern for what is in our hands and for fear of what has yet to come!

"The question for the government is: Do you feel the immense public anger sparked by this case? We say, O government, for your sake, our sake, and for the sake of the security of the country and the people, please adopt the public's point of view.



"The emerging cracks and disparities within the governmental and parliamentary spheres, which have become evident during this sweltering summer through threats of inquiries and sharp rhetoric by certain deputies, may serve as indicators of a genuine lack of consensus," columnist Dr. Sultan Majid Al-Salem wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"This annual tradition serves as a form of disconnection and recharge -- akin to turning off engines and replenishing batteries -- for dealing with public affairs.

"Over the past months, particularly following the parliamentary elections, a term has been excessively promoted, one that has taken an unusual prominence lately: "parliamentary government consensus." This suggests a positive rapport between the recent government and the elected Representative Council leading up to the special summer sessions in Parliament.

"In principle, consensus between these two entities is a constructive objective that no one can object to. It is a requisite for progress and development in the interest of the nation and its citizens. However, practical consensus is founded on a well-defined agenda, priorities, and points that an elected party normally champions to constitute a majority government and subsequently addresses those priorities.

"Yet, this does not hold true in Kuwait, nor does the parliamentary system align with this ideal. In relation to the subject of "consensus" raised in the Kuwaiti context. if we consider the statements and remarks made by MPs over the recent period, what can be said about the stance of the executive authority? Is it truly "in agreement" and aligned with all the directions of the deputies?

This requires further clarification, ideally provided by communication and media centers that should periodically manifest consensus, harmony, and concord on priorities and a clearly defined timeline that both parties have endorsed.

"Perhaps the emerging fissures and imbalances within the relationship between the governmental and parliamentary factions, evident through threats of inquiries and pointed statements by certain deputies during this heated season, underscore the absence of authentic con-

"Does this indicate that "consensus" has eroded or that a truly consensual dynamic is fundamentally absent? Alternatively, is it merely a one-sided agreement resembling unrequited love? All of these aspects, among others, require explanations from the responsible parties, particularly the committee established for governmentparliament coordination. They must deliver continuous and periodic updates to the citizens.

"Let me reiterate this point emphatically: Concord is desirable and beneficial. We fervently hope for it. However, it must be transparent and unambiguous among all entities within the authorities.

"On a different note: During my summer hiatus this year, I ventured to a tropical haven, brimming with scorching heat and humidity - specifically, Sri Lanka', the land of sun, spices, and tea.

"While exploring locations like Hikaduwa, its internal and narrow streets showed no sign of a single pothole, crack, or even loose gravel. It appears that Ceylon tea not only enriches cups but also sweetens the disposition of road maintainers in comparison to counterparts

"Upon returning to Kuwait, a few days later, I visited the auto repair shop to tend to my car, and I contemplated suggesting Ceylon tea to the mechanic to uplift their spirits while at work."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Top PART official referred to Prosecution; one suspended

Two expats die before boarding flights home

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2, (Agencies): The Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) announced Thursday that a senior official working for the Public Author-Transport (PART), has been referred to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of committing crimes of profiteering and forgery, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Nazaha said, in a press statement, the official is accused of causing serious harm to the interests of the entity.

The Nazaha investigates all serious information that meets the conditions laid down by the authority to receive complaints while at the same time appreciating the role of whistleblowers in helping the authority access the necessary information about corruption incidents, and at the same time committing itself to provide the utmost levels of protection and confidentiality.

Meanwhile, a senior official at the agricultural authority has been suspended and referred to inquiries over noticeable perish of trees and plants along Kuwait's streets and at public parks.

Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassem Al-Ostad issued the decision to suspend a director serving at the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries. He would be also interrogated over the deteriorating deaths of the beautification trees and plants.

The authority said in a statement to KUNA on Friday that the suspended official would be questioned over the period he had served as the deputy director for the sectors.

He is accused of negligence and failure to follow up on the beautification plants contracts, according to report prepared by a panel tasked with examining such projects.

Moreover, the panel report mentioned suspected work slack, manipulation with public funds, irregularities in performing the duties as mentioned in the reports by the Audit Bureau and the Government Follow-up Apparatus regarding these contracts.

Furthermore, the panel report mentioned inaccuracy in preparing ten-

Visit designated 'counter'

Passport renewal for citizens ity for Roads and Land at Airport T4 starting Sunday

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: The Gen- citizens who discover the validity of eral Administration of Nationality and Travel Documents of the Ministry of Interior announced the passport renewal service for citizens who have a prior travel reservation (travel ticket) and can leave the country in less than 24 hours, at Kuwait International Airport (T4), starting Sunday, reports Al-Qabas

The ministry said in a statement this service aims to facilitate and simplify administrative procedures and speed up their completion for

their passports have expired or about to expire.

The ministry said they must go to the designated "counter" to renew the e-passport and submit the old passport. The new is then received on time and their travel procedures can be completed in total comfort and ease.

The ministry stressed this service comes upon higher directives required for improving and developing the services provided to citizens by the Interior Ministry.

ders' documents under his jurisdictions and unjustified extension of the contracts' mandates.

Two expats die at airport: In less than 24 hours after the death of a Bangladeshi at the Kuwait International Airport, an Indian passenger died, Friday, minutes before boarding the plane at Kuwait Airport T1, reports

Al-Rai daily. The daily quoting sources said the investigator was informed, and after the examination, he ordered the body to be removed and referred to forensic medicine to determine cause of death.

Unfit food destroyed: The Capital Governorate Inspection Supervisor at the Food and Nutrition Public Authority, Abdullah Al-Siddiqi, stressed the need to pay attention to the food items that are purchased to ensure their validity has not expired - the validity of fish and meat in particular and ensure the product does not smell bad, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Siddiqi said in a statement, following an inspection tour of a number of restaurants, shops, and central markets in the Capital Governorate, that the tour resulted in the issuance of 9 violation reports, the closure of two food establishments, and the destruction of a quantity of fish in Sharq Market during the auction, explaining that 145 kilograms of food were destroyed saying the foods were unfit for consumption, and were subsequently damaged.

He went on to say, three tons of expired food supplies and unfit for human consumption were also destroyed, pointing out that the Food and Nutrition Public Authority is keen to control food security in the country, indicating that inspectors in the food supplies department in general work 24 hours a day.

He pointed out the need to ensure that the food consumed is fit for human use, pointing out the need to report unsuitable materials via line No. 1807779

Bonus disbursed: The Ministry of Health has disbursed the excellent job performance bonus to all deserving employees, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources from the health sector.

Sources told the daily that the ministry will soon form a grievance committee, which will be tasked to evaluate the complaints of employees regarding the bonus in accordance with the disbursement regulations.

Sources also unveiled the ministry's plan to launch a link for employees to submit their grievances online.



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Sports body mandates Dhabiyeh to probe violations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: In response to violations said to have been committed within the Public Authority for Sports, Mohammed Al-Aiban, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, has initiated the formation of an investigation committee, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This committee will be headed by Counselor Dr. Ali Dhabiyeh from the Fatwa and Legislation Department, with Issam Jaafar serving as vice-president. Other members include Ahmed Al-Ammar and Nasser Al-Ajmi, while Muhammad Bouresli will act as the Rapporteur.

In order to form the committee, Al-Aiban had requested that the "Fatwa and Legislation" nominate two members, one of whom will assume the

role of committee head. Commencing its operations in the upcoming week, the committee's primary focus will encompass a comprehensive assessment of violations and the examination of suspicious activities within the General Sports Authority. The committee has been assigned a range of specific tasks, including:

■ Conducting a comprehensive review and audit of all administrative, financial, and operational activities undertaken by the Authority, while also scrutinizing detected

■ Delving into a variety of files, which include investment, the utilization of state lands, construction, maintenance, and facilities management, partial professionalism, and instances of sports-related

■ Investigating the history of previous hosting events, training camps,

and external engagements involving sports organizations.

■ Probing into instances of misconduct regarding subsidies and financial support granted to sports organizations. Notably, this inquiry will encompass subsidies announced post the enactment of Sports Law No. 87 of 2017, and its corresponding amendment, No. 43. The funds disbursed to these entities since 2018 are estimated to amount to 25 million dinars until the discontinuation of financial support and

Reviewing and assessing requests for the allocation of stateowned lands to these sports organi-

The investigation committee is anticipated to play a pivotal role in identifying any irregularities and ensuring the appropriate legal actions



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

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

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 workingage 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

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

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.

I Incommon 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 problemposing 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

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

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 with 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

Kuwait Style Co CEO Chidambaresh unveiled the away kit for the club and received by Joseph Stanley. Club Patron Shuaib Shaik, President Saleem Vakeel, Treasurer Shakib, Secretary Afsar Thalangara, 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

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), Agesh 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-



Varkey

together at YMCA Hall, Salmiya under

theb presidentship of Mathew Eapen. The

program started by the opening prayer of

Parimanam Manoj welcomed all

and announced the yearly activities

Mathew Varkey.







Kurien



Abraham

Mammen

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

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

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.

continue on this path.
India's agriculture sector record-

- FGX 30

EGYPT

ed 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.

tate and professional services was 12.2%, up from 8.5% in April-June last year. However, the manufacturing

The rise in financial, real es-

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 morgage 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

				Chang	ge Closing pts	
	UAE	-	DFM	+0.18	4,090.04	
	JAPAN	-	Nikkei	+0.28	32,710.62	
Ĺ	PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	+0.54	45,324.50	١
	PHII IPPINES	_	PSFi	±0 0a	6 181 06	

90.04 10.62 24.50 31.06

18.873.82

SAUDI - Tadawul

01-09-2023

Change Closing pts -0.72 11,491.20

Business

Data shows signs of a still-resilient labor market

US employers added a solid 187,000 jobs in August

has imposed.

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)

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

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.

"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

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.

posite 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.

0il 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.

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%

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

Last month's job growth marked an increase from July's revised gain of 157,000 but still pointed to a moderation.

ing pace of hiring compared with the sizzling gains of last year and earlier

partirent also showed that the diffiliployment 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 COV-ID-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



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

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

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 Water Hammer Control System		
01	SM Tech Co., Ltd./ www.waterhammer.co.kr			
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 Electrostatic Precipitator, Filtered dust collector		
04	EPIT CO.,LTD. www.epit.co.kr			
05	METAL LINK INC./ www.metallink.co.kr	Conductor Materials, Machinery (Rigid & Tubula 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



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)

Jordan's public debt hits \$56b

Official statistics in Jordan showed on Friday an increase in the Kingdom's public dept to 39.695 billion dinars (USD 56 billion), 114.1 percent of the total gross domestic product. According to data released by the Jordanian Financial Ministry, reported on the official TV channel, the Jordanian government borrowed, since the beginning of this

year until the end of last June, about 1.206 billion dinars (USD 1.7 billion)

The data showed that the total indebtedness of the Jordanian government to the Social Security In-vestment Fund amounted to about 8.446 billion dinars in the end of June 2023, equivalent to USD 11.8 billion US dollars. (KUNA) Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Friday pledged to further strengthen cooperation, as they held talks in Beijing, state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

"China is willing to deepen cooperation with the IMF and support the IMF in continuing to play a significant role in global governance, Li said, voicing hope that the IMF's 16th general quota review will achieve meaningful outcomes.

He also expressed hope that the IMF will stand against protectionism and any form of decoupling and chain-breaking, protect economic globalization and free trade, maintain the stable and smooth flow of global industrial and supply chains, and improve the representation, voice and influence of emerging markets and developing countries in international affairs.

"China will continue to support

China, IMF pledge further cooperation

the IMF in playing its role in debt issues, and hopes that all parties will meet each other halfway and support developing countries with concrete actions," Li was quoted as

With China contributing one third of the world's economic growth, Georgieva said the IMF appreciates the solid efforts taken by China to promote economic growth, and values China's leading role in helping the vulnerable as well as low- and middle-income countries develop and realizing global economic growth, according to the re-

The IMF is willing to further cooperate with China, said Georgieva. She also called on all parties to keep global supply chains steady and smooth to prevent fragmentation risks, saying that the IMF will work to achieve positive outcomes in the general quota review.

Karachi almost completely closed

Pakistani traders strike against high inflation and utility bills

ISLAMABAD, Sept 2, (AP): Pakistani traders on Saturday went on strike against the soaring cost of living, including higher fuel and utility bills and record depreciation of the rupee against the dollar, which has led to widespread discontent among the public.

The traders pulled their shutters down across the country, while protesters burned tires on roads to express their anger.

The strike was called by ex-senator Sirajul Haq, who heads the religious political party Jamaat-e-Islami, and it was largely endorsed by trade and business bodies, market associations, lawyers associations and transport-

The country's commercial and economic hub, Karachi, was almost completely closed and vehicle traffic was thin on roads, with all markets and shopping centers closed.

"We have shut our shops in protest so that our message reaches the ruling class. If they don't consider our problems, we will devise further strategies, said Fahad Ahmed, a trader in Karachi, adding, "If you pay 100,000 rupees (\$330) in rent for your shop and you have to pay an equal amount in electricity bill, how can you survive?

In the eastern city of Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, all the main markets were closed for the day, lawyers remained out of courts and intercity and local public transport weren't operating. The northwestern city of Peshawar and southwestern city of Quetta were partially closed.

Pakistan's annual inflation rate was 27.4% in August, according to data released by the state-run Bureau of Statistics.

Default

Pakistan was on the verge of default before securing a lifeline deal with the International Monetary Fund. As part of the conditions for the bailout package, Pakistan was required to reduce subsidies that had been in place to cushion the impact of rising living costs. This likely contributed to the increase in prices, especially energy costs.

Mohammad Sohail, a prominent economist and head of Topline Securities, said that in spite of the IMF program Pakistan is going through a challenging time. He said the government is trying to implement the painful IMF-dictated reforms while political polarization is affecting sentiments.

"Inflation is a big problem for common Pakistanis. And this inflation is

mainly led by the falling rupee. Strict stabilization measures with improving foreign exchange reserves can stabilize the currency and inflation going forward," Sohail said.

The value of the Pakistani rupee has significantly depreciated against the dollar, crossing a historic threshold of 300 rupees to the dollar. Exchange rate depreciation has led to higher import costs which in turn can contribute to inflation.

Jamal Uddin, a shopkeeper who was participating in a protest rally in Dera Ghazi Khan, said he and other traders were keeping their businesses shut in protest because it simply wasn't possible anymore for them to feed

Shamim Bibi, a widow and mother of three in Multan, said that her daughters had to quit school and her young son went to run a food stall to meet the daily needs of the family.

"But now our life is miserable due to extremely inflated electricity bills, high fuel and food prices and increasing house rent," she said.

But the caretaker prime minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar, downplayed the significance of the protests, referring to the complaints as a "nonissue."

Putin and Erdogan set to meet amid efforts to 'repair' Ukraine grain deal

Meeting comes on next week



Peskov said Putin and Erdogan would meet Monday in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi.

The announcement ended weeks of speculation about when and where the two leaders might meet next, while international efforts continue to try to patch up the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which sent grain to parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia where hunger is a growing threat.

Ukraine and Russia are both major global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other commodities that developing nations rely on.

Turkey, together with the United Nations, brokered the deal in July 2022 that allowed Ukraine to resume shipping foodstuffs from three Black Sea ports. Under the initiative, ship and cargo inspections were overseen from Turkey, and vessels sailed to and from Ukraine from there. Almost 33,000 tons of grain left Ukraine while the agreement was in effect.

Ankara's role was key. Turkey is one of Russia's main trading partners and a logistical hub for Russia's foreign trade amid Western sanctions. Erdogan calls Putin "my dear friend."

A separate memorandum that Moscow and the U.N. agreed to at the same time as the Ukraine initiative pledged to help to overcome wartime obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer. Russian officials repeatedly threatened to pull out of the deals and finally did in July, alleging its conditions hadn't been met.

Russia has complained that restrictions on shipping and insurance have hampered its agricultural exports, but it has shipped record amounts of wheat

since last year. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent Russia a new proposal in hopes of reviving the deal but it didn't satisfy Moscow's demands, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said while



Russia's President Vladimir Putin holds a video conference meeting on social and economic development of Russia's Krasnoyarsk Region, in Moscow, Russia. (AP)

hosting his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, for talks in Moscow on Thursday. Lavrov said he gave the Turkish

government a list of actions that the West would have to take in order for Ukraine's Black Sea exports to resume. The scheduled talks between Putin and Erdogan could help unlock that.

The announcement of Monday's meeting coincided with the departure of two bulk cargo ships Friday from the Ukrainian port city of Yuzhne.

The Liberia-flagged Anna-Theresa and the Ocean Courtesy, traveling under a Marshall Islands flag, were carrying pig iron and iron ore concentrate, Ukrainian Minister of Infrastructure Oleksandr Kubrakov said. It was not clear under what legal and security circumstances the ships had sailed.

The Ocean Courtesy was headed to Romania's Black Sea port of Constanta and is estimated to arrive there Saturday afternoon, according to the global ship tracking website MarineTraffic. The website said the Anna-Theresa would reach Varna in Bulgaria the same day.

Meanwhile, Russian officials said Friday that air defenses intercepted drones heading toward three of the country's western regions. Regional governors said defense systems stopped three drones in the Kursk, Belgorod and Moscow regions. Moscow airports briefly halted flights but no major damage or injuries were reported, according to Russian authorities.

Drones aimed at targets inside Russia - and blamed by Moscow on Ukraine - have become almost daily occurrences as the war has entered its 19th month and Kyiv's forces pursue a counteroffensive. Recently, the drones

have reached deeper into Russia. The apparent Ukrainian strategy is to unnerve Russia and pile pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, although Kyiv officials normally neither claim nor deny responsibility for attacks on Russian soil.

The Associated Press has not been able to determine whether the drones were launched from Ukraine or inside

Ukraine's military intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Kyrylo Budanov, said in an interview with online outlet The War Zone that "we work from the territory of Russia." He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, satellite images analyzed by the AP show that suspected Ukrainian drone attacks late Tuesday destroyed at least two Ilyushin Il-76 military transport planes at a Russian air base.

The transport planes were deliberately targeted, according to Budanov.

The images taken Thursday show Princess Olga Pskov International Airport, which is a dual military-civilian airport about 700 kilometers (400 miles) north of the Ukrainian border and near Estonia and Latvia.

The four-engine II-76 is the workhorse of the Russian military's airlift capacity and is able to land and take off in rugged conditions. The Russian military is believed to have over 100 of them in its fleet.

The AP analysis, conducted Friday, showed what appeared to be the blackened hulks of two Il-76s on separate parking pads on the air base's apron. One included the plane's tail, the other appeared to show pieces of another aircraft. Fire damage could be seen around the pad.

Eleven other Il-76s were moved off their parking pads into different positions on the airport's taxiways, possibly in an attempt to make it more difficult for them to be struck again. One was on the runway itself. Another Il-76 remained on the pad, though it wasn't clear why.

The satellite image was taken at 1:03 p.m. GMT Thursday. Videos on social media Thursday night showed antiaircraft fire going off around the air base again, though it remained unclear whether it was another attack.

10th eGovernment Forum 'slated' for October 22-24

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Eng. Bader Al-Salman, Chairman of the Kuwaiti Federation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses, announced in a press statement today that the 10th eGovernment Forum will be held from 22 to 24 October at Al Baraka Hall at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. EGOV10 convenes under the motto "Future of the Cloud in Kuwait."

EGOV10 will be organized by the Kuwaiti Federation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses and Razen Events under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Fahad Ali Zaied Al-Shuala, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs, and in cooperation with the Central Agency for Information Technology

On this occasion, Eng. Al-Salman said, "We thank His Excellency Mr. Fahad Ali Zaied Al-Shuala for sponsoring and supporting EGOV10. We also thank His Excellency Dr. Al-Husseini, Ammar Acting Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology, for his and his team's efforts in preparing for the event. Our strategic partnership with CAIT stems from its leading role in digital transformation and e-government development in Kuwait, in cooperation with other government agencies.

Initiative on the Right Track About CITRA's cloud initiative, Eng. Al-Salman said, "The Cloud is not only a new generation of computers. It is a phenomenon that will dominate the future of computing. The Cloud started to change the shape, methods, capabilities of computing, and information centers, whether government or otherwise. Cloud computing allows these centers to become production labs for modern software and advanced electronic services. Many organizations worldwide have come a long way towards adopting and implementing the Cloud to exploit one of the largest information technology phenomena. It is the right time to adopt the Cloud in Kuwait, keep pace with global technological developments, and achieve our ambition in an efficient digital transformation."

A new EGOV10 format to keep pace with the government's program



Fahad Al Shuala



Eng. Badar Salman

for the years 2023-2027

In turn, Razen Events commented that EGOV10 provides a new format to give free space to cloud computing companies to explain their strategy towards the promising Kuwaiti ICT market, especially with the announcement of the new Kuwaiti government program for the years 2023-2027 that included a special paragraph and strategy for ICT sector. The Cloud can catalyze Kuwait's plans to develop digital government services in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

EGOV10 organizers can be contacted at +965 60002096 and +965 65102705 or via email at info@ razenevents.com. More details on EGOV10 are available at www. razenevents.com/egov10.

59 countries taking part in event

CIFTIS kicks off, China committed to opening door wider to world

BEIJING, Sept 2, (PR Newswire): As the 2023 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) kicked off Saturday in Beijing, the country has shown the world its unwavering commitment to wider opening up in the services trade sector and a firm determination to further promote global economic

recovery. Delivering a video speech at the Global Trade in Services Summit of the 2023 CIFTIS, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday vowed to work with all countries and parties to advance inclusive development through openness, promote connectivity and integration through cooperation, foster drivers for development through innovation, and create a better future through shared services, in a bid to jointly get the world economy onto the track of sustained

Themed "openness leads development, cooperation creates a win-win future," the 2023 CIFTIS takes place in the Chinese capital from September

More inclusive environment Since it was launched in 2012, the

CIFTIS has attracted a total of over 600,000 exhibitors from 196 nations and regions. This year, guests from 59 countries and 24 international organizations are taking part in the fair. Over 500 Global Fortune 500 companies and industry-leading enterprises are showcasing their accomplishments at the 2023 CIFTIS, taking the overall internationalization rate to 20 percent.

In his video speech, President Xi stressed that China will make its development environment more open and

"We will expand the globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas, actively engage in negotiations on the negative list for trade in services and investment, and open wider in such services areas as telecommunications, tourism, law and vocational examinations.

Our national integrated demonstration zone for greater openness in the services sector as well as eligible pilot free trade zones and free trade port will be the first to align their policies with high-standard international economic and trade rules,"

He added China will widen access to its services sector, advance opening up of cross-border services trade in an orderly manner, improve the level of standardization of services trade, and steadily expand institutional opening

China's State Council in mid-August unveiled guidelines containing 24 specific measures to further optimize China's foreign investment environment and beef up foreign investment inflow.

These measures include expanding pilot areas to open wider in terms of services, encouraging foreign firms and their R&D centers to undertake major sci-tech projects, facilitating the travel of senior executives, technicians and their families, and enhancing the expertise of personnel in local government offices handling foreign investment.

Amid rising unilateralism, protectionism and de-globalization, China continues to deepen opening up and optimize its business environment, expanding its "friend circle" in trade services. China has service trade relations with nearly 240 countries and regions and has signed bilateral service trade cooperation agreements with 14 countries. Path of innovation-driven develop-

Over 60 enterprises and institutions will launch an array of new products and technologies at the 2023 CIFITS, spanning the fields of artificial intelligence, financial technology, medical and health care, and cultural creativity, injecting new vitality to the development of ser-

Xi on Saturday noted China will improve the path of innovation-driven de-

TCL FreshIN Series AC wins the Global Product Technical Innovation Award

BERLIN, Sept 2, (Business Wire): TCL, a leading consumer electronics brand and the world's top two TV brand, receives the Smart Air Purification Technology Award as a recognition by Europe Digital Group and Asia Digital Group for its advanced air conditioning technology. TCL Wins Prestigious Glob-

al Product Technical Innovation Awards at IFA 2023

Following rigorous review and evaluation, the esteemed judges highly recognized TCL FreshIN Series AC thanks to its world's first integrated two-way fresh air technology.

TCL air conditioning technology goes far beyond just creating comfortable living conditions. TCL pride themselves on the ability to create AC which actually benefit our health, through their capacity to purify the air we breathe. With TCL's FreshIN+ 2.0 Technology, the industry's first, two-way fresh air replacement system, oxygen rich air from the outdoors is brought in, whilst unhealthy air is discharged.

This is perfect for when air quality is poor as it actually expels bad air meaning it helps to remove unwanted particles such as dust, pet hair and pollutants. Couple with a quadruple layer filtration system, the air circulated is much better for people sensitive to allergies. The same applies for odor removal, as the FreshIN+ fresh air breathing system can help to eliminate bad smells where traditional AC's can-

A constant strong stream of air can even go beyond uncomfortable to cause irritation, such as dry eyes and a sore throat. TCL's Gentle Breeze technology can solve this issue by facilitating more than 1000 micro-holes to disperse the cool air to create a soft, laminar airflow - meaning harsh drafts are replaced by a soft, enveloping coolness.

Better still, TCL AC technology is intuitive and designed to make your life easier. Voice control via easy connectivity to all virtual assistant devices, means you have the power to control the temperature levels and be handsfree - perfect for when you're occupied with household chores, or gaming or simply can't locate the re-

TCL has been building high-quality air-conditioning products for more than 20 years with established global network of 10 manufacturing bases spanning across China, Brazil and Indonesia. With a vast array of air conditioning models such as FreshIN, GentleCool, Elite, Q-Series available

across many countries. *Product availability may differ between countries and regions.

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

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 provid-

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 facto-



Toyota cultivates straw-

Offer open until end of September

KFH launches back-to-school financing campaign

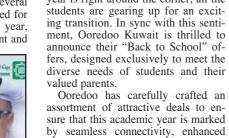
KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched a new back-to-school financing campaign in all KFH showrooms titled (We Meet Your Financing Needs) un-

til 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 purchasing, or leasing new or used cars, or financing a car abroad in following countries: USA. Egypt, Jordan,

Turkiye. The campaign 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.



learning experiences, and productiv-

ity. Their range of offerings has been

thoughtfully curated to cater to the var-

ied demands of students and learners,

AlKharraz noted that for finance

against collaterals, the campaign offers

a competitive profit with a finance pe-

riod approximating 10 years and flex-

ible 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 ac-

count. The open finance limit shall be

determined based on the value of the

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 2: As the school allowing them to step into the new academic year with confidence. year is right around the corner, all the

Staying Connected with Cutting-Edge Technology Ooredoo Kuwait's Back to School offers provide highspeed 5G routensuring uninterrupted connectivity that matches the pace of modern



learning. Whether it's research, collab-

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

Telecom launches new offers for back-to-school season

Ooredoo Kuwait empowering students by upgrading learning experience

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.

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

Ooredoo back to school offers give

students the chance to unlock interac-

tive 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 Mac-Book's & HP, catering to different

needs and budgets. This new school

year marks a journey of growth and ac-

complishment, and Ooredoo is here to

support students every step of the way

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 en-

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

suring 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 prefer-

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

Johair Marafi hands over cheque to first monthly winner.

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

Al-Nassar

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.

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

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

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

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 fuinvested will be refunded with the profits realized until the closing date.

Meet to support stability of the Arab economy

KIB sponsors 2023 Arab Banking Conference to be held in Riyadh

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 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 Tawfeqe, 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. Tawfeqe 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, Tawfeqe 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 Tawfeqe



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 Wainkoum, the local creative house known for organizing outof-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, some-

thing 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

our banking services. This endeavor is

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 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 Soft-POS 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-ofsale 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 Kuwaiti.

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 sta-

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 paraathletes 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 cam-paign 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 treat-

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 d duce 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 disor-

Ossium Health is a bioengineering company that leverages its unique deceased donor bone marrow banking platform to develop stem cell thera-pies 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.

(NASDAQ:AMGN) and Horizon Therapeutics plc (NASDAQ:HZNP) 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

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® (teprotumumab-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

Pixee revolutionizes Total Shoulder Arthroplasty with MR guidance

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

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 Shoul-

der+ 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 algo-

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 prothesis 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

Designation in Japan for BPDCN NEW YORK, Sept 2: The Menarini Group ("Menarini"), a leading international pharmaceutical and diagnostics company, and Stemline Therapeutics, Inc. ("Stemline"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Menarini Group, have announced that Nippon Shinyaku Co, Ltd. (Nippon Shinyaku), Stemline's development partner in Japan, received Orphan Drug Designation for tagraxofusp, from the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

neoplasm (BPDCN). BPDCN is an aggressive orphan hematologic malignancy with historically poor clinical outcomes. Stemline's ELZONRIS® (tagraxofusp) is the only approved treatment for patients with BPDCN, and the first and only approved CD123-targeted therapy, in both the United States and Europe.

(MHLW) for the expected indication of blastic plasmacytoid dendritic cell

Orphan drugs are designated by Japan's MHLW for treatments that are intended for use in fewer than 50,000 patients, where there is also a particularly high medical need. Orphan drug designation can potentially shorten the period required to obtain regulatory approval in Japan by several months, thereby enabling faster patient access. In Japan, tagraxofusp is being developed by Nippon Shinyaku, which is currently conducting a Phase 1/2 clinical trial. In March 2021, Stemline and Nippon Shinyaku entered into an exclusive licensing agreement for the development and commercialization of tagraxofusp in Japan, including the

'Potential positive impact on patients'

'Tagraxofusp' gets Orphan Drug

possibility of co-promotion.

"The MHLW's decision to grant Orphan Drug Designation recognizes the potential positive impact tagraxofusp could have on BPDCN patients in Japan, a patient population that currently has limited treatment options," said Elcin Barker Ergun, CEO of the Menarini Group. "This achievement by our partner, Nippon Shinyaku, advances our commitment to bring transformative new therapeutic options to patients with difficult-to-treat cancers, and to deliver innovative medicines to people around the globe.'

BPDCN, formerly blastic NK-cell lymphoma, is an aggressive hematologic malignancy, often with cutaneous manifestations, with historically poor outcomes. BPDCN typically presents in the bone marrow and/or skin and may also involve lymph nodes and viscera. The BPDCN cell of origin is the plasmacytoid dendritic cell (pDC)

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.

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.

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.

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



Shoulder+, precise 3D navigation of instruments.

us 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.



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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 countersuit 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

Carter appeared with his attorney in court Wednesday when Clark County District Court Judge Nancy Allf 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 Schulman's accusations that he raped her. He did not speak during Wednesday's court hearing.

Violence

Attorney Alan Greenberg, representing the Schumans, maintained in court that Carter was a public figure, that the allegations against him have merit and that Melissa Schuman reported to two friends and a therapist in 2003 that she had been sexually assaulted.

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they were sexually assaulted, but Schuman has spoken publicly about her experience and approved of the use of her name.

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.

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)

available.

Music

Fans celebrate synthesized singing sensation

Japan's virtual idol Miku turns 16

ous versions are available, the latest official Crypton

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

package sells for 16,500 yen (\$110).

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 computersynthesized 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 doeeyed Miku. As laser beams flashed about, the cheering crowd, who knew the songs and the choreographed moves by heart, performed them in unison. A humansize 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'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-

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 Mi-

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.

ku's early days, with all kinds of voices and features

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

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 Ken-

shi 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 adoles-

cence 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.

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.

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.'

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 presi-

dent and publisher of Henry Holt

and Company, will begin as senior vice president and publisher of

fiction at Crown Publishing Group

"Over the course of her career,

Amy's exceptional editorial taste

and astute commercial instincts

fiction market," Crown President

David Drake wrote in a company

have helped shape the modern

memo shared Wednesday with

Crown has been known in

recent years for such nonfiction

Michelle Obama's "Becoming"

and the hiring of Einhorn is part

build an impactful fiction program

"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

Einhorn previously ran her own

strategy," Drake wrote.

of an effort to boost its fiction.

Einhorn's mandate will be "to

comprised of approximately 20

titles published each year," ac-

cording to Drake.

bestsellers as former President

Barack Obama's "Promised

Land" and former first lady

The Associated Press.

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

NEW YORK: Novels by **Jesmyn** Ward and James McBride and

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



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 "Birnam 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)



Moriarty

People & Places

Television

Networks go dark

ESPN 'Game Day' faces changes & 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 Rece 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,

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.

while Herbstreit goes into his 27th season. Howard is

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.'

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 after-

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

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.

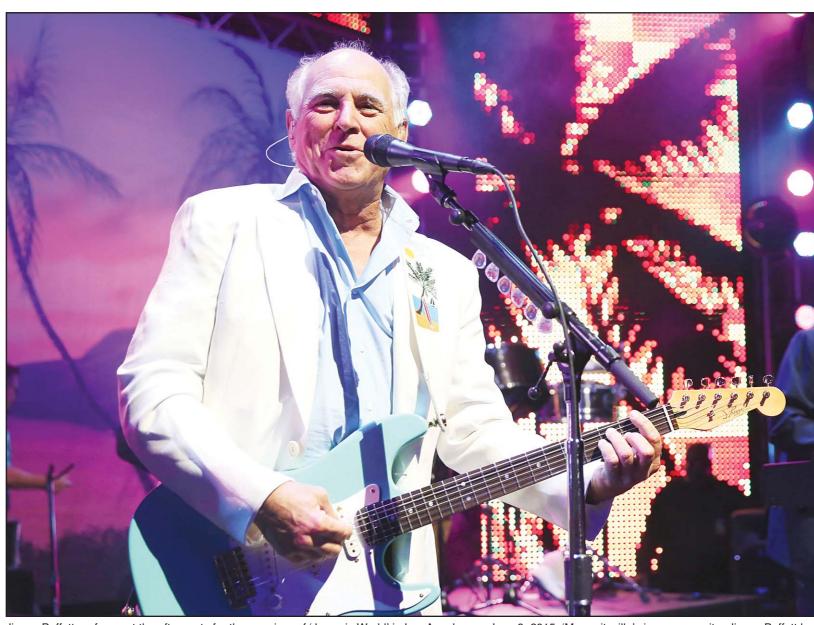
The channels went off the air Thursday night due to a carriage dispute between the nation's second-largest cable TV provider - which is the major carrier in New York and Los Angeles, among numerous other markets - and Disney. ESPN was carrying a college football game be-

tween 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 Wid**maier** 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 Venice, Italy, on Friday, Sept. 1. (AP)





Mesek

Reiman

Variety

NEW YORK: A headless bronze 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

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): Singersongwriter 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 fe 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

"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

claims to objects in the collection carefully

LOS ANGELES: A car driving with a bull

and responsibly." (AP)

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 steelpans, trombones and pedal steel guitar. Buffett's incredible ear for hooks and light

in it was pulled over by police in northeast

Nebraska's biggest city.

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, JWB 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.

the modified Ford Crown Victoria sedan with a bull riding shotgun after a 911 call

Don't worry, he didn't steer. about it driving on the main highway entering the city of roughly 24,000. Norfolk Police Capt Chad Reiman said We didn't have a full understanding of it it didn't take long for officers to track down 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 Watusi 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. Mever didn't answer his home phone Thursday morning so he couldn't be reached immediately for an explanation. (AP)



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

Health

'Reclassify marijuana'

US regulators urge to loosen pot rules

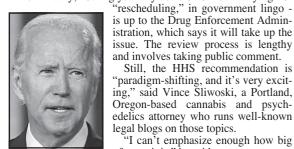
NEW YORK, Sept 2, (AP): The news lit up the world of weed: US health regulators are suggesting that the federal government loosen restrictions on marijuana.

Specifically, the federal Health and Human Services Department has recommended taking marijuana out of a category of drugs deemed to have "no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse." The agency advised moving pot from that "Schedule I" group to the less tightly regulated

So what does that mean, and what are the implications?

First of all, what has actually changed? What happens

next? Technically, nothing yet. Any decision on reclassifying - or



istration, which says it will take up the issue. The review process is lengthy and involves taking public comment. Still, the HHS recommendation is

'paradigm-shifting, and it's very exciting," said Vince Sliwoski, a Portland, Oregon-based cannabis and psychedelics attorney who runs well-known legal blogs on those topics.

"I can't emphasize enough how big of news it is," he said.

It came after President Joe Biden asked both HHS and the attorney general, who oversees the DEA, last year to review how marijuana was classified. Schedule I put it on par, legally, with heroin, LSD, quaaludes and

Biden, a Democrat, supports legalizing medical marijuana for use "where appropriate, consistent with medical and scientific evidence," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Thursday. "That is why it is important for this independent review to go through."

So if marijuana get reclassified, would it legalize recreational pot nationwide?

No. Schedule III drugs - which include ketamine, anabolic steroids and some acetaminophen-codeine combinations - are still controlled substances.

Medical

They're subject to various rules that allow for some medical uses, and for federal criminal prosecution of anyone who traffics in the drugs without permission. (Even under marijuana's current Schedule I status, federal prosecutions for simply possessing it are few: There were 145 federal sentencings in fiscal year 2021 for that crime, and as of 2022, no defendants were in prison for it.)

Ît's unlikely that the medical marijuana programs now licensed in 38 states - to say nothing of the legal recreational pot markets in 23 states - would meet the production, record-keeping, prescribing and other requirements for Schedule III drugs.

But rescheduling in itself would have some impact, particularly on research and on pot business taxes.

What would this mean for research?

Because marijuana is on Schedule I, it's been very difficult to conduct authorized clinical studies that involve administering the drug. That has created something of a Catch-22: calls for more research, but barriers to doing it.

Schedule III drugs are easier to study.

In the meantime, a 2022 federal law aimed to ease marijuana

What about taxes (and banking)?

Under the federal tax code, businesses involved in "trafficking" in marijuana or any other Schedule I or II drug can't deduct rent, payroll or various other expenses that other businesses can write off. (Yes, at least some cannabis businesses, particularly state-licensed ones, do pay taxes to the federal government, despite its prohibition on marijuana.) Industry groups say the tax rate often ends up at 70% or more.

The deduction rule doesn't apply to Schedule III drugs, so the proposed change would cut pot companies' taxes substan-

They say it would treat them like other industries and help them compete against illegal competitors that are frustrating licensees and officials in places such as New York.

"You're going to make these state-legal programs stronger," says Adam Goers, an executive at medical and recreational pot giant Columbia Care. He co-chairs a coalition of corporate and other players that's pushing for rescheduling.

Rescheduling wouldn't directly affect another pot business problem: difficulty accessing banks, particularly for loans, because the federally regulated institutions are wary of the drug's legal status. The industry has been looking instead to a measure called the SAFE Banking Act. It has repeatedly passed the House but stalled in the Senate.

Are there critics? What do they say?

Indeed, there are, including the national anti-legalization group Smart Approaches to Marijuana. President Kevin Sabet, a former Obama administration drug policy official, said the HHS recommendation "flies in the face of science, reeks of politics" and gives a regrettable nod to an industry "desperately looking for legitimacy."

Some legalization advocates say rescheduling weed is too incremental. They want to keep focus on removing it completely from the controlled substances list, which doesn't include such items as alcohol or tobacco (they're regulated, but that's not the same).

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws Deputy Director Paul Armentano said that simply reclassifying marijuana would be "perpetuating the existing divide between state and federal marijuana policies." Minority Cannabis Business Association President Kaliko Castille said rescheduling just "re-brands prohibition," rather than giving an all-clear to state licensees and putting a definitive close to decades of arrests that disproportionately pulled in people of color.

Policy

"Schedule III is going to leave it in this kind of amorphous, mucky middle where people are not going to understand the

danger of it still being federally illegal," he said.

Earlier the US Department of Health and Human Services has delivered a recommendation to the Drug Enforcement Administration on marijuana policy, and Senate leaders hailed it Wednesday as a first step toward easing federal restrictions on the drug.

HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said Wednesday on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, that the agency has responded to President Joe Biden's request "to provide a scheduling recommendation for marijuana to the DEA.'

"We've worked to ensure that a scientific evaluation be

completed and shared expeditiously," he added. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement that HHS had recommended that marijuana be moved from a Schedule I to a Schedule III controlled substance.

"HHS has done the right thing," Schumer, D-N.Y., said. "DEA should now follow through on this important step to greatly reduce the harm caused by draconian marijuana laws. Rescheduling the drug would reduce or potentially elimi-

classified as a Schedule I drug, alongside heroin and LSD. According to the DEA, Schedule I drugs "have no currently accepted medical use in the United States, a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision, and a high potential

nate criminal penalties for possession. Marijuana is currently

Schedule III drugs "have a potential for abuse less than substances in Schedules I or II and abuse may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence. They currently include ketamine and some anabolic steroids.

Biden requested the review in October 2022 as he pardoned thousands of Americans convicted of "simple possession" of marijuana under federal law.



This image provided by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) shows the Aditya-L1 spacecraft lifts off on board a satellite launch vehicle from the space center in Sriharikota, India, Saturday, Sept. 2. India launched its first space mission to study the sun on Saturday, less than two weeks after a successful uncrewed landing near the south polar region of the moon. (AP)



This image provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center/Arizona State University shows an LROC NAC image enlarged four times centered on the likely Luna 25 crater. A NASA spacecraft around the moon has found the likely crash site of Russia's lost lunar lander, Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. The Luna 25 lander slammed into the moon last month, a harsh end to Russia's first moon mission in al-most half a century. (AP)





Fretwell

Discovery

Ice loss hurting penguin survival: The loss of ice in one region of Antarctica last year likely resulted in none of the emperor penguin chicks surviving in four colonies, researchers reported. Emperor penguins hatch their eggs and

raise their chicks on the ice that forms around the continent each Antarctic winter and melts in the summer months. Researchers used satellite imagery to look

at breeding colonies in a region near Antarctica's Bellingshausen Sea. The images showed no ice was left there in December during the Southern Hemisphere's summer, as had occurred in 2021. Researchers said it is likely that no chicks

survived in four of the five breeding colo-

nies they examined. Penguin chicks don't develop their adult waterproof feathers until close to the time they usually fledge, in late December or January, scientists say. "If the sea ice breaks up under them, the young chicks will drown or freeze to death," said Peter Fretwell, a researcher at the Brit-

ish Antarctic Survey and co-author of the study published in Nature Communications Earth & Environment. Overall, the ice around Antarctica reached near record low levels last year. The re-

searchers say that climate change will make such losses more frequent in the future. Fretwell's team has also completed a preliminary analysis of known nesting sites

- visible in satellite photos because of colored guano, or poop stains, left on white ice across Antarctica, the only continent where the emperor penguin lives. There are about 300,000 breeding pairs left of the world's largest penguins. Of 62 known penguin colonies, around 30% were harmed by low sea-ice levels last

year - and 13 likely failed entirely, Fretwell said. "That this could happen doesn't shock me, but I'm shocked that it has happened already. I thought it would be further down the line," said Daniel Zitterbart, a researcher who studies Antarctica for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, but was not involved in the new paper. If penguins aren't successful breeding in

one location, they may look for another site the next year, he said. While it's possible for the population to recover from one or two bad breeding years, he's worried about the future. (AP)

'Expand quarantine zones': Maine forestry officials are planning a wide expansion of quarantine zones to try to prevent the spread of three invasive forest pests that pose

Space

NASA spots likely crash site of Russia lunar lander

India launches 1st mission to study Sun

NEW DELHI, Sept 2, (AP): India launched its first space mission to study the sun on Saturday, less than two weeks after a successful uncrewed landing near the south polar region of

The Aditya-L1 spacecraft took off on board a satellite launch vehicle from the Sriharikota space center in southern India on a quest to study the sun from a point about 1.5 million kilometers (930,000 miles) from earth, known as L-1.

The spacecraft is equipped with seven payloads to study the sun's corona, chromosphere, photosphere and solar wind, the Indian Space Research Organization said. After over an hour, the ISRO said

the launch was "accomplished suc-

"The vehicle has placed the satellite precisely into its intended orbit. India's first solar observatory has begun its journey to the destination of Sun-Earth L1 point," ISRO posted on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter.

The satellite is scheduled to take 125 days to reach the L1 point.

India became the first country to land a spacecraft near the moon's south pole on Aug. 23 - a historic voyage to uncharted territory that scientists believe could hold vital reserves of frozen water. After a failed attempt to land on the moon in 2019, India joined the United States, the Soviet Union and China as only the fourth country to achieve this milestone.

Jitendra Singh, India's junior minister for science and technology, praised the ISRO officials for their work on the

"Congratulations India. Congratulations ISRO," he said while being present at the ISRO control room. "It's a sunshine moment for India.'

The sun study, combined with India's successful moon landing, would completely change the image of the ISRO in the world community, said Manish Purohit, a former scientist at the research organization.

The pests are the emerald ash borer, the

hemlock woolly adelgid and European

larch canker. Forest managers in many

states have tried to slow the spread of the

borer and the adelgid, while larch canker

has primarily been a concern in Maine

threats to the state's timber industry.

The Aditya-L1 was headed for the L1 point of the Earth-Sun system, which affords an uninterrupted view of the sun, ISRO said. "This will provide a greater advantage of observing solar activities and their effect on space weather in real-time."

Once in place, the satellite would provide reliable forewarning of an onslaught of particles and radiation from heightened solar activity that has the potential to knock out power grids on Earth, said B.R. Guruprasad, a space scientist, in an article in The Times of India newspaper. The advanced warning can protect the satellites that are the backbone of the global economic structure as well as the people living in space stations.

"Those seven payloads are going to study the sun as a star in all the possible spectrum positions that we have visible, ultraviolet, and X-ray. ... It's like we're going to get a black and white image, the color image and the high-definition image, 4K image of the sun, so that we don't miss out on anything that is happening on the sun," Purohit said.

Also:

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.: A NASA spacecraft around the moon has found the likely crash site of Russia's lost lunar lander.

The Luna 25 lander slammed into the moon last month, a harsh end to Russia's first moon mission in almost half a century. Based on observations by its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, NASA said Thursday that it appears the impact created a crater 33 feet (10 meters) across.

This fresh crater is about 250 miles (400 kilometers) short of the spacecraft's intended landing site at the lunar south pole, and farther north. NASA's spacecraft found no evidence of a crater in this spot in pictures taken during a flyover last year.

It's located on the steep inner rim of an ancient and considerably larger

and Canada. Maine's governor is Janet

The quarantine areas place restric-

tions on the movement of items such as

firewood, logs, branches and plants in an

attempt to stop the pests from spreading.

The Maine Department of Agriculture,

Since the newfound crater is close to where scientists believe Russia's lunar lander crashed, "it is likely to be from that mission, rather than a natural impactor," NASA said in a statement.

Meanwhile, India's rover is exploring the moon's south polar region after successfully touching down a few days after Russia's failure. India became only the fourth country to pull off a

lunar landing.

The head of Russia's space agency has said that the Luna-25 spacecraft crashed into the moon after its engines failed to shut down correctly, and he blamed the country's decades-long pause in lunar exploration for the mis-

hap.
The pilotless Luna-25 was aiming to become the first spacecraft to touch down on the south pole of the moon, an area where scientists believe important reserves of frozen water and precious elements may exist.

Roscosmos Director General Yury Borisov said the spacecraft's engines were turned on over the weekend to put Luna-25 into a "pre-landing orbit" but did not shut down properly, plunging the lander onto the moon.

"Instead of the planned 84 seconds. it worked for 127 seconds. This was the main reason for the emergency, Borisov told Russian state news channel Russia 24.

Roscosmos had contact with the spacecraft until 2:57 p.m. local time Saturday, when communication was lost and "the device passed into an open lunar orbit and crashed into the surface of the moon," he said. The lunar mission was Russia's first

since 1976, when it was part of the So**viet Union**. Only three countries have managed successful moon landings: the Soviet Union, the United States and China.

"The negative experience of interrupting the lunar program for almost 50 years is the main reason for the failures," Borisov said, adding "it would be the worst decision ever" for Russia to end the program now.

Conservation and Forestry wants to expand the zones for all three pests.

The borer poses a threat to the state's ornamental tree industry, the forestry department said in documents about the pest. The expanded quarantine zones are important "to protect Maine's forest, timber, and wildlife resources from this destructive pest," the department said in documents about the adelgid.

The three pests are all capable of killing trees. The adelgid, a tiny insect native to Asia, does so by sucking sap from tree needles, draining the tree of life.

Pests such as adelgid have become an increasing focus of forest managers and state governments in the US as they continue to spread as the planet warms. Scientists have said the pests are helped by a warming climate and trees weakened by drought, and that global trade helps them

The emerald ash borer was first identified in the US in 2002. Maine's forestry department wants to extend the quarantine area for the borer into multiple new counties in southern Maine. The department said that would protect more than 60% of the ash resource that is outside the current quarantine areas.

Larch canker is a disease caused by a fungus that ruins trees and makes them unsalable. The state's plan for the disease would expand quarantine zones north from the coast.

The forestry department is holding public hearings about the plan to expand the quarantine zones on Sept 6. The hearings are being held in Augusta, Old Town and virtually. (AP)



Marijuana plants are seen at a growing facility in Washington County, N.Y., May 12, 2023. The Health and Human Services Department has recommended removing marijuana from a category of drugs deemed to have 'no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.' The agency advised moving pot from that 'Schedule I' group to the less tightly regulated 'Schedule III.' The decision is up to the Drug Enforcement Administration. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept 2, (AP): Results and standings from MLB games											
on Friday. Minnesota NY Yankees	5	Texas Housto	n	1 2							
Kansas City Detroit	13 4	Boston	o W. Sc	2 0x 2							
Toronto	13	Colorad		9							
Arizona	4	Baltimo	re	2							
Oakland	9	LA Ang		2 inn 5							
Miami Milwaukee	8 7	Washington 11 inn 5 Philadelphia 5									
Pittsburgh											
San Diego	San Diego 7 San Francisco										
	Atlanta 6 LA Dodgers 3										
American League East Division											
_	W	L	Pct	GB							
Baltimore	83	51	.619								
Tampa Bay Toronto	82 74	53 61	.607 .548	1-1/2 9-1/2							
Boston	69	66	.511	14-1/2							
New York	66	69	.489	17-1/2							
C		al Divisio									
Minnesota	W 70	L 65	Pct .519	GB							
Cleveland	65	70	.481	5							
Detroit	61	74	.452	9							
Chicago	53	82	.393	17							
Kansas City 42 94 .309 28-1/ West Division											
	W	L	Pct	GB							
Seattle	76	58	.567	_							
Houston Texas	77 75	59 59	.566 .560	1							
Los Angeles	64	71	.474	12-1/2							
Oakland	40	95	.296	36-1/2							
		nal Leagu									
		Divisio		CB							
Atlanta	W 89	L 45	Pct .664	GB —							
Philadelphia	74	60	.552	15							
Miami	68	67	.504	21-1/2							
New York	62 62	73 74	.459 .456	27-1/2 28							
Washington 62 74 .456 28 Central Division											
W L Pct GB											
Milwaukee	75	59	.560								
Chicago Cincinnati	72 70	63 67	.533 .511	3-1/2 6-1/2							
Pittsburgh	62	73	.459	13-1/2							
St Louis	58	.77	.430	17-1/2							
West Division W L Pct GB											
Los Angeles	83	51	.619	_							
Arizona	70	65	.519	13-1/2							
San Francisco	70 63	65 73	.519 .463	13-1/2 21							
San Diego Colorado	49	73 85	.463	34							

Giant-slayers Japan face a 'tough' road

TOKYO, Sept 2, (AP): Japan has been a fan favorite at the last two Rugby World Cups for its underdog victories over top-tier teams.

Its win over the Springboks in 2015 has passed into lore (and a movie) as the Miracle of Brighton and its victories over Scotland and Ireland in 2019 caused jubilation in a World Cup hosted by Japan.

As the Brave Blossoms head into the upcoming edition in France, they do so with opponents alerted. They no longer have the advantages of surprise or underestimation.

At the same time, they come into the tournament on a run of poor form, having won only one of four tests this season and only four of 18 tests since hosting the last World Cup.

Rugby in Japan has gone through foundational changes since 2019, designed in part to capitalize on the success of the World Cup which won over a broader domestic audience.

The inauguration of Japan League One as successor to the former Japan Top League as the professional domestic competi-



of the world's best players and many of Japan's largest corporations as

tion has at-

tracted some

sponsors. ulti-The mate aims are for the league to match any

Inagaki in Europe and to provide the best possible competition for lo-cal players to raise the standard of

the Japan team. Those benefits might not yet

have materialized but the fact that many of the top Springboks, leading Wallabies and notable All Blacks have played in Japan over

RUGBY

the last two seasons means there has been an exposure for the Japan players to the best in the world. If the Japan team itself has not yet matured, it at least has a basis of experience on which it can grow.

It has been drawn in a difficult pool with an under-performing England, which is coming off a loss to Fiji, Argentina and a Samoa lineup coming off a narrow loss to top-ranked Ireland. There also is a strong basis of experience in the Japan squad which includes at least 13 members who played at the World Cup four years ago. The last few members were confirmed after Japan's loss to Italy in the last warmup.

Beyond those players, Keita Inagaki and outside back Kotaro Matsushima were members of the 2015 squad in England. Hooker Shota Horie and former captain Michael Leitch played in New Zealand in 2011, and both are set to represent Japan at their fourth World Cup.

There are also two uncapped players - prop Sione Halasili and scrumhalf Kenta Fukuda - and nine players have fewer than 10 test caps of experience.

Japan, necessarily, has had to revise its goals. Beating top-ranked teams no longer is enough. Reaching the quarterfinals already has been done. So Japan has to be more ambitious.

'We're going into the World Cup to win it," coach Jamie Joseph said. "If you can get to the quarterfinals, anything can happen. So our first step is to make the top eight and take things from there.

Domínguez homers in 1st at-bat and Judge slugs his 250th in Yankees' win over Astros

Playoff contenders Cubs, Reds split DH

HOUSTON, Sept 2, (AP): Jasson Domínguez became the youngest Yankees player to homer in his first career at-bat and Aaron Judge reached 250 home runs faster than any other major leaguer as New York slugged its way to a 6-2 win over the Houston Astros on Friday night.

DJ LeMahieu sent the second pitch from Justin Verlander (10-7) into the right-field seats for a leadoff shot, and there were two outs in the first inning when Verlander walked Giancarlo Stanton. Then, on the second pitch he saw and his first swing in the majors, Domínguez connected to make it 3-0.

At just 20 years, 206 days old, the highly touted Domínguez became the youngest Yankees player to homer in his first MLB game. He was the first Yankees hitter to go deep in his initial big league at-bat since Judge on Aug. 13, 2016. Domínguez became the youngest player to appear in a game for the Yankees since 19-year-old pitcher José Rijo in July 1984 - and the youngest position player since 20-year-old outfielder Stan Javier in April 1984.

BASEBALL

José Abreu hit a solo homer for the Astros. Stanton had a two-run homer for the Yankees.

New York starter Carlos Rodon (2-4) yielded three hits and two runs in five innings.

Braves 6, Dodgers 3 In Los Angeles, Newlywed star Ronald Acuña Jr. hit his 31st homer and stole his 63rd base, Max Fried tossed seven shutout innings and Atlanta defeated Los Angeles for its fifth

The Braves (89-45) lead the Dodgers (83-51) by six games for the best record in the majors and potential home-field advantage throughout the postseason. Atlanta pounded out 14 hits in sending the Dodgers to a second consecutive loss for the first time since the end of July.

Acuña was at it again one night after he got married during the day and in the evening became baseball's first player with 30 home runs and 60 stolen bases in the same season.

He went deep leading off the third inning against Julio Urías (11-8). In the fifth, Acuña doubled leading off, stole third and scored on Austin Riley's double.

Travis d'Arnaud and Marcell Ozuna also homered for Atlanta. Fried (6-1) allowed three hits and struck out a season-high 10. Kirby Yates pitched the ninth for his third save.

Pinch-hitter Kolten Wong had a three-run homer in his Dodgers debut. Diamondbacks 4. Orioles 2

In Phoenix, Christian Walker and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit two-run homers, Zach Davies had a quality start and Arizona sent Baltimore to its second straight loss.

The Diamondbacks jumped ahead 2-1 in the first on a two-run homer by Gurriel and extended that advantage to 4-1 in the sixth when Walker hit his 29th homer of the year.

Baltimore's Ryan O'Hearn had two hits and two RBIs, including a runscoring double in the eighth.

Davies (2-5) gave up one run on four hits over six innings, striking out six and walking one. Paul Sewald handled the ninth for his 29th save in 34

Baltimore's Cole Irvin (1-4) gave up four runs on eight hits over 5 2/3 innings. The lefty struck out four and walked one

Mets 2, Mariners 1
In New York, Daniel Vogelbach hit a tiebreaking single with two outs in the eighth inning and New York cooled off first-place Seattle.

Brandon Nimmo homered, Kodai Senga struck out 12 over seven innings and Ronny Mauricio had two hits in his major league debut - including a double in his first at-bat that was the hardest-hit ball by a Mets player this

Seattle, fresh off a 21-6 August that marked the winningest month in franchise history, remained a percentage point ahead of Houston and a game in front of third-place Texas in the AL

Vogelbach's opposite-field single off Andrés Muñoz (3-6) scored Francisco Lindor. Phil Bickford (4-4) pitched a scoreless eighth and Drew Smith earned his third save.

J.P. Crawford homered for the Mariners, and Logan Gilbert struck out nine in 6 2/3 innings. Cubs 6, Reds 2, 1st game

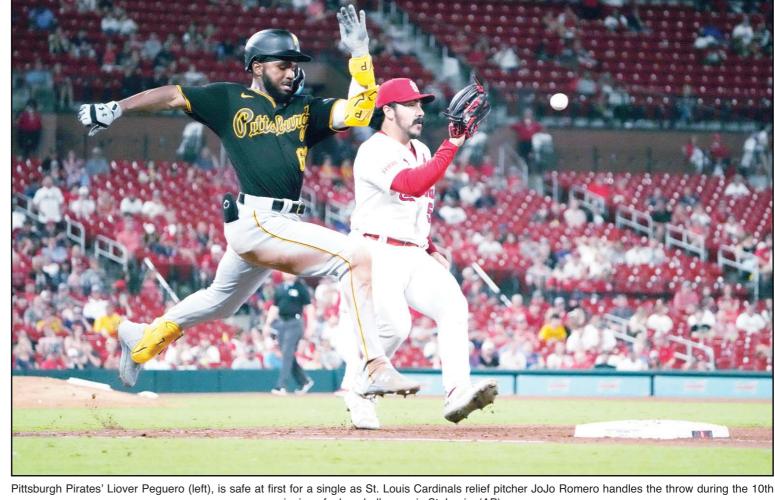
Reds 3, Cubs 2, 2nd game

In Cincinnati, Noelvi Marte's twoout single in the ninth drove in the winning run as Cincinnati rallied to beat Chicago and split a doubleheader between the playoff contenders.

Nick Martini homered off Cubs closer Adbert Alzolay (2-5) with one out in the ninth to tie the game. Christian Encarnacion-Strand followed with a single. Pinch-runner Stuart Fairchild stole second, went to third on an errant throw and scored easily on Marte's hit.

Chicago won the first game with Cody Bellinger driving in three runs and rookie right-hander Jordan Wicks turning in another quality start. Bellinger also hit a two-run homer in the

second game. The Cubs are 3 1/2 games behind



inning of a baseball game in St. Louis. (AP)

Little external expectation

England head to WC with big players suspended

LONDON, Sept 2, (AP): Rarely has England gone into a Rugby World Cup with so little external expectation.

Three times a finalist - and once a winner - in the last five editions of the tournament, the English have long been Europe's big hope on the global stage and the team that most concerned the big guns from the southern hemisphere. No more.

Overtaken by Ireland, France and whisper it - Scotland since the 2019 World Cup, England is run by the world's richest rugby union but currently doesn't have elite-level players or coach to show for it.

Steve Borthwick is the man in charge following the departure late last year of Eddie Jones, the colorful Australian coach with whom the Rugby Football Union and seemingly England's players ran out of patience. Borthwick was solid if unspectacu-

lar as a player, more of a workhorse than someone with a highlights reel on YouTube. Conservative can best

Alexis Diaz (7-4) picked up the win

In the first game, Bellinger had a

solo homer in the fourth off Graham

Ashcraft (7-9) and drove in two more

with a base hit in the sixth. Seiya Su-

zuki had a solo homer and Ian Happ

through five innings with three

Marlins 8, Nationals 5, 11 innings

hit a two-run homer to cap a four-run

rally in the 11th inning and Miami beat

and Miami second baseman Luis Ar-

raez went 2 for 4 with a walk and

raised his major league-leading aver-

Miami (68-67) moved over .500

CJ Abrams, Lane Thomas and

Travis Blankenhorn hit solo homer for

Washington, which has lost three in a

row for the first time since a five-game

skid July 3-7. Robert Garcia (0-1) took

the loss as the Nationals lost their fifth

Guardians 3, Rays 2

doubled home Gabriel Arias with the

go-ahead run in the seventh inning,

ing the seventh, but Andrés Giménez

led off with a single, stole second and

came home on Arias' single. Nay-

lor followed with a drive to the wall

in right-center off Rays starter Tyler

Tampa Bay had its four-game win-

ning streak snapped and fell two games

behind first-place Baltimore in the AL

East. The Rays remain firmly in con-

trol of the top wild-card spot and have

enth and Emmanuel Clase got his ma-

jor league-high 37th save with a per-

Twins 5, Rangers 1

Christian Vázquez snapped extended

slumps with home runs in the go-ahead

seventh inning and AL Central-leading

Minnesota right-hander Joe Ryan

(10-8) had seven strikeouts and al-

Minnesota beat slumping Texas.

In Arlington, Jordan Luplow and

Eli Morgan (5-2) pitched the sev-

sending Cleveland past Tampa Bay.

In Cleveland, Rookie Bo Naylor

The Guardians trailed 2-1 enter-

with its second straight win over the

Tanner Scott (7-4) earned the win

In Washington, Garrett Hampson

Wicks (2-0) allowed five hits

in the nightcap by pitching a scoreless

third and final wild-card slot.

added a two-run shot.

Washington.

age to .350.

Nationals.

in six games.

Glasnow (7-5).

won eight of 10.

strikeouts and three walks.

describe his approach as a coach, too, and his kick-pressure game plan is hardly making England's class of 2023 To be fair to Borthwick, he doesn't

have a surfeit of world-class players at

his disposal. England typically arrives

at a World Cup with an overpowering bunch of forwards and a dominant setpiece, but not this year. The back division, meanwhile, is light on difference-makers and lacks identity, with exciting flyhalf Marcus Smith - someone Jones identified as the future - not first-choice under

Borthwick and likely to be a benchfiller with an X-factor. Then there's the discipline issues that have dogged the English during the World Cup warmup games, with captain Owen Farrell and No. 8 Billy Vunipola suspended for the opening two pool games for dangerous tackles committed

against Wales and Ireland, respectively. Given those pool games are against Argentina in Marseille on Sept. 9 and Japan in Nice on Sept. 17 and probably the toughest England will have in pool play, their absence couldn't come at a worse time, robbing Borthwick of valuable leadership and experience. Vunipola was the only No. 8 picked in the squad.

Borthwick should be thankful, then, for England being on the right side of the draw. Beat either of Argentina or Japan and a place in the quarterfinals looks likely given Chile and Samoa are the other opponents in Pool D, even if

RUGBY

Samoa - ranked No. 12 in the world will fancy its chances.

Then, Australia, Wales or Fiji likely lies in wait. England could yet get to the semifinals without having to play any team in the top five in the world

However, this is a team that has won just four of its last 13 games -England's final World Cup warmup

convert a save for the fourth time in 35

opportunities, but got the win by retir-

Tigers 4, White Sox 2

pitched neatly into the seventh and De-

In Chicago, Eduardo Rodriguez

Rodriguez (10-7) bounced back

from a loss to Houston last week with

a solid outing against struggling Chi-

cago, helping Detroit win its second

ing the side in order in the ninth.

troit beat Chicago.

match was a first-ever loss to Fiji, 30-22 at Twickenham - and has finished fifth, third and fourth in the last three editions of the Six Nations. England has just dropped to No. 8 in the world ranking - tied for its lowest position in the standing's 20-year history. Meanwhile, winger Anthony Wat-

son - one of the team's senior and most impactful players in the back division - was a late withdrawal from the squad because of injury.

No longer can England be sure of getting out of its pool, never mind going deep at a World Cup.

The three losses - against Wales, Ireland and then Fiji - in four World Cup warmups were demoralizing and showed just how far this England team has fallen compared to one that outplayed New Zealand in the 2019 World Cup semifinals in one of the team's greatest performances.

England fans might have to wait until the World Cup in 2027 to hit those dizzying heights again.

for the final NL wild card.

The Giants had won four of five

coming in. Arizona beat Baltimore 4-2. Michael Wacha (11-2) held the Giants to two runs and six hits in six innings, with six strikeouts and two walks, to win his sixth straight deci-

The Padres entered the night 8 1/2 games out of the last wild-card spot and season-high 11 games under .500.

Pirates 4, Cardinals 2, 10 Innings In St. Louis, Andrew McCutchen came off the bench and knocked in the go-ahead run on an error in the 10th, helping Pittsburgh beat St. Louis and extend its winning streak to four

McCutchen, pinch hitting for Alfonso Rivas, hit a grounder up the middle off JoJo Romero (4-2) that eluded second baseman Nolan Gorman, scoring automatic runner Endy Rodríguez. Llover Peguero scored on a wild pitch, and Bryan Reynolds drove in Ji Hwan Bae with a sacrifice fly to extend Pittsburgh's lead to 4-1.

Colin Holderman, Carmen Mlodzinski and Colin Selby (2-0) each pitched a scoreless inning of relief, setting the stage for David Bednar to earn his 30th save.

Blue Jays 13, Rockies 9

In Denver, Pinch-hitter Alejandro Kirk's three-run double keyed a fiverun seventh inning and Toronto hit three homers in a victory over Colorado.

Danny Jansen, Brandon Belt and Ernie Clement went deep for the Blue Jays, who have won four of six to move within 1 1/2 games of slumping Texas for the final AL wild card. Toronto had 17 hits and improved to 3-10 at Coors Field in its first trip to Colorado since 2019. George Springer and Whit Merrifield each had three hits, and Clement finished with three RBIs.

Colorado scored four runs in the ninth off Chad Green, making his Blue Jays debut and his first major league appearance since undergoing Tommy John surgery in June 2022. Jordan Romano got the final out.

Athletics 9, Angels 2 In Oakland, Zack Gelof had a two-

run double to highlight a five-run fourth inning to help JP Sears end a four-game losing streak, Esteury Ruiz hit a late two-run homer, and Oakland beat new-look Los Angeles. The A's hit eight doubles to tie their

second-most in franchise history as second-year manager Mark Kotsay earned his 100th win. Sears (3-11) allowed four hits over

six scoreless innings as the A's won for the second time in six games.

NL Central-leading Milwaukee. The lowed only one run and three hits over Reds began the night in third place in six innings. the division and battling the Giants, Max Scherzer also struck out seven, Diamondbacks and Marlins for the allowing only one hit over six score-

> gave up a 1-0 lead. Brock Burke (5-3) took the loss for the Rangers (75-59) who lost for the 11th time in 14 games. Luplow's homer came after he was hitless in his previous 16 at-bats. Vázquez broke out of an 0-for-18

less innings before Texas' bullpen

drought with a solo homer. Jorge Polanco add a two-run shot in the eighth off Josh Sborz, the second Texas reliever.

All-Star shortstop Corey Seager hit his 26th homer for Texas, and officially qualified as the AL leader with his .345 batting average.

Brewers 7, Phillies 5

In Milwaukee, Alec Bohm commit-

ted a two-out error in the eighth inning that allowed three runs to come home as Milwaukee rallied to beat Philadel-

Milwaukee extended its NL Central lead to 3 1/2 games over the Chicago Cubs, who split a doubleheader with Cincinnati.

The Brewers trailed 5-4 and had the bases loaded when Owen Miller, who was called up from the minors earlier in the day, stepped to the plate against Jeff Hoffman. Facing a 2-2 count, Miller hit a grounder that Bohm failed to backhand - allowing all three run-

Trea Turner gave Philadelphia a 5-3 lead with a three-run homer off Devin Williams with two outs in the top of the eighth, when the Phillies scored four times. Williams (8-3) failed to

The White Sox came up short in their first game since chairman Jerry

straight after losing five in a row.

Reinsdorf promoted Chris Getz to general manager on Thursday. Getz took over after after GM Rick Hahn and executive vice president Ken Williams were fired last week. Royals 13, Red Sox 2 In Kansas City, Jordan Lyles

pitched eight strong innings, Salvador Perez hit two home runs and Kansas City routed Boston. Lyles (4-15), who leads the major leagues in losses, allowed two runs and four hits, struck out seven and did not

give up a walk. He didn't give up a run until Alex Verdugo's two-out homer in the eighth. Bobby Witt Jr. put the Royals on the board in the first inning with his 28th home run of the season. He's two home runs away from becoming the

first Royals player with 30 home runs

and 30 stolen bases in a season. He already has 38 steals. Padres 7, Giants 3

In San Diego, Fernando Tatis Jr. and Juan Soto hit consecutive home runs in the first inning, and San Diego dropped San Francisco into a tie with Arizona



Cincinnati Reds' TJ Friedl hits a sacrifice bunt during the eighth inning of the second game of a baseball doubleheader against the Chicago Cubs in Cincinnati. (AP)

Stanford overcomes Hawaii

Plummer rallies Louisville over Georgia Tech in ACC opener

ATLANTA, Sept 2, (AP): Jeff Brohm's coaching debut at his alma mater wasn't nearly as smooth as he would've liked.

That's OK. Louisville found a way to win after

falling behind by 15 points at halftime. Transfer quarterback Jack Plummer rallied his new team with three touchdown passes, Dezmond Tell made a huge defensive play and the Cardinals knocked off Georgia Tech 39-34

Friday night. Plummer hooked up with Jamari Thrash on a 20-yard scoring play with 8:08 remaining to put the Cardinals ahead at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, home of the NFL's Atlanta Falcons and about two miles from the Georgia Tech campus.

Louisville sealed the opener between Atlantic Coast Conference rivals when Tell blindsided new Georgia Tech quarterback Haynes King, forcing a fumble that thwarted a potential goahead drive.

Jawhar Jordan broke off a 74-yard touchdown run on the very next play. Louisville outscored the Yellow Jackets 26-6 in the second half.

Plummer, who transferred to Louisville to reunite with Brohm after three seasons at Purdue and one year at Cal, completed 18 of 31 passes for 247 yards with one interception.

King, a former starter at Texas A&M, threw for 313 yards and three touchdowns, while former Louisville running back Trey Cooley added a pair of TD runs against his old school.

But King was kicking himself for a pair of interceptions, including a deflected pick on his first pass of the game, not to mention that back-breaking fumble. Key took over as interim coach last

season after a 1-3 start ended the dismal tenure of Geoff Collins. Key posted a 4-4 mark the rest of the way and was rewarded with the full-time job.

In his first game with the permanent title, the Yellow Jackets scored their most points in a quarter against a topdivision opponent since 2014.

It wasn't enough. Georgia Tech had touchdowns on four straight possessions, beginning with King's 2-yard touchdown pass to Brett Seither. Cooley scored on runs of 1 and 23 yards before King's short toss to Chase Lane resulted in a 48-yard

Stanford 37, Hawaii 24

In Honolulu, Ashton Daniels passed for 249 yards and two touchdowns and Stanford opened its season with victory over Hawaii .

The Cardinal were making their debut under new coach Troy Taylor, who spent the last four seasons at Sacramento State.

Daniels, a sophomore, made his first



Miami quarterback Tyler Van Dyke passes the ball during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Miami (Ohio) in Miami Gardens, Fla. (AP)

career start. He completed 25 of 36 passes and was not intercepted.

Benjamin Yurosek was Daniels' favorite target. The senior tight end hauled in nine passes for a career-high 138 yards. Yurosek's 32-yard TD catch with 12:24 left in the second quarter gave Stanford the lead for

Stanford finished with 407 total yards and got field goals of 25, 25 and 46 yards from Josh Karty, who has converted his last 21 field goals dating

Brayden Schager threw for 355 yards and three touchdowns on 30-of-3 passing for Hawaii (0-2).

Michigan State 31, Central Michigan7 In East Lansing, Noah Kim threw for 279 yards and two touchdowns, helping Michigan State pull away to beat Central Michigan.

The Spartans (1-0) started slow in Kim's first start due to errant throws and dropped passes before taking control with accurate passes, clutch catches and stingy defense.

Nathan Carter had a 2-yard, goahead touchdown run with 48 seconds left in the first half and the Connecticut transfer finished with 113 yards on 18

The Chippewas (0-1) led 7-3 late in the first half after Bert Emanuel Jr. threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Chris Parker, but they gave up an 84-yard touchdown drive on the ensuing possession in less than a minute and couldn't recover.

FOOTBALL

Kim, who began 2 of 7 for 6 yards, converted a third down with a 32-yard pass to Jaron Glover and connected with him on a 33-yard pass that set up Carter's touchdown to put Michigan State ahead 10-7.

The fourth-year quarterback completed 18 of 31 passes, including a 10-yard touchdown pass to Tyrell Henry and an 8-yard pass to Maliq Carr for a score to give the Spartans a 31-7 lead early in the fourth quar-

Emanuel was 11 of 17 for 87 yards with a touchdown and an interception, a deflected pass picked off by standout linebacker Cal Haladay. The quarterback's father, Bert, is a former NFL wide receiver with 28 career touchdown receptions.

Michigan State's Alante Brown was carted off the field with an injury after the game-opening kickoff and came back in the game, returning a kickoff 16 yards late in the first half. Brown was on the sideline, not in uniform, in the second half.

Miami 38, Miami (OH) 3 In Miami Gardens, Tyler Van Dyke's first pass of the year resulted in the first of four Miami Hurricanes touchdowns, and they defeated the Miami (Ohio) RedHawks 38-3 in the

season opener for both teams. Coming off a shoulder injury that hindered him last season, Van Dyke connected on his first five passes. The Hurricanes' fourth-year quarterback finished 17 of 22 with 201 yards and an interception. He didn't appear affected by a thumb issue that bothered him during training camp.

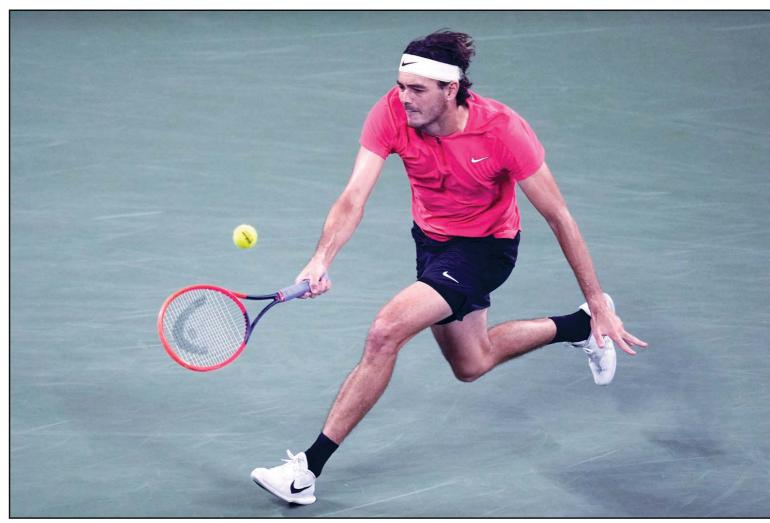
Brett Gabbert, who is the brother of

Kansas City backup quarterback Blaine Gabbert, completed 12 of 21 passes with 127 yards for the RedHawks.

Van Dyke found receiver Colbie Young for a 44-yard score on the Hurricanes' first offensive possession, but three of the team's four scoring drives ended in field goals.

Freshman Mark Fletcher Jr. scored

Djokovic survives scare



Taylor Fritz, of the United States, returns a shot to Jakub Mensik, of the Czech Republic, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships

on a 26-yard run on Miami's first drive of the second half, set up by a 20-yard pass over the middle from Van Dyke to Xavier Restrepo. A successful twopoint conversation made it 24-3.

Henry Parrish Jr. led the Hurricanes with 90 yards rushing and added a 12-yard rushing score in the fourth

The RedHawks could not generate much offense against a Miami defense showing early improvements from a unit that finished in the bottom half of the ACC last year in yards allowed per

Four of the first five drives for Miami (Ohio) resulted in punts, and Gabbert was sacked twice.

Graham Nicholson nailed a 48-yard field goal for the RedHawks just before halftime to make it 16-3 at the

Gage Larvadain led Miami (Ohio) with 80 receiving yards, including 71 yards after the catch.

The Hurricanes moved the ball with ease thanks to their potent rushing attack. Behind a revamped offensive line, the Hurricanes outgained the Redhawks 152 to -4 in the first half, and 242 of their 485 total yards were

Emory Williams replaced Van Dyke with a 28-point lead and played the final 9:15. Aveon Smith replaced

Donald Chaney Jr.'s 20-yard TD run with less than five minutes remain-

ing capped the scoring.

Lightning in the area delayed the start of the game by about 25 minutes.

Wozniacki continues comeback, Gauff Iooms

NEW YORK, Sept 2, (AP): Everyone should know by now to never count out Novak Djokovic. No matter how big a deficit he faces. No matter how poorly he might be playing.

And so it made sense that Djokovic would manage to come all the way back from a two-set deficit to beat Laslo Djere 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 in the third round of the U.S. Open, avoiding what would have been his earliest exit there since 2006.

"The message is sent to the rest of the field, obviously, that I'm still able to play five sets, deep (into the) night. Coming from two sets down always sends a strong message to future opponents," said Djokovic, who next faces Borna Gojo, a 25-year-old qualifier from Croatia making his U.S. Open

"But I'm not really wanting to be in this position, to be honest," Djokovic said. "I prefer a straight-set win. So hopefully I can get back on that track in the next match.

This one began under the lights in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Friday night and did not wrap up until more than 3 1/2 hours later, concluding just after 1:30 a.m.

It was Djokovic's eighth career victory after dropping the opening two sets of a match. He also improved to 38-11 in five-setters.

Once he seized control, he held on tight and never let Djere recover. In the crucible of a fifth set, Djokovic was cool as can be, collecting 12 of the initial 14 points to leave no doubt how this would go.

TENNIS

He's won three of his men's-record 23 Grand Slam titles at Flushing Meadows and been the runner-up a half-dozen times, including in 2021. The 36-year-old from Serbia did not compete in the U.S. Open last year because he couldn't travel to the United States as a foreigner who is not vaccinated against COVID-19; that rule was lifted this May.

Djokovic is seeded No. 2 in New York behind Carlos Alcaraz, and pretty much everyone has been expecting the two of them to meet for the championship on Sept.

When Djokovic halfheartedly pushed a forehand return long to end the second set, the match was 1 hour, 33 minutes old, and everything was going Djere's way.

Djokovic broke to begin the fourth, using his trademark defensive skills to prolong a point until snapping a forehand winner as Djere lost his footing.

Djokovic turned toward his coach,

Goran Ivanisevic, and the rest of his entourage in the stands, shouting and punching the air twice. Later in that set, Djokovic ranged so

far to his right to extend a point that he was wide of the doubles alley, and Djere - likely surprised to see the ball headed back at him - missed a fore-

When Tommy Paul was a kid growing up in Greenville, North Carolina, his family would drive the 500 or so miles up to New York the week before the U.S. Open to watch qualifying matches - "It was free," he notes - and catch a glimpse of some pros practic-

A couple of times, according to Paul, those treks involved a visit to an emergency room on the tournament

Carlos Sainz pips record-chasing Verstappen to pole at Italian GP

MONZA, Italy, Sept 2, (AP): Carlos Sainz Jr. was enjoying a perfect birthday weekend so far after he secured pole position for the Italian Grand Prix to the delight of the Ferrari tifosi on Saturday.

Thousands of red-clad Ferrari fans cheered as Sainz, who turned 29 on Friday, crossed the line 0.013 seconds quicker than runaway Formula One leader Max Verstappen, who is chasing a record 10th straight victory on Sunday.

"Tell me we have it, tell me we have it," Sainz yelled into race radio after beating Verstappen's time on his final flying l pole changed hands three times in the dying seconds of qualifying.

The roars from the grandstands should have confirmed it.

"Difficult to put into words to describe the feeling," Sainz said. "It's just amazing, just the whole weekend really \dots the support and the feeling with the crowd and the energy that they put into us, it's incredible.

"I had my birthday yesterday also, so I enjoyed that and I am pretty sure it gave me also good feeling, good vibes and good energy into today ... I put together honestly one of my best laps there in Q3 to set a pole.'

It was a fourth career pole for Sainz and his first since Austin last year. He was quickest in two of the good on its home track. Teammate Charles Leclerc will start third on Sunday, just ahead of George Russell in the Mercedes.

grounds: his sister was bitten by a poisonous spider; his mother passed out and hit her head after seeing a player get badly injured.

This trip to Flushing Meadows is going far more smoothly so far for Paul - and other American men. The 26-year-old Paul, the No. 14 seed, earned a debut appearance in the fourth round at the U.S. Open by hitting 15 aces and getting broken just once during a 6-1, 6-0, 3-6, 6-3 victory over No. 21 Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of

That's bound to happen if he keeps playing like this. Paul is part of a group of 20-something American men making moves on tour, and at this hardcourt tournament, against a backdrop of a 20-year drought since the last major tennis championship for a man from the United States.

Spain in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

At least one American is guaranteed a spot in the quarterfinals, because Paul's next opponent is unseeded Ben Shelton, a 20-year-old from Florida. Shelton advanced Friday by defeating Aslan Karatsev of Russia 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 with the help of 26 aces - and one serve at 147 mph (237 kph), the fastest hit by anyone in the tournament.

Paul beat Shelton when they met in the Australian Open quarterfinals in January; they teamed up in doubles at the Miami Open two months later.

Also into the fourth round are No. 9 seed Taylor Fritz, a 25-year-old from California, and No. 10 Frances Tiafoe, a 25-year-old from Maryland. Fritz overwhelmed Czech qualifier Jakub Mensik, who turned 18 on Friday, 6-1,

6-2, 6-0; Tiafoe was a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (6) winner against No. 22 Adrian Mannarino of France.

A fifth U.S. man can join them when wild-card entry Michael Mmoh plays Jack Draper of Britain on Saturday.

Tiafoe reached his first Grand Slam semifinal at the U.S. Open a year ago beating Rafael Nadal before losing to eventual champion Carlos Alcaraz - and is the first man from the United States to get to the fourth round in New York for four consecutive years since Andre Agassi in 2002-05.

Tiafoe was not exactly in fine form ahead of his return: He lost three of four matches on hard courts leading into this U.S. Open.

Not that he cares about that now. At night in Ashe, Coco Gauff took the last 10 games to come back and beat No. 32 Elise Mertens of Belgium

3-6, 6-3, 6-0. Elena Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, became the top woman to exit so far. The No. 4 seed fell to No.

30 Sorana Cirstea 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-4. Earlier, defending women's champion Iga Swiatek raised her 6-0 set total this season to 19 by eliminating her good friend Kaja Juvan 6-0, 6-1 in 49 minutes with an edge of 21-2 - that's

not a typo - in winners; 2018 Australian Open winner Caroline Wozniacki continued her comeback after 3 1/2 years in retirement by defeating Jennifer Brady 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; and French Open runner-up Karolina Muchova got past Taylor Townsend 7-6 (0), 6-3.

Wozniacki, 33, faces Gauff, 19, for a spot in the quarterfinals.



Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, returns a shot to Jennifer Brady, of the United States, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. (AP)

Liverpool reject huge Saudi bid for Mohamed Salah

LONDON, Sept 2, (AP): Fronted by a \$500-million splurge by Chelsea, Premier League clubs hurtled toward an unprecedented \$3 billion outlay in European soccer's summer transfer window that closed on Friday with Mohamed Salah still a Liverpool player

despite a mammoth offer from Saudi

Arabia. England's top clubs have flaunted their wealth over the last three months, dwarfing the outlay of their European rivals, but the Saudi Pro League emerged as a serious competitor in the market because of the backing of the kingdom's sovereign wealth Public Investment Fund which claims assets of about \$700 billion.

SOCCER

The crowning signing, they hoped, would be Salah - the Egypt superstar who is the most high-profile Arabic player - but Liverpool is standing firm in the face a reported verbal offer totaling 150 million pounds (\$188 million) by Al-Ittihad, insisting the 31-year-old

forward is not for sale. There's still a few days left in the Saudi window, which closes on Sept. 7, but the European one has now closed with many of England's biggest clubs active in the market right up to the deadline, spending the money generated from the Premier League's huge global broadcasting deals worth about 10 billion pounds (\$11.8 billion) over three seasons

Chelsea led the record spree, with the arrival of 21-year-old winger Cole Palmer from Manchester City for 40 million pounds (\$50.7 million) taking the west London club's spending in this window to around half a billion dollars. That included Ecuador midfielder Moises Caicedo joining for \$145 million, a record for a British club.

In the three transfer windows under its new American ownership fronted by Todd Boehly, Chelsea has spent about \$1.15 billion on players mostly signed up on long contracts in an innovative way to spread "amortization" costs of transfer fees.

The \$260 million outlay by Man City, the English and European champion, looks modest by comparison. City's fourth and final arrival in the window came on deadline day and was Portugal international Matheus Nunes from Wolverhampton, a ball-carrying central midfielder costing \$67 million providing

Central midfielders were also the priorities on Friday for Liverpool, which bought Netherlands international Ryan Gravenberch Bayern

year deal.

extra depth that



worth 40 million euros (\$43.1 million), and Manchester United, which signed Morocco anchorman Sofyan Amrabat from Fiorentina on a season-long loan deal in the final hours of the window.

It was a busy day for United, which also signed left back Sergio Reguilón on loan from Tottenham as cover for the injured Luke Shaw and goalkeeper Altay Bayindir on a transfer from Fenerbahce to back up Andre Onana. Center back Jonny Evans, 35, returned for a second stint at the club on a one-

Leaving United for Getafe in Spain on a season-long loan was Mason Greenwood, the striker who has not played for the team since January 2022 after becoming implicated in controlling and coercive behavior and assault relating to a woman after images and videos were posted online. A criminal investigation into a possible attempted rape was closed by prosecutors in February and United decided this month it

would be letting Greenwood go. Brighton completed one of the most exciting deals of the window to bring in 20-year-old Spain winger Ansu Fati on a season-long loan from Barcelona. Fati was once billed as Lionel Messi's successor at Barca, even taking his No. 10 shirt after the Argentina star left for Paris Saint-Germain, but struggled to make an impact since an injury in 2020 and hasn't been used as a regular starter under coach Xavi Hernandez. It's a sign of Brighton's progress that it could entice a player of Fati's status. The south-coast team will play in Europe for the first time this season, in the

Europa League.

Nottingham Forest might have been the busiest club on Friday, with potentially seven players joining. Confirmed so far are left back Nuno Tavares from Arsenal, midfielders Nicolas Dominguez from Bologna and Ibrahim Sangare from PSV Eindhoven, winger Callum Hudson-Odoi from Chelsea, striker Divock Origi from AC Milan and goalkeeper Odysseas Vlachodimos

Premier League spending approaches \$3 billion

Tottenham has been looking to increase its options up front after selling Harry Kane to Bayern and it took until deadline day to find a striker. Wales international Brennan Johnson joined from Nottingham Forest for a reported fee of 45 million pounds (\$57

from Benfica.

Clubs were also eager to get rid of fringe players to reduce the size of the squads Tottenham sent fullbacks Reguilon and Japhet Tanganga out on loan. Man City loaned out fullback Joao Cancelo to Barcelona as well as midfielders James McAtee and Tommy Doyle to Sheffield United and Wolves, respectively. Arsenal let center back Rob Holding go to Crystal Palace on loan and midfielder Albert Sambi Lokonga leave for Luton. French striker Neal Maupay left Everton to return



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. Carlik 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



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

"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 NBAbacked 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 highestranked teams from the Americas, the top two from Europe, and the top finisher from Asia, Oceania and Africa - into the Olympic field. Those seven ter 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

two summers ago and now has secured another trip to the games, though it was far from easy at the end.

Keisei Tominaga 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 quarfor Cape Verde (1-4).



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)

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 quar-Japan played host to the Olympics ter. They both came in the last minute, one setting up a three-point play, the other a 3-pointer to help the hosts ad-

> Hawkinson had 29 points and Tominaga had 22 for Japan (3-2). Edy Tavares and Shane De Rosa each had 11

Jordan Clarkson wouldn't let the host nation finish the World Cup win-

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 peo-ple 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

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

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

Jude scores again,

Real 'edge' Getafe

BARCELONA, Spain, Sept 2, (AP): Jude Bellingham scored in

injury time to complete Real Ma-

drid's 2-1 comeback over Getafe

on Saturday, extending his scor-

ing run to a Spanish league-

leading five in four matches since

fielder is having a dream start since arriving at Madrid from

Borussia Dortmund for 130 mil-

lion euros (\$142 million). His

goals have done more than any

of his teammates to give Madrid

Getafe struck first through for-

New Madrid striker Joselu

mer Madrid youth player Borja

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

game of the season at its renovat-

ed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium,

This was Madrid's first home

the winner.

Mayoral in the 11th minute.

four victories in as many games.

The 20-year-old England mid-

joining his new club.

19 points and Rudy Gobert added 17

in his 100th national-team appearance

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.

The Olympic silver medalists were

for France (3-2).

leading Finland (2-3) in its tournament scored 19 for Egypt (2-3). At Jakarta, Isaia Cordinier scored finale. Pedro Chourio led Venezuela (0-5) with 17 points.

Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah elected as President of ASC



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

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.

Leverkusen rout Darmstadt to

maintain fine Bundesliga start

The confederation is committed to encourage talents and provide opportunities for Asian atheletes, 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

ASC organizes training courses and camps for coaches, staff and referees to boost their skills in the sport, while provding technical and logistic support to national federations when organizing Asian or international tour-

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 Duaij 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 bil- after a strong start to the season. lion 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 Josh Brownhill scored a consolation

goal but this was another chastening afternoon for Burnley, despite opening the scoring just four minutes into the

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

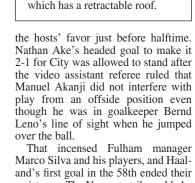
SOCCER

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



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.

naments, he said. BERLIN, Sept 2, (AP): New signing Frimpong set up Exequiel Palacios Victor Boniface scored twice and set to score in the 49th, and Granit Xhaka up another goal as Bayer Leverkusand Florian Wirtz helped Boniface to

en routed promoted Darmstadt 5-1 in the Bundesliga on Saturday. It's Leverkusen's third win from

three games. Jeremie Frimpong also starred for coach Xabi Alonso's team, setting Boniface off on a run after two

SOCCER

Darmstadt defenders crashed into each other. Boniface eluded one attempted challenge, then another, before dispatching the ball past goal-keeper Marcel Schuhen in the 21st minute.

Vilhelmsson equalized from close range three minutes later but it was as good as it got for the defensively minded visitors

Editor-in-Chief

his second in the 61st, seven minutes before Boniface laid the ball off for

Jonas Hofmann to score. Alonso brought on new signings Nathan Tella (from Southampton) and Josip Stanišić (on loan from Bayern Munich) for their debuts in the 72nd, then Noah Mbamba (from Club Brugge) and Adam Hlozek in

Mbamba set up Hlozek to complete the scoring in the 83rd.

Serhou Guirassy and Führich both scored twice as Stuttgart blew away Freiburg 5-0 despite losing key players in the summer transfer period. Left back Borna Sosa was the latest to leave when he joined Ajax on Friday.

Guinea forward Guirassy already has five goals in three Bundesliga



nandez, (left), jump for a header during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Nottingham Forest at Stamford Bridge Stadium in London. (AP)

ARAB (* TIMES

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